



# THE BELLRINGER

SAINT LUKE'S CHURCH

FOREST HILLS, NEW YORK

1913

SAINT LUKE'S CENTENNIAL YEAR

2013

MAY 2013

## *Leaves on the Tree*

Dear Friends,

On April 21, the Church School Centennial Tree (a kwansan cherry) was dedicated when the entire congregation processed onto the lawn and witnessed our boys and girls finishing the planting with hefty handfuls of mulch. Any mulchy residue left on their hands was gleefully wiped by them on the yard work jacket of Jim Chamberlain, at his instigating invitation. A word of thanks goes to Jim for seeing to the tree's planting. Likewise, our thanks to Education Co-Chair Emily Taylor for seeing through the idea of the gift tree from its classroom presentation with the children in the classroom to the actual planting, just a day away from Earth Day, as she had hoped.

Emily explains that the emphasis for the past year in the children's classroom has been on the symbolic value of planting the tree. The classroom poster sprouted new leaves every week as children wrote their names on a new leaf each time they attended. Emily writes, "They seemed to grasp quite easily that the leaves, representing their attendance, symbolized the sprouting of new growth in the church, starting with them, to last for the next 100 years. Helen Wang, 4 at the time... said, unprompted, 'We are the leaves on the tree'."

The children pulled us into this reality, that we are the leaves on the tree, earlier in the liturgy when, during the homily, they readily and enthusiastically responded to all manner of theological questions—even recognizing that on this occasion they were the teachers tending

to the growth of the congregation. It was a moving experience for us all.

Their responses to the homily were quickly folded into the Prayers of the People for the day, and are here reprinted for all to appreciate.

Faithfully yours,

## *The Church School Centennial Litany (April 21, 2013)*

Today, as one family gathered around Christ's Table, let us give thanks for God's gifts to us.

For the beauty and wonder of your Creation—for water, nutrients, carbon dioxide, glucose, roots, animals, lions, zebras, dolphins, ocelots, horses, polar bears, tigers, human beings, cats and dogs—*We thank you, Lord.*

For our homes and families—our moms and dads, grandparents, aunts and uncles—*We thank you, Lord.*

For our friends—because they help us out; when we are worried, they encourage us; they are our protectors and help when we need it—*We thank you, Lord.*

For our schools—for our teachers, principals, school librarians, helper teachers, friends at school and lunch ladies—*We thank you, Lord.*

For our nation—for our freedom and mutual respect for each other, and for the people who

are brave and courageous and want to make this country an even better place to live—  
*We thank you, Lord.*

For Saint Luke's Church—spending time with friends, being with God, seeing the priest, listening to the Bible readings, being in the House of the Lord makes me safe, and for all the people we would not otherwise know and who show us examples of what it means to be a Christian—  
*We thank you, Lord.*

Most of all, we give you thanks for your showing us who you are in Jesus Christ. We might not always understand but, with your help, we are trying.  
*To Christ who is with you, O God, and the Holy Spirit, we shout praises to your glory, now and forever.*  
*Amen.*

#### ***Easter tide Baptisms***

On Sunday, April 14 Benjamin Callahan, son of Chad and Marissa Callahan, and Kalithea Bowman, daughter of Christine and Ronald Bowman, received the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Please keep Benjamin, Kalithea and their parents in your prayers as we welcome them into the household of God.

#### ***Ascension Thursday – May 9<sup>th</sup>***

The Saint Luke's Feast Day tradition continues. The Holy Eucharist is celebrated at 7:30pm followed by a Strawberry Shortcake Hospitality Hour.

#### ***Saint Luke's Church— Discerning Ministry in Our Second Century***

This three-part Sunday series began on April 28 with a focus on our parish life and ministries as we see them now. You are invited and encouraged to participate in the remaining two discussions as we consider how to become Saint Luke's Church more and more. Your feedback is important as the Rector, Wardens and Vestry consider Saint Luke's plan for the next three years.

What are the challenges and opportunities for us as a parish?

**May 5: Three Years from now—***What can we see taking place at Saint Luke's from 2014 through 2016 so that we are being faithful to our calling?*

**May 12: Saint Luke's in the Larger Community—***How are we seen and what does Saint Luke's Church mean in Forest Hills and beyond?*

#### ***Centennial Fund***

The Centennial Fund Committee (Jim Chamberlain, Karen VanWestering and Velma Adams) will make an Update Report on Sunday, May 5 during the parish liturgies.

Have you yet made a pledge to the Fund? New pledges and new gifts are still eligible for matching funds from an anonymous parishioner family. Members of Saint Luke's and our friends have been very generous during the campaign, bringing us much closer to our \$200,000 goal than you might think! Hear all the details on May 5.

**Saint Luke's Centennial Year  
IMAGINAUCTION!**

**Saturday, May 18 at 5:30pm**

Fine Dining and Fellowship

Dancing and Donation

Geniality and Generosity

\$50.00 per person

**Seating is extremely limited, so please**

**RSVP no later than**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 8**

- mail the tear-off of your invitation and your check to Saint Luke's Church, or
- make your reservation by calling  
718-268-7772

**THE DAY OF PENTECOST**

**Sunday, May 19**

At the 10:30am Festive Choral Eucharist, members of our Youth and Young Adult Group will proclaim the Gospel in Many Tongues, reflecting the experience of the Apostles on that ancient birthday of the Church.

Drawing from the parish discernment discussions of previous weeks, The Rector's sermon is entitled "*Envisioning Saint Luke's Pentecost Experience.*"

And in addition to celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, we will give thanks for the people who have become part of the Saint Luke's community in recent times.

**ON THIS DAY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
REMEMBER TO WEAR SOMETHING  
RED!**

**Screening Mystery**

Saint Luke's (almost) Annual Film Series returns on Wednesday, May 29 at 7:30pm. Come watch the film "Of Gods and Men", followed by a discussion of the themes as they relate to faithful living.

Under threat by fundamentalist terrorists, a group of Trappist monks stationed with an impoverished Algerian community must decide whether to leave or stay.

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**SAVE THE DATES!**

**The Gingerbread Players**

**Present**

**A CENTENNIAL GALA**

A fun-filled trip down memory lane -- Gingerbread Players, past and present, relive great moments in Gingerbread history

**Saturday, June 8 at 7:00pm**

**Sunday, June 9 at 3:00pm**

Great entertainment, Gourmet refreshments!

**\$25.00 per person**

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**May Birthdays**

- 1 Barbara Stokes
- 5 Margaret Dippel
- 6 Jeffrey Frye
- 8 Rebecca Santana
- 11 Christine Rodriguez
- 11 Ann Elise Rodriguez
- 12 Suzanne Schick Lin
- 13 Linda Portz
- 16 Nicolas Gambix
- 17 Claire Dippel
- 26 Joanna Guinther
- 26 Louise Guinther
- 29 Micaela Brown
- 31 Elisse Lai

(From the May, 1959 issue of Saint Luke's Newsletter)

But first, a May 2013 note from the Rector:

*Times really have changed. Through the 1960's, full membership in the church was deemed to be conferred by Confirmation. This was changed in the 1970s when the church recovered the ancient understanding that full membership is by virtue of Holy Baptism. As a result, The Episcopal Church also re-instituted the practice of First Communion for the newly baptized, regardless of age. Not so in 1959, when First Communion followed Confirmation for 12 and 13 year olds. As you read below, you will notice other changes in tone and expectation over the past 54 years.*

*- Tom*

### ***Church School***

May marks the time when the Church welcomes the young people of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade into full membership. The service of Confirmation recognizes that these young people are now seriously concerned with the process of being adults... All the Confirmation classes for the past five years are invited to join this year's class at the 8 o'clock service of the Holy Communion on Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Afterwards they will have breakfast together provided by the Parents' Guild in the basement of the Parish House. Following the breakfast, a movie will be shown.

The Church School Year is speedily approaching its close. This means that the Cross and Crown awards will be given out for attendance. To receive a pin or bar a child can have no more than *two* unexcused absences. ALL OTHER ABSENCES MUST BE EXCUSED. Excuses are given for illness or for being out of town by writing a note to the teacher. Let's be sure that no child is left out because his parent did not bother to write a note for his excuse.

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