



# THE BELLRINGER

SAINT LUKE'S CHURCH

FOREST HILLS, NEW YORK

**JUNE 2017**

## *Clergy Sabbatical Leave*

Dear Friends,

Perhaps you will recall from the proceedings of the Annual Parish Meeting this past January that plans are in place for me to engage in a sabbatical leave this summer. A clergy sabbatical leave is recommended by The Episcopal Church and is the policy of the Diocese of Long Island. Since parish priesthood ministry has so many ongoing facets and 'on-call' expectations (from leadership in worship, faith formation and education to administration, finance, property and interpersonal pastoral care), the sabbatical is designed as a time for a complete change of pace.

Sabbatical is not meant to be a study leave or research project but a period of stepping away from the patterns of 'business (or vocation) as usual' so as to have opportunity for rest, revitalization and alternative experiences that can bring spiritual renewal and insights for seeing things anew upon returning to the parish. The Diocese stipulates up to a 12-week sabbatical leave every 6 years. I have opted, with the complete support of the Wardens and Vestry, to be away for 10 weeks—June 12 through August 26.

During this time period, our good friend Father David Gable will return to Saint Luke's on Sundays through August 6; and our new friend, Father William Ogburn, Priest Associate at Saint Luke's-in-the-Field, Greenwich Village, will lead worship on August 13 and 20. Forest Park Deanery clergy are making themselves available should a weekday emergency requiring a priest arise. In addition, for emergencies, Deacon Joe Occhiuto will be nearby.

In my absence, Church Wardens Brian Percival and Jean Tessier will address any issues concerning the day-to-day running of the parish. In addition, a Sabbatical Committee, which

includes Vestry member Suzanne Schick and Parishioner-at-large Claire Dippel will offer additional support to the Wardens as needed. Furthermore, Treasurer Diane Santana and Karen Van Westering will be close at hand for assistance with Parish Administrator Liz Ramos, just as Building and Grounds Co-Chairs Bob Lin and Michael Papamihalis will provide oversight for Sexton Martha Garcia.

The Sabbatical Leave is not just an experience for the priest but also for the parish. Later this summer, the Sabbatical Committee will invite you to a Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup> Hospitality Hour discussion on the parish's experience—a time to share insights/feedback on the overall experience: any hurdles, surprises, new ways discovered to do things, new ideas for future. I will engage in a similar meeting with the Sabbatical Committee upon my return, and listening to their report on the parish's experience, we'll plan a follow-up meeting as a "going forward" discussion for all interested parishioners.

Having thus far experienced the privilege and joy of serving with the people of Saint Luke's for over seventeen years and as I begin my thirty-ninth year of ordained ministry with eight more years of creative ministry before me (mandatory retirement age is 72), I believe this is a good time to be on sabbatical. I look forward to the experience and to the added zest I bring back to Saint Luke's and being with you all. Please keep me in your prayers. I will hold you in mine. Have a wonderful summer.

Truly,



The Forest Hills Choir presents

*Heaven & Earth*

Saturday, June 3 at 7:30pm

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church

70-01 Kessel Street

The Forest Hills Choir will present a program of chorale music composed by Haydn, Graun, Bach, Bainton, and others. The Forest Hills Choir includes many of Saint Luke's choir members and is directed by Saint Luke's own Todd Wachsman. Admission is \$20, \$15 for students and seniors, \$5 for children under 12. Everyone is invited to the reception following the concert.

Sunday, June 11  
**CELEBRATING SAINT LUKE'S  
MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN  
and YOUTH**

at the 10:30 Liturgy  
Church School Students will receive  
Recognition and Achievement Certificates



Children and Youth Hand-bell Choir  
will perform.



THE FEAST OF PENTECOST  
is Celebrated Sunday, June 4

Holy Eucharist 8:30am

Holy Eucharist with Choir & Organ  
at 10:30am

**WEAR RED!**

Parish Community Meeting  
and

Potluck Lunch to Follow

Wednesday, June 7 at 10:00am

**Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing  
will be Celebrated in the Chapel.**

Services Will Resume

Wednesday, September 13

**St. Luke's 15th  
Annual  
IMAGINAUCTION!**

**THIS SATURDAY,**

**JUNE 10**

**5:30 - 10:00PM!**

**DINNER, SILENT & LIVE AUCTION,  
DANCING!**

Music provided by  
**Mark Adams and his Trio!**

Youth Group **GAME NIGHT**

Friday, June 16, 7:00 to 9:30pm

"Not Your Grandma's Board Games"

Young people of the parish and their friends are warmly invited to supper in the parish hall, followed by an evening of clever, challenging board games.

**LOOKING FORWARD...**

**SUMMER READING FOR ALL!**  
**Saint Luke's Bookstore Will Be OPEN**  
**July 2 to August 27**



Bring in all those books you've been stockpiling and find something new (or old) that others have donated to read over the summer. The cost is whatever you want to contribute -- just put the money in the Outreach jar at coffee hour.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

***SAINT LUKE'S ANNUAL BARBECUE***

***July 15 at 5:30pm***



***Details to follow in all-parish email  
closer to the date***

***Gingerbread Players'  
Summer Production***

***"Keeping Up Appearances"***

based on the hilarious British TV series  
***Saturday, August 5 and Sunday, August 6***  
A snobbish housewife is determined to climb the social ladder, in spite of her family's working class connections and the chagrin of her long-suffering husband.

*The Bellringer*  
is published by  
Saint Luke's Church (Episcopal)  
85 Greenway South  
Forest Hills, NY 11375  
[www.stlukesforesthills.org](http://www.stlukesforesthills.org)  
718-268-6021

The Very Reverend Thomas F. Reese, Rector



***June Birthdays and Anniversaries***

6	Joseph Dinas
6	Sheila Miller
6	Erica Ponce
9	Varghese K. Varghese
9	Martha Garcia
10	Peter Wang
14	Dennis Martinez
15	Shibu Varghese
18	Shirley Vickers
18	Kristen and Gavin Longman (A)
24	Bill Stokes
25	Shibu and Shalini Varghese (A)
25	Jim Bates



***ENJOY YOUR SUMMER --  
SEE YOU IN CHURCH!***