



THE BELL RINGER

SAINT LUKE'S CHURCH

FOREST HILLS, NEW YORK

1913 SAINT LUKE'S CENTENNIAL YEAR 2013

JANUARY 2013

Epiphany Lights 2013

Dear Friends,
Happy New Year from Taipei, Taiwan.
At the very least, it was an “interesting” juxtaposition of time and space for me to be watching the Times Square New Year’s Eve ball drop from the vantage point of its already being 12 noon on New Year’s Day—the crisp, sparkling night champagne toast replaced by a steaming lunch bowl of swordfish, octopus and seaweed soup. Of course, I have always known in my head that established zones organize earthly time. Yet, it takes having your body out of its usual place to experience the queer swoon of “Where am I, what time is it anyway?” (As if jet lag wasn’t enough to contend with.)

So, then, consider the Magi, who put aside familiar space and time-keeping in favor of following yonder star. We call them “wise” by virtue of our hindsight. But imagine the comments of onlookers as they watched the camels getting packed: “Why don’t those three just make their peace with the way things are right here and now? Besides, they cannot even tell us where they are going or whether they’ll even know when they have arrived at wherever “there” is. It must be nice to have so much free time!”

And maybe the locals were right—about the first leg of the Journey of the Magi. There is so much else to attend to. “Business as usual” gets a bad rap. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to keep things going

“as is.” There’s precious little time for musing about how to do something better when you had better get doing the things that need to be done. Yet, we also know that if you don’t let go of time a bit and head for that different place the Lord is showing you, the likes of people from Abraham to Balthazar and Caspar would never have had the epiphanies that reveal things for other people too. That’s the thing about epiphanies – you have to be pushing the envelope some in order to be present when the lights go on. Mary and Joseph had a census and a donkey; the shepherds, a whole lot of angel song; and the Wise Men, their charts and dromedaries. All were willing to respond to the compelling aspects of their particular journeys; all were compelled to consider things otherwise, to look at their conditions differently.

That’s part of what we will be doing at Saint Luke’s starting this Epiphany season: looking at who we are, what our conditions are, and where the Lord is calling us as a faithful community of Christ followers—Christ, our Morning Star who knows no setting. In this wondrous light celebrated at Epiphany, we will consider what it means to become Saint Luke’s Church more and more.

Historically in the church, Epiphany has been called the “Season of Lights,” a time for opening up to the possibility that God’s revelation through Christ manifests a world and heaven of difference when it comes to the way we, in our bodies individually and



corporately as Christ's Body, the Church, count time and orient in space.

Though Saint Luke's Church in Forest Hills is 100 years old, when it comes to the second leg of the journey, we are quite young—new. We needn't pack camels or cars. However, we are being called to set out on a journey.

Our Centennial Year celebration is a star of sorts. The journey now is to go deeper into the possible meaning of it all. So let's get packed for a Happy 2013, a new year for Saint Luke's; not the culmination of a centenary but a dedicatory new beginning.

Faithfully yours,

The Rector's Continuing Education Leave

During Father Tom's absence, the church office will be open as usual, 9:00am to 2:00pm Tuesday through Friday. Emergency calls outside of office hours should be directed to Warden Velma Adams (718-969-4657 or 347-623-6664) or Vestry member Karen VanWestering (718-793-1634 or 718-704-8697). Father Bill Doubleday was Guest Celebrant and Preacher on Sunday, December 30 and will return on Sundays January 6 and 13. Father Tom will be back on Sunday, January 20.

***Happy 95th Birthday to
Ethel Duryea!***

Our dear friend and fellow parishioner was honored with a celebration at hospitality hour after the 10:30 service on December 30. We wish her all the best, and many happy returns!

Diocesan Convention

Parish Delegate Isabelle Smith will represent Saint Luke's Church at the Diocesan Convention. The annual convention had been rescheduled from November 2012 due to the disruptions caused by Hurricane Sandy. This trimmed-down meeting takes place at Cathedral House in Garden City.

**THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY
SUNDAY, JANUARY 6**

8:30am Holy Eucharist
10:30am Holy Eucharist with Choir and Organ
"Three Kings Reception" hosted by
Saint Luke's Youth Group
follows the 10:30 liturgy.

***Wings of Song Concert
Sunday, January 13***

Come to Saint Luke's at 3:00pm for an afternoon of classical, ragtime and pop music as pianist Sylvia Yannello performs works by Beethoven, Gershwin, Joplin and others. Suggested donation is \$12.00, or \$10.00 for seniors and students. All are invited to meet the artist at the reception afterwards.

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 27**

Everyone is encouraged to participate.

The Annual Meeting begins with the 10:30am Holy Eucharist and the Rector's Annual Report, then continues in the parish hall with Vestry elections and committee presentations.

The slate of Vestry candidates is as follows:
One Vestry (three-year term): Suzanne Schick Lin, replacing Jane Thornton who is ineligible for re-election.

Louise Foisy, Joe Occhiuto and Karen VanWestering are eligible for re-election.

Time for questions and responses about our project reports and other business follows. A potluck luncheon concludes the day. Please sign up on the sheets provided at church, or let the parish office know what dish you'll be bringing to share and how many people will be attending.

***Have You Submitted Your 2013 Pledge?
100% Participation Sought!***

Saint Luke's Church is many wonderful things, but we cannot grow into what God is calling us to be without the dedication and support of all parishioners. If you have not yet pledged your support of parish life and ministry for 2013, a member of the Stewardship Committee will be

in touch with you. As we consider who we are and where we are going as a faith community, God's grace in Christ and our response in thanksgiving are the essentials for 2013 and into the future.

2012 Outreach Grant to Camp DeWolfe

The final contribution to our Outreach Grant recipient of 2012, \$1070.00, was made in December. Over the past year, Saint Luke's has become increasingly involved with Camp DeWolfe, which has entered a new season of ministry to support spiritual formation in the Diocese of Long Island, offering a camp for young people during the summer months and a space for retreats throughout the year.

We met Matt Tees, camp director, and his wife Emma when they spoke to us at a 10:30 service, and in February, several parishioners made a Saint Luke's banner to hang in the camp's newly refurbished Father John Davis dining hall, along with those from other churches in the Diocese. In May a group of Saint Luke's parishioners went to Camp DeWolfe to participate in a clean-up day prior to the opening of the camp season.

Thanks to those who participated in these hands-on experiences. Many thanks also to all who strongly supported various fund-raisers for the benefit of Camp DeWolfe so our Outreach Grant could make a significant contribution to the camp's ongoing programs.

Grace Church, Jamaica After-school Tutoring Program Selected as 2013 Outreach Grant Recipient

The Grace Church program benefits elementary and middle-school children in need of academic assistance and cultural enrichment. Money from Saint Luke's Outreach Grant will help pay for educational materials, snacks, field trips, and the two directors' salaries.

Like Camp DeWolfe, Grace Church offers hands-on opportunities for Saint Luke's parishioners. Currently, students from Jamaica High School and retired teachers are among the volunteer tutors who work with the children, but

more are urgently needed in all areas, particularly math.

Further information about Saint Luke's involvement with the program will be communicated to the parish as details become available. Meanwhile, would you be interested in becoming a volunteer? Why not consider it?

Centennial Quilt Raffle

As part of our Centennial Year celebration, Joanna Guinther is putting together a quilt depicting the life of our church in all its joyous diversity. (If you've seen the costumes Joanna creates for Gingerbread Players productions, you know what a brilliant needlewoman she is!) A number of parishioners have either contributed designs or sewn actual squares for the quilt as well. It is still a work in progress, but a sample of the finished squares will soon be on display in the parish hall, and raffle tickets will be sold at \$2.00 each, or three for \$5.00. All proceeds will benefit Saint Luke's Centennial Fund.

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

2	Chris and Claire Dippel (A)
5	Tess Conte
6	Florence Amato
6	Devin Smith
7	Sal Amato
8	Michelle 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	Lara Wang
22	Helen Wang
24	Kai Laatikainen
24	MaryAnne Paquin
27	James Jonah
28	Corinna Schotte Hanson

TAKE NOTE / LOOKING AHEAD
Candlemas Celebration

On Saturday, February 2 at 5:30pm, Saint Luke's celebrates the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple. The Holy Eucharist will be accompanied by hymns, homily and lucernaria (special candle lighting ceremony).

Schedule Change: The February 2nd Adult Education Day is undergoing a date and focus change. The date has been changed to **Saturday, March 16th from 10:00am until 2:00pm**. An education program will be offered, but in the context of our inviting all deanery parishes to a Lenten Day of Reflection. This event will also

function as Saint Luke's contribution to the Forest Park Deanery Lenten Series. Be looking for more details.

Annual Evensong: This year's Annual Choral Evensong will take place on Sunday, February 10 at 4:00pm and will include some Centennial Themes—A Celebration of Saint Luke's Heritage of Sacred Music and a rededication of our newly refurbished organ.



From Saint Luke's Newsletter,
January 1959

It is traditional to greet the New Year with celebrations of one kind or another. Gay as the season is, though, it is most important as a time for taking stock of our lives. On the personal level, we might well ask ourselves:

*I am a year older physically. Am I a year older spiritually? Has my inner life been marking time, or possibly losing ground?
Have I made use of the facilities for spiritual growth which Christ offers us through His Church?*

The Lord's coming has made available knowledge and power for which we are accountable. Our vocabulary should not include such words and phrases as "I intend... eventually... tomorrow... some other time..." NOW is the only time we have. NOW is the moment to make decisions. NOW is our opportunity for action. Remember, God does not expect the impossible from us. His demands are related to our talents, our means, and our opportunities. But He does expect our best efforts.

What will you make of 1959?

The Rev. R. Thomas Blomquist



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The Rev. Thomas F. Reese, Rector