



THE BELLRINGER

SAINT LUKE'S CHURCH

FOREST HILLS, NEW YORK

EPIPHANYTIDE 2012

January / February

Our Life, Together

Dear Friends,

A few days after Christmas, a dear member of our parish suddenly died. Ruth Gotch attended the 8:30am Sunday Eucharist every week for years and years. Perhaps you never had an opportunity to meet her. She was a quiet woman, warmly smiling all the time. She sat close to the front, and not only because she had some trouble with her legs. Ruth was always totally engaged in the liturgy, and after each Sunday Communion, she would make her way to the sacristy to do her altar guild duty. While rinsing the vessels, she would ask the people around her how they were feeling, comment on the weather, and during baseball season she would express her dedication to the NY Mets! As I said, Ruth had some difficulty with her legs, but with a gentle assist she did just fine getting back to her car. Throughout the week, she would use that car to ferry her elderly friends around to the pharmacy or grocery store.

On the few Sundays when she wasn't in church, Ruth would be visiting her brother Bob upstate in Grand Gorge. She and Bob spoke every day. When he traveled down here to meet with me and make arrangements at the funeral home, Bob said that in those conversations Ruth would often mention Saint Luke's Church like an old friend. Bob and his sister meant the world to each other, and he said Saint Luke's meant the world to Ruth.

Right now Bob is back in Grand Gorge. Like Ruth, he is getting on in years and has back and leg trouble himself. It was hard for him to take the bus down but he did it to see his deceased sister one last time. He wants

everyone to know how much the parish meant to Ruth and that he plans for a memorial service at Saint Luke's when spring arrives.

In the meantime, it would be a good thing to send Bob a card or a note. It doesn't matter that you don't know him. It doesn't even matter if you didn't know Ruth. What does matter is that we are one family in our life together in Christ. Yes, Bob has friends in his town, but he's our family too, especially now that he must adjust to Ruth being in a different room in God's mansion. Bob's address is Robert Gotch, P.O. Box 315, Grand Gorge NY 12434.

May Ruth rest in peace. We thank God that she did not suffer. We thank God through dedicating ourselves to our life, together.

In Christ,

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

Everyone is Encouraged to Participate

Saint Luke's Annual Meeting begins with the 10:30am Holy Eucharist and the Rector's Annual Report, and continues in the parish hall with Vestry elections and committee presentations on Saint Luke's ministry through the two remaining years of our three-year strategic plan. The slate of Vestry candidates is as follows:

One Warden (two-year term): Brian Percival

Four Vestry (three-year term): Edward Geist, Audrey Lamadieu, Terri O'Rourke, and John Ryding

One Vestry (one-year unexpired term): Joseph J. Occhiuto.

Time for questions and responses about our strategic plan as well as project reports and

other business follows. A potluck luncheon concludes the day. Please sign up on the sheets provided at church or contact the parish office with your name, number of people attending and dish you will bring to share.

The Celebration of a Marriage

On Saturday, November 26, Mimi Shanley Taft and Frank Lupo were joined in Holy Matrimony. We wish them a blessed life together, and in the words of the Book of Common Prayer, we pray "that each may be to the other a strength in need, a counselor in perplexity, a comforter in sorrow, and a companion in joy."

Taizé Prayer Resumes on Sunday, January 15 in the Chapel

Prayer in the Taizé style of worship is quiet and reflective, deeply peaceful and joyful. The focus is on Christ and the cross, reconciliation and prayers for the suffering throughout the world. This service includes varying readings, periods of silence, prayers, and simple songs and chants in different languages. Songs are sung many times over as a prayer of the heart.

Taizé prayer services are held at 6:30pm on the first and third Sundays of the month. We welcome all to join us in experiencing God's love through song, contemplative prayer, and centering.

Saint Andrew's Volunteer Training

Saturday, January 21 at 4:00pm in Astoria

Ali Forney's Saint Andrew's site, located in a former Episcopal church in Astoria at 46-09 31st Avenue, is a shelter for homeless gay, lesbian and bisexual young adults, and was the recipient of our annual Outreach Grant in 2010.

Saint Luke's volunteers continue to serve home-cooked meals to the 16 residents on the last Saturday of every month. If you would like to become certified to serve dinner, you must first attend a training session. Please

contact me (hmhanson99@hotmail.com) about signing up for this session on January 21. Contact me also if you'd like to help out by cooking or donating money for groceries. Thanks to all who continue to support our outreach to the residents of Saint Andrew's!

--Heather Hanson

Inquirers' Class

All adults who are interested in learning more about The Episcopal Church – the fundamentals of our Christian expression of faith, Anglican/ Episcopal tradition, church history and structure, contemporary social issues and decision-making – are asked to inform the Rector by Sunday, January 22. An "Inquirers' Class" will take shape for a series of Sundays at noon throughout the winter and spring. This class is for those considering Confirmation (or Reception, if you have already been confirmed in another denomination) or who want to know more about Christian life in and through the Episcopal Church. Confirmation liturgy will take place on Saturday, May 26 at 4:00pm at Saint George's Church in Flushing.

***We Make Our Song: Alleluia!
ANNUAL ADULT EDUCATION DAY
SAT., JANUARY 28, 10AM-3PM
An exploration of the Christian
understanding of death, using the Book of
Common Prayer and the Apostle Paul
"Departures" (2009 Academy Award winner
for foreign film.) DVD available for
overnight loan. Contact the parish office.
"Death, with Interruptions" (a novel by
Nobel Prize winner José Saramago.)
Limited number of copies available at
church for purchase.***

***Presentations and Discussion begin at 10am
with Morning Prayer, include lunch, and
conclude with Evening Prayer at 3pm.***

Do We Have Your Email Address?

The parish office seeks to extend our email address list beyond parishioners to include our many friends who receive *The Bellringer*. As a way to include you in updates between newsletters and also as a developing back-up for the postal service's contemplated ending of non-profit bulk mail, we would appreciate having your email address. Please send it directly to stlukesoffice@verizon.net.

Teen Conversations

Our youth members will be meeting with Father Tom for lunch and discussion on Sunday, January 29 at 12 noon. These discussions will take place on a monthly basis through May and will cover a host of topics ranging from meaning in life – doubt, hope, hard times and good times – to personal goals and dreams, social concerns and responsibility, relationships, decision-making, faith, the place of the church in it all and where our young people see themselves in the church. The series, for those who so choose, will culminate in Confirmation on May 26.

CANDLEMAS

***Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple
Thursday, February 2 at 7:30pm***

Everyone is invited to Saint Luke's Candlemas liturgy. Recalling the baby Jesus being brought to the Temple, we also remember that Mary and Joseph meet the righteous Simeon and prophetess Anna. In the same way that they see the brilliance of God's light in Jesus, we take candles from the liturgy to brighten our homes with Christ for the remainder of winter.

***"Organ Tour" To Be Led by Bill Stokes
Sunday, February 5 at 12:00 Noon***

The splendid sounds of Saint Luke's organ enrich our worship each Sunday, but how much do we really know about how this magnificent instrument works, what it takes to play it, and what we need to do to take care of it? Kids of all ages who want to learn more are invited to join organist Bill Stokes on

February 5th following the 10:30 service as he presents a talk and demonstration. Like the church tour which Father Tom presented last year, this event is geared to our Church School children, but interested adults are more than welcome to attend.

--Emily Taylor

***Saint Luke's Annual
CHORAL EVENSONG
AND RECITAL***

***Sunday, February 19 at 4:00pm
Organist and Choir Director***

William J. Stokes

Mim Paquin, Soprano

Todd Wachsman, Tenor

Saint Luke's Choir

The Anglican liturgy of evening prayer has been sung in English cathedrals for over 500 years and remains an eloquent and inspired liturgy. Saint Luke's presentation begins with a recital of vocal, choral and organ music featuring works by Handel and Purcell, among others.

The service follows, opening with choir and congregation singing the hymn, "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty," and continues with *Preces and Responses* by William Smith of Durham Cathedral, *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis* by Herbert Sumsion, a psalm sung to Anglican Chant, and several hymns offered by the choir. A festive postlude for organ completes the program.

***All are warmly invited to attend the service
and the reception following.***

Ash Wednesday, February 22

The Holy Eucharist with Administration of Ashes takes place at both 10:00am and 7:30pm. The observation of a holy Lent begins with worship. The psalm choice and Litany of Penitence creatively frame the meaning of Lent and our participation in the celebration of redemption.

A Prayer for the New Year

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose years never fail and whose mercies are new each returning day: let the radiance of your Spirit renew our lives, warming our hearts and giving light to our minds, that we may pass the coming year in joyful obedience and firm faith. Forgive us the wrong we have done in the year that is past and help us to spend the rest of our days to your honor and glory.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

2 Christopher and Claire Dippel (A)
4 Emma Acker
5 Tess Conte
5 Alexis Smith
6 Florence Amato
7 Sal Amato
8 Michele Kasper
12 Nancy Northrop
13 Anthony Lenti
14 Kim Su
14 Alice Chodkowski
17 Barbara Cross,
17 Ananya Goswami
17 Chloe Smith
19 Ann Chamberlain
19 Andrew Dinan
21 Zoe Smith
21 Michael Riley
22 Christian Acker

24 Kai Laatikainen
24 MaryAnne Paquin
27 James Jonah
28 Corinna Schotte Hanson

February Birthdays

2 Michael Champagne
3 Charlotte Dippel
4 Aino Jonah
6 Amit Daniel
7 Shay Baxter
9 Lauren Foisy
9 Carol Khare
10 Guennadi Boiko
15 Alodia Carldon
18 Mark Adams
22 Stephen Banci
25 Linda Martinez

The Gingerbread Players of
Saint Luke's Church
present



WINGS OF SONG
Heavenly Music in a Sacred Space

*MUSIC FOR A SUNDAY
AFTERNOON*

MICHAEL BRAUDY, Violinist

in an eclectic concert of several traditions, including
Western classical music, meditative Indian ragas, and Celtic tunes

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15 at 3:00pm

Suggested donation \$12.00, Seniors and students \$10.00

Saint Luke's Church
85 Greenway South
Forest Hills, NY

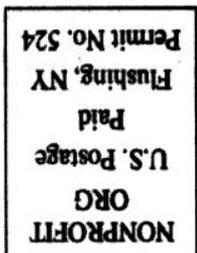
For reservations: 718-268-7772 www.gingerbreadplayers.org

Saint Luke's Church Vestry

Rector: The Reverend Thomas F. Reese
Wardens: Anne Harte Su, Velma Adams
Vestry: Gary Carldon, Jackie Dinas, Christopher Dippel, Louise Foisy, Ed Geist, Barbara Gratz, Joanna Guinther, Jeanine McPartlin, Brian Percival, John Ryding, Jane Thornton, Karen Van Westering
Treasurer: Jean Tessier
Clerk: Jeanine McPartlin

Parish Staff

The Reverend William Doubleday,
Priest Associate
William J Stokes, Interim Organist
and Choir Director
Lisa Duca, Parish Administrator
Martha Garcia, Sexton
Office Phone: 718-268-6021
E-mail: stlukesoffice@verizon.net
www.stlukesforesthills.org
Father Reese phone: 917-714-5647
E-mail: stlukestom@yahoo.com



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Saint Luke's Church
85 Greenway South
Forest Hills, NY 11375

