Come Eat, Go Serve

Whoever you are, wherever you come from, whatever you believe, whatever you don’t believe, you are welcome at Christ’s Table, where we become a community united to serve the needs of the world.
ST. LUKE’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, TRINITY PARISH
BETHESDA, MARYLAND

66th Parish Annual Report

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10 am - 66th Annual Parish Business Meeting

❖ Call to order
❖ Approval of Minutes of the 65th Annual Parish Business Meeting (2019)
❖ Opening Hymn
❖ Opening Sentences
❖ Hymn of praise
❖ Collect for the Feast Day of St. Luke the Evangelist
❖ Gospel reading
❖ Sr. Warden’s Address
❖ Rector’s Address
❖ Financial Report
❖ Report of the Nominating Committee
❖ Affirmation of Faith
❖ Prayers of the People
❖ Confession
❖ Absolution
❖ Seabury Award for Service: Myrna Olson, recipient
❖ Installation of Wardens, Vestry, and Convention Delegates and Alternates
❖ Meeting adjourned
❖ Exchange of Peace
❖ Holy Communion
The 65th Annual Meeting of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, Trinity Parish, Bethesda, MD, was called to order in the Nave with prayer at 10:00 a.m. The Reverend Jessica Hitchcock presided over her second such event.

**Presentation of the Minutes of the 64th Annual Meeting** (Deb Marks): Minutes were included in the program. John Elsbree moved that the minutes be accepted, Steve Lowe seconded the motion, and the minutes were accepted by acclamation.

**Presentation of the Treasurer’s Report** (Susie Casson and Steve Lowe): Susie reviewed the functions of St. Luke’s finance team, consisting of Jenny Bradley (Treasurer); Susie Casson (Assistant Treasurer); Arlene Antonicelli (Financial Contributions Officer), and Kim Desmond (Parish Administrator). This work is overseen by the Finance Committee (FinMin), and finally, Vestry and Jessica. Appreciation was extended to the many counters who regularly volunteer their time. Changes from last year include Kim’s role in entering financial contributions into the church software, and assisting Jenny with the transition to a payroll company. St. Luke’s received a clean audit report of the 2018 financials, with no area of financial control in need of change.

Gratitude was expressed to parishioners who have pledged and paid pledges, which makes up about 94% of budgeted income, and enables Vestry to prepare a reliable budget that supports Parish operations and programs.

- **Highlights of the 2018 actual and 2019 year-to-date financial report:** (Susie)
  - **2018:** Income from pledges, facility use and flower donations exceeded projections, while payroll, parish support and operations were under budget, resulting in a $42,682 year-end surplus.
  - **2019:** The budget projected a deficit of $14,064. Changes of note in the ’19 budget include a $2,000 increase to Community Engagement, and raising the Diocesan Pledge to match the amount requested by EDOV.
  - 09/19 year-to-date income is at 92% of the budget, and expenses are at only 66%, resulting in a current surplus of $124,040. This surplus is expected to decrease by the end of the year.

- **Additional Funding Report, as of 30/09/19:** (Steve)
  - **Vestry Directed Fund for Growth:** is currently at $71,588, funded for the past three years primarily from memorials and gifts designated by Vestry to support the growth of the Parish.
  - **The Bridge Fund:** stands at $86,140 received of the $98,192 pledged.
  - **MX Account:** stands at $503,680 (created to hold gain on sale of Rectory; use restricted by Vestry; balance cannot be drawn below $350,000).
  - **MM Account:** Balance is $331,808. MM holds the invested balances of some of the larger designated funds, including Edmonds ($79,745), Endowment ($73,253), Vestry Directed Fund for Growth ($71,014), and the Bridge Fund ($60,197).

**Senior Warden’s Address:** (Amy Elsbree) Amy’s report highlighted the joys and accomplishments of the past year, which emphasize St. Luke’s clear sense of purpose and vitality. Bishop Mariann visited Worship Council and Vestry, challenging us to think about ways to be welcoming to visitors and newcomers. On 24 November, St. Luke’s will celebrate our shared ministry with Jessica at 2:30 p.m. Changes in staffing and responsibilities have been positive, including welcoming our new Parish Administrator, Kim Desmond, and shifting communication duties to Sarah Horick. These changes, along with Kim’s strong financial skills, helps to free up Jessica from “the mechanics” of church operations. Recognition and thanks were expressed for Sarah’s direction of a great music liturgy. A debt of thanks is due to Bill Casson, for overhauling the procedures for outside group use of the church; these procedures and duties will also be transitioned to Kim. Amy reported that our financial situation is stronger due to staffing changes that affected expenses, and explained that 2020 will enable us to establish a baseline, as staffing issues have become settled. The annual giving goal of 475K is a “stretch goal”, to enable us to cover all expenses in the 2020 budget. Vestry members who are finishing their terms were recognized and thanked, including Sharon Murphy, Kate McQueen, and Christine Zakarka, as well as all those continuing to serve.
**Rector’s Address:** (Jessica Hitchcock) Jessica thanked the parish for calling her to be Rector at St. Luke’s (“my dream job”). The Second Annual Ministry Fair, and St. Luke’s successful transition to a one-priest parish, demonstrate the strength that comes from everyone working together. St. Luke’s continues a long tradition of being good stewards and blessing the larger community through the new pollinator garden, “Be the Church” Sundays, the labyrinth, and St. Luke’s House/Cornerstone, although she believes we haven’t seen half of what we can do in the community yet. Through discernment and the Bishop’s encouragement, Jessica is committed to doing the work of welcoming everyone. During the recent Blessing of the Animals, Jessica wondered if the parish should actually be called St. Francis; however, our patron saint, physician and evangelist, wrote the most inclusive gospel, encouraging us to welcome the marginalized and oppressed, always treating them as heaven-made. Jessica is proud to carry on Apostle Luke’s legacy.

**Report of the Nominating Committee:** (Jessica Hitchcock) The committee, consisting of Jessica, Amy Elsbree, Mary Gant, Kate McQueen, Barbara Roybal, and Christine Zakarka (chair), presented the slate of nominees for open positions:
- Sr. Vestry (3-yr term, 2019-2022): Mike Bernier, Jen Luna, and Gretchen MacLeod
- Delegate to the Convention (1-yr term, 2019-2020): Treva Miller and Jim Mills
- Alternate Delegate to Convention (1-yr term, 2019-2020) Mary Gant and Jack Orrick

Motion to accept the slate of nominees was moved by John Elsbree, and seconded by Wanda Cockrell, and the motion was passed by acclamation. Thanks were expressed to all those agreeing to serve.

**Installation of Vestry, Wardens and Delegates:** (Jessica Hitchcock) The newly elected Vestry members, Jr. Warden and Delegates were installed in conjunction with the previously-elected Sr. Warden and Vestry members.

**Certificate of Appreciation for Anne and John Elsbree:** Each year Seabury Resources partners with the Episcopal Diocese of Washington and the United Church of Christ Potomac Association to honor the service and volunteer work of older adult members in its congregations. The event, known as the Seabury Celebrates Service, is held at the Washington National Cathedral and each honoree receives a special certificate acknowledging their contributions to its collective ministry. The nominees for St Luke’s Church Bethesda in 2019 were Anne and John Elsbree. As aptly stated on the certificate: “Your dedicated service inspires us all. May we all be blessed by the example you have given us.” The certificate is signed by the Bishop, The Right Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde. Congratulations Anne and John!

**Closing Prayer and Adjournment:** John Elsbree moved that the 65th Annual Meeting close, and Miranda Marks seconded the motion. Jessica closed the meeting portion of the service, and continued with the worship service.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Marks, Clerk
# Financial Report


## 2019 Annual Meeting - 2018 Actual, 2019 YTD 9 30 19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>OPERATIONS</strong></td>
<td><strong>Actual</strong></td>
<td><strong>Full Year</strong></td>
<td><strong>Actual</strong></td>
<td><strong>%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OPS RECEIPTS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Budget</strong></td>
<td><strong>9/31/20</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Offering Plate</td>
<td>18,175</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>24,274</td>
<td>121%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Pledge Payments</td>
<td>479,984</td>
<td>460,000</td>
<td>383,689</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Donations for Facility Use</td>
<td>49,796</td>
<td>48,000</td>
<td>20,319</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Altar Flowers Donations</td>
<td>4,825</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>466</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Misc income</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>63</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL OPS RECEIPTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>552,966</strong></td>
<td><strong>533,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>428,811</strong></td>
<td><strong>80%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **OPS EXPENSES - Summary** |               |               |               |       |
| 9 Salaries | 308,102        | 324,214       | 232,915        | 72%   |
| 10 Parish Support | 18,418        | 25,000        | 4,904          | 20%   |
| 11 Parish Operations | 107,090       | 123,900       | 67,505         | 54%   |
| 12 Outreach - traditional | 22,527        | 22,000        | 12,998         | 59%   |
| 13 Diocesan Pledge | 50,139        | 52,000        | 39,015         | 75%   |
| **TOTAL OPS EXPENSES** | **506,276**   | **547,114**   | **357,337**   | **65%** |

## OPS NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>46,690</strong></td>
<td><strong>(14,114)</strong></td>
<td><strong>71,474</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ADDITIONAL FUNDING

| Budget Net Surplus/(Deficit) | 46,690 | - | 71,474 |

### Restricted Fund Balances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Balance</th>
<th>Vestry Fund for Growth</th>
<th>Bridge Fund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Endowment</td>
<td>$72,580</td>
<td>$102,438</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmonds fund for maintenance</td>
<td>$103,741</td>
<td>$68,816</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Fund and Undesignated</td>
<td>$498,582</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STAFF PAYROLL &amp; RELATED</th>
<th>2019 Actual</th>
<th>2020 Budget</th>
<th>9/31/20 %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 302-Assc. Rector</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 301 Rector</td>
<td>160,804</td>
<td>175,559</td>
<td>134,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 303-Parish Admin</td>
<td>44,441</td>
<td>52,606</td>
<td>25,057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 304-Minister of Music</td>
<td>74,615</td>
<td>75,249</td>
<td>60,755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 306-Nursery</td>
<td>9,753</td>
<td>10,600</td>
<td>7,676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 307-Temporary Staff</td>
<td>11,806</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 308-Seminarian</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 309-Workmans Comp</td>
<td>1,119</td>
<td>1,700</td>
<td>1,337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Services</td>
<td>5,564</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>3,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td><strong>308,102</strong></td>
<td><strong>324,214</strong></td>
<td><strong>232,915</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARISH SUPPORT</th>
<th>2019 Actual</th>
<th>2020 Actual</th>
<th>2020 %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>33 501-Altar Guild</td>
<td>2,457</td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td>507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34 503-Worship</td>
<td>1,047</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 505-Flowers</td>
<td>2,492</td>
<td>3,250</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 507-Music</td>
<td>3,828</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>1,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38 502-Vestry Exp/Conference</td>
<td>407</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39 510-Christian Formation</td>
<td>4,914</td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td>1,263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 504-Fellowship</td>
<td>1,729</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41 506-Welcoming</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42 508-Annual Giving</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43 509-Communications/Advert</td>
<td>1,544</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td><strong>18,418</strong></td>
<td><strong>25,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,904</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARISH OPERATIONS</th>
<th>2019 Actual</th>
<th>2020 Actual</th>
<th>2020 %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>47 601-Administration</td>
<td>7,908</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>2,115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48 602-Accounting Fees</td>
<td>6,200</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>3,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49 603-Contingency</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 604-Property Insurance</td>
<td>10,244</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>7,684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 605-Church Maintenance</td>
<td>42,229</td>
<td>53,000</td>
<td>25,098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52 606-Mem. Garden/Labyrinth</td>
<td>2,002</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>1,830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53 607-Leased Equip/Contracted Srvc</td>
<td>16,795</td>
<td>17,000</td>
<td>11,525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54 608-Computer Equip</td>
<td>3,335</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 609-Edmonds/Replacements</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56 610-Organ Replace/Maint.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57 611-Utilities</td>
<td>16,553</td>
<td>17,000</td>
<td>8,357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58 612-Property Tax</td>
<td>1,772</td>
<td>1,900</td>
<td>657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59 613 -Strategic Planning projects</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 614 - Furniture and Fixtures</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62 615 - Security</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td><strong>107,090</strong></td>
<td><strong>123,900</strong></td>
<td><strong>67,505</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The beginning of this church year seems like decades ago. It is hard to imagine where we were and what we were doing last October. Let me take you back. We had just completed the Annual Meeting and were deep in preparations for our Celebration of Shared Ministry when Jessica would be officially installed as our rector.

That joyous occasion on November 24, along with our worship and fellowship activities for Advent and Christmas launched us into 2020 ready to pursue our shared ministry with Jessica. We began the new budget year in a strong financial position, with surpluses from 2018 and 2019 giving us a cushion against unknowns. We were also able to direct some of the surplus funds to important ministries for the church. We tithed a portion of the surplus by making a one-time gift to St. Luke’s Community Engagement Program; we contributed to our building replacement fund; and we completed some much-needed repairs.

At the start of 2020, the Vestry was also focused on the security of the church. A number of incidents in the fall and a growing acknowledgement of the vulnerability of faith communities caused us to look carefully at our physical building and the ways we operated in the building. We tightened up protocols around access to the building and retained a regular security officer for Sunday services and large parish events. The Vestry was in the process of developing and funding a longer-term security plan when the church building was closed because of COVID.

At the same time, the Vestry continued to talk about what it means for St. Luke’s to be welcoming, recognizing that welcoming involves connecting...not only with newcomers, but also with each other. We explored ways to strengthen our own connections throughout the parish, and to encourage more intentional links between parishioners. We were testing out the concept of having Vestry greeters at services.

Ironically, the topic of how we connect with each other became even more important as COVID hit. As we all retreated to our homes, most not going to work or school, and many in retirement communities highly restricted in their movements, it was hard to imagine how we would “do church.” Without our Sunday routines and our regular fellowship gatherings, we needed to redesign how we connect with one another and rethink how we connect with God.

And this is where the resilience of St. Luke’s kicked in. Without missing a beat, Jessica began virtual church services the very first Sunday after the church building was closed. Since that time, she and Sarah, supported by our Deacon Lesley Krauland and our Deacon Intern Sally Lermond, and in consultation with the Worship Council, have provided three weekly services, along with Snack Size Church available whenever it
works for our parishioners.

Attendance has exceeded all our expectations. Our Sunday services now include St. Lukers who have moved away. Our Wednesday noon service now works even for those with a busy workday, as they can tune in easily from their desk. And Children’s Church no longer involves getting the whole family out the door on a Sunday morning. Yes, we all acutely miss the chance to see each other, to hug and laugh together. And we are counting the moments until we can worship and be in fellowship again. But we are also embracing the new connections that are being made between us and with God.

Along with our steady pace of worship activities, this full annual report demonstrates the range of outreach and fellowship activities that have continued unabated during the COVID crisis. The willingness of the parish to try new things, to accept the situation we have been given, and to persevere in our shared ministry is amazing. In so many ways this parish has demonstrated resilience and commitment and faith in our purpose. Pledge payments have remained steady and outreach activities have adjusted to the needs and constraints of the COVID era. And, when the country turned the spotlight onto the ongoing racial injustice and pervasive structural racism in our society, St. Luke’s recognized the hard work we needed to undertake and dug in with prayer, demonstrations, discussions and a commitment to the ongoing work of becoming anti-racist.

Much of St. Luke’s resilience over this year should be credited to Jessica and her terrific team of staff who have made so much happen on our behalf. My thanks go out to Sarah, Kim, Lesley and Sally for their flexibility and creativity during these challenging times. And, my thanks to Jessica who has now proven that her unflappable nature prevails even in the toughest of circumstances.

Our resilience also resides in the volunteers leading the way in all the corners of our church life and operations. As you read through this report, you will see the names of the many people who make the church hum. In their steady way and in whatever domain they work, they are caring for St. Luke’s and for each of us, keeping our connections strong, even if we aren’t gathering together physically.

A special recognition is in order for our three Vestry members completing their service: Soumaia Amin, Tom Fluegel, and Stuart Wilkinson. And I offer a welcome and thanks in advance to those new members and a new senior warden who will be joining the Vestry team. Thanks also to the rest of the Vestry, who are continuing their service and to our Junior Warden, Cliff Johnson, and our officers, Deb Marks – Clerk, Jenny Bradley – Treasurer, Susie Casson – Assistant Treasurer, and Arlene Antonicelli – Financial Contributions Officer.
As the year comes to an end, I can’t help but want to return to where we started the year – in celebration of our shared ministry. Yes, the challenges ahead of us are looming and are perhaps some of the toughest we will face in our lifetimes. But we’ve proven that St. Luke’s can thrive and be a loving community of God, caring for our neighbors and each other, even in the face of adversity. I say let’s celebrate that.

Amy Elsbree

State of the Church October 18, 2020

Dear Future People of St. Luke’s -

When you read this in 2040, I want you to know what this year 2020 has been like for all of us. We’ve been out of the building since the middle of March. If you had told me that 9 months ago that we were about to have to leave our building and not be able to gather in person indefinitely - I would have been scared that this trial would extinguish the bright flame that is St. Luke’s church. And I would have been so wrong. When all this began, we hoped we’d be back in church for Easter. Then by Pentecost. Then by St. Luke’s Day. We are not back in the building. We can’t sing together. We can’t hug or shake hands. And yet the flame still burns, so bright and determined.

Last St. Luke’s Day was my first annual meeting as Rector. Our new administrator Kim had started in the office in September and we had a complete and well functioning staff! The newly elected vestry members and Jr Warden joined the team and we set about identifying the work that laid ahead of us for the upcoming year. We wanted to work on a real security plan for the church, we wanted a balanced and sustainable budget, we wanted to increase planned giving, and we wanted to figure out how to help people connect with St. Luke’s when they couldn’t get to the building. Truly, this was one of our goals and it had been on the minds of vestry people for over a year. We had to remove being physically present as a barrier to being part of this community.

In late November 2019, Bishop Chilton Knudson came to preside of the Celebration of Shared Ministry between St. Luke’s “New” (only in a very technical, narrow sense of the word, since I’ve been at St. Luke’s since 2010) Rector and the St. Luke’s Community. The community brought up symbols of the ministries of St. Luke’s and we had a great party afterwards.
(Pineapple - a symbol of welcome - for Ushers, drawings from Children’s Church, Altar flowers from the Flower Guild, Yarn and needles from Prayer Shawl Ministry, casserole from Supper Group, Gardening supplies from Garden Guild, Port and bread from Altar Guild, Hymnals from the Music Ministry, Grill tools and compostable paper goods or Fellowship, Chocolate coins from the Finance Committee, (lego) Bible from readers, copy of the Acts Newsletter with a red pen for editing from the Acts team, a coffee mug from the Coffee Hour crew, a counting sheet from the counters, books from Book lovers, an extensive basket representing the various ministries of Community Engagement.)

In January, Bishop Mariann sent us Lesley Krauland to serve as our Deacon and then almost immediately Sally Lermond was sent to serve alongside Lesley as a deacon intern for 6 months before her ordination. The staff grew quickly, and then we learned that our new and brilliant administrator Kim would need to relocate with her family to New Jersey summer of 2020. We thought Kim’s departure would be the biggest curveball 2020 had in store for us.

At the end of February we started trying a hands free exchanging of the peace - we thought it would be hard on us but we realized we got to see more people that way. We bought lots of hand sanitizer and tissues and placed these supplies on the windowsills in the church for easy access. We used them for one Sunday. On March 13, Bishop Mariann closed all buildings in the Diocese of Washington.
The first Sunday we were at home because of the pandemic felt like a snow day. A small group gathered via Zoom for morning worship but many people took it as an opportunity to sleep in or to check out the National Cathedral service that was being live streamed. The second Sunday’s online gathering grew, and so did the third. We currently average around 90 people on Sunday morning, 10 on Saturday evening, and 10 at our Wednesday Noon service. We accepted that it was the most kind, loving and Christ-like thing to do to stay home on Easter and so we settled into our new normal. We finished out Lent virtually, heard the passion read by a cast of congregants on a Zoom screen we all agree looks too much like the Brady Bunch. We gathered every day of Holy Week for prayer and reflection and we celebrated Christ’s resurrection on Easter Sunday. No egg hung, no Easter brunch, no fancy clothes or raucous exchange of the Peace - and yet it was still Easter. Different. But Easter. Christ is Risen. Alleluia!

A team was gathered to help craft a plan to return to the building and in person worship. I’d like the thank those who serve on that team: Jr Warden Cliff Johnson, Chair of Buildings and Grounds Bill Casson, CoChairs of Altar Guild Chris Zakarka and Andi Pringle and church staff. I am thankful for Jim Mills and Phil Taylor who offer us medical and scientific insight and advice. We are not yet in the building, so for now, this team still exist - ready to act when the time comes.

As the St. Luke’s community does what love requires of them in this moment, ministry has not been limited to Sunday morning only.

- The Retired Men’s group continues to meet via Zoom
- The Garden Guild continues to care for the gardens at St. Luke’s
- The Pollinator Garden had a successful second year
- Children’s Church met weekly through the end of August (and then everyone got on different schedules and we have to figure out a new time that works) via Zoom
- Members of the St. Luke’s community demonstrated along Old Georgetown in support of an end to racial violence and oppression
- The 5 pm service went from meeting 1st and 3rd Saturdays to every Saturday for the time being (via Zoom)
- The Wednesday virtual service draws 6-12 folks who lift up the parish prayer list and the concerns of the parish during what serves as a midweek perspective and attitude adjustment
- Booklovers continues to meet and had a discussion with an author via Zoom
- Our musicians are finding ways to offer their gifts to help us to connect with God and praise God.
- A group is meeting for 8 weeks to learn about the History of Race & Christianity in the United States so that we can work to not repeat history (via Zoom)
- We gathered in a socially distanced fashion at the Bethesda Police station to pray with Police Officer Patricia and her colleagues - for healing and justice, for safety and for growth and transformation.
• We prayed at Walter Johnson High School as our schools tried to figure out how best keep the students and educators safe.
• A monthly discussion group started to review and share resources that have helped community members on their journey to become Anti racist.
• We distributed communion supplies via a festive drive though. People had community engagement donations picked up from their trunks; had a prayer book placed in the trunk by the rector; a hymnal from the minister for music & liturgy; purificators and instructions from the deacon & deacon intern; a jar of gluten free wafers from one chair of the altar guild and a candle from the other chair of altar guild. It was *SO GOOD* to see each other.
• Community engagement has been gathering supplies for Bethesda Help, So What Else?, Small Things Matter, and Interfaith Works. Members of the St. Luke’s Community made masks for Cornerstone Montgomery.

In October, we are trying parking lot church on Thursdays at 5:30 pm. We park in every other parking place in the lot along Old Georgetown, put our folding chairs near our cars, and we say Evening Prayer together. The road is loud sometimes, the birds sing (I like to think because they know we cannot so they are offering their assistance), and the weather is temperamental. And still, parking lot church is good. And comforting.

Today, on this St. Luke’s Day of 2020, we elect new vestry members and a new Sr. Warden. We don’t know when things will “get back to normal”. We know we will keep live streaming for folks who can’t make it into the building. We know that we can’t just wait until this pandemic is over - there is work we are called to do right now, ministry that love requires of us. But when you all read this in 20 years - or 50 - please know that this was hard but we are okay. This community is strong. The light of Christ shines brightly even when we are scattered. We are blessed to be a part of this St. Luke’s community.

Peace
Jessica Hitchcock

Pictures on following pages:
1. Carol Grattan is recorded reading for Sunday Worship
2. The hall in front of the office is consistently full of food donations
3. Supplies distributed at Communion Drive Thru Pick Up
4. A warm welcome home at Communion Drive Thru Pick Up
5. Parking Lot Church in October
6. Prayers at the Police Station with our beloved Officer Patricia
7. Demonstration on Old Georgetown in support of racial justice and an end to racial violence
8. We collaborated with churches and synagogues along Old Gtown
9. A screen shot of people gathered for Zoom church
Music Ministry Report

Prior to the shutdown, the music program was continuing to grow with new choir members joining from the prior year. We continued to broaden our range of music including additional repertoire both from the treasure of the church’s musical history and newer works. We had additional instrumentalists begin to play more regularly with our ensemble and were happy to welcome several of our younger musicians into regular participation.

Since the shutdown, we have provided both previously-recorded musical offerings from our archives of videos from prior years (videos from both concert recordings and services) and newly-recorded anthems and hymns from members of the music ministry. We have had the joy of listening to Alice Bradley fiddle during the Drive-Thru Communion Pickup and have included instrumental organ music in the trunk church events in the parking lot.

The choir continues weekly check-ins via email, and they are using this time both for personal musical enrichment in the form of sight-singing work through the framework of Bach Chorales and to learn and present new works. We are continuing to find the right balance to meet the musical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs not only of the parish but of these dedicated ministers as well.

Going forward, the music program will continue to try to strike a balance between providing familiar comforts (beloved hymns, old recordings of choir/instrumentalists) and continuing to challenge us to grow and move forward (new congregational hymns both from contemporary composers and older sources, new anthems and musical offerings from the music ministers). Ultimately, I have been incredibly impressed and grateful for so many of our ministry members rising to the technological, emotional, and musical challenges of these last months. They have given selflessly of their time, energy, and talents while also experiencing the grief of suddenly losing an important part of their identity as members of the St. Luke’s Community. I am beyond thankful for the opportunity to work with this remarkable group and hope for the day we can make music together again.

Sarah Horick

Communications Report

Prior to the shutdown, the primary communications activity included preparing the bulletin document for each week’s liturgies, preparing the Hot News printed leaflet for distribution at the Sunday services, sending the weekly E-News email newsletter,
creating flyers for use around the building, website maintenance, and coordinating with Jessica to manage the social media presence.

The communications strategy since the shutdown has shifted as we try to find the most effective ways to stay connected with the community. Some items have remained the same such as preparing bulletin documents, sending the weekly email newsletter, and managing the website, but we have also added additional elements. As we have moved all our Sunday worship online, we have begun to produce both video versions of the hymns that are posted to our YouTube page for use in worship and have started to offer “Snack Size Church” audio-only versions of the services after the weekend. We have increased our engagement on social media and Jessica has made extensive use of the Zoom platform for Sunday worship along with most other meeting needs of the parish.

As we continue to navigate our way through this distance-worship situation, we will likely try to adapt as we are better able to assess the needs of the parish. We will continue to try to find what is most effective for reaching our community both for worship and for other connection, and I fully expect these needs to evolve as we go forward.

*Sarah Horick*

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**Report from the Deacon**

I give thanks to the community of St. Luke’s and the Rector Jessica Hitchcock for having me serve this wonderful parish as a deacon. It is a blessing to be here in fellowship with you.

In the earliest days of the Christian church, deacons were called by the twelve disciples to distribute food to poor Greek widows in their community. Since that time the ministries and roles of deacons have expanded. Deacons serve the Church as a ‘bridge’ between the parish family and the world, following Christ’s model to love every neighbor, to strive for justice and peace, and to teach, organize, collaborate, and provide pastoral care and support. Within the parish, the deacon serves in the liturgy by proclaiming the gospel, inviting the confession, occasionally preaching, and serving as the *maître’d* of the Table at the Eucharist. The deacon concludes the liturgy by saying the dismissal to encourage and to direct the parish to go out into the world to love and serve in the name of Christ. Within the parish, deacons
serve in various roles as leader, coordinator, teacher, administrator, and pastor on various committees and projects.

Since I began my tenure at St. Luke’s my primary roles have been to be a diaconal presence in the liturgy and to provide support to Community Engagement, the Rector, and the community. I regularly confer with the Community Engagement committee regarding ongoing projects and future needs. Some community engagement activities I’ve participated in include Bethesda Cares’ 2020 Point-in-Time Count of the homeless in Silver Spring and Bethesda; coordinating COVID-19 mask-sewing and donations; driving donated foods to Bethesda Help and Small Things Matter; marching in peaceful protests in May and June 2020 for racial justice; cooking and bringing hot dinners to Interfaith Women’s Shelter; driving donated school supplies to the Bishop Walker School in August; and with St. Luke’s volunteers, packing bags of donated produce at the Takoma Park Silver Spring Coop. Before COVID-19 shut down our parish, I began a four-week adult education offering on Presiding Bishop Michael Curry’s Way of Love study series. Prior to the COVID shut-down, I met parishioners for coffee and fellowship. During the COVID shut-down, I regularly telephoned parishioners to facilitate connections and communication. I participate regularly in the Wednesday Noon, Thursday Evening Prayer, Saturday Evening Prayer, and Sunday Morning services. Additionally, I have supervised a deacon intern, Sally Lermond, as she learns the ropes to serve a parish as a deacon.

We are on the eve of a season of transition as the national elections and the winter cold/flu/COVID-19 season comes upon us. As deacon, my ministry will continue to support the needs and concerns of the St. Luke’s parish and the community, looking for all opportunities for fellowship, friendship, healing, growth, and prosperity in God’s kingdom.

The Rev. Lesley Werner Krauland

Report from the Deacon Intern

This year has turned many if not most of our expectations upside down and my sadness is not getting to know the dear people of St Luke’s in a more personal, face to face way during my internship. Alas COVID-19 arrived about the same time as I arrived at St Luke’s as a deacon intern. Three or four services of holy Eucharist, a few coffee hours, one or two great programs from your Community Engagement team, a delectable Pancake Supper where I delighted in “flipping” alongside the more experienced hands. Things were exciting and the community and its many facets were just opening up to me when we found ourselves in lockdown. Lockdown not shutdown. The spirit of St Luke’s was alive and well, albeit outside the beautiful sanctuary, and we all rallied around the changing needs of those we served. Donations of food and household
staples continued to flow in, food flowed out to the women’s shelter, gift cards and monetary donations met not only the current needs, but those needs increased and were met also. The wonderfully committed parishioners of St Luke’s already take their calling as Christ’s hands and feet on earth most seriously and have the most energetic of outside missions in the Community Engagement program. What a great lesson you have given me in how a church should live its life as a holy community outside the church building. Only a small part of being a Christian and living the life of a Christian takes place in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Even when that sanctuary is shuttered the work in the community goes on and you wonderful folk have given me the best possible training in how this can be accomplished. After my Ordination at the National Cathedral in November the Bishop will assign me to another parish in the Diocese and so my internship with St Luke’s will end. What will never end is the joy that I experience whenever I think of my time with you. You have shared love and acceptance of me along with learning and practice in the ways of a deacon. You took me in as a very green “newbie” and you will send me out with a wisdom that could only come from the gentle mentoring and positive instruction showered on me. God bless you all, dear brothers and sister in Christ.

Sally Lermond

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**Report of the Nominating Committee**

**Nominating Committee members:** Soumaia Amin, Betsy Davis, Gretchen MacLeod, Clay Miller and Alixe Park

**Candidate for Sr. Warden:** Mike Bernier

**Candidates for Vestry:** Christina Bradley, Linda Freeman, Claudia Henemyre, and Steve Lowe

**Delegates to the Convention:** Jim Mills and Pat Rogers

**Alternate Delegates to the Convention:** DeAtley Barish and Mary Gant
Myrna Olsen has been an active volunteer in the St. Luke's community and in the broader community. She was a vestry member more than once. For many years she led the Welcoming Committee, reaching out to extend our hospitality to newcomers. She was a Sunday School teacher. She was an active Shepherd, touching base monthly to the 20+ “flock” assigned to her. She was a Visiting Eucharistic Minister. She served at Loaves and Fishes, and was involved in many other activities during her 50+ years of membership at St. Luke’s. She is proudest of her work as head of St. Luke’s “adoption” of a Cambodian refugee family. The family of parents, grandmother, and children had nothing when they fled their home in Cambodia. Myrna and her volunteers found them housing, furnished the home, enrolled the children in English classes and school. They enrolled the family in social benefits programs and connected them with other immigrant groups. The group found employment for the parents and supported them financially and spiritually for more than 18 months, until they were financially self-sufficient. She volunteered and worked at the National Cathedral, drawing on her hospitable North Dakotan nature to give tours to visitors from all over the world. She has been a volunteer for Hospice of Montgomery County for many years. St. Luke’s is pleased to recognize Myrna for her example of taking Christ’s love out into the world to serve others.

**Parish Archives 2019 - 2020**

**Baptized**
Charles Timothy Wetzler  
Vivien Jane Picciotta  
Brayden Jeremy Hulem

**Burials**
David Freeman  
Edgar Gordon
**ACTS of ST. LUKE'S**

**Purpose:** Provide our parishioners and friends with timely information about the St. Luke's community.

**Committee Chair:** Tine Stone, editor

**Member Duties:** Proofreading the monthly issues of the ACTS

**Skills Needed:** An attention for detail of the written word
- An awareness of what happens at St. Luke’s so that proofing the newsletter is made within the larger sense of the church

**How has Coronavirus and being away from the church building affected this ministry of St. Luke's?** In the production of our newsletter, COVID has affected us very little. We email the finished product, so the only real difference is that we no longer have traffic in our building for folks to pick up a copy of our newsletter.

**You might enjoy being a part of this ministry if....** If you have an eye for detail, enjoy editing articles as they are received, and can compile the disparate aspects of our St. Luke's community into our monthly newsletter.

**Current Members:**
Tine Stone, Arlene Antonicelli, Susie Casson, Deb Marks, and Treva Miller

**ALTAR GUILD**

**Purpose:** The Altar Guild maintains and prepares the church for St Luke’s worship services.

**Altar Guild Co-Chairs:** Christine Zakarka and Andi Pringle

**Duties:**
- Weekly preparation of all items used during worship services
- Furnishing and caring for the altar hangings, linens, and vestments
• Preparing for baptisms, weddings, funerals, and special liturgical services such as Holy Week
• Cleaning up after Sunday services.

**Skills needed:** None! The guild provides training for weekly services. The Guild also provides the opportunity for progressive training to be able to prepare special services such as funerals and weddings, as well as more complex services such as those practiced during Holy Week.

**How has Coronavirus and being away from the church building affected this ministry of St. Luke's?** The building shutdown has shut down the work of the Altar Guild.

**You might enjoy being a part of this ministry if...** you enjoy working with tools, materials, equipment or get satisfaction from working with others to keep our facilities and grounds functioning properly and providing a comfortable, welcoming environment (when we can share it together to serve God).

**Current Members:**
Mary Kimelblatt, Beth Cherry, Brenda Curtis-Heiken, Amy Elsbree, Colleen Hermach, Marta Montoro, Erica James, Miranda Marks, Sandra Stewart, Andi Pringle. Angie Wilkinson, Christine Zakarka

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**BOOK LOVERS**

**Purpose:** To foster fellowship through the discussion of a variety of books and what they can tell us about the experience of being human.

**Committee Chair:** Committee members take turns hosting the meetings and leading the discussions. Nancy Reding is responsible for publicity and communications.

**Member Duties:** In theory, none. Ideally, to read featured books and share reactions to the contents therein; to contribute suggestions for future reads; to volunteer to host usually at home and/or to provide refreshments.
How has Coronavirus and being away from the church building affected this ministry of St. Luke's? We have continued successfully meeting via Zoom. It's been great.

You might enjoy being a part of this ministry if....you love to read and discuss books.

Current Members: All are welcome!

BUILDING CARE

Purpose: To maintain and preserve our facilities, coordinate associated priorities, and to cultivate friendships

Committee Chair: Bill Casson

Member Duties: Duties are very informal and include sharing a fellowship with friends, assessing building needs, routine maintenance, sharing and learning new skills, determining when skilled (and paid) professionals are needed to care for our facilities. We also determine how best to use our limited resources wisely.

Time Commitment for Members: Our time commitments vary. Each person who helps out determines his or her own availability and which tasks to work. Some of us spend occasional time caring for our trust and some of us dedicate a fair amount of time and skills to daily needs.

Skills Needed: Skills needed include a willingness to learn about our facilities, the ability to exercise our muscles and minds, general DIY skills, and being able to enjoy working indoors and outdoors.

How has Coronavirus and being away from the church building affected this ministry of St. Luke's? Reduced building use has lowered maintenance and operations costs substantially, but the increased cost of disinfection
supplies/equipment somewhat offsets this. The pandemic has impeded some repair/renovation plans (lower level and kitchen exterior door replacement, installation of additional building security equipment, etc). Other maintenance services have proceeded without problem (pest control, HVAC servicing, plumbing repairs). Required regulatory inspections (fire alarm system, elevator) have also been accomplished. Volunteer-performed maintenance projects had to be re-configured where team work was required, so that social distancing was possible at all times.

**Did you know....**
During the summer, St. Luke's participated in a group electric power purchase that allowed us to continue to have 100 percent wind-generated electric power at a quite favorable fixed price (equal to fossil-fuel generated) for multiple years. We also obtained a similarly favorably-priced (below prevailing market) three-year natural gas supply contract. Outdoor grounds vegetation control projects were much easier to perform and had the appeal of allowing volunteers to work together outdoors in a safe way. Our grounds reflect this by looking good.

**You might enjoy being a part of this ministry if....** you enjoy working with tools, materials, equipment or get satisfaction from working with others to keep our facilities and grounds functioning properly and providing a comfortable, welcoming environment (when we can share it together to serve God).

**Current Members:**
Bill Casson, Wyman Stone, Dan Stewart, John Elsbree

**CHILDREN’S CHURCH**

**Purpose:** Children's Church is a co-op of children and parents of St. Luke's with the purpose of sharing God's love through a curriculum made up of age-appropriate Bible stories and themes, entertaining kid-led cartoon videos making relevant connections, and group discussion and introspection, while providing a welcoming space for children to voice their prayers and thanks.

**Committee Chair:** Jessica Hitchcock

**How has Coronavirus and being away from the church building affected this ministry of St. Luke's?** Prior to Coronavirus, children and a rotating team of
parent volunteers met on Sundays during the first half of the 10 a.m. service (10-10:30ish) for Children's Church, a kid-friendly curriculum of Bible stories and themes. During Coronavirus, Children's Church moved to regular Zoom meetings once a week, led by Jessica, for about 45-60 minutes. Child participation dropped to usually around 6-7 children, with a core of 5 attending almost every meeting. Prior to Coronavirus, attendance was anywhere from 4 to 12 children who dropped in during church. Not all regular CC participants migrated over to Zoom CC and parent volunteers did not lead any Zoom meetings.

On Zoom, Children's Church was able to spend more time diving into the week's lesson and theme, checking in with everyone's well-being (talking about worries/fears/thanks, praying together), as well as providing more regular face time with Jessica in a youth group-type setting. The new format also allowed children to share aspects of their home life with the group, such as tour their room/home, share special objects, etc. Zoom CC has been paused since September to allow children to adjust to their new school schedules, but hopefully later this fall, virtual Children's Church meetings will resume.

**Did you know....** Before the building was closed in March, Children's Church was really becoming a great group of engaged children. Children who participated were attending regularly, 2-3 times a month, and were establishing friendships among the group. These connections and consistent routine would hopefully pave the way for a lively and meaningful youth group in the future.

**You might enjoy being a part of this ministry if....**
A.) ...you're age 3 to 12 and you're interested in making friends with other kids while learning more about God’s teachings and how you can recognize and share God’s love with others.
B.) ...you’re a parent and want to join your child in Children's Church as a volunteer, engaging with our community of young people to encourage thoughtful reflection and discussion of God’s love.

**Current Members:**
Mika Shannon--prep/backup CC leader
Children (ages 3-12)--participants;
Parent Volunteers--guest CC leaders

**COFFEE HOUR**
**Purpose:** To provide an opportunity for fellowship; to provide refreshments; to set up drinks and snacks after the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. service and then clean up

**Committee Chair:** Clay Miller

**Member Duties:** 8 a.m.—Put tablecloths on tables and put out coffee, tea, other drinks, and snacks for children and adults. Empty dishwasher.

10 a.m.—Restock supplies, food, and beverages; clean up and run the dishwasher.

**Time Commitment for Members:** 45 minutes – 1 hour
8 a.m.—start before service
10 a.m.—stay after service

**Skills Needed:** None

*How has Coronavirus and being away from the church building affected this ministry of St. Luke's?* We have had no access to the church and we miss serving others.

*You might enjoy being a part of this ministry if...* you enjoy working with parishioners and can spend some time setting up and cleaning up before the 8AM or after the 10AM service

**Current Members:**
Betsy Davis, Tay Hahn, Sylvia Lu, Lynn Liptak, Alison Rouleau, Michell Canick, Veronica Walgamotte, Laura Edwards, Ivy Martin, Jen Luna, Treva Miller, Lucia Feliciano

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
**Purpose:** The mission of the Community Engagement Committee is to share the extravagant hospitality and inclusive love of God so that people’s lives are changed for the better. We foster giving, volunteerism, education, empowerment and advocacy.

**Committee Chairs:** Miranda Marks and Maria Montoro

**How has Coronavirus and being away from the church building affected this ministry of St. Luke's?**

The COVID-19 pandemic and by extension, not gathering in-person, have significantly affected the work of this Committee; however, we have collectively adapted and strived to meet community needs, which are dire. COVID-19’s economic and food-security impacts have been devastating for many and the pandemic disproportionately affected our unsheltered brothers and sisters. For the time being, we have paused our issue-based “Cluster” approach to Community Engagement to focus on the most pressing needs. Where possible, we have maintained some seasonal normalcy, focused on activities that are safe (ie, remote collection drives and online donations, with some limited outdoors in-person service opportunities) and invited guest speakers from the organizations that St. Luke’s supports to join us for Zoomchurch. In summary, St. Luke’s has:

- Continued collecting food for Bethesda Help’s pantry, with donations now exceeding 1,000 lbs of food since early March. (ongoing)
- Provided masks, games, and crafts/activities for clients of Cornerstone Montgomery and Interfaith Works during Shelter-in-Place.
- Coordinated a successful Women’s Shelter Meal Week with extensive parish participation, despite COVID restrictions.
- Collected household items for Interfaith Works Permanent Supportive Housing Program and gift cards and supplies for the Bp Walker School for Boys back-to-school efforts.
- Expanded our in-kind support to two additional local non-profits, Small Things Matter (in-person service packing produce bags, baked goods) and So What Else (food diapers), both of which serve families in need in Montgomery County.
- Hosted guest speakers from Interfaith Works and Samaritan Ministry as part of Zoom church, leading to meaningful conversations with parishioners.
• Donated to $1,000 to the Official Navajo Nation COVID-19 Relief Fund, and $500 each to the Equal Justice Initiative, and the Poor People’s Campaign, using the Committee’s Discretionary Fund – in response to communities most affected by the pandemic and to contribute to racial justice efforts.

Looking ahead to the remainder of the 2020 calendar year, the Committee is planning to collect gift cards for the holidays for families served by Samaritan Ministry and Interfaith Works, collaborate with the Knitting/Prayer Shawl Ministry to make winter clothing, generate interest in a virtual “Holy Cow” fundraiser, and encourage attendance at ‘virtual’ events to provide support for the many organizations that do God’s work in the world.

Thank you, St. Luke’s parishioners, for living out your baptismal promises so generously and showing support and kindness to our sisters and brothers in need during these very difficult circumstances.

Did you know....Community Engagement
• Attended Cornerstone Montgomery’s Champions & Legacies celebration (Oct. 2019)
• Purchased gift cards and presents for children for Samaritan Ministry Christmas party (Nov. 2019)
• Raised more than $14,000 for Episcopal Relief & Development, with a focus on their Climate Fund (Advent – “Holy Cow”/Dec. 2019)
• Collected winter clothes & gift cards for Bethesda Cares clients (Jan. 2020)
• Assembled 200 winter blessing bags (containing food, snacks, and hygiene items) for guests of the Loaves & Fishes program (Feb. 2020)
• Attended the Bp Walker School Annual Dinner at National Cathedral (Mar. 2020)

You might enjoy being a part of this ministry if....you enjoy being of service to others and to our larger community.

Current Members:
Deacon: The Rev. Lesley Krauland; Deacon-Intern: Sally Lermond; Vestry Liaison: Jane Battles; Members: Jenny Bradley, Elliott Milhollin, Clay Miller, Jack Orrick, Helen Riley

COUNTERS
**Purpose:** To collect and count the cash and checks for various categories and deposit receipts in the church’s bank account each week.

**Committee Chair:** Clay Miller

**Time Commitment for members:**
1.5 hours, when scheduled

**Duties:** Seven counter teams are scheduled on a rotating basis. On their assigned Sunday, counters take receipts to counter room, open envelopes, separate cash and checks into pledges, plate, and other designations, then double-check amounts for each category, fill out a deposit slip, and deposit money in the bank at Wildwood Shopping Center.

**Skills Needed:**
Ability/pleasure in working with numbers; attention to detail; willingness and ability to correct errors if the totals do not match.

**How has Coronavirus and being away from the church building affected this ministry of St. Luke’s?** We have used 3 couples Clay & Treva Miller, Bill & Susie Casson, and Tine & Wyman Stone instead of the regular teams and counted every two weeks to lessen the risk from COVID.

**You might enjoy being a part of this ministry if....** enjoy dealing with numbers, working with checks and cash, and serving the church.

**Current Members:**
Michael Bales, Mike Brolly, Bill & Susie Casson, Diane Fox, Alixe & Don Park, Angie & Stuart Wilkinson, Mike Votaw, Pete Rogers, Tine & Wyman Stone, Treva Miller, Larry Legates, Cliff & Margaret Johnson, Michel Ellert-Beck

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**FELLOWSHIP**

**Purpose:** Provide social events which enable all parishioners to celebrate significant times in the life of the church; to enhance our connection with each other, and therefore, with St. Luke’s
Committee Chairs: Sally Curtin

Committee Chair Duties:

- Recruit leaders for 6 annual social events: Fall Picnic, Harvest Brunch, Christmas Party, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Maundy Thursday Cedar Meal, Easter Brunch.
- Help event leaders as required/helpful; occasionally lead an event
- Assist and/or run random one-time events, i.e., Summer picnic, Chili cook-off, Retirements
- Admin Duties, i.e. write annual Fellowship report, make budget request, monitor spending

How has Coronavirus and being away from the church building affected this ministry of St. Luke's? Fellowship has been greatly affected. Many of the events have been cancelled. Getting together in large groups and sharing food is not possible now.

Did you know...The Christmas Party and the pancake supper were our last two events.

You might enjoy being a part of this ministry if.... you enjoy planning events and working together with people to coordinate them.

Time Commitment for Committee Chairs:
Approximately 2 hr./month if event leaders are in place; more time required if recruiting event leader.
GARDEN GUILD

**Purpose:** The Garden Guild is responsible for the care of the Memorial Garden, the Labyrinth, the Freeman Garden and other designated areas surrounding the church. As a group we meet monthly during the growing season to do general gardening and add seasonal plantings. Many members work extra duty between workdays to ensure the gardens are always looking their best.

**Committee Chair:** Susan Casson; Assisting – Anne Elsbree and Gayle Countryman-Mills

**Member Duties:** Cleaning the gardens of trash and debris, planting annuals and bulbs in season, pruning bushes or trees, sodding, fertilizing, removing and replacing dead plants, watering, pulling weeds, and mulching.

**Time Commitment for Members:** Members are encouraged to attend one annual planning meeting in the spring, and monthly work days from March-October. Members who are willing to work more hours are assigned a month and their duty is to ensure that the Garden is checked weekly during their month, preferably close to the weekend.

**Skills Needed:** Training provided for garden maintenance. Knowledge of local plants is appreciated, although not required.

**How has Coronavirus and being away from the church building affected this ministry of St. Luke's?** Since the Garden Guild works outside in the garden, we had little disruption to our routine this year, although I did notice a lot more participation at each work day! The only change was to wear a facemask and socially distance when working together.

**Did you know....** Our Annual Potluck Luncheon and Planning Meeting was held in early March before the quarantine was imposed. During the meeting we made plans to add more native plants to the Freeman Garden. This work is scheduled to occur this fall.

**You might enjoy being a part of this ministry if....** you love the outdoors, bugs and all, don’t mind getting dirty and love the beauty of God’s creation...all in nice company!

**Current Members:**
FINANCE MINISTRY

**Purpose:** The Finance Ministry monitors St. Luke’s financial status, including the Parish’s revenue and expenditures, and the performance of our investment portfolio. FinMin advises the Vestry on financial matters and works with the Treasurer to develop our annual budget for Vestry approval.

**Committee Chair:** Steve Lowe

**Time Commitment for Members:** The finance committee meets once per month for 1-2 hours.

**Skills Needed:** An interest in finance, a talent for operations management, or an interest in ensuring that Saint Luke's is operated in a financially responsible manner so that we can continue to spread God’s love and Christ’s message in our community.

**How has Coronavirus and being away from the church building affected this ministry of St. Luke's?** We continue to meet virtually each month.

**You might enjoy being a part of this ministry if...** you have an interest in finance, a talent for operations management, or an interest in ensuring that Saint Luke's is operated in a financially responsible manner so that we can continue to spread God’s love and Christ’s message in our community.

**Current Members:**
Stephen Lowe (chair), Jenny Bradley (Treasurer), Susie Casson (Assistant Treasurer), Arlene Antonicelli (Contributions Secretary), Amy Elsbree, Clay Miller, Bill Nellist, Sandy Swab, Jessica Hitchcock (Rector)

FLOWER GUILD
**Purpose:** Create floral arrangements for the altar each week

**Committee Chair** Michelle Bales and Sharon Murphy (co-chairs)

**Member Duties:** Work in pairs to select, design and arrange flowers for the altar each week. Decorate the church for Christmas and Easter celebrations.

**Time Commitment for Members:** Approximately 2 hours every 6 weeks, generally on Saturday mornings; half day decorating before Christmas and Easter. Two planning/social luncheons per year.

**Skills Needed:** None

**How has Coronavirus and being away from the church building affected this ministry of St. Luke's?** We are no longer performing any role as Flower Guild.

**You might enjoy being a part of this ministry if....** You want to exercise your creative side!

**Current Members:** Alixe Park, Diane Cassidy, Madison, Holly Stone, Jenny Bradley, Judy Rice, Meg Shematz, Jackie Shipp, Sylvia Lu, and Tay Hahn

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**MEMORIAL GARDEN**

**Purpose:** The Memorial Gardens Committee was created to evaluate the administration of Interment Spaces and the upkeep of the Interment Areas, and to support the Rector and Vestry in this important part of our Parish life. The interment areas in the Memorial Gardens include the lawn surrounding the flagstone patio in front of the church (the Hoagland Memorial Garden) and the lawn between the outer ring of the labyrinth and the stone wall (the Labyrinth Memorial Garden). The Committee is composed of eight members, including the Rector and Parish Administrator.
**Committee Chair:** Bill Casson

**Member Duties:** Audit the purchases, transfers, and refunds of Interment Spaces; monitor availability and verify records; review policies; write related Annual Report; check Memorial Garden’s upkeep; make recommendations to Vestry regarding policy changes, budget, and landscaping/area expansion. Participate as able to prepare internment spaces for burial of cremains and close space afterwards.

**Time Commitment for Members:** Variable

**Skills Needed:** Interest in gardens and St. Luke’s interment space features; appreciation and respect for the perpetual nature of an interment garden; administration of a cemetery-like facility.

**Did you know....**

Hoagland Memorial Garden Interment Statistics as of October 1, 2020:
- There are 170 interment spaces
- 90 persons’ cremains are interred in designated spaces
- 4 persons’ cremains are scattered in the Garden
- 47 spaces have been purchased for future use
- 42 interment spaces remain available for purchase (which could accommodate up to 84 persons’ cremains, with up to two family members in each space)
- There were two interments in the Garden in the period November 1, 2019 through October 1, 2020: David H. Freeman and Edgar Gordon
- No interment rights have been purchased in the Labyrinth Memorial Garden as of October 1, 2020.

**Current Members:**
Susie Casson, Wyman Stone, Tine Stone, Ann Elsbree, John Elsbree, and Jessica

**MEN’S SHELTER**

**Purpose:** To provide a healthy dinner for 16 men at the Dorothy Day Place in Rockville, on the first Friday of every month

**Committee Chair:** Clay Miller
**Member Duties:** Prepare chicken for 8 (two people needed), salad for 16, rice for 16, or dessert for 16, and deliver to the central staging place by noon on the first Friday of the month.

**Time Commitment for Members:** The amount of time that it takes to prepare one of the designated menu items and deliver to the central staging place – depends on item, and driving distance.

**Skills Needed:** Ability to prepare and/or purchase food items; ability to drive to staging area

**How has Coronavirus and being away from the church building affected this ministry of St. Luke’s?** The recruiting of servers is not done in person. We still bring a meal every month.

**You might enjoy being a part of this ministry if...** you enjoy cooking and helping those in need of a warm meal

**Current Members:**
Preparers of food Tine Stone, Gayle Countryman - Mills, Judy Rice, Deb Marks, Betsy Davis, Helen Riley, Sylvia Lu, Angie Wilkinson, Marie Holbrook-Taylor and Treva Miller

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**POLLINATOR GARDEN**

**Purpose:** Purpose is to plant a garden of flowering plants that attracts pollinators such as butterflies, bees, moths and birds.
**Member Duties:** Duties are to plan, prepare beds, plant, water and weed the garden. Individual members sign up by the week to weed and water throughout the growing season.

**Skills Needed:** None. All can be learned on the job.

**How has Coronavirus and being away from the church building affected this ministry of St. Luke’s?** Because the garden is outside care of the garden has been maintained by individuals working alone or in two's observing social distancing. A planting day was able to happen before the church was closed. We miss working together as a team. We want to thank Margaret and Cliff Johnson for planting a whole row of their spectacular zinnias which attracted many pollinators.

**You might enjoy being a part of this ministry if....** "If you like miracles - that is what I always think of when I see tiny seeds turn into little plants and perennial plants reappear after winter."

**Current Members:**
Gayle Countryman-Mills, Michelle Canik, Nancy Voit, Lynn Liptak, Laura Lewandowski, Dan Eberly, Judy Rice, Miranda Marks, Jessica Hitchcock, John and Anne Elsbree

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**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

**Purpose:** The Prayer Shawl Ministry is a group of crafters who lovingly create prayer shawls and lap blankets for those in need and baby blankets for baptism. We meet periodically during the year to inventory, make plans and assist one another with our projects.

**Committee Chair:** Susan Casson with the help of Deb

**Member Duties:** Our primary goal is to knit or crochet prayer shawls or baby blankets, although we will also do scarves, socks, mittens, blankets and afghans to give to those in need. We mostly work from home, but occasionally meet as a group.

**Time Commitment for Members:** Unlimited! Knit or crochet as much as you like.
**Skills Needed:** It is helpful if you already know how to knit or crochet, but we are willing to instruct.

**How has Coronavirus and being away from the church building affected this ministry of St. Luke’s?** On the positive side, many of us had more time to devote to this ministry, resulting in an abundance of scarves, baby blankets and shawls. On the negative side, we were unable to meet in person as a group.

Screen reader support enabled.

**Did you know....** To get more involvement from the congregation, we teamed up with Community Engagement to challenge all members in the parish who might be interested to create one or more scarves for the homeless. To kick off the challenge, Ministry members were available during coffee hour during January to give instructions and materials to those interested. Many parishioners were involved and the number of scarves created far exceeded expectation.

**You might enjoy being a part of this ministry if....** you love knitting or crocheting (or would like to learn), and giving to others.

**Current Members:**
Angie Wilkinson, Veronica Walgamotte, Andi Pringle, Marie Holbrook, Barbara Cuthill, Barbara Roybal, Dana Smith, Alison Rouleau, Mary Gant, Beth Cherry, Bunny (Emily) Huebner, Mary Kimelblatt, Kathryn Petersen, Miranda Marks

**RETIRED MEN’S GROUP**

**Purpose:** An opportunity for retired men to have fellowship with each other

**Committee Chair:** Mike Brolly & Dodge Wells

**Member Duties:** Members rotate turns leading discussion.

**Time Commitment for Members:**
We meet at 10:30 on the second Wednesday of each month, followed by attendance at the noon Eucharist and lunch. On the fourth Wednesday we attend Eucharist and have lunch.

**Skills Needed:** Openness to others.
**How has Coronavirus and being away from the church building affected this ministry of St. Luke's?** We meet on Zoom.

**Current Members:**
Ched Bradley, George Flett, Mike Brolly, Pete Rogers, Dodge Wells, Jim Hawkins

**SERVERS: ACOLOYTES**

**Purpose:** Acolytes and readers enhance the congregation’s experience of the service by carrying the cross in processions. Acolytes also assist in the preparation of the Eucharist at the altar.

The Rector, Jessica, is in charge of servers. Scheduling is done by Deb Marks.

**How has Coronavirus and being away from the church building affected this ministry of St. Luke's?** The role of Servers has changed since services shifted to online worship. While St. Luke's gathers virtually, the traditional roles for Acolytes do not exist.

**SERVER: EUCHARIST MINISTERS**

**Purpose:** EMs bear the chalice at Communion, and provide additional assistance during Communion, as requested by the Rector.

The Rector, Jessica, is in charge of servers. Scheduling is done by Deb Marks.

**How has Coronavirus and being away from the church building affected this ministry of St. Luke's?** The role of Servers has changed since services shifted to online worship. While St. Luke's gathers virtually, the traditional roles for EMs do not exist.
**SERVER: READERS**

**Purpose:** Readers: Readers come to the lectern from their seats in the congregation to read lessons, and at some services, to lead the Prayers of the People.

The Rector, Jessica, is in charge of servers. Scheduling is done by Deb Marks.

**How has Coronavirus and being away from the church building affected this ministry of St. Luke's?** The role of Reader has continued, and in many ways, expanded. One way in which the role has expanded is in membership. Pre-COVID, 39 volunteers were scheduled quarterly to read at the 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. services; currently, most parish members have been invited to be readers, individually, and as family groups. Jessica has also expanded the traditional readings to allow for more parishioner participation. Readers have the option of reading live during the service, via video or phone, or Jessica is prepared to use, and help produce, pre-recorded audio and/or video segments. When St. Luke's first transitioned to online services, many EM's also transitioned to being Readers. Some of our Acolytes have also participated as Readers, both individually, and with their family groups. Hopefully, we will continue to draw the circle wider, and wider still.

**Did you know....** Prior to COVID, and the necessity of being away from the church, participation by parishioners in all aspects of serving during worship had grown across all roles. The enthusiasm with which young people became active as Acolytes, and the willingness of everyone to participate in special/one-time services such as the Palm Sunday Passion, was both encouraging, and so "St. Luke's-like".

**You might enjoy being a part of this ministry if....** it is meaningful for you to actively serve in some aspect of worship.

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**SUPPER GROUP**

**Purpose:** The purpose of Supper Group is to sponsor parishioner-hosted, periodic potluck suppers in the hope of promoting Christian fellowship. In this holy state where both body and soul are nourished, parishioners can become better acquainted, develop meaningful friendships, and commit to mutual and parish support.

Screen reader support enabled.

**Committee Chair:** Treva Miller
How has Coronavirus and being away from the church building affected this ministry of St. Luke’s? It has brought it to a screeching halt. Home-based Potluck Suppers attended by 25 - 50 folks promote contagion in numerous ways.

Did you know.... Bill and Susie Casson hosted a fall festival potluck on November 9, 2019. We rang in the New Year at the home of Wyman and Tine Stone on January 1, 2020. The last potluck before COVID-19 hit was hosted by Phil Taylor and Marie Holbrook on February 22. They opened the brand-new Club Room in the building to which they had moved in December '19: Ingleside at King Farm. The spacious room perfectly accommodated the crowd who were treated in small groups to tours of Marie and Phil's apartment. Unexpected treat: meeting the husbands of both of our new Deacons. The food, as always, was delicious, and many were most grateful for the opportunity to learn more about a transition that several in this group are contemplating: down-sizing and/or moving to continuing care facilities.

You might enjoy being a part of this ministry if.... you enjoy sharing your home and the satisfaction that comes in seeing others enjoy the Christian Fellowship you made possible. .... you take pleasure in and/or are willing to share your home with 25-35 people ....you're able to organize preparations and to perform the “Host Role” of taking care of guests, delegating assistance, and maintaining the progress of the evening.

USHERS

Purpose: To be the first face of St. Luke’s welcoming and assisting parishioners and visitors to the church.

Committee Chair: Nancy Reding

Member Duties: Greet people as they arrive, hand out bulletins and announcements, count worshippers, collect offering, help guide people during communion, straighten up Sanctuary after service, turn off lights and lock doors. Help with any questions.

Time Commitment for Members: Usher teams generally are scheduled for 1-2 months a year.

Skills Needed: Being friendly, helpful and responsible (showing up when scheduled or getting a sub).
How has Coronavirus and being away from the church building affected this ministry of St. Luke's? There has no need for ushers during this COVID period. You might enjoy being a part of this ministry if... are friendly and outgoing.

Current Members:
Nancy Reding, Wyman Stone, Barbara Roybal, Karen Schneider, Catherine Nellist, Jim Marks, John Elsbree, Clay Miller, Tom Fluegel, Mike Bernier, Cliff Johnson, Steve Low, Chris Zakarak, Sandra Stewart, Stephen Holman, Stewart Rouleau, Diane Fox
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CENTRAL MONTGOMERY COUNTY
St. Francis, Potomac; St. James, Potomac; St. Luke’s, Bethesda; Christ Church Rockville; Christ Church Kensington; Good Shepherd, Silver Spring; St. Mary Magdalene, Wheaton; Our Savior, Silver Spring; Transfiguration, Silver Spring; and St. Mark’s, Silver Spring

The Rev. Jessica K. Hitchcock, Rector
Kim Desmond, Parish Administrator
Sarah Horick, DMA, Minister of Music & Liturgy

ST. LUKE’S VESTRY AND OFFICERS
Amy Elsbree, Sr. Warden, 2020
Cliff Johnson, Jr. Warden, 2021
Jenny Bradley, Treasurer
Susie Casson, Assistant Treasurer
Deb Marks, Clerk
Arlene Antonicelli, Financial Contributions Officer

2020 2021 2022
Soumaia Amin Jane Battles Mike Bernier
Tom Fluegel Jarod D’Agostino Jen Luna
Stuart Wilkinson Andi Pringle Gretchen Macleod

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