

# THE BELLRINGER

SAINT LUKE'S CHURCH, FOREST HILLS

MAY 2010

## *Two Project Updates*

Dear Friends,

In addition to our many active ministry ventures at Saint Luke's Church, we have some important projects that are still in the planning stage. Two in particular are the childcare project and the accessibility entrance project.

The Childcare Project has its genesis in our longstanding parish goal of establishing a ministry partnership with a provider that would help the church extend its mission into the wider community by offering a needed service to our neighbors. For those of you who have been at Saint Luke's at least since 2001, you know that our focus and search has been to offer part of our program space—the lower hall—as a Monday through Friday home for a quality childcare center. In addition to raising our visibility and outreach into the community, such a center would also provide some of the financial resources we need for the funding of our overall ministries. Again, if you have been part of the parish family for the last six years or so, you know that we have explored the possibility with a handful of childcare providers and in each case we reached the point where either the Vestry or the inquiring provider felt the fit would not be quite right. Last year, however, we entered into conversations with a well-qualified childcare program whose coordinator not only has solid credentials and long-term experience but who has worked extensively with churches housing childcare programs. This combination was the first step in what has continued to be a potentially “good fit.” Perhaps you have noticed the lower hall's floor to ceiling support poles, now wrapped in vinyl-covered shock absorbing cushions. This was one of the minor improvements made to demonstrate safe-space for young children (ages 2 through 5) that the city building department requires.

The childcare operation still needs to receive final city approvals on the use of the lower hall. In the meantime, our Childcare Committee, headed by Velma Adams, along with the Vestry, are researching and drafting a user agreement, the language and terms of which would be reviewed by legal counsel, for what would be the last step before our expanded ministry in the form of a childcare center could commence. The hope is for a September 2010 opening. We are not there yet. However, I feel it is important to keep the parish informed, even though the outcome has not yet taken shape.

Another most important undertaking is our Accessibility Entrance Project. As recently reported, we now have a committee, headed by Karen VanWesterling, considering the ramifications of both the Greenway South front entrance as well as the Harrow Street side entrance ramp plans. The committee has already researched and ascertained that the side entrance door could, in fact, be fitted so as to allow the passage of most wheelchairs now in use. Thus, each plan option offers barrier-free access into the worship space of the church.

It is also noted by the Vestry, upon having received committee reports, that the unifying concern of parishioners is our focus on the need for safety improvements to the steps and stoop of the main entrance, as well as the uneven walkway through the side yard leading to the parish hall. As important as barrier-free accessibility is for persons needing the assistance of canes, walkers or wheelchairs, our side walkway and front entrance can and do pose risks even for persons who do not otherwise need assistance. This is why the Vestry, at this juncture, has resolved to bring the steps and stoop improvement of the front entry to the Forest Hills Gardens Corporation Architecture Committee for an informal

conversation about what would be allowed. At that time, questions could also be raised about Gardens Corporation requirements and views about ramp plans, their construction and materiel. This approach is deemed reasonable and responsible because it addresses the safety of stoop and steps and also allows our committee to ascertain important information about specifications and allowances which will then enable the Vestry to better estimate costs in making decisions about the overall project. This project, too, takes time, and definite decisions cannot yet be made. Be assured that all members of the parish will be kept informed of developments.

For your information, the full membership of the Childcare Committee is as follows: Velma Adams, Chair; Sandra Baker, Stephen Banci, Paul Dinas and Jonathan Wallin. The Accessibility Entrance Committee includes Karen VanWestering, Chair; Stephen Banci, Jim Chamberlain, Brian Percival and Allan Smith. On behalf of all the members of the parish, I thank these committee members for their time and insight offered to these important projects.

Faithfully yours,

Tom

### ***Easter Vigil Baptisms***

At the Easter Vigil on Easter Eve, Saturday, April 3, we welcomed Alexander Kempe and Grant Tyrell into Christ's Body the Church through Holy Baptism. Please keep them and their parents, Lena and Matthew Kempe and Tanya and Steven Tyrell in your prayers.

***St. Luke's Church Raises \$4,000 for  
The American Cancer Society's  
Hope Lodge NYC:  
Local Parishioners and Residents  
Support Free Home Away from Home  
for Patients***

This was the headline of a press release from the American Cancer Society. A condensed version of the article follows.

"Forest Hills, NY – All it took was a labeled jar for donations and in just four months, members of St. Luke's Church and community residents raised \$4,000 for Hope Lodge, which provides free temporary housing in New York City to cancer patients who must travel far from home for treatment. St. Luke's raised the money at the insistence of one of the parishioners who is also a stomach cancer survivor. Joe Occhiuto championed Hope Lodge after seeing it mentioned on a television show. After visiting the facility he realized what a valuable service Hope Lodge offers and spread the word to his fellow parishioners. Money was raised through church events, including a Thanksgiving Bake Sale and a New Year's Eve Gala. St. Luke's is planning on continuing their involvement with Hope Lodge through a more hands-on approach within the next few months."

### ***In Memory of Barbara Trippel***

On Saturday, May 8 at 10:30am, The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated in memory of Barbara Trippel. Barbara was a longtime member of the parish, active in countless ways, including as a member of the choir. The choir will take part in the liturgy to which all parishioners and friends are invited. Following the liturgy, a reception will take place in the parish hall.

### ***Sunday Healing Prayer List***

Each Sunday, the parish prays for those in need of healing and print the names under the Intercessions list in the Sunday worship bulletin. Father Tom checks regularly on the condition of the people for whom the parish prays. Sometimes we are happy to learn that a person has improved and we can pray thankfully for his or her return to health.

Though the parish office usually receives the request for names to be added, on occasion that is not the case and we have no way to check on the person's condition. As a result,

after a period of time we might inadvertently remove someone from the healing list who should still be receiving the parish's prayers. If this happens, we ask the parishioner who made the original request to please alert the parish office right away. Thank you.

***Did Jesus say "Go to Church"  
Or "Be the Church"?***  
**DISCERNING GIFTS FOR MINISTRY**  
**Sunday, May 9 Hospitality Hour**  
**Brief Presentation**  
(Responsibility, not Obligation)  
**Take-Home Questionnaire**  
(Designed to help parishioners consider  
their God-given gifts)  
**"Help Wanted" Pages**  
(Our committees outline Saint Luke's  
ministry needs)  
**SAINT LUKE'S NEEDS YOU**  
***BE the church!***

***Ascension Day***  
***Thursday, May 13***

The Feast of the Ascension is celebrated with The Holy Eucharist at 7:30pm in the church.

**SAINT LUKE'S 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**  
**IMAGINAUCTION**  
**Saturday, May 15, 2010 5:30-10PM**  
**FINE DINING, DANCING TO A LIVE**  
**COMBO, RAFFLES FOR WONDERFUL**  
**PRIZES AND A LIVE AUCTION AT**  
**ONLY \$50 PER PERSON!**

There's still time to make your reservations for this festive, fun-filled evening. Just fill out the bottom half of your invitation and mail it or drop it off at the church office along with your check made out to Saint Luke's Church with *Imaginauction* on the memo line.

And *don't forget to purchase raffle tickets*, \$5 each, 5 for \$20. Some lucky person will

win a classic Schwinn bicycle, a wii game system, or a flip video camera. That person could be you! Raffle tickets will be sold at coffee hour on Sunday, May 9 by co-chairs Velma Adams, Stephen Banci, and Terri O'Rourke. They will also be glad to accept your reservations and check if you have not already turned them in.

***Birthday of the Church:***  
***"Hail Thee, Festival Day"***

On Pentecost Sunday, May 23, we celebrate the birthday of the Church. At the 10:30am liturgy, a Choral Eucharist with Holy Baptism will take place. Following our worship, the birthday celebration continues at Hospitality Hour.

***Do We Have a Date?***

Actually, how about a few dates? That is, does the parish office have your birthday date? Your anniversary date? Those of your household who are members of the Saint Luke's family?

We are asking because we need to update our records so we can, as a parish, pray for people as birthdays and anniversaries approach. So if you are not sure if you are on the list, please send your date (month and day) to the parish office. You can submit via email to [stlukesoffice@verizon.net](mailto:stlukesoffice@verizon.net) or call 718-268-6021.

***Screening Mystery***  
***Wednesday, May 26***

Saint Luke's Spring Film Series returns this year with a viewing of *Lars and the Real Girl* at 7:30pm. Instead of heaping chastisement and ridicule on him, the town bands together to support Lars who has entered into a fantasy world along with his life-size, internet-ordered "real doll" Bianca. This film "smoothly discusses the intricacies of loss" and

meanings of community. Join us for the film and discussion following.

### ***Trinity Sunday May 30***

This Trinity Sunday we will return to our practice of observing a “Heritage Sunday.” In previous years, we have either used a liturgy from the past or a contemporary form from a branch of the worldwide Anglican Church. This year we will celebrate our heritage by using Morning Prayer as the Liturgy of the Word. At the 10:30 liturgy, that means we can sing canticles, a treasured part of the Episcopal tradition!

### ***Update on Saint Luke’s Haiti Relief Committee***

In response to a letter sent by the committee to the Reverend Lauren Stanley, assistant to Bishop Duracin of Haiti, Rev. Stanley expressed her gratitude and responded with various questions. Among them were:

- Do you want to work rurally or in Port au Prince, Les Cayes or Cap Haitien, our three major cities?
  - Do you want to work with a small parish, a large parish, a small school, a large school?
  - What kind of relationship do you seek? A long-distance one? One in which you can begin to come to Haiti to get to know the people?
  - How would you like to be involved? Visits? Teaching? Building?
- When she receives this information from us, Rev. Stanley will take it to the Bishop, who will respond as quickly as possible.

The committee, co-chaired by Heather Hanson and myself, is fortunate in having as a member Audrey Lamadieu, who is from Haiti and has a working knowledge of the country. We have decided that we would like to work with a small church with a school attached. We would prefer a church in a rural area outside of Port au Prince and would like to visit the church and school in

order to work directly with the rector and parishioners, teaching and providing resources. We are also interested in working with other Episcopal churches in the area. All this has been communicated to Rev. Stanley, and we look forward to hearing from the Bishop so we can move forward with this project.

-- Velma Adams

### ***“Now the Green Blade Riseth:” Saint Luke’s Lawn Brigade Keeps It Under Control***

With the advent of spring comes another season of the Lawn Brigade. Our devoted team of mowers and gardeners began their labors of love right before Easter, and we welcome all parishioners and friends to join us throughout the spring and summer. We work in alternating teams of four on Saturday mornings, usually from 10:00am to about noon. If we can get a few more volunteers to sign on, nobody will have to work more than once every five or six weeks – unless you want to, of course.

Lawn Brigade is a wonderful way to get a little exercise and fresh air during the growing season. Gardening equipment is provided; all you need to bring is yourself and your willingness to work. If you’d like more information on how the Lawn Brigade works, please get in touch with me ([LTG@operanews.com](mailto:LTG@operanews.com)) or Jim Chamberlain ([chamco@verizon.net](mailto:chamco@verizon.net)).

-- Louise Guinther

### ***Sheila Miller***

Long-time members of St. Luke’s will remember (and often enquire about) Sheila Miller who was a regular attendant for more than thirty years. She served on the Altar Guild, as an usher, and as a volunteer at fund raisers. As many already know, she developed Alzheimer’s disease, and has not felt able to attend St. Luke’s since last summer. A few days before Christmas she

fell in her apartment, fractured her hip, and spent the next four months between hospital and rehab, recovering from surgery and learning to walk again.

For more than two years Shirley Vickers and I, as old friends of Sheila, have managed her finances and health care. When she recently finished rehab we arranged for her move to The Atria, an assisted living facility in Kew Gardens. It would mean a lot to Sheila to be reassured that she is again in touch with her church family – the only family she has left. It would be especially meaningful to her to receive cards and occasional visits (incidentally, her 88<sup>th</sup> birthday will be on June 6). Sheila's address is: The Atria Kew Gardens, 117-01 84<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Kew Gardens, NY 11418. Please call Shirley (718-263-3746) or me (718-263-4667) for more details.

-- Joyce Egginton

#### ***Ministry Committee Co-chairs***

The Rector has made the following appointments for 2010:

Stewardship: Anne Su & Brian Percival

Finance: Karen van Westering & Jonathan Wallin

Building and Grounds: Jim Chamberlain & Dennis Khare; Accessibility Entrance Subcommittee: Karen van Westering

Child Care Project: Velma Adams

Hospitality: Louise Foisy (*co-chair pending*)

Outreach: Gary Carldon & Barbara Gratz;

Haiti Relief Subcommittee: Heather Hanson & Velma Adams

Worship: Joe Occhiuto & Joyce Egginton

Inreach: Carol Khare (*co-chair pending*)

Centennial: Allan Smith & Denise Presnick

Rummage Sale: Louise Guinther & Anne Su

Gingerbread Players: Jim Chamberlain & Joanna Guinther

Imaginauction 2011: Velma Adams (*co-chair pending*)

Vestry Liaison for Special Events: Jane Thornton

Still to be appointed are co-chairs for Hospitality, Inreach, Education, Evangelism, Publicity, and Imaginauction.

#### ***May Birthdays***

5	Margaret Dippel
8	Rebecca Santana
10	Rebecca Baxter
10	Isaiah Williams
17	Claire Dippel
17	Audrey Yue
25	Alessandra Sage
26	Joanna Guinther
26	Louise Guinther
26	Alberta Haynes Carlson
29	Micaela Brown

#### ***COMING IN JUNE***

On Sunday, June 6 at 3:00pm Gingerbread Players present Saint Luke's own fab four, "The School Board," in ***Barbershop Singing Through the Ages***, a musical tribute to this beloved genre – with a second quartet of lady friends!

For a change of pace, mark your calendars for Friday, June 25 at 7:30pm when ***New York Opera Forum*** presents its concert version of Richard Strauss's *Elektra*, a strikingly modern psychodrama based on the Greek tragedy by Euripides.