

ACTS of ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

APRIL 2017



Stephanie Nagley

A Year of Discernment and Discovery Begins May 7

At the March 12 All-Parish meeting I gave those in attendance a preview of the work we will do together in our Year of Discernment and Discovery. What is that? It's a time of conversation. It's a time to listen. It's a time of exploring who we are as God's people and what St. Luke's will look like in the years to come as a community of God's people. It's a time to look at what we do, how we are organized, how we worship, and our commitment to advocacy and outreach. In other words, it is a comprehensive look at who we are, what we value in order to reorganize and strengthen to respond to God's dream.

Ten years ago when the renovation was in front of us, I asked the task force appointed what the building would look like if it reflected who we are as a people of God. Now we're asking what St. Luke's as a community will look like as it responds to the call of God in today's reality, and in that discernment discovering, St. Luke's preferred future.

What brings us to this point is the need to work within a revenue base of \$440-460K over the next several years. Recent pledge drives indicate that's our likely annual giving. But as I've said over and over again this is not about the money. The financial issue drives us to engage in a bigger and critical conversation about the church and how we do church in a way that maintains, even enlarges, our vibrant and inclusive contribution to God's dream.

We begin on May 7 at 10 am. All services will be consolidated into the one 10 am service with Joey Rick as our preacher and facilitator. Joey is diocesan Canon for Congregation Vitality and now our doula.

Over the year we will talk and listen. The answers may seem elusive to the point of impossible but the answers will come. It will be murky and messy. But one thing I know from experience is that a community of faith in listening mode ends up hearing God. If we do this faithfully, patiently and with great love, St. Luke's will continue as a solid and vibrant community of comfort, challenge and generosity. If we do this faithfully, we will be even better at taking care of the stranger, clothing, feeding and housing those in need, and being advocates of justice and equality for the sake of love.

There will be a team to guide the conversation. The Discernment and Discovery team is being formed and if you would like to have a role let me know. The first step of the D&D team is to outline a process that will get as many people involved in the discussion as possible. The next is to sort through everything said and to recommend a path.

The plan for St. Luke's preferred future is yours. It will be your voice, your heart, and your dream with God.

PARISH

Community Engagement Cluster:

Basic Needs



Greg Votaw 4/8
Pat Rogers 4/15
Jack Orrick 4/26
Charlie Curtis 4/27
Pete Rogers 4/27
Arlene Antonicelli 4/28

April 2017						
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						



April Special Dates

1 April Garden Guild Luncheon
7-17 April MCPS no school
9 April Palm Sunday
10 April Passover begins
13 April Maundy Thursday
14 April Good Friday
15 April Holy Saturday
Easter Vigil
16 April Easter Sunday
Easter Brunch
Easter Egg hunt
Loaves & Fishes
17 April Easter Monday
Office closed
22 April Earth Day

The ACTS will now be 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 with Cynthia. admin@stlukesbethesda.org.

The parish prayer list is now printed in the Sunday bulletin.

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

Community Engagement Cluster:

Human Rights, Dignity and Safety



May

May 2017						
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			

May Special Dates

6 May Garden Guild work day
7 May Day of Discovery & Discernment
21 May Loaves & Fishes
Last day of Sunday School
27 May Ramadan begins
29 May Memorial Day
Office closed

SENIOR WARDEN

Virtual Parish Meeting



Pat Rogers

Because not everybody was able to attend the All-Parish Meeting after the 10 am service on Sunday, March 12, I want to briefly summarize the discussions.

First, we approved the revised Bylaws. St. Luke's is required to review its Bylaws every five years, and this year's review led to revisions, most reflecting changes in our terminology or small changes in the phrasing of the Diocesan Bylaws. The only major change was to move the date of our Annual Meeting from the late spring to the fall. The revised Bylaws were approved unanimously. The Vestry will adjust the terms of currently serving Vestry members and other officers in accordance with the change in the date of the Annual Meeting. (To read the Bylaws, click [here](#) or visit the St. Luke's website.)

Second, Ched Bradley and Kate McQueen discussed the Bridge Fund, reviewing the letter all parishioners received around the end of February. As a reminder, in recent years our giving through pledges has fallen short of the amount St. Luke's needs to care for its building, pay staff, and run its programs. We've been drawing on reserves to make up the difference, but the reserves are now nearly exhausted. Some parishioners proposed, and Stephanie authorized, establishing a "Bridge Fund"—that is, a one-time effort to raise an additional \$80,000 to supplement our other income and meet our current budget for two more years, 2017 and 2018. Approximately \$50,000 was pledged by a group of parishioners through an early ask, and we hope to raise the remaining \$30,000 by the end of April. One question raised at the meeting was how much is needed per pledging unit to reach \$30,000, and the mathematically-minded worked it out at around \$250-300. However, we are well aware that for some pledgers this amount isn't possible, while others may wish to do more. Thus we are not suggesting any amount; St. Luke's will receive all contributions with gratitude. Arlene Antonicelli concluded this portion of the meeting by explaining how to donate to the Bridge Fund. If you didn't see the Bridge Fund information in the all-parish email on March 21, then you may click [here](#) for her handout, or contact her at contributions@stlukesbethesda.org.

Third, Stephanie explained what we will do with the two years' grace the Bridge Fund will gain us: we will engage together in a "Year of Discernment and Discovery," an effort to figure out how we can best "do" church in our corner of Montgomery County, Maryland, in the coming years of the 21st century. A working group will spearhead this work—and Stephanie asked people to let her know if they'd like to be part of the group—but it must be an effort that involves the entire congregation. (See Stephanie's discussion on the cover page.) We will officially launch the effort on Sunday, May 7, with a single service followed by a meal and conversation facilitated by Joey Rick, the Washington Diocese's Canon for Congregational Vitality. This may be the most important gathering we have at St. Luke's this year; I hope everyone will plan to attend.

The meeting ended in the best way possible—in Ludlum Hall, with a wonderful chili lunch. If you have any questions about the meeting and its discussions, please get in touch with me.

Pat

FELLOWSHIP



A Gift Toward Easter Flowers

If you wish to make a gift toward Easter Flowers, please feel welcome to use the special envelope in the pews. You may indicate whether it is a memorial or thanksgiving gift. Thank you.

The Flower Guild

Women of St. Luke's

The Women of St. Luke's will be meeting as usual in the Choir room on **April 18 at 11:30 am**. Please bring a brown bag lunch and your good spirits. All are welcome.

Leslie Roberts



Supper Group

CORRECTION: The claim that the Millers would host a potluck in late April turned out to be **FAKE NEWS** (see the March *ACTS*). The management of **SUPPER GROUP** is shocked—shocked!—by this turn of events; please be assured that the following information is **FACT-BASED**:

SUPPER GROUP

6:30 on Saturday, April 8

Home of Stuart and Angie Wilkinson

Please contact them to ask what is needed: entrée, salad, or dessert.

Given the crazily quirky weather this year, the hosts are determined to be ready for anything. Strategies for dealing with typhoons, blizzards, floods, and tidal waves will be in place.

Please note that all adult St. Lukers and friends (especially those with disaster training) are invited to these periodic potlucks. Join us! While others might find themselves in peril when and if the earthquake, swarm of locusts, hostile alien landing, or cyclone comes our way, you'll be secure in:

1. the embrace of Christian Fellowship
2. a disaster-proof venue with FOOD.

Questions? Ride? Contact Treva Miller.

Treva Miller



BOOK LOVERS

Coming in May:
The Nightingale
by Kristen Hannah

France during the occupation,
two estranged sisters,
fear, deprivation – and unexpected
strength,

“... full of emotion and heart.”
(Library Journal)

“... a respectful and absorbing
page-turner.”
(Kirkus Reviews)

Tuesday, May 16
Home of Susie Casson

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Engagement at St. Luke's – Compassionate Connection

About a year ago, the Vestry began a discernment process about Community Engagement, formerly known as Outreach. The Community Engagement Committee has been working to engage the congregation in dialogue about our current efforts and where we want to be in the future, while remaining faithful to our parish's long tradition of service.

During 2016, the Committee conducted a congregational survey and focus groups, and held an All-Parish meeting to discuss future possibilities. The overall consensus was a desire to focus on fewer organizations, rather than a different one each month, while still providing multiple avenues for involvement, flexibility, follow-up, and education.

The Committee then developed a proposal for a seasonal approach with efforts organized by topic, or "cluster," since many of the organizations we support have similar missions. This approach was approved by the Vestry in January 2017.

<u>Basic Needs</u> January – April (Easter)	<u>Human Rights, Dignity & Safety</u> May – August	<u>Looking to our Future</u> September – December
<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Bethesda Cares* Bethesda Help* Loaves and Fishes* Samaritan Ministry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Cornerstone* Gun Safety* Interfaith Works / Community-Based Shelter Week* Other Interfaith Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Bishop Walker School for Boys* Episcopal Center for Children* Episcopal Relief & Development – ERD / Holy Cow (December)* Possible environmental project (TBD)

This chart is a starting point. It is not exclusive and is designed to be flexible, seasonal, and to allow for more thoughtful consideration of each area of concern; there may be changes from year to year. Each of the three clusters will be led by a small committee that will be responsible for activities, programs, and feedback for the corresponding time period. The intention is to engage thoughtfully, serve our community, learn, and continue to establish connection with one another.



If you would like to participate in any of these clusters, please contact Elliott Milhollin.

Please join us for the **official kickoff presentation** of both this approach and of the Human Rights, Dignity, and Safety cluster on **Sunday, May 14 at 9 am between services**, in Ludlum Hall. There will be food!

Marta Montoro

FINANCE

FINANCE REPORT FEBRUARY 2017

	2016 Actual	2017 Budget	'17 Actual Thru Feb	% of '17 Budget *
<u>RECEIPTS</u>				
Offering Plate	\$ 19,160	\$ 15,000	\$ 3,755	25.0%
Pledge Payments	466,670	440,000	156,967	35.7%
Donations for Facilities	39,038	40,000	3,376	8.4%
Altar Flower Donations	4,630	5,000	201	4.0%
Miscellaneous	1,863			
Operating Receipts	531,361	500,000	164,299	32.9%
<u>EXPENSES</u>				
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 361,083	\$ 66,285	\$ 59,371	16.2%
Program Support	18,128	26,200	3,253	12.4%
Parish Operations	111,922	124,550	17,836	14.3%
Outreach	19,637	20,000	0	0%
Diocesan Giving	40,000	42,000	7,000	16.7%
Operating Expenses	550,770	579,035	87,460	15.1%
Surplus/(Deficit)	(19,409)	(79,035)	76,839	
Additional Funding – Reserves or Diocese	19,409	79,035	0	
Net after Reserve funds	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 76,839	

ENDOWMENT FUND BALANCE

\$54,542

* YTD Feb = 16.67 % of the year

Budget Analysis: The 2017 budget was approved by the Vestry in January. The budget anticipates using approximately \$79,035 from reserve funds and Diocese Grants to meet our 2017 expenses. Pledge prepayments allowed us to start the year with an income cushion. Thanks to all who have made it possible for us to start the year out so well. Due to changes to the Community Engagement process (formerly known as Outreach), payments have been delayed but will start in March. All financial obligations for February were met and bills paid.

Your continued financial support will allow the growth and energy of St. Luke's to continue and strengthen.

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

APRIL 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:15 AM Christian Formation 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 5:00 PM <i>Cristo la Roca</i> 8:00 PM Youth AA	27 10:30 AM <i>OASIS</i> 2:30 PM <i>OASIS</i>	28 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 11:00 AM <i>OASIS</i> 3:30 PM <i>Cornerstone</i> 6:00 PM Jubilee <i>Autism Program</i>	29 12:00 PM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM MKP - Mars Rising 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	30 9:00 AM <i>OASIS</i> 10:30 AM <i>OASIS</i> 7:30 PM Lent Yoga Series	31 11:30 AM <i>OASIS</i>	1 11:30 AM Garden Guild Luncheon 1:00 PM <i>Your Dog's Friend</i> 5:00 PM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM <i>Cristo la Roca</i>
2 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:15 AM Christian Formation 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 5:00 PM <i>Cristo la Roca</i> 8:00 PM Youth AA	3 10:30 AM <i>OASIS</i> 2:30 PM <i>OASIS</i>	4 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 11:00 AM <i>OASIS</i> 3:30 PM <i>Cornerstone</i> 6:00 PM Jubilee <i>Autism Program</i> 7:00 PM Worship Council 7:30 PM Beer & Bible	5 12:00 PM Holy Eucharist 12:45 PM The Explorers 7:00 PM MKP - Mars Rising 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	6 9:00 AM <i>OASIS</i> 10:30 AM <i>OASIS</i> 7:30 PM Lent Yoga Series	7 Men's Shelter Dinner 9:30 AM <i>MG TD</i> 11:30 AM <i>OASIS</i>	8 5:00 PM Holy Eucharist 6:30 PM Supper Group 7:00 PM <i>Cristo la Roca</i>
9 Palm Sunday 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:15 AM Christian Formation 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 5:00 PM <i>Cristo la Roca</i> 8:00 PM Youth AA	10 7:15 PM Finance Meeting	11 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 11:00 AM <i>OASIS</i> 3:30 PM <i>Cornerstone</i>	12 10:30 AM Retired Men's Group 12:00 PM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM MKP - Mars Rising 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	13 Maundy Thursday 6:30 PM Simple Supper, Foot Washing and Holy Eucharist	14 Good Friday 12:00 PM Good Friday Liturgy	15 10:00 AM Holy Saturday Prayers 8:30 PM Easter Vigil
16 Easter Sunday Loaves & Fishes 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:15 AM Easter Brunch 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 5:00 PM <i>Cristo la Roca</i> 8:00 PM Youth AA	17 Easter Monday Office Closed	18 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 11:30 AM Women of St. Luke's 3:30 PM <i>Cornerstone</i> 6:00 PM Jubilee <i>Autism Program</i>	19 12:00 PM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM MKP - Mars Rising	20 6:00 PM <i>Jubilee Autism Program</i>	21 11:30 AM <i>OASIS</i> 6:00 PM HARP Recital	22 Earth Day 1:00 PM <i>Your Dog's Friend</i> 5:00 PM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM <i>Cristo la Roca</i>
23 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:15 AM Christian Formation 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 5:00 PM <i>Cristo la Roca</i> 8:00 PM Youth AA	24	25 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 3:30 PM <i>Cornerstone</i> 6:00 PM Jubilee <i>Autism Program</i> 7:00 PM Combined Vestry and Finance Meeting	26 10:30 AM Retired Men's Group 12:00 PM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM MKP - Mars Rising 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	27 6:00 PM <i>Jubilee Autism Program</i>	28	29 8:30 AM Scrapbooking 5:00 PM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM <i>Cristo la Roca</i>
30 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:15 AM Christian Formation 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 5:00 PM <i>Cristo la Roca</i> 8:00 PM Youth AA	1	2 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 3:30 PM <i>Cornerstone</i> 6:00 PM Jubilee <i>Autism Program</i> 7:00 PM Worship Council	3 12:00 PM Holy Eucharist 12:45 PM The Explorers 7:00 PM MKP - Mars Rising 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	4 6:00 PM <i>Jubilee Autism Program</i>	5 Men's Shelter Dinner 9:30 AM <i>MG TD</i>	6 1:00 PM <i>Your Dog's Friend</i> 5:00 PM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM <i>Cristo la Roca</i>

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Trinity Parish
6030 Grosvenor Lane
Bethesda, Maryland 20814-1852

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Phone: 301-530-1800 Fax: 301-530-1802
email: admin@stlukesbethesda.org
website: www.stlukesbethesda.org

THE REV. DR. STEPHANIE J. NAGLEY, Rector
email: rector@stlukesbethesda.org

THE REV. JESSICA HITCHCOCK, Associate 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
Send articles and comments to ACTS@stlukesbethesda.org

Holy Week and Easter at St. Luke's

Maundy Thursday	April 13	
6:30 pm		Simple Supper, Foot Washing and Holy Eucharist
Good Friday	April 14	
12 noon		Good Friday Liturgy
Holy Saturday	April 15	
10 am		Holy Saturday Prayers
8:30 pm		Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday	April 16	
8 am		Festival Holy Eucharist
9:15 am		Easter Continental Breakfast
10 am		Festival Holy Eucharist
11:30 am		Easter Egg Hunt

