

# THE BELLRINGER

## St. Luke's Church

Forest Hills

September 2008

### KEEP IN TOUCH

Dear Friends,

Each summer I become especially sensitive to a change that occurred in our culture a long time ago. Part of it has to do with mobility and how much easier it became for people to travel. Another factor was how Sunday ceased to be reserved as a church-going/family visiting day and instead became everything from a children's sports program day to an extra shopping day. However, my reason for raising this issue is not to bemoan cultural shifts but to point out at least one "cause and effect."

Because any member of a congregation might be somewhere other than in the pew on a Sunday morning; because it is not uncommon for an individual or a whole family to be absent from church two or even three weeks running during certain seasons, we no longer are as quick to ask "Gee, where is So-and-so? We haven't seen him/her/them in awhile." Now, we are more likely to conclude from a church absence that people are fine, healthy, etc., but away or unable to attend in that period.

The problem with this assumption is that we are liable, on occasion, to be unaware that a member of our congregation is experiencing a difficulty—an illness or other troubling life circumstance. As a result, I suggest that members of the parish sometimes err on the side of caution and care. If someone you know, even if you only know them from church, seems to have been away from Saint Luke's for a few weeks, why not give that person a call, or even send an email just to say "Hello," just to

make sure. In other words, *keep in touch*. Even if only one out of five times proves to be a situation where someone was experiencing a hard time, that one time is worth keeping in touch. In fact, so too are the other four. There's nothing wrong in this crazy world of ours with just saying, "Hi. You have been missed lately."

There's one more facet to keeping in touch at Saint Luke's. If you yourself are going through a hard time—be it illness that's keeping you homebound, or a pending hospitalization, a family or friend crisis that will take you away from the area for awhile, or another situation that has laid you low—please contact the church. I will keep your situation confidential, or contact the Inreach Committee as appropriate to each circumstance. You can reach me in any of three ways:

• During office hours (Tuesday through Friday, 9am-2pm) call 718-268-6021.

• After hours, call me direct at 917-714-5647, or

• Email me at [stlukestom@yahoo.com](mailto:stlukestom@yahoo.com)

(Please note, though: On Mondays, my day off, I am not available.)

Keeping in touch is part of the Incarnation! God takes on flesh and blood in Christ. We participate in Christ, we are co-creative with God, when we touch, when we keep in touch. The Real Presence of Christ is experienced by such simple acts.

Yours in Christ,

Tom

**+āREMINDER ++**

The Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing continues every Wednesday at 10:00am in the chapel off the narthex. Whether or not you are able to attend, there is a book on a pedestal at the chapel entrance where you can write down special prayer requests for healing and support, for yourself or for others. These prayers will be offered during the liturgy.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7:  
POST-8:30 “COFFEE BREAK”**

A number of new young families attend Saint Luke’s 8:30am liturgy, as do many long-time parishioners. In order to help everyone get to know each other better, the Inreach Committee is hosting a refreshment break in the narthex after the 8:30 service on September 7<sup>th</sup>. If you will be attending that service, why not plan on staying a little longer and sharing coffee and conversation? You’re bound to meet some very interesting people!

**HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE  
SEEKING VOLUNTEERS**

Would you enjoy occasionally playing host to your fellow parishioners at coffee hour? It’s not an onerous task – your services would only be required every three or four months – and two people generally do it together, so you can serve with a friend. If this interests you, please contact Hospitality Co-chairs Jean Tessier (718-592-1971, [jean.tessier@twcable.com](mailto:jean.tessier@twcable.com)) or Louise Foisy (718-575-1767, [lmf325@aol.com](mailto:lmf325@aol.com)).

**CHURCH SCHOOL RESUMES  
AND CHOIR RETURNS  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

As fall approaches, we look forward with eager anticipation to the return of our Church School children and teachers, and the glorious voices of our choir making a joyful noise unto the Lord at the 10:30am liturgy on September 14. All the hymns at that service will be related to

making music as worship of God and celebrating our life together.

During the 10:30 liturgy, nursery care is provided for infants and toddlers. Church School classes begin at 10:30am in the lower level of the parish hall for children of kindergarten age and up. They will rejoin their families in the church at the Peace.

**ADULT FORUM ON  
LAMBETH CONFERENCE  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

On the twenty-first, Tom Reese will make a presentation at 12:00 noon on the proceedings of the Lambeth Conference that took place this past July. In addition to the Conference, the June meeting in Jerusalem of bishops who refused to attend Lambeth will be discussed.

What does all this mean for the Episcopal Church USA? Following the presentation there will be a period for questions and responses.

**2008 PARISH DIRECTORY  
AVAILABLE**

Saint Luke’s Parish Directory is constantly being updated and each “New Revised Standard Version” is published annually in September. You can pick up a copy of the 2008 Edition in the narthex beginning September 14<sup>th</sup>. When you do, please check the listing of birthdays and anniversaries in the back of the Directory. If your dates are not there and you would like them to be, please submit the information to the parish office so it can be added to our master list.

**RECRUITING ADULT  
ACOLYTES AND CRUCIFERS**

Saint Luke’s is fortunate in having many families with very young children. But we’re running short of older children who are capable of acting as crucifers and acolytes at the 10:30am Sunday liturgy. Therefore, we are looking for adult parishioners who would consider assisting Father Tom and the Eucharistic Ministers in these capacities. Training, of course, will be provided. If you are interested and would like more information,

please contact Father Tom at your earliest convenience.

### **CAN YOU HELP DELIVER GOD'S LOVE?**

As many of you already know, Saint Luke's Outreach Committee has arranged for a number of parishioners to bring nutritious meals once a week throughout the summer to ailing clients of God's Love We Deliver (GLWD) in the Forest Hills-Rego Park area. Thanks to the dedication of the eight drivers and riders already on board, each team of two volunteers needs to make only one delivery a month. We have extended our participation in this vital ministry until the end of the year, but if we are to continue in 2009, more helpers are needed.

If you would like to become involved in GLWD and are free from 11:00am to approximately 1:00pm on Wednesdays, have access to a car or are willing to ride with a fellow volunteer who does, please contact Joanna Guinther (718-268-6292, [jbg23@verizon.net](mailto:jbg23@verizon.net)) or Barbara Gratz (718-418-8186, [barbaragratz@yahoo.com](mailto:barbaragratz@yahoo.com)). They will be glad to give you any information you may require.

### **SAINT FRANCIS CELEBRATION SEPTEMBER 28, INCLUDING THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

On the 28<sup>th</sup> we will honor Saint Francis of Assisi at the 8:30 and 10:30 liturgies by offering Prayers for All Creation. The 10:30 service will be followed by the blessing of "all creatures great and small" on the church lawn at 12:00 noon.

If you feel your pet would benefit from being blessed, please bring him/her (suitably restrained) to the ceremony. And if transporting the actual animal is a problem, a photograph will do.

### **COMING IN OCTOBER – SAVE THE DATES!**

### **SAINT LUKE'S DAY AND 95<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19 AT 10:30AM**

Everyone is invited to participate in our special celebration as we mark the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our parish. The liturgy of the day will focus on Christ the Healer – a significant theme in the Gospel according to Saint Luke, who by tradition is believed to have been a physician.

Special choral music is being planned, and a festive parish luncheon will take place following the 10:30 liturgy. Furthermore, since our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary is only five years away, the Centennial Committee is preparing a small archives exhibit to be on display during our luncheon. **Please save the date now!**

### **CONTINUITY AND CHANGE: SAINT LUKE'S CHURCH IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

Look for a letter in the mail from the Rector, in which he will outline a parish-wide discussion about our parish's ongoing life and ministry. The discussion will begin with a series of mid-October "Dessert Meetings" hosted by parishioners in their homes. Everyone will be encouraged to sign up for one of these small group gatherings led by Father Tom. The meetings will be scheduled in a variety of time slots convenient to church members.

**A YEAR OF FORMATION IN FAITH  
2008 – Adult Christian Education at Saint Luke’s Church – 2009**

***WHAT IF...? – Sunday, October 12 at noon***

What if people gathered to tell what they already know of God instead of what they are supposed to believe? Come and see, as we listen to each other’s understanding of faith.

***REAL PRESENCE – Sunday, November 9 at noon***

When did you last experience love with God (whether your loving God or your sensing God’s love of you)? Where is the center of meaning in your life these days? Has anything been threatening it? Our faith in Christ is incarnational. How do you live out your commitment to become fully human? That is, how do you honor and remember your body as well as your mind; the Spirit within you; God’s creation around you?

***THE WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE – Wednesday, November 12 at 7:30pm***

In what ways are you feeling not at home, or out of place, in the world? Do you ever experience feeling not at home or out of joint in the church? Have you had expectations of church that have not come through for you?

***WE ARE IN FOR A CHANGE: An Advent Bible Study – Sundays, November 30 and December 7, 14 and 21 at noon***

You have heard it said that when a baby is born, especially if it is the firstborn, the parents are in for a real change. Well, we are preparing for the birth of Jesus. Are we ready for the changes such a birth brings?

***“SABBATH TIME” : Day-long Parish Retreat – Saturday, February 7, 2009***

Just what does it mean to “Keep holy the Sabbath”? A prayerful time, an interactive time, a Sabbath time together.

***IS THIS ANY WAY TO TALK TO GOD? – Sunday, February 15 at noon***

Science fiction writer Octavia Butler wrote a short story called *The Book of Martha*. We will read it and compare notes.

***THE SPIRITUALITY OF FELLOWSHIP: Saint Luke’s Annual Lenten Series – Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1***

Our evening Holy Eucharist and simple shared supper will be centered on a consideration of “Fellowship”: Body of Christ, Parish Body/Gatherings and Hospitality, Spirituality of Cooking, and more.

***PILGRIMAGE – Wednesday, May 6 at 7:30pm***

We walk in the apostles’ footsteps through reading scripture. We can actually visit the ancient Biblical locations. We can set out in any direction because the pilgrim’s journey outward is also one’s traveling inward, which sends us out again to the other. The Rector will share some of his experiences of spiritual journey in Turkey, Greece, and Taiwan.

### **LET'S GET READY TO RUMMAGE!**

The annual Saint Luke's Rummage Sale is set for **Saturday, Oct. 4, from 10:00am to 4:00pm, and Sunday, Oct. 5, 12:00 noon to 4:00pm.** Although the sale is a week earlier than usual, there's plenty of time in the weeks leading up to the sale to transform our parish hall into a fabulous emporium.

But there's more to the Rummage Sale than mere merchandising. As one of our top fundraising events of the year, it provides vital support not only for our own ministry but for our annual outreach grant to a worthy charity. It also gives us a chance to open our doors to the wider community and show the friendly face of Saint Luke's to the outside world. And for parishioners, of course, it's the perfect chance to get to know one another better in the unique atmosphere of dedication, fellowship, semi-controlled chaos and pure hilarity that characterizes the Rummage Sale.

No matter where your strengths may lie, we have the perfect opening for you — no experience required. The following list of options will give you a good idea of where you will best fit in to the Wonderful World of Rummage. All you have to do is complete the form on the next page and return it to the church office or drop it in the offering plate any Sunday. Or you can seek us out at coffee hour and let us know how you'd like to help.

Velma Adams  
Carol Khare  
Rummage Co-chairs

### **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

#### **RECEIVING/COLLECTION:**

Volunteers are needed in the parish hall to cover receiving hours on weekends between Saturday, August 30 and Sunday, September 21. We will be open on Saturdays from

10:00am to 12:00 noon and Sundays 12 Noon to 1:00 pm. All you have to do is direct donors to place their contributions onstage. Receipts are available for those who request them for tax purposes.

**PLEASE NOTE: We will NOT be accepting computers, shoes, large furniture items or children's toys this year.**

#### **SPREADING THE WORD:**

Stacks of flyers are available in the parish hall — one to notify people of our collecting hours, another to advertise the event. Take a few home with you and distribute them to your neighbors and friends.

#### **SET-UP/CLEAN-UP CREW:**

Who needs a personal trainer when you can get a healthy workout hauling tables and clothing racks upstairs and distributing the accumulated rummage? At the end of the sale, you'll get another chance to tone those muscles when we strike the Rummage set and pack away the leftover treasures for delivery to a local organization serving needy families.

#### **SORTING AND PRICING:**

The anthropologically curious will find endless entertainment in exploring and categorizing items ranging from the ridiculous to the sublime. Daytime and evening sorting sessions are planned for the two weeks before the sale, times to be announced. We want to make our displays attractive with usable items only. This will challenge your creativity.

#### **FOOD PREPARATION:**

Jean Tessier will need help in the kitchen before and during the sale, as well as cookies, cakes, etc., to keep the shoppers well-fed and happy.

#### **DEPARTMENT HEADS/SALES**

**STAFF:** Several departments are in want of leadership, so here's your big chance! Many of our regular department heads have

become veritable local celebrities through their rummage-time exposure. Every department needs staffers to keep the merchandise moving and the money rolling

in. Some of our sales force are wheelers and dealers; others take a more laid-back approach. No experience necessary; haggling is optional.

Please contact Carol Khare (718-275-6350, caroljohnathan@aol.com) or Velma Adams (718-969-4657, velmaal@hotmail.com) with any questions.

**RUMMAGE SIGN-UP**

**I WOULD LIKE TO HELP IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:**

¶**RECEIVING/COLLECTION:** Donations will be accepted on Saturdays and Sundays, beginning **Saturday, August 30 from 10:00am to 12:00 noon.**

¶**SPREADING THE WORD:** Be part of our grass-roots PR efforts and help us out by getting our flyers into as many hands as possible.

¶**SET-UP AND CLEAN-UP:** Setup day is Saturday, September 20th at 10:00am. The selling areas will be set up on Sunday, September 28. After the sale on Sunday, October 5th the clean-up committee takes over from 4:00 to 7:00pm.

¶**SORTING AND PRICING:** Daytime and evening sorting sessions will be held during the two weeks leading up to the sale.

¶**BAKING/SNACK BAR:** Volunteers are needed for pre-sale shopping and food prep, as well as contributions of cookies, cakes, etc.

¶ **SELLING:** Sign up for all or part of one or both days.

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **TELEPHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**h** -----

***MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE***  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 AT 10:30AM**

***VOTE FOR YOUR THREE FAVORITE HYMNS***

The top 3 vote-getters will be chosen for the September 14 Holy Eucharist. Please list hymn numbers from *The Hymnal 1982* and put this form in the offering plate or return it to the church office no later than Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_



### **SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

- 3 Vera Morón
- 3 Luke Dinan
- 7 Dolly Guinther
- 9 Kelsey Reese
- 12 Jeanine McPartlin
- 14 Thaddeus & Nancy Baxter (A)
- 15 David & Georgina Smith (A)
- 20 Edna & Joseph Boyce (A)
- 22 Thaddeus Baxter
- 23 Denise & Ray Presnick (A)
- 29 Pamela Williams

**St. Luke's Church Vestry**

**Rector:** The Reverend Thomas F. Reese  
**Wardens:** Anne Harte Su, Jonathan Wallin  
**Vestry:** Sandra Baker, Dennis Khare, Frances Sergi, Allan Smith, Velma Adams, Gary Carldon, Barbara Gratz, Joe Occhiuto, Paul Dinas, David Smith, Jean Tessier, Jane Thornton  
**Treasurer:** Arthur Tasker  
**Clerk:** Jean Tessier

**Parish Staff**

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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e-mail: [stlukesoffice@verizon.net](mailto:stlukesoffice@verizon.net)  
Fr. Reese phone: 917-714-5647  
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