

THE BELLRINGER

SAINT LUKE'S CHURCH, FOREST HILLS JANUARY 2010

Room in the Inn

Dear Friends,

Our hospitality at Saint Luke's Church is informed by the "master of the house," the very one for whom there was no place in the inn and whose birth we just celebrated. "Opening our doors to all people" is expressed in our mission statement because such welcoming presence is an aspect of our baptismal promises. Our hospitality is a servant readiness and willingness that has us opening our hearts to all sorts and conditions of persons. Without first an open heart, there can be no open door.

Thanks be to God, part of our spiritual practice as a parish is to be open and welcoming to all who seek God and a greater awareness of God's purpose. Sometimes, this means being a place for sojourners—people who have no spiritual home, people who are seeking, wondering, asking questions. We happily offer them a place at the table, recognizing that we are entertaining Christ.

In other cases, folks who enter through our side doors for various weekday programs find that they too can find a place in the inn. In recent times, new groups have knocked on the door and been welcomed and now know that they have a place here at Saint Luke's on a regular basis. These newest groups include the Girl Scouts, The Queens Parents Autism Support Group and the Cameron Music Workshop. They join our other regularly scheduled groups—the Women's and Men's AA groups, Scottish Dancing and Yoga—as well as our occasional guests, which include Forest Hills Gardens Corporation and student musician recitals. As you are likely aware, too, it has been a goal and commitment of the parish to offer a place for a daily, year-round childcare program. The Vestry is actively pursuing this possibility.

We are called to be hospitable stewards, gracious innkeepers who rely on Christ for figuring out ways not only to make room available for meeting needs but also to welcome those who have been turned away elsewhere.

In Christ,

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Adult Education Program: Christianity 101 Continues

On Sunday, January 10, The Rector will offer an Epiphany Eye-Opener. The Epiphany season is characterized by the opportunity to see in a new way or to recognize something that has been there all along. *BCP as GPS: The Book of Common Prayer as Spiritual Guide*, will take place at 12 noon.

On Sunday, January 17, also at 12 noon, our Priest Associate, Dean Bill Doubleday, will present *A Palpable God: Meaning Communicated through the Creeds*.

Epiphany Festival

On January 10th at the 10:30am Holy Eucharist, a special liturgy of "The Three Epiphanies" takes place with Holy Baptism. What are the three epiphanies? Come and see! And welcome Brendan Gieseke and Kyle Simcox into the fellowship of Christ's Body.

New York Opera Forum Returns To Saint Luke's

At 3:00pm on Sunday, January 10, Wings of Song presents a concert performance of Mozart's *La Clemenza di Tito* featuring Forest Hills favorites Karole and Peter Lewis. The ensemble is well known to local audiences from its previous performances of *Così Fan Tutti*, *The Magic Flute*, and *L'Elisir d'Amore*.

La Clemenza di Tito was inspired by the life of the Roman emperor Titus Flavius Sabinus Vespasianus, renowned for his clemency and humanity. The story tells of the vengeful Vitellia who, thwarted in her aspirations to marry Tito and ascend the throne, persuades her lover Sesto to violate his conscience and friendship with Tito by assassinating the emperor. When the plot goes awry, Sesto confesses his role and begs for death, but the noble Tito pardons his repentant friend and all ends happily.

New York Opera Forum was founded by Richard Nechamkin in 1983 to give classically trained singers the opportunity to learn and perform standard operatic repertoire in the original languages. Complete operas are performed in concert with piano accompaniment. Mr. Nechamkin is a conductor, pianist and vocal coach with over 25 years of experience. In addition to directing the NYOF, he has served as Associate Music Director for the Natchez Opera Festival since 2002

-- Jim Chamberlain

***“Coffee Break” after the 8:30am
Service on Sunday, January 17***

Our next early-morning, occasional hospitality hour sponsored by the Inreach Committee is offered on Sunday, January 17 following the 8:30 liturgy. All are warmly invited to attend.

***ANNUAL MEETING –
SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2010***
All members of the parish are strongly encouraged to attend our Annual Meeting, which begins with the 10:30am Celebration of the Holy Eucharist. The polls are opened at that time and the meeting continues with the Rector’s Annual Report to the Parish. Following the liturgy, the meeting continues in the parish hall with election of officers, committee reports and all such other business as comes before the parish. As always, at the conclusion of the meeting, we have a covered dish luncheon. Please sign up at your earliest convenience.

Altar Guild Commissioning

Also on Sunday morning, January 24 at the 10:30 service, all members of Saint Luke’s Altar Guild will be commissioned. The work of the

guild is a quiet preparation and foundation for our worship life.

LOOKING BACKWARD AT 2009:

Liturgy of Holy Baptism in November

On Sunday, November 1 at the 10:30 service we welcomed Suzanne Schink Lin into the fellowship of Christ’s Body.

***Bake Sale to Benefit Hope Lodge
Raises a Lot of Dough***

On November 22, the Outreach Committee hosted a bake sale open to the general community in support of our 2010 Outreach Grant Recipient, the American Cancer Society’s Hope Lodge. A large number of parishioners participated by providing an array of baked goods, assisting with the set-up and sale, and purchasing the delicious treats. Additionally, home-baked pies were available by pre-order for pickup on the day before Thanksgiving.

An exciting component of the bake sale was the Battle for Saint Luke’s Best Brownie. A total of five entries were sold in a sampler box, and purchasers were then encouraged to vote by phone or e-mail for their favorite. And the winner was...the “Yellow” Brownie, baked by the young people of our church school during a special gathering on the Saturday before the sale! More than \$1,000 was raised for Hope Lodge through this fundraising effort. Many thanks to all who helped make it such an unqualified success.

-- Jeanine McPartlin

***A Brief Summary of the
2009 Diocesan Convention
by Saint Luke’s Delegate
Anne Harte Su***

[Further details can be found in the complete report, available in the narthex.]

The 143rd Diocese Convention met for a day and a half in November. With both Father Tom and alternate delegate Stephen Banci sick, I ventured out alone to the Marriott Hotel in Melville, Long Island. The true emphasis of the convention was placed on mission and ministry. We were asked to focus on our own relationship with the Lord. It was mentioned that we are “an alcoholic family” and need to care for one another. We started work after Morning Prayer and Bible Study. Bishop Walker presided, and was

honored for his 21 years of service. Bishop Provenzano presented him with a monetary gift from the people of the Diocese. After noonday prayer and lunch, Bishop Ottley addressed the group, saying that Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?" If we don't know who Christ is, how can we move into the world? We have to become one with Christ to move out in mission and ministry.

The Budget of the Diocese will now be called the 2010 Ministry Plan. Bishop Provenzano presented a plan to support mission, moving forward and representing a significant increase in our addressing Diocese mission initiatives. He proposes that congregations donate 82% of the budget, up from 69% in 2008. The proposed plan also projects spending down in the administrative area – to 29% as opposed to 33% in 2008. Spending in the Episcopate area, which includes the salary, benefits and travel expenses of the Bishop and his staff, archdeacons' expenses, and the Diocesan chancellor, will increase to 40% of the 2010 budget. This data can be found in the *2010 Ministry Plan and Funds Report*.

After Evening Prayer and sessions on Friday, I returned on Saturday to participate in the Holy Eucharist and the remaining program. Although the Treasurer presented a \$207,000 current shortfall for the Diocese, Bishop Provenzano is looking forward to adding a ministry of development, a director of communications, a full-time head of youth ministry, and a conference center at Camp DeWolfe.

Having received the Staff of the Shepherd from Bishop Walker, Bishop Provenzano has set high goals for us all. I believe that Saint Luke's Church should help achieve those goals. In doing so, we serve others, and our parish. Come join our Bishop in 2010!

Caroling in the Snow

The annual Saint Luke's Caroling Party took place on Sunday, December 20. A group of hardy parishioners and friends, old and new, trudged through the snow singing carols around the neighborhood, making a special point of serenading parishioners who were unable to join us. We even had an assist from Church in the Gardens, whose carillon played an accompaniment to "Silent Night" as we passed by! Afterward, we enjoyed a potluck supper at

the church. Thanks to Louise Foisy and Jean Tessier for all their work in putting the dinner together, and to everyone who brought dishes to share.

-- Jeanine McPartlin

Saint Luke's Welcomes the New Year With Prayer and Song

Many parishioners and neighbors braved the cold and snow on December 31st to bid farewell to 2009. The evening began with a celebration of Holy Eucharist, then moved to the parish hall for a gala New Year's Eve celebration, the proceeds from which benefit our Outreach Project, Hope Lodge. While popular standards were performed cabaret-style by a cast of Saint Luke's talented family and friends, the audience enjoyed delicious refreshments, culminating in a Champagne toast and the singing of "Auld Lang Syne." Many thanks to singers Jim Chamberlain, David Friedman, Joanna, Louise and Dolly Guinther, Andrew Dinan, Olivia Smith, Eliza Smith Vallette, Karole and Peter Lewis; pianist and singer Velma Adams; master of ceremonies Joe Occhiuto; lighting technicians Barbara Gratz and Lori Sbordone; and refreshment coordinators Jean Tessier and Stephen Banci.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2010:

Accessibility Entrance Subcommittee

In early December, a presentation and discussion took place with regard to plans under consideration for constructing a ramp in order to create a barrier-free entrance into the worship space of our church. Those parishioners who were present were shown the two existing plan sketches-- one which envisions the ramp as part of the front door entryway and one which sees it at the Harrow Street side door entrance into the church – and learned that the Vestry were in favor of the side door entrance, based on information available at that point.

A number of parishioners spoke about each plan – which plan they favored, questions and concerns they had, the need to move forward, as well as the importance of clarifying particular construction details, including actual costs. The one thing everyone seemed to agree upon is that the main entrance steps, as presently constructed, are potentially hazardous and not just for persons with mobility challenges – an

issue that needs to be addressed no matter the ultimate ramp entrance location.

At its ensuing regular monthly meeting, the Vestry agreed unanimously that particular questions remain about the two plans. Therefore, an Accessibility Entrance Subcommittee has been formed to research these questions thoroughly and as quickly as is responsible. Subcommittee members are Karen VanWestering, Brian Percival, Stephen Banci, Jim Chamberlain and Allan Smith. They have been asked to make a first report to the Vestry at its regular January meeting on the 20th. There will also be a report to the parish at the Annual Meeting on the 24th.

CIRCLE THESE DATES NOW!
Annual Adult Education Day
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6
10:00am – 3:00pm
***“Decisions, Decisions:
Christians Facing The World”***

Presentations, working groups and discussions will explore the nature of moral decision-making, including age-old as well as 21st Century ethical dilemmas. This annual event begins with Morning Prayer, includes lunch, and concludes with Evening Prayer.

Be looking for the posted sign-up sheets.

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Organ Recital and Choral Evensong
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14 at 4:00pm
Reception Follows

In our prayer and song, let us give thanks to God for the gift of our Organist/Choir Director and Choristers. Bill Stokes will present an organ recital, followed by the holy tradition of sung Evening Prayer. On the calendar, this is the Last Sunday of Epiphany, just days before the Lenten fast begins on Ash Wednesday. In addition, to the day, it is exactly the tenth anniversary of Tom Reese’s arrival at Saint Luke’s as Rector. Come, join in prayer and enjoy our sacred music and fellowship.

Saint Luke’s Bookstore

If you have been holding onto books you no longer want, waiting for the Bookstore to open, wait no more. Please bring them to church and leave them on the stage in the parish hall – I’ll

be setting up the “store” within the next couple of weeks. As previously, books are priced at whatever the purchaser wants to pay. All proceeds go directly into Saint Luke’s general operating fund.

– Jane Thornton

Help Deliver God’s Love

With the winter season just begun, it’s time once again to recruit volunteers for God’s Love We Deliver. GLWD is a food ministry whose mission is to bring nutritious meals to people who are too sick to shop or prepare food themselves. Saint Luke’s has committed to deliver food to 7 households every Wednesday throughout the year, and we ask that you consider joining us. It is GOD’S LOVE – we only Deliver. It’s an easy ministry, but one that blesses you a thousandfold.

Currently, we have 5 teams of drivers/riders so that the rotation for each team is every 5 weeks. We would like to have some volunteers to substitute in case one of the “regulars” can’t make it on a particular day. If you’re interested, please specify whether you can be a driver as well as a rider, or rider only. The entire route is no more than a mile along Queens Boulevard in the Forest Hills/Rego Park area, and Barbara Gratz would be glad to accompany you on your first delivery for logistical and moral support. And of course, we’d also be delighted to have more regulars added to our rotation.

Please give this some consideration, and contact Barbara Gratz by phone (718-418-8186), email (barbaragratz@yahoo.com), or in person following the 10:30 service if you want to know more.

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 2 Christopher and Claire Dippel (A)
- 5 Tess Conte
- 6 Florence Amato
- 7 Sal Amato
- 11 Eleanor Fallon
- 13 Anthony Lenti
- 14 Kim Nicole Su
- 14 Alice Chodkowski
- 17 Ananya Goswami
- 19 Ann Chamberlain
- 21 Zoe Smith
- 24 Kai Oskar Laatikainen

