



THE BELLRINGER

SAINT LUKE'S CHURCH

FOREST HILLS, NEW YORK

FEBRUARY 2018

Looking Forward

Greetings Friends,

Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is often thought of as a day of somber confession or of weighty reminders about our human limitations if not failings; in a word, judgment. Yet, if you participate in the liturgy on Ash Wednesday, what you experience is the encompassing depth and expansive breadth of God's compassion beyond words! What God judges is that we are in need of help and love; in word made flesh, Jesus Christ.

So, come this Wednesday. Experience the surrounding presence of God's love, how in Christ we are called to reconsider what matters and how by the Holy Spirit we are guided and renewed.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** on January 28 was also a confirming experience of the presence of Christ and the commitment of those who follow him. As always, our Sunday Eucharist was uplifting. We are a people who know worship to be the heartbeat of our life together. And those who worship together in sincerity and truth then tend to work together in thanks to God, for the good of each other and on the lookout for those in need—all aspects of the heart of the mission of the church. We know that responding to Christ's call, a response first made in Baptism, is a life-long venture, not only for the individual but for the entire body of the faithful. Thus, the Body of Christ in this locale—Saint Luke's Church, Forest Hills—moved from the 10:30 liturgy to the discussions in the parish hall at the highest number of attendance in recent years. It was heartening to see a diverse cross-section of our parish membership present, from newer families with younger children to equally new couples and single persons, in addition to

parishioners who have been active for many decades! This is reflected in our newly-elected Vestry Members: Warden Suzanne Schick and Vestry officers Maggie Del Rosario, Louise Guinther, Terri Mattassov, Liz Reynolds and CaroleAnne Weik.

Of course, the food people bring to share is always delicious and underscores our community as a parish family, even during serious deliberations. The serious focus of the discussion was, and will continue to be, our ongoing budget deficit. Presentations were made pointing out that progress has been made in recent years with regard to resources in support of our parish life and mission: so many parishioners give of themselves for our special events which generate significant revenue (Rummage Sale, Gingerbread Players, Imaginauction); our parish hall as a Community Ministry Center (child care and after-school) also brings significant income; and our Vestry's Finance Committee has implemented a sound investment policy bearing interest on parish savings. The one area remaining for an intentional and sustained discussion is an increased understanding of and commitment to parishioner giving through our annual pledges of support. The beginning discussion at the annual meeting was positive and engaging with numerous ideas which will form the basis of small group discussions to which all members will be invited in the weeks to come.

Surrounded by the love of God and supported by each other, we have much to look forward to as Saint Luke's Church.

In Christ,

Dear Departed Friends

On Saturday, January 6 at 10:00am, we celebrated the life of Barbara Elisabeth Schneider Stokes (1934 -- 2017) at the Liturgy of the Resurrection. Please keep Barbara's children, Elizabeth Reynolds and David Stokes, and grandchildren in your prayers. The family asks that gifts in memory of Barbara be made to the Saint Luke's Church Memorial Fund.

Although Sheila Miller has been in a nursing care facility for many years, many of us fondly remember her. Sheila departed this life in late December. According to Shirley Vickers and Joyce Egginton, who have been handling Sheila's affairs, a memorial service will take place at Saint Luke's in the Spring.

The Angelmobile currently serves 200 meals a day and hopes to raise that number to 1,000. The project, an initiative of the Diocese of Long Island, was brought to our attention by Angelmobile coordinator Deacon Joe Occhiuto, Saint Luke's good friend and former parishioner.

Please support North Brooklyn Angels by contributing to the Angelmobile donation jar, attending the Mardi Gras pancake supper, and patronizing the Fall bake sale, Thanksgiving pie sale, and the sale of holly at Christmas.

Our Lenten Project: Aid for Puerto Rico

This year's Lenten Project will concentrate on providing aid for Puerto Rico, which is still suffering the aftereffects of Hurricane Maria, the worst natural disaster on record in Dominica and Puerto Rico. Further details will be forthcoming shortly.

--Joanna Friedman
Outreach Co-chair

CANDLEMAS CELEBRATION



Friday, February 1 at 7:30pm
Choral Eucharist with Homily and Hymns
Celebrating the Presentation of Jesus
at the Temple



St. Luke's 2018 Outreach Grant:
NORTH BROOKLYN ANGELS

This year the Outreach Committee voted unanimously to support North Brooklyn Angels and the **Angelmobile**, a soup kitchen on wheels that travels to different areas in that borough five days a week and provides free food for the needy. Although North Brooklyn continues to gentrify, there are still many low-income residents suffering from hunger, poverty and homelessness.



CHORAL EVENSONG

A joyful service of sung prayer
Sunday, February 11 at 4:00pm
Music from J.S. Bach,
Agnus Dei from the Mass in b minor,
Olivia Smith, mezzo soprano
Dona Nobis Pacem, Saint Luke's Choir
Fantasia in E Flat major by Saint-Saens

William J. Stokes, Organist
and Choir Director

Please join us afterwards for an
Afternoon Tea Reception
provided by Earl Liao
\$15 per person

All proceeds benefit Sacred Music
at Saint Luke's

Shrove Tuesday
Friday, February 13
6:30 to 8:30pm
MARDI GRAS



Pancake Supper and Fund-raiser
for Saint Luke's 2018
Outreach Grant Recipient
North Brooklyn Angels

a food truck serving the needy
Pancakes, sausage and bacon,
coffee, tea, milk and juice

\$5.00 for kids under 12, \$10 for adults

Games, prizes, mask-making

Please call the office to make reservations

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14

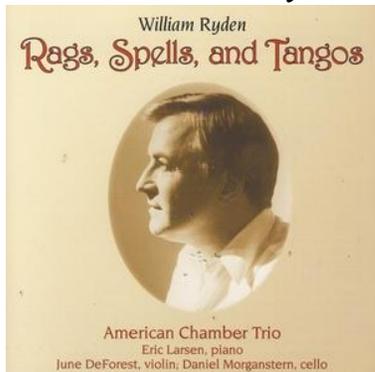
The Holy Eucharist
with Imposition of Ashes



7:30am, 10:00am, 7:30pm

Celebrating the Life of Bill Ryden

Sunday, February 18 at 3:00pm
Forest Hills Community House



All are invited to attend a loving musical tribute to brilliant composer and Saint Luke's good friend, Bill Ryden. In addition to his rags and classical compositions, original works created for Saint Luke's Gingerbread Players include

"Ragtag!", "Through the Looking Glass," and "The Sleeping Beauty." Composer, arranger, consultant and teacher, Bill will always live on in his music, brightening the lives of all who hear it.

Sunday, February 18
First Sunday in Lent



The Great Litany in Procession
at the 10:30 Liturgy

Saint Luke's
ANNUAL LENTEN SERIES

A mid-week community of
Worship, Fellowship and Discussion
Wednesday evenings Feb. 21 through Mar. 21

7:00pm -- Holy Eucharist

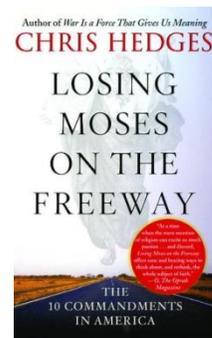
7:30pm -- Simple soup supper

8:15 -- Program

LOSING MOSES ON THE FREEWAY:
THE 10 COMMANDMENTS IN AMERICA

by Chris Hedges

(Available from Amazon for \$12)



Hedges, a former war correspondent for the New York Times and also a Divinity School graduate, uses each commandment as a lens through which to examine the condition of American society.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

2	Laudrey Lamadieu
3	Charlotte Dippel
4	Aino Jonah
9	Lauren Foisy
10	Guennadi Boiko
15	Alodia Carldon
18	Mark Adams
20	Henry Tyrell
20	Angelica Rose Martinez
20	Brian Reynolds
22	Stephen Banci
25	Linda Martinez

The Bellringer
is published by
Saint Luke's Church (Episcopal)
85 Greenway South
Forest Hills, NY 11375

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The Very Rev. Thomas F. Reese, Rector