



Luke's Log

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A Message from the Interim Rector —

THOSE DARNED PRAYERS WON'T STAY IN THE CAN

Many years ago I spent a summer at a large mental hospital outside Boston with seminarians from many other churches. We were learning how to care for the sick, how to work in groups and even how to understand ourselves a bit better. I remember that those from "free churches" where the norm was extemporaneous public prayer, sometimes accused those of us with Prayer Books of resorting to "canned prayers." Lo, all these years later I can witness to the fact that many of the prayers in the Book of Common Prayer refuse to stay in the can, but creep out and into the mind and make the spirit dance around them. I find two examples from specific occasions, Marriage and Baptism, where the prayers just keep jumping up and almost shouting, "Let me into your everyday life."

The most powerful wedding homily I ever heard pointed out that what we pray God will give the couple is what God wants EVERYONE to have: someone to be "a strength in need, a counselor in perplexity, a comfort in sorrow, and a companion in joy." I do not need to be at a wedding to ask God for the grace to be that "someone" when the situation calls for it. I think it safe to say that, inasmuch as we are able to do so, all of us are called to offer strength, wise counsel, comfort and joyful companionship to one another within the church and to those outside as well. I love the saying attributed to St. Francis, "preach the Gospel at all times, if necessary, use words." A church inspired by the Spirit to this kind of loving presence is nothing less than an outpost of God's kingdom, a place where God's will is done, not perfectly, perhaps, but deliberately, intentionally, and prayerfully.

Much as a prayer from the marriage service

"escapes" to offer guidance for everyday life, so the magnificent prayer for the newly baptized slips out of that service and nudges my spirit, reminding me of the kind of person I just might become "with God's help." With only a little editing, I hope it may even escape this newsletter and make its way to refrigerators, desks, and bulletin boards all over the parish.

HEAVENLY FATHER, WE THANK YOU THAT BY WATER AND THE HOLY SPIRIT YOU HAVE BESTOWED UPON US YOUR SERVANTS THE FORGIVENESS OF SIN, AND HAVE RAISED US TO THE NEW LIFE OF GRACE. SUSTAIN US, O LORD, IN YOUR HOLY SPIRIT. GIVE US INQUIRING AND DISCERNING HEARTS, THE COURAGE TO WILL AND TO PERSEVERE, A SPIRIT TO KNOW AND TO LOVE YOU, AND THE

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Special points of interest:

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- ◆ *Sr. Warden's Report*
- ◆ *More information Inside!*

A Message From the Interim Rector *(continued)*

GIFT OF JOY AND WONDER IN ALL YOUR WORKS. AMEN

At a recent baptism I was struck afresh by the power of this prayer, and by the recognition that what we ask God to grant the newly-baptized is what all of us need, both to live meaningful lives in this uncertain world of ours, and to proclaim “not only with our lips but with our lives” the Good News of God’s overwhelming, gracious, wild and generous love.

We will have an opportunity to renew our baptismal vows when Bishop Hanley visits St. Luke’s May 14th. Though there is no baptism that day, I hope that I will not be the only “far-from-newly baptized” Christian who sneaks a peek ahead to page 308, the prayer’s proper home, and prays for the Spirit’s refreshment.

Easter joy to us all,

Father Morgan



3	Mike Dawson
7	Connie Vagle, Claire Addison, Sarah Svendsen
8	Pam Calvert
13	Lynn Hughes
15	Gloria Edmon
21	Arvelle Carey

If your name is not on the birthday list, please contact the parish office to get added on.

Treasurer’s Report — by Myrna Rafalovich

As of April 30, 2017



Budget	\$32,072.00
Payments	<u>\$25,698.00</u>
Shortfall	< \$6,374.00 >

We ask that you bring your pledge up to date. There is a significant shortfall and your pledge support is much needed and appreciated. Thank you.

Special Dates & Events

May 1 (Mon.) Saints Philip and James, Apostles

May 2 (Tues.) National Teacher Day

May 3 (Wed.) 9:00 a.m. Pastoral Care Committee

May 5 (Fri.) 5-7 p.m. PEO Fundraiser at St. Luke's

May 7 (Sun.) 11:30 Springtime Potluck Lunch: bring a dish to share according to last name: A-I Entrée, J-R Dessert, S-Z Side or Salad; also— Worship Committee Meeting following lunch

May 8 (Mon.) Julian of Norwich; 6:30 p.m. Daughters of the King

May 11 (Thurs.) 7:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting

May 13 (Sat.) 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (2 sessions) Safe Church Training at St. Mark's, Medford

May 14 (Sunday) Mother's Day — Bishop's Visitation — one 10:00 a.m. service with renewal of baptismal vows, reception and admission to the Daughters of the King of Kathleen Peters; coffee hour following hosted by the Daughters of the King

May 20 (Sat.) Armed Forces Day; ECW Spirituality Day at St. Paul's, Salem

May 22 (Mon.) 6:30 p.m. Daughters of the King

May 25 (Thurs.) Ascension Day

May 29 (Mon.) Memorial Day — No 7:15 a.m. Morning Prayer, offices closed

May 31 (Wed.) The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Bishop's Visitation

On Sunday, May 14 — Mother's Day — there will be a single 10:00 a.m. service with Bishop Hanley presiding and preaching. There will be the renewal of baptismal vows, reception into the church and admission into the Daughters of the King of Kathleen Peters. The Daughters of the King will provide refreshments at coffee hour following the service. So, mark your calendar for this very special day.

Sr. Warden's Report — by John Barnard

Rector Search: As of this writing, the Parish Profile is going through a second draft and the Search Committee has been selected by the Vestry. The members are Dan Collins, Susan Lee Hall, Jim Huber, Marlene Pryts, Hana Rubens and Lee Smith. This a great group. The members represent the whole spectrum of the parish, from progressive to conservative, both long time members and those who have joined more recently. They bring a variety of relevant experience, including hiring and managing people, project management and conflict resolution. The Search Committee has not yet been formally appointed by a vote of the Vestry, but that will happen in the near future. In addition, the Vestry has voted to conduct a “bishop-assisted” search, following the common practice within this Diocese and, based on what I am reading, most of the rest of The Episcopal Church. This has the advantages of having preliminary screening and initial vetting done by the Diocesan staff. We are told that this typically reduces the duration of the search by a couple of months.

Interim Rectors: Father Morgan Silbaugh and the Reverend Mary Piper will both be here for services and the potluck on Sunday, June 4, 2017. As planned, Reverend Mary will “relieve the standing watch” and assume the duties of Interim Rector at that time, to serve into the fall. After that, if we have not called a rector, we will use supply priests, including Father Morgan and we may occasionally have Morning Prayer if no supply clergy are available. Having more advance notice of that need will make scheduling less hectic. Father Morgan has already been booked for next Christmas Eve, if we do not then have a permanent rector.

Bishop's Visitation: A reminder that The Right Reverend Michael Hanley, Bishop of Oregon, will visit St. Luke's on Sunday, May 14, 2017 (Mother's Day). There will be a single service of the Holy Eucharist at 10:00 AM that day. Please try to be present if at all possible, as these visitations happen only about once every two years.

Safe Church Training. Both types of Safe Church Training, Safeguarding God's Children and Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Harassment, will be offered at St. Mark's in Medford on Saturday, May 13, 2017. Both courses can be completed in a single day. Completion of Safeguarding God's Children training is required for all of the following: clergy; paid employees; wardens and vestry members; and volunteers (age 16 and over) who work with children and youth. Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Harassment is required for all clergy; paid employees and unpaid staff members; unpaid lay leadership (wardens, vestry members and members of other boards); and others who volunteer themselves for church-related service, including Pastoral Leaders, Worship Leaders, Preachers, Eucharistic Visitors, Catechists, Stephen Ministers, spiritual directors, counselors, peer mentors, life-coaches, and similar persons. Advance registration is required and the deadline for registration is 12:00 PM on the Tuesday preceding the scheduled training.

You can register on line at <http://arena.episcopaldioceseoregon.org/default.aspx?page=3113> which is on the Diocesan website. I had to drive to Ashland to take the training two years ago. Probably Medford is the closest opportunity we will have.

An Opportunity to Evolve, Grow and Flourish. St. Luke's is not unique in facing an adjustment to the possibility of having a rector who serves less than full time. The number of older denomination Protestant churches that have already adapted to this or are in the process of doing so is substantial and growing rapidly, especially outside major metropolitan in areas.

In the two millennia since St. Paul was founding churches which were led by a ministry of all the baptized people, the phenomenon of each church having one or more full-time clergy is relatively new and may even be transitory. Increasingly, churches are finding that the financial burden of providing pay, a housing and utilities allowance and benefits to a full-time rector is no longer affordable, at least not without sacrificing most support of other ministries.

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Sr. Warden's Report (continued)

That is something we, like other parishes, can deal with and in which we can renew this parish. Father Morgan has reminded us that a congregation works best when it is not a community gathered around a minister, but instead a ministering community. The website of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan, which has only about twenty parishes, many without full-time clergy, and which encourages "mutual ministry" says that

Our problem is consumerism: ministry is seen (as something) to be purchased from a professional provider. This creates dependency on financial subsidy and imported clergy; the church is thus limited by the quality and availability of the professional priest; most gifts in the community go unused or unrecognized.

Ministry does not belong solely to those who are formally ordained or to a core lay leadership group. It belongs to and should be practiced by all baptized persons, each according to their personal gifts and inclination and each by practicing and demonstrating their faith in their daily lives. That is the most effective way to evangelize, by the example of our lives outside church, in the secular world.

Rectors come and go. Increasingly, this happens at relatively short intervals in smaller churches. The people and their relationship with Christ are the constant. This does not mean that St. Luke's will not have a rector or that it is not seeking a full-time rector if the benefits costs are feasible to carry. It does mean that we are going to be just fine however this comes out. For seven months we have demonstrated how dedicated, talented people can make this parish thrive if given the opportunity and every week we get better at it and we are growing in our sense that this church consists of us and our receipt of the sacraments and our relationship with Christ. A major reason is that we have taken more responsibility for church business that does not require ordained clergy. As a result, Father Morgan has been able to devote the limited time he has with us each week on priestly activities.

It seems appropriate to recognize that our situation is not a problem, but an opportunity. Many of you have said to me, and I agree completely, that there is a greater sense of joy and excitement at St. Luke's now. We are serving God and our faith community better than ever. We are already engaging in mutual ministry. Our task now is to grow and improve in our practice of it.

Closing Note. As I keep saying, we are a church seeking a rector, not a software firm recruiting a chief executive. Therefore, it is appropriate and wise for us pray, when we are together, but also individually, for wisdom, strength, guidance, success and grace.

Please continue to pray for St. Luke's and one another and please tell me and the other Vestry members what is on your mind, about calling a rector and about preserving, supporting and growing the St. Luke's community.

John Barnard



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St. Luke's Episcopal Church publishes Luke's Log monthly. Submit articles to our email address or to the parish office by the 20th of the month. For more information, visit our website above.

IDENTITY STATEMENT FOR ST. LUKE'S

St. Luke's Episcopal Church is a community of diverse and unique individuals and families, joined together in the Body of Christ. We are a family united by worship, discovering God's purpose in our lives and using our gifts in service to him, to one another, and to the world.

We believe the historic Christian creeds. We carry on the heritage of Christian worship, celebrating the biblical faith with traditional and contemporary forms. We encounter God in word and sacrament, in music and prayer, and in one another.

We offer opportunities for education, spiritual growth, service, fellowship, and the giving and receiving of pastoral care

We seek, through worship and service, to show forth in the world the healing love of Jesus.



**ST. LUKE'S SERVICES
SUNDAY MORNING**

8:00 a.m. Holy
Eucharist, Rite II
10:00 a.m. Holy
Eucharist, Rite II
Nursery available

MONDAY—FRIDAY

7:15 a.m. Morning
Prayer

**ST. LUKE'S MISSION
STATEMENT**

Together We:
Gather
Worship
Proclaim
Provide

**ST. LUKE'S
OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. to 1:00
p.m.
541-476-2493

THE REV. MORGAN SILBAUGH, Interim Rector
Cell: 541-631-1150

ST. LUKE'S OFFICERS & VESTRY

John Barnard (2020) Senior Warden
Louis Delp (2019) Junior Warden
Susan Lee Hall (2020)
Myrna Rafalovich, Treasurer
Mary Wineteer, Clerk of the Vestry
Marcus Allen (2018)
Alison Huber (2019)
Bill McBee (2018)
Juli Mimnaugh (2018)
Hana Rubens (2019)
Scott Swindells (2020)