



THE BELLRINGER

St. Luke's Church

Summer 2007

BEING ON VACATION

Dear Friends,

With summer in full swing, how many of you are practicing, getting ready for vacation? And where do you practice vacation? Where do you go to be gone? Perhaps you do your best vacationing where the sun dances on a mountain lake or the ocean's rhythmic beat stills the competing tempos of your days. Maybe it is where the brightest lights are the stars at night. Perhaps you can be stilled by a cool breeze, no matter where you are; or even by the refuge of an air-conditioned den where your summer reading is bookmarked. A place and time is needed for you to engage in the practice of vacation. It is, after all, a spiritual practice: to be still.

How are you, given the time off and once you are located in the vacation place (or even that special space close to or right in your home or backyard or green park)? How do you deal with "being off"? Can you go fishing? That is, not do you catch anything but is there anything that can catch you up in a whole lot of nothing—relaxing, wide open, no agenda, non-prioritized nothingness? How long before you start to hear an inner voice; it needn't be your cell phone ring tone. It's your own insistent tone about planning the day or what's waiting for you when you "get back". Doesn't that sound an awful lot like "Wait till your mother finds out" or "...your father gets home!" Well, if we can still hear those voices from childhood, how about also retrieving from those days, the summer ability to get lost in time and space? I can remember being captivated for hours by my grandfather's wading away from the anchored boat in the Peconic Bay, as he got lost in feeling for clams with his toes, as I got lost in the currents of tide going out and at some point its coming

back in, after a whole lot of nothing in between but the gentle turning and rocking of the boat offering me different vistas of alternating ripples and glassy bay meeting land going off into sky. I also can remember a three-year-old child being gone for two days in an empty washing machine box—castle, spaceship; I know not what—amidst the move to a new home and the arrival of a new sibling.

So how come kids have the ability to take vacation at any time? Fill in your own blanks; we have enough "good" reasons to go around. But we know what happens when we slow down willfully, when we take a breather in the midst of the so-much-going-on. What does such a practice ironically get called? Sloth, laziness, irresponsibility! Perhaps we take ourselves so seriously for fear that nobody else will. Perhaps our formal identities are so tied up in productivity that we have forgotten how to flip the sign on the shop door from "Open for Business" to "Gone Fishin'," or whateverin'...

But come on! You do remember the rocking chair and the pleasant breeze, the ice cream dripping down your chin. Take the time to vacate. Just *be*. You'll be more you as a result. And it's not just about a few weeks in the summer. The great spiritual teachers remind us that vacation is the work of an entire lifetime. The practices can be begun or renewed during a vacation; but it is not about getting away so much as it is about who you are going to bring back. So, then: where are you going this vacation? Where do you go to be gone so that you can really be present?

Have a good time.

A LITTLE REMINDER

Just a reminder that when you're on vacation,
St. Luke's isn't.

It's important that we keep our financial commitments
to our church up to date over the summer months.

SUMMER READING FOR FALL LEARNING

This coming fall an entire year of educational programming will be presented under the title of "*Fundamentals and Fundamentalism.*"

Reading will include fiction, memoir, sociological research and investigative reporting; and the Bible, too. We will begin with Margaret Atwood's [The Handmaid's Tale](#), a fictional and provocative suggestion of what happens when those in power use religion to extend power's reach.

This will be followed by the Rector's own Master's research on Comparative Religious Fundamentalism (Islamic, Jewish, Christian) being applied as a lens through which to consider what is presently taking place in the Episcopal/Anglican arc of church life.

For a closer look at various strains of religious fundamentalism in the USA, we will read from [American Fascists: the Christian Right and the War on America](#) by Chris Hedges, and Michelle Goldberg's [Kingdom Coming: The Rise of Christian Nationalism](#).

Then, with a hopeful view to peaceful and faithful coexistence, we will look at [Peace Be Upon You: The Story of Muslim, Christian and Jewish Coexistence](#) by Zachary Karabell. Throughout the program year there will be modules of Bible Study when we not only consider various reading practices for studying the Bible but also the key concepts and people of The Bible.

To round out the book list (which will also include various reprints of articles) we will read [Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith](#). Written by Episcopal priest and celebrated writer/preacher Barbara Brown Taylor, this book is a wonderful reflection on faith, struggle and ministry.

Word from the Rector is that all these books are a compelling read. [The Handmaid's Tale](#) and [Leaving Church](#) are in paperback and travel well as quintessential summer reading. Journalist Michelle Goldberg's reporting reads like a series of magazine articles and leaves you with a lot to think about.

ST. LUKE'S WORSHIP COMMITTEE

This is the second in a series of articles about St. Luke's parish committees.

Ours is one of the quieter committees. We are not very visible, and what we do is usually done behind the scenes. It is, of course, the Rector's prerogative to determine the form and style of worship; it is our job to assist and support him, and to make suggestions.

Since Father Tom Reese came to St. Luke's in 2000 he has introduced the parish to a variety of styles of worship from different Anglican communions and from different periods of church history. Several months ago we had a glorious choral service of Evensong in the traditional English style, and we shall have more. This is a church that enhances the worship experience because the architecture and the stained glass are so beautiful. But it has its constraints, too, and one of the things our committee talks about is how to work around them and how best to enhance corporate worship.

In addition to working closely with the Rector, the Worship Committee also helps to give support and direction to the various ministries: the Altar Guild, the Eucharistic Ministers, Acolytes, Lectors and Ushers. If any of these forms of service interests you, please don't hesitate to contact Paul Dinas or me. Corporate worship depends not only on those who take part, but also on those who help to make it memorable.

– Joyce Egginton

SINGING WITH THE EPISCOPALIANS

The following excerpt from an article by Garrison Keillor was printed in an Episcopal parish newsletter. The article was originally about Lutherans, but someone cleverly changed the denomination. Amazing how well it applies to Episcopalians!

Episcopalians like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas. It's natural for Episcopalians to sing in harmony. We are too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison. By joining in harmony, we somehow promise that we will not forsake each other.

Episcopalians feel that applauding for their children's choirs will not make the kids too proud and conceited. Episcopalians believe that it is OK to poke fun at themselves, and never take themselves too seriously.

Episcopalians believe in prayer but would rather die if asked to pray out loud. Episcopalians think that the Bible forbids them from crossing the aisle while passing the peace. Episcopalians believe their rectors will visit them in the hospital even if they don't notify them that they are there. Episcopalians feel guilty about not staying to clean up after their own wedding reception in the parish hall.

You know you are Episcopalian when:
You hear something really funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can; it's 100 degrees with 90% humidity and you still want coffee after the service; you watch a Star Wars movie and when they say, "May the Force be with you," you respond, "and also with you."

LOOKING AHEAD

2007 FOREST HILLS
COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE
SATURDAY JULY 28 - SUNDAY JULY 29

"As ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

St. Luke's, along with other local churches and synagogues, will participate in this year's Food Drive in support of the Interfaith Hunger Network of Queens. Joanna Guinther is looking for parishioners who would be available on July 28 in two-hour stints from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm to accept donations of food at the Associated Supermarket on 64th Road just off 108th St. To volunteer, please contact Joanna (jbg23@verizon.net) or call the church office (718-268-6021).

Food items may also be dropped off from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm all weekend at The Church in the Gardens Parish House, 50 Ascan Avenue, at The Christian Science Reading Room, 2 Station Square from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm on Saturday and from 1:00 to 4:00 pm on Sunday, and at St. Luke's during the service on Sunday. Please note that fresh foods and items in glass containers cannot be accepted. Top priority foods requested are canned beef stew, tuna, and corned beef hash, hot cereals, powdered milk, 46-ounce cans of fruit juice, and peanut butter.

Donations may be made by check to the Queens Interfaith Hunger Network. You can also donate by attending the Church in the Gardens' fundraising picnic on August 19th. For more details, call Church in the Gardens at 718-268-6704.

Sorry, folks. The Ice Cream Sociable, originally scheduled for Saturday, August 4, will not take place.

SAVE THE DATE: AUGUST 15 OUTDOOR HOLY EUCHARIST AND PICNIC SUPPER

On Wednesday, August 15, The Feast of Saint Mary the Virgin, all are warmly invited to gather on St. Luke's lawn at 7:00 pm for Holy Eucharist, followed by a potluck picnic supper. In the event of inclement weather, the service and picnic will be held indoors. Please call the church office 718-268-6021 by Monday, August 12 and let Sally Friedman know what dish you will be bringing to share (cold entrée, side dish, salad, dessert) and how many will be attending. Beverages will be provided.

LENTEN PROJECT BENEFITS THE GUIDE DOG FOUNDATION

This past Lent we were all inspired by a visit from Albert Rizzi and his dog, Doxology, who showed us the tremendous difference a companion animal can make in a blind person's life. Thanks to the participation of the entire parish, through pretzels and bake sales and card sales and self-denial offerings, the people of St. Luke's raised \$1450 to help others like Albert. The entire amount was donated to the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, which raises and trains seeing-eye dogs, and provides them free of charge to disabled people to enhance their independence and mobility. Many thanks to all who participated! There are many other ways we can help, including volunteering to walk the puppies in training. Visit www.guidedog.org to learn more.

– Joanna Guinther

A SUMMER BENEDICTION

Deep peace of the running wave to you
Deep peace of the flowing air to you
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you
Deep peace of the shining stars to you
Deep peace of the gentle night to you
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.

– Traditional Gaelic blessing

OPEN WIDE OUR DOORS

It took over two years to track down the few craftsman in the neighborhood known to have the expertise to do the custom job of replacing the rotting fascia boards over the parish hall entrance. The tougher part was getting one of those fellows to do it. But we were fortunate that the father of one of our newest Gingerbread members was up to the task. And promising his daughter the lead role in the next spring production seemed like a small price to pay (just kidding).

In blinding speed (which for construction work means, a week), not only were the boards cut to the original design and carefully put into place, there was a general sprucing up of our front, including restoration of our beautiful wood entry doors for both the church and parish house, the finishing off of the parish hall stairwell (with initial replastering and repair done by parishioners), repainting of window trim and grills and handrails and, last but definitely not least, a substantial reduction in the squeaking of the sliding door leading from the parish hall into the church that has, in the past, been the *de facto* but not-so-charming signal for the beginning of our service every Sunday.

Next time you are at the church, take a look around. You will like what you see.

– Jim Chamberlain



JULY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

July 2	Wayne and Sally Baxter (A)
July 6	Denise Presnick
July 8	Sally Baxter
July 9	Ann Espenschied
July 9	Shannon O'Rourke
July 10	Hedi Hoffman
July 12	Camilla Chodkowski
July 13	The Rev. Thomas Reese
July 13	Carl Young
July 19	Olivia Smith
July 22	Ian Ryding

July 24	Nathan LoPinto
July 27	David Pentlow
July 31	Jacqueline (Jackie) Dinas
July 31	Frances Sergi

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

August 4	Paul Dinas
August 8	Sophie LoPinto
August 11	Whitney Schott
August 12	Jennifer Stewart
August 14	Tina O'Mard
August 18	Dolores Parker
August 18	Jim and Ann Chamberlain (A)
August 25	Fred Guinther
August 25	Melanie Chakmakjian
August 27	Sally Hagwood
August 27	Karen and Jim Van Westering (A)



COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

- ✓ The Queens Symphony Orchestra will be holding free concerts this summer on the following dates: Thursday, Aug. 2, 7:00 pm at St. John's University Great Lawn; Sunday, Aug. 5, and Sunday, Aug. 12 at 5:00 pm at the Seuffert Band Shell in Forest Park.
- ✓ The Forest Hills Chamber of Commerce will sponsor free outdoor concerts on Thursday, Aug. 9, Thursday, Aug. 16, and Thursday, Aug. 23 at 5:30 pm, rain or shine. Concerts will be held on 70th Road between Queens Boulevard and Austin Street.
- ✓ The annual "National Night Out Against Crime" sponsored by the 112th Precinct will be held on Tuesday, August 7th from 6:00 to 9:00 pm in MacDonald Park (Queens/Yellowstone Boulevards), rain location, Forest Hills Jewish Center. The program will feature safety information, demonstrations, free music and free food.

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

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