

ACTS of ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

OCTOBER 2021

Blessing Pets and People



Jessica Hitchcock

October! A busy month at St. Luke's—full of so much goodness. We start off the month with the blessing of the animals, a favorite for many in the St. Luke's community. We'll be blessing animals at all services that first weekend in October: the 5 pm will be outside weather permitting, the 8 am will be hypoallergenic in that photos and mementos are welcome but no pets so that we can have a service friendly to sensitive noses and eyes. The 10 am service will be indoors, and pets are welcome to join in the full service. We will also run a pet slideshow so please send photos to petblessing@stlukesbethesda.org. If you know how to add text to the photo, please share your pet's name as well as your names—just remember we can't show minor's faces and names at the same time, so add one or the other.

The Pet Blessing services are the services that make it fun to invite friends and neighbors to, and a service that is popular for people beyond the St. Luke's community to visit. Since we've been away from the building, we haven't had so much of an opportunity to welcome new people to worship at St. Luke's—and now we have to do it with masks on while we try to observe social distancing. Welcoming and inviting people into a community of Jesus followers and seekers is the purpose of the church—not just St. Luke's, but the entirety of all communities that claim Jesus as their redeemer, teacher, and brother. We don't have the option to simply smile at people, but we can wave as a last resort. Even better: try a verbal good morning, good evening, good to see you! Stretch out beyond old habits and say something as a way of building connection in this new world we live in. God made us for connection and rejoices when we nurture connection with people we encounter both at church and out in the world.

Also—introduce yourself! We've been away from each other for a long time, and we are wearing masks—it's a great opportunity to say "Hi, I'm Jessica. Because of the masks, I'm not sure if we've met before." Pro-tip: if you find yourself talking to a new person, "Do you live in the neighborhood?" is a great follow-up question.

As I said earlier, welcoming and inviting people into a community of Jesus followers and seekers is the purpose of Jesus's church. Jesus came so that we would know and be in relationship with a loving, merciful God who longs for us to live in justice and peace with one another. Also, Jesus calls us to carry on his work of spreading the good news that God loves each and every one of us unconditionally. As we return to in-person worship, the rebuilding and strengthening of the ties that bind us are important for us to do, and as we do that work I hope we will remember to be purposeful

(Blessing, continued on page 4)

PARISH

October Birthdays

Sandra Stewart	1
Paul Canick	2
Bob Dufour	8
Joanne Kennedy	11
Jack Ellert-Beck	14
Sylvia Lu	14
Marie Welsh	16
Sam Miller	16
Betsy Davis	24
Michelle Canick	24
Austin Marks	25
Judy Rice	25
Leslie Roberts	31

OCTOBER						
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						



October Special Dates

1 October	Men's Shelter dinner
2 October	Blessing of the Animals (outdoors)
3 October	10 am Blessing of the Animals (indoors)
10 October	Indigenous Peoples' Day
16 October	Garden Guild workday
17 October	Annual Meeting
23 October	"Judy & Joni" Concert on the lawn
24 October	Vestry Zoom Workshop
31 October	Wear your costume to church

November Birthdays

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

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



November Special Dates

1 November	All Saints Day
2 November	Book Lovers
5 November	Men's Shelter dinner
7 November	Daylight Savings ends
25 November	Thanksgiving
28 November	Advent 1
	Hannukah begins

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

Time, Talent, and Treasure. We hear that phrase every year during an annual giving campaign. I am not the only one who thinks of this as “we need your pledge.” That’s true, and you will learn more about our annual giving campaign in the weeks ahead. Until I joined the Episcopal Church, it never occurred to me that most churches like St. Luke’s are funded by member contributions. Thanks to your annual giving, we’ve been able to pay our staff, keep the building running, and fund the many ministries of the church. The generosity of St. Luke’s parishioners has kept us financially stable at a time when the number of pledging households decreased during the pandemic. We need that generosity again, and I have no doubt it will continue. Thank you.

The two other parts of stewardship—Time and Talent—don’t get the attention they deserve. Members of St. Luke’s collectively devote tens of thousands of hours supporting the church. That’s real time spent, but with the reward of being and feeling part of a community. The talent donated to the church includes helping with buildings and grounds, legal and accounting oversight, familiarity with the needs of the communities we live in, beautiful voices to enrich our worship, and so much more. During this stewardship campaign, many of you will be asked to continue offering your time and talent, and others will be asked to do so for the first time. If you’ve been attending the church for a few years and have not shared your time and talent, please consider saying yes when asked to fill a position, or reach out to Jessica or any member of the vestry for areas most in need. It is time to nurture new leaders to work with our existing leadership, and give a well-deserved break to those that need it. We need your time and talent to continue the work of generations of parishioners who created a place where, “Whoever you are, wherever you come from, whatever you believe, you are welcome.”

Mike Bernier, Senior Warden

PARISH

Welcome, James Parish Administrator



I am very excited to be joining St. Luke's as your new Parish Administrator on October 1. After 24 years teaching high school mathematics, my second career has been in service to the Episcopal Church, of which I have been a member for almost 30 years. I recently moved to Montgomery County from the District of Columbia and have been searching for a new workplace closer to home. I am happy to have found it here at St. Luke's. I very much look forward to supporting this parish in fulfillment of its Christian mission and to getting to know you in the coming months.

James Rostron

James begins his ministry with St. Luke's on October 1st. We are waiting for a month or two to set regular office hours, but if you need to meet with him or just want to introduce yourself, you can email him at admin@stlukesbethesda.org to set up an appointment.

Kim Desmond will continue for the next few months to serve as a resource (BLESSING!) to James and the St. Luke's community during this transition.

Jessica

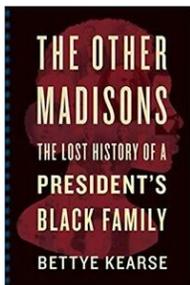
(Blessing, continued from page 1)

about welcoming new-to-you people into conversation, service and ministry. We say that we are BECOMING a community united to serve the needs of the world. The work of BECOMING a community is ongoing and is deserving of our time and attention. So, either on Zoom, in the garden, or at in-person worship, engage in the work for connecting with people who are new to you. God blesses us and appears to us through the people God places in our lives.

Jessica

BOOKLOVERS

Our last meeting of the year will be on **November 2 at 7:30 pm** and we'll discuss ***The Other Madison: The Lost History of a President's Black Family*** by Betty Kearsse via Zoom. This book is non-fiction and Nancy Reding will lead the discussion.

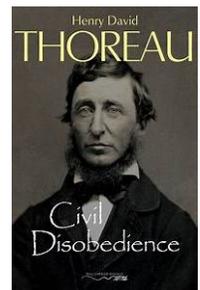


In January we'll be joined by Dr. Linda Freeman for a discussion of ***Civil Disobedience*** by Henry David Thoreau. This should be widely available in bookstores or on-line at

<https://www.thoreau-online.org/civil-disobedience.html>

Are there books you'd love to discuss with the group? Book suggestions for 2022 can be sent to Nancy Reding through November.

She'll compile the list and then the group will vote on its five favorites.



If you'd like to be on the Booklovers email list, please email Nancy Reding. All are welcome! You can come and go as you like.

Nancy Reding

St. Luke's Energy, In Case You Didn't Know.....

St. Luke's Episcopal Church included provisions in its electric power supply agreement to purchase renewable energy certificates (REC) to help mitigate negative environmental effects of some power generation methods. During 2020, our RECs were sourced 100 percent from wind-generated electric power from locations in Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas. Below is the information for our 2020 RECs:

NewMix[®] is a Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) product and does not contain electricity. A REC represents the environmental benefits of 1 megawatt hour (MWh) of renewable energy that can be paired with electricity. For more information, see www.green-e.org/rec.

The product matches 100% of the electricity usage at the contracted accounts in 2020.

The product will be made up of the following renewable resources.

Green-e [®] Energy Certified New ² Renewables in NewMix [®]		Generation Location
-Wind	0.4%	Nebraska
-Wind	6.6%	Oklahoma
-Wind	93.0%	Texas
TOTAL	100.0%	

1. These figures reflect the resource mix of the RECs delivered to NewMix[®]'s customers in 2020.

2. New Renewables come from generation facilities that first began commercial operation within the past 15 years.

For comparison, the average mix of energy sources in 2020 supplying the US includes: Coal (19%), Nuclear (20%), Oil (0%), Natural Gas (40%), Large Hydroelectric (7%), Wind (8%), Biomass (1%), Solar (2%), Petroleum (1%), and Other (less than 1%) (from U.S. Department of Energy/Energy Information Administration).

For specific information about this REC product, please contact Constellation NewEnergy, Inc., 844-6-ENERGY, customercare@constellation.com, www.constellation.com.



Bill Casson

PARISH

"Judy & Joni"



Deb Marks, Miranda Marks, and Dana Smith will present an outdoor program of favorites from Judy Garland and Joni Mitchell.

The concert will be on the lawn in front of the patio at **2 pm on Saturday, October 23**. Bring a blanket or your lawn/camp chair and come enjoy a beautiful fall afternoon of beautiful music!

Sarah Horick



Cornerstone Montgomery

October 14, 7 to 8 pm—Come to the virtual Cornerstone Montgomery's Champions and Legacies Celebration! St. Luke's will be honored as a founding partner, and Member of Congress Jamie Raskin will be honored for his advocacy on behalf of behavioral health.

Register at this link: <https://www.wizevents.com/cornerstonemontgomery2021/>

50 years ago, members of the St. Luke's community founded St. Luke's House to provide behavioral health support in our community. In the last decade, St. Luke's House and Threshold Services merged to create Cornerstone Montgomery.

Cornerstone Montgomery's focus has been to work with people throughout the behavioral health spectrum in acute crisis through long-term support. Today, Cornerstone Montgomery is a CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) accredited nonprofit organization empowering more than 2,500 adults and transition-aged youth in 88 locations throughout Montgomery County. Now a \$26 million organization, Cornerstone Montgomery has more than 300 staff members, 100 volunteers, and 300 partnerships with nonprofits, hospitals, business mentors, and educational institutions. It has become the largest and most comprehensive mental health organization in Montgomery County.

St. Luke's provides financial support to Cornerstone Montgomery and leases them the land right across our parking lot where their building, Cornerstone's Southport Hub, is located.

Amanda Freeman

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



On Sunday, August 29, St. Luke's celebrated the first in-person 5th **Sunday Be the Church Day** in 18 months. We packed meals for Rise Against Hunger (RAH) which focuses on distributing nutritious meals to those in need around the globe—especially schoolchildren. Some of us combined vitamins, rice, soy, and vegetables through a funnel and into a bag; others weighed each bag; still others packed boxes; and youth served as “runners” between stations—all with masks, bright red hairnets, good ventilation, lots of enthusiasm, all inspired by the energy of an excellent playlist! RAH intended to send two million meals to affected communities in Haiti following the earthquake. Thank you to all who participated, set up, and cleaned up! We hope to do this again in the future. Here are some photos of the event and short reflections from participants.



I learned we really could do 10,000 meals. I also learned that international school feeding programs like the ones I evaluated at USDA in the early 2000's are still making an impact twenty years later. Enrollment, attendance, and achievement all increase when hungry children get nutritious food at school. It's extremely satisfying to me personally and professionally, to see that these school feeding programs are continuing.

--Betsy Davis

Hannah Chenault, RAH's Assistant Community Engagement Manager

We had a great experience helping in this effort to assemble 10,000 meals for those in need. We were so impressed with the organization of the assembly of the meals, and we saw how the St. Luke's community really came together to pull off this impressive feat!

--Will & Courtney Freeman



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

I didn't quite know what to expect when I signed up, but it was very gratifying to help out in such a practical, hands-on way.

Everyone seemed to be embracing their particular task and it just shows that together we can accomplish a lot in a short amount of time. --Sally Curtin



"Awesome!" --Erica N., (Youth Runner)

The event was a success not only because we reached our goal of packing 10,000 meals, but also because congregants learned the extent of hunger worldwide. We learned that 379–382-gram bags consisting of a protein packet, soy, dried vegetables, and rice meant kids would have at least one meal a day. Knowing that meal packets were available, mothers would send their kids to school knowing they'd get both education and a meal. It was a teachable moment for us, the congregation, to actively participate in addressing worldwide hunger in a practical way. Finally, it was great to partner with congregants after months of isolation and listen to great music while packing meals.

--Kimberly Mathis



In the neighborhoods most of us live in, we are surrounded by abundance and plenty; just go to the nearest grocery store and see what's available. That's why it's easy to forget most days that far too many people—some who live just a short walk away from us—struggle to have enough to eat. Since the pandemic hit in 2020, the hunger crisis that existed in the world grew worse, and times got tougher for many people in our surrounding community. That's why it's important to have moments like we shared in late August together in putting together bags of food. It's a great thing to spend time together trying to help others.

--Brian, Kristen, & Ben Katulis



FINANCE

FINANCE REPORT AUGUST 2021

	2021	'21 Actual	% of '21
	Budget	Thru Aug	Budget *
<u>RECEIPTS</u>			
Offering Plate	\$ 20,000	\$ 4,520	23%
Pledge Payments	470,000	355,348	75%
Donations for Facilities	30,000	14,749	49%
Altar Flower Donations	1,000	350	35%
Miscellaneous		7,686	
Operating Receipts	521,000	382,653	73%
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Compensations	\$ 327,094	\$ 200,148	61%
Church Activities	14,750	6,924	47%
Parish Operations	113,500	62,565	55%
Community Engagement (Outreach)	22,000	9,150	42%
Diocesan Giving	52,000	39,004	75%
Operating Expenses	529,344	317,791	60%
Surplus/(Deficit)	(8,344)	64,862	
Additional Funding – reserves	8,344	0	
Net Revenue	\$ 0	\$ 64,862	

ENDOWMENT FUND BALANCE \$97,572

* YTD August = 67% 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. Pledges were slightly over budget. Expenses for employee compensation, Church Activities, Parish Operations, and Community Engagement were all under budget and Diocesan Asking was over budget, resulting in Net Revenue of \$64,862 for August 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

October 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:00 AM In-person Worship 10:00 AM In-person Worship 5:00 PM Cristo es la Roca 8:00 PM Bethesda Youth AA	27	28 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	29 12:00 PM Zoom Service	30	1 Men's Shelter Dinner	2 5:00 PM Blessing of the animals outdoors 6:30 PM Cristo es la Roca
3 8:00 AM In-person Worship with Pictures of Pets 10:00 AM Blessing of the animals indoors 5:00 PM Cristo es la Roca 8:00 PM Bethesda Youth AA	4	5 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	6 12:00 PM Zoom Service	7	8	9 5:00 PM In-person worship 6:30 PM Cristo es la Roca
10 Indigenous Peoples' Sunday 8:00 AM In-person Worship 10:00 AM In-person Worship 5:00 PM Cristo es la Roca 8:00 PM Bethesda Youth AA	11	12 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Finance Meeting	13 12:00 PM Zoom Service	14	15	16 9:00 AM Garden Guild Work Day 5:00 PM Zoom Service 6:30 PM Cristo es la Roca
17 8:00 AM Morning Prayer 9:00 AM Zoom Annual Meeting 10:00 AM Morning Prayer with music 5:00 PM Cristo es la Roca 8:00 PM Bethesda Youth AA	18	19 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	20 12:00 PM Zoom Service	21 7:30 PM Grosvenor HOA	22	23 2:00 PM "Judy and Joni" lawn concert 5:00 PM Zoom Service 6:30 PM Cristo es la Roca
24 8:00 AM In-person Worship 10:00 AM In-person Worship 11:00 AM Zoom Vestry Workshop 5:00 PM Cristo es la Roca 8:00 PM Bethesda Youth AA	25	26 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	27 12:00 PM Zoom Service	28	29	30 5:00 PM Zoom Service 6:30 PM Cristo es la Roca
31 Wear Your Costume to Church!! 8:00 AM In-person Worship 10:00 AM In-person Worship 5:00 PM Cristo es la Roca 8:00 PM Bethesda Youth AA	1	2 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Booklovers-Zoom	3 12:00 PM Zoom Service	4	5 Men's Shelter Dinner	6 2:00 PM McDonell funeral 5:00 PM Zoom Service 6:30 PM Cristo es la Roca

CALENDAR

November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Wear Your Costume to Church!! 8:00 AM In-person Worship 10:00 AM In-person Worship 5:00 PM Cristo es la Roca 8:00 PM Bethesda Youth AA	1	2 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Booklovers-Zoom	3 12:00 PM Zoom Service	4	5 Men's Shelter Dinner	6 2:00 PM McDonnell funeral 5:00 PM Zoom Service 6:30 PM Cristo es la Roca
7 Daylight Savings ends 8:00 AM In-person Worship 10:00 AM In-person Worship 5:00 PM Cristo es la Roca 8:00 PM Bethesda Youth AA	8	9 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Finance Meeting	10 12:00 PM Zoom Service	11	12	13 5:00 PM In-person service 6:30 PM Cristo es la Roca
14 8:00 AM In-person Worship 10:00 AM In-person Worship 5:00 PM Cristo es la Roca 8:00 PM Bethesda Youth AA	15	16 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting	17 12:00 PM Zoom Service	18	19	20 5:00 PM Zoom Service 6:30 PM Cristo es la Roca
21 8:00 AM In-person Worship 10:00 AM In-person Worship 5:00 PM Cristo es la Roca 8:00 PM Bethesda Youth AA	22	23 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	24 12:00 PM Zoom Service	25 Thanksgiving	26	27 5:00 PM Zoom Service 6:30 PM Cristo es la Roca
28 Advent I 8:00 AM In-person Worship 10:00 AM In-person Worship 5:00 PM Cristo es la Roca 8:00 PM Bethesda Youth AA	29	30 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	1 12:00 PM Zoom Service	2	3 Men's Shelter Dinner	4 5:00 PM Zoom Service 6:30 PM Cristo es la Roca

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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



October 17

Annual Church Business Meeting

**Vestry & Diocesan Convention Elections,
Finance Report, and State of the Church Report from
Rector**

8 am: Morning Prayer

9 am: Zoom Annual Meeting with
Holy Eucharist

10 am: Morning Prayer with Music

Accommodations will be made for those of you who would like to participate in the annual meeting from the church building.