



## **The Annual Meeting Sunday, January 24, 2010**

*Saint Luke's Church*  
*Episcopal*

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# **Saint Luke's Church**

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### AGENDA

- I. The Holy Eucharist is celebrated at 10:30 a.m.—The polls are declared open
- II. The Rector's Report to the Parish
- III. Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting
- IV. Roll of Members Eligible to Vote and Hold Office
- V. Report of Nominating Committee and Elections
- VI. Financial Report
  - A. Treasurer's Report: 2009 Year-End Report
  - B. 2010 Pledge
  - C. 2010 Budget
- VII. Wardens' Remarks
- VIII. Committee and Other Reports
- IX. Old Business
- X. New Business
- XI. Announcements
- XII. Adjournment
- XIII. Closing Prayer

## II. THE RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PARISH

All one need do is think of your own family—back then, now, and everything in between—to understand the old maxim “Life is what happens while you were busy planning how everything should go”. My parents, for example, (God bless them), are in their eighties and in decent health, if you do not include my mother’s wheelchair and my dad’s glaucoma; but they’d be the first to tell you that’s nothing compared to raising five kids, and putting up with each other’s “uniqueness” through the years. Yes, lots of changes happen in a family; you live through the challenges, even some threats and fears. What I see in my parents these days, though, is the ability to have endured over the years—to adapt, adjust, to focus on what matters as events called forth. Over time, the meaning of family stayed the same but its shape evolved, some of its ingredients or expressions changed.

Our worship bulletin cover this morning points out that we are in the midst of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, a time of special intercession for the Family of Christ. Though Peter and Paul were not a married couple, they are wed by history; and the church calendar marking their feast days on January 18 and 25 celebrates a sort of anniversary for the church family, a family strengthened because this couple of apostles endured with each other in the early days of parenting the church. In short, Paul ministered to the Greek-influenced Christians of Asia Minor, Peter with Christians who grew up Jewish in the surroundings of Jerusalem. They both agreed on the meaning of Christ: Paul making it clear that salvation is a gift not a reward, and Peter teaching the responsibility Christians have in bearing the burden of building the church. The sticking point, however, was their squabble over the layout of the building. For Peter, the first floor was important, and the first floor was Jewish—one needs to be a Jew or go through the structures of Jewish tradition before becoming a Christian. Paul did not see it that way. He felt the door was the most important part of the building. Anyone who desired to walk through the door of Christ could become Christian—you needn’t be Jewish first. Well, they went back and forth on it, the way parents do about how to deal with raising kids in the specific circumstances that pop up. It seems the transformations Christ had already been working in them were building up all the more. Paul, who in his younger years had an extreme temperament, a taste for persecuting others, instead was very much a reconciler with Peter. Peter, who had started off with somewhat of a parochial view—after all his job had been very much ‘this boat, this lake, these fish’—expanded his vision. Together, they raised up a church that was not about maintaining the building, only, but about extending, extending the mission of the church, being the church in changing circumstances, becoming more of what God is calling us to. The meaning of the church did not change because of Peter and Paul’s enduring relationship, but the structure certainly did; and the look of the church and where it would be located evolved over time, throughout history and is still changing today. From the beginning, throughout history, today and tomorrow, the church thrives where its people endure; and to endure is to listen for God and to each other, making ourselves available to turn hope into action. For God’s life in Christ, the Church, is what happens while we are busy planning how everything should go.

How were things going in the Saint Luke’s family 2009? As I see it, in the midst of so many uncertainties in society and for many of you in your personal circumstances, you turned hope into action—allowing Christ to work in and through you. When an unfavorable budget position in a bad economy meant no funding for our annual grant, the Outreach Committee changed the structure because the meaning of our baptismal promise hadn’t changed. Parishioners and friends responded as a result and we raised \$4,000 for Hope Lodge. We all thank our Outreach members for spurring us on. We need more of you on the committee.

We also prayed and sang our way through the year because for the family to endure you just have to gather round the table; worship is our heart, and we have added many more feast days to our worship schedule. I want to thank Bill Stokes for his leadership with the choir and for the collegial ministry he and I have in offering liturgy for all who come (which reminds me, plan now to come to Evensong on February 14).

In 2009, as in years past, the spirituality of our parish life has been nurtured not only by worship and a variety of educational programs but in our many expressions of fellowship—in gatherings for meals, one-to-one interactions, and through our special events. We started an experiment as an invitation to our joyful life. Perhaps you noticed, because back in August ’09 we started a series of ads that will run

through June 2010 in a local paper, The Tribune. We thought if we give readership beyond Forest Hills a window into our life, some folk might eventually come and see; some have.

The changing look of our 8:30am liturgy started before 2009 but it sure continued; and at 10:30 too—new families, preschoolers, new babies. As a result, we recognize the need to change the structure of Christian education by developing new approaches to young children's programming and parent resources, as well as how to deliver it and when to schedule it. Yes, we give thanks for our new members; and we give thanks for those who quietly care—our Inreach folk who keep in touch with all of our members, new and those who have been here for years. 2009 has been a full year: prayers and care for the sick and hospitalized, those who have died, and children born.

In 2009 we also extended our hospitality to three new groups: the Cameron Music Workshop, the Girl Scouts and the Queens Parents Autism Support Group. Along with those already meeting—the self-help and community groups, our own study gatherings and, of course, the Gingerbread Players—throughout the entire week now, pretty much year-round, our parish hall is room in the inn. Our Accessibility Entrance project, the ramp way into our worship space, presently in the decision-making process, when complete, will provide a barrier-free entrance, making us all the more hospitable. In addition, our long hoped for Ministry Partner Project of welcoming a childcare center into our facilities on a weekday basis, continues to be a priority. We are working with a potential provider. We hope it will come to fruition in 2010 but there are, as you would think with city certifications etc, hurdles along the way. We'll keep you posted.

As always, 2009 was characterized by the generous giving of so many people in so many ways. In recognition of this enduring reality, the Vestry and Finance Committee realized that the 2009 budget needed to take account by accommodating our membership; we all find ourselves in the extraordinary circumstances of these times. Therefore, after a series of years in which we had endeavored successfully not to expend a penny of savings, the budget for 2009 allowed for an expenditure of capital, as a way to help see us through. Yet, as it turned out, expending capital in 2009 was not necessary. Still, the budget for 2010, does bridge the potential deficit with an expenditure of capital, as will likely the 2011 budget. Then, it is our hope to regain our position through a Centennial Capital Fund Drive. What I will ask the Vestry to consider, with the help of the Finance as well as the Buildings and Grounds Committee, is to determine the scope, focus and chronology of the Centennial Fund Drive. In addition to our overall under funded budget and mission program, we have numerous deferred building projects to which we must attend as good stewards who will see that our buildings and facilities enter Saint Luke's second century in excellent repair.

The challenge before the church in times such as these is in not becoming preoccupied with infrastructure issues and our own survival. We have that family inheritance from Peter and Paul to endure, to be the church amidst changing and challenging times, to be the church in the world. I mentioned earlier that we avoided the expenditure of any savings in 2009. As it turned out, we actually ended the year with a modest surplus in the operating budget, enabling us to do two things. First, we could give a little more for our support of the Diocese and Episcopal Church nationally. It is still way below what we are asked and what we used to give. However, by giving a bit more than we gave in 2008 and a bit more than we budgeted for 2009, we are saying Saint Luke's is hopeful, we are here in Forest Hills and we are partners in the future of our shared ministry with other diocesan parishes and the leadership of Bishop Provenzano.

We recognize, as people of faith, that our good fortune, even in the form of a year-end surplus, is God's grace. Thus, the second thing we are able to do is to accept that God's grace supplies us with something to meet the needs of people in Haiti. The extreme suffering, pain and devastation to that part of the human family, to that part of the Body of Christ, moved the Vestry to authorize on behalf of all the people of Saint Luke's, an immediate contribution of \$4,000 through Episcopal Relief and Development so that we could be a part of turning hope into action, in being present as the Body of Christ in Haiti. In addition, our parish Lenten Project will be for Haiti's relief and redevelopment. Furthermore, we will take a look to the long view in establishing a Haiti Action Group who will research and propose ways in which we the people of Saint Luke's might enter into a lasting relationship, perhaps with an Episcopal parish or school in Haiti, that we might do our small part in being agents of healing and extending the mission of the church in the years to come.

Be it at times of joy and celebration or of utter shock and desolation, God is what happens while we are busy planning or worrying how everything in life should go.

Thanks be to God in Jesus Christ who calls us to serve as agents through whom hope becomes action. Thank God for Saint Luke's Church. Amen.

### **III. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL MEETING**

**Sunday, January 25, 2009**

- I. The Annual Meeting began, and the polls were open, with the 10:30am celebration of the Holy Eucharist.
- II. The Minutes of the 2008 annual meeting were approved.
- III. The Rector's Report to the Parish was delivered during the sermon time, with a copy of the sermon included in the Annual Meeting Packet. This packet was distributed at the annual meeting and will be mailed to parishioners not in attendance.
- IV. Following the liturgy, members moved to the Parish Hall. The rector called for a resolution on the roll of members eligible to vote and hold office, to which the parish agreed.
- V. The report of the Nominating Committee was received and in light of no further nominations from the floor, the slate of candidates was elected by acclamation: Church Warden, two year term: Jonathan Wallin; Vestry Members, three year term: Barbara Gratz, Gary Carldon, Velma Adams and John Ryding; Joseph Occhiuto, 2 year unexpired term.
- VI. The 2008 Year-End financial Report was presented and accepted by the Parish. Overall the year, while trying, ended with a net operating loss that was only \$1,000 greater than budget, which was remarkable when we consider that pledge received was almost \$20K short of budget. This was partially off-set by a special "95er campaign" and a strong showing by special events. It was not surprising, given the economic climate, that the total investment income was lower than budget. We go in to the 2009 budget with the understanding that the year will be challenging, because of economic concerns, and the overall conservative planning still leads us foreseeing a \$10,000 shortfall in the coming year.
- VII. Committee Reports were accepted by title, as all were printed in the Meeting Packet.
- VIII. A thank you was made to all who assisted in preparation for the day's luncheon. A reminder was made that new vestry inductions will take place next Sunday, February 1.
- IX. The next Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 24, 2010.
- X. A Closing Prayer was offered by the Rector as a transition to the meal.
- XI. An official adjournment was made at 12:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by the Clerk of the Parish,  
Jean Tessier

## V. REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND ELECTIONS

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Joyce Egginton (parishioner-at-large), Jean Tessier (Vestry member) and Jonathan Wallin (Warden/Committee Chair), was assigned to develop a slate of candidates for the open Vestry offices. Adult members of Saint Luke's Church at least 18 years of age, active in worship and the support of the church are eligible to run for a position on the Vestry.

The Nominating Committee has respectively submitted the following candidates for the Warden's office and four open positions on the Vestry.

Church Warden—two-year term

Vote for one

- Anne Harte Su
- 

Vestry Members—three-year term

Vote for four

- Louise Foisy
- Brian Percival
- Jane Thornton
- Karen Van Westering
- 

Members presently serving on the Vestry (with term expiring at the end of the year noted)

2010

Sandra Baker  
Dennis Khare  
Allan Smith  
Joseph J. Occhiuto  
Jonathan Wallin, Warden

2011

Velma Adams  
Gary Carldon  
Barbara Gratz  
John Ryding  
Warden elected today.

## VI. FINANCIAL REPORT

### A. TREASURER'S REPORT OF 2009 OPERATIONS

Precisely as for 2008, three major categories, fortuitously offsetting to a large extent, affected Total Income in 2009. Because of these and other, largely serendipitous, savings on the expense side, aggregate total operating income was substantially greater than budgeted:

- **Pledge received was \$13.9k thousand short** of budget (and about equal to the total amount pledged, \$183.3k);
- Open Plate receipts **and Special Offerings** together **were \$13.8 greater** than planned;
- **Music gifts** of \$4.7k that enabled us to have choir soloists for the entire year

Total Investment Income was \$1.6 lower than budget for the year from continuing interest rate declines.

On the expense side, a number of favorable variances occurred and Total Expenses were \$12.4 less than budgeted.

Noteworthy was under-spending on these lines:

- Building maintenance                      \$4.7k from lack of major repairs of building or equipment
- Bookkeeping services                      \$2.4k from discontinuing outside service
- Payroll taxes and insurance              \$4.1k from workers comp premium adjustments
- Utilities                                        \$6.8k from lower usage/rates; and
- Parish Administrator                      \$4.7k from a several month vacancy in the position  
while on the other side of expenses,
  
- Choir soloists                                \$3.8k overspending enabled by music gifts
- Community Outreach                      \$4.0k gift for ERD/Haiti relief not previously considered
- Diocesan pledge                              \$5.0k greater gift than budgeted
- 

Overall, the offsetting income items and expense lines provided a Net Operating Loss that 16.3k better than budgeted. Thus, it was not necessary to use our entire investment income to offset the operating loss.

## VI. B - 2010 PLEDGE REPORT

For 2010, we have received 81 pledges for \$190,113. The pledge promise exceeds the budgeted goal of 187,500. This is good news and we yet have hope to receive up to 8 more pledges. That 84% of our members have submitted pledges (81 out of 96 households) and that we have received 6 new first time pledges attests to our parish's commitment. A few people who had been unable to pledge in 2009 because of economic conditions have once again submitted pledges for this year. For those whose circumstances prevent them from pledging or from giving the full amount they desire, please remember that your presence and participation are generous gifts too.

We conclude the stewardship report with the following excerpt from Brian's comments of Oct. 18 initiating our pledge campaign.

*Yes, these are difficult economic times. But this very locus of all of our beings, this vehicle for our faith, this haven of solace and peace, this generator of so many communal activities, this source of our fraternal love, our St. Luke's Church, deserves our responsible continued and hopefully increased stewardship and support.*

*I close by paraphrasing a portion of an address which moved me deeply and to action those almost fifty years ago. Not the famous line, but some of you will remember, quote –*

*“ Let us go forth to lead the land we love (and I'll add, lead and support the Church we love), asking God's blessing and His help, but knowing that here on Earth, God's work must truly be our own.”*

And, guess what? Even though we have had a moderately successful stewardship campaign, especially considering these financial times, I was surprised no one has come to me to ask where that quote came from. Now, some people may have known, maybe some thought it a “no brainer” so it didn't matter, others may have thought it inappropriate, and finally perhaps a few were not listening.

But it did not matter for it served its purpose in our stewardship campaign. But, anyone may still ask if they wish. – Brian Percival and Anne Harte Su Co-chair's

## VI. C. 2010 BUDGET

Last year we adopted a budget on the premise that “2009 will be a very different year” and it was indeed, as the above results demonstrate. A series of largely serendipitous events came through to reverse what in February and March 2009, was a very bleak outlook for the finances of the parish. This year, 2010, will be even more different and far more challenging as the Vestry has budgeted for a \$43 thousand Operating Loss and even lower investment income than last year.

On the income side, parish households have pledged slightly over \$190 thousand, somewhat greater than 2009 but not inconsistent with the state of our economy. At budgeting time, it was not anticipated that other giving would recur at the unexpectedly high level of 2009. Special Events budgeted income was slightly reduced, from \$34k to \$36k to reflect the reality of results in 2009. Our investment income forecast reflects sagging interest rates generally “locked in” by investing the preponderance of our funds in laddered CDs.

Most of the expense lines again reflect only the inflationary cost increases in the goods and services we procure. Health insurance costs are predicted to increase more moderately. Payroll Insurance is probably budgeted somewhat too high, as we delve deeper into the calculation of premiums for workers comp insurance.

The dilemma of budgeting for repairs and maintenance persists because of the need to keep our aging physical plant operating, but a provision is made for a “base level” of work. However, the policy to make a maintenance payment in escrow has not been provided for in 2010.

Choir soloists are budgeted for the entire year.

The budget dilemma facing the Vestry was much the same as one year ago: providing for continuation of our Parish outreach and continuing our outstanding music program with section leaders. Despite the serious shortfall even before considering these lines, “full” amounts are provided for those two important facets of our parish life. And, as in 2009, there is no budget line for Local Outreach, which is expected come from a variety of “fund raisers” as were done on behalf of Hope Lodge.

Even with these austerity provisions, the budget portends an Operating Loss of more than \$43 thousand and, after taking into account somewhat-lower investment income, a Deficit more than \$21 thousand for the year. It wouldn't hurt to have some of 2009's serendipities repeat.

## VIII. COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS

The **OUTREACH Committee** brings before the parish the needs of people outside the congregation in the local community, on deanery and diocesan levels, as well as throughout the Church and the World. In addition to recommending opportunities for meeting needs through parishioner giving of time, talent and treasure, the committee researches and proposes worthy recipients for Saint Luke's Annual Outreach Grant.

The **WORSHIP Committee** gives the Rector counsel and assistance in matters of the liturgical life of the parish.

The **EVANGELISM Committee** seeks to invite members of the community-at-large to experience aspects of our parish life. Welcoming newcomers to our various special programs and worship, as well as incorporating new members into the congregation are concerns of this committee

The **EDUCATION Committee** carries out a program of Christian Instruction and Faith Formation for all age levels (Nursery, Church School, Youth Group, Adult).

The **INREACH Committee** carries out a program of support by responding to the needs of parishioners brought on by sickness, death, bereavement and other life crises.

The **HOSPITALITY Committee** coordinates the various ongoing fellowship programs (such as Sunday Hospitality Hour, parish meals) and special events.

The **STEWARDSHIP Committee** carries out a year-round program of education to encourage the members of the parish to give of their time, talent and treasure for the support of our parish life and program. The committee conducts the Annual Pledge Campaign.

The **SPECIAL EVENTS Committee** is comprised of a Vestry member and all co-chairs of our special events projects (Imaginauction, Rummage Sale and Gingerbread Players) so as to facilitate communication between the Vestry and the leadership of these special parish projects.

The **FINANCE Committee** at the direction of the Vestry, manages investments, prepares and presents the proposed operating budgets of the parish, and assists the Treasurer in annually convening the audit.

The **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS Committee** manages the care and maintenance of all parish buildings, grounds and equipment (Church, Parish Halls and Rectory).

The **PUBLICITY Committee** promotes all events at Saint Luke's via community mailings, parish website and press releases to the media.

The **LONG RANGE PLANNING Committee** is charged with anticipating the variety of possibilities that might, in the long term, enhance our parish with regard to Program and Events, Worship, Staffing and Facilities. This committee submits proposals to the Vestry for consideration, and is presently focused in its work as **the Centennial Committee**.

The **MINISTRY DISCERNMENT Committee** acts as supportive companions with individuals who are contemplating a fuller involvement in the church through a particular form of baptized or ordained ministry as well as in approaching members who are perceived to possess talents and experience for particular parish ministry needs.

## MUSIC MINISTRY

The Music Ministry of St Luke's Church Forest Hills is multi-faceted. Our music embraces Sunday liturgy for the parish family and community. Concerts and our spring musical open our beautiful facility to public events which offer an oasis of calm, pleasure and inspiration in the busy lives of the members and friends of St. Luke's.

Music at the Sunday liturgy and principal feasts of the church year is led by the St Luke's Choir, our two section leader/soloists Mim Paquin, soprano and Todd Wachsman, baritone and, on occasion, the Festival Youth Choir under the director of Louise Guinther. St. Luke's Choir offers a variety of music from the Anglican tradition and other sources, including chanted psalms in both ancient and contemporary settings. In addition to a variety of hymns, taken primarily from the Episcopal Hymnal 1982, the congregation is also being encouraged to chant the psalms to simplified Anglican chant with the choir in Advent and in Lent.

At certain festivals of the church year, composed settings of the traditional Kyrie/Gloria/Sanctus/Benedictus/Agnus Dei (known as the Ordinary of the Mass) add richness and vitality to these special services. Once a year, on the last Sunday afternoon in Epiphany, the St Luke's Choir offers choral Evensong, that uniquely English service for the afternoon.

St Luke's is home to a two-manual/pedal Gress-Miles pipe organ, two grand pianos and one upright piano. An extensive choral library is maintained and added to annually, an important and valuable resource for our choirs.

It has been said that "He who sings prays twice." Ultimately, all our musical offerings are prayer, both in the familiar language of prayer at worship but also in the lifting up of the spirit to joy in our concert performances. The psalter calls us all to "Sing unto the Lord." May it ever be so at St. Luke's.

—William J Stokes, Organist and Choir Director.

## ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild consists of 13 members both men and women. There are 11 members in regular monthly rotations and two who serve weekly - one cleans up after the 8:30 and the other person sets up on Wednesdays. We also have a new member this year. Everyone serves at least one month and sometimes two. Our function is to set up and clean up from both services or extra services such as weddings or funerals. We also decorate the church for Christmas and Easter. We meet twice a year. Once in the Fall and the other in the Winter to discuss the decorating and to go over the changes that have occurred during the year. The Altar Guild helps keep the service running smoothly as the service changes seasonally and by the Rector's directions.

This year we had a Saturday "Morning of Reflection" We began with Morning Prayer and then went downstairs to discuss ideas that people had regarding the Altar Guild and why certain things are done the way they are and how it came about and also the changes that have occurred over the years. We have also hosted a Coffee Hour and will again in February.

If there is anyone interested in joining the Altar Guild please see me or Father Reese and we can add you to the schedule.

—Ann Espenschied, Altar Guild President

## INREACH

“St. Luke’s strives to be a center of spiritual strength and compassionate service to others, remembering that we are called to be the presence of Christ in the world...”

The Inreach Committee has begun with God’s help, to fulfill this high calling, to keep God’s holy will and commandments and to augment the Rector’s ministry with the parish.

The Inreach Committee will continue to strive to become more visible to the parish at large. We will continue to help out fellow neighbors by distributing Emergency Contact forms to be filled out by parishioners, sending birthday, anniversary, get-well and condolence cards; driving parishioners to church, doctors or other appointments; visit shut-ins, those in hospital, and bereaved; provide and distribute plants to home bound parishioners at Christmas and Easter. And always, we’ll pray for those who are ill, troubled in mind or spirit, grieving, or in any other form of distress.

Inreach members made a point of inviting several new parishioners to St. Luke’s Caroling Party on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, enjoying a potluck supper back at the church. (Thank you to Louise Foisy, Jean Tessier, the Hospitality Committee and everyone who cooked for all of their hard work in putting the dinner together.)

The Committee has widened its ministry by sponsoring approximately three times per year an 8:30 a.m. coffee break in an effort to get to know young new members who are attending that service. We are also sending out notes to welcome new members, and the recently baptized. At our last Committee meeting in November, the Committee decided that in 2010 we should try and have a presentation on “memory”. The Committee also wants to record the Christmas Eve and Easter services to be made available to homebound or other individuals unable to attend these services.

And special thanks to the volunteers who have been driving parishioners to church, special events, etc. during this past year. Can you give someone an occasional ride? You don’t have to be a committee member to help out. Please let co-chair Carol Khare know if you can offer a ride occasionally.

—Anne Harte Su and Carol Khare, Co-Chairs

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee was formed in late spring 2009 and met during the summer to review the proposed 2010 budget. Recognizing the current economic situation in general, the Finance Committee supported the Vestry’s recommendation to expend money from the Capital Account to cover the budget shortfalls in 2010 as had also been envisaged in the 2009 budget. The Committee will be looking ahead to the potential budget situation in 2011 as well given the muted economic outlook for growth that we would expect to be reflected in Parish Pledge. Beyond then the goal would be to move back to a neutral / positive operating budget. Long-term financial planning will be focused on recouping this “emergency” use of capital funds via various measures. This would include a centennial fund drive in 2012-2013, which will be planned jointly by the Centennial and Finance Committees.

In 2010 the committee will hold regularly scheduled quarterly meetings with additional meetings as needed.

Members in 2009 were Jonathan Wallin, Karen Van Westering (co-chairs), Gary Carldon, Jim Chamberlain, John Ryding, and Arthur Tasker as Treasurer.

—Jonathan Wallin & Karen Van Westering, Co-Chairs

## BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

2009 was a fairly and blessedly uneventful year in terms of buildings and grounds. There were no major projects or catastrophes. Repairs were made throughout the year on an as-needed basis, but there are certainly things that could have been done that were not done for budgetary and time reasons.

We had planned on making some improvements to the lighting in the sanctuary and elsewhere, but further research and unsuccessful experimentation with different types of lighting (e.g., sodium and halide) have left us with the existing incandescent fixtures, at least for now. We had also hoped to repair the walls downstairs, but the cause of the damages (leaking from radiators) had to be addressed first (which has been done this past fall).

Looking ahead to 2010, there are many things we can put on our to-do list:

**General Repairs** — there are an awful lot of small things, notably in the Parish Hall and the rectory, that involve plastering, painting, minor repairs that should be done, either through volunteer work or, when necessary, bringing in craftsmen. The Lower Parish Hall is being refurbished in expectation of a Day Care center, but, e.g., the ceiling in the Upper Parish Hall also needs either a total repaint job or, at least, spackling and spot painting where it is peeling and touch-up painting on trim.

Though the accessibility ramp will necessarily involve landscaping changes, we need to look at both the church and the rectory to see what bushes might need to be removed because they have become too large for Lawn Brigade to maintain and are going to wood, are a menace (e.g. the vines at the rectory) or simply unsightly, like the privet hedges.

**Major Projects** – There have been several major projects bandied about over the last few years: accessibility ramp, organ overhaul, Steinway piano refurbishment, electrical rewiring, stoop replacement, walkway repairs, kitchen renovation, and lighting. Some projects are multifaceted (e.g. electrical changes), others not well defined as to what, when and why (e.g. organ overhaul), and consequently there has been no serious planning in terms of when such projects should or must be done and how are we going to fund them. It was proposed earlier this year that B&G sit down with Vestry and come to some conclusions on key points:

- 1) Identify projects that need to be done for safety purposes, or where delay in fixing will lead to further and more expensive repair.
- 2) Identify which projects are currently funded (e.g. accessibility ramp), which projects should be funded with special fund drives and when (e.g. piano repair) and which should come out of reserves now because of safety or further damage issues (e.g., frayed and dangerous rugs and walkways).
- 3) Determine which projects can and/or should be done in stages, rather than all at once (e.g. kitchen enhancement, electrical overhauls; lighting fixtures)
- 4) Discuss investments that should be made to make repairs that we can do in-house easier or safer (e.g. new, safer ladder for light replacement; longer-life incandescent spotlights for the sanctuary)?

—Jim Chamberlain and Dennis Khare

## THE BELLRINGER

Hymn number 539 exhorts us to “Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace,” and in *The Bellringer*, Saint Luke’s newsletter, we do our best. There are nine issues a year: January; the Lenten issue which includes February and March; Easter/April; May, June; the Summer issue covering July and August; September; October; November and December are included in the Advent issue. The editorial and production staff consists of editor Jane Thornton, and general factotum (i.e., fact-checker, printer, folder, labeler, driver and mailer) Sally Hagwood, under the aegis of Father Tom.

Articles and notices from parish committees about upcoming events are always welcome, indeed encouraged, as are suggestions from parishioners about topics they would like to see addressed in future issues. Please e-mail articles, suggestions, etc. to me at my *new* e-mail address, [fosthorn@verizon.net](mailto:fosthorn@verizon.net). Technophobes may drop off material in the office or mail it to the church to my attention. Note that deadlines for the submission of material for publication in 2010 are as follows:

Lenten issue (Feb./Mar.) – January 15 (sorry – deadline has passed)  
Easter issue (April) – March 15  
May issue – April 15  
June issue – May 15  
Summer issue (July/Aug.) – June 15  
September issue – August 15  
October issue – September 15  
Advent issue (Nov./Dec. – includes notices of Christmas activities) -- October 15

I look forward to hearing from you.

—Jane Thornton

## WEBSITE

Our website continues to grow and is the chief means used by new parishioners to find us. It also serves as a means of communication to and among the parish about *What's Going On* <http://www.stlukesforesthills.org/events/news.html> as well as an expression of faith.

### New

We have added *Reflections on what matters*: <http://www.stlukesforesthills.org/weare2.html> which both shows and tells who we are and what matters to us in our own words and photos. Recently, we have added a link on the home page which you can click on to donate to *Episcopal Relief and Development's Haiti Fund*

In the past year, we have also increased the use of our Facebook Group to publicize and readily invite people to our events. We urge all parishioners to click on the Facebook link on the lower right of our home page and to join our Facebook group and to invite everyone in their contacts to come to the Evensong Concert on Sunday, February 14 at 4pm.

We thank Mim Paquin Robinette for all of the wonderful work she has done in developing the Gingerbread Players website and creating Facebook groups for both Saint Luke's Church and the Gingerbread Players. We would also like to thank David Friedman for having assumed those responsibilities.

—Gary Carldon

## CENTENIAL COMMITTEE

Our centennial year activities begin in October 2012 and end in October 2013. When we first started formulating plans several years ago, many of us were wondering if it was too early to begin making preparations. Well, we are now only two years away!

At our opening celebration we plan on inviting our Presiding Bishop to join us and at our closing celebration we plan on inviting our Diocesan Bishop. There will be a Festal Evensong on St. Luke's Day 2013 to which we will invite diocesan clergy and others. Father Tom will be writing the invitations. Other activities include a luncheon at the West Side Tennis Club, an updated parish history, a capital campaign, a newly-composed centennial anthem written by Bill Stokes based on a text supplied by the Centennial Committee. All these activities will interface with the Finance, Hospitality and Publicity Committees of the parish.

—Allan Smith

## IMAGINAUCTION

Save the 2010 date: Saturday, May 15. The Imaginauction has become an annual rite of spring at Saint Luke's. Delicious appetizers are enjoyed while people survey the very interesting array of silent auction items. The dinner is a delightful meal and time for relaxed socializing, as well as for last minute checking of live auction items you want to bid on. The raffle also generates much excitement, enabling even those from outside the parish or unable to attend the event, to participate. The auction committee — a hard-working group of dedicated parishioners — is cooking up more ways to expand this special event under leadership of returning co-chair Teri O'Rourke and new co-chair Velma Adams.

—Joseph Occhiuto, Co-Chair '07-09

## RUMMAGE SALE

In spite of the recession, The 2009 Rummage Sale raised over \$10,000 for our Church and all the leftovers went to two good causes, The United Veterans Beacon House and The Lupus Foundation.

The Rummage Sale is a St. Luke's *tradition*, being one of the oldest events still being continued at our church. In keeping with this tradition, the Sale brings people together whether they are new members, long time parishioners or friends and neighbors donating items, setting up and cleaning up, sorting, selling, or baking and cooking for our Snack Bar. It's hard work, but everyone ends up having a great time.

Thanks to all the incredible volunteers who made this year such a success. We hope you will continue to do so in 2010, and that other parishioners and friends will join us to make this year's Rummage Sale the most successful ever.

—Carol Khare and Shirley Leh, Co-Chairs (2009)  
Who will our 2010 co-chairs be?

## GINGERBREAD PLAYERS/WINGS OF SONG

The Gingerbread Players continued their long tradition of offering novelty along with the “tried and true,” while bringing in fresh faces and talent and furthering the Gingerbread and Wings of Song “brands.”

### **Wings of Song**

Wings of Song has enjoyed a steadily growing following, with offerings such as the January performance of Donizetti’s *L’Elisir d’Amore* and the June performance of Mozart’s *The Magic Flute*, both by the New York Opera Forum (NYOF), conducted by Richard Nechamkin. These were followed by a September piano concert by Ivy Zohra Adrian.

### **New York Opera Forum**

In late August the NYOF also performed, as an outside user group, Mozart’s beloved comedy *Così Fan Tutte*, starring St. Luke’s favorites Karole and Peter Lewis. The NYOF has graciously allowed us to keep the receipts for all of its performance, and its completely “ready-to-go” performances, fully rehearsed at another venue, require virtually no effort on our part. The opera-lover is a rare and dedicated breed, and we are developing a broader list with each successive performance. It is hoped that we can find one or two other Sundays this year to give the wider community more opportunities to discover our sacred space between services.

### **Gingerbread Players**

The Spring play was a revival of Milburn Smith and William Ryden original musical *Ragtag!, or The Mayor’s New Suit*, directed by Louise Guinther. In addition to being loads of fun, the production had among the biggest casts in Gingerbread history, with lots of new faces and families learning about Gingerbread and St. Luke’s.

Continuing with our efforts to expand the Gingerbread talent base, debutante Jean Tessier directed Shakespeare’s *Comedy of Errors* this past fall to delighted crowds.

Finally, the Gingerbread Players were the driving force behind the entertainment portion of the New Year’s Eve fundraising gala, with the ever willing and wonderful Velma Adams at the piano, thereby happily keeping their hand in at the all-important mission of outreach despite the necessity of committing all the usual GP proceeds to the operating budget of the church.

For all the financial benefits these programs provide, their true *raisons d’être* are providing a forum for performers at many levels to let their light shine while learning and growing in the process; offering hour upon hour of fun and fellowship to participants of all stripes from across the Forest Hills community and beyond; and creating an intimate family-friendly theatrical experience (at bargain prices!) for the loyal audiences that return year after year.

—Jim Chamberlain and Jeanine McPartlin, Co-chairs

## **ACCESSIBILITY ENTRANCE COMMITTEE**

The gracious stewardship of long time parishioner Maddie Hogan, in the form of a \$50,000 gift for the design and installation of a barrier - free entrance into our worship space, led the Vestry to research the feasibility of a ramp way construction. In the fall of 2009, with Jim Chamberlain's assistance in securing an architect, two ramp plans were presented by the architect: a main entrance accessibility ramp into the narthex as well as a Harrow Street side entrance ramp into the nave.

At a December 6, 2009 presentation and conversation with interested parishioners, the Vestry's preferred choice (on the basis of available information to that point) of the side entryway plan was explained. After receiving feedback from the parish, the Vestry decided to name an Accessibility Entrance Committee in order to fully explore remaining questions about both plans. The membership is as follows: Karen Van Westering, Chair; Stephen Banci, Jim Chamberlain, Brian Percival and Allan Smith. The committee, having met once and reported to the Vestry, will next meet with the architect in order to present the questions about the existing plans and the possible variations. Following the consultation, the committee will report to the Vestry, and the Vestry will inform the parish of progress.

## **Upcoming at Saint Luke's Church**

### **Candelmas Celebration**

**Tuesday, February 2nd at 7:30pm**

A candlelight celebration of The Holy Eucharist will mark the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple.

### **Annual Adult Education Day**

**Saturday, February 6th from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. (lunch included)**

***"Decisions, Decisions: Christians Facing the World"***

This program will include presentations, working groups and discussion of age-old as well as 21st century ethical dilemmas. The event begins with Morning Prayer, includes lunch, and ends with Evening Prayer.

Register Today! Please sign up no later than Wednesday, February 3.

**St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
85 Greenway South  
Forest Hills, NY**

***ORGAN / CHOIR  
RECITAL and  
CHORAL EVENSONG***

Sunday, February 14, 2010 at  
4:00pm

*Organ Works by Walford Davies, Widor,  
Reger, and Frank Bridge*

WILLIAM J. STOKES, ORGANIST AND CHOIR DIRECTOR

SAINT LUKE'S CHOIR AND SOLOISTS

*C.V. Stanford's Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in G*

*How Lovely are the Messengers* by Mendelssohn

*Preces and Responses* by Thomas Morley



THE REVEREND THOMAS F. REESE, RECTOR

*RECEPTION IN THE PARISH HALL*

*FOLLOWING THE SERVICE*

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

For further information, call 718-268-6021  
or visit [www.stlukesforesthills.org](http://www.stlukesforesthills.org)

# **Saint Luke's Church**

**Forest Hills, New York**

## **Mission Statement**

[adopted at Annual Meeting 1/26/03]

Saint Luke's Church strives to be a center of spiritual strength  
and compassionate service to others,  
remembering that we are called to be the presence of Christ  
in the world.

We offer a welcoming home for all who seek greater awareness  
of God's purpose.

By worshipping and learning together,  
we share in the joys of faith and supportive community,  
while growing in individual ways.

United by God's abiding love,  
we celebrate the rich diversity of our community,  
opening our doors to all people.

