

VITAL

signs

THE PULSE OF SAINT LUKE'S PARISH LIFE

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St Luke's Episcopal Church

Camillus, New York



*A beautiful fall arrangement
at the ordination and consecration
of the Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent as
Bishop Coadjutor of Maryland
Photo curtesy of Sedona Brown*



Wardens' Report for October

We had an early jump on returning to church post-summer with a joint picnic at Reed Webster Park between St. Luke's and St. Mark's. Food, conversation and overall enjoyment were plentiful. The weather couldn't have been better. The Wardens certainly want to thank all those involved in planning and executing of a splendid affair.

With a decision made on selection of a contracting firm to repair our collapsing cellar wall, we undertook an ambitious capital campaign to cover the cost expected to approach \$80,000-\$90,000 when it's all said and done. The parish responded generously with many commitments made upfront which lowers the amount of any loan we need from Solvay Bank to close the gap. While we're still counting the monies received to date, it appears that we may not have to take out a loan. Again, thanks to everyone who has contributed; St. Luke's is blessed to have such a caring and giving congregation.

On Friday September 15th the repairs got underway with Bruce Electric shoring up the main electrical service panels which happened to be anchored to the collapsing wall. Once a section of HVAC was removed, Woodford Brothers' crew installed structural shoring to support a load bearing beam in the vicinity of the wall. Excavation commenced, the failed block wall removed and new blocks installed. By week's end, the majority of the wall had been replaced. Jack and I led a tour following Sunday's service for those who wanted to examine the new wall and status of the project. Over the next couple of days the wall was completed, exterior water seal applied, and the Woodford drainage (forms) wall installed. This was followed by excavation partially refilled, remaining sections of drip strips removed, #2 clean stone put in the Woodford wall form and also layered on exterior of wall. The drip strips we refer to are critical as these are what divert water coming from the roof away from the foundation and towards a drain on the Genesee Street end. Over the years the old drip strips had settled and were directing rainfall and snow thaw towards the church. Completing the



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reinstallation of the drip strips and ensuring the drain is clear are the only tasks remaining other than leveling the ground and seeding. All in all, Woodford Brothers, also known as The Basement Brothers, have been splendid to deal with.

During this project need assessment, we uncovered a couple of other facility-related needs: an emergency exit door which has to be replaced and a section of cellar windows where the wooden frame has rotted away. Once the wall project is complete we'll get these ancillary repairs completed as well. Come the winter months, your wardens are thinking of hibernating! All joking aside, it's our pleasure to serve St. Luke's parish.

Milt Stevenson, Jack Young

ALL SAINTS DAY

Sunday November 5th will be our celebration of All Saints this year. On this day we remember all those whose mortal life has ended but who remain in the love and care of God. As has been our custom, we will remember in prayer parish members who have died in the previous year as well those loved ones you would like to be remembered. We will have prayer request forms available for you to let us know whom you would like to see remembered. If you are unable to be in church, you can contact our parish administrator, Deb Denny in the office. You are also invited to bring in a photo or other small memento of your loved ones to add to our remembrance table at the front of the church.

A Word

Judging a by a recent trip to WalMart, it's almost Christmas, but according to my calendar and the view out my window it's definitely early Fall. And, of course, we still have Halloween, All Saints, Thanksgiving, and Advent to get through before we arrive at the Feast of the Incarnation.

Retailers understandably want to maximize their revenues and profits and would surely prefer we stock up sooner rather than later on all the items we think we need to make our home holiday tableaux just perfect. Looking around my house, I'm pretty sure I don't need another scarecrow or elf statue, but those displays sure are tempting. But even if I can sustain my resolve to not buy new stuff, I find it still feels like my mind is being drawn away from the here and now to dwell on things coming up.

Throughout the scriptures, one of God's recurring messages to us is to live as fully in the moment as is possible. Ecclesiastes reminds us that "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." Jesus himself touches on this when he says, "do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."

As followers of Christ, we should strive to make time to step outside of the sweep of busy-ness that seeks to pull us tumbling along into the next thing. The spiritual practice of Sabbath is designed to help us do just that, to step outside of the demands constantly being made on us and to refocus ourselves on our core relationships: with God, with the creation, and with those we love. By regularly setting aside time for a sabbath practice we grow deeper in our relationship with God, we settle our souls and our minds, and we strengthen ourselves to better manage the demands imposed upon us that allow us to fully embrace and enjoy Halloween, All Saints, Thanksgiving, and Advent all before Christmas arrives.



Sanctuary Foundation Repairs

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our capital campaign to fund the needed repairs to the foundation wall. Woodford Bros was the contractor chosen to complete the repairs with Engineering work completed by St Germain & Aupperle Consulting Engineers. Work began with shoring up the building to allow the work, then a large hole was dug to allow access to the damaged wall from the outside and the damaged blocks were removed. New concrete blocks were used to reconstruct the wall then the blocks were covered with a waterproof finish and then a stone mesh barrier was inserted alongside the repaired wall to allow better drainage and the hole filled in. Later a new concrete apron will be built to take away the water as it comes off the roof and the grass re-seeded.*

**Photos and description of the repairs can be found on our bulletin board in the church.*



Vestry Minutes

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
5402 West Genesee Street, Camillus, NY 13031

September 25, 2023

Attendance

Rector: Jon White

Wardens: Milt Stevenson and Jack Young

Vestry Members: Rich Conley, Sherry Brescia, Mary Parish, Debbie Kaszubinski, and Eileen Robertson

Treasurer: Sherry Brescia

Vestry Clerk: Alison Conley

Absent: Jim Shake

Opening prayer

Jon began the meeting at 7:02 p.m. with a prayer.

Review of previous minutes

Eileen made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 21, 2023 vestry minutes. Deb seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Reports

Treasurer- verbal report given by Sherry

Things have changed so dramatically since August. Right now our balance is \$25,000. There has been a significant amount of capital campaign contributions, close to \$41,000 to date! Sherry is including the \$15,200 collected yesterday at church given for the capital campaign in the \$41,000 amount. We've already cleared a \$20,000 down payment check and \$6,000 check to the engineers, so we have about \$25,000 left. St. Mark's caught up on the money owed to us. We're down about \$9,000 for regular contributions, which isn't unusual for this time of year. We're about \$3,000 or less short on rental income currently. On the last page of the Revenues and Expenses sheet, you can see the money going out in August for the \$20,000 check. We've been paying about \$110 (the interest) a month to Solvay Bank for the existing loan.

Eileen made a motion to accept the financial report. Rich seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Wardens: Jack and Milt

Milt sent some pictures around earlier to show how the basement project is going. They were doing outside work to keep the water out of the wall today. Jack said they may be finished tomorrow with the exception of seeding and cleaning up. So far so good with the project, and Jack has been impressed with the Woodford Brothers company. Jack said we lucked out on not having to relocate or replace the electricals and the fact that Woodford Brothers could fit us in early this fall. We also had an outstanding picnic in August with both parishes, with lots of mingling going on.

Rector:

Our Sacred Ground group had their second to last meeting last week. We are considering having another group coming up that may be led by one of the current participants. The bible study has had its second meeting this fall, and it's going well. We've had some setbacks with the online service lately due to the basement construction and a problem with Livestream on 9/3. The sermon hasn't

been up in a couple of weeks due to a technical issue. We have a young couple who has started attending church (Russ and Chelsea) and wants to get their baby Cali baptized. Jon has done a couple of funerals for nonmembers for both Bush and Buranich funeral homes. As Jon mentioned in church on Sunday, he is very happy with Jack and Milt's leadership on the basement project. Jon shared that Deb loves working with St. Luke's.

New Business

Relationship with St. Marks:

St. Mark's financial situation is somewhat precarious. They depend on money from their endowment and have been drawing on it at an unsustainable rate. Jon is helping them with this situation. The endowment has dwindled to \$600,000 over the years. The vestry there is having a retreat in late October to discuss the situation. We should anticipate that St. Mark's will not be able to split Jon's salary and expenses with us 50-50 next year. There is some talk about ways we can work closer together. Jon will keep us posted as the situation evolves.

Jack said he reviewed the energy bills from St. Mark's, and feels they could save some money in that area. Sherry volunteered to help St. Mark's if she can.

Old Business

Sanctuary Foundation Update:

Rich asked about the plan to pay for the basement job. Jack said the money isn't due until the project is totally done. Bob is in Florida presently but Jack informed him it looks like the pledges will cover most of the money, but we're short about \$7,000 right now. We should be able to cover the difference without taking out a new loan. Jon said there are some people who said they would contribute to the capital campaign who haven't yet. Capital Campaign pledges totalled \$80,090 for the 3-year period. Jon said we should keep any additional money that comes in to the capital campaign fund, and we can use that money to pay off our existing loan.

Stewardship Campaign:

Jon doesn't want to launch it right away, but he anticipates starting in early October. He'll keep it low key by sending out a letter as he has done in recent years.

Run Fundraiser:

Mary decided to hold off on the 5K run until next year if we do hold it. There isn't enough parking at the Erie Canal, so she is considering Gilly Lake. Mary and Eileen thought about doing a Fall Festival next year instead of a run or a walk. We could have some food trucks, face painting, basket raffle, perhaps a Bounce House, and see if we can have apples, corn stalks, or pumpkins donated that we could sell. We could have it be an annual event. Eileen said there are so many regulations pertaining to holding a run that it is a bit daunting to try doing that. Jon thought having a Fall Festival is a good idea. Eileen said it will take the work of many people, however, to plan and man a Fall Festival. Rich suggested we could do something on Memorial Day to attract the people who are in the parade or marching in the parade, as so many drive by when it's over. Debbie said we could sell geranium plants on Memorial Day as a fundraiser. She will contact some greenhouses to see if we can partner with any. They could give the plants to us wholesale since we have a tax ID. We'll start investigating options and discuss it further later.

The next vestry meeting will be on October 23, 2023

Adjourn- Debbie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. Rich seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Alison Conley, Vestry Clerk



On September 15th Sedona Brown, Bambi Carkey, Betsy Shake and Eileen Robertson boarded a bus for Washington D.C. to witness the Consecration and Ordination of The Rev. Carrie Skofield-Broadbent as she had been called to be the Fifteenth Bishop of Maryland. Excitement and anticipation filled the air. In all, about 45 Episcopalians from the Diocese of CNY made this journey together.

The next day we were bused to the Washington National Cathedral. Crowds had formed and we entered the magnificent National Cathedral. Beauty and grandeur abounded. The two and one half hour service was uplifting and heart rending. Many of us saw folks we knew from other churches in addition to clergy. The service was spectacular placing us in a state of glory.

Bishop Carrie was beautiful in her new robes and miter. She was so welcomed by the Diocese of Maryland. Their fondness of her was quite apparent. As she processed away from the altar she made many stops to greet those who attended.

After a brief reception on the lawn where we took many pictures we boarded the bus and returned to our homes in CNY. Though all very tired we knew we had witnessed a life changing experience for all. *Sedona Brown*

Due to space only a few photos were included. Sedona has so many more beautiful reflections of the day that she would love to share with you!

Late summer joint picnic at Reed Webster Park between St. Luke's and St. Mark's.



THANKS & PRAYERS

October

We Ask Your Thoughts & Prayers for...

Tish, Doug and Carol Law, Diane Synakowski, Dick and Shirley Chrisfield, Michael, Stephen, Jennifer Brady, Mary Lynch, Carol Greis, Andy, Lynn, Sue Fullerton, Joe Marshall, Mark Miller, Kristen O'Hara, Elizabeth, Anna, Ken and Barb Guy, Donna Sweeney, Carol Andrews, Silas, Audrey Kerswell, George Hoare, Peter Henderson,

Vlad Hart-Zavoli, Nick & Mary Alice Zimmer, Carolyn Woodworth, Marilyn Farrell, Dawn Noble, Sandy Vitagliano, Ethan Levi, Jacki, Ann Klackzo, Boston Wiley

Happy Birthday

4 Elizabeth Young
11 Eileen Robertson
Toby White
15 Audrey Kerswell

20 Debbie Pierson
22 Nancy Michell
Sandy Vitagliano
25 Kate Williams
29 Frances Warren

Sympathy to the family of Fran Smith, a long time member of St. Luke's, who passed away September 27. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Patronal Feast of St Luke

We will celebrate our parish patron Saint, St Luke on Sunday October 15th this year. The tradition of St Luke is that he was a physician and healer as well as a tireless worker on behalf of the gospel (as well as the author of Luke and the Book of Acts). In his honor, each year, we remember in prayer health care workers in our own parish community, but also the health care workers in our lives.

Blessing of the Animals

Francis of Assisi, whose given name was Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone, was a 13th century itinerant preacher and mystic who was an inspiration to many in his own lifetime as well as across the centuries since. He sought to be a peacemaker amidst the wars of the Crusades, founded several religious orders, including the Franciscans for men and the Order of St Clare for women; he also arranged the first ever live nativity scene. He is closely associated with care for the natural world and for animals. He was canonized by Pope Gregory the ninth less than two years after his death.

In honor of this beloved saint, many churches hold animal blessings and promote his vision of pastoral care for the whole of Creation. Here



at St Luke's, we will mark the life of this important saint with a special service for creation on Sunday October 8th and we will host our annual service of animal blessing in the afternoon at 1:30pm. All are invited to bring their pets with them to the animal blessing. Fr Jon will also be doing the animal blessing later at St Mark's at 2:30 in the afternoon if that is more convenient.

Thanksgiving Food Drive and Mitten Tree

As we approach late fall and the holiday season it's time to think about our neighbors in need. St. Charles, our local food pantry, can use all the support we can offer. Let's help ease some food anxiety for our neighbors in need by generously supporting the Thanksgiving Food Drive to benefit St. Charles Food Pantry. The items we donate will assist St. Charles' Food Pantry as they provide food to the families they serve in the Camillus, Fairmount, Westvale and Solvay areas. You may wish to make a monetary donation in lieu of bringing food to Church. Please **mark** your monetary donations 'Food Drive' so the counters know how to earmark the donation or write a check to St Charles food pantry and send directly to Marie Cullen at 404 Parsons Drive, Syracuse NY 13219. The food drive will begin on Sunday October 8, 2023 and run through Sunday November 12, 2023. Food donation suggestions:

October 8	Sauce and pasta	October 15	Peanut butter and Jelly
October 22	Canned fruit and Soup	October 29	Canned vegetables and Quick Breads
November 5	Oatmeal and Cereal	November 12	Stuffing mix and canned Cranberries

This year we will put up the tree in church for your Mitten tree donations. This early collection of hats, scarves, mittens, gloves and socks allows for distribution of these items before the winter cold arrives.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support.

