



THE BELLRINGER

St. Luke's Church

June 2007

PENTECOST— THE GOSPEL FROM MANY PERSPECTIVES

Dear Friends,

From the childhood days of church school onwards, we all know of the Pentecost miracle: how the apostles, proclaiming the Gospel in many tongues, were understood by people from all over the world. This past Pentecost Sunday, we also heard in Paul's letter to the church at Corinth that the Gospel is spoken by many people through the varied gifts all the baptized share; that each of us has talents for the common good; that by the power of the Holy Spirit, we each contribute to the building up of the church, the enriching of the community, the health of the Body of Christ. Yes, the Gospel is spoken in many tongues, by many people; and the Gospel is spoken in the incarnate words of self-giving. Not just what we say but also what we do are aspects of the miraculous transformation that happens in us and through us by the Holy Spirit. The Pentecost Gospel according to John shows that those first disciples were commissioned to go out into the world with this gospel power. We too are called, by virtue of Baptism, as successors of the apostles, to be co-creators with God in making the Real Presence of Christ known throughout the world. The Gospel is 'spoken' in many ways, through the various ministries by which expression is given to Christ's Mission: that all the peoples of the world be reconciled with each other in God.

On The Day of Pentecost 2007, the Gospel was proclaimed from the various perspectives of our parish ministries. I share with you here just a few

words from each of those baptismal vantage points. Perhaps, in the proclamation, you will hear, in your own language, something that translates into a deepened understanding of our transforming mission; something that inspires you to share a talent all the more so that all of us at Saint Luke's might continue to grow in faith and grow as a church.

We discern that the practice of Christianity calls for a particular way of being and course of action beyond current or usual limits; to give our all in service with others. With God's help we vow to reach out both near and far...

From small informal groups to large festive gatherings, our worship together incorporates a variety of styles and experiences. We have so much to be grateful for, and to build on (from consideration of a barrier-free ramp entrance to an alternative evening worship experience)...

Join us in exploring how we can expand our invitation to the people in our changing and increasingly diverse larger community...

For those who seek greater awareness of God's purpose, we pray that everyone who comes through our doors will feel that Saint Luke's is a spiritual home...

The Saint Luke's community is family: neighbors helping neighbors, available in an emergency—driving, visiting, praying for those who are ill, troubled in mind or spirit, grieving, or in any other form of distress; extending get-well wishes and condolences; celebrating birthdays, anniversaries and other life passages.

God's Holy Spirit does our spirits good.

ST. LUKE'S ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild is an integral part, albeit behind the scenes, of our worship services. Its members serve St. Luke's on a year-round basis and are responsible for the preparation of the altar for each service, as well as the care of the linens, the silver, the candles, and the flowers, all of which contribute to the enjoyment of our worshipping experience. Throughout the year, it is the Altar Guild members who make sure that wine and communion wafers are available, order the necessary flowers and candles, light and replace the votive candle, and place each week's hymn numbers on the boards, in essence preparing the church for each service, including special feast days, weddings and funerals.

Currently the Altar Guild has 12 members and two alternates; Ann Espenschied serves as president. Each member serves for one month (or sometimes two) during the year. The primary responsibility of the person serving each month is to come in ahead of the 10:30 service to set up and then to clean up the communion vessels after the service. We also meet as a group twice a year -- in late fall to plan for the Christmas greenery and in late winter to plan the floral decorations for Holy Week and Easter.

Being on the Altar Guild is both a privilege and a serious commitment, providing a significant way to learn and deepen one's understanding of the worship service and to share in meaningful fellowship with other members. New members are always welcome and they are paired with experienced members to learn what to do and how to do it. If you have ever wondered how the communion service is set up and who does it, please consider joining us. If you have questions, Ann and Father Tom will be happy to answer them.

—Karen Van Westering

PARISH CENSUS DEADLINE EXTENDED TO JUNE 10

The May issue of *The Bellringer* included a Parish Census Form that Father Tom asked all parishioners to complete and return. Each parish of the Episcopal Church is required to maintain a membership register that records a variety of dates related to the sacraments of the church. The information requested is not only for St. Luke's compliance in organizing the Parish Register,

but also for strengthening parish communications. The deadline for returning the census forms, originally May 20, has been extended to June 10. If you have not already done so, please fill out the form on page 2 of the May *Bellringer* and deliver it to St. Luke's office as soon as possible. If you have misplaced your copy, additional forms are on the table in the narthex and are also available from Sally Friedman in the office.

GOT A LIGHT?

Louise Foisy asks if anyone has a table lamp in good repair that they would be willing to donate to replace the old, battered one in the small classroom in the lower parish hall. If you can supply a replacement lamp, please contact Louise at 718-575-1767. The children in the Sunday School and Louise would be very grateful.

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ST. LUKE'S SOUND SYSTEM INSTALLED AT LAST

NOW HEAR THIS! (And some of us already have.) As of May 19, the installation of St. Luke's much-discussed, long-awaited, eagerly-anticipated sound system in the church and parish hall, made possible by a generous gift from an anonymous parishioner, was completed. All who attended the festive, fun-filled ImaginAuction in the parish hall on that Saturday evening were in for an additional treat. We could actually hear and understand every announcement from co-chairs Jean Tessier and Joe Occhiuto, and every clever word (and terrible jokes!) of auctioneers Frank Fallon and David Friedman.

Even more importantly, from now on members of the congregation attending worship services will be able to hear the sermon, readings, and announcements clearly, no matter where in the church they are seated. So if you seldom come to church because of a hearing problem, please give it another try.

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"THE SLEEPING BEAUTY" AND IMAGINAUCTION MADE MAY A MERRY MONTH

Heartfelt thanks to all parishioners and friends who contributed to the great success of St. Luke's spring double-header, Gingerbread Players' production of the original musical "The Sleeping Beauty" and the ImaginAuction. As you probably know, all net proceeds from St. Luke's special events go directly to our church, with 10% of that total devoted to each year's outreach

project. Although the figures are not final, to date "Sleeping Beauty" netted approximately \$18,000 and ImaginAuction's gross (expenses haven't yet been calculated) is in the neighborhood of \$10,000.

From the smallest Dewdrop on the parish hall stage to the many adults who worked tirelessly to make an "imagined auction" a reality, to those who bought tickets to the show or bid at the auction, your participation and support is deeply appreciated.

**"MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK":
ST. LUKE'S NEEDS YOURS!**

We've all heard that expression – your mother probably said it when urging you to help around the house, and it's as true now as it was then. The next time you come to church, look around you. That neatly cut grass, those carefully trimmed hedges and blossoming shrubs? They're the work of St. Luke's dedicated Lawn Brigade. Karen Van Westering's article in this issue of *The Bellringer* describes the Altar Guild's labors of love. Lectors, vestry, committee members, office helpers are all volunteers. The delicious goodies you enjoy with your coffee at hospitality hour after the 10:30 service are supplied by volunteers. Special events and projects like the Rummage Sale, ImaginAuction and Gingerbread Players productions and concerts? Volunteers.

But these are just the "outward and visible signs" of the volunteer work that enables St. Luke's to thrive. There are countless dedicated parishioners whose work behind the scenes is seldom noticed, but is equally vital since our sexton is only part-time. These noble souls mop up floods, unstop toilets, patch up the heating system, shampoo carpets, and clean up after major parish events, to mention only a few of their contributions to our church.

The operatic soprano Beverly Sills tells the story of a time when she was running late and a friend urged her to hurry because she had to sing that night at the Met. She replied, "I don't *have* to sing, I *get* to sing!" We don't *have* to contribute to St. Luke's; we *get* to do it. It is our great privilege to support our beloved church with the "Three Ts" – Time, Talent and Treasure. We all know that our financial contributions are essential to St. Luke's very existence, but so are the other two Ts. Do you have some time to give, a talent to share? Speak to a vestry member and volunteer your services. Your helping hands will be greatly appreciated.

Along these lines, St. Luke's would like to give a great big thank you to Oscar Morón for cleaning the rug in the nursery.

SCREENING MYSTERY: WHY WE FIGHT

Saint Luke's annual film study is an opportunity to experience and discuss themes in cinema that can be considered from the perspective of faith. Join us on **Wednesday, June 6 at 7:30pm** as we view and discuss "Why We Fight", a 2005 documentary (winner of the Sundance Grand Jury Award). Against the backdrop of the Iraq War, this film seeks to examine why America engages in war from a variety of perspectives: soldiers, government officials, scholars, journalists; political and economic interests and ideological factors, past and present. Upon viewing the film, we will bring a faith perspective into the conversation too.

**ST. LUKE'S CHOIR SOLOISTS
THRILLED AUDIENCE
IN JUNE 3 CONCERT**

Sunday, June 3 marked the last appearance of St. Luke's choir until September, but there was more to come from the choir's brilliant tenor and soprano soloists, Jason Robinette and MaryAnne (Mim) Paquin. Their concert, "With Love from There to Hear...love songs from around the world," took place that same afternoon at 3:00 in the parish hall. Accompanied by musical director Michael C. Haigler and ably supported by guest vocalists Jeremy J. Moore, Laura Green, Loren Silber, Todd Elliott, and St. Luke's own David Friedman, Jason and MaryAnne presented a program of classical, semi-classical and popular songs celebrating the agony and the ecstasy of love, at the end of which a large and enthusiastic audience gave these talented young artists a standing ovation.

**PARISH PICNIC JUNE 17,
RAIN OR SHINE**

All are warmly invited to St. Luke's annual spring picnic on Sunday, June 17, after the 10:30 service. And by all means invite a friend (or two or three or more) to enjoy our famous hospitality and delicious food. You won't have to sit on the grass – tables and chairs will be set up in the parish hall, and on the lawn as well if the weather is fine. Please indicate on the sign-up sheet in the narthex or at coffee hour what dish you'll be bringing to share – main course, side dish, salad, or dessert. Beverages will be provided.

**JUNIOR FESTIVAL CHOIR
TO PARTICIPATE IN CELEBRATION
OF YOUTH MINISTRIES**

On Sunday, June 17, our Celebration of Youth Ministries at the 10:30am service will be enhanced by the presence of the Junior Festival Choir, a group of dedicated young singers drawn from the parish and from

the Gingerbread Players, an extension of our parish family. The choir will perform selections by Maurice Green and Heinrich Schutz, and the children and their families will be our guests at our parish picnic.

Several faces in the choir will be familiar from their recent appearances in "The Sleeping Beauty." The Festival Choir gives our own youngsters the chance to prolong the friendships they have formed during the spring show and offers Players who are not yet parishioners the chance to see the spiritual side of St. Luke's during Sunday worship, and to understand that our theatrical ventures are just one side of the various ministries their onstage efforts help support. Of course, it also gives all participants a chance to make a joyful noise unto the Lord, who is the best audience of all.

— Louise Guinther



JUNE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

June 3	Michael Boyce
June 3	Lori Sbordone
June 5	Steven Seligman
June 6	Joey Dinas
June 6	Sheila Miller
June 8	Joyce Egginton
June 9	Varghese K. Varghese
June 9	Alberta Haynes and Tipton Carlson (A)
June 14	Georgina Smith
June 15	Shibu Varghese
June 16	Pamela Domesticco
June 18	Shirley Vickers
June 20	Elijah Williams
June 21	Lucia Tasker
June 21	Tipton Carlson
June 24	Marguerite Molloy
June 25	Shibu and Shalini Varghese (A)
June 25	Jim Bates



COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

!CFrom 11:00am to 3:00pm on Saturday, June 2 (rain date June 9) the Celebrations Association of Forest Hills Gardens presents the 96th annual Children's Day on Flagpole Green. Activities are open to all children and include a pet show, pony rides, face painting, foot races, food, fabulous raffle prizes, and much, much more.

!F On Sunday, June 10 St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children, a nondenominational provider of complex medical care for children with special needs, and the New York Department of Parks & Recreation are co-sponsoring Walk for St. Mary's Kids and Family Fun Day in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. Registration begins at 8:30 am. For more information, go to www.stmaryskids.org/walk or call 718-281-8890.

!# Also on June 10, the Forest Hills Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring their Annual Forest Hills Festival of the Arts on Austin Street between 69th and 72nd Roads. Fine handcrafts, paintings and art objects will be featured.

!^ From June 13 to 17 the West Side Tennis Club will play host to the first-ever New York Champions Trophy. All-time great players include John McEnroe, Guillermo Vilas, Johan Kriek, Tomas Muster, Goran Ivanisevic, Mats Wilander, Aaron Krickstein and Mikael Pernfors. For match times and ticket information, call the Champions Trophy Box Office at 718-569-0594 or visit its web site www.championstennis.us.

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SUMMER IS HEATING UP! SAVE THESE DATES IN JULY AND AUGUST

July 14 – One of our newer St. Luke's traditions is the annual **Parish Barbecue**, coming up on **Saturday, July 14** (rain date July 15). Please invite a friend to come along and see what a welcoming place our spiritual home can be.

If you would like to lend a hand in making this event a success, we need volunteers to provide potato salad, cole slaw or dessert, or take a turn flipping burgers behind the grill. We could also use a few extra lawn chairs. Please give Louise Guinther a call (718-268-6292) or drop me an e-mail (ltg@operanews.com) if you can offer any of these services.

Details in next month's Bellringer:

August 4 – Ice Cream Sociable on the lawn



August 15 – Outdoor Eucharist and picnic supper

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**St. Luke's Church Wardens,
Officers and Vestry**

Wardens: Anne Harte Su, Jonathan Wallin

Treasurer: Arthur Tasker

Asst. Treasurer: Kim Su

Clerk: Jean Tessier

Vestry: Florence Amato, Brian Percival, Frances Sergi, Allan Smith, Velma Adams, Gary Carldon, Barbara Gratz, Joe Occhiuto. Paul Dinas, David Smith, Jean Tessier, Jane Thornton

Clergy and Staff:

The Reverend Thomas F. Reese, Rector

The Reverend William A. Doubleday,
Priest Associate

William J. Stokes, Interim Organist
and Choir Director

Sally Friedman, Parish Administrator
Omar Garcia, Sexton

Office phone: 718-268-6021

e-mail: saintlukesoffice@verizon.net

Fr. Reese phone: 917-714-5647

e-mail: stlukestom@yahoo.com

www.stlukesforesthills.org



Saint Luke's Church
85 Greenway South
Forest Hills, NY 11375

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