



The Annual Meeting Sunday, January 22, 2012

*Saint Luke's Church
Episcopal*

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Saint Luke's Church

THE ANNUAL MEETING Sunday, January 22, 2012

AGENDA

- I. The Holy Eucharist is celebrated at 10:30 a.m.—The polls are declared open
- II. The Rector's Report to the Parish
- III. Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting
- IV. Roll of Members Eligible to Vote and Hold Office
- V. Report of Nominating Committee and Elections
- VI. Financial Report
 - A. Treasurer's Report: 2011 Year-End
 - B. Financial Comparisons and 2012 Budget
 - C. Stewardship Committee: 2012 Pledge Report
 - D. Finance Committee
- VII. Parish Strategic Plan and Discernment Process - "Q & A"
- VIII. Wardens' Remarks
- IX. Committee and Other Reports
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business
- XII. Announcements
- XIII. Adjournment
- XIV. Closing Prayer

II. THE RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PARISH

Last year, the Annual Report concluded with a question to contextualize our overall parish agenda as the Centennial approaches—"What are we doing as stewards of the Gospel so that we can best minister in Saint Luke's Second Century?" This morning, as we enter the second year of our three-year plan, that question gets turned around into a statement of what we are doing.

First, the "we" who are doing it: "We" have an array of talents and experience. We are English and Architectural Art History professors; we are social workers and advertising executives. We are full-time passionate about cooking, singing and soccer. We are liturgists with degrees in theology; we fight for what we believe in. We traveled far to get here; we grew up here. We are economic consultants, we are community healthcare advocates; we mix in a friendly way with customers at the store. And these are just our Vestry nominees for today's election. It wasn't until I read the 'bios' in the Annual Meeting packet that I found out Ed Geist did his graduate work at UVA. I love Charlottesville; that's something more to talk with Ed about. Maybe we should have a whole booklet of parishioner biographies just like the cast bios in a Gingerbread Players program for we are all players in the Body of Christ.

That's the "we" and what we are doing as stewards of the Gospel is all about joy and celebration. Our faith focuses and encourages us. Even when faced with sobering challenges, we are rising to the call. What am I talking about? Well, for one example, listen carefully and read along when the Treasurer gives the report. You might be surprised at what we are doing but good outcomes are what can happen when faith and joy are at play in our celebrating the Body of Christ. Listen to all the reports. We will take a bit more time with them this year and you will hear that what we are doing across the spectrum of our baptismal ministries is giving thanks for all God gives us. As thanks, we give of ourselves. So don't underestimate our resources when the ledger of our participation is the Spirituality of Giving.

Not only was our giving to the support of the parish very impressive in 2011, so too has been our outreach through the parish to Notre Dame de l' Annonciation in Port-au-Prince, with hands-on at Saint Andrew's Teen Center and so much more. The Parish Ministry Survey shows that strong programs of service with people in need are at the center of our parish identity. Also at the heart of our self-understanding is service of God in and through our parish liturgies in their full prayerful and musical expression when we gather together on Sunday mornings and for the feasts and festivals of the year.

Service/Liturgia, our care for people in need/ our prayer and praise in service of God—Outreach and Worship are inextricably linked in our understanding of what Saint Luke's Church is, of who we are in Christ. And our links with each other is the third crucial element that arose in the survey: the importance of parish community in its many different expressions, yet tangible and palpable experiences of the presence of Christ. We are held together and strengthened for the tasks of moving out and on by the many ways in which we work together, play together, and pray together and for each other.

Outreach, Worship, the caring presence of Christ built and shared in community—this is the heart of Saint Luke's, the core of our parish identity. We are committed to supporting each other in this life together and to opening our doors wider and wider to welcome those in search of real life. We will do whatever it takes, be it blog, accessibility ramp or social media, to invite people on the pilgrimage of *via media*. The historic Anglican/Episcopal way of living one's faith day by day is *via media*—the middle way, the balanced pathway of accessibility to God and Christ and each other; faithful openness in a world too often fearfully shutting itself off. The balanced approach, meeting in the middle, an open space of celebration for all: This is what we are doing as stewards of the Gospel; and all of this needs to be at the centering stability of Saint Luke's Church, and in each one of us, as we discern how best to minister during the parish's second century. In today's world open space is threatened but is all the more important to balanced decision-making. Meeting people face to face, exchanging ideas and hopes and admitting fears. Doing this with each other moderates and mediates points of view. In such a setting, very different, even opposing perspectives evolve into compromise and consensus allowing people to come together and move forward. In the church, we name that the power of the Holy Spirit.

This kind of open, public space for face to face meeting and sharing is the explicit intention of our three-year plan. It's not just about the financial resources we do or won't have. It's not just about the changing world changing the church with which we had become so familiar. It's also about the ways in which the church needs to change to effectively and faithfully proclaim the Gospel in and to the world.

And, yes, it's also about being open to these changes that face us and having the courage to face them, knowing we have a spiritual home together.

We see and feel what is happening in the larger culture, how the once open space of creative ideas is now being flooded with insistent one-sided ideology. And we know why this is happening: fear of moving forward into the new, fear of letting go of one's own map, and fear of losing ground. But we know in our heart that with God leading the way we can take a leap in faith. Yes, it involves risk but such is the pathway to joy.

Our three-year plan is a time and place—the open space of holy church for prayerful deliberation and care-filled trust with each other. And our Centennial Celebration is via media, a balanced approach, looking back in thanks for our 100 year heritage and ministry and life together now, as well as looking forward in self-giving for the good work yet to come through the Saint Luke's Church of tomorrow.

III. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, January 23, 2011

- I. The Annual Meeting began, and the polls were open, with the 10:30 am celebration of the Holy Eucharist.
- II. The Minutes of the previous annual meeting were approved.
- III. The Rector's Report to the Parish was delivered during the sermon time, with a copy of the sermon included in the Annual Meeting Packet. This packet was distributed at the Annual Meeting and will be mailed to parishioners not in attendance.
- IV. Following the liturgy, members moved to the Parish Hall. The Rector called for a resolution on the roll of members eligible to vote and hold office, to which the parish agreed.
- V. The report of the Nominating Committee was received and in light of no further nominations from the floor, the slate of candidates was elected by acclamation: Church Warden, two year term: Velma Adams, Vestry Members, three year term: Christopher Dippel, Joanna Guinther, Jackie Dinas and Jeanine McPartlin, One year unexpired term: Ed Geist. The Rector thanked outgoing Vestry members Sandra Baker, Dennis Khare, Joseph J. Occhiuto and Alan Smith. He also thanked outgoing warden Jonathan Wallin for his many contributions to the church and presented him with a bible, on behalf of the Parish during the liturgy.
- VI. The 2010 Year End financial report was presented and accepted by the Parish. Overall the report was positive but there were concerns including the decline in investment income due to lower rates for Certificate of Deposits. The church cannot rely on investment income for revenue. Also, several members moved in 2010. The Child Care project, which will generate income, will begin in September 2011. A thank you was extended to Treasurer Jean Tessier and Assistant Treasurer Diane Santana.
- VII. Committee Reports were accepted by title, as all were printed in the Meeting Packet.
- VIII. A thank you was made to all who assisted in preparation for the day's luncheon as well as gratitude for Deacon Paul Lai, Parish Administrator Lisa Duca and Sexton Martha Garcia. A reminder was made that new vestry induction will take place on Sunday, February 20.
- IX. A Closing Prayer and grace before meal was offered by the Rector.
- X. An official adjournment was made at 12:45 pm.

—Respectfully Submitted by the Clerk of the Parish, Jeanine McPartlin

V. REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND ELECTIONS

The Nominating Committee, which includes Joyce Egginton (parishioner at large), Gary Carldon (Vestry member), and Velma Adams (Warden/Committee Chair) developed a slate of candidates for the open Vestry offices. Adult members of Saint Luke's Church who are at least 18 years of age and have been active in worship and support of the church for at least one year are eligible to run for a Vestry position. The Committee sought recommendations and suggestions from the parish. The Committee respectively submitted the following candidates for the Warden's office and five open positions on the Vestry for 2012. Please see the Candidate Biographies for more background.

Church Warden—two-year term
Vote for one

- Brian Percival
-

Vestry Members—three-year term
Vote for four

- Ed Geist
- Audrey Lamadieu
- Terri O'Rourke
- John Ryding
-

Vestry Members - One year of unexpired term
Vote for One

- Joseph J. Occhiuto
-

Members presently serving on the Vestry (with term expiring at the end of the year noted)

2012

Louise Foisy
Brian Percival
Jane Thornton
Karen Van Westering
Velma Adams, Warden

2013

Chris Dippel
Jackie Dinas
Joanna Guinther
Jeanine McPartlin
Warden elected today.

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES

Ed Geist, who is finishing a 1 year unexpired term as Worship Committee Co-Chair, originally came to Saint Luke's Church in 1987 as a professional section leader. He continues to worship with us as a parishioner and sings in the choir. Head of the English and General Studies Department at the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut, Ed has a BA from Columbia University as well as a MA and PhD from the University of Virginia. He lives in Forest Hills and enjoys going to the opera, concerts and the theater.

Laudrey Lamadiou has an MSW from NYU and has been in the field of Social Work for 20 years. She started her career with ACS and has worked for Piux 12 foster care agency and Bronx Perinatal Consortium. She is currently the Director of Community Health at Safe Space where she oversees the Maternal Child Health programs, HIV services, Facilitated Enrollment and Earn Benefits and Financial Literacy. Ms. Lamadiou has provided trainings in asthma and HIV and was an Adjunct Professor at Monroe College. A member of Saint Luke's since 2010, Laudrey has served on the Outreach Committee and Haiti Project.

Joseph J. Occhiuto "I was born in Brooklyn on an unseasonably warm Ash Wednesday. I guess you could say that God had his thumb on me from the beginning. I have been a member of St Luke's since 2003. I came here looking for a new spiritual home and found it. I am currently the co-chair of the in reach committee and a member of the outreach, worship and Imagination committees. I have a degree in theology and serve the parish as a Eucharistic minister as well as minister of ceremonies for our festival Eucharist throughout the liturgical year. I am looking forward to this my second go round on the vestry. Actually I did not have a choice. God appeared to me in a dream and told me if I agreed to serve again he would let the Rangers win the Stanley cup. That is my story and I am sticking to it! I am married to my dream girl Louise. I have a son Nicholas. After working in the wonderful world of advertising for 27 years I retired in 2007 and am now employed as a cook for Trader Joes."

Terri O'Rourke was born in the parish of St. Andrews, Grenada, to a great big Indian family. She was baptized as an Anglican at her local parish, also called St. Andrews, where she attended primary and secondary school. After giving birth to her son, Damion, Terri decided to follow her dreams of becoming a nurse by moving to the United States with her infant and attending Borough of Manhattan Community College. Although she was unable to complete her college education, she went on to become the general manager of a series of men's shoes and formal clothing stores up until the birth of her daughter Shannon fifteen years ago. After the death of her husband, she has done odd jobs here and there to make ends meet and even became the President of the Board of her co-op four years ago. Terri enjoys taking drives to new places, reading romance novels, and watching scary movies. Her passion is cooking and hosting because she likes seeing others enjoy themselves. The parish has benefited from Terri's being chef for Imagination dinners and for the Maundy Thursday supper. Terri loves fighting for what she believes in. She doesn't know where she'd be without her friends, especially the "family" she has come to love and cherish at St. Luke's.

Brian Percival is a retired professor from Queens College where he taught architectural history and Asian art history for 38 years. Originally trained as an architect, a field he has practiced in addition to teaching, he holds degrees from U. Pennsylvania, Cornell, and the London School of Economics. Prior to coming to Queens he served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Malaysia and worked in archaeology at Sardis, in Turkey. More recently he has also taught in China where he is still a visiting professor emeritus at Hunan University. At St. Luke's he has served on the vestry and sings in the choir. His committee assignments have included the B & G, Stewardship, Accessibility Ramp, and Centennial Committees. He is also a member of the Architectural Guidelines Committee of Forest Hills Gardens. Occasionally playing a role in a Gingerbread Players production, skiing, Scottish dancing, languages, and being creative in the kitchen are among his other passions, at least before he began to develop a walking disability. He also sings with the Oratorio Society of New York, where he met his wife, Marianne Stolp Percival.

John Ryding has been a member of Saint Luke's since his wife Nancy and he got married in the church in 1992. Their children Ian and Maria were baptized at Saint Luke's. John began service on the Finance Committee, 2001-04, during those critical years of financial concern and helped with bringing about needed change. During his Vestry term, 2009-11, John has been back on the Finance Committee. He is an economist and worked on Wall Street for 17 years before the 2008 financial crisis. He co-founded an independent research firm, RDQ Economics LLC, on July 1, 2008. He is an avid soccer player/coach. If Saint Luke's ever wanted to form a team, he would gladly captain it!

VI. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. TREASURER'S REPORT

The fiscal year 2011, the kick off year of our three year discernment plan, was overall a roller-coaster of a ride, which in net effect ended up starting us on a most promising road. At the beginning of the year we were seriously behind on our pledge goals; with our conservative estimates of other giving, we were at full pledge in the position of projecting a 34K loss for the year. Without reaching the hoped for pledge totals, our year was not looking to be a good one.

A matching grant challenge encouraged other parishioners to increase their pledges proportionally, or to pledge perhaps for the first time. As a result, our promised pledge came in line with our budgetary expectations. The amount of pledge promise, however, has not historically resulted in pledge paid. 2011 was a marked difference. First, parishioners who finished 2011 short of pledge made up that number by over seven thousand dollars. Second, throughout the year new parishioners joined and have been contributing to our weekly open plate. The net result is that at the end of the year, giving by parishioners assigned envelope numbers was 2K OVER where we hoped to be; this figure does not include the 7K in late 2010 pledges received. As statements go out over the next week, it is expected that some late pledge for 2011 will continue to come in during 2012 (some already has). This amount of giving, in addition to the amount given for open plate and feast days, marks a tremendous leap for the entire congregation.

Our special events continued to perform well over budget, with a special note being made that Rummage Sale had a record year. Additionally, our much anticipated child care partnership finally kicked off in September and at a rental income of 1,300 a month is not an inconsequential source of income.

The only income related drag on our coffers remains the interest accrued from our endowment (present value is roughly \$713K.) The finance committee is continuing to pursue avenues of increasing interest with the least amount of fiscal risk and with enabling ourselves the ability to access funds in the event of a dire crisis. Several ideas are already in the works, and in fact at the end of 2011 we began showing an increase in the amount of monthly interest accrued. Realistically, however, it is unlikely we will in the near future return to showing a 25K interest gain in a year.

Separate from the endowment, the Centennial Fund received its first donations and currently stands at 22,160 in paid funds, with more promised.

Overall, as a result of our promising income gains, we ended the year with a net loss of 5K, roughly 30K better than we thought we'd be.

Going in to 2012, with several pledges still outstanding, we could be facing a similar beginning to 2012. Our conservative fiscal forecast projects a 45K loss, bearing in mind that 10K of that loss is due to expected expenses related to our centennial year preparations. However, if we just equaled the amount of income we received in 2012, plus the full year income from childcare, we would instead be facing a \$16K net loss; should the parish giving (across special events, pledge, and special offerings) increase by just 3% in 2012 over 2011, that number would be cut in half.

As we, as St. Luke's, continue to look towards our next 100 years, I believe we can continue our progress of growth. We have so much to be thankful for in the past twelve months; let's allow the momentum to continue in to our centennial and beyond.

—Jean Tessier, Treasurer

VI. C - STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: 2012 PLEDGE REPORT

As of Thursday, January 19, Saint Luke's received 79 pledges for \$156,394. Our 2012 pledge goal was set at \$196,350. The Vestry recognized that a 2% pledge goal increase over 2011 was the most we could hope for in this continuing period of economic uncertainty. We continue to wait for the pledges from some regularly pledging members whose 2011 giving would boost the total to nearly \$190,000. This points out to all that our parish needs 100% participation. The annual giving of each parishioner is our most important financial resource. It is only by everyone adopting a spirituality of giving with a growing proportion of one's own resources each year; we can hope to have adequate financial resources for the budget. Of our 79 pledges thus far, 41 represent moderate increases, 21 unchanged amounts, and 13 show decreased giving and 4 are new pledges.

VI. D FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Presented 3-year financial estimates (2011-2013) to the Vestry for their consideration and discussion in developing a budget for 2012 and for long-range planning and Church development. It provided 3 scenarios: (a) no increases except where mandated; (b) a modest 2% increase in salaries and some programming; and (c) a more expansive 4% increase on salaries and programming.
- In 2012 the committee will focus its attention on a thorough review and appropriate adjustment to the objectives and strategy for the Church's investment portfolio, although in lieu of current economic conditions of the church and the larger economy our options remain quite limited.

The chairs are grateful for the commitment, energy, and hard work during the year of Jean Tessier, Parish Treasurer, and all the Finance Committee members –Gary Carldon, Jim Chamberlain, John Ryding, Anne Su, and Arthur Tasker.

–Karen Van Westering and Jonathan Wallin
Co-Chairs

VII. PARISH STRATEGIC PLAN AND DISCERNMENT PROCESS

Recognizing that our parish has been changing dynamically, our charge is to assess the challenges of our second century through practical evaluation of our sustainability, capabilities, demographics and resources in fulfillment of our mission.

In concert with the Vestry and Ministry Committees we shall be examining:

- a) future ministry priorities
- b) the evolving shape of the priestly ministry model (and ministry of all baptized) for Saint Luke's
- c) improvement of parish communications during the three year plan by creating open and transparent structures and making active participation in this discernment process accessible to all of our parishioners.

We also seek to expand networking efforts with other parishes, the diocese, and other faith communities beyond these walls.

–Gary Carldon

Steps along the way:

Fall 2010

- Presentation of Three-Year Plan in Bellringer and Parish Announcements

2011

Winter 2011

- Annual Meeting official introduction of Three-Year Plan

Spring 2011

- Building communication with Deanery and Archdeaconry Clergy and Diocese/Bishop (towards a program to explore mutual interaction and support)

Late Spring 2011

- Theology of Giving sermons/discussions (spiritual practice of proportional giving)

Summer 2011

- Mutual Ministry Review at June Vestry Retreat
- July/August reportage to parish on Vestry Retreat as lead in to parish-wide discernment of ministries (Ministry Fair and Survey)
- Tom and deanery clergy discuss idea of workshops/discussions/interest groups/support

Fall 2011

- Ministry Fair and Parish Ministry Survey (after Rummage Sale)
- Committee Leaders meet to discuss survey
- 2012 Pledge Campaign based on Proportional Giving and spiritual practice of stepping up

Late Fall 2011

- Committees meet to discuss survey, organize ongoing agendas and frame initiatives with Centennial Invitation in mind
- December Update letter to Parish on 2012 Pledge Campaign (seeking 100% participation; not just pledge campaign but entire discernment process)

2012

Winter 2012

- Annual Meeting invites all parish members into our prayerful discerning: Reiterating Strategic Plan through 2013 re: Ministry Staff (this present staff, adequately compensated, through 2013), Parish Development (existing ministry model through 2013, ongoing exploration of Spirituality of Giving/Proportional Giving, and Parish Discernment of ministry priorities and model for ordained & baptized ministry post-Centennial), Facilities Improvements (to maintain and develop Saint Luke's as a center for ministry in the changing world of Saint Luke's 2nd Century).
- February 4 Special Vestry Meeting on Ministry Models
- Sunday, March 4 Parish Forum discussion on Survey Ministry Priorities and questions about ministry models

Spring 2012

- April 22 Kick Off – Centennial Fund Drive: What improvements can we give that will serve the parish well in the exercise of its 2nd century of ministry?
- May Deanery Meeting of Clergy, Wardens and Parish Leaders
- Long Range Planning continues to monitor strategic plan process and develop talking points for Vestry and Parish

Summer 2012

- June Vestry Retreat develops a nascent “parish profile” as a) basis for ongoing discussion of Saint Luke's ministry priorities and model for ministry and as b) content of 2013 pledge campaign
- Wardens and Rector in conversation/discernment regarding future shape of priesthood ministry at Saint Luke's and implications for present relationship

Fall 2012

- Kickoff Centennial Year Celebration and Mission of Invitation
- 2013 Pledge Campaign using the developing parish profile and continuing proportional giving thrust

VIII. WARDENS REMARKS

A thank you note from Wardens Anne Harte Su and Velma Adams for 2011

We would like to thank you all for your continuing support of Saint Luke's Church.

Many of you work quietly behind the scenes. You know who you are – but by way of task, we would like to point out some of your wonderful work to the rest of the parish.

A sincere thank you for:

planning the 100th anniversary now...making a deacon and his young family feel at home...cooking and delivering meals to the sick... changing light bulbs in the Undercroft...visiting folks in assisted living... sewing anything needed...donating holiday decorations and flowers to make it a brighter church for all... sharing your knowledge and travels at special presentations...driving church members to doctor's appointments...shoveling snow & cleaning the gutters...adding more dollars to your pledge, despite the current economy... inspiring youth...toiling on the details for a long awaited ramp. .. being nice to Rummage Sale shoppers who were "just looking"... mopping up the lower level during various mishaps and joyfully doing so... feeding and serving the young people at St. Andrew's Center...setting up the church, the altar, the Rector's study, the parish hall, the kitchen, parking places and the lower hall for Bishops David and Lawrence's visit...seeking items for Imaginauction... writing press releases and articles.. serving on Altar Guild during the holidays...presenting your faith journey to the entire parish explaining why you joined Saint Luke's Church...vacuuming that carpet yet again ...fixing and washing the acolytes robes...helping church elders make their way into the front door while also making it possible for them to leave through the parish hall ... locking up the church after everyone left special events...teaching young voices to appreciate church music ... cleaning up the upper parish hall days before and days after the Rummage sale...sharing your Prayer Book with someone new... baking for another Gingerbread production, and asking friends to see the play... decorating the church at Christmas...reminding us of former parishioner's Olga Dobb's 100th birthday...serving with Father Tom at Wednesday's healing services...mowing the lawn...giving visitors tours of the sacred space...keeping the website in beautiful shape... looking after the church youth...reading the lessons during services... delivering an Easter plant to someone sick at home...checking the receipts & making deposits for the fundraisers and donations... coming early to practice for choir and special processions...sharing your warmth and beautiful smile, even though you just joined this church a few weeks ago... becoming an Acolyte, usher, or choir member.

We are also grateful for the services of a wonderful 2011 staff, including Father Paul Lai, Father Bill Doubleday, and Bill Stokes...and thankful for the support from Parish Administrator Lisa Duca and Sexton Martha Garcia. We are also blessed that Father Tom Reese, as our spiritual leader, continues to implement our mission statement "to open our doors wide to all people". We are proud that you are all a part of our church family. Let us prepare Saint Luke's Church for those whom we have yet to meet, as we serve the Lord and spread the good news. May we be so blessed in 2012 and the years to come.

IX. COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS

The **OUTREACH Committee** brings before the parish the needs of people outside the congregation in the local community, on deanery and diocesan levels, as well as throughout the Church and the World. In addition to recommending opportunities for meeting needs through parishioner giving of time, talent and treasure, the committee researches and proposes worthy recipients for Saint Luke's Annual Outreach Grant.

The **WORSHIP Committee** gives the Rector counsel and assistance in matters of the liturgical life of the parish.

The **EVANGELISM Committee** seeks to invite members of the community-at-large to experience aspects of our parish life. Welcoming newcomers to our various special programs and worship, as well as incorporating new members into the congregation are concerns of this committee

The **EDUCATION Committee** carries out a program of Christian Instruction and Faith Formation for all age levels (Nursery, Church School, Youth Group, Adult).

The **INREACH Committee** carries out a program of support by responding to the needs of parishioners brought on by sickness, death, bereavement and other life crises.

The **HOSPITALITY Committee** coordinates the various ongoing fellowship programs (such as Sunday Hospitality Hour, parish meals) and special events.

The **STEWARDSHIP Committee** carries out a year-round program of education to encourage the members of the parish to give of their time, talent and treasure for the support of our parish life and program. The committee conducts the Annual Pledge Campaign.

The **SPECIAL EVENTS Committee** is comprised of a Vestry member and all co-chairs of our special events projects (Imaginauction, Rummage Sale and Gingerbread Players) so as to facilitate communication between the Vestry and the leadership of these special parish projects.

The **FINANCE Committee** at the direction of the Vestry, manages investments, prepares and presents the proposed operating budgets of the parish, and assists the Treasurer in annually convening the audit.

The **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS Committee** manages the care and maintenance of all parish buildings, grounds and equipment (Church, Parish Halls and Rectory).

The **PUBLICITY Committee** promotes all events at Saint Luke's via community mailings, parish website and press releases to the media.

The **LONG RANGE PLANNING Committee** is charged with anticipating the variety of possibilities that might, in the long term, enhance our parish with regard to Mission and Ministry, Staffing, Facilities, Program and Events. In terms of the latter, this committee's proposal to the Vestry gave rise to the Centennial Committee. Presently, this committee is focused on its work as the **Strategic Planning and Parish Discernment Committee**.

A Note about Committee Reports

In Preparation for our Centennial Year, Saint Luke's Ministry Committees (Outreach, Worship, Evangelism, Education and Inreach) and Special Projects (Imaginauction, Rummage Sale and Gingerbread Players) considered the parishioner responses to the Parish Ministry Survey that was conducted as part of the successful Ministry Fair held on Sunday, October 30.

With the Survey results in mind, each of the Ministry Committees were asked to respond to the following four questions:

1. Are there any follow-up questions you'd suggest for posing to the parish?
2. Do the survey responses offer a focus or direction for your committee's ongoing agenda?
3. In what ways might it be beneficial to meet with your leadership counterparts in deanery and other nearby Episcopal parishes for the purposes of mutual enlightenment and support and to strategize possible joint ventures?
4. Saint Luke's Centennial Year (2012 October 2013) is an Extensive and Impressive Invitation -- inviting people from the wider area to "come and see" what our faith community and parish life are all about; and inviting our own members into a discernment process regarding our ministry priorities and the shape of our ministry model beyond the Centennial and into the future.

Therefore, what are the 1 or 2 ministry projects your committee proposes as part of the Invitation?

OUTREACH

The Committee would like to know:

- a.) Which projects would make parishioners more likely to participate in Outreach?
- b.) Are there any aspects of Outreach that appeal to you (researching potential Outreach recipients, writing reports on project status; planning, hands on volunteering, etc.). If so, would you consider joining Outreach?
- c.) Is the parish interested in follow up reports? If so, perhaps we could include periodic status reports on the Outreach Bulletin Board. (There might be other ways we can better use the Outreach bulletin board. Any suggestions?)
- d.) Are there other types of hands-on activities the parish would like us to consider? We currently have a few ongoing (GLWD, St. Andrew's monthly dinners, yearly Forest Hills summer food-drive etc.)
- e.) Is the parish aware they are welcome to pass project ideas along whether they're on the committee or not? Submitting ideas may be another good use of the Outreach BB.

In general, the responses seem to approve of what we are doing already (Fundraising, hands-on opportunities, in-kind donations), and the closeness of the scoring shows they approve of a balance among the three.

The outreach Committee feels it would be beneficial to meet with our leadership counterparts in deanery and other nearby Episcopal parishes. We could find out what they've experienced or observed in terms of "need", broadening our perspective of the community we live in. Working with other parishes would itself be an aspect of Outreach to other parishes, as well as a blessing to us. It would be a great way to get to know each other better. Also, by working together we can do more, sharing the financial gifts and/or hands on work. We could potentially extend our impact with more people and resources. We would need to have a common vision and goal established to start a new endeavor. Or perhaps assist ongoing projects at each parish, now just with a wide pool of resources.

In terms of invitation during our Centennial Year, we could invite people who are not yet members of our parish to participate in our hands-on Outreach to other parishes. Outreach is the "new" evangelism, in

that regard. In addition to personal invitation, we might consider some publicity for these efforts by blogging and using social media.

We should probably emphasize the ongoing projects, of which GLWD and the Jesse Tree are the longest running.

We could invite people to come and see what we are doing with Notre Dame (financial help as well as projected plans, like establishing a pen pals partnership with the school; donating goods which would be brought to Haiti by person/people from our church, and maybe their church, etc.)

The St. Andrews center received our 2010 grant and since then we've tried to support a monthly Saturday meal. For this we need people willing to serve and meet the LGBT teens; prepare meals for them, and provide monetary support to those preparing the meals. The St. Andrews project is probably the closest we've come to utilizing all three aspects of outreach giving, noted above. We need to converse with the Parish (or perhaps solicit their input) as to how each thinks they can contribute to this ministry, as well as the Haiti ministry.

Camp DeWolfe is our 2012 Grant Project. We hope to have 1-2 hands-on activities, in addition to fund raising and bake sales etc. That might be a great way to help get our parish and others physically and spiritually attached to the camp and the campers.

—Barbara Gratz/Gary Carldon/Heather Hanson/David Friedman/Joanna Guinther/Julia Khan

WORSHIP

This has been a year of well attended services, and an even greater variety of them. Our lovely candle-lit Epiphany service, marking the close of the Christmas season, and our twice-a-month Sunday evening Taizé services have become as much institutions as our choral Evensong on the Sunday before Lent, the Michaelmas Eucharist and supper, the outdoor Eucharist and picnic to celebrate the feast of St. Mary the Virgin, and the blessing of the animals on the Sunday nearest St. Francis' Day. More people have been coming to these services, not all of them St. Luke's members, and recently we have been blessed by the addition of some very active new parishioners from the former St. Matthew's Church, Woodhaven.

The leadership of Father Tom, our Rector, and of Bill Stokes, our organist and choir director, has continued to be outstanding. With their skills and inspiration, plus the advice and guidance of the Centennial Liturgy and Music Committee, as well as the Organ Refurbishment Committee, we can look forward to an even wider and more wonderful selection of liturgy and music in the coming centennial year. The music at St. Luke's is one of this church's greatest strengths, and it will soon be enhanced by a major renovation of our organ, as a project of our upcoming Centennial Fund thanks to an anonymous donor.

At its last meeting our committee looked at ways to overcome our weaknesses as a church community, one of them being the minimal contact that we have with other Episcopal churches in the deanery. We saw no easy solution to the on-street parking problems that discourage exchange visits between our churches, particularly in the evenings, but feel we should open up more of our occasional Saturday programs to their members. Sometimes it is hard to draw the line between putting down the welcome mat, and seeming to be church robbing.

We are also concerned about the continuing difficulty of persuading people to volunteer as ushers for our worship services. While we have no shortage of lectors, and are delighted to have new acolytes, the shortage of ushers persists and poses problems some Sundays, and on every special occasion. We are dependent on a too-small group of long-term faithful ushers, while among newer recruits the attrition rate is high. We feel we do not pay enough attention to developing this ministry, or to making it seem worthwhile or appreciated. To help overcome the problem we plan to produce a pamphlet for ushers, outlining their duties (since some people may hesitate to volunteer because they don't know what the job

entails). We should emphasize that ushers are unlikely to be asked to serve more than once a month. Any volunteers?

Our committee recommends that we continue to use all possible media outlets to publicize our services and other events. We should also move the church notice board to the left of the pathway leading to the parish house so that it is seen by more people, have notices of church events in larger print, keep them current, and include a list of the music to be played and sung at the 10.30 a.m. Eucharist on every forthcoming Sunday.

—Joyce Egginton and Ed Geist Co-Chairs

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild consists of 10 members both men and women. There are 9 members in regular monthly rotations and one who serves on Wednesdays and the special services if the person serving that month is unable to attend. Ruth Gotch, a long time member, passed away in December. She cleaned the vessels after the 8:30 service and will be missed.

Everyone serves at least one month and sometimes two. Our function is to set up and clean up from both services or extra services such as weddings or funerals. We also decorate the church for Christmas and Easter. Your gifts to the Altar Flower Fund help make the weekly and holiday flowers available all year round plus you get to remember a loved one on a special day or for thanksgiving for healing or something special that happened in your life.

We meet twice a year in the Fall and Winter to discuss the decorating of the church for the holidays and to go over any changes that have occurred during the year. We also host a coffee hour and we will be hosting one again on February 12th.

If you are interested in joining the Altar Guild please see me or Father Reese and we can add you to our schedule.

—Ann Espenschied, Altar Guild Director

MUSIC IN WORSHIP

I remember very clearly the first time I heard the words of Psalm 29.

I was singing in the choir at Evensong and Psalm 29 was appointed for the day. When we came to the words, "...in the temple of the Lord, all are crying 'Glory!'", my mouth dropped open. I felt at once both stunned and deeply moved. I didn't see that thought coming. The memory of that moment repeats every time I hear psalm 29. What a gift.

It is said that those who sing pray twice. I believe it must be true. To that end, twice prayer, the music of St Luke's parish is dedicated. Our beautiful choir, ably assisted by Mim Paquin, soprano and Todd Wachsmann, baritone, and our faithful volunteers meets every Sunday morning from September through May to prepare for the morning liturgy and for our notable special occasions. With occasional additional rehearsals, the choir continues to offer a full choral Evensong on "Alleluia" Sunday, the last Sunday of the Epiphany season.

Great music for the evening service has been composed for over 500 years, since Archbishop Cranmer combined elements of the Catholic offices of vespers and compline to create the service. Of particular interest to composers have been the two principal songs, or canticles, the Song of Mary (Magnificat) and the Song of Simeon (Nunc dimittis). The texts of these two great hymns have inspired composers through the centuries to fashion extended musical settings of them and there is a large body of repertoire from which to choose. So far, our choir has diligently prepared a new (to us) setting of these pieces each year.

In addition, offerings of vocal solo, choral and organ music surround the service with a festive yet prayerful character. It's one of our best moments.

The great liturgies of Holy Week, the Thursday-Friday-Saturday Triduum in particular, find the choir present and leading, both on Maundy Thursday evening and on Saturday, at the Great Vigil of Easter. This latter service with its ancient roots is relatively new to our Prayer Book and its significance is growing upon our imaginations. Last year's beautiful singing of "Go down, Moses", with Mim and Todd as soloists, was a poignant moment in the darkness awaiting the resurrection.

The choir meets annually for an afternoon at the end of August for a good time of singing and exploring music for the upcoming season, with Christmas Eve a particular emphasis. Dinner at the rectory, now also an annual event and a much enjoyed one, follows this workshop. Christmas Eve itself remains perhaps our musical and liturgical high point. The Advent/Christmas season is such a rich time and the one time still when the world turns to us in anticipation. Each year, the choir rises to the occasion, both with old favorites and something new, perhaps even unfamiliar, to delight and inspire.

St Luke's was the happy recipient this year of a Steinway grand piano which now graces our lower hall, available on weekends for rehearsals of our various groups. The Steinway grand piano in the upper hall has had an upgrade of its action, a much-needed repair. And maintenance of the organ is ongoing with the scope of the organ broadened this year at the annual rummage sale, with a short recital each day for shoppers to enjoy.

As our choral library grows, a new space for our music and the organist's materials was created this year on the lower level. It is much appreciated and enjoyed by Bill for whom the spacious atmosphere is very welcoming.

And so the energy for our music grows, as, one hopes, does its adornment and inspiration for our prayer life together. "He who sings, prays twice!"

—William J. Stokes, Minister of Music

EDUCATION

As we expand our Church School programming, we welcome continuing feedback from all parishioners about our Church School classes and special activities. We'd love to hear from parents of children who are currently attending about how we are doing, and what more we can do to meet their family's needs for faith formation. We'd also love to hear from anyone else in the Parish who has ideas and/or memories of their own Sunday School or Youth Group experiences that could spark ideas for us to make use of today.

Most of our attention has been on working with children as we have been restructuring the Church School Program, and although our Special Events have been billed as "Family Programs," they have tended to focus on the education and faith formation of our children and youth. The survey responses showed a lot of enthusiasm for adult education programs, with a variety of fine suggestions having been made. We are open to expanding our attention in that area if more support from our committee is needed.

We believe it would be beneficial to meet with other parishes, primarily because we might be able to share resources and combine smallish events into more communal, larger ones. We would be particularly interested in connecting with other parishes that have an active ministry for teens.

Programs that offer a special invitation during our Centennial is an area in which there will be a more intense focus in the coming months. Some projects have been tentatively suggested (including the painting of a mural in the Sunday school classroom, and special religious plays and activities), but more planning is needed.

— Chris Dippel and Emily Taylor, Co-Chairs

EVANGELISM = INVITATION & WELCOME

Our centennial year is an opportunity to celebrate our church community and share what we treasure about St. Luke's Church with others. How best to do it?

The Parish Ministry Survey revealed some interesting responses regarding all areas of our parish life and the work of our committees. In the Evangelism section we noted that several people indicated that they would be willing to distribute flyers, forward emails, use Facebook (or other social media), and even invite friends and neighbors. It would be good to know if parishioners have done any of these things yet, and if not, how we can encourage action in a positive way.

Several respondents did not provide any comments in the Evangelism section at all. It would be very good to know their thoughts. We realize that the term "Evangelism" has connotations that may be uncomfortable to some, and we would like to overcome any possible negative feelings in order to encourage more participation.

The responses we did get provided us with a variety of ideas to expand our efforts. Our goal is to encourage parishioners to take the steps we suggested in the survey to extend invitation to others to come to St. Luke's for worship and/or any of the wonderful events and programs we offer. Our centennial year celebration is a great reason to generate interest and enthusiasm for our parish.

We are very interested in meeting with other parish leaders in our area with a view toward sharing ideas and inviting an exchange of fellowship, education, community service and prayer. I also hope our neighbors in the Episcopal Church and other faith communities will join us during our festive year and help forge a stronger relationship.

All our parish committees are, in their own unique ways, Evangelists. We are all planning and dreaming of ways to make the most of our centennial year in order to build our parish for years to come. Our efforts will be appreciated by generations to follow, who like us, will value our church home and family.

One project we would like to focus on is developing an effective informational campaign to introduce our exciting calendar to the larger community, and at the same time, increase our presence beyond our own lovely building. Please talk with me or contact me via email (lmf325@aol.com) with your ideas and suggestions. We look forward to the coming year and hope that our parish life will be filled with hope, joy and a deepening sense of faith.

—By Louise Foisy/Chair of Evangelism Committee

INREACH

Are new church members greeted and welcomed into our community as warmly as people we have known for a longer time? Do we adequately support and keep in touch with those who may be going through illness and/or difficulties? Is enough time devoted to purely social and family friendly events? Are there any other areas that you would like the Inreach committee to address? We are eager for your responses and ideas. In the meantime we will keep doing what we're doing now (in service), only more of it.

We need to know who the "Inreach" people are in other parishes and contact them. We could learn what they are doing, and how their programs are, or are not, working for them. It was also suggested that we set up a meeting during the daytime on weekend with other pastoral leaders/co-chairs to discuss joint ventures.

As a way to offer Invitation during our Centennial observances and beyond committee members suggested:

- A. Produce a church directory of parishioners that includes people's photos
- B. Update the committee directory listing for the Saint Luke's Directory (currently on the back cover) with contact information and include a brief summary of what each ministry committee does.
- C. Sponsor another educational program, like the seminar on wills & trusts, care giving, Medicare or other current issues to help people.

—Anne Harte Su and Joe Occhiuto, Inreach Co-Chairs;
(including notes from committee member Jane Thornton)

SPECIAL PROJECTS

ACCESSIBILITY

As of Christmas Eve our accessibility ramp and stoop are completed and the ramp committee will soon have served its purpose and go out of existence. There will be two follow up committees, however. One will deal with landscaping, the other with the appropriate arrangements to be made inside the church for the accommodation of the handicapped.

Our committee wishes to express many thanks to Jim Chamberlain for shepherding this project through from beginning to end. He became his own general contractor, here everyday overseeing the construction. Before that, he had found the architect. He found the contractor with his remarkable bricklayer. He even found and supplied the bricks from as far away as Indiana and Wisconsin, and he found the ironworker. And he has brought the project in close to, the \$50,000 original gift. The total cost for planning and construction was \$55,350 which includes the fees from our architect, Bryon Bell, the construction work done by Boccia, Inc., the special bricks that closely match the church facade, the wrought iron railings, and various fees and permits to the NYC. The project itself was also enlarged beyond the ramp to include an enlarged and safer stoop and entrance and an entirely new walkway to the parish hall.

The ramp committee wishes to thank you all for your patience, perseverance, and inconvenience over the many months of this project, which have in the end brought us to this ecstatic conclusion.

—Karen Van Westering and Brian Percival

ANGELS IN THE GARDENS CHILD CARE PROGRAM

The Child Care program has been going well since its September 2011 opening. There are already 17 children enrolled in the program. They have added play equipment so that the children can enjoy regular times of play exercise. Parents are very pleased with the program. There have been meetings between Annie Acardi and the parish liaison committee consisting of Velma Adams and Stephen Banci to make certain any issues are addressed immediately. This has worked quite well. It is hoped that by September 2012, the number of enrollees will increase closer to the allowable 29 children. We all can be quite pleased with the success of the program and how it enables Saint Luke's to extend its presence into the community in yet another needed way. Angels in the Gardens employs teachers certified in Early Childhood Education and have a very comprehensive program for the children.

—Velma Adams

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Last year, 2011, saw the usual problems, like searching for leaks in the roof and elsewhere in heavy rains. It was a good test (and testament) to the work done over the last few years as well as areas for future work. Heating, roof and basic "stuff" are OK.

The start up of the child care program required a lot of things that B&G was not involved in. There was in the early going, through, some required immediate repairs because the space is in use daily, and the need for quick work means it is more expensive.

Lawn Brigade continued making the place look great, but then took a back seat to the demolition for a new ramp, stoop and walkway. One good thing that resulted from this work is that the "gulley" along Harrow Street caused after the hedges were taken out, are now filled and can be reseeded with grass.

Doing the "minimal" with landscaping now that the ramp and stoop are in place will be relatively easy and inexpensive. But, of course, some may have more grand ideas - that will still not cost as much as some may have thought because the bricked ramp itself is attractive and won't need to be "hidden" by bushes etc.

This year's projects: How to coordinate any proposed kitchen upgrade given Child Care being there daily and our cash resources? Expanded landscaping? We will be fixing the long postponed roof tiling over the entrance.

—Jim Chamberlain

HOSPITALITY

Hospitality is one of the great things Saint Luke's is known for. It is for many, what visitors notice first: the welcoming atmosphere of "Hospitality Hour", the nice receptions after services or concerts, the luncheons and special events that encourage the church community to participate and enjoy. These events serve to strengthen our parish and encourage growth of our church family.

There are many who enjoy volunteering, but there is so much to do! Our calendar is very full—the preparation and clean-up chores seem to crowd our already busy schedules. We know that "many hands make light work" so we urge everyone to consider helping, either as a regular member of the Hospitality Committee, or for particular events. Sign-up sheets are usually available. It is rewarding in many ways! Our efforts are appreciated and we share in the satisfaction of making Saint Luke's a special place for both worship and fellowship. Thanks to everyone who has participated in the past and please keep up the good work.

Consider signing up to host a Sunday "Hospitality Hour" or perhaps you would prefer to work on the reception for an event (concert, show). Maybe you just want to be available for set-up or clean-up for specific events. No matter what, we need more volunteers.

—Louise Foisys, Co-Chair

SPECIAL EVENTS

RUMMAGE SALE 2011

The Rummage Sale brings in many people from the wider community. I think we should use the Centennial opportunity to make them aware of all that St. Luke's has to offer. Here are some suggestions:

- We should create a flyer to be placed in every bag of merchandise. One side of the flyer will have upcoming events of interest to the wider community, like Gingerbread and Wings of Song. On the other side, we will have an invitation that lets people know they are welcome to participate in the fuller spiritual life that St. Luke's has to offer. This invitation needs to be worded carefully, and Father Tom has to have a big hand in its creation.
- Perhaps similar to the Ministry Fair (if we have any room), we could have a table with information about St. Luke's various committees and projects, with someone manning the booth to answer questions.
- There are always some people who want to see the interior of the church. We could organize a tour of the church for each day, with signs announcing the fact. Again, we could construct the tour information to highlight St. Luke's 100-year involvement with the wider community.

—Suzanne C. Schick

IMAGINAUCTION

It was encouraging to see, in the Parish Ministry Survey, 21 people saying that financial fund raisers are what they most readily respond to as embodying St. Luke's outreach responsibility, while 16 people said they can invite friends and neighbors as part of evangelism. Also 17 folks indicated that they wish there was enough money raised by Special Events to fund Parish Outreach. These responses demonstrate the need to emphasize the Imaginauction as a fund raiser and to indicate that if enough funds are raised it can support Parish outreach and make a difference in our larger community. The Imaginauction is seen as a one day event. We can lose sight of its strengths considering it a time to dress up and see our friends and share delicious food and drink while possibly taking home a bargain. The focus can shift a little as a time we come together as a community to celebrate our strengths and work hard to share them. In the weeks and months preceding the event, parishioners go out into the community and raise awareness of our presence and our mission soliciting donations from local businesses. They take a stack of raffle tickets to the office and proclaim that they are members of our church and answer questions about where it is and what we do and welcome attendance. They also look within themselves and ask what talents they can share with the other members. What can they donate of themselves? And on the evening of the event we celebrate those donations and the talents of our group. We take this evening not as a time to underbid, but to give a generous donation that can make a difference in the community while thanking your fellow St. Luke's family members and, if you win a bid, taking home a slice of the rich pie we've all come together to bake. For this year's tenth annual Imaginauction to shine and to perform as a part of our centennial celebration, it will need to grow. New faces should contribute, donate, attend and participate. Our regulars should rise to this higher challenge and find ways to expand the offerings and the bids. It is a celebration! But it is so much more than a one night event. It can have lasting and far reaching effects.

—Claire Dippel and Jeanine McPartlin, Co-chairs

GINGERBREAD PLAYERS/WINGS OF SONG

Our committee would like to suggest to the parish how the Gingerbread Players serve outreach, inreach, evangelism and even worship goals. As outreach, we provide community entertainment as well as a free and highly educational activity for local youngsters that give them a chance to express themselves and discover and explore their own talents. As inreach, we provide an activity for our own children and for other parishioners who want an artistic outlet. As evangelism we draw in members of the community who might otherwise never pass through our doors; we invite all the kids in GP to join the junior choir, we make all our performers and their families aware of other church activities and invite them to join us in worship, Christmas caroling, etc., and we give St. Luke's a local profile as the home of the Gingerbread Players. And certain productions like *Godspell*, *Amahl*, and the Mystery Play in development have a component of worship.

On a less concrete but equally important level, the Gingerbread Players strive very hard to create a loving, accepting and supportive -- and therefore Christian -- atmosphere in everything they do, and in that sense we feel we are in fact serving as an arm of the church, even though we are outside the actual liturgical/worship spectrum.

The Gingerbread Players contribute to the St. Luke's "brand" and could be used to promote our unique and vibrant community. We have built a reputation as contributors to the cultural life of our neighborhood.

In terms of networking with other parishes, we don't know whether the GP has leadership counterparts in the Deanery. There are other churches where theater groups rehearse and perform, but none that we know of where they are actually part of the church's own programming and ministry. We can always use promotional help. We can always use new talent. Publicizing ourselves more throughout and recruiting from the wider Deanery community might be worth exploring.

The Centennial Year Invitation we would offer to all includes the Mystery play and more productions in the sanctuary, as appropriate. It is a brilliant space and the more people who see it even in secular productions the more people might be drawn to it for worship; a gala; a retrospective. Beyond the Centennial: we ask the parish to consider more events in general and to consider the balance between user groups and entertainment events, in terms of income, general publicity and awareness of St. Luke's.

In 2011, the Gingerbread Players presented our usual full and varied program: a classic musical directed by Jean Tessier in her sophomore outing and a Shakespeare comedy under Dolly Guinther's always masterful hand. In addition, we offered two Wings of Song events and two operas in concert.

Wings of Song: Beautiful Music in a Sacred Space

In keeping with our tradition of eclectic offerings, this year we presented the return of ever-popular flutist Trish Blackman & Friends in a lovely chamber concert, and an enlightening and beautiful program of Civil War-era music and texts compiled by our own Jason Robinette.

New York Opera Forum:

Richard Nechamkin regularly brings us superb operatic concert productions that have become very popular. This year we hosted a double bill of *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Gianni Schicchi* in May and *Lucia di Lammermoor* in September, which combined to raise about \$1000.

Gingerbread Players:

In the spring, Jean Tessier returned to the directorial helm, after a successful debut directing Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors*, to present *Meet Me in St. Louis*. In the fall, Dolly Guinther directed a highly acclaimed Twelfth Night, featuring talents both familiar and new. The two productions, with support from display donations in the program coordinated by Shirley Vickers and gingerbread sales courtesy of Louise Foisy, brought the church \$16, 819 to add to the fun had by all on both sides of the curtain.

—David Friedman and Joanna Guinther

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Mark your calendars now for the opening celebration of our Centennial Year to be held on Sunday, October 21, 2012. We will be honored by having our diocesan, Bishop Lawrence Provenzano, with us as we celebrate St. Luke's 100 years of witness and service to the Forest Hills community and beyond. The parish family and our invited guests will celebrate this important event with a kick-off luncheon at the West Side Tennis Club immediately following the service. This is only one of many events throughout the year designed to include all our parishioners. (See the list of Centennial Year Liturgies and Special Events below).

In addition to this opening service, which will be based on the Book of Common Prayer in use 100 years ago, two other major special events deserve your attention. On Friday evening, October 18, 2013, we will meet in Station Square (where the first St. Luke's service was held above a store 100 years ago) and process back to the church for a service of Festival Evensong. Our concluding centennial service, which will incorporate a contemporary liturgy, will take place on Sunday, October 20, 2013. There will be special music appropriate to all three services. As we approach our Centennial Year, we will be looking for more volunteers to join us in finalizing the specific details.

Let us make our Centennial a most joyous occasion marked by a renewed commitment to uphold our individual baptismal covenants and our parish mission statement. Let us be thankful for what has been given us and what we can give in return, keeping in mind the generations of congregants whose time, talent, and treasure have made the St. Luke's we know today.

—Allan Smith & Karen Van Westering, Co-Chairs

2012, Oct. 21: St Luke's Day, Holy Eucharist with Bishop using historic BCP service with a Parish Luncheon planned at the West Side Tennis Club

2012, Nov. 4: All Saints Holy Eucharist

2012, Nov 3,4,10,11: Gingerbread Play

2012, Dec. 2: Advent I

2012, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve (Monday)

2013, Jan. 6: Epiphany

2013, Feb. 10: Last Epiphany
Annual Choral Evensong

2013, Mar. 31: Easter

2013, April 13-14; 19-21: Gingerbread Performances

2013, May 10: Pentecost

2013, May 18: Imaginauction

2013, Aug 15: St. Mary the Virgin - Outdoor Eucharist

2013, Sept 29: St. Francis, Blessing of the Animals

2013, Oct 5/6: Annual Rummage Sale

**2013, Oct 18: St. Luke's Day/Centennial Day (Friday)
Special Evensong with reception in the Parish Hall**

**2013, Oct 20: Closing Centennial Eucharist (contemporary service) with Bishop
Luncheon in the Parish Hall**

COMMUNICATIONS

PUBLICITY

In churches and other community organizations without a full-time staff person, a successful approach is to break down the publicity tasks into small, finite, media-based units, and have each volunteer handle each unit independently, until it is time to submit.

Unit examples for Saint Luke's would include one person handling the Queens Tribune, one person handling the Dominion, blogging, flyers, etc. for any and all events. This way, every avenue is always covered by the same people and events do not slip through the cracks. Furthermore, with each person having one or two media contacts or tasks at the most, they would not be overwhelmed by trying to maintain a massive monthly to-do list of deadlines and follow-up calls. An e-mail list of "unit-leaders" would be distributed, and chairs of each event would be in charge of distributing the event info to that list.

This is all well and good in theory, but really it requires at least 5 volunteers willing to handle different aspects and for coordination through the church office to maintain the list and alert chairs to approaching deadlines. We are already doing this on a small scale. What has been lacking is this coordinating structure. We know that publicity is an overwhelming, full-time job, especially at St. Luke's, which is so event heavy. This is why the Vestry has added an hour a week to the Parish Administrator's time so that we can be dedicated to publicity for our Centennial Year of Invitations to the community at large. In addition, we need to find parishioner volunteers to take on one each of the "media units". In so doing, we will be well situated for year round full publicity for all aspects of our faith community and parish life.

—Jackie Dinas

WEBSITE

www.stlukesforesthills.org is our internet signpost - the way in which most parishioners find us - as well as being a communication tool within our parish. It is always current, portraying a vibrant and active community life, including the Church Calendar of all parish events, Who We Are, What It's All About, What's Going On, and What Really Matters... We are consistently ranked #1 or #2 in browser searches for churches in Forest Hills.

This year we welcome Julia Khan to our web team, with special thanks to David Friedman for maintaining the Gingerbread Players website.

—Gary Carldon

THE BELLRINGER

The Bellringer, Saint Luke's newsletter, is published monthly, except when two months are combined in Advent (November-December), Epiphany (January-February), Lent (March-April) and the Summer issue (July-August). The editorial and production staff consists of editor Jane Thornton, coordinator Lisa Duca, and general factotum (fact-checker, printer, folder, labeler, driver and mailer) Sally Hagwood, all under the aegis of Father Tom. In addition to being mailed to approximately 365 current and former parishioners, every issue is posted on Saint Luke's web site at www.stlukesforesthills.org.

During our Centennial Year, which runs from October 2012 to October 2013, each issue will feature excerpts from Saint Luke's history, *This Parish Under God*, past newsletters, and other items of interest to today's parishioners who want to know more about the past of our beloved church. Looking toward the future, articles and notices from ministry committees about upcoming events or ongoing projects are always welcome, indeed encouraged, as are suggestions from parishioners about topics they would like to see addressed in *The Bellringer*. Please email articles, notices, etc. to me at fosthorn@verizon.net. Technophobes can drop off material in the church office or send it by surface mail to my attention at the church. The deadline for submission of material for a given issue is generally the 15th of the preceding month (but earlier is better):

Lent issue – February 15

May issue – April 15

June issue – May 15

Summer issue – June 15

September issue – August 15

October issue – September 15

Advent issue – October 15

Please note that as the US Postal Service cuts back on services and increases prices, particularly of bulk mail, Saint Luke's is relying more and more on disseminating information by email. In the not too distant future, we will be sending *The Bellringer* electronically as well, so it is important that Lisa (stlukesoffice@verizon.net) have your email address on file. Copies of the paper will continue to be mailed, however, to those who don't have an email address.

I look forward to hearing from you.

—Jane Thornton

We Make Our Song: Alleluia!

Annual Adult Education Day

Saturday, January 28

10am-3pm

An exploration of the Christian understanding of death

- using The Book of Common Prayer and the Apostle Paul
- Departures (2009 Academy Award winner for foreign film)
- Death, with Interruptions (a novel by Nobel Prize winner José Saramago) Some copies still available for purchase.

Presentations and Discussion begin with 10am Morning Prayer, includes lunch, and Evening Prayer at 3:00pm. (A free-will offering will be gathered to cover lunch cost.)

The 10th Annual Imaginauction 2012 Is Saturday May 12th

The Planning Begins Now

We are organizing sub-committees, discussing a theme, and setting our goals to make this the most successful year ever!

Our first meeting will be January 29th right after coffee hour.
Please join us.

Claire Dippel & Jeanine McPartlin

*If, for any reason, you can't attend the meeting but still wish to help/contribute please contact Claire at Claire@dippel.us
718-896-4245 Thank you!*

**Saint Luke's Episcopal Church
85 Greenway South
Forest Hills, NY**

***ORGAN / VOCAL
RECITAL and
CHORAL EVENSONG***

Sunday, February 19, 2012 at 4:00pm

*Organ Works by Neils Gade,
Alexandre Guilmant, and Marcel Dupre*

*Let the Bright Seraphim (G.F. Handel)
Mim Paquin, Soprano
Rejoice in the Lord alway (Henry Purcell)*

SAINT LUKE'S CHOIR
WILLIAM J. STOKES, ORGANIST AND CHOIR DIRECTOR

Herbert Sumsion, Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in D

*H. Balfour-Gardiner, Evening Hymn
Preces and Responses of William Smith*



THE REVEREND THOMAS F. REESE, RECTOR

RECEPTION IN THE PARISH HALL FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

ALL ARE WELCOME

For further information, call 718-268-6021
or visit www.stlukesforesthills.org

Mardi Gras

Pancake Supper and Outreach Fund Raiser
for The Lenten Project
and 2012 Outreach grant recipient
"Camp De Wolfe"

Shrove Tuesday - February 21 6:30 to 8:30pm

A Fun Event For All -
Adults and Children, Parishioners and Wider Community.

**Pancakes, sausage and bacon
along with coffee, tea, milk and juice**

\$5.00 per person

Games, prizes

Camp DeWolfe information display

Mask making with a special table for children

Souvenir Mardi Gras Beads

Enjoy a traditional Fat Tuesday party before Lent
and celebrate our Outreach Commitment.

(The members of the Outreach Committee are volunteering the materials for the pancakes, sausages and bacon and will cook; as well as the prizes, beads, and masks.)

Camp De Wolfe is the children and youth summer camp as well as the year round retreat center of the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island

Saint Luke's Church

Forest Hills, New York

Mission Statement

[adopted at Annual Meeting 1/26/03]

Saint Luke's Church strives to be a center of spiritual strength
and compassionate service to others,
remembering that we are called to be the presence of Christ
in the world.

We offer a welcoming home for all who seek greater awareness
of God's purpose.

By worshipping and learning together,
we share in the joys of faith and supportive community,
while growing in individual ways.

United by God's abiding love,
we celebrate the rich diversity of our community,
opening our doors to all people.