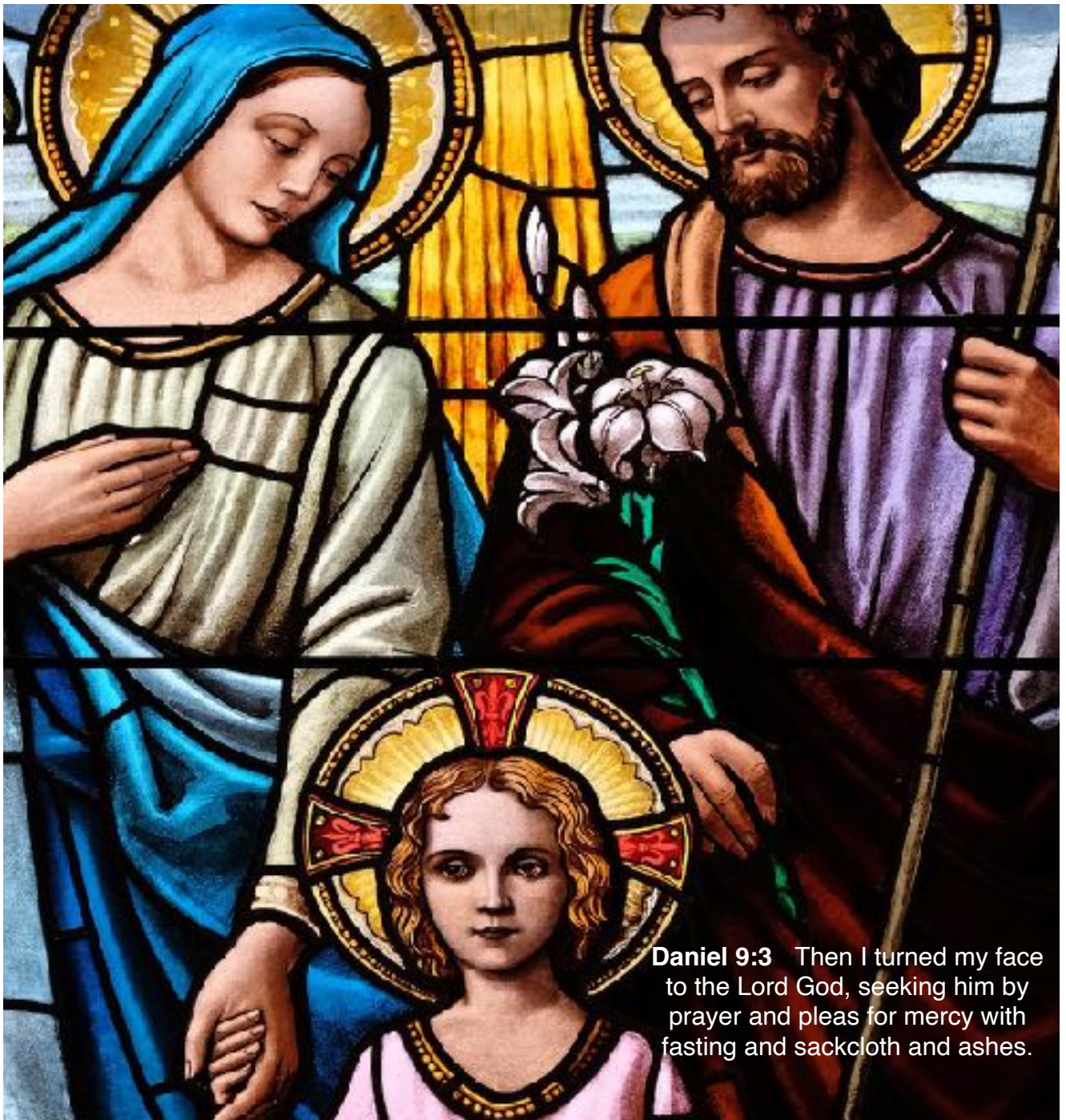


# VITAL signs

THE PULSE OF SAINT LUKE'S PARISH LIFE

Volume 21 Issue 3 February 2024 St Luke's Episcopal Church Camillus, New York



**Daniel 9:3** Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.



# Wardens Report

Look who's back; following St. Luke's annual meeting Milt Stevenson is officially back for a second term as warden. As the old adage goes, *no good deed goes unpunished*. It almost has a biblical sound to it but in truth, it doesn't come from the bible. Actually, if it were in the bible it would more likely read, *no good deed goes unrewarded*. Truly serving the people of this or any church or ministry has its rewards. We are blessed at St. Luke's to have so many persons serving one another in so many ways; we are all God's family.

I keep a copy of Forward Day by Day next to my keyboard at work. It's my attempt at a daily devotional and while not perfect, I do reflect on it more days than not. The passage for today comes from Hebrews 13:1-3 and includes *do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it*. For those of us attending Father Jon's weekly bible study, we're learning now about angels and how they appear in the bible. They aren't the beautiful winged feminine or baby-like figures portrayed in medieval artworks or adorning the ceilings or stained-glass windows of ancient cathedrals. Angels take many forms and one may indeed never know that the less fortunate they're serving might just be an angel! Again, serving others has its rewards even if you don't know it at that time. That was certainly part of the Bishop's message to us during her recent visit to St. Luke's *not being perfect but becoming whole free us from the bondage of our sins, our hatred, our judgement*. Following the service, Bishop DeDe stayed around for coffee hour

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and led a lengthy question and answer session.

Jack and I as wardens of St. Luke's have outlined an ambitious list of projects we'd like to address in 2024 as outlined in our Annual Meeting Report. Hopefully you've all had a chance to review and if for some reason you weren't able to attend, I'm sure there are additional copies at church or even electronically available. Over the next few weeks, we'll be renegotiating, revising and renewing our lease contract with PIP, renewing our *Covenant of Shared Ministry* between Father Jon, St. Mark's and St. Luke's, and completing a fiscal audit as required by our Diocese. Jim Shake has recently completed Diocese training on conducting such an audit and will be working in concert with our Treasurer, Sherry, and the wardens to complete. One of the things we're trying to do is add some clarity to the monthly financial reporting and record keeping to make it more transparent. The diocese mandated financial reporting software we use that reports huge negative balances in operating checking, for example, highlights the need for sensible reckoning. In that regard, we are in the

*Continued on page 3*





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## A Word

*By the rivers of Babylon—there we sat down  
and*

*there we wept when we remembered Zion.*

*On the willows there we hung up our harps.*

*For there our captors asked us for songs, and  
our tormentors asked for mirth, saying,*

*"Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"*

*How could we sing the LORD's song in a foreign  
land?*

*Psalms 137:1-4*

I've always felt this is one of the most plaintive cries of lament in all the Bible. In this psalm, as the Israelites are marched away into captivity, from a homeland in ruins, by the conquering Babylonians, we hear their devastation and despair. Their world turned upside down, all of their assumptions shown to be false, and they cry from their felt separation from their homes and from their god. "How could we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land?" is a cry that comes from their belief that God could only be present in their homeland.

As hard as the experience of exile must have been, it was also the experience that showed Israel that the presence of God was not confined to Israel, or the Jerusalem



Temple. It showed them that the spirit of God can and does move through foreign lands and foreign hearts. This was a foresight of the coming of Jesus and his mission to free all human hearts by bringing all people to the knowledge of God's love.

For us today, this season of Lent is an invitation to enter a foreign place either through giving up something or by taking on something new. Through our efforts to forego the familiar or take up the unfamiliar we too can discover or be reminded of God's eternal presence and God's eternal love.

## ANNUAL MEETING

On January 28th, we held our Annual Parish Meeting to hear about all that has happened in the past year and to look ahead to next year. A lot of energy was taken up in the past year dealing with the collapsed wall in the basement, but through some excellent leadership and a dose of luck we were able to effectively deal with that issue. As for our ongoing life, we spent

our first complete year in partnership with St Mark's and that continues to bring benefits and we are working to strengthen our partnership going forward. On the financial front, we ended the year in the black and have some expectations that we will do the same in the coming year. You can download the report booklet from our website [HERE](#).

**Wardens Report** continued from page 2

process of gathering the various service contracts we have and making sure they are current and complete. When we start working more with St. Mark's there may be opportunities to leverage theirs and our requirements to get better pricing on consumable products. Using Jack's background in utilities pricing, we've pointed out how St. Mark's might make substantial savings in gas and electric costs.

## Fridays in Lent

Lent begins this month, with Ash Wednesday being February 14th. During Lent we'll be adding a special Friday evening worship and supper series jointly with St Mark's. We'll begin in the first full week of Lent, on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. There is a signup sheet for hosts in the hallway on the bulletin board.

The service will begin at 6:30pm with supper to follow.

As host, we are asking that you provide a simple supper (soups are great) to share that will be served in the library after a short Lenten worship service which begins at 6:30. If possible, please consider offering a meal that is gluten-free or which provides gluten-free options.

The schedule will be:

Friday Feb 23	at St Mark's
Friday March 1	at St Luke's
Friday March 8	at St Mark's
Friday March 15	at St Luke's
Friday March 22	at St Mark's





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## MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING AT ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

JANUARY 28, 2024

Call to order: Jon called the meeting to order at 10:21 a.m.

Warrant of the Annual Meeting of the Parish of St. Luke's Episcopa Church: read by Alison Conley, Clerk of the Vestry

### **Report from the Nominating Committee**

The candidate for Warden is Milt Stevenson for a second 2-year term. The candidates for Vestry are Jerry Wright and Eileen Robertson for a 3-year term.

Opening the floor for further nominations

There were no further nominations. Mary Stevenson made the motion to accept the slate of candidates. Sedona Brown seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Approval of the Minutes from the Annual Meeting in February of 2023

Eileen Robertson made a motion to approve the minutes from the Annual Meeting held on January 23, 2022. Gerri Wright seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

### **Treasurer's Report-** given by Sherry Brescia

We ended 2023 with a surplus of just under \$28,000. The favorable results in our investments helped with this. Jon's sharing of his time with St. Mark's has decreased our expenses considerably. Going forward the split will be 65/35 due to financial concerns at St. Mark's. Sherry went with \$130,000 again for expected contributions. Deb Denny (parish administrator) will be with us 15 hours instead of 10 in 2024. Sherry said she loves working with Deb. The budget is showing a deficit of about \$14,000 for 2024 but Sherry prepared the budget very conservatively. She sees no reason why we won't be fine, given past history and how well our investments have been going lately. 2023's audit has to be done by an outside CPA (this used to happen every 7 years before but now it's every 3 years). Sherry gave thanks to everyone for rallying with the request for funds to cover the cost of the basement construction.

There were no questions for Sherry about the Treasurer's report.

Jon also thanked everyone for the generous response to the Capital Campaign. Jon gives thanks to the Holy Spirit as well.

### **Warden's Report-** refer to the written report by Milt and Jack

Jack shared that we found that the basement wall was receding beneath the sanctuary. They hired an engineering firm to do a design for the shoring, and companies bid to do the engineering plan. We shored up the electrical along with the structure of the wall. We started in the middle of September, and had good weather. The job was very well done. Jon thanked Jack for his efforts with the project. Next year we have a shed that Eileen Robinson donated for the property. The Warden's Report lists future projects to be done.

Finance Committee

Please refer to the 2024 Annual Meeting bulletin.

### **Outreach Report-** given by Eileen Robertson

Sleep In Heavenly Peace was very thankful for our efforts and were surprised to see how much we donated for the size of our parish. Jon thanked our parish for always being so generous and Eileen for her work with this ministry.

We'll have Doug's Fish Fry To Go on March 3rd and the annual Junk in the Trunk sale May 18th.

Vital Signs

Jon thanked Sedona and Carolyn for their work on Vital Signs and apologized for being late with his assigned tasks. Jon said we do a wonderful newsletter at St. Luke's.

### **Altar Guild**

Jon said it's a delight to work with our Altar Guild, and they do a fantastic job. Sharon sets a wonderful tone of graciousness and calm for the team. Jon thanked the whole Altar Guild for their work.

*Meeting continued on page 6*



### Circle of Prayer

Jon thanked Betsy Shake for her leadership with our Circle of Prayer. People bring their prayer concerns to Betsy and she shares it with the prayer group. The members really feel connected to the people they are praying for. Kathleen Hart-Zavoli said she appreciates Betsy checking in with those being prayed for. Eileen helps with the list and updates it for the Circle of Prayer; Sedona thanked her for this.

### Rector's Report

Jon has been here for almost 7 years. He has 8 years before he retires! It's been a delight, he said. He thanked Deb Denny for being so great to work with, and for Rob in his capacity as organist. Rob picks all the music. Rob also works at St. Mark's, too. Jon said having Rob and Deb at both places has been wonderful. The partnership with St. Mark's has worked better than Jon thought it would. He hasn't gotten any negative feedback from the people at St. Luke's about the partnership with St. Mark's. We've had a couple of community events with both churches. Jon is helping work to reconfigure how the two parishes can do more shared ministries. People here could get involved with some outreach opportunities at St. Mark's if they'd like. Jon feels the partnership will be positive for both parishes. We're trying to build on the things we've been doing. He'd like to see us do more community dinners. Jon would like to reestablish our Home Communion ministry for homebound parishioners. Jon wanted to remind us of the parishioners we lost this past year: Joan Conley, Stephen Carpenter, Fran Smith, and Dick Chrisfield. Jon is continuing his services twice a month at Brookdale Summerfield. Gerri Wright said it means so much to people to write people a card if they are not able to be here, and she urged others to do so.

### Motion to adjourn

Jerry Wright made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Betsy Shake seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55. Respectfully submitted by Alison Conley, Clerk of the Vestry

## OUTREACH NEWS



This year for the Outreach Christmas project we collected bedding for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Sleep in Heavenly Peace makes beds and donates beds and bedding to families that have no beds for their children. Through your generosity the boxes for bedding collection were overflowing. We donated \$500 to aide Sleep in Heavenly Peace in their mission.

During Lent we will again collect personal care items for Samaritan Center. We collect

sample size items for the individuals that they serve.

We will have the Doug's to go food truck here in March. We have confirmed with Doug's, the date will be March 2.

This spring we will again have a Junk in the Trunk sale on Saturday, May 18, 2024.

As always, if you have ideas for Outreach projects, please contact Eileen Robertson at 315-673-4324.



# THANKS & PRAYERS

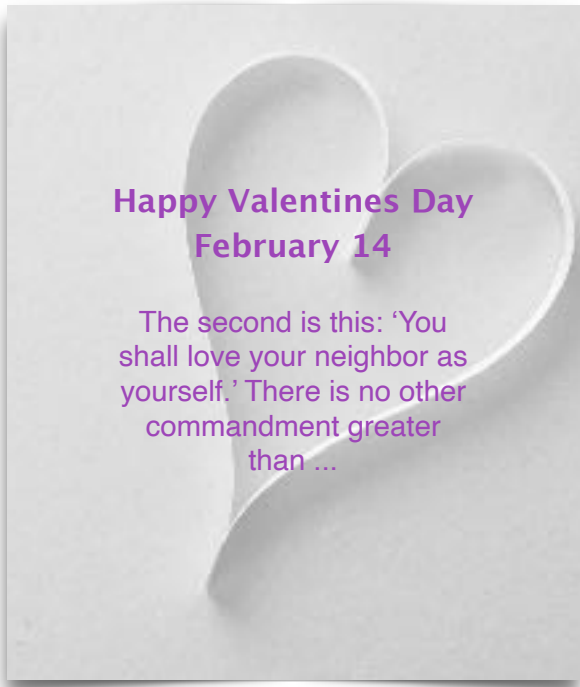
## **We Ask Your Thoughts & Prayers for...**

Tish, Diane Synakowski, Shirley Chrisfield, Michael, Stephen, Jennifer Brady, Mary Lynch, Carol Greis, Andy, Lynn, Sue Fullerton, Joe Marshall, Mark Miller, Kristen O'Hara, Anna, Ken & Barb Guy, Carol Andrews, Audrey Kerswell, George Hoare, Nick & Mary Alice Zimmer, Carolyn Woodworth, Marilyn Farrell, Dawn Noble, Sandy Vitagliano, Jacki, Ann Klackzo, Kathleen Hart-Zavoli, Luke, Maryjane, Sherry, Mariano, Deb True, LaShawn Dunn, Norma Bullock, Diana Toth, Roger, Justin, Jim & Kathy Fitzgerald, Janice Konkus, Bernadette, and Andrew.


*Note: Call the church office to add anyone to our Sunday prayer list. However, the name will stay on for only one month. You must call each month to have the name put back on the list.)*

## **Happy Birthday**

- 8 David Mitchell, Jr. (son, goes by "DJ")
- 16 Kelly Wiley
- 17 Debbie Bille
- 20 Mia Michell
- 22 Lorie Erlenback
- 25 Christian Nightingale



**TAKE A CHANCE!**



**MISSION STYLE TABLE LAMP**  
Walnut, Rustic Cherry, Koa Veneer,  
& Brass, Vintage Shade

**\$5/TICKET OR FIVE TICKETS FOR \$20**  
**DRAWING SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2024**

**ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT ST. LUKES MINISTRIES**





The Rt Rev DeDe Duncan-Probe joined us for her regular visit Sunday, February 4th. Following the service, Bishop DeDe stayed for coffee hour and answered questions.

