

The Slant

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
1620 Prospect St Ewing NJ 08638 Telephone : (609) 882-7614 www.stluke Sewing.org

Developing Mutual Ministry By Father Dirk

I've now been back at the altar and in the office for six weeks after the end of sabbatical. I have to say, it both feels like I've never been away and that you all have taken being St. Luke's to a whole new level!

I need to formally say "Thank You" to the Wardens, Vestry, staff, and especially Jo Ann Senor as short-term office help, for making sure my desk was both clean and problem free upon my return. I could just jump in and get geared up for the summer rather than sort through all kinds of things from the past. God always calls the right people to leadership at the right time, and I can see that God has called the right leaders out of St. Luke's for this time in our life together!

Both Canon Joan Fleming and Rev. Lisa Caton expressed how wonderful the lay leadership was in making their time with us as rewarding as possible. A new parishioner commented that he knew how great the parish was when he visited because everyone was so nice and things went so well even with the rector away. That is a testimony to how each one of us is essential to giving St. Luke's the qualities it has.

One of my hopes for St. Luke's has been the development of a stronger lay leadership that is both able and willing to take on various leadership roles in parish life. I'm excited to see how youth ministry, fellowship activities, outreach ministries, and fundraising have kicked into high gear, and I very much appreciate more involvement with communications and stewardship. We are a community blessed with many gifts and talents, and

I'm seeing more people step forward to offer theirs in support of our parish ministry. Indeed, I think we are a place limited only by the limits of our imaginations!

The Prophet Joel in the Old Testament speaks of the ability to dream dreams and see visions (another way of describing what we call imagination) as a sign of the coming of God's reign. From the ideas people are sharing with me, I think our dreaming is

kicking into high gear and I give God much thanks for that blessing.

My hope, as we go forward, is that we will be able to share leadership and vision even more. The idea is that we are all ministers together – some of us paid, some of us volunteer; some of us lay, some of us ordained – but we are all

ministers working together to mutually undertaking the ministry of the Gospel in this place.

It is a healthy congregation that fosters a mutual ministry between pastor and people. When responsibility for ministry is confined to just a few, it becomes shaped by what those few believe are necessary for the many and needs go unmet. When everyone shares participation in ministry, St. Luke's truly becomes "our Church," where everyone knows there is a place for them and where they are able to offer their gifts in sharing the grace of the Gospel.

I look forward to nurturing this growth in mutual ministry – and to being nurtured by it. My best days as a parish priest are when you folks leave me inspired, challenged, and invigorated.

Thank you for the nearly 8 years we have shared together.

I eagerly await to see what God calls us to do next. It will only be limited by our capacity to dream and by our willingness to offer ourselves to our community!

What's New on Our Website?

www.stluke Sewing.org

Our newest website features include links to weekly worship information, parish news and announcements, links to GoodSearch.com, and even a parish bookstore!

St. Luke's Bookstore is powered by Amazon.com, the most trusted name in online shopping. Our growing list of titles include links to what the parish clergy are reading, recommended books for Episcopalians, and a search box to find anything on Amazon. Each time you purchase something after initiating your shopping session through our website, Amazon will donate a percentage of the sales to St. Luke's.

Come by and visit us in cyberspace!



INSIDE: SLANT STORIES

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Parishioner News:



Curtis Johnson, son of **Carole Townsend-Harrell**, was recently recognized by the NAACP as a leader of the future at its 101st annual convention, held in Kansas City. Curtis serves as dual capacity in both the Communications and New Media departments of the NAACP.

He has provided communications and new media outreach, strategy, and support for field operations including the NAACP Leadership 500 Summit, the South Carolina King Day at the

Dome, the Justice for Mark Barmore Rally in Rockford, Ill., and the NAACP Centennial Convention.

According to the NAACP, the organization is looking to a younger generation of civil and human rights activists to continue its legacy. Curtis is among 10 NAACP leaders under the age of 35 who represent the new frontline of civil rights advocates and are working to realize the NAACP's vision of "One Nation, One Dream".



Congratulations to **Miata Rogers** for receiving the St. Luke's Scholarship. This year's award was \$700 and will support Miata's enrollment at **Oberlin College** in Ohio this fall. Thank you to **Felicia Alexander, Judy Gray, Carole Bridges, and Mary Flamer** for reviving the St. Luke's scholarship tradition and making sure

it will continue into the future!



Alethia Lazarus graduated from **Widener University** this past May with a BS degree Major in Business Management and Minor in Human Resources. She is back home and working as a bank teller at TD bank while she is actively job searching.

Real Bread for the Real Presence!

Beginning in late August, we will offer real bread at the Eucharist in place of the usual communion hosts for a trial period. If feedback is positive and people are willing to make the bread, we will be able to maintain the switch.

There is an old joke when asked if she believed in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, a worshipper indignantly replied "If I can believe that little round thing is bread, I can certainly believe in the Real Presence!"

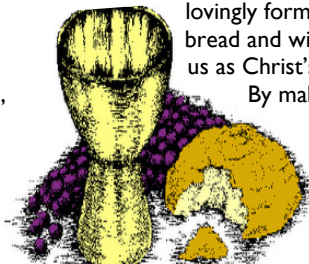
The Eucharist is our most important ritual as a Christian community, and its symbols are the most powerful symbols we have as Christians. Jesus said "I am the Bread of Life" and this bread is what we receive on Sunday morning. However is the flat, little round host the best we can do with our symbols?

Early Christians used real bread. While the flat hosts we currently use are, in fact, of the same substance as bread, their design has been honed over the centuries for ease of storage and distribution rather than their representation as the true Bread.

St. Luke's has a wonderful tradition of making ourselves the things we offer to God in our worship. The church was built from cast-off bricks our founders carted away from the potteries where they worked. Our amazing altar was lovingly made by a departed saint of our parish whose son and grandchildren still join us from another state each Christmas.

Our vestments and banners have been designed and made by parishioners, too. So, doesn't making our own bread help us to grow deeper into that tradition?

The bread and wine are brought to the Altar during the Offertory. The idea is that we offer to God the bounty of God's creation lovingly formed by human hands into bread and wine, and God gives it back to us as Christ's Real Presence in our lives.



By making our own bread rather than ordering it from a catalog, we can experience more fully this action of offering our gifts to God and God transforming them into something even more wonderful and giving them back to us.

Susan Nelson will make the first supply of Communion bread but welcomes the opportunity to teach others the recipe and preparation techniques. Parishioners will be able to sample some un-consecrated bread from the recipe at Fellowship Hour on August 15. We will begin using the home-baked bread on August 22. Now, if someone has a vineyard and prepares their own wine . . .

How Will This Work in Practice?

The bread will be made by parishioners from a recipe developed by several monasteries and used by many parishes, both Episcopal and Roman Catholic. The foundation is whole-wheat flour, and each loaf includes a little bit

of honey (which early Christians used in the Eucharist as well). The loaf will be the same round shape as the large priest host and break in the same way. Susan has been practicing and has developed a technique so that each loaf will be uniform and relatively crumb-free.

Parishioners will be able to receive communion the same way as before, but the bread will be a little more chewy. It's OK to chew, and it's OK to take your time! It will take us a couple of weeks to work out the best size to break each piece into, so please give us your feedback. If you want to be part of the bread-making rota, speak to Father Dirk or Susan Nelson

What If I Have a Gluten Allergy?

Like our current hosts, the new bread will definitely have gluten. If this is a problem for you, please let Father Dirk know. We have ordered low-gluten hosts, which contain 0.01% gluten. They were developed after much research by a group of Benedictine nuns and are endorsed by the Celiac Foundation. If you need a low-gluten host and are present, Father Dirk will add the host to the altar for consecration and distribute it to you

If your sensitivity to gluten is severe, it may be best to refrain from receiving the host and receive the wine alone. Again, please consult your doctor. Our doctrine is that to receive the Eucharist in either the consecrated Bread or the Wine is to receive the full benefits of the Sacrament as if you have received both elements.

Canon Fleming Reports from Pilgrimage in Europe



Background: Joan Fleming, our priest associate, has been walking the pilgrimage trail from France to Spain known as the El Camino del Santiago, or Way of St James. It is an ancient medieval pilgrimage trail from France through Spain and ends at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, where tradition says the bones of St. James the Apostle are buried.

Joan sends us a report from this summer's sojourn along a section of the trail.

Dear Dirk,

**Way of St. James pilgrims
(1568)**

I shall take this opportunity to send my warm greetings to all at St. Luke's, letting you know that with my fellow pilgrim Susan I have walked 250 miles more along the Camino de Santiago, with no

serious

difficulties, but not without some challenge, mainly in the form of rain and wind and chill, unprecedented conditions, which produced serious MUD. This was the real challenge and now that I am attending a Dante seminar in Italy I can appreciate more vividly just what the lost spirits in some of those circles of the Inferno experienced. Dante must have known mud as we pilgrims knew it.

The peace, love and joy of Christ be with you all,

Joan

Pennies from Heaven Collection News



Our Spring Pennies From Heaven collection for Trenton Crisis Ministry concluded on Pentecost. Our coins are being counted and will be forwarded to Crisis Ministry of Trenton. Each spring, our donations total sev-

eral hundred dollars toward this Episcopal-founded and sponsored ministry for the needy in Trenton and throughout Mercer County. Our youth participated in their June walk-a-thon, as well

Crisis Ministry of Trenton reports that they hit a record level of service in May, serving 1300 households and over 2400 individuals with emergency food.

In the first two weeks of June, they received 241 requests for Utility Assistance, with 40 households already shut-off.

Our contributions help support the many ways the Crisis Ministry extends the Gospel of Christ's compassion to those in need in our area.

Thank you for your contributions!

For the remainder of the year, our Pennies From Heaven Jar will collect funds to support the Mustard Seed School in Lukaya, Uganda.

For the past two years, we have raised enough to send 3 children to school for a year at Lukaya.

Our pennies do add up!

Road Trip with Meg Rich !



Join parishioner Meg Rich after church one Sunday this summer for a visit to her friend Caroline Phinney's farm, Orchard Farm Organics, where we will have a picnic and try simple

farming tasks. The object is to have fun, while learning more about the earth. We try to give back to the earth what it gives us so generously in the form of food, so we will learn to make compost both by tending Caroline's compost piles and by

visiting a compost demonstration site nearby. Finally we'll return to the parish hall to see a short excerpt from a documentary film about earth and to examine a soil sample from our own parish garden under a microscope. Did you know that in one shovel full of earth there are as many microorganisms as there are people in this world? Come and see what they look like.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the church, as well as fliers, if you'd like to participate.

Meg is doing this project in order to get certified as a Rutgers environmental steward.

She's already taken courses this past year on environmental science and wants to help others learn more ways by which to help appreciate and protect the environment.

St. Luke's Activity Calendar !



Look at what is coming: Coupons and Flyer information can be found on the church's website : **WWW.STLUKESEWING.ORG**.

August - Thursdays - Join us as we gather with Father Dirk to learn more about his experiences in Africa.



Patronize the Farmer's Market at Trinity Cathedral 801 West State Street, every Thursday starting at Mid-Day.

Birthday Prayer



O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant *N.* as *he* begins another year. Grant that *he* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *his* trust in your goodness all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

August 2
Mary Lou Weyand
Frankie Hagan

August 4
Kitty Moore
Miata Rogers

August 8
Amy Kinczel
Stephen Walter

August 10
Jean Reimer

August 11
Steve Brame

August 15
Ashley Kinczel

August 27
Doris Locklear

August 30
Pat Barker

August 31
Daniel Green

September 2
Susan Nelson
Jonathan Rosemond

September 4
Charlene Brennfleck

Anniversary Prayer



O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send your blessing upon *N.* and *N.*, who celebrate their anniversary, and grant them your grace, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their lives together may be a witness to your love and forgiveness, and that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

August 2
Mallory & Matthew Gazda

August 3
Frank and Kim Hagen

August 4
Joy & John Kubilewicz

August 6
Sharon & Lyonel Rosemond

August 7
Charlene & Gary Brennfleck

August 21
Andrea & Kevin Driver



Summer Thursdays at St. Luke's

Recap of Father Dirk's Sabbatical to South Africa!

Food, Fun, & Fellowship for all Ages

August 5, 12, 19 & 26

Each week Father Dirk will share a different part of his trip to South Africa—from South African culture, history, and customs; to worship, community, outreach; and even a safari!

Join us for another fun-filled August series as we gather for a Braai (South African for "barbecue") and fellowship on the lawn and then take part in a programs for all ages.



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1620 Prospect Street

Ewing, NJ 08638-3031

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED