Trying New Things is a Strength of St. Lukers

This past Sunday we launched the new Children’s Church schedule and we had a good group of kids gather at 9:45 for snack and conversation and activities. At 10 am, Diane Cassidy took the 3\textsuperscript{rd} through 5\textsuperscript{th} graders into the room next door for their age-appropriate children’s church, and left me and the preschoolers through 2\textsuperscript{nd} graders to have our own service around the little altar in the Reaves room.

The big kids had lots of really good discussion about the vineyard workers who get paid the same regardless of how many hours they worked.

And I learned that the younger kids aren’t used to talking much in children’s church, that they’ve been letting the older kids do the talking—so there were a lot of quiet, blank stares.

Not total silence, but... very different than it usually is.

See, trying new things is already paying off! The younger kids are going to get to talk more, share their ideas, and ask questions. And the older kids get to dive a little deeper into our sacred text.

The St. Luke’s community is actually quite good at trying new things, seeing what works and what doesn’t work, learning and responding to learnings. You are better at change than a lot of similar organizations. Why do you think that is? Is it because you trust each other? Because you love each other?

We still have some work to do in our discernment and discovery effort. Change is in the future. We will need to try more new things; we will have to learn to do old things in new ways.

I want you to know that you’ve got this. You can do this. You—better than any group of God seekers that I know—you can change, grow, evolve, flourish and thrive. I’ve watched you embrace change time and time again. You welcome animals of all sorts around God’s table for the blessing of the animals. The furniture is moved around and you keep adjusting your seating patterns. We needed more folks in the Christmas Pageant one year and the adults stepped up (and into a Holy Cow costume!). We changed the Christmas Eve service schedule—and you were fine. You’ve welcomed countless seminarians and interns into the community and sent them out into the world better able to serve the world.

On page 6, as my article continues, you will find one of my favorite prayers from the book *Women’s Uncommon Prayers*, but I’ve adapted it to reflect the way I have seen and continue to see God at work in this community of God seekers, Jesus followers, Love share-ers.

(Strength, continued on page 6)
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 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, please contact Cynthia.

Community Engagement Cluster: Looking to our Future

Michelle Canick  1st
Paul Canick  2nd
Joanne Kennedy  11th
Jack Ellert-Beck  14th
Sylvia Lu  14th
Peggy Metzger  15th
Sam Miller  16th
Betsy Davis  24th
Judy Rice  25th
Leslie Roberts  31st

October Special Dates

1 October  10 am Blessing of the Animals
9 October  Columbus Day
    Office closed
15 October  St. Luke’s day
    Loaves and Fishes
29 October  Kids wear costumes to church

Community Engagement Cluster: Looking to our Future

November Special Dates

1 November  All Saints Day
5 November  Daylight Saving time ends
11 November  Veterans’ Day
19 November  Annual Meeting
    Harvest Brunch
    Loaves and Fishes
23 November  Thanksgiving
    Office closed
23-24 November  MCPS closed
26 November  Christ the King Sunday
SENIOR WARDEN

St. Luke’s—a Breathtaking Experience

I don’t know about you, but personally I’m feeling a little breathless (in a good way, of course). It feels like just a couple of days ago we were sitting in the sunshine, winding down our summer; and wasn’t it just a week or two ago that we blessed the backpacks as our children prepared to head back to school? And suddenly, here we are, smack in the middle of the program year!

So, we’ve moved the 10 am service from Ludlum Hall back into the sanctuary, and we’re trying out a new arrangement in the sanctuary, with the music—the piano, the choir, and the other instruments—up front instead of in the back. We’ve tested some of the advantages of that new arrangement with a small concert. (As one of the performers in the concert, it would be immodest of me to report on what a fine evening of music it was; however, I can certainly say that we had a blast working together to prepare and present it!) The groups that closed up shop for the summer are meeting again, and the various committees and guilds and the musicians are once again active and preparing for the coming holidays. We’ve enjoyed our September picnic, we’ve gone walking for Unity, we’ve donated an unprecedented quantity of school supplies, we’ve launched an expanded Children’s Church in place of Sunday School, and we’re getting our Annual Pledge Campaign off the ground. And I’m sure I’ve left out some things. Wow!

But wait—before we let summer go entirely, we have to acknowledge some continuing business: our Discernment and Discovery process. I hope everyone had a chance to participate in some of the many discussions over the summer, and was able both to be heard and to hear what others were saying. We’re now taking stock of all the discussions, to see where they lead us. My own feeling is that the discussions weren’t surprising; they didn’t yield a lot of new insights. This is how Stephanie has summed up their “findings”: St. Luke’s is a place for community and connection that offers a spiritual framework and a way to offer love, inclusion, and welcome. Well, I knew that—and so, probably, did you. But I found tremendous value in the fact that people put this into words—often very moving words—and that they were willing to open themselves to others and say what was in their hearts.

Now, having identified the core of what we seek and find at St. Luke’s, we’re ready to move on to think about how we structure our life together to preserve and share that core, using our resources (both human and financial) as responsibly as possible. A small committee is being created to focus on this issue and develop options and timeframes for the parish to consider. I’m quite certain we have a bright future ahead of us, and I can’t wait to learn what its direction will be.

Meanwhile, we have a program year to enjoy—the blessing of the animals, a celebration of St. Luke’s Day, a church full of small goblins and gremlins and princesses at Halloween, our first fall Annual Meeting and Harvest Brunch in November. Business as usual at St. Luke’s—but it’s how we cement our community and connection and offer love, inclusion, and welcome to one another and to others. Thanks be to God!
**FELLOWSHIP**

**Supper Group**

“We Gather Together,” **SUPPER GROUP**, singing a hymn of harvest and celebrating “October’s Bright Blue Weather.” Of course, with Climate Change, one never knows what color to expect in October. What we DO know is that it’s time for that fall potluck dinner, this year

at 6:30 on Saturday, October 28
at the home of Susie and Bill Casson

Please contact them to ask what’s needed: entrée, salad, or dessert. This is an opportunity for fellowship, that condition necessary for igniting friendship. Since passing the Peace on Sundays doesn’t allow even acquaintance-ship to begin, seize this opportunity to make and/or keep up with friends in your St. Luke’s family. “No man—uh, person—is an island” is a fact of life and health. Come and enjoy a glass of wine, the always-amazing groaning board of dishes, and conversation with those people you see in the pews on Sunday—or those who attend the “other” services. Islands are lonely and boring. Sail over to Supper Group and join us for dinner!

Questions? Ride? Please free to contact Treva Miller.

**Women of St. Luke’s**

The Women of St. Luke’s will meet as usual at 11:30 am on October 15 in the Choir room. Please bring a brown bag lunch.

I trust that everyone’s loved ones came out unscathed from the monster storms, and we pray for those who are suffering.

*Leslie Roberts*

**BOOK LOVERS**

Coming in November:

**Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis**

by J. D. Vance

“. . a compassionate, discerning sociological analysis of the white underclass . .”

“. . vocabulary intelligible to both Democrats and Republicans.” (N.Y. Times)

**Tuesday, November 14**

Home of Jackie Shipp

*Please note change to Second Tuesday!

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**Samaritan Ministry**

**2017 Gala & Auction**

**WE’RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!**

Saturday, October 28, 2017
6:30 PM
Washington Episcopal School
Bethesda, MD 20816

Come join us for a night of fun, food and festivities!

**Fall Four-Week Gentle Yoga Series**

Yoga was developed up to 5,000 years ago in India as a comprehensive system for wellbeing on all levels: physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. All approaches to yoga, however, are intended to promote some aspect(s) of wellbeing. In this series we’ll begin with centering, do some active/standing postures, then conclude with some calming, restorative poses, supported by props. We may incorporate some readings and short meditations.

**Dates & Logistics:** We’ll have class at 7:30 pm on the following four Thursday evenings, downstairs in the Reaves Room:

- **October 26 / November 2 / November 9 / November 16**

We will provide props, but please bring a mat and/or eye pillow if you have one. There is no cost for the series but small voluntary contributions towards props are gratefully accepted, though not at all required!

The series will be led by Marta Montoro, who has practiced yoga for several years and completed an accredited teacher training program in December 2013.

Space in the Reaves Room is limited, so please remember to RSVP to Marta—with the dates you plan to attend—also feel free to contact her with questions! All levels welcome.

*For those who have participated in the Yoga & Meditation series during Lent, please watch this space for more information coming early next year regarding a similar joint offering during Lent in 2018.*

*Namaste!*  
Marta Montoro

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**Community Engagement**

On behalf of the *Looking to our Future Cluster* members and the Community Engagement Committee, THANK YOU to everyone who brought in school supplies for the Bishop Walker School for Boys (BWS) and the Episcopal Center for Children (ECC) during August! The total value of the donations came to more than $5,500—a new parish record! And the volume was incredible—1,760 pencils, 350 glue sticks, 185 composition books and almost 80 boxes of crayons, to name just a few. Extra thanks to The Explorers for helping to sort items.

Building on that success—please mark your calendars for Sunday, October 8 at 9 am in Ludlum Hall, when we’ll have a wonderful opportunity to hear directly from the Presidents of both schools: James Woody of BWS and Dodd White of ECC. Both are leaders in the field of education and outstanding speakers. St. Luke’s has provided financial and in-kind support to both schools for several years and so this is a valuable opportunity to put faces with organizations and connect in person. Breakfast snacks will be provided—please plan to attend!

Other upcoming events include:

- **Thursday, October 19 at 5:30 pm, Evensong service at the National Cathedral** — the offering will benefit the Bishop Walker School. You’ll hear student performances and possibly a sermon by Bishop Mariann. Please come to show support!

Please stay tuned for more volunteer opportunities with the *Looking to our Future Cluster* coming soon!

Marta Montoro
Annual Giving Campaign

St. Luke’s Church has begun its Pledge Season in support of a “house where love can dwell” so that we can proclaim with a joyous voice that indeed, “all are welcome in this place!” The Annual Giving Campaign Committee (AGCC) set three goals:

- Heighten the parish’s awareness of SLC’s finances – revenues, expenses, and special accounts/reserves.
- Help parishioners understand SLC’s realistic needs for financial support so that over a 5-year timeframe more parishioners will share $77 per week or more.
- Obtain 140 or more Annual Giving pledge responses.

As you know, since May we’ve been engaged in a Discernment and Discovery process to figure out together how, given today’s realities (including limited financial resources), we can actively nurture our community and reach out to the world. As this process continues, the Vestry has begun to develop a budget for 2018. If we assume a modest 2% increase in expenses, we will need parishioners to increase their annual gifts by a total of approximately $33,000. While this goal is difficult, we believe it is attainable.

The AGCC is proceeding a little differently this year because many people have asked us for concrete numbers, so the SLC Contributions Officer has prepared individualized pledge cards, showing what each person pledged last year and suggesting a specific weekly increase for this year. Taken together, these amounts will add up to our “pledge goal” of $473,000. We ask you to prayerfully consider the suggested amount—but only you can decide whether it is the right amount for you. You may prefer to write in a higher or lower amount.

Finally, we know that people may have more questions even after reading the Q&As shared as part of the campaign materials—for example, about the church’s finances, the budget process, or the Annual Giving Campaign. If you continue to have questions or concerns, please talk to any member of the AGCC or the Vestry, the Senior and Junior Wardens, or the clergy.

As you prayerfully consider your pledge to St. Luke’s, think about what the Church means to you. Think about what we have, and what we can become; what we can do together over the course of the next few years, and what’s at stake personally, locally, and globally if we fail.

Don Park
# Calendar

**October 2017**

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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<th>Saturday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:15 AM 6-12th Grade Sunday School 9:45 AM Children’s Church 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist and Blessings of the Animals 5:00 PM Cristo la Roca 8:00 PM Youth AA</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10:30 AM OASIS 2:30 PM OASIS</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9:00 AM Center for Family Process 9:00 AM OASIS 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 11:00 AM OASIS 3:30 PM Cornerstone 6:00 PM Jubilee Autism Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:15 AM 6-12th Grade Sunday School 9:45 AM Children’s Church 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 5:00 PM Cristo la Roca 8:00 PM Youth AA</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Columbus Day Office Closed 7:00 PM Finance Meeting</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9:00 AM OASIS 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 11:00 AM OASIS 3:30 PM Cornerstone 6:00 PM Jubilee Autism Program</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Loaves &amp; Fishes St. Luke’s Day 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:15 AM 6-12th Grade Sunday School 9:45 AM Children’s Church 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 5:00 PM Cristo la Roca 8:00 PM Youth AA</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10:30 AM OASIS 2:30 PM OASIS 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9:00 AM OASIS 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 11:00 AM OASIS 11:30 AM Women of St. Luke’s 3:30 PM Cornerstone 6:00 PM Jubilee Autism Program</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Kids wear costumes to church 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:15 AM 6-12th Grade Sunday School 9:45 AM Children’s Church 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 5:00 PM Cristo la Roca 8:00 PM Youth AA</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>10:30 AM OASIS 2:30 PM OASIS</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>9:00 AM OASIS 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 11:00 AM OASIS 3:30 PM Cornerstone 6:00 PM Jubilee Autism Program</td>
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**CALENDAR**
10 am
October 1
Blessing of the Animals
(Also, 5 pm on Sept. 30)