



# THE BELLRINGER

SAINT LUKE'S CHURCH

FOREST HILLS, NEW YORK

FEBRUARY 2017

## THE RECTOR'S REPORT TO THE PARISH

### *Formation and Transformation*

Can we imagine what a toddler feels, upon entering Saint Luke's nursery on the first Sunday morning? Some fear, but toys and other children soon turn a strange place into a safe place. Parents bringing their children to church school find other adults there who dedicate themselves to teaching Christ's lessons of love. The older person, living alone, is eager to mingle with others here, sharing the Peace and rubbing elbows at Hospitality Hour. An elderly parishioner in a care facility sometimes experiences grief and loneliness. But that loneliness does not become darkness because another parishioner has the heart to be a visiting light.

All find welcome and solace here, reassured by the diversity of others who are seeking a deeper relationship with God, a better understanding of living the faith and making a difference in their parts of the world. Praying, singing, receiving Holy Communion, we experience community, unique and sacred, kind and inviting; a community facing the challenge to enter into the fray for the good of others in response to God.

We know that as faithful followers of Jesus Christ we have a mission. The Book of Common Prayer puts it this way: "The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ... the Church pursues its mission as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace and love." All the members of the church are ministers, not just the ordained but everybody, all of the baptized. As Presiding Bishop Michael Curry reminds us, what we get into by virtue of our baptism is what he calls the Jesus Movement.

Your ministry, again in words from the Prayer Book, "is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever you may be; and, according to the gifts given [you], to carry on Christ's work of

reconciliation in the world..." Each of you has a unique contribution to offer, not just for this your parish home but through the church for the wholeness and health of creation. Each one of us is part of God's salvation. Wherever you go, you are a representative of Christ. And Jesus in the Gospel says *get moving!*

The movement, the dynamic of our shared parish life, is all about Faith Formation and Transformation—the transformation of people and situations as we work, pray and give for the spread of the Kingdom of God. We are part of a transformational movement—a world raised up by relations of love and mutual understanding, not a creation scarred and polarized by fear and hatred. A world raised up one resurrection at a time: a person, a relationship, a family, a school, a neighborhood, a city-- that's the promise to which we commit.

We work, pray and give for the spread of God's kingdom. Our gratitude and joy beget generosity, moving us to give whatever we can to sustain and grow this mystical, mysterious yet oh so real and present Body of Christ. Your gratitude and joy are praise to God. And by your generosity you are partnering with God in making possible faith formation and people transformation. It is my privilege and honor to be with you in our life and ministry together. There is much to celebrate and be thankful for.

Peace,





**2016 Outreach Grant  
"HOUR CHILDREN"**

The mission of *Hour Children*, based in Long Island City, is to help incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women and their children successfully rejoin the community, reunify with their families, and build independent and secure lives.

Thanks to the generosity of our parish family, over the past year Saint Luke's contributed a total of **\$4,552.69** to this extremely vital program, proving the truth of *Hour Children's* motto, "Love Makes the Difference"!



**2017 Outreach Grant Proposal:  
FOUNTAIN HOUSE**

Founded in 1948 on the premise that people living with mental illness can be active participants in their own recovery, Fountain House is dedicated to the recovery of men and women with mental illness by providing opportunities for people to live, work and learn. Each year, over 1,300 members come to Fountain House to contribute their talents, learn new skills, access opportunities and forge new friendships. Fountain House has inspired the creation of hundreds of similar programs in 34 countries that serve more than 100,000 people annually.

Fountain House operates one of the largest supported housing networks in New York State. In partnership with staff, members operate employment, education, housing and wellness programs. They perform all activities, including advocacy, administrative support, building maintenance and food preparation, that keep the community going. Members develop independent living skills, increase self-sufficiency, and build a strong foundation on which they can achieve their life goals.

**Welcome, Father David Gable!**

Our good friend has returned as guest priest, beginning Sunday, January 29 through Sunday, February 12, while Father Tom is on vacation. Father Gable will also be Sunday celebrant and preacher during Tom's sabbatical starting in mid-June through August, so please make him feel at home!

**Saint Luke's Youth Group Game Night  
Friday, February 17**

The young people of the parish and their friends are invited to gather in the parish hall from 7:00 to 10:00pm for food, fellowship, and board games.

**We Need Adults, Too!**

If you'd enjoy spending time with this bright, fun-loving group, why not consider volunteering for one evening as chaperone or cook, or both? Don't worry if you're not a gourmet chef -- a simple pasta dish and salad is always appreciated. For more information, please contact Shannon O'Rourke, [sevorourke@gmail.com](mailto:sevorourke@gmail.com).

**Recital and Choral Evensong  
Sunday, February 26 at 4:00pm**

**Music from Haydn's *The Creation*  
Duet and Final Chorus, Part III  
featuring**

**Virginia Weant in the role of Eve  
Todd Wachsmann in the role of Adam  
Eugenio Vargas in the role of Uriel  
with**

**Olivia Smith and Saint Luke's Choir**

**William J. Stokes, Organist and Choir Director**

**Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by Stanford  
Preces and Responses by Smith**

**The music for this service is made possible  
by a parishioner's gift.**

**Afternoon Tea Reception by Earl Liao follows**



**Sunday, February 26:**

**Calling All Parents -- and Their Kids**

Please be sure to bring your children to the 10:30 service on the 26th when Father Tom will be offering a Children's Homily. All ages, from toddlers to teens, are welcome!

**Racial Justice & Reconciliation Commission of the Diocese of Long Island**

At the 2016 Diocesan Convention, a great deal of interest in the work of this Commission was expressed by delegates. In response to that interest and to encourage participation going forward, the chair of the Commission, Al Wiltshire, together with Bishop Provenzano, has provided further information:

The Racial Justice & Reconciliation Commission page for the Diocese of Long Island's website is live and includes hyperlinks for all videos and resources listed in the print materials used at the Convention.

The print materials now available online will soon be made available in four additional languages: Spanish, Mandarin, Haitian Creole and Korean.

A dedicated email ([racialjustice@dioceseli.org](mailto:racialjustice@dioceseli.org)) has been created for the Commission so that individuals can follow its work. This email will be managed by the Bishop's Office.

For those who want to begin conversations or events related to racial justice and reconciliation, members of the Commission are available for consultation. Please be in touch. To quote Mr. Wiltshire, "We cannot build and grow the movement without you."

(Thanks to Anne Su for relaying this information!)

**Shrove Tuesday  
February 28**



**PANCAKE SUPPER  
AND  
MARDI GRAS PARTY**

**6:30 -- 8:30pm**

to benefit St. Luke's  
**2017 Outreach Grant**

**Fountain House**

Pancakes, sausage, bacon,  
and beverages

\$8 per person, \$5 for children under 12

**FUN FOR ALL!**

*\*Games \*Prizes \*Mask-making\**

*\*Souvenir Mardi Gras Beads\**

**February Birthdays**

- 2     Laudrey Lamadieu
- 3     Charlotte Dippel
- 4     Aino Jonah
- 9     Lauren Foisy
- 10    Guennadi Boiko
- 13    Logan Birmingham
- 15    Alodia Carldon
- 18    Mark Adams
- 20    Angelica Rose Martinez
- 22    Stephen Banci
- 25    Linda Martinez

*LOOKING AHEAD....*



**ASH  
WEDNESDAY**

***MARCH 1***

***THE HOLY EUCHARIST WITH ASHES***

***7:30AM Commuter Service (a bit shorter to  
accommodate people heading to work)***

***10:00AM***

***8:00PM***

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The Very Rev. Thomas F. Reese, Rector