

## *The Shepherd*

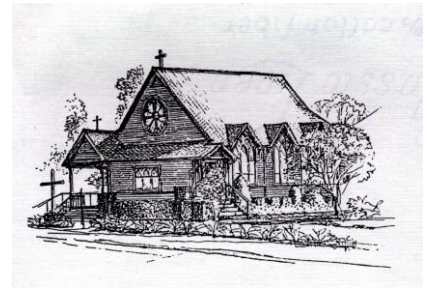
*St. Luke's Episcopal Church*

253 Glen Avenue

Sea Cliff, NY 11579 (516-676-4222)

<http://www.saintlukes-seacliff.org>

[stlukesseacliff@optimum.net](mailto:stlukesseacliff@optimum.net)



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### **Rector's Corner:**

Betty and I have been delighted to become part of the St. Luke's family. Your community, traditions, fellowship, outreach, ministry, fellowship and community activism in this venerable parish are things that you can be proud of. Many of you will have just concluded your well-deserved vacations and be wondering what is coming to St. Luke's? A great deal actually, and some of the highlights follow.

This year's Sunday school curriculum features the excellent *'Living the Good News'*. Laura Franco and Kristine Janusas are co-teachers for this year's classes. Also, the last Sunday of each month, the children will stay in church to receive communion, hear the scriptures and participate in the music and liturgy.

The Daughters of the King (D.O.K.) continue to support the parish by their spiritual commitment to prayer, presence, service and our *St. Luke's Quiet Day Retreats*. They meet on the first Monday of every month at 7 p.m. in the rector's office. If you would like to know more about this order of women please contact Betty MacDonald or speak to any D.O.K. member about your interest in this organization.

As part of a synthesis of reflection, prayer, worship, and community, the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> will be a *'Celtic Eucharist'* featuring special music and prayers from the 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is a worship that places emphasis on the goodness of all creation and our obligation to love God and all people. Plan to attend with friends and family this special liturgy.

The 2015 *St. Luke's Bazaar* will be held Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. in the parish hall. This event always has community wide interest and is the major fund raising event for St. Luke's. Come and purchase hand-made items, jams, jellies, savory items, cheese, all while enjoying many lunch items.

Our 2015 *'Quiet Day Retreat'* will be held on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup> from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. As we gear up for all the holidays it is important that we take time to spiritually center ourselves. This half/day retreat format is designed with opening prayers from the Iona Community in Scotland, four meditations on the *"Work of the Saints"*, prayers at noonday, lunch and ample breaks for conversation, refreshment and renewal. The retreat closes with Compline and is sponsored by the Daughters of the King. Take four hours to approach Thanksgiving and the Holidays in a new way.

We will be continuing our tradition of *'Rectory, Patio & Garden Parties'* (hosted by David & Betty MacDonald) at differing times of the year. These events are designed for fellowship & fun and begin at 6:30 p.m. on Friday (sometimes Saturday) evenings. Here is how this works. A main dish is provided, and we ask that each of you bring some dish, dessert, or salad to share. Wine and other beverages are also provided; but we ask that if you prefer beer, bring a selection of your own choosing. These occasions allow us to get to know one another better.

Our next *'Rectory Party'* will be the Christmas Open House on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.

We have St. Nicholas making his annual appearance at St. Luke's on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. The ("Not To Be Missed") Children's Christmas Pageant will be held Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> that includes a wonderful reception along with a new Parish Christmas Tree. Christmas Eve liturgy will be Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. And there will be a Christmas Day service on Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. And our regular service schedule on Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>.

I look forward to seeing each and every one of you at worship, and at these other opportunities in the months to come. Be excited and expect the Lord to do great things for us at St. Luke's.

David+

### Every Member Canvass

We are kicking off our 2015 Every Member Canvass this week. Look for pledge cards in the mail. The Church is in need of your financial commitment. Your continued financial support is appreciated and very much needed. Thank you!



### Website

Please take a moment to visit our website at <http://saintlukes-seacliff.org/>. There is a lot of good information there, including volunteer schedules, the Church calendar, photos and weekly sermons. If you have church-related information you would like included on the website, please contact the Parish Office.

### Ghosting with Zombie Flamingos Fundraiser



The flamingos are back for the month of October! You can send 4 Giant Flamingos and a bunch of their cannibal corpse offspring to the house of your choosing! For information contact Kristine Janusas at 639-5658.



### Jammin' in the Kitchen

Jam and Jelly preserving is in full swing and happens every Wednesday from now to November 7<sup>th</sup>. Stop by on a

Wednesday (9:30 am) and help make jams, jellies, spices, and baked goods to be sold at the Country Kitchen Booth at the Bazaar. Stop by, lend a hand...we appreciate the help! Not sure what is involved? Call Janette Heurtley (671-4696).

### St. Luke's Annual Bazaar

The date, Saturday November 7<sup>th</sup>, is fast approaching for St. Luke's Annual Bazaar. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we need your help to make it a success! A sign up form is attached to this newsletter (they are also available in the Parish Hall). Please read the form and choose a spot where you can help. Then return the paper to Jack or Debbie Pierce or to the Parish Office. Helping at the bazaar is a great way to become involved in a parish activity. There is something to do for everyone, kids too! Don't forget to tell your family, friends, and neighbors about this event. They won't be disappointed!



### Capital Campaign for Window Repair

The work is about to begin on our project to repair, restore and protect our stained glass windows and rose window. More than \$40,000 has been raised to date to facilitate this work. We are grateful to have been awarded a New York Sacred Sites Conservancy grant of \$6,000 for this project. If you have not yet contributed to this project to help us please consider doing so.



### Vestry Meeting

The Vestry will be meeting on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> in the Rector's office following the 10:00 am service.

### Music Program at St. Luke's



Our music program is one of the highlights of our services at St. Luke's. Help us continue to bring in talented musicians by making a designated offering to the St. Luke's Music Fund". Thank you!

### Fall quiet Day/Retreat

Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. This retreat will be held in the Church. Join us in four meditations on "The Work of the Saints". Father David will be the retreat leader, and all are welcome. Lunch will be served in the Parish Hall. If interested, please speak with Father David.

### St. Luke's Thrift Shop

Good quality clothing is needed. Donations may be dropped off at the Thrift Shop, Tuesdays between 10:30 am and 1:30 pm or placed outside the Thrift Shop door at any time. Please no books, cassettes or video tapes!

## Affirming God's Presence

As we go forward each day in our personal and family lives...we should try and remember that everything around us has been created by a good and loving God. This affirmation of God's presence runs throughout the Christian tradition. One of the most powerful statements about this comes from St. Augustine's autobiography written 1,600 years ago, where Augustine refers to our God as "you" and shows that it is never too late to seek God in our spiritual journey.

"How late I came to love you. O Beauty so ancient and so fresh, how late I came to love you! *You were within me*, yet I had gone outside to seek you. Unlovely myself, I rushed toward all those lovely things you had made. *And always you were with me*, I was not with you. All these beauties kept me far from you – although they would not have existed at all unless *they had their being in you*. You called, you cried, you shattered my deafness. You sparkled, you blazed, you drove away my blindness. You shed your fragrance, and I drew in my breath and I pant for you. *I tasted* and now I hunger and thirst. *You touched me*, and now I burn with longing for your peace."

"I was outside. You were within." Such was Augustine's experience and I suspect it is often ours. Yet over time, through worship, fellowship, study, inquiry, he as well as us, can come to understand that God is always present to us in all things; it is that we sometimes (like blind persons), do not have the eyes to see God.

This is the same point that made in recent times by the Catholic monk, Thomas Merton:

"Life is this simple. We are living in a world that is absolutely transparent, and God is shining through it all the time. This is not just a fable or a nice story. It is true. If we abandon ourselves to God and forget ourselves, we see it sometimes, and we see it maybe frequently. God shows Himself everywhere, in everything – in people and in things and in nature and in events. It becomes very obvious that God is everywhere and in everything and we cannot be without Him. It is impossible. The only thing is that we don't see it."

The mystical nature of God and the search for him is bound up inside each of us. Our common humanity searches for God in music, literature, art and poetry. The Irish poet William Butler Yeats describes and experience of the sacred that he had while in a coffee shop in part four of his poem "Vacillation". The first five lines describe the setting, with the last four lines the experience.

"My fiftieth year had come and gone,  
I sat, a solitary man, in a crowded London shop,  
An open book and empty cup  
On the table top.  
While on the shop and street I gazed,  
My body of a sudden blazed;  
And twenty minutes more or less  
It seemed, so great my happiness,  
That I was blessed and could bless

Yeats spoke of a happiness "so great" that he "was blessed and could bless."  
To live, learn, worship and work so that we might come to see and affirm God's presence is what I hope we do together in the time before us. The life of Christ points us in the right direction to do this while moving us to make the most of our potential. In the Diocese of Washington, there is a wonderfully prayerful & insightful woman who leads retreats and writes extensively of just this kind of thing. Listen to what Margaret M. Treadwell points us to...

"I wish for you the gift of developing into your full potential without labels or expectations...but instead...with the celebration of the unknown and the mystery of life; for the blessing of asking questions instead of settling for easy answers; for creativity rather than for perfection...for persistence rather than the quick fix...for paradox and ambiguity rather than solutions...for playfulness rather than seriousness...for compassion without judgment..."

And yes...

For challenge rather than comfort."

David+



### Altar Flowers/Sanctuary Light

**Memorials** are an important way to commemorate loved ones, family and friends. Your message is posted in the weekly bulletin.

These memorials help us defray the costs for altar flowers and sanctuary candles. Many dates are

available – please contact the Parish Office if you would like to reserve a date for a memorial.

### Raffle Items Needed for Annual Bazaar!!!

Please consider a donation to the raffle table of either a complete basket of goods or items that can be combined with others donations: (we keep the value of the baskets or grouping at a value of \$50 - \$75). **All items must be new!**



- gift cards to restaurants, shops, stores, nail or hair salons, barber, etc. (Helps our local community too!)
- wines and accessories
- holiday decor items
- jewelry
- golf or other sport items
- toys (school age boy and girl)
- baby
- items or gift cards that would appeal to a teen

### New Parish Directory

The 2014-2015 Directory is complete! If you did not take a copy at the Parish BBQ-Picnic, extras are available on the table at the back of the Church. Please take one copy per family.

### Coffee Hour



Join us at Coffee Hour every Sunday immediately following the 10 am service. All are welcome... children too! Volunteers are needed to host this special gathering. Can you help?

Hosting Coffee Hour is easy! Speak with Betty MacDonald or call her (676-4211) and she will happily answer questions and explain what to do. Please review the dates available and volunteer for a Sunday.

### October Birthdays

*"Happy, happy birthday from all of us to you!"*

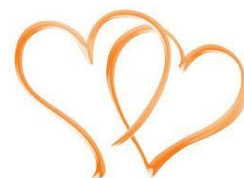
- 7<sup>TH</sup> Barbara Truesdell
- 8<sup>th</sup> Eileen Baltrus
- 16<sup>th</sup> Debbie Pierce
- 17<sup>th</sup> Glenn Bunce
- 20<sup>th</sup> Rachel Lieu
- 21<sup>st</sup> Jennifer Dawson
- 21<sup>st</sup> Joe Rydzewski
- 26<sup>th</sup> Tyler Rieger
- 27<sup>th</sup> Emily Mastrota
- 28<sup>th</sup> Olivia Aikman



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### October Anniversaries

*"May your anniversary remind yu of the love that brought you together"*



- 3<sup>rd</sup> Betty & David MacDonald
- 10<sup>th</sup> Beth & Gerry Rieger
- 12<sup>th</sup> Carole and Peter Muttee



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### The next issue of the Shepherd will publish 11/3.

The deadline for articles is Friday, 10/30. If you have something you would like to have published, please contact the Parish Office at 676-4222 or at [stlukesseacliff@optimum.net](mailto:stlukesseacliff@optimum.net). **Please note:** If you do not see your birthday or anniversary listed, please contact the Parish Office so we can update our records.

## Celtic Christianity

St. Luke's in Sea Cliff is a place where you will often hear me say, "I want to know more of this thing you call 'Celtic Christianity'." It is an important component of our spiritual life with one another, with the vestry and differing guilds of this church; and how we see our journey in our lives in Christ. Here is a brief synopsis of what this is about.

Celtic Christianity was a way of spreading the Gospel of Christ that was centered around the 'goodness of creation', an emphasis on the Gospel of John, a habit of adapting to the local customs of the people encountered, the burning desire to teach, a devotion to curiosity and learning, and a proclivity to be blind to issues of gender. It has only been in the last 40 years that we have begun to recapture this model of evangelism.

Celtic Christianity seeks to build "intentional communities of faith". What does this mean? They (and I) believe that Christ calls us to share the Good News by living into and worshiping together in communities of faith that are 'Horizontal' in their relationships rather than 'Top-Down'. This specifically applies to our mutual ministries, outreach, prayer, and leadership as a church. Celtic Christianity realized centuries ago that 'Christianity is something that is more often caught' by seekers who come to rest in a church setting where they are accepted for what they believe and who they are upon arrival. This model allows the seeker to visualize how the faith is lived out in the communities 'day-to-day' example, allowing for each person to decide if they would like to know more about Christ, because of the example of those who follow Him.

Even today, the Celtic model of Christianity is far different from the normal pattern of governance and community that is common within the Anglican Communion, the Episcopal Church, and most parishes. Let me explain...

The 'Top-Down' model that reflects our church polity was transferred to us from the Latin model of Rome. This is reflected by our institutional structure of Diocese, Cathedrals, Canonries, Deaneries, parishes, missions, and the orders of

ministers in the church (Bishops, Priests, Deacons, and Lay Leaders). We are a church of canons and rules, applied from the top down. This model encourages the searcher to subscribe to the 'rules' first...so that you may then become a member.

But when you read about Christ in the scriptures, the Gospels, and the early church as found in the epistles and particularly Acts...you see a much different model that existed immediately after the resurrection. The model was a community of fellowship, forgiveness, commonality, grace, questions, hopefulness and expectancy for good things to come.

It is important to remember this as the Celtic church was first, a church of outreach, mission, movement and a force for 'change' in the status quo. It was a church whose faith aligned itself on Christian accommodation, forbearance, witness (both in what it believed & how the believer lived into it). Celtic Christianity always used and accepted the talents, skills and social customs of individuals as a "gift given by God for that local community". Celtic Christianity did not emphasize 'rules to membership', but rather the powerful themes of 'sharing and adoption'.

This sharing of life covered, needs, education, wisdom, the seasons, work, growth, fellowship, curiosity and journey. The practice of adoption was exemplified by the scriptures themselves through the practice of 'Godly Hospitality', where everyone was welcome, questioning was expected, listening valued, and storytelling was an art. And by these things, people 'caught Christianity' and were hospitably inclined to do so. This way of living into one another and Kingdom of God is what I hope we can mirror. I look forward to us exploring new ways to share God's outrageous openness, love and hospitality with others. To sharing our love with those who are searching to find the Lord in the actions of intentional communities filled with grace and wisdom. Let us aspire to be a place of open hearts, open minds, seeing God in every person and...in one another's eyes.

The love and affection of heaven be with you...

David+



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