



SEPTEMBER 2010

2011 – 2013

### *Three-Year Strategic Parish Plan*

Dear Friends,

By now, you are well aware that 2013 is the parish's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Commencing on Saint Luke's Day 2012 and running through our patron's feast weekend in 2013, we will have a year-long celebration that includes a Eucharistic liturgy from a century ago, a Service of Evening Prayer that begins on the spot in Station Square where our parish forbears first gathered, a new hymn commissioned for the Centennial and composed by our own organist/choir director, an Episcopal visitation by our new Bishop Lawrence Provenzano, a unique production by the Gingerbread Players, a Centennial Fund Drive in support of crucial parish projects, an elegant parish luncheon at the beginning of it all, with much, much more throughout the centennial year.

At the same time we are planning for the wonderful celebration still two years off, we now have a graced opportunity to build upon Saint Luke's first hundred years by living into our next century of ministry in Christ's Name. To begin aright, the Rector, Wardens and Vestry are in the process of structuring an important three-year plan for the church's mission that will influence and shape Saint Luke's ministry and parish life for years to come. You are asked to be an active participant.

Saint Luke's Three-Year Strategic Plan is comprised of three major facets:

- Rector's Ministry and Staff Plan
- Parish Development Plan
- Facilities Improvement Plan

#### *Rector's Ministry and Staff*

The Vestry, recognizing the gifts and dedication of Rector and staff (Organist/Choir Director, Parish Administrator and Sexton), will endeavor to offer strong support and care so as to maintain the stability of ministry, even during these troubling troubling economic times which exacerbate the financial stresses we have already been experiencing as a parish. The Vestry

believes this parish ministry team is a crucial part of our church's development in the years leading to the Centennial, and that making good use of your stewardship gifts and budget resources through 2013 in addition to projecting resources and costs for Rector and staff ministry beyond 2013 is of paramount concern.

#### *Parish Development*

Centennial planning and celebration is an every-member opportunity for strengthening bonds between parishioners, refocusing and recommitting ourselves to mission priorities and encouraging each other during changing times. To these ends, *communication*, *discernment* and *networking* will prove very important.

*Communication:* The Rector's pastoral contacts with parishioners, the Vestry's committee leadership with the parish, and fellowship between members will bring an already creative and faithful parish community closer together.

*Discernment:* As an offering to God, a testimony to future generations of Saint Luke's Church, and a meditation on the journey the people will need embark upon together, all members will be encouraged to participate in a parish self-assessment. This "self-portrait" will assist the parish in listening for God's call, envisioning future mission priorities and considering the ongoing ministry of Saint Luke's priest and people.

*Networking:* Just as we connect with each other in the parish, we know that, in our changing world, mutual support and joint projects between faith communities are crucial for our faithfulness to God's call in Christ. Therefore, we will seek and be receptive to explorations and experiments with nearby Deanery Episcopal parishes as well as other Forest Hills faith communities; and we will seek support and advice, in addition to offering our parish strengths and experience by nurturing our relationships with the Queens Archdeaconry and Diocese of Long Island.

#### *Facilities Improvement*

Now is the time to repair, renovate and renew our buildings and facilities as a center of worship, ministry and mission. For the work we have to do, it will be necessary to expand the Buildings and Grounds Committee beyond our present

maintenance and repair committee co-chairs. We will need additional project coordinators and increased committee membership for both the three-year accomplishment of deferred routine maintenance as well as the accomplishment of planned work (such as our Accessibility Entrance Project). Furthermore, in the spring of 2012, the Centennial Fund Drive for Special Projects will get underway for enduring improvements that will serve the parish well as our second century begins.

These are exciting times for Saint Luke's. We already demonstrate high energy with a commitment to put ourselves to work for God and neighbor. Centered in Christ, we are oriented for the journey ahead.

Faithfully yours,

*Parish Administrator*

On June 1, Lisa Duca began her second year as our Parish Administrator. If you have had opportunity to meet Lisa in the office or speak with her on the phone, you know firsthand that she is a delight and a fitting ambassador for Saint Luke's with all who call or come to the office from the larger community. Vestry members and committee leaders know Lisa as a quick and helpful hand on various ministry projects. For my ministry as Rector, Lisa has freed me from countless administrative tasks. Her talents and sensitivities make her an important assistant in coordinating the overall life of the parish. In recognition of her contributions, and realizing that her hourly dollar rate was well below what other churches budget for the kinds of work she does, the Vestry authorized a salary increase, effective in July—what amounts to a mid-budget year increase but what is for our Administrator a well-deserved increase following one year of employment.

--Tom Reese

*Latest News on Two Projects*

Before summer, we knew that the **Child Care Center Project** was waiting for final city approvals. However, recently a lack of clarity has developed between what the city's Health Department and Building Department mandate with regard to accessibility regulations. One department says the other will require an electric lift along the parish hall staircase in the event that a child in such need registers for the program; the other department suggests a "letter of exception" can be drawn up that would exempt the childcare provider from

having to install the lift. Our project coordinator Velma Adams is working hard to seek clarity from the city. However, this unresolved issue precludes the possibility of a September opening for the Center.

Saint Luke's **Accessibility Entrance Project** is presently in the hands of the Forest Hills Gardens Corporation's Architecture Committee. On behalf of the Vestry, Brian Percival submitted our proposal to the FHGC with a primary focus on receiving approval for a new front stoop and steps at the main entrance into the church. The proposal also seeks the Architecture Committee's perspective on the two different ramp plans. Members of the Architecture Committee have made an on-site inspection, but Saint Luke's proposal has not yet been placed on their meeting agenda. Our hope is that it will be entertained in September. On these projects and others, the parish will be kept informed as details emerge.

*New Faces, New Friends at Saint Luke's*

We warmly welcome Abigail Torres, Wolfgang and Kay Kripfgans, and Carla Fodera into Saint Luke's parish family.

*"When, in our music, God is glorified..."*

These words from Hymn 420 (Engelberg) are a fitting reminder that music in worship is prayer and praise. At Saint Luke's, we enjoy singing and we especially look forward to the return of our choir on Sunday, September 12. Organist and Choir Director Bill Stokes has been working all summer on planning the choir music for the seasons of the church year so that all of us will have additional spiritual support in our faith formation and life together. We give thanks for Bill and for all the dedicated members of our parish choir, who begin the new season with their annual workshop on Saturday, September 11—an all-afternoon survey of the year's Sunday and Festival music. Following the three-hour rehearsal, what has become another annual tradition takes place: the choir is invited to the Rectory for dinner.

*Committee Meetings in September*

As the Bellringer went to press, the following committees were scheduled to meet as follows:

**Worship** – Sunday 9/19 at 12 noon

**Stewardship** – Wednesday, 9/22 at 7:30pm

**Centennial** – Thursday 9/23 at 10:30am

All committee co-chairs are reminded to set meeting dates through the church office to avoid schedule conflicts and to insure that meetings can be publicized in this newsletter, Sunday bulletins

and on our website. All meetings are open to all parishioners, as are Vestry meetings. The September Vestry meeting is on Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm in the lower parish hall.

***Revised Parish Directory***

Beginning on or about September 12, Saint Luke's revised and updated Directory for 2010-11 will be available in the narthex. You can pick up a copy, or if you are unable to get to church, please contact Lisa in the office to request that one be mailed to you.

***Signups Needed for Hospitality Hour***

We're looking for volunteers to host Hospitality Hour after the 10:30 service. A signup sheet will be displayed for the next several weeks, and we encourage you to select a date. It's fun and easy to do – we'll be glad to help first-timers. If you prefer, we'll partner you with an "old hand." Coffee, tea, sweetener, cups, napkins, etc. are provided; all you have to bring is milk, juice and snacks – home-made or store-bought, whichever you prefer.

Fellowship is an important part of our ministry and our Sunday gathering offers an opportunity to get to know each other in a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. We want to expand our Hospitality Committee, and plan to have an informational meeting later this month. All are welcome to join, but please know that you can also sign on for a single Sunday.

-- Louise Foisy  
Hospitality co-chair

***Holy Cross Day Eucharist September 14***

The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 7:30pm on Tuesday, September 14. Holy Cross Day commemorates the supposed finding of the true cross by Saint Helena, mother of the Emperor Constantine. Constantine directed that the Church of the Holy Sepulchre be built in Jerusalem at the site of the discovery, with a part of the cross placed inside. The dedication of the church took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September.

***\*SAINT LUKE'S CENTENNIAL: 2012-2013\****

***Reminiscences for Centennial Book***

Earlier this year a letter went out to members of the parish, past and present, requesting that they send in recollections of their involvement in the worship and activities of Saint Luke's Church by September. Thanks to all who have done so, but there are many of you whom we haven't heard from as yet. Won't you please submit your reminiscences either by mail to the church, attention Jane Thornton, by e-

mail to Jane ([fosthorn@verizon.net](mailto:fosthorn@verizon.net)), or by hand to her or Joyce Egginton? We really need your input!  
--Jane Thornton  
--Joyce Egginton

***2010 Parish Outreach Grant:***

***Saint Andrew's Teen Center***

***Presentation – Sunday, September 19***

Episcopal Community Services, in partnership with the Ali Forney Center, has established Saint Andrew's Center in Astoria, Queens to provide food, shelter, counseling and a supportive environment for homeless gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender teens who have been rejected by their families. Saint Luke's Outreach Committee has chosen the Center as the recipient of its 2010 Parish Outreach Grant, and on September 19 at the 10:30 service Michael Meany, a representative of the Center, will speak about its work.

***Calling All Retirees, Flex Time Workers,  
and Stay-at-Home Moms or Dads!***

With the fall season close upon us, it is once again time to recruit people to deliver food for God's Love We Deliver (GLWD). We need a minimum of five teams of drivers/riders so that the rotation for each team is every five weeks. Changing life situations have made some of the regulars unable to commit this fall, and at this point, we are down to three teams, and could potentially lose another team to inflexible job schedules. New volunteers will be paired with veterans so they needn't begin this ministry in the dark, so to speak.

GLWD's mission is to bring nutritious meals to people who are too sick to shop or prepare food themselves. Saint Luke's has committed to deliver food to seven households every Wednesday. The entire route, including pickup and packing, takes about an hour and a half from start to finish. The more familiar you become with the routine, the faster it goes. We ask you to please consider joining us. It is an important ministry, and one that blesses you a thousandfold. Please contact me by email [barbaragratz@yahoo.com](mailto:barbaragratz@yahoo.com), by phone (718-418-8186), or in person following the 10:30 Sunday service if you'd like to give it a try.

-- Barbara Gratz

***Saint Michael and All Angels***

***Liturgy and Dinner***

On Wednesday, September 29 our annual "Michaelmas" celebration begins with a 7:30pm Holy Eucharist in the church. Worshipers are encouraged to bring cut flowers to decorate the altar, in keeping with the old English custom of

bringing Michaelmas Daisies to church on the feast day. Speaking of feasts, the celebration continues at 8:15pm with a dinner reservation at Jade restaurant in Station Square. While at dinner, last year's recipient of the Michaelmas cross recounts an experience of angels since last year's celebration. If you plan to attend the dinner, please use the signup sheet posted at church, or contact the parish office.

**WINGS OF SONG**  
**“HEAVENLY MUSIC IN A SACRED SPACE”**  
*Sunday, September 19 at 3:00pm*  
*Saint Luke’s Church*  
*?@æ*  
*Music for a Sunday Afternoon*  
*by Chopin, Enesco, Purcell and Ravel*  
*?@ç*  
**IVY ZOHRA ADRIAN, pianist**  
*and*  
**DAREN B. WILKES, trumpeter**  
*?@g*  
*Suggested donation \$12.00*  
*Seniors and students \$10.00*  
*For reservations: 718-268-7772*

**“Places and Spaces That Have Moved Me”**  
**Brian Percival’s Oral and Visual Journal**  
*Tuesday Evenings at 8:00pm*

Architect, avid traveler, lecturer, singer, actor, skier, Scottish dancer – Brian is a man of exceptional talents and abilities. All are invited to attend this series of programs as he shares with us his aesthetic and spiritual journey throughout the world.

**September 28:** The Breadth of Christianity; Historic Churches and Well-Known 20<sup>th</sup> Century Christian Structures

**October 12:** A Sense of Universality; Structures from Various Faith Traditions

**November 2:** Spiritually Expressive Buildings (not specifically “religious” at all)

**November 23:** Inspiring Places and Environments (not necessarily architectural)

***The Wonderful World of Rummage!***

The annual Saint Luke’s Rummage Sale is set for Saturday, October 9, from 10 am to 4 pm, and Sunday, October 10, noon to 4. If you’ve never been part of this annual parish blockbuster before, you can have no idea what bonds can be formed among parishioners as they tackle the rummage heap together and join forces to transform our humdrum parish hall into Bloomingdale’s East.

There’s more to the Rummage Sale than mere merchandising. As one of our top fundraising events of the year, it provides vital support for our ministry. But that’s just the beginning. 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. For many shoppers, the rummage sale the only place to find the things they really need at a price within their means. And for us, 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 list of options below 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 **fill out the form on the next page** and return it to the church office, drop it in the offering plate, or mail it to Louise Guinther, 69-39 Exeter St., Forest Hills, NY 11375. Or save a stamp by sending me an e-mail (ltg@operanews.com), giving me a call (212-769-7082), or seeking me out at coffee hour and letting me know how you’d like to help. Start slow by picking just one category, or better still, jump in with both feet and have the unparalleled satisfaction of seeing the process through from beginning to end.

***September Birthdays and Anniversaries***

- 3 Vera Moron
- 3 Luke Dinan
- 7 Dolly Guinther
- 9 Kelsey Reese
- 12 Jeanine McPartlin
- 14 Thaddeus and Nancy Baxter (A)
- 15 Harrison Tyrell
- 20 Edna and Joseph Boyce (A)
- 22 Thaddeus Baxter
- 23 Denise and Ray Presnick (A)
- 26 Dario Fabozzi
- 29 Pamela Williams

***COMING IN OCTOBER***

**Sunday, Oct 3:** *Liturgy of Saint Francis* with closing procession on to the church lawn for the 11:30am Blessing of Animals followed by a Community Hospitality Hour...**Saturday, Oct 16:** Morning of Reflection in the church – “A Life of Thanksgiving” from 10 until noon...**Sunday, Oct 17 Saint Luke’s Day:** Pot Luck Luncheon following the 10:30 Festive Choral Eucharist.