

# ACTS of ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

OCTOBER 2020



**Jessica Hitchcock**

## ***Living Faithfully into the Future***

Last month, I so enjoyed writing an ACTS article that didn't mention the pandemic at all. This month, I'm going to write about it again—because it seems like it's not going anywhere anytime soon.

First of all, the bad news. Many people are already feeling very isolated. The shorter days and cold weather that are on the way are probably just going to make that worse. Please go ahead and start making a plan for winter with pandemic. Find a fun project to dive into. Find an online class to take. Make sure you have the proper clothes so that you can still get outside even when it gets cold. And think of who you will commit to check in on during these colder, darker months. While it is still warm enough, meet on porches or patios to do tech support for friends, family members or neighbors and make sure they have what they need to stay socially, emotionally, and mentally engaged. If you have resisted online classes, book groups and game nights because technology isn't your thing—do a reality check. Can you continue on for four-six more months like this? Is it time to change your approach? Much of this is only for a season, but it is a substantial season. Make adjustments as necessary.

The good news: there are blessings in this season. Find them! At church, one of the blessings of this season is that our pets that like to stay home can come to our St. Francis Day Pet Blessing this year. We can have gerbils and cats and fish and guinea pigs in addition to dogs. And we can have skittish dogs, exuberant dogs, and dogs that don't like other dogs. Folks who are allergic to dogs will be able to watch and enjoy this service that is so important to the St. Luke's community.

What's a personal blessing for you in all of this? I heard from someone that they were looking forward to their quiet, small, no-travel Thanksgiving that they would never choose for themselves. Your Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas plans may not look like you want them to look or how they have looked in the past. Fall and winter traditions may have to lie fallow for a year. What opportunities do those losses make possible?

I'm not trying to diminish the losses. There is much to grieve, and I hope you'll give yourself permission and space and grace to do that grieving. Looking for the blessings doesn't mean glossing over the losses. Our Christian belief in resurrection doesn't negate the pain of death, but it does give us permission and freedom to look for the good in the midst of the bad. No matter where you find

*(Living Faithfully, continued on page 4)*

# OCTOBER

October 2020						
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	October-Thursday Parking Lot services begin
4 October	Blessing of the Animals
6 October	Walk By Pet Blessing
10 October	Garden Guild Work Day
12 October	Indigenous Peoples' Day
18 October	St. Luke's Day Annual Business Meeting
25 October	Vestry Retreat
31 October	All Hallows Eve

## October Birthdays

Michelle Canick	1
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
Austin Marks	25
Judy Rice	25
Leslie Roberts	31

# NOVEMBER

November 2020						
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 Daylight Saving Time ends
3 November	Election day MCPS no school
26 November	Thanksgiving
26-27 November	MCPS no school
29 November	First Sunday in Advent

## November Birthdays

Jackie Shipp	1
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

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](mailto:admin@stlukesbethesda.org).

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



**Amy Elsbree**

### ***My Next Adventure***

Sometime last winter, Jessica and I started talking about whether I would consider a second term as senior warden. The answer was not clear to me. With a full-time job, I have felt stretched thin at times. But I've loved the experience and every minute of the time I've spent with Jessica and the Vestry.

As I began carefully weighing these personal factors, I also weighed the pros and cons for St. Luke's. My predecessor, Pat Rogers, had served two terms. Did that mean I should do the same? Other people who head committees at St. Luke's seem to do it for a long time. Is two years long enough to have accomplished anything? Have I lived up to everyone's expectations for a senior warden, yet? I also considered Jessica's journey as a rector. Was it better for her to experience her first four years as a rector with one senior warden's style and priorities, or might it be better for her to get used to adapting to the shifting lay leadership of a church?

In the end, I decided not to serve another two years. While my decision is based on a combination of factors, the message I want to send to you all is that there are lots of ways to do ministry at St. Luke's, and you don't have to do it like the people that came before you. I am serving the length of time that works for me. The shape of my role as senior warden was different than Pat's and will be different than the next senior warden. How I connected with Jessica and what I chose to focus on during the past two years is a product of the unique chemistry between Jessica and me. The next leader will build their own chemistry with Jessica and the Vestry and together they will offer amazing gifts in their shared ministry to St. Luke's.

This model applies across all of St. Luke's ministries—from the finance committee to coffee hour coordinators. I hope you won't be intimidated about trying something new or stepping into a leadership position because of expectations. Each of us gets to define our own way of ministering at St. Luke's and gets to create our own chemistry in whatever role we choose. Those of us who are current leaders need to actively invite people into these ministries and create the space for them to offer their unique gifts and build their own chemistry. Requests for volunteers to perform a set of tasks can be transformed into invitations to share in ministry together.

The best part about stepping away from the senior warden job is that I get to pick my next adventure at St. Luke's. I miss the kids immensely...maybe I'll return to teaching Children's Church. I also miss my Altar Guild duties and will embrace the chance to serve in that ministry when we can be in the building again. Maybe I'll try something I've never done before...ushering, worship council, community engagement committee.

We will celebrate St. Luke's Sunday this month on October 18. That is the day that we highlight and celebrate the many ministries of St. Luke's. I hope you'll join me that day in exploring what your next adventure at St. Luke's will be.

*Amy*

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## PARISH

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*(Living Faithfully, continued from page 1)*

yourself on the *pandemic grief/acceptance spectrum*, I encourage you to stay in conversation with your loving Creator.

*Assist, O God, in living faithfully into the future. In the face of change, help us to set unnecessary fear aside and to recognize our potential for creative response. Help us to develop a reasonable optimism when confronted by “the new” and to guard against our own defensiveness. Be with us as we remember and celebrate former times, and keep us from unreasonable yearning for them, which takes us from the work you have set before us in our time. All this we ask in the name of your child, our savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

The Rev. Linda C. Smith-Criddle, *Women’s Uncommon Prayer*

Jessica

### ***Caring for Others, One Stitch at a Time!***



Fall is fast approaching and the SLC Prayer Shawl Ministry ‘Knit Wits’ are sharpening their knitting needles in anticipation of a busy winter! Obviously, we cannot meet at this time, but that will not stop us from supporting those in need. The current challenge is to create a scarf for the homeless by January 31. Everyone is welcome to join in the challenge.

For more information or if you need help getting started, please contact Susie Casson or Deb Marks.

Susie Casson

### ***Garden Guild News***

As summer draws to a close, purple asters and goldenrod suddenly come to life! Not only do these two perennials add much beauty to the garden in the fall, they also provide much nectar for insects and birds who need to fuel up as they prepare to hibernate or migrate for the winter. The Garden Guild added these plants to the St. Luke’s Labyrinth during the stone step renovation last year and the fall display was breath-taking. Hopefully, we will have a repeat performance this fall.

Please enjoy!

Susie Casson





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## PARISH

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### ***St. Luke's Day!***

***October 18th***

Annual Church Business Meeting  
State of the Church address from Rector  
Elections for Vestry, Sr. Warden, and Diocesan Convention Delegates  
Presentation of Budget

Nominating Committee for elected positions:

Alixé McNeill, Betsy Davis, Clay Miller, Gretchen MacLeod, Soumaia Amin

In accordance with St. Luke's Bylaws, candidates for Vestry, Warden, and Diocesan Convention Delegates will be published no later than 10 days before the Annual Meeting. This information will be distributed via email.



### ***Changing Hymnody***

Over the last several years, we as a congregation have expanded our hymnody beyond the familiar comforts of the *Hymnal 1982* to include both older and newer sources. Many of the newer hymns have, through modern texts, helped us proclaim our expansive, inclusive vision of God's love that can sometimes feel bigger than the language our parents and grandparents may have used. We have included more contemporary sources to allow us to more fully express our community's belief that all are welcome and reflect our commitment to the dignity of all persons. I wanted to give you a brief update on the changes that will come to some of this more modern hymnody beginning this fall.

During the summer, reports were published detailing egregious and predatory behavior by David Haas, a composer whose vast catalogue of liturgical music spans several decades and dozens of hymnals. Haas' works include songs that have become St. Luke's standards over the last few years such as "We Are Called" and the Gloria that we have used at Easter. In light of this information, we will be letting go of his hymns in favor of works by other composers. This will mean not only losing some of our now-familiar congregational songs but also introducing a fair amount of new music in the months to come. I believe it is important for our community to join with other parishes across the country in sending the clear message that no person's work is so indispensable as to excuse or permit predatory behavior. I look forward to introducing you to so many of the other bright, talented, vibrant musicians writing for worship today, and I can't wait to hear what may become your new favorite hymn!

*Sarah Horick*



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## FELLOWSHIP

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### **Booklovers**

**The November Booklovers book is *Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly**

From Amazon: “New York socialite Caroline Ferri-day has her hands full with her post at the French consulate and a new love on the horizon. But Caroline’s world is forever changed when Hitler’s army invades Poland in September 1939—and then sets its sights on France.

“An ocean away from Caroline, Kasia Kuzmerick, a Polish teenager, senses her carefree youth disappearing as she is drawn deeper into her role as courier for the underground resistance movement. In a tense atmosphere of watchful eyes and suspecting neighbors, one false move can have dire consequences.



“For the ambitious young German doctor, Herta Oberheuser, an ad for a government medical position seems her ticket out of a desolate life. Once hired, though, she finds herself trapped in a male-dominated realm of Nazi secrets and power.

“The lives of these three women are set on a collision course when the unthinkable happens and Kasia is sent to Ravensbrück, the notorious Nazi concentration camp for women. Their stories cross continents—from New York to Paris, Germany, and Poland—as Caroline and Kasia strive to bring justice to those whom history has forgotten.”

Meeting time and date to come.

*Nancy Reding*



The awesome Booklovers’ Zoom meeting in September discussing *More News Tomorrow* with author Susan Richards Shreve.

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## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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### ***Bishop Walker School for Boys***

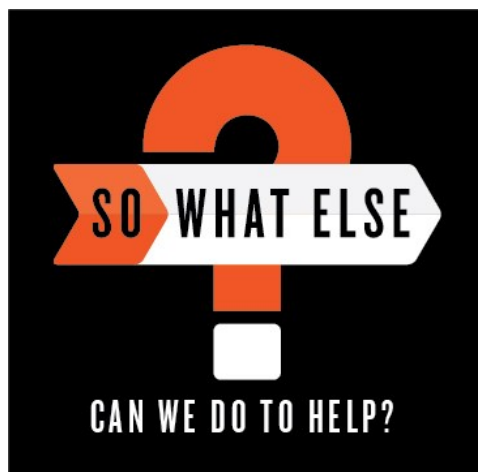
Thank you, St. Luke's, for your generosity and support of the Bishop Walker School for Boys this challenging Back-to-School season! Together we contributed 25 gift cards to Giant food stores, with a total value of \$1,250 and more than \$2,500 in monetary donations—and a nice collection of cleaning supplies and school supplies, too! Kudos to those who shopped in-person, online, or dropped off items at church during the Communion pickup; thank you for living out your baptismal promises.

E-News will share with us how to join their virtual Service of Evening Prayer, on Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 5:30 pm, streamed from the Cathedral as Michael Molina is installed as Head of School! Bishop Mariann will preside. Also, watch the E-News for future fun and interactive ways we can support the boys later in the semester as their virtual learning continues!

*Marta Montoro*

### ***So What Else...?***

In response to the economic fallout from the pandemic, St Luke's will be making donations to SO WHAT ELSE...CAN WE DO TO HELP? In addition to Bethesda Help, SO WHAT ELSE accepts nonperishables for distribution to families in need. The most useful donations are pasta, rice, pasta sauce, beans, canned tuna, soups, cereals, healthy snacks, fruit juice, and milk boxes. They are also in need of baby diapers of any size.



SO WHAT ELSE is a local organization, based in Baltimore, with a Rockville branch. SO WHAT ELSE has provided afterschool programming for kids in need. However, during the pandemic they have begun to respond to the food insecurity that many families confront. They run a food pantry and make drop offs to families in Rockville, Gaithersburg, and Silver Spring who cannot get to the distribution site.

For information on making donations on line or to volunteer with SO WHAT ELSE, check the website at [sowhatelse.org](http://sowhatelse.org).

*Helen Riley*

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## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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### ***Cornerstone Montgomery's Virtual Champions & Legacies Celebration Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7 PM***



Nearly 50 years ago, concerned St. Luke's parishioners founded what is now Cornerstone Montgomery—the largest, most comprehensive mental and behavioral health organization in Montgomery County. Today, Cornerstone serves 2,400 adults and transition-age youth and manages 88 properties (including the one adjacent to church). The staff and volunteers believe that every human deserves the right to live and work in their community—even those with mental health and substance abuse disorders. To that end, Cornerstone provides crisis services, housing, vocational support, and many other services. At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Luke's parishioners provided 125 masks, as well as numerous books, games, and activities (via their Amazon Wish List), to help occupy the residents during the shelter-in-place orders. And as part of the church's ongoing support, St. Luke's has always had a full table at prior Celebrations.

This year's annual 'Champions & Legacies' celebration will be virtual and all are invited to join and contribute! The 2020 Legacy Award Honoree is Maryland Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford for his advocacy on behalf of behavioral health. Employer, Partner and Volunteer of the Year Awards will also be presented to employers and individuals who have gone above and beyond to support Cornerstone's mission. Proceeds from the Celebration will support Cornerstone Montgomery's Vocational Program, which helps more than 700 adults and transition aged youth—who are recovering from mental health disorders, to choose, find, and keep employment.

Watch the E-News for the registration link and how to contribute, or for more questions, contact Laura Edwards, St. Luke's Cornerstone Board Representative. If you can't participate in the live-stream, a recording will be posted on Cornerstone's web site, YouTube, and other social media channels.

*Marta Montoro*



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## FINANCE

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### FINANCE REPORT AUGUST 2020

	2019	2020	'20 Actual	% of '20
	Actual	Budget	Thru Aug.	Budget *
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
Offering Plate	\$ 18,175	\$ 20,000	\$ 22,584	113.0%
Pledge Payments	479,984	460,000	377,854	82.1%
Donations for Facilities	49,796	48,000	17,843	37.2%
Altar Flower Donations	4,825	5,000	466	9.3%
Miscellaneous	186		63	
<b>Operating Receipts</b>	552,966	533,000	418,810	78.6%
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 308,102	\$ 324,214	\$ 209,318	64.6%
Program Support	18,418	25,000	4,904	19.6%
Parish Operations	107,090	123,900	61,741	49.8%
Outreach	22,527	22,000	12,998	59.1%
Diocesan Giving	50,139	52,000	34,680	66.7%
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	506,276	547,114	323,641	59.2%
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	46,690	(14,114)	95,169	
<b>Additional Funding – 2019 surplus</b>	0	14,114	0	
<b>Net income</b>	\$ 46,690	\$ 0	\$ 95,169	

#### **ENDOWMENT FUND BALANCE**

\$87,533

\* YTD August = 66.7% of the year

Budget Analysis: Thank you! Your continued support is very impressive as we all manage through 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 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

### October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>Zoom</b> <b>Service</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>2:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting	<b>30</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> <b>Zoom</b> <b>Service</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> Race and Christianity	<b>1</b> <b>5:30 PM</b> Church Parking Lot Service	<b>2</b> Men's Shelter Dinner	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>Zoom</b> <b>Service and</b> <b>Pet Blessing</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>2:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>4:00 PM to</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Walk by Pet Blessing	<b>7</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> <b>Zoom</b> <b>Service</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> Race and Christianity	<b>8</b> <b>5:30 PM</b> Church Parking Lot Service	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Garden Guild Work Day
<b>11</b> <b>Indigenous</b> <b>Peoples'</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>Zoom</b> <b>Service</b>	<b>12</b> <b>Indigenous</b> <b>Peoples' Day</b>	<b>13</b> <b>2:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Finance Meeting	<b>14</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> <b>Zoom</b> <b>Service</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> Race and Christianity	<b>15</b> <b>5:30 PM</b> Church Parking Lot Service	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>St. Luke's Day</b> <b>Annual</b> <b>Business</b> <b>Meeting</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>Zoom</b> <b>Service</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>2:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting	<b>21</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> <b>Zoom</b> <b>Service</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> Race and Christianity	<b>22</b> <b>5:30 PM</b> Church Parking Lot Service	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>Zoom</b> <b>Service</b> <b>9:00 AM to</b> <b>3:00 PM</b> Vestry Retreat	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>2:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting	<b>28</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> <b>Zoom</b> <b>Service</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> Race and Christianity	<b>29</b> <b>5:30 PM</b> Church Parking Lot Service	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

The calendar was accurate at publication.  
All events can change at a moment's notice.

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## CALENDAR

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### November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>All Saints Day</b> <b>Pre-election</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>Daylight</b> <b>Savings</b> <b>ends</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>Zoom</b> <b>Service</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Election Day</b> <b>2:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting	<b>4</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> <b>Zoom</b> <b>Service</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Men's Shelter Dinner	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>Zoom</b> <b>Service</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>2:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Finance Meeting	<b>11</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> <b>Zoom</b> <b>Service</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>Zoom</b> <b>Service</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>2:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Vestry Meeting	<b>18</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> <b>Zoom</b> <b>Service</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>Zoom</b> <b>Service</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>2:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting	<b>25</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> <b>Zoom</b> <b>Service</b>	<b>26</b> Thanksgiving	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>Advent 1</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>Zoom</b> <b>Service</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> <b>2:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting	<b>2</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> <b>Zoom</b> <b>Service</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Men's Shelter Dinner	<b>5</b>

The calendar was accurate at publication.  
All events can change at a moment's notice.

**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](mailto:admin@stlukesbethesda.org)  
website: [www.stlukesbethesda.org](http://www.stlukesbethesda.org)

THE REV. JESSICA K. HITCHCOCK  
Rector  
email: [jessica@stlukesbethesda.org](mailto:jessica@stlukesbethesda.org)

**ACTS of St. Luke's**  
Newsletter for members and friends of St. Luke's;  
published monthly, except January & August.  
**ACTS Deadline:** 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month



**Sunday, October 18**

**Join us at 9 am for our  
Zoom Annual Meeting**