LAZY DAYS OF SUMMER?

As we enter August (How could it be August already?!?) many of us are catching our last vacation, planning some river rafting or fishing floats, beginning to harvest our gardens’ bounty and kicking back on our decks.

But around St. Luke’s, things are in gear!

I have been so surprised at the amount of ministry going on behind the scenes here. I arrived today to a creative idea for our ministry to Ft. Vannoy Elementary School on the bulletin board. I looked out the window and saw two parishioners mowing. The Holy Hospitality group to take a look with fresh eyes at our church had more people than I imagined volunteer for it. Bible study last week had about 25 people! The Daughters of the King are praying and learning. Every week someone different is coming in with washed Eucharistic linens. Someone else is bringing meals to another in need. The ECW tea was overflowing with great conversation, laughter and goodides. The Search committee has posted the profile and will be meeting with the Canon to the Ordinary this weekend.

Although the interim time for some churches is a low energy, wait-and-see time, St. Luke’s is charging ahead with learning, creating, healing and finding our ministries to the world. Thanks be to God!

As we continue all the outward ministries of St. Luke’s, summer’s a great time to develop our inner connection to God. Next month I’ll write something about prayer but until then, how about asking yourself this question every night (And sharing it with someone by phone or in your home or even at the Men’s Breakfast!!!! Makes it more fun)... where have I noticed God today?

Blessings,
Mary †
Cherry Trees and Other Phenomena
by Frances Osborne

In my back yard there is a cherry tree. It was planted long before I bought the property. The tree is old, most of the bark is nearly gone and what remains is twisted and appears dead. But, every year it produces a crop of the most delicious cherries I have ever eaten. Every winter I look at it and think surely this will be its last year. Every year the tree confounds me with a crop of the most delicious cherries I have ever eaten.

I am like that cherry tree, feeling old and worn and just when I need a boost something comes along to get me going. My family. My church family, a friend. In all of these encounters I sense God has intervened in a quiet, unexpected way. I usually sense these encounters retrospectively. When I am at St. Luke’s I feel the presence of God around me and I am grateful. You, who are my friends, my church family, I wanted you to know how much I appreciate everything you have done for me. Every smile, or nod, book I have read and meal delivered to my home.

I do not know what the future holds for me. But I do know that my St. Luke’s family will there ready to fill whatever I need I have and I will be humbled by the love that shines through and sustains me. Thank you, dear family and friends, and know how much I love all of you.

New Church Directory

A new Summer Directory is available in the narthex. This is a directory of parishioners and friends of the parish. If you see an error that needs correcting, or have a change of address, etc., please contact the parish office. Another directory will come out in the Fall.

School Supplies – By Laurel Samson

The school year begins in just over a month. We are gearing up to once again support children at Ft. Vannoy Elementary School. Our first effort is helping with school supplies. There is a list of supplies in the parish hall. I welcome any donations to this. There are envelopes next to the list. Just check off the item you want to provide, put the donation in an envelope and hand it to me (Laurel) or put slip it through the mail slot in Merle’s office door. I am hunting for the least expensive prices for supplies, so you do not have to actually go buy them yourselves. Thank you!
Special Dates & Events

**Aug. 2** (Wed.) *No* Brown Bag Lunch today

**Aug. 4-5** (Fri-Sat) Sexton out, returns Sunday

**Aug. 6** (Sun.) The Transfiguration; Potluck Lunch to benefit Ft. Vannoy Elementary School — please bring a hot-weather dish to share according to last name: A-I: Entrée; J-R: Side/Salad; S-Z: Dessert

**Aug. 10** (Thurs.) 7:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting

**Aug. 15** (Tues.) St. Mary the Virgin, Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ

**Aug. 16** (Wed.) 11:00 a.m. Pastoral Care Meeting

**Aug. 24** (Thurs.) St. Bartholomew the Apostle

**Aug. 27** (Sun.) *No* 8:00 a.m. service; one Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.: “Mass Near the Grass” at Reinhart All Sports Park, Harry & David Pavilion — watch for details coming soon!

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**August Birthdays**

1  Dennis Duewel  
9  Hana Rubens  
12  Merle Berry  
13  Janette Snow  
17  Connie Frum, Charles Brown  
21  Margaret James  
24  Dcn. Joani Bristol  
28  Bob Rafalovich  
29  Nick Vagle, Helen McVay, Fr. Jim Boston  
30  Judy Anzalone

*If your name is not on the birthday list, please contact the parish office to get added on.*
I recently finished reading a book named *Start with Why: How Great Leaders Inspire Everyone to Take Action* by Simon Sinek, a British/American author, motivational speaker and marketing consultant. The book explains and advocates a concept for organizations that can guide us in the daily life and long-term development of St. Luke’s parish. It was a best seller and has sold over a million copies. You may be familiar with the TED Talks, which can be seen on the internet and heard on NPR. Sinek’s talk *How Great Leaders Inspire Action*, which presents the same ideas as his book, is listed as the third most popular TED presentation of all time and has been viewed over 33,000,000 people. You can see it at [https://www.ted.com/talks/simon_sinek_how_great_leaders_inspire_action?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/simon_sinek_how_great_leaders_inspire_action?language=en)

In brief summary, Sinek says that successful organizations inspire others by putting their *Why* (their purpose) before their *How* (their process), or their *What* (their product). He cites many examples, one of which is Apple. Apple’s *Why* was memorably demonstrated in a now-iconic commercial seen on the 1984 Super Broadcast. That was the one reminiscent of the film and book *1984*. In it a woman dressed in running clothes dashes up to a huge video screen on which a “big brother” image is speaking and throws a sledge hammer through it. Apple’s 2004 remastered version of it, updated with the runner wearing an iPod, can be streamed here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMYsGdDssvk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMYsGdDssvk)

Ostensibly, its purpose was to introduce the Macintosh computer. Sinek explains that what the commercial primarily did was introduce Apple’s *Why*, which is not “We make cool computers. You should buy one.” Sinek says that Apple’s real *Why*, as expressed in that commercial and its other advertising at that time, was something like

> In everything we do, we believe in challenging the status quo. We believe in thinking differently. The way we challenge the status quo is by making our products beautifully designed, simple to use and user-friendly.

The idea is that if an organization has a strong *Why*, people understand the point it is making by its existence and some or many will be drawn to it if they find purpose of its existence compelling. Sinek says that the key to this is in putting the *Why* (the purpose) before the *How* (the process), or the *What* (the product). The challenge for an organization is to determine what the *Why* is. A lot of companies, organizations and groups are not able to identify and clearly articulate their *Why* and that limits their success.

We have the great blessing as Christians of already knowing our *Why*, the reason we worship together and unite in our faith community. Our *Why* is, of course, stated in John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” That is why we are Christians. The rest of our faith follows that.

The *How*, the process, was given to the disciples and through them to us, by Christ just before he ascended into heaven. It is The Great Commission, the most familiar version of which is found in Matthew 28:19-20:

> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

*Continued on Page 5*
Sr. Warden’s Report (continued)

We Episcopalians aren’t inclined to be aggressive evangelists, but that is fine. Witnessing which is too forceful can be more off-putting than effective. A better way is to demonstrate our commitment to our faith is by the way we conduct our lives. Fortunately, we have clear directions for that part of the How, in the familiar words of Matthew 22:37-40:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

The What, the product, is building Christianity; more people redeemed by Christ’s sacrifice and living happier and better lives in reliance on their faith.

We cannot know the outcome of the present transition period. Indeed, Christianity, The Episcopal Church and St. Luke’s are all in transition, but we can be confident that the outcome can be good, because we know the Why of our faith. We need to embrace it fully and spread it as best we can. The Why engages us emotionally and inspires our hearts and souls, while the What and the How serve as the product and evidence of our belief. We will be fine through this transition, because our leader is Jesus, who embodies the Why of Christianity.

We continue to go forward together as a community, confident in God and loving one another.

John Barnard
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.