

January 13, 2016

The Shepherd

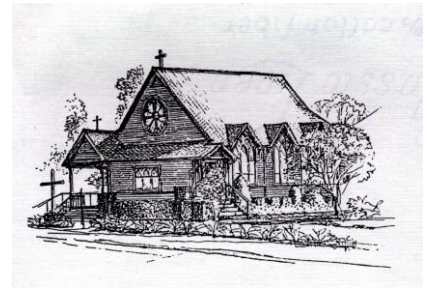
St. Luke's Episcopal Church

253 Glen Avenue

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stlukesseacliff@optimum.net



Around the Parish Yard:

First, let me wish each of you who read these words, a Happy New Year. This season marks an appropriate time for us to appreciate the goodness of this fine country, our many blessings and the beginning of things to come in 2016. It is also the time of year that our liturgical season moves toward Epiphany; and to ponder the wonder and breadth of love of God

We live in a world that is averse to hopeful expectations. To move through these next few months without attending to some reflection on what we long for spiritually is to impoverish how much we need the love of God in our lives. Too bring the God of all things, into all things and our daily experience.

Epiphany is about reflecting upon our hunger for God. It is about avoiding the things of life that shield us from His presence. And because we need direction to move us towards this goal; I would supply you with some words written by St. Augustine nearly sixteen centuries ago that express just this sentiment.

“How late I came to 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 within me, and I was not it 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 panted for you. I tasted...

Now...I hunger and thirst. You touched me, and how I burn for your peace. I was outside...but you were always within.”

As we move into Epiphany let us seek as the wise men did, “this thing that the Lord has made known”. Let us open our hearts, mind and souls to Christ. In 2016, let us allow God to reside in our hearts. The love and affection of heaven be with you.

Fr. David+

Annual Parish Meeting

Mark the date, **Sunday, January 31st** for our annual meeting. Learn about Parish activities and committees. Listen to plans and the church budget for 2016 and vote for Vestry members. Don't miss this important meeting – the future of our parish depends on you! A pot luck luncheon will follow the 10:00 am service. All are welcome – children too!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



WE NEED A CHAIRPERSON for our annual pancake supper on February 9 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Please contact the Parish Office if you are able to help run this fun (and tasty!) event.

Vestry Meeting

The Vestry will be meeting on Sunday, November 15th in the Rector's office following the 10:00 am service.

Christmas Season Thank you

Thank you so much to everyone who helped make this holiday season so special! The church looked beautiful and festive thanks to the Altar Guild's hanging the greens and Christmas decorations. The Children's Christmas Pageant was a big success - thanks so much to Allison Trotta, Kristine Janusas and Laura Franco for organizing it and to all the children that participated. Many thanks everyone that volunteered during the services, and to Paul Baserman and the choir for the beautiful music, during the Christmas season and always!



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.

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 anytime. Please no books, cassettes or video tapes!

Coffee Hour



Join us at Coffee Hour every Sunday immediately following the 10 am service. All are welcome! Volunteers are needed to host this special gathering. Speak with Betty MacDonald or call her (676-4211) for more info.

January Birthdays

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



2nd Arlene O'Dell
4th Christine Anthony-Haim
5th Catherine Seelig
7th Christopher Treiber
8th Jill Salditt
9th Madaline Rondeau
9th Edward Seelig
13th Lillian Trotta
17th Robert Viel
18th Audrey Pierce
19th Gerard Rieger
19th Alex Wiesmann
21st Emily Jane Waechter
24th Henry Spina
25th Marcia Widenor
27th Pamela Mastrota
28th Charles Scheu



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The next issue of the Shepherd will publish the first week of February. If you have something you would like to have published, please contact the Parish Office at 676-4222 or 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.



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The Shepherd Newsletter