

THE BELLRINGER

St. Luke's Church

Forest Hills

Summer 2008

2008 VESTRY RETREAT

Dear Friends,

Saint Luke's Annual Vestry Retreat, held each year in May or June, is an opportunity to look back over the programs and events that have taken place as well as to plan for the upcoming "year" that begins in September. The recent retreat was no exception except that, as we approach 2009, we realize we will be entering Year 10 of our intentional 10-year plan for congregational development and growth as Saint Luke's Church. In a very real way, Year Ten will actually become Year One of a new plan. The vestry took most of its retreat time to discuss what we have learned about ourselves as a faith community since we began our Growth Plan in 2000.

To share our insights and to seek your input and feedback, we will have a special fall program: "*Continuity and Change: Saint Luke's Church in the 21st Century*". A series of conversations with the Rector, hosted by parishioners in their homes, will gather in groups of seven to nine parish members. "Conversations" will be scheduled for various times and days of the week so that all parishioners will have the opportunity to sign up and participate in one of the gatherings. These conversations will be instrumental as we fashion our parish agenda for the next three to five years. Much more will be publicized about these conversations as summer draws to a close.

The retreat was also a time to reflect on the fact that Saint Luke's 100th Anniversary is less than five years away—2013 – and this year, 2008, is our 95th Anniversary. On Sunday, October 19 we will have a special 95th Anniversary Celebration of The Holy Eucharist, followed by a Parish Luncheon with presentation on events

leading up to our 100th, as well as an exhibit of Saint Luke's archives and memorabilia. More details to come.

A portion of the retreat time was also dedicated to a list of projects. Thanks to a generous gift, the vestry is in the first phases of seeking to construct an accessibility ramp for barrier-free access to the church. Presently, we are arranging with an architect for drawings as well as the proper filings and petitions with the New York City building department and Forest Hills Gardens Corporation.

Another very important project is an assessment of the church electrical system. The wiring throughout much of the church is antiquated, and the cost of repair, replacement and upgrade is expected to be high. We are in the process of consulting with electricians, receiving estimates, and seeking to develop a staged plan of implementation.

Kitchen renovation, too, has long been on the mind of everyone who uses the kitchen throughout the year, from Sunday Hospitality volunteers to parish supper cooks, and the more extensive usage of the Rummage Sale and ImaginAuction dinner. We are meeting with parishioners who use the kitchen most to test some provisional sketches for renovation. Our ability to upgrade the kitchen as a better working space for the many events that take place at Saint Luke's each year will depend on costs of other needed work.

From a different perspective, the Vestry Retreat also dedicated time to considering an expanded ministry in/with the community-at-large that might also be an additional revenue source, as well as making good weekday use of our facilities. We are currently working on developing a needs assessment tool and writing draft grant proposals for the possibility of

beginning an After-School Tutoring and Mentoring Program at Saint Luke's. This is in the early stages, and you will certainly be hearing more.

The retreat also focused on individual and corporate prayer, as well as Bible reflection time. The overall theme of the retreat was Revisioning; we looked back over the years in order to see what we have learned and then considered ways of moving forward as we continue to faithfully discern how best to be The Church now and into the future.

This fall's upcoming series of "Conversations" will be very important. Please be on the lookout for the materials that will reach you in early September, as well as in the September *Bellringer*. In the meantime, may your summer continue well.

Faithfully yours,

PARISH BARBECUE SATURDAY, JULY 19

Ever since its inauguration a few years back, Saint Luke's annual barbecue has become one of the traditional highlights of the summer season. You won't want to miss out on the fun, so mark your calendars (rain date July 20).

This year's festivities begin at 5:00pm on the parish lawn and continue until the food runs out or darkness falls, whichever comes first. It's a real barbecue bargain -- for a mere \$5 you get burgers, hot dogs, salads, dessert and beverages, and the companionship of your fellow parishioners and friends. Sign-up sheets are available in the narthex and at coffee hour, so please let us know you're coming and if you'll be bringing guests.

This year we're not asking for contributions of side dishes, but we can always use extra lawn chairs. And volunteers to lend a hand at the grills would be greatly appreciated. If you can

help, please give Louise Guinther a call at 718-268-6292 or e-mail her at ltg@operanews.com.

FOREST HILLS COMMUNITY SUMMER FOOD DRIVE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JULY 26 AND 27

"As ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Hunger never takes a vacation. Most of the rest of us do, and as a result, supplies in food pantries often become depleted. To combat this trend, Saint Luke's is once again participating in the Interfaith Hunger Network of Queens annual effort to keep local food pantries well stocked. Local churches and synagogues have teamed up to collect food at their services and at neighborhood supermarkets.

The Outreach Committee needs your help in a number of ways:

1. **Sign up to work at our table** at the Associated Supermarket on 64th Road just off 108th St. (easily accessible by bus). We plan to be there from 9:00am to 5:00pm on Saturday, July 26. We need at least two people for each of four 2-hour shifts. We also need volunteer drivers to bring the table and boxes there at 9:00 and back to the church at 5:00.

2. **Donate food at one of the collection sites** or at church on Sunday, July 27th. Most needed items are beef stew, corned beef hash, hot cereals, powdered milk, 46-ounce cans of fruit juice, peanut butter, tuna fish, canned fruit and vegetables, baby food, soups, spaghetti sauce, sugar, lentils and beans, rice, noodles, macaroni, tea bags, Jello pudding. **NO GLASS CONTAINERS OR PERISHABLES, PLEASE.** Cash and checks made out to Interfaith Hunger Network of Queens are also welcome.

3. **Help deliver the food** to the Church in the Gardens right after our 10:30 service on Sunday the 27th. We need able bodies and drivers to load and unload what we hope will be a huge take.

Sign-up sheets are available at coffee hour, or e-mail Joanna Guinther at jbg23@verizon.net.

FIRST COMMUNION

On Sunday, June 15th as we celebrated Saint Luke's youth ministry at the 10:30 service, three young parishioners, Ian Ryding, Maria Ryding, and Nitin Varghese, made their First Communion. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Our parish family continues to change and grow, for which we may all say fervently, "Thanks be to God!" We warmly welcome the ten families and individuals who have joined Saint Luke's over the past few months and look forward to welcoming many more in the months and years to come. Until the revised Directory is released in September, the names and contact information of our ten newest members are listed on a separate sheet in the narthex. Please pick up a copy and keep it with your 2007 Directory for reference.

2008-2009 Directory Listings – Anything New?

And speaking of changes, has your street address, phone number, or e-mail address changed since the publication of the 2007 Directory? If so, please let Sally Friedman know so she can update your information for the new edition.

SAINT LUKE'S VOLUNTEERS HELP GOD'S LOVE WE DELIVER KEEP DELIVERING ALL SUMMER

In early June, the Outreach Committee sponsored a meeting for all parishioners interested in helping GLWD bring food to our seriously ill neighbors throughout the summer. Teams of two people go to Temple Isaiah on Queens Boulevard one day a week, where they pick up bags containing meals designated for specific clients and deliver them to the clients' homes. Many thanks to all who volunteered: Sandra Baker, Chris Dippel, Dolly Guinther, Joanna Guinther, Carol Khare, Ken Portz, Denise Presnick, Lori Sbordone, Frances Sergi, and Jane Thornton.

Saint Luke's participation in this vital program began on June 25 and will continue until at least the end of August, with the possibility of becoming a year-long commitment. To find out more about the program and about becoming a volunteer, contact Outreach Committee co-chairs Barbara Gratz (barbaragratz@yahoo.com) or Joanna Guinther.

THANK YOU, VELMA ADAMS!

While organist and choir director Bill Stokes is on vacation, our tight budget only allows for guest organists on four summer Sundays. We are grateful to Velma, whose willingness to share her musical gifts by playing the piano on the remaining Sundays makes it possible for us to make a joyful noise to the Lord each week.

SAVE THE DATE: AUGUST 6 OUTDOOR EUCHARIST AND PICNIC SUPPER

One of Saint Luke's newer summer traditions is celebrating the Holy Eucharist on the church lawn. This year we will celebrate and pray for peace on August 6, The Feast of the Transfiguration. All are warmly invited to gather at 7:00pm for the service, followed by a potluck picnic. In case of inclement weather, the service and picnic will be held indoors.

Please sign up on the sheets in the narthex and at coffee hour, indicating how many will be in your party and what dish you will bring to share (cold entrée, side dish, salad, dessert), or call Sally Friedman in the church office (718-268-6021) by Thursday, July 31.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, August 17, 10:30am: Church-in-the-Gardens worships at Saint Luke's

Sunday, August 24, 10:00am: Saint Luke's worships at Church-in-the-Gardens. (Note that on those dates Holy Eucharist is celebrated at 8:30am here at Saint Luke's as usual.)

**2008 IS SAINT LUKE'S 95TH
ANNIVERSARY YEAR**

**Archivist Allan Smith Urges Us
to Take a Closer Look at**

Our Beautiful Stained Glass Windows

In the April 15, 2008 issue of the New York Times, there was a feature story on the major restoration of the stained glass of Saint Thomas Episcopal Church on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan. The St. Thomas windows, some 32 feet tall by 18 feet wide, were made by James Powell & Sons of Whitefriars in London. The firm, now out of business, had a revered reputation and signed their windows with a small portrait of a white-robed friar. We have documents in Saint Luke's archives to prove that the windows of our church were designed and executed by the same firm.

After color photographs appeared in the Times showing the famous Whitefriars symbol, a closer examination of our windows revealed that at least two of our nave windows, both facing Harrow Street, have the same symbol in the lower right bottom corner. The most easily recognizable is in the Day of Pentecost window (the one closest to the lectern). The Whitefriars symbol, approximately one-half inch wide and one inch high, is in white glass in the lower right corner with the date 1948 below. In light green glass are the words "Made in Gr. Britain." The second symbol appears in the Last Supper window (the one closest to the narthex). Again, the symbol is in the lower right corner in white glass with a date 194(?) below. (The last digit is unclear.)

Some of the nave windows facing the lawn have signatures only, hand-painted on the glass. In the window depicting Jesus' Childhood in the Carpentry Shop (the second one to the right of the narthex), the words "Henry W. Young, New York" appears in white glass in the lower right corner. The window closest to the pulpit, The Calling of the First Apostles, contains the words "W. Lakeman 1944." Perhaps these are

the names of the artisans who executed the window designs.

The lancet windows over the High Altar reredos and the tower lancet windows do not appear to contain either the Whitefriars symbol or signatures, but the height of these windows above the floor makes an exact determination difficult.

—Allan Smith



**JULY BIRTHDAYS AND
ANNIVERSARIES**

2	Sally and Wayne Baxter (A)
6	Christopher Dippel
6	Denise Presnick
6	Robin Resin
8	Sally Baxter
9	Ann Espenschied
9	Dennis Khare
9	Shannon O'Rourke
10	Hedi Hoffman
12	Camilla Chodkowski
13	Thomas Reese
14	Carol and Dennis Khare (A)
19	Olivia Smith
22	Ian Ryding
27	David Pentlow
31	Jacqueline Dinas, Frances Sergi

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS AND
ANNIVERSARIES**

4	Paul Dinas
11	Whitney Schott
12	Jennifer Stewart
18	Ann and Jim Chamberlain (A)
18	Dolores Parker
19	Daisy Ludwig
25	Melanie Chakmakjian
25	Fred Guinther

- 27 Sally Hagwood
27 Karen and Jim Van Westering (A)

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
Asst. Treasurer: Kim Su
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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