

ACTS of ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2020

Twenty Years from Now



People of St. Luke's—can you believe our celebration of shared ministry was less than a year ago? And what an 11 months it has been! You might have seen in the annual report that I addressed my Rector's report to the people of St. Luke's 20 years from now, or whenever they start wondering exactly how we did church in the midst of a pandemic.

I first told them about the awesome celebration we had the last Sunday before Thanksgiving 2019 making it official that you and I are in this thing together, and together we have big plans to change the world with God's love. And I told them all about the gifts you all presented in front of our altar, in front of God's altar, symbols of your ministry and the work you offer to God for the good of God's world.

I told them that if someone had told me we'd be unable to gather with each other for an indefinite period of time, I would have been really freaked out and worried that might extinguish the bright, quirky, faithful light that shines so bright from this community. Because it is the people of St. Luke's that make this community what it is. I would have worried that if we couldn't be together, we would fall apart. And I would have been wrong. Instead, our light shines bright in the darkness. Or rather, God's light shines bright through us and it scatters the darkness.

If I had told you that in order to go to church, you were going to have to figure out how to use new computer hardware and software, and how to unmute and mute yourself, and that you'd also use this technology to catch up with family and friends near and far, that it might keep you doing yoga or dance or book lovers or retired men's group, you might have told me that you hate computers and you hate new technology and you were definitely not getting on webcam. But here you are. You did it. Did you ever think you'd get communion via a drive through? You did. We are doing what love requires of us.

If someone had told you: we're going to have a sudden recession, lots of people will be suddenly unemployed, the food supply chain is going to break, the food pantries won't be able to get bulk orders like they used to, and it's going to be scary and dangerous to go to the grocery store—you would have never guessed that we would have had car loads full of food nearly every week to share with those in need. But we did. We are doing what love requires of us.

If I had told you that in the midst of a global pandemic, we were forced to look our privilege and power in the eye and we realized we had to do something, we had to change ourselves, individually and corporately, to put an end to racial violence and oppression and injustice—well, I would have thought—nope. We are too tired, we are too scared, we are too lonely and too disconnected, we are too overwhelmed; this is not the year to take on the sin of individual and systemic racism. I would have been wrong. We are doing what love requires of us.

(Twenty Years, continued on page 4)



November

November 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

November Special Dates

- 1 November Daylight Saving Time ends
Don Park Memorial service
- 3 November Election day
MCPS no school
Book Lovers
- 26 November Thanksgiving
- 26-27 November MCPS no school
- 29 November First Sunday in Advent

Birthdays

William Leal	1
Jim Mills	7
Dalton Andrews	8
Daniel Curtin	10
Kate Legates	12
George Flett	15
Drew Metzger-Sloan	19
Jack Metzger-Sloan	19
Brenda Curtis-Heiken	21
Colleen Hermach	21
Michelle Canick	24
Mike Votaw	25
Claudia Henemyre	28



December

December 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

December Special Dates

- 10 December Hanukkah begins
- 21 December Winter Solstice
- 24 December –
1 January MCPS no school
- 24 December Christmas Eve
- 25 December Christmas Day
- 31 December New Year's Eve

Birthdays

Larry Legates	2	Tom Canick	19
Movita Hercules	3	Mary Dufour	23
Michele Greco	6	Oliver Stewart	24
Anna Votaw	7	Diane Fox	26
Maggie Pearson	9	Jim Marks	26
Bill Casson	10	Leslyn Thorne	26
Ken Swab	12	Dan Eberly	27
Max Bergeron	15	Daphne Legates	27
Vonda O'Sullivan	15	Nathan Henemyre	28
Stewart Rouleau	16	Rebecca Huckabay	28
John Elsbree	18	Lisa Secrest	29
Miranda Marks	18	Erica James	30

The ACTS is now distributed electronically using the email address that we have for you on file in the office. If you did not receive it, please update your email address. admin@stlukesbethesda.org.

If you do not see your birthday listed during the year, please contact the office.

SENIOR WARDEN



Mike Bernier

Community

Community is the first word I think of when describing St. Luke's. St. Luke's is a strong community and one that is holding together like few others during the pandemic. Jessica and Amy outlined at the annual meeting some of the many ways we remained connected since the building was closed in March. It's impressive.

Community is also what drew me to St. Luke's. You welcomed my family when we started to attend worship services nine years ago. A lot of that welcome was subtle, like a suggestion on how to get my son to attend children's church, remembering our names and reintroducing yourself, asking questions about us, and the vibe I got when receiving communion at the Altar rail that I belonged here.

I come from a large Catholic French-Canadian family in Maine. Nuns and priests descended on my childhood home Sunday after Mass to play cards and bake bread. As a young child, I wasn't always thrilled with their presence since many were my teachers at school. In hindsight, I see just regular people seeking to serve, and better understand God. It is the same journey that we are all on.

I was received into the Episcopal Church 25 years ago. At St. Luke's, I have served on Vestry and enjoyed ushering at the 10 am service until the pandemic hit us. I served as Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Vestry member, and a member of several committees at my previous church and Diocese.

I can't successfully serve as Senior Warden without your prayers, so thank you for lifting me up in your prayers. I am grateful for the wonderful support of outgoing Senior Warden Amy Elsbree. Amy's encouragement and advice have, and will continue to be, invaluable to me.

As Senior Warden, I will work with Jessica to keep this community strong and financially viable for decades to come.

Mike Bernier, Senior Warden

PARISH

(Twenty Years, continued from page 1)

These are things that we have done together. But I know that you've been out there doing what love requires of you as individuals and friends and families. You have all done really hard things this year. You have done things that you couldn't imagine having the strength and the stamina and the creativity to do. Sometimes that was just getting out of bed in the morning. But you have loved people. You have grown. You have learned. You have changed everything about the way you do your job. You have adjusted your budget. You have asked for help which is one of the hardest things to do. You have figured out how to connect. You have tried countless different masks to find the one that is tolerable. You are doing amazing things. You are doing what love requires of you.

When the thought pops into your head this winter—"I can't do this"—please think of the St. Luke's community gathered around you saying, "You can do this. With God's help, you can do this." We are apart from one another physically and it is heartbreaking to not know when we will be able to sing together and pot luck together and hug one another and gather around the altar for communion, but this year has taught me that we are a people that can do what love requires of us. Somehow, God plants in us the strength to do what we are sure is impossible. Yes, there are things not getting done. There are things on the to do list that you have looked at and subconsciously or consciously said, "Yeh, love does NOT require that of me right now." But we are getting the important stuff, the human stuff, the love stuff, the grace and compassion stuff—we are getting it done. You are incredible. That's how God made you, how God made all of us—but we have been given the opportunity to see that so clearly this year.

The St. Luke's community has taught me, shown me with your lives lived, the words and the vision that will get me through this upcoming winter, and I hope they will encourage you as well. With God's help, I can do what love requires of me.

Jessica

Holiday Gift Card Collection Expands!

To keep everyone safe during the ongoing pandemic, traditional Thanksgiving and Christmas gatherings hosted by organizations St. Luke's supports will unfortunately not take place this season. For many years, generous parishioners have purchased gifts and gift cards for children and families in Samaritan Ministry programs; this year, we are expanding our collection to include those served by Interfaith Works. *Instead of unwrapped gifts, both organizations are requesting gift cards in increments of \$25 or \$50 so families can purchase toys and food.* You can leave them in the labeled boxes outside the church office, place them through the mail slot at the office door, bring them to outdoor church events if attending, or follow up with the contacts below. The collection will run through early December. Thank you very much for helping to make the holiday season meaningful for others during these difficult times!

Interfaith Works (IW): IW will collect \$25 VISA gift cards, as well as gift cards for Giant, Safeway, Target, and Walmart. If you wish to contribute cash towards the purchase of gift cards, or with any other questions about the IW collection, contact Miranda Marks.

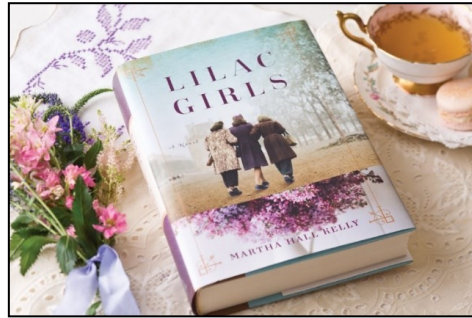


Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington (SMGW): SMGW is collecting gift cards from Giant, Safeway, Old Navy, Target, and Walmart. Please contact SMGW Parish Rep. Peter Stelnyk.

Marta Montoro

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Book Lovers Reminder:
Lilac Girls by Martha Hall Kelly
Zoom Meeting on
November 3 (Election Day) at 7:30 pm



Volunteers Needed!

Bethesda Help, Inc. is very grateful to St. Luke's for helping to keep its food pantry stocked since the pandemic began. But the need for their services to the community continues to increase, especially with the ongoing economic uncertainty, and they need additional volunteers for the duties described below. All volunteer positions offer a COVID-safe environment and virtual training is provided. Bethesda Help operates Monday-Friday from 9 am to 4 pm.

Drivers to Deliver Non-Perishable Food: Drivers serve one day a month or more often if they choose. All drivers deliver pre-packaged food bags from our pantry located on Old Georgetown Road in Bethesda to clients who request food. Drivers are scheduled one-month in advance and can pick the same driving day each month (e.g., the first Thursday or the third Tuesday of each month) or may fill an open slot each month. All drivers must have a cellphone, be a licensed driver, have a vehicle, and carry vehicle insurance. Access to a computer and computer literacy is required in order to submit a report of the food deliveries made.

Officers of the Day: Officers of the Day (ODs) respond to Bethesda-area clients who request assistance with food, financial assistance for rent (to prevent eviction), or utilities (to prevent cut-off of service), or assistance with paying for prescription medications. ODs work at least one day a month from their home or office and respond to clients on their assigned day. ODs call into Bethesda Help's secure help line several times on their scheduled day to retrieve messages from clients. ODs then follow up with the clients and/or social workers to determine the clients' eligibility for services. ODs provide referrals in cases where Bethesda Help cannot be of assistance. ODs must have a cellphone or landline. Access to a computer and computer literacy is required in order to create a report of the calls received and to provide delivery information for Drivers.

For more information, or if you think you might be able to help your community in this way, please contact longtime Bethesda Help volunteer Anne Elsbree or current driver Meg Schematz. Please refer to the E-News for current food pantry needs and drop-off schedule.

Thank you very much!



Marta Montoro

FINANCE

FINANCE REPORT SEPTEMBER 2020

	2019 Actual	2020 Budget	'20 Actual Thru Sept.	% of '20 Budget *
RECEIPTS				
Offering Plate	\$ 18,175	\$ 20,000	\$ 24,274	121%
Pledge Payments	479,984	460,000	394,321	86%
Donations for Facilities	49,796	48,000	20,319	42%
Altar Flower Donations	4,825	5,000	466	9%
Miscellaneous	186		63	
Operating Receipts	552,966	533,000	439,443	82%
EXPENSES				
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 308,102	\$ 324,214	\$ 232,915	72%
Program Support	18,418	25,000	4,904	20%
Parish Operations	107,090	123,900	67,505	54%
Outreach	22,527	22,000	12,998	59%
Diocesan Giving	50,139	52,000	39,015	75%
Operating Expenses	506,276	547,114	357,337	65%
Surplus/(Deficit)	46,690	(14,114)	82,106	
Additional Funding – 2019 surplus	0	14,114	0	
Net income	\$ 46,690	\$ 0	\$ 82,106	

ENDOWMENT FUND BALANCE

\$86,421

* YTD September = 75% of the year

Budget Analysis: Thank you! Your continued support is very impressive as we all manage through challenging times.

All financial obligations for the year to date have been met and bills paid.

If you need to be reimbursed for a purchase or need the Treasurer to pay an invoice, please obtain a Payment Request Form from the Office. An authorized person must sign the request. All requests for extra money or donations by committees, individuals or church members, should have prior approval of the Vestry before solicitation.

Jenny Bradley, Treasurer

CALENDAR

November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 All Saints Day Daylight Savings ends 9:00 AM Zoom Service 2:00 PM Don Park Memorial Zoom Service	2	3 Election Day 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Book Lovers	4 12:00 PM Zoom Service	5	6 Men's Shelter Dinner	7 11:00 AM Gentle Outside Yoga 5:00 PM Zoom Service
8 9:00 AM Zoom Service	9	10 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Finance Meeting	11 12:00 PM Zoom Service	12	13	14 5:00 PM Zoom Service
15 9:00 AM Zoom Service	16	17 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting	18 12:00 PM Zoom Service	19	20	21 5:00 PM Zoom Service
22 9:00 AM Zoom Service	23	24 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	25 12:00 PM Zoom Service	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29 Advent 1 9:00 AM Zoom Service	30	1 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	2 12:00 PM Zoom Service	3	4 Men's Shelter Dinner	5

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Advent I 9:00 AM Zoom Service	30	1 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	2 12:00 PM Zoom Service	3	4 Men's Shelter Dinner	5
6 Advent II 9:00 AM Zoom Service	7	8 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Finance Meeting	9 12:00 PM Zoom Service	10	11	12
13 Advent III 9:00 AM Zoom Service	14	15 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting	16 12:00 PM Zoom Service	17	18	19
20 Advent IV 9:00 AM Zoom Service	21	22 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	23 12:00 PM Zoom Service	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26
27 9:00 AM Zoom Service	28	29	30 12:00 PM Zoom Service	31	1 Men's Shelter Dinner	2

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THE REV. JESSICA K. HITCHCOCK

Rector

email: jessica@stlukesbethesda.org

ACTS of St. Luke's

Newsletter for members and friends of St. Luke's;
published monthly, except January & August.

ACTS Deadline: 15th of the preceding month



Give
Thanks