

THE BELLRINGER

SAINT LUKE'S CHURCH, FOREST HILLS

EASTERTIDE 2010

"From Now On..."

Dear Friends,

The Apostle Paul wrote his letters as teaching tools for the new church communities taking shape in the ancient world. In all of his epistles, he wanted to impress upon the people the power of Christ's resurrection, such as when he wrote to the church in Corinth, Greece, that "From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view..." You can check 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 to consider what he was teaching about our Easter faith—that just as Christians celebrate Christ as the power of God, they also commit to that power's promise to bring about Christic transformations in the lives of others and in the condition and shape of human community. "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

In the same way that Christ had called on doubting Thomas to see that the figure before him was the Risen Lord, Paul calls on what can be a doubting church, given the condition of the world, to see in all people the presence of Christ and the potential for graced change—everything becoming new. "All this is from God," Paul continued, "...in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself...and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us."

What Paul was writing to those first Christians is a letter sent to us too. Our saying we believe in the Resurrection is not only about trusting that God's salvation comes to us but that God's work of salvation

then is the power of Christ resurrecting the world *through* us: "So we are ambassadors for Christ."

The message of Easter is our ministry of reconciliation. If we believe in Christ's resurrection, then we are committed to resurrecting God's world, committed not just to professing our faith but to embodying our love of Christ through incarnate acts of love with and for others, for the good of all creation.

Alleluia!

Tom

A Prayer for the Victims of the Haiti Earthquake

Holy God, source of life, lover of souls, out of the depths we call to you: we implore you to show mercy upon those who are suffering from the destruction of the earthquake in Haiti.

We pray for those who have died and for their loved ones who grieve. We pray for those who have been injured in body, mind or spirit; we pray for those who are homeless and wandering, for families torn asunder.

Strengthen the hands and hearts of those who assist in relief efforts and grant us all firm resolve to stand with our neighbors who are in need, to love them and to offer our generous support of them in this their time of trouble; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen

-- The Rev. William (Chip) Stokes

***Saint Luke's Has a History
of Commitment to Haiti***

From the program for a revue called "A Roaring Twenties Scrapbook" presented by the church youth group on May 17, 1968: "Beginning last fall, the high-school members of our parish, the Saint Luke's Seniors, undertook the difficult task of redefinition of their organization. They decided to introduce the concept of 'service' as the cornerstone on which their group would be based. Last October, they elected to support the work of the Anglican Sisterhood of St. Margaret in Haiti. In order to offer a substantial gift at the close of the year, they have sponsored various fund-raising events throughout the past Church School year. To date, they have raised \$371.25. This evening's production is their concluding fund-raising event of the year...."

Forty-two years later, Saint Luke's once again focuses on that troubled island nation. Although our Lenten Project has ended, our commitment to our brothers and sisters in Haiti will continue for as long as the need exists. A committee has been formed to look into how our church can interact directly with an Episcopal parish or school in Haiti, and a progress report will be forthcoming shortly. Meanwhile, individual contributions to Haiti relief can be made by check or online through ERD (Episcopal Relief and Development).

United in Holy Matrimony

Jill Whittington and Nicholas Simon were married at Saint Luke's on Sunday, January 31st. We pray that "each may be to the other a strength in need, a counselor in perplexity, a comfort in sorrow, and a companion in joy" and welcome them to our parish family.

Barbara Price Trippel

Departed This Life February 25, 2010

As many of you know, Barbara had become very ill and died while being cared for in Calvary Hospital's hospice program. Her family and many friends attended the Burial Office conducted by Father Tom at Fox Funeral Home on March 4th. Please keep her son Edward in your prayers.

Barbara was deeply involved in Saint Luke's for many years. She was a Eucharistic Minister, a lector, sang in the choir, taught Sunday School, and was an active member of the publicity committee, Inreach, and Gingerbread Players. An accomplished and creative cook, Barbara was the chef for two ImaginAuction dinners, as well as providing countless recipes and delicious dishes for many other special occasions.

***Memorial Service for
Barbara Trippel***

A memorial service has been scheduled for Saturday, May 8 at 10:30am. A reception will follow in the parish hall.

Outreach Committee

***"Refreshment Sunday" Bake Sale
Benefits Victims of Haiti Earthquake***

On Saturday morning, March 13, the young people of the parish and several Gingerbread Players gathered in the parish hall kitchen for a baking session. Supervised and assisted by Louise Guinther, Joanna Guinther, Ann Espenschied and Louise Foisy, the intrepid bakers were Shannon O'Rourke, Becki Santana, Nitin Varghese, Hannah Thompson, Jillian Sutura, and Nieve Corrigan. The delicious results were offered for sale, along with many other contributions from parishioners, at coffee hour the next day which was the fourth Sunday in Lent, appropriately known as "Refreshment Sunday."

**...And Speaking of Baking,
Gingerbread Bakers and Sellers
Are Still Needed for "Cinderella"**

The curtain will soon be opening on Gingerbread Players' production of the musical "Cinderella," starring Saint Luke's own Becki Santana in the title role. Audiences have learned to expect excellence from the Gingerbread Players, and there's one other thing they've come to expect, even demand – *gingerbread!* If you can contribute cookies, cake, or cupcakes, or help sell gingerbread at any of the six performances (see the enclosed flyer for dates and times), Louise Foisy will be happy to hear from you. Please send her an e-mail at lmf325@aol.com or give her a call at 718-575-1767.

**Looking Ahead to
Saint Luke's Centennial Year
2012-2013**

From October 2012 to October 2013 we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of Saint Luke's in October 1913. That's really not as far in the future as it may seem, and the Centennial Committee, chaired by Allan Smith, is asking for your help.

A letter will be going out shortly from Joyce Egginton and Jane Thornton asking all current and former parishioners to think about their involvement with Saint Luke's over the years and set down their memories so we can continue our church's story beyond *This Parish Under God*, the parish history published in 1958. Whether you've been a member for six months or sixty years, we want *your* stories, *your* experiences, whether hand-written, typed, e-mailed, or even recorded on tape. Further details will be forthcoming in the letter, but meanwhile please contact Jane Thornton at fosthorn@verizon.net or 718-261-6974 if you have any questions.

**SAVE THE DATE!
SAINT LUKE'S 8TH ANNUAL
IMAGINAUCTION
SATURDAY, MAY 15**

The festivities begin at 5:30pm with wine and hors d'oeuvres and continue with a gourmet dinner prepared by chef Terri O'Rourke, raffles, silent and live auctions, and for the first time ever, dancing to the music of a live combo, all for a mere \$50 per person! All proceeds benefit the ministries of Saint Luke's

There will be a lot of "fun-raising" at this fund-raiser, but seating is extremely limited. **The cutoff date for reservations is May 1, so when your invitation arrives in the mail, be sure to RSVP immediately and send your check in the return envelope provided.** Meanwhile, raffle tickets – \$5 each, five for \$20 – are being sold at coffee hour every Sunday. Co-chairs Velma Adams, Terri O'Rourke and Stephen Banci will gladly provide you with tickets to sell to your friends.

**April Birthdays
and Anniversaries**

2	Diane Santana
3	Wayne Baxter
5	Alice and David Chodkowski (A)
8	Theresa O'Rourke
8	Vincent and Nancy Cheng Yue (A)
20	Oscar Morón
20	Viola Thomas
21	David Smith
23	Katherine Sydenham
25	Barbara Gratz
29	Braun Carlson
29	Florence and Sal Amato (A)
30	Maria Ryding