

ACTS of ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

JUNE 2021



Grace and Compassion

I just read a Facebook post about a Georgia friend rejoicing about her trip to Whole Foods while not wearing a mask. She was ecstatic. A few minutes later, I asked myself “Why do I feel like I just got in trouble?” My whole body felt yucky and my shoulders were slumped down in... shame maybe? It actually took me many minutes to figure out that I was reacting to this friend’s text. I don’t want to go to the grocery store without wearing a mask, but her post made me feel dumb and ridiculous and paranoid.

Loved ones, we gotta give each other and ourselves more grace. This summer needs to be a summer of grace, a season of you-do-you. Live and let live. Some people are ready to throw off their mask and hug everyone in sight and others are widening their bubble little by little and not quite ready to give up their masks.

Some people jump in the deep end of the pool and some wade in. Some people like a glass of wine with dinner and some people don’t. Some people coat on the sunscreen and others think a little bit of vitamin D from the sun is good for the body. Some people eat gluten with abandon and some people forgo it even though their body can handle it. Some people think the cicadas are really cool and some people think this is the grossest thing ever.

Judgement and comparison will not serve us well this summer. Grace and compassion will be better travel companions. We have done terribly hard things over the past 18 months—we can handle a few months of being on a slightly different page than our loved ones. Yes, our reserves are seriously depleted—but that’s all the more reason to not waste time or energy questioning others or our own decisions. I have loads of confidence that we will all get to where we are going, it just might take some of us a little bit longer. My prayer along the way is “God, give us peace.”

At St. Luke’s, you are welcome no matter what... and no matter where you find yourself on the re-entry continuum. Starting June 13th, we will have an in-person service at 8 am without music and a Zoom-only service with music at 10 am. This will be our pattern through early to mid-August. It is my hope that this pattern will provide us all with some spaciousness so that people can make the decision that feels right to them. Also, this allows for our folks who are traveling this summer to join us for worship if they would like to. This temporary arrangement may not be what you were hoping for. I agree, this doesn’t feel like the great return we are all longing for. For me, that’s okay. Think of this as practice, as a reorientation period. This Fall, if things continue to go well, we’ll have a homecoming celebration—just think of everything up until then as practice. I know it’s not very fun to do “Lent” in the summer, but we’ve got a little bit of wilderness in front of us. God goes with us. The Holy Spirit has been given to us, to guide us and inspire. The Holy Spirit is called the great comforter, and we’ll need it over the next couple of months, comfort in our impatience and comfort in our trepidation. Beloved, invite the peace of God to be your constant companion this summer, and offer yourself and others grace and compassion. We can do hard things—with God’s help.

Jessica

PARISH

June

Kathy Makos	1
Safia Kuriakose	1
Ivy Martin	10
Margaret Roper	12
Bob Allnutt	15
George Brown	15
Ian Mills	15
Sacha South	15
Debbie Grosvenor	16
Wanda Cockrell	16
Catherine Nellist	17
Linda Freeman	19
Christine Zakarka	22
Adrienne Davis-Leal	24
Bart Hall	27
Bob Pearson	28
Monica Lee	29
June Alleyne	30

JUNE						
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			



June Special Dates

4 June	Men's Shelter dinner
12 June	Garden Guild workday
13 June	8 am in-person service resumes 10 am Zoom service begins
16 June	MCPS last day of school
20 June	Summer Solstice

July

Wyman Stone	1
Sandy Bjork	4
Deb Marks	6
Joan Kleinrock	8
Tine Stone	10
April Dodier	13
Susie Casson	15
Karen Schneider	16
Holly Stone	17
Jan Allnutt	17
Treva Miller	20
Amy Sloan	23
Jenny Bradley	27
Julie Paisley	29

JULY						
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



July Special Dates

2 July	Men's Shelter
4 July	Independence Day
5 July	Federal Holiday
6 July	Book Lovers
10 July	Garden Guild Workday

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

Warden's Word

As the pandemic wanes in this country, many of us look forward to things “going back to normal.” Many parts of our lives, however, will not return to the way they were prior to March of 2020. Remote work full-time or part-time may become a new norm and traveling from one part of the country to another for a meeting or two may be obsolete. Our kids may still have some element of online learning and schools and churches will no longer close because of weather when they can just move online for the day.

So too will our church life change. While we plan to resume both the quiet contemplative 8 am service and a 10 am music-filled celebration, those services will be phased in. We also know that online worship has been a popular vehicle that has allowed people to worship together from home or from out-of-town. Sunday attendance on Zoom has equaled and often exceeded in-person services. While our Zoom services may change, we want to continue to support needs of current and future parishioners through in-person and online worship. We will move too quickly for some and too slowly for others. And we will have to engage in thoughtful dialogue and change our approach as needed.

The Macedonian Ministry Foundation, an organization committed to developing pastors and congregations for creative leadership, issued a statement on church re-openings that read, in part, “This is a season to be very gentle with one another. Please, be gentle with your pastor who is probably barely holding on. If you are on your congregation’s church board or council, I hope you strive for deeper places and larger goals in the months ahead, but please do it with grace and good spirit and consideration for those alongside you who aren’t where you are and aren’t moving at the same pace—whether faster or slower—than you are. Congregations need to be gentle and forbearing with each other...”

Well said. Grace and good spirit will get us through what is to come as it did in the past 16 months. And the members, staff, and leadership of St. Luke’s remain up to the task.

Mike Bernier, Senior Warden

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Bishop Walker School scholars are enjoying outdoor gardening classes thanks to a partnership with Living Classrooms, based in Baltimore.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



New Collection for June/Pride Month!

Nearly 35 years ago, Ruby Corado escaped the civil war in El Salvador and came to the DC area on her own at age 16—but when she arrived she found no resources to support young, bilingual, transgender immigrants. In 2012, after many years of hard work and social advocacy, she and some friends founded Casa Ruby. It was meant to be everyone's home but focused on creating a safe, welcoming space, as well as opportunities for success for transgender people, as well as other members of the LGBTQIA community and people of color. Today Casa Ruby, located in DC's Shepherd Park, provides housing services, case management, immigration services, preventative health services, respite, and domestic violence victims support, all in a safe, multicultural environment. Casa Ruby employs 50 people and provides services to nearly 6,000 individuals each year.

The pandemic, however, has come with many challenges. Their most pressing needs are:

- *Cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer*
- *Personal toiletries (travel-size or full-size) and socks*
- *Non-perishable snacks*

Visit <https://casaruby.org> to learn more and please watch the e-News for upcoming drop-off times.

Thank you for helping Casa Ruby!

Marta Montoro



Easter Offering Thanks

As part of our virtual Easter ministry this year, the Community Engagement Committee selected the Episcopal Diocese of Washington's COVID Emergency Relief Fund to receive financial offering contributions from parishioners. This Fund was established in lieu of the 2020 Bishop's Appeal to assist parishes and community members suffering from the pandemic, as well as to support established congregational food pantries and those affected by food insecurity.

St. Lukers responded to this call generously; our total contribution was **\$5,235**. Thank you for sharing your treasure with our neighbors in need and continuing to live out your baptismal promises so faithfully.

Marta Montoro

FINANCE

FINANCE REPORT APRIL 2021

	2021 Budget	'21 Actual Thru Apr.	% of '21 Budget *
<u>RECEIPTS</u>			
Offering Plate	\$ 20,000	\$ 2,173	11%
Pledge Payments	470,000	252,004	54%
Donations for Facilities	30,000	6,504	22%
Altar Flower Donations	1,000	300	30%
Miscellaneous		7,790	
Operating Receipts	521,000	268,771	52%
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Compensations	\$ 327,094	\$ 99,898	31%
Church Activities	14,750	4,135	28%
Parish Operations	113,500	30,387	27%
Community Engagement (Outreach)	22,000	5,075	23%
Diocesan Giving	52,000	17,335	33%
Operating Expenses	529,344	156,830	30%
Surplus/(Deficit)	(8,344)	111,941	
Additional Funding – reserves	8,344	0	
Net Revenue	\$ 0	\$ 111,941	

ENDOWMENT FUND BALANCE

\$93,672

* YTD April = 33% of the year

Budget Analysis: Due to COVID restrictions and the closure of the building, donations for Plate, Flowers, and Use by Outside Organizations were all under budget, but because a number of parishioners paid substantial amounts of their annual pledge at the start of the year, total revenue was significantly over budget. Expenses for Compensation, Church Activities, Parish Operations, and Community Engagement were all under budget, resulting in Net Revenue of \$111,941 for April, 2021.

Thank you! Your continued support is very impressive during these 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 send an email to the office at admin@stlukesbethesda.org. All requests for extra money or donations by committees, individuals, or church members, should have prior approval of the Vestry before solicitation.

Susan Casson, Acting Treasurer

CALENDAR

June 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:00 AM Zoom Service	31	1 2:00 PM Staff Meeting Interfaith Works Women's Center Dinners	2 12:00 PM Zoom Service	3	4 Men's Shelter Dinner	5 5:00 PM Zoom Service
6 9:00 AM Zoom Service with Bishop Mariann	7	8 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Finance Meeting	9 12:00 PM Zoom Service	10	11	12 9:00 AM Garden Guild Work Day 5:00 PM Zoom Service
13 8:00 AM In-person service resumes 10:00 AM Zoom Service	14	15 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting	16 12:00 PM Zoom Service	17	18	19 5:00 PM Zoom Service
20 8:00 AM In-person service 10:00 AM Zoom Service	21	22 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	23 12:00 PM Zoom Service	24	25	26 5:00 PM Zoom Service
27 8:00 AM In-person service 10:00 AM Zoom Service	28	29 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	30 12:00 PM Zoom Service	1	2 Men's Shelter Dinner	3 5:00 PM Zoom Service

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
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St. Luke's Episcopal Church
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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



IW Women's Shelter Week

Dinners:

Taft Court in Rockville for 35 women:
Monday, May 31 Wednesday, June 2
Friday, June 4

Coffield in Silver Spring for 50 women:
Tuesday, June 1 Thursday, June 3

To contribute, copy and paste this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4caeac2fa20-dinners4>