



Luke's Log

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From 1/2 of your M&M Interim Team

"Transcender of Gender"

How are we to speak to God, or speak of God? "Father" is the most often used word, and Jesus taught his disciples to pray "Our Father who art in heaven." Yet that is not the only way to speak. I learned this spring that in the Hawai'ian language the word for God is neither masculine nor feminine! Moses was desperate to be able to tell the children of Israel just who was sending him to them, and pushed God for his name. The answer was "I am who I am." Scholars suggest that God's answer may have been the even more frustrating "I will be who I will be." If you remember the days of CB radio operators, you will recall that their call name was their "handle." The whole Biblical narrative warns against attempting to get a handle on God to make him do our bidding, rather like the fairy tale of *Rumpelstiltskin*. A dear friend addressed the

God-gender issue with wit and grace. Thomas John Carlisle was a retired Presbyterian minister when I came to know him thirty-three years ago. Were it not for copyright laws I would include two of the poems from his *Eve and After* (Eerdmans 1984.) Honoring these laws, snippets and paraphrase will have to do. In one poem he points out that three of the Hebrew words for "the energies of God," Spirit, Wisdom, and righteousness are feminine. Not overstating his case, he admits that this does not make God into a woman, but rather observes that "the universal Being is the transcender of gender" and outpaces every other "attribute which we theologize." Transcender of gender, that's a neat phrase worth hanging on to. In the second poem, High Calling, Carlisle lists some of the ways the One we call King and Father and Husband "lives by other names and occupations also." He finds God often doing the work of wom-

en: carrying water and preparing meals... feeding with "wheat and butter, honey and milk, oil and wine," keeping "the people clothed and like a mother gives birth, nurses the babes, teaches the toddlers and delights to comfort." A fair number of St. Luke's folk have savored the Celtic services in Ashland. Last week I was invited to lead the prayers. Starting to pray the opening petition and response might be a good way to stretch our hearts and minds and spirits, and perhaps see God in refreshing new ways. Why not give it a try?

Abba our Father, Amma our Mother, Beloved, our Life,

Creator of all: your name be held holy.

Fr. Morgan ☩



Special points of interest:

- ♦ *Search Committee Report*
 - ♦ *Bake Sale*
- More information Inside!*

Search Committee Report — Hana Rubens

Update:

The Search Committee is doing phone interviews with four candidates. As of this date, April 30, 2018, we have interviewed 2 of them and were pleased and encouraged by both. We have also been listening to sermons they have sent.

This afternoon we have an interview with the third candidate and by the time you read this, we will have interviewed all four and should be reporting back to you on next steps.

We thank you for your prayerful support.

Hana Rubens



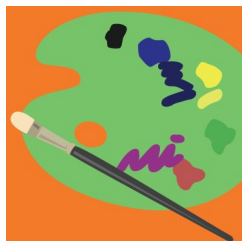
On Sunday, May 13, Mother's Day, the Choir will host a Bake Sale. This is a fundraiser for the Choir & Music Ministry Fund. Choir members will bake and bring a number of sweet and savory goodies, so please bring your appetite and your pocketbook. Items will also make a nice, edible gift for Mother's Day!

A Note from Laurel Samson

As you all know, our children's program is no longer active. As a result, I am going through the craft supplies, fabric scraps, games, toys and books. These have been collected over a number of years. I would like to invite all of you to come downstairs after church on May 6 to see if there is anything in the piles of supplies, etc., that you would like to have. Please take them and use them. There is no cost.

I will be selling the remaining items at the rummage sale or passing them on to a school that could use them.

If you have questions, ask me, Laurel Samson.



Special Dates & Events

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

May 2 (Wed.) 10:30 a.m. Book Study (last) with Dcn. Joani

May 3 (Thurs.) National Day of Prayer

May 5 Sat.) 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Delta Kappa Gamma meeting at St. Luke's

May 6 (Sun.) National Nurses Day; 11:30 a.m. Spring Potluck Lunch to benefit Ft. Vannoy Elementary School (see sheet at back of kitchen door). Please bring a dish to share per last name: A-I Dessert, J-R Entrée, S-Z Side/Salad.

May 7 (Mon.) 10:00 a.m. Gardening Angels

May 8 (Tues.) National Teacher Day

May 10 (Thurs.) Ascension Day; 7:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting

May 12 (Sat.) 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. "Get out the Vote" Rogue Indivisible Phone Bank

May 13 (Sun) Mother's Day; Bake Sale fundraiser for Choir & Music Ministry Fund

May 15 (Tues.) 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. "Get out the Vote" Rogue Indivisible Phone Bank

May 16 (Wed.) 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. "Caring for Family Caregivers" Conference, Douglas County Fairgrounds, Roseburg (see information at hallway bulletin board)

May 19 (Sat.) Armed Forces Day; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Diverse Church Training at St. Luke's

May 20 (Sun.) Whitsunday: The Day of Pentecost — Wear red

May 21 (Mon.) 10:00 a.m. Gardening Angels

May 27 (Sun.) Trinity Sunday

May 28 (Mon.) Memorial Day — Parish Office closed

May 31 (Thurs.) The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Cursillo Weekend, Turner (through 6/3) — For more information, see www.oregon-cursillo.org. The next adult Cursillo is open to all genders and will take place Thursday, May 31 to Sunday, June 3, 2018, to be held at Oregon Christian Convention Center in Turner, just outside Salem. If you would like to attend, contact your clergy for more information, or email oregoncursillo@gmail.com. (See Cursillo information at the hall bulletin board.)



Sr. Warden's Report — by John Barnard

Each year late in March news stories appear about the results of the annual World Happiness Report published by the United Nations. These rank reports rank over 150 countries in terms of happiness and are derived from data gathered through the massive annual Gallup World Poll. Happiness is described with the term used by psychologists: “subjective well-being” or feeling good about one’s circumstances, at least most of the time. The survey quantifies happiness or well-being with the use of objective measurements such as data on crime, income, civic engagement, and health. It also uses subjective methods, one of which is simply asking people how frequently they experience positive and negative emotions.

The results tend to be similar each year. Various Scandinavian countries occupy the top spots and the lowest places are usually held by poor, violence and famine plagued countries in central Africa. Not-surprisingly, the people of Syria and Afghanistan are not real happy either. The United States is typically ranked in the teens (eighteenth this year).

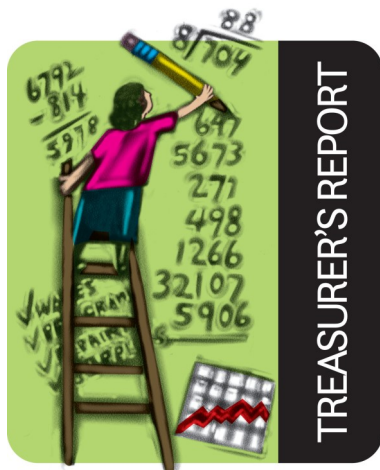
It is obvious that people who spend their lives trying to avoid starving and being murdered would not be very happy, but makes the Scandinavian countries, especially Denmark, which usually places first or second on the report (although Finland was first for 2018.), so happy? Danes enjoy a stable government, low levels of public corruption and have high-quality education and health care, but they also pay the highest taxes in the world and their weather can be chilly and damp. Denmark is a small country and does not have huge industries or produce a lot of billionaires, although it has given the world the stories of Hans Christian Anderson and tons of Legos.

Dickinson College psychology professor Marie Helweg-Larsen (a native of Denmark, now teaching in Pennsylvania) addressed this happy condition in an article last month, suggesting that the reason might be a cultural trait called “hygge” (pronounced *hoo-gah*). Hygge is commonly translated as “cozy,” but Professor Larsen writes that “a better definition is ‘intentional intimacy,’ which can happen when you have safe, balanced, and harmonious shared experiences.” She goes on to say that “In Denmark, (Hygge is) integral to people’s sense of well-being. It acts as a buffer against stress, while also creating a space to build camaraderie . . . can promote egalitarianism and strengthen trust.”

It strikes me that an Anglican hygge is one of the great qualities of the St. Luke’s community, developed though gathering together to worship God and support one another, socially and in other ways. We generate “safe, balanced, and harmonious shared experiences” that are based on our Christianity and shared love. It is rare and precious and we have a duty to be good stewards of it. We also have the obligation, having been given this through grace, to bring others into our community of faith and fellowship, so they can benefit from it.

John Barnard





By Myrna Rafalovich

As of April 30, 2018

Pledges Made \$30, 316.00

Pledge Payments \$25,689.00

Shortfall <\$4,627.00>



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

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

Choir Note

Susan Lee Hall has written a concise but informative history of the Choir Committee and how it came to be. If you're curious about the choir, the choir committee, and its recent history, this is a good read. Please see the history posted at the front hallway and parish hall bulletin boards. Current members of the Choir Committee are: Merle Berry, Bridget Garvin, Robin Griffiths, Susan Lee Hall, Alison Huber, Michele Kyle, Hana Rubens. Advocate for the Choir Committee is Laurel Samson, who provides an objective voice for the committee and serves as liason as well.

And "Thank you!" to Susan for taking on the task of writing up this history.

**Saint Luke's
Episcopal Church**

224 NW D Street
Grants Pass, OR 97526-2042

Phone: 541-476-2493

Fax: 541-476-9942

Email:

stlukesgrantspass@gmail.com



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—THURSDAY

7:45 a.m. Morning
Prayer

FRIDAY — 7:15 a.m.

PASTORAL CARE
Dan & Joan Collins
Lynn Hughes
Frances Osborne
Dave & Diana Robertson

**ST. LUKE'S MISSION
STATEMENT**

*Love. Faith. Reason.
Community.*

*We reach out in joy and
in Christ's name to one
another, our community,
and the world.*

**ST. LUKE'S
OFFICE HOURS**

M, T, Th 9 am-1 pm
Wed. 9 am-5 pm
Closed Friday
541-476-2493

THE REV. MARY PIPER, Interim Rector
Cell: 541-301-9985 shaggypiper1@gmail.com
THE REV. MORGAN SILBAUGH, Interim Rector
Cell: 541-482-5732 silbaughmorgan@gmail.com

ST. LUKE'S OFFICERS & VESTRY

John Barnard (2020) Senior Warden
Dennis James (2019) Jr. Warden
Myrna Rafalovich, Treasurer
Bridget Garvin (2021)
Susan Lee Hall (2020)
Alison Huber (2019)
Juli Mimnaugh (2021)
Michael Riding (2021)
Hana Rubens (2019)
Scott Swindells (2020)

David Robertson, Project Manager