

THE BELLRINGER

SAINT LUKE'S CHURCH, FOREST HILLS

LENT 2010

Hope into Action

Dear Friends,

The Annual Meeting on January 24 made it clear that our theme and intention for 2010, as well as our thanksgiving for the year just past, is all about "*Hope into Action.*" If you could not attend the meeting, I am highlighting the day here but ask you to consult the Rector's Report online, along with all other reports, for fuller details.

All you need to do is think of your own family—back then, now, and everything in between—to understand the old maxim, "*Life is what happens while you were busy planning how everything should go....*" Lots of changes happen in a family; you live through the challenges, even some threats and fears... What you see in family is the ability to endure over the years—to adapt, adjust, to focus on what matters as events call forth. Over time, the meaning of family stays the same but its shape evolves, some of its ingredients or expressions change.

The feasts of Peter and Paul, celebrated on January 18 and 25, celebrate a sort of anniversary for the church family, a family strengthened because this couple of apostles endured with each other in the early days of parenting the church... Together, they raised up a church that was not only about maintaining what they had, but about *extending* the mission of the church, *being* the church in changing circumstances, *becoming* more of what God is calling us to. The meaning of the church did not change because of Peter and Paul's enduring relationship, but the structure certainly did; and the look of the church and where it

would be located evolved throughout history and is still changing today. The church thrives where its people endure; and to endure is to listen for God and to each other, making ourselves available to turn hope into action. *For God's life in Christ, the Church, is what happens while we are busy planning how everything should go.*

How were things going in the Saint Luke's family 2009? As I see it, in the midst of so many uncertainties in society and for many of you in your personal circumstances, *you turned hope into action*—allowing Christ to work in and through you. When an unfavorable budget position in a bad economy meant no funding for our annual grant, the Outreach Committee changed the structure because the meaning of our baptismal promise hadn't changed. Parishioners and friends responded as a result and we raised \$4,000 for Hope Lodge. As always, 2009 was characterized by the generous giving of so many people in so many ways. The challenge before the church in times such as these is in not becoming preoccupied with infrastructure issues and our own survival. We have that family inheritance from Peter and Paul to endure, to be the church amidst changing and challenging times, to be the church in the world. Even though our parish continues to face stiff financial challenges each year, we actually ended 2009 not having to expend capital from savings and still having a modest surplus, enabling us to do two things. First, we could give a little more for our support of the Diocese and the Episcopal Church nationally. It is still way below what we are asked and what we used to give.

However, by giving a bit more than we gave in 2008 and a bit more than we budgeted for 2009, we are saying **Saint Luke's is hopeful, we are here in Forest Hills and we are partners in the future of our shared ministry with other diocesan parishes under the leadership of Bishop Provenzano.**

We recognize, as people of faith, that our good fortune, even in the form of a year-end surplus, is **God's grace**. Thus, the second thing we are able to do is to accept that **God's grace supplies us with something to meet the needs of people in Haiti**. The extreme suffering, pain and devastation to that part of the human family, to that part of the Body of Christ, moved the Vestry to authorize, on behalf of all the people of Saint Luke's, an immediate contribution of \$4,000 through Episcopal Relief and Development so that we could be a part of turning hope into action, being present as the Body of Christ in Haiti. In addition, our parish Lenten Project will be for Haiti's relief and redevelopment. Furthermore, we will take the long view in establishing a Haiti Action Group to research and propose ways in which we the people of Saint Luke's might enter into a lasting relationship, perhaps with an Episcopal parish or school in Haiti, so that we might do our small part in being agents of healing and extending the mission of the church in the years to come.

Be it at times of joy and celebration or of utter shock and desolation, *God is what happens while we are busy planning or worrying how everything in life should go*. Thanks be to God in Jesus Christ who calls us to serve as agents through whom hope becomes action. Thank God for Saint Luke's Church.

Yours in Christ,

+•LENT BEGINS +•
Ash Wednesday, February 17
The Holy Eucharist
with the Imposition of Ashes
10:00am and 7:30pm

2009 Outreach Grant

The Outreach Committee is proud to announce that our various fundraising efforts – the collection jar, pie and bake sale, and New Year's Eve Gala – raised \$4000 for the American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge. The success of this campaign shows that Saint Luke's family is dedicated to doing Christ's work in the world. We will have an opportunity to support Hope Lodge in another way as we engage in our next hands-on project, hosting a special dinner for its residents. Stay tuned for details.

Double Baptism

On Sunday, January 10 we welcomed Brendan Gieseke and Kyle Simcox into Christ's Body the Church through Holy Baptism. Please keep them and their parents Yuka and David, and Liza and Kyle, in your prayers.

Daisy Ludwig 1926-2010

A long-time member of Saint Luke's, Daisy passed away on Sunday, January 17. The gift from God which was her life was celebrated in the Liturgy of the Resurrection on Saturday, January 23.

In her youth, Daisy was an avid skier. A graduate of Adelphi College, she had a long and respected career as an elementary school teacher. She was quiet in her faith and quietly devoted to our parish. While she was able, she participated in many events at Saint Luke's. It was her wish that anyone who would like to remember her in the form of a memorial gift make a contribution to Saint Luke's endowment fund.

**2010 Lenten Project:
Haiti Earthquake Relief**

Next up for the Outreach Committee is the Lenten Self-Denial Offering which, as Father Tom has indicated in his Letter to the Parish, will be dedicated to disaster relief and rebuilding in the wake of the earthquake in Haiti. Saint Luke's vestry has already authorized a gift from the parish of \$4000 to support the work there of Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD), but the need is vast and will continue for years to come.

The traditional Lenten exercise of self-sacrifice helps us to focus on our relationship with God by stripping away some of the unnecessary distractions in our daily lives. Still, some folks wonder how giving things up for Lent actually helps anyone. In this case, it certainly can. If each of us sets aside the cost of some of our small indulgences, gathered together it can be transformed into a substantial offering, also through ERD, for the people of Haiti, most of whom lacked the bare necessities even before the earthquake.

-- Joanna Guinther

Candlemas Celebration

On Tuesday evening, February 2 at 7:30pm, a candlelight celebration of the Holy Eucharist will mark the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple. All are warmly invited to attend.

ANNUAL ADULT EDUCATION DAY

Saturday, February 6

From 10:00am until 3:00pm, we will focus on a Christian process of moral decision-making. "**Decisions, Decisions: Christians Facing the World**" will include presentations, working groups, and discussion of age-old as well as 21st century ethical dilemmas. The session will begin with Morning Prayer, ends with Evening Prayer, and includes lunch. If you haven't already registered, it's not too late. Just call

or e-mail the office and let Lisa know you plan to attend.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO
THE ABSALOM JONES SERVICE**

to be held at

GRACE CHURCH, JAMAICA

155-24 90th Avenue

Jamaica, New York 11432

Saturday, FEBRUARY 13, 2010

11:00 AM

Preacher and Celebrant

THE RIGHT REVEREND

LAWRENCE PROVENZANO

Bishop of the Diocese of Long Island

Musical Offerings by a Combined Chorus

representing the parishes

of the Black Clergy Caucus

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

Sponsored by the

BLACK CLERGY CAUCUS

and the **UBE CHAPTERS** of

Grace Church, Jamaica;

Saint Stephen's, Jamaica;

and Saint Phillip's, Brooklyn

For further information, please call
GRACE CHURCH Parish Office at
718.291.4901

Absalom Jones 1746-1818

"The transformation of Absalom Jones from slave into one of the founders of the black Episcopal Church in America and a leading figure among Philadelphia's African-American community shows the great strides made by blacks during this period of early American history. Jones bought his own freedom as well as that of his wife through years of hard work and went on to lead the African Church of St. Thomas in Philadelphia, the first black Episcopal church in the United States."

(<http://biography.jrank.org/pages/2755/Jones-Absalom.html>)

“CHRISTIANITY 101” LENTEN SERIES
A Five-Part Spirituality Workshop

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The sessions, led by Father Tom, will take place on Wednesday evenings, February 24 through March 24, and will begin with Holy Eucharist at 7:00pm. A simple supper will follow at 7:30, and program at 8:00.

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February 24: Living Faith – “Present Your Bodies....” What does Paul mean when he beseeches Christians to present themselves as a living sacrifice which is one’s spiritual worship?

March 3: The Spirituality of Play – TGIF! How?

March 10: Reverencing the Divine as well as Securing Your Pension – Finding God in your workplace.

March 17: Reverencing Self and Neighbor

March 24: Faithful Relatedness – Sexuality and Spirituality

All are encouraged to attend as many sessions as possible.

Soup Chefs and Salad/Bread providers are needed for each of the evenings. Please consult the sign-up sheet as Lent approaches.

Saint Luke’s Website

Our website continues to grow and is one of the chief means used by new parishioners to find us. It also serves as a means of communication to and among parish members about *What’s Going On* (www.stlukesforesthills.org/events/news) as well as an expression of faith. We have added *Reflections on what matters* (www.stlukesforesthills.org/weare2) which both shows and tells who we are and what matters to us in our own words and photos. Recently, we have added a link on the home page which you can click on to donate to Episcopal Relief and Development’s Haiti Fund.

In the past year, we have also increased the use of our Facebook Group to publicize and invite people to our events. We urge all parishioners to click on the Facebook link on the lower right of our home page and to join our Facebook group. Please invite everyone in your contacts to come to the Evensong Concert on Sunday, February 14 at 4:00pm.

Thanks to Mim Paquin Robinette for all of the wonderful work she has done in developing the Gingerbread Players website and creating Facebook groups for both Saint Luke’s Church and the Gingerbread Players. We would also like to thank David Friedman for having assumed those responsibilities.

-- Gary Carldon

Mark Your Calendars Now!
GINGERBREAD PLAYERS PRESENT
RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN’S
“CINDERELLA”

Starring Rebecca Santana as Cinderella

Directed by Dolly Guinther

Saturday, April 17 at 2:30 and 7:30pm

Sunday, April 18 at 2:30pm

Friday, April 23 at 7:30pm

Saturday, April 24 at 2:30pm

Sunday, April 25 at 2:30pm

Suggested Donation \$12,

\$10 for groups of 6 or more

Gingerbread Bakers and Sellers
Needed for “Cinderella”

As you may know, one of the most beloved traditions of the Gingerbread Players is the sale of homemade gingerbread during intermission. In addition to providing our audiences with the delicious treats, it is a fun activity for cast members and their parents, and volunteers from Saint Luke’s. We invite you to help by baking and/or selling gingerbread cookies or cakes at any of the *Cinderella* performances. Please see Louise Foisy at coffee hour any Sunday, contact her

at 718-575-1767 or by e-mail at lmf325@aol.com. A recipe for gingerbread cake follows (but if you want to use a mix that's OK, too).

Gingerbread Cake Recipe

½ cup molasses
½ cup boiling water
½ cup sugar
1 ½ cups flour
4 tablespoons melted butter
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon ginger
1 teaspoon cinnamon
¼ teaspoon salt
Preheat oven to 325 degrees.
Add water to molasses, then sift together and add dry ingredients. Add butter and beat well. Butter and flour the bottom of an 8-inch square pan. Fill pan and bake 25-35 minutes. Frost as desired, or sprinkle with confectioner's sugar.

Food Collection First Sunday of Each Month

Don't forget to bring your contributions of nourishing packaged foods to church. The Queens Community House distributes them to hungry people in our own area. (Just a reminder: NO GLASS BOTTLES OR JARS. They break!) The next contribution date will be Sunday, March 1.

Saint Luke's Bookstore

After a holiday hiatus, the Bookstore is now open for business. You'll find today's best-sellers, along with beloved classics, poetry, cooking, spiritual guidance, how-to and more, donated by your extremely well-read fellow parishioners. Pay what you like, and when you've finished the book, why not bring it back for resale? All proceeds go directly to Saint Luke's operating fund.

-- Jane Thornton

February Birthdays

3 Charlotte Dippel
6 Amit Daniel
7 Shay Baxter
9 Lauren Foisy
9 Carol Khare
22 Stephen Banci
27 Barbara Trippel

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

2 Alexandra Galvez
4 Nitin Varghese
6 Barbara and Edward Chakmakjian (A)
7 Meredith Schott
8 Lauren Su
12 Barbara Chakmakjian
13 Antonia Lenti
17 Louise Foisy
18 Karen Van Westering
19 Jim and Giselle Bates (A)
24 Rowena Chodkowski
30 Susan Civita