

# The SLANT

## Vocation - We Are All Called By God

*"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." - Frederick Buechner*

Ever since I discovered it, this quote from Frederick Buechner has been my defining understanding of what Christian vocation is all about.

Vocation is an important part of the Christian vocabulary, but I sometimes wonder if we miss its power. For the Christian, vocation means anything we are called to do by God. It comes from the Latin word *vocare*, which means "to call." Thus, vocation is a calling, and we believe our calling is God's voice.

Unfortunately, though, for many decades we've spoken of vocation in the church as referring exclusively to the ordained or religious life. Priests, deacons, monks, nuns - they had vocations or callings. The rest of us just toiled along, preferably doing what the priests, nuns, and monks told us to do!

Yet, as we have put baptism front and center again, we recovered the ancient understanding that all Christians have a vocation given by God. Some are called to serve God in ordained ministry, others aren't. But we are all called to be servants of the Gospel. All that differs is where God is calling us to exercise that vocation.

This also means that each one of us shares equal authority in the Gospel in our particular

responsibility or expertise. Part of Christian formation, then, is helping each person to discern their vocation - to discern where God is calling them to serve the Gospel.

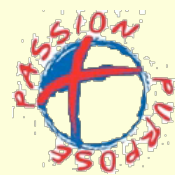
Part of that discernment is figuring out what we are good at, and what gives us a sense of fulfillment and accomplishment. But vocation is not subjective, it's not 'all about me.' As Buechner's quote illustrates, vocation is also about where our lives intersect with the needs around us.

The catechism in the Prayer Book says that the ministry (vocation) of each Christian is reconciliation. In its broadest sense, reconciliation means building up, bringing together, overcoming alienation, or healing. I think nearly every profession can be practiced in a way that is faithful to the Gospel and bear witness to the ministry of reconciliation. Where our passion meets God's purpose, we have found our vocation.

My prayer this Easter season is that we will see each part of our daily lives as an opportunity to be servants of God's call, and that we will grow in our commitment to nurture vocation in other as well.

*- Father Dirk*

### Passion & Purpose Sunday, April 26



Churches throughout the Diocese of will celebrate Easter 3 as Passion & Purpose Sunday on April 26. This will be a day for reflection about vocation: claiming and expressing a passion and purpose for our lives as friends and followers of Jesus Christ. Ultimately, Passion & Purpose Sunday is about renewing a sense of vocation for all Christians..

At Saint Luke's, Dr. Bob Lewis will preach at each service on Christian vocation in daily life as well as the opportunity we have to nurture priestly vocations in our youth. In addition to his leadership on Vestry, Bob also serves the Diocese as a member of the Committee on the Priesthood.

There will also be a fellowship hour after each service, with opportunities to learn about the various ministries in which members of Saint Luke's.

## JOYCE BELTON - A PROFILE IN COURAGE AND DETERMINATION

by Meg Rich



Joyce Belton

Joyce Dinkins Belton and her husband Dr. John Belton joined St. Luke's Church in the fall of 1967 when Father McGlathery was serving as our priest. Both Joyce and John were faithful and active members of the congregation, serving on vestry, singing in the choir, and acolyting. John was

Senior Warden and the parish library is dedicated to Joyce's mother Sally. Four years ago John passed away, but Joyce remains a staunch supporter of St. Luke's and is a model of courage and determination for us all.

In 1974 Joyce was leaving class after the last day of a course that would certify her as an educational administrator, a course she'd been taking at Rider College, when she suffered a massive stroke that left her paralyzed and unable to utter more than two words. Administered last rites, as a patient who was not expected to live, Joyce made a remarkable recovery that she attributes to sheer stubbornness.

Her husband John knew her well enough to complete the sentences that she struggled to utter, helping her to regain her linguistic control, but it was Joyce's own determination to regain speech and the use of her body that brought her through the therapies at St. Lawrence Rehabilitation Center with flying colors. One of her first accomplishments on regaining her faculties was to write up a retrospective on her life, focusing on her recovery, for inclusion in a book of such accounts entitled "A Stroke is Not the End."

By 1984 she had also graduated and become a full-fledged artist, working in pastels and oils -- although her favorite medium is charcoal --, spurred on by the desire to turn the rehab exercises she was offered into something more lasting. In 1990 she attended a private banquet at Gracie Mansion, the home of the Mayor of New York City, to present her original collage about Winnie Mandela to Winnie's distinguished husband Nelson Mandela during his first trip to that city. She modestly notes that she was invited there only because her older brother David Dinkins was then serving as

Mayor of New York City, the first African-American to hold that office.

You can visit Joyce at her lovely sun-filled home in Brandon Farms in Lawrenceville and see some of her artwork on the walls, although the Mandela piece has long since been added to a museum collection. Because the South African government would not release photographs of Nelson Mandela as a political prisoner, nor of his family, Joyce had to conquer the challenge this fact presented to her of finding a photographic model. Before her work rested in Mr. Mandela's hands, it was widely exhibited, including at the New Jersey State Museum in 1986 in her native Trenton.

Born and raised in Trenton, both Joyce and David graduated from Howard University. Joyce says that her mother also received a degree from that distinguished historically black university, but she doesn't know whether the race and gender biases common in her mother's generation made it difficult for her to get to college. In her own case, Joyce says, going to Howard was like the natural next step after high school. Nobel-Prize-Winning novelist Toni Morrison was Joyce's classmate at Howard and occupied the dorm room next to hers. They remained close enough friends for Joyce to joke now about the fact that when her son Robert was born, Toni Morrison would have been his godmother, were it not for the fact that she ended up following the guidelines of the Episcopal Church in choosing a fellow parishioner instead.

Majoring in foreign languages as well as psychology at Howard prompted Joyce to consider a career in the foreign service but her father deflated her hopes, citing her gender and race as two strikes against such an idea.

Joyce worked after college first as a social worker and later, after graduate work at the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Dayton, Ohio State, Trenton State College, and Rider University, as a teacher, coordinator, and administrator in the Trenton public school system. She even earned a certificate that would allow her to work with prison inmates at "Thresholds," thus combining her skills as a social worker with her teaching. However, she would

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## St Luke's Youth News & Events

### FOOTPRINTS WALK-A-THON, APR 25



On Saturday, April 25th our youth will participate in the FOOTPRINTS Walk-a-thon in support of Trenton Crisis Ministry.

The path is a 5.2 mile round trip walk along the Delaware & Raritan Canal tow path in Kingston, NJ. and begins at 8:00.

On Sunday, April 19 the youth will be at the 8:30 and 10:30 services asking for your support in this effort. There is a \$10.00 registration fee plus a pledge sheet. Please continue to support the youth of St. Luke's as we work to support the Trenton Crisis Ministry. And we would love to have you walk with us.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL GARDEN PREP, APR 26

Joseph's Crew invites all youth to help prepare the Sunday School clipping garden for spring planting on Sunday, April 26 after the 10:30 service. Children are encouraged to wear clothes suitable for yard work. Many flowers from the garden will be used for altar flowers during the season.

### JOYCE BELTON

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describe her most significant life's work as "professional volunteerism," referring to the kind of work she undertook after her recovery.

Spurred on by the desire to help people left handicapped by the kind of medical ordeal she had been through, Joyce became, among many other things, a member of the board of directors of St. Lawrence Rehabilitation Center, the very institution in which she herself had once been a patient, as well as president of the Mercer County Stroke Club.

She campaigned tirelessly and even as far as the White House to improve the laws to protect handicapped citizens, ranging from wheelchair access to public restrooms to handicapped parking spaces in public parking areas. She remembers lobbying with

### SAVE THE DATE!

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL BEGINS JUNE 22

Discovery Canyon is where children can discover the wonders of God's Word! Vacation Bible School begins on Monday, June 22 and runs through Friday, June 26. Each evening will begin with dinner at 5:30, and end by 8:30.

Each evening, participants will learn about Jesus with their new friends Max the Mantis, Olivia the Owl, Liz the Lizard, Felix the Fox, and Blossom the Burro. An outreach project will support the Episcopal Church's Navajo mission in the Southwest.

Classes are for children through grade 6, but VBS is for everyone! Old children will serve as teacher's assistants and activity mentors, and adults will supervise classes and arts and crafts. Dinner will be provided for everyone.

Save the date in your calendar and come join us for our fourth annual Vacation Bible School extravaganza!



fellow parishioners at St. Luke's to improve handicapped access.

While there is much more to tell about her volunteer activities -- you might hear more if you catch her at Michael's for breakfast on Sundays --, but it would be a mistake to end this account without mention of another facet of this multi-talented and strikingly attractive parishioner, her gifts as a poet. This excerpt from her poem "Why Teach--?" captures some of the spirit of this extraordinary woman:

"I teach because I want to see  
A mind wake up—a thought set free  
And escape from narrow and ignorant walls  
To a world where knowledge and wisdom call  
That's why I teach."

Thank you, Joyce!!

## BISHOP COUNCELL LEADS POPULAR PENTECOST RETREAT FOR LAITY

Bishop Councill will again offer his popular retreat for laity on May 29 and 30. This retreat will be a time of prayer, reflection and renewal in preparation for the Pentecost season. Guests will explore, in prayer and discussion, Pentecost Sunday, the Holy Spirit, and how, during Pentecost, to draw closer to God. The retreat will include a celebration of the Eucharist.

Guests will stay at the Stella Maris Retreat Center in Elberon, NJ near Long Branch. Cost is \$85 for an overnight stay, or \$40 for commuter guests. Check-in is at 3:30 on Friday, and the first session begins at 4:00 pm. Registration deadline is May 15. Register via email to Sarah Paige, [spaige@newjersey.anglican.org](mailto:spaige@newjersey.anglican.org) at Diocesan House or call 609 394-5281.



## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND OUR CURRENT CONFLICTS

Much has been written in the secular media about the conflicts and moves toward schism in the Episcopal Church. These are very unusual times for the Church, but it helps to remember that no period of the church's history has every been without conflict. As General Convention prepares to meet in Anaheim this July, more will be written. For now, here is a brief summary of where things stand.

The Episcopal Church is still a full member of the Anglican Communion, and our Presiding Bishop has participated fully in all of the councils of the church. In fact, the Archbishop of Canterbury will attend General Convention (which he did not do in 2006, the first absence in many years).

The Episcopal Church has also maintained its temporary moratorium agreed in 2006 on consecrating bishops in same-gender relationships and the authorization of public liturgies of same-gender unions. There will be resolutions at General Convention to repeal both of these moratoria. The Diocese of New Jersey's official position is that canonical guarantees of equal access to discernment for ordination takes priority over the moratorium. With regard to same-gender unions, Bishop Councill does not permit clergy to preside at legal ceremonies or sign civil union certificates, but they may celebrate the Eucharist or offer prayers when a same-gendered couple is civilly united in New Jersey.

Four dioceses have attempted to leave the Church. In each case, the bishops have resigned or have been deposed and the remaining parishes have carried on the work of the diocese. Various court cases will determine ownership of diocesan and parish assets. In general, courts have upheld that the Episcopal Church

is a hierarchical church, which means individuals may leave the church, but parishes and dioceses may not. However, some property laws in some states favor congregations, which means the US Supreme Court will likely decide the issue in those cases. The Episcopal Church tends to win nearly every case on appeal.

In New Jersey, Bishop Councill has a positive relationship with every parish. While one parish decided to leave the church (Saint George's in Helmetta), an amicable solution was reached allowing them to purchase the property.

Matters are complicated by the intervention of foreign provinces in the life of the Episcopal church. The Anglican principle is one church for each nation or region. Members who have left the Episcopal Church have sought affiliation with Anglican churches in Nigeria, Rwanda, Kenya, or Uganda. Each of those churches have ordained American priests as bishops for the purpose of establishing a new Anglican province in North America.

The churches that have broken away tend to be all white and the clergy are predominantly all white males. Some are opposed to the ordination of women. Others have no problem with it. Some are more charismatic/evangelical. Others are more catholic. As a practical matter, the breakaway groups are likely to face the same conflicts they left once they realize how different they really are from each other.

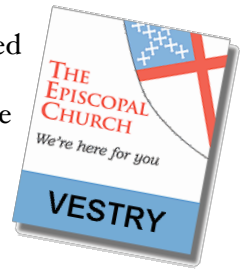
It may seem that conflict is all that defines the church these days. However, most quarters of the Episcopal Church are like what we experience at Saint Luke's - communities of faithful people gathering each week for worship, fellowship, and ministry.

## VESTRY NOTES

The March Vestry meeting was held on March 12, 2009. The agenda began with a reflection on Mark 1:14-20 and a discussion of the question, "What are you willing to leave behind when Jesus calls you." Father Dirk announced the resignation of Joyce Gibbs from Vestry. Members suggested parishioners names to fill two vacant terms.

Jamie Griswold circulated financial reports via email. Collections year to date are 95% of budget, though February showed a marked improvement over January. Expenses were 86% of budget year-to-date, which mean a lower deficit than budgeted for the first two months. There is still a projected deficit of \$10,000 for the year, though.

Buildings and Grounds reported that one of the abandoned cars in our parking lot was removed by the owner. Efforts to have the second car removed have been unsuccessful so police help will be sought.



Vestry discussed plans for Passion & Purpose Sunday (Apr 26), re-planting of the Sunday School Garden, Vacation Bible School, and a planned Father's Day Softball game, eucharist, and cookout.

The next meeting of Vestry will be Wednesday, April 15 at 7 pm.

## NEW PARISH WEBSITE IN PREPARATION FOR EASTER

Father Dirk and the Communications Ministry Team are working on a re-design of the parish website, which will be ready for Easter Sunday.

The new website will feature a contemporary and more unified look over the current site as well as more resources. The new website also comes with a new hosting process, which will allow for multiple editors to have access and maintain the site. This will make the site easier to maintain and keep up to date.

Principle sections will include worship & spiritual resources, Youth pages, Parish Life, and news and links. The website will initially have basic information, but more sections will be added during the Easter season.

We have discovered the out presence on the web is an important part of our ministry. Most new members in the last few years have found us through our website. We have also noted regular visitors to our site from around the country.

Keep visiting [www.stlukeewing.org](http://www.stlukeewing.org) to see the new look. The current site will be active until the switchover, which will occur over the Easer weekend.

## JOSEPH'S CREW WORK DATES, APR 11 &amp; 25

We will decorate the church, inside and out on Saturday, April 11. Starting at 9:30 am we will move flowers from the Parish Hall into the church for the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. We will also be planting tulips, daffodils, etc. at the front of the church and patio. Children are welcome to help!

Also, on Saturday, April 25 at 9 am, we will be having a clean up day. If you can wash a window, rake leaves, plant flowers, clean the refrigerator please join us. The more, the merrier. Refreshments will be available.

If you have questions please call Ginger Young (883-4854) or Earl Smith (737-1409).

## PHOTO DIRECTORY UPDATE

With much thanks for Jo Ann Lasso's editorial work, the Olan Mills pictorial directory has been finalized and sent to Olan Mills for printing. Copies of the directory should arrive by the end of April. There will be enough for each active household in the parish.

The directory will have 8 pages of activity photos and parish history, photos from the family portrait session, photos of new members who joined after the portrait sessions, and an address, phone, and email directory of all active parishioners. No personal details will be published unless each household consented.

Thank you for your patience as this project nears completion!

# Holy Week and Easter at Saint Luke's

## Maundy Thursday April 9

Liturgy at 7 pm

*Includes the Foot Washing, Communion, and Stripping of the Altar*

Celebrant: The Rev. Canon Joan Fleming  
Preacher: The Rev. Dirk C. Reinken  
Assisting: The Rev. Lisa Caton

## Good Friday April 10

Stations of the Cross & Communion  
12 Noon

Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday  
7 pm

Officiant & Preacher:  
The Rev. Dirk C. Reinken



## Great Vigil of Easter April 11

Liturgy at 7 pm

*Includes the Lighting of New Fire, Vigil Lessons, Renewal of Baptism, and First Eucharist of Easter*

Celebrant: The Rev. Dirk C. Reinken  
Preacher: The Rev. Lisa Caton

## Easter Day April 12

Holy Eucharist, 8:30 am

Celebrant: The Rev. Lisa Caton  
Preacher: The Rev. Dirk C. Reinken

Holy Eucharist, 10:30 am  
Celebrant: The Rev. Dirk C. Reinken  
Preacher: The Rev. Dirk C. Reinken  
Assisting: The Rev. Canon Joan Fleming

Saint Luke's Episcopal Church  
1620 Prospect St  
Ewing NJ 08638-3031

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### Services:

Sundays:

8:30 and 10:30 (with nursery)

Church School at 10:15

Tuesdays:

6:00 pm, Centering Prayer

Wednesdays:

9:15 am, Holy Eucharist with prayer for healing