

ACTS of ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2021

September Guest Preachers



Jessica Hitchcock

Dear people of St. Luke's,

This September we will have three guest preachers from the Diocese of Washington join us! We would be happy to have any of these preachers join us, but you might be curious as to why they are so concentrated. Bishop Mariann is sending them to take some pressure off of me, to allow me some space as I continue to grieve my mother's death. Don't worry but do pray—I would definitely describe my grief as solidly within the range of normal—I am okay and heartbroken still, all at the same time. And join me in giving thanks for this gift and support from the diocese!

The Rev. Jenifer Gamber will be with you all Labor Day weekend. I'll be hosting the Zoom/livestream service while I am away with Mike's inlaws. Gamber serves as Director of the School for Christian Faith and Leadership and Tending Our Soil Thriving Congregations Initiative. She is the author of *A Teen's Guide to the Episcopal Church* (2006), *Your Faith Your Life: An Invitation to the Episcopal Church* (2009), *Call on Me: A Prayer Book for Young People* (2012), and most recently *Common Prayer for Children and Families* (2020). It is Gamber's hope that The School for Christian Faith and Leadership grows to become the first place where EDOW congregations and people turn to find trusted resources that equip leaders for faithful ministry, and to form disciples for the sake of being Jesus' love in our world.



On September 12th, Hazel Monae, Missioner for Equity and Justice, will be our guest preacher. Monae's portfolio as Missioner for Equity and Justice will focus on EDOW's strategic plan priority to bravely uncover, understand, reckon with, and act to dismantle racism within ourselves, our faith communities, the diocese, and our localities. Monae states, "I believe that we all must take an ethical approach to developing and engaging our church and society—moving us closer to God's liberating dream for all people."



And on September 26th, The Rev. Dr. Anne-Marie Jeffery, Canon for Congregational Vitality, will return to serve as our guest preacher. Jeffery was with us on August 1st when she asked us to consider what we are hungry for and how we



(Guest Preachers, continued on page 4)

PARISH

September Birthdays

Marie Holbrook	1
Walter Tinling	5
Alice Bradley	9
Myrtle Mason	11
Lily Hutchins	14
Sadie Hutchins	14
Edwin Grosvenor	17
Elaine Hiruo	17
Melissa Oppenheimer	20
Amy Stern	21
Rick Paisley	21
Barbara Roybal	23
Amy D'Agostino	24
Courtney Schneider	28

SEPTEMBER

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		



September Special Dates

3 September	Men's Shelter Dinner
6 September	Labor Day
	MCPS no school
	Rosh Hashanah
7 September	Book Lovers
11 September	Garden Guild workday
12 September	Blessing of the Talents
16 September	MCPS no school
22 September	Fall Equinox

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
3 October	Blessing of the Animals
11 October	Indigenous People's Day
16 October	Garden Guild workday
17 October	Annual Meeting
31 October	Wear your costume to church

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

“Busy, and you?” is a common response to the question “How are you?” when we run into friends, co-workers, or family members we haven’t seen in a while. I do it all the time. Part of me thinks the details of my life are not particularly interesting, and part of me probably wants others to think that I am so important that I have so much to do. Neither is the case.

I am going to practice “Grateful, and you?” as a response. So, in this article I’ll try to respond to “How are things at St. Luke’s.” I am grateful that we have strong leadership in Jessica. Her ability to juggle a lot of balls in the air, not get distracted when a few balls fall on the ground, and her ability to quickly adjust (when something, such as the CDC, sends flaming torches into the juggling act), keeps us strong as we juggle in-person and online worship together. Under her leadership, the vestry met twice in July, once for regular church business and once for a conversation on race with EDOW Race and Social Justice Committee facilitators. The race conversation was just the beginning of an effort to help us see our words and actions from the eyes of someone with a world view or experiences that differ from our own. There was a lot more to the discussion, and we hope to continue the dialog among the vestry, and include opportunities for further discussion with ministry leaders and all of us at St. Luke’s. One way to expand our world view is through hearing from different voices. I’m grateful that Jessica continues to invite guest preachers to the pulpit who will offer unique voices for all of us to hear.

Other activities for which I am grateful include the Finance Ministry bringing in our financial advisor to review St. Luke’s invested funds, and to identify a new auditor at a lower cost and with the potential for increased services to the church. Sub-groups of the vestry have begun work in five areas: online worship, leadership development, children’s ministry, annual giving, and building security. Several members of the vestry also serve on the Re-gathering Committee that Jessica assembled earlier this year. We all benefit from the gifted health care professionals in our congregation who serve on that committee for their recommendations for a safe return to in-person services.

While we remain in the Season of Pentecost, I suggest we make this fall the Season of Gratitude.

Mike Bernier, Sr. Warden

CLERGY NOTES

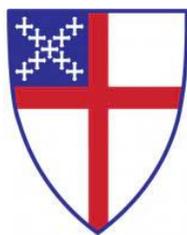
(Guest Preachers, continued from page 1)

can tell others about God's work in our lives to address our hunger. As Canon for Congregational Vitality, Jeffery serves as senior member of diocesan staff with primary responsibility for all strategic initiatives that promote vibrant, mission-driven, and spiritually mature congregations.

The purpose of these visits is pastoral and the potential impact of these visits is big and far-reaching! It is my hope that you, the people of St. Luke's, will make every effort to hear what these prophets have to say. Listen for what God is calling you—and us as a community—to do in response to their words.

Blessings of God's peace to you and yours!

Jessica



Welcome, Deacon Rosa

This fall the Archdeacon of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, The Rev. Sue Von Rautenkranz, is deploying a deacon postulant to join in the life of the St. Luke's parish. Just as Sally Lermond was with us as a deacon student before she was ordained to the diaconate in November 2020, this year we are very blessed to have deacon postulant Rosa Briones from St. Matthew's Episcopal Church/Iglesia Episcopal San Mateo, Hyattsville, join our ministry team.

Rosa was born in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. She was received in the Episcopal Church at Washington National Cathedral in November 2009. At St. Matthew's/San Mateo, Rosa has been active in ministry for many years as a Eucharistic Minister, a Lector, a member of the choir, and leader of the hospitality committee. She is married to Juan Ramon Briones, has two adult children, Alexander Briones and Mildred Reyes, and five grandchildren. When ordained a deacon, Rosa's diaconal ministry will focus on working with the EDOW Latino ministries and serving the elderly.



Please introduce yourself to Rosa and give her a warm welcome, "*bienvenida!*" when she arrives at St. Luke's in September!

Lesley Krauland, Deacon

St. Luke's Introduces Live-Streaming Video of Worship Services

St. Luke's has acquired a high-quality video production and streaming service to provide live streaming of selected worship services directly from the Sanctuary. A group consisting of some Vestry members and other volunteers worked with Jessica to find the best solution to meet St. Luke's requirements. The selected vendor (LiveControl) provides the equipment (two point-tilt-zoom video cameras, encoder, and audio interface unit) as well as scheduled professional production operator services. The audio interface feeds the St. Luke's existing Sanctuary audio system into the video feed to provide a complete live-streamed video feed that can be accessed conveniently through the St. Luke's Church website. It can also be accessed directly through the LiveControl website with the appropriate access codes.

Volunteers Bill Casson and Mike Pilone worked with our Rector, Jessica, to install the camera equipment in the Sanctuary, mounting one camera on each side wall towards the rear of the Sanctuary. Necessary networking cables were also installed running to the sound cabinet next to the Choir loft, where the encoder and sound equipment are located. A data cable was also run from the Sanctuary to the church office where the building's internet service equipment is located. Doing the installation work ourselves gave us substantial savings and was relatively easy to do. LiveControl engineers located in California worked with us via phone and video chat to configure the equipment, determine the best camera positions and set a 'static' view, which allows us to do no-extra-charge live-streaming with just one stationary camera view. This mode is good for last minute decisions to stream a service or event from the Sanctuary or to do testing of the equipment. Scheduled live-streaming with a professional remote operator of worship services, performances, and other events feature operation of both cameras with panning and zoomed images for a much richer viewing experience. The LiveControl operator's services relieve our clergy, staff, or volunteers of the need to handle the camera equipment while leading our worship services. LiveControl regularly consults with our clergy to refine camera operation preferences, timing, and any special video characteristics. Our preferences are used by LiveControl's production pros to optimize the video streaming they produce live from St. Luke's Church.

Our first live-streamed worship service was on Saturday, August 7 for the Greg Votaw memorial service. This test of the live-streaming video was very successful, but also provided some opportunities to refine some of the settings. As this new tool for sharing our worship service becomes fully established, we hope it allows those not able to be physically present at St. Luke's to feel connected and to have a meaningful worship experience .

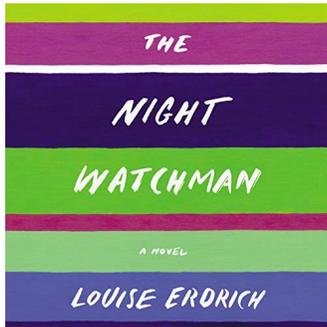


Bill Casson

PARISH

BOOKLOVERS

September 7th at 7:30 pm (please note new time and date) we'll discuss *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich. The Zoom discussion will be facilitated by Anne and John Elsbree. This is the book that received the most number of votes when we chose our 2021 book selections.



“Based on the extraordinary life of National Book Award-winning author Louise Erdrich’s grandfather who worked as a night watchman and carried the fight against Native dispossession from rural North Dakota all the way to Washington, D.C., this powerful novel explores themes of love and death with lightness and gravity and unfolds with the elegant prose, sly humor, and depth of feeling of a master craftsman.”
From Amazon

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

Be thinking about books you'd like to recommend for our 2022 line up. Are there books you'd love to discuss with the group? Anti-racism books you'd like us to tackle? We'll be compiling a list soon so everyone can vote.

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

New Storage Area for Community Engagement Collections in the St. Luke's Building

While the church building was officially closed, the Community Engagement Committee used the Reaves Room to “stage” the various remote/drive-through, in-kind collections and to store items as needed. But with the advent of the church’s re-opening, one of the former Sunday School rooms will now serve this purpose.

With your back to Jessica’s office, walk down the long hallway. It’s the 4th room on the right, next to the Supply Closet. The room is still getting organized, but will serve as the primary Community Engagement repository for the foreseeable future. Feel free to drop (in-kind) items off there when the building is open. The outdoor storage bins next to the red doors are available when the building is closed.

Thank you to Bill Casson for his assistance with these endeavors! Additional signage is in the works.



Marta Montoro



Bethesda Help is looking for volunteers

'Officers of the Day' (ODs) needed

St. Luke's continues to provide food for Bethesda Help's Pantry—and they are grateful—but the organization needs a few more volunteers!

Time commitment: At least one weekday (Mon-Fri) per month between 9 am to 4 pm.

Location: Your home or office.

Position description:

- On an hourly basis, access voicemail or email sent to Bethesda Help's hotline during the day.
- Check, screen, and respond to phone messages. Talk to clients and social workers, and then make follow-up calls about each case.
- Prepare and send a report at the end of the day of all calls with client information and resolution of request to the OD/Driver Coordinator.

Required: Cell phone or landline, and a computer.

Thank you to **Anne Elsbree** for many years of faithful service as an OD for Bethesda Help! Please contact Anne if you are interested in or have questions about this important volunteer position.

Marta Montoro

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Pride Month Collection

Thank you, St. Luke’s, for always being generous to our neighbors. Our collection for Casa Ruby during June-July (focused on Pride Month) was no exception! Casa Ruby primarily serves our LGBTQIA siblings of color, many of whom are refugees and immigrants by providing social services and housing assistance, as well as immigration services and support for survivors of domestic violence. Currently, their primary facility is undergoing major renovations, so they are seeing clients in a temporary space near Dupont Circle. Due to the ongoing pandemic, they requested cleaning supplies, personal toiletries, and snacks—photos below! There were more than 30 bar soaps, several dozen toiletries, 24 containers of sanitizer, 17 packs of wipes, and more cleaning supplies.



Marta Montoto



Bishop Walker School Summer Update

The rising 3rd-5th grade scholars of the Bishop T. Walker School for Boys now have guitar lessons on Monday and Wednesday afternoons! This is thanks to the “Summer Restore 2.0” program and to a meaningful partnership with DC Jazz Festival.

Thanks for the school supplies thus far. There will be more news to come in the next issue of the ACTS and in the E-News!

Marta Montoro



FINANCE

FINANCE REPORT JULY 2021

	2021 Budget	'21 Actual Thru July	% of '21 Budget *
RECEIPTS			
Offering Plate	\$ 20,000	\$ 3,928	19%
Pledge Payments	470,000	306,594	65%
Donations for Facilities	30,000	12,241	40%
Altar Flower Donations	1,000	350	35%
Miscellaneous		7,667	
Operating Receipts	521,000	330,780	63%
EXPENSES			
Compensations	\$ 327,094	\$ 175,915	54%
Church Activities	14,750	6,550	44%
Parish Operations	113,500	48,909	43%
Community Engagement (Outreach)	22,000	9,150	41%
Diocesan Giving	52,000	34,671	66%
Operating Expenses	529,344	275,195	52%
Surplus/(Deficit)	(8,344)	55,732	
Additional Funding – reserves	8,344	0	
Net Revenue	\$ 0	\$ 55,732	

ENDOWMENT FUND BALANCE

\$96,594

* YTD July = 58% 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 slightly over budget, resulting in Net Revenue of \$55,732 for July 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. 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

September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 5th Sunday: Rise Against Hunger Meal Packaging Event after each service 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	30	31 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
5 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	6	7 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Booklovers - Zoom	8 12:00 PM Zoom Service	9	10	11 9:00 AM Garden Guild Work Day 5:00 PM In-person Worship 6:30 PM Cristo es la Roca
12 8:00 AM In-person Worship 10:00 AM In-person Worship 12:30 PM Blessing of the Talents 5:00 PM Cristo es la Roca 8:00 PM Bethesda Youth AA	13	14 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Finance Meeting	15 12:00 PM Zoom Service	16	17	18 5:00 PM Zoom Service 6:30 PM Cristo es la Roca
19 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	20	21 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting	22 12:00 PM Zoom Service	23	24	25 5:00 PM Zoom Service 6:30 PM Cristo es la Roca
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 6:30 PM Cristo es la Roca

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

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 6:30 PM Cristo es la Roca
3 8:00 AM In-person Worship 10:00 AM Blessing of the animals 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 People's 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 Indigenous People's Day	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 Annual Meeting 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	18	19 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting	20 12:00 PM Zoom Service	21	22	23 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 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 McDonnell funeral 5:00 PM Zoom Service 6:30 PM Cristo es la Roca

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. 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 Blessing of the Animals Preview

Saturday, October 2

5 pm - pets welcome

Sunday, October 3

8 am - just pictures of pets, please

10 am - pets welcome