

# The SLANT

## Lay Leadership Key to Successful Ministry

by Father Dirk

No sooner does the New Year come upon us than our parish energies turn to the Annual Meeting, approving a budget, and electing leaders for service in the parish and the Diocese.

Sometimes people groan at the thought of parish leadership (or parish politics!) but we've been graced with good lay leaders since I've been Rector. Sometimes they need some cajoling around nominating time, but there is no doubt that the many wonderful things we've been able to do is solely because of committed and gifted laity who have taken the time to share their talents for leadership in our parish.

The Episcopal Church has always shunned the idea of authority being held by only one person. This is no doubt due to being founded by people who sought to escape the abuses of authority by king and bishop alike.

Leadership in Episcopal parishes is a synthesis of both lay and ordained leadership. The Rector has final authority in all matters spiritual,



including worship, has oversight of the keys to the buildings, and calls and chairs Vestry meetings. At the same time, the Vestry is responsible for all matters temporal, especially the finances and upkeep of the buildings.

In the healthiest churches, the clergy and vestry work in consultation with one another and provide leadership over all areas of parish life.

As a parish becomes more active, like ours, various ministry teams are also needed to develop and implement various programs - like Sunday School, outreach, stewardship, buildings & grounds, fellowship, communications, youth ministry, pastoral care, lay ministries in worship, and so forth. It's not possible for Vestry to oversee all of these groups (unless members like VERY LONG meetings!), so parish leaders also include other gifted members who lead these ministry teams.

Saint Luke's is at a point in its growth where ministry teams really help

make sure that things happen well, which leaves Vestry more time to focus on finances and issues that affect the parish as a whole.

At the same time, our growth also means that improving our communications is paramount. Each year, the number of active members who have been here less than ten years grows. Since they don't have the history, it becomes even more important to communicate well so everyone knows what is happening and can become as involved as they want to be.

My hope is that the Annual Meeting this year can be more than a (hopefully) rousing rector's address and series of reports, but a chance to celebrate the many ways we each offer leadership for furthering God's mission in this place.

As the hymn says, "Come Labor on, who dares stand idle?" we each have a place, and we each are needed by God and by the church. Thank you to everyone who serves so hard and well. I look forward to celebrating what new gifts and leaders God is calling forth in the year ahead!

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### LESSONS & CAROLS AND BASKET FUNDRAISER A GREAT SUCCESS

Over 75 people joined us for our first service of Advent Lessons & Carols, followed by a festive holiday reception. Even better, many people who joined us were friends and visitors so we were able to introduce Saint Luke's to many more people. We offer special thanks to the choir and acolytes who served so well.

The basket raffle fundraiser raised over \$1250 towards our budget. The fundraising committee would like to thank

everyone who contributed towards the baskets. They were beautiful and well sought after! And the fundraising committee did a fabulous job of pulling everything together.

We also collected 55 bags of groceries for the Crisis Ministry of Trenton, which was almost enough groceries to get them through one day. The spirit and faith of our parish family helped share the love of Christ far and near.

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR PARISH LEADERSHIP

The Nominating Committee of Vestry is seeking nominations for Vestry, Trenton Convocation, and Diocesan Convention. Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting on January 25th at 10:15 am.

All active members of St. Luke's who meet the membership definition in the box below are eligible to serve.

Anyone may make a nominating by completing a form found on the back table of the church. Members may also nominate themselves. The following positions are up for election:

**Vestry (3 three-year terms serving through January 2012):** Vestry meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 pm from September to June. At least two representatives from the 8:30 service are sought in order to keep the same balance of membership on Vestry.

**Senior Warden (1 two-year term):** The Senior Warden is responsible for the administrative oversight of the parish in the absence of the rector, provides support and counsel to the Rector. Father Dirk's sabbatical will take place during the term of the person elected at this Annual Meeting. Claudia Wallace has been nominated by the Nominating

Committee to succeed Phil Nevius who has declined to run again due to relocation.

**Diocesan Convention (3 delegates for the Convention to be held Feb 27 & 28 at Wildwood Convention Center):** Convention convenes at 10:00 am on Friday, Feb 27 and concludes Saturday afternoon. While an overnight stay is not required, it is recommended due to distance. The Diocese has arranged group rates for Thursday and Friday nights at nearby hotels for delegates at their own expense. Conventions are more than just business sessions, and include opportunities to meet other leaders and to learn about the mission and programs of the Diocese.

**Trenton-Burlington Convocation (6 positions for one year):** Convocations meet twice a year and for an evening or a Sunday afternoon. They are gatherings of lay delegates and clergy from each church in a geographic region. They are opportunities to learn about diocesan programs and to provide feedback on the diocesan visioning statement. While timely announcements of meeting dates have been problematic in the past, this year will be much better so delegates will have ample time to plan to attend.

### Who are Members of the Church?

While anyone who worships with us is part of our parish family and can participate in nearly every aspect of parish life, the Canons of the Church define membership for official purposes. There are two types of membership: active and inactive. Active members are people who:

- Are baptized at St. Luke's or have had their baptismal information transferred in from another parish or denomination;
- Have been present at worship more often than not during the previous 6 months;
- Are communicants in good standing, which means they have received Communion at least three times in the previous twelve months, and
- Are known the Rector and Treasurer as having contributed financially to the ministry of the Church;

Inactive members are members whose baptism is on record but do not fulfill the descriptions of the other criteria and are not eligible to vote or for nomination.

Church Canons also specify that active members aged 16 or older are considered an adult and are eligible to vote and to be nominated for parish positions.

Active worshippers who have not yet become members may do so by requesting a Letter of Transfer with all baptismal and confirmation information from their previous parish. Father Dirk can assist with this process. If the previous parish cannot locate the records, then a copy of a baptismal certificate or giving the date and place of baptism will suffice.

## ANNUAL REPORTS DUE JANUARY 18

Leaders of programs, committees, and ministry teams will soon be contacted by the parish to request submission for the Annual Meeting Report.

This year, we hope to revise the Report format so it can serve as an information and recruiting resources for the various ministries and programs of the parish.

With this in mind, annual reports are requested to include the following information:

1. Purpose of ministry, program, or committee
2. Highlights of activities in 2008.
3. Opportunities for new members, including a description of any necessary skills or interests, time commitments, and training required.
4. One or two quotes from current members about what they enjoy about their participation in that ministry; and
5. A St Luke's photo representing the ministry, if possible.

It will help the office tremendously if reports can be submitted electronically as a Word document or in the body of an email. Please have all reports submitted by January 18. If you think you should submit a report and were not contacted by the office by January 6, please let us know!

## DIOCESAN YOUTH EVENTS FOR SPRING 2009

[NewJerseyYouth.org](http://NewJerseyYouth.org). Change your Life. Change the World. The Youth Ministry of the Diocese of New Jersey is active and well led by Kep Short, our Diocesan canon for youth ministry. The Diocese is sponsoring the following youth event through May 2009:

**The 50th Annual Bishop's Ball, January 23** at Trinity Cathedral, 801 W State Street, Trenton, from 8 pm to Midnight. Young and old alike are invited to join us for 50th anniversary of New Jersey's diocesan-wide tradition of gathering for music, food, dancing, and fun! The evening begins with a concert by renown recording artist Fran McKendree followed by a big dance (with music for everyone), food, and reception. Fran has worked with Fleetwood Mac, Elton John, and James Taylor and brings excitement and depth to the stage. Both Bishops Cuncell and Romero will host. Tickets are \$15 in advance, and \$20 at the door. Parishes are asked to send one adult for every five youth.

**The Senior Retreat, April 17-19** for graduating high school seniors at St. John Baptist Convent (retreat center) in Mendham, NJ. Regardless of what your plans are after high school - this retreat is for you! This weekend is for you to explore your spirituality, rest and relax, and celebrate in community on the verge of life after high school. Life is about choices and the choice is yours to join us on this wonderful journey at The Senior Retreat! Cost is \$75 and scholarships are available.

**Spring Youth Event, May 15-17** at Camp Lebanon in Lebanon, NJ. This very popular youth retreat is for 6th - 12th graders. This year's theme is "A Simple Life With God in the Center." We are busier than ever - juggling an increasing flurry of demands with school, work, sports, friends, family, and more. The pressure of making the grade, looking the best, and being in the right group of friends often leaves little room in our lives for God. What does Jesus Christ have to offer us in the midst of the world's mantra of "the more we have the better we are"? With our thoughts constantly interrupted by a text message or a new facebook posting, how can we set it all aside and see what makes life simple?

Take time to explore with us life's struggles and joys with everyday priorities, and bringing God to the center of it all. Join us in the beautiful setting of Camp Lebanon as we honor life together and celebrate Christian community. There will be engaging program, great music, creative worship, fun games, relaxing free time, and more!

Cost is \$75 with a registration deadline of May 12, or \$70 if registered by April 15. The Event begins at 7 PM on Friday, May 15 and ends at Noon on May 17.

Visit the Diocesan Youth website at <http://www.newjerseyyouth.org> for information on these events and much more!

### STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE DRIVE UPDATE

Our parishioners continue to respond generously to our stewardship pledge drive. To date, we have received 48 pledge cards with pledges totaling \$83, 108. Final totals for last year were 51 pledge cards for a total of \$90,468 pledged so we still have a bit further to go.

The average pledge remains higher than last year, and December has been a very good month for giving, so the Stewardship Team looks forward to that continuing into 2009.

Giving envelopes will be available for each person with a giving statement for 2008 or a pledge for 2009 beginning Sunday, January 4.

Thank you for your generosity that makes our ministry in response to God's call possible.

## Ministry Institute *of the Diocese of New Jersey*

### Analyzing and Understanding Systemic Racism

**February 12-14, 2009**  
**Grove Hall Retreat & Conference Center**  
**Ocean Grove, NJ**

**Begins 6 pm on Thursday and  
ends at 3 pm on Saturday.**

**Cost: Free**

The Anti-Racism Commission of the Diocese is sponsoring the introductory training for those interested in learning about racism and potentially joining the Team to fight racism in our diocese. The workshop is led by Crossroads Anti-racism Organizing to train teams within institutions, helping them to analyze racism and to develop and implement strategies to dismantle racism within their structures.

**Please see Father Dirk for registration information or**  
<http://newjersey.anglican.org/MI/index.html#AnalyzRacismInt>

# January 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>28</p> <p>Christmas 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Lessons, Carols, &amp; Communion</li> <li>10:30 AM Lessons, Carols, &amp; Communion</li> </ul>	<p>29</p> <p>Rector's Sabbath</p> <p>Joanne Eagle - BD</p> <p>Thomas Becket (1170)</p> <p>7:00 PM AA</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Pat Sayles - BD</p> <p>Francis Joseph-Gaudet (1934)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Father Dirk - BD</p> <p>9:15 AM Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>1</p> <p>New Years Day - Office Closed</p> <p>Holy Name</p> <p>Fr Dirk - Vacation</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Jamie Griswold - BD</p> <p>Fr Dirk - Vacation</p> <p>8:30 PM AA</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Earl &amp; Connie Smith - Ann.</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Christmas 2</p> <p>Joan Brame - BD</p> <p>Fr Dirk - Vacation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Holy Eucharist</li> <li>9:30 AM Fellowship Hour</li> <li>10:30 AM Holy Eucharist</li> <li>11:45 AM Epiphany Luncheon</li> </ul>	<p>5</p> <p>Fr Dirk - Vacation</p> <p>7:00 PM AA</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Epiphany</p> <p>Fr Dirk - Vacation</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Anthony Lazarus - BD</p> <p>Fr Dirk - Vacation</p> <p>9:15 AM Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Harriet Bedell (1969)</p> <p>Fr Dirk - Vacation</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Julia Chester Emery (1922)</p> <p>Fr Dirk - Vacation</p> <p>8:30 PM AA</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Ed &amp; Vivian Blackwell - Ann.</p> <p>William Laud (1645)</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Baptism of Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Holy Eucharist</li> <li>10:30 AM Holy Eucharist</li> </ul>	<p>12</p> <p>Winnie Scheid - BD</p> <p>Aelred of Reivaux (1167)</p> <p>Rector's Sabbath</p> <p>7:00 PM AA</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Charlotte Agyei - BD</p> <p>Hilary of Poitiers (367)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:00 PM Contemplative Prayer</li> <li>6:30 PM Girl Scout Daisies</li> </ul>	<p>14</p> <p>9:15 AM Holy Eucharist</p> <p>7:00 PM Vestry</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Samuel Crowther - BD</p> <p>8:30 PM AA</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Antony of Egypt (356)</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Confession of St Peter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Holy Eucharist</li> <li>10:30 AM Holy Eucharist</li> </ul>	<p>19</p> <p>Wulfstan (1095)</p> <p>Carol Pontoriero - BD</p> <p>MLK - Office Closed</p> <p>Dwight Green - BD</p> <p>Kathy Pontoriero - BD</p> <p>Rector's Sabbath</p> <p>7:00 PM AA</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Craig Soden - BD</p> <p>Fabian of Rome (250)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:00 PM Contemplative Prayer</li> </ul>	<p>21</p> <p>Agnes of Rome (304)</p> <p>9:15 AM Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Matthew Gazda - BD</p> <p>Vincent of Saragossa (304)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Phillips Brooks (1893)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00 PM 50th Annual Bishop's Ball at Trinity Cathedral</li> <li>8:30 PM AA</li> </ul>	<p>24</p> <p>Florence Li Tim-Oi (1944)</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Stuart Rich - BD</p> <p>Deadline for SLANT</p> <p>Conversion of St Paul</p> <p>Joelle Green - BD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM Holy Eucharist</li> <li>10:15 AM Parish Breakfast &amp; Annual Meeting</li> </ul>	<p>26</p> <p>Timothy &amp; Titus (NT)</p> <p>Rector's Sabbath</p> <p>7:00 PM AA</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Evelyn Berryann - BD</p> <p>John Chrysostom (407)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11:30 AM Simon's Fellowship</li> <li>6:00 PM Contemplative Prayer</li> <li>6:30 PM Girl Scout Daisies</li> </ul>	<p>28</p> <p>Thomas Aquinas (1274)</p> <p>9:15 AM Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Lauren Bowman - BD</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:30 PM AA</p>	<p>31</p>

# February 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Epiphany 4 8:30 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist	2 Rector's Sabbath Presentation of Jesus 7:00 PM AA	3 Anskar, Abp Ethan Rosemond – BD 6:00 PM Contemplative Prayer	4 Charlotte Harper – BD Cornelius the Centurion 9:15 AM Holy Eucharist	5 Martyrs of Japan Chic Walker & Bob Crosby, Ann. 8:30 PM AA	6	7
8 Epiphany 5 8:30 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist	9 Rector's Sabbath 7:00 PM AA	10 Judy Gray – BD 6:00 PM Contemplative Prayer 6:30 PM Girl Scout Daisies	11 9:15 AM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM Vestry	12	13 Abasalom Jones, Priest 8:30 PM AA	14 Diocesan Acolyte Festival Cyril & Methodius, Bps
15 Epiphany 6 8:30 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist	16 Pres. Day – Office Closed Rector's Sabbath 7:00 PM AA	17 Alethia Lazarus – BD Mittie Smalls – BD 6:00 PM Contemplative Prayer	18 Mildred Quinones – BD Martin Luther 9:15 AM Holy Eucharist	19	20 Elsie Kunkle – BD Weldon Daniel – BD Bukkie Akabashoron – BD 8:30 PM AA	21
22 Last Epiphany Deadline for SLANT Sonya Brockington – BD Pat Pontorerio – BD 8:30 AM Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM Pancake Breakfast 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist 11:30 AM Pancake Breakfast	23 Rector's Sabbath Polycarp, Bp & Martyr 7:00 PM AA	24 Antonio Brockington–Allen – BD 11:30 AM Simon's Fellowship 6:00 PM Contemplative Prayer 6:30 PM Girl Scout Daisies	25 Ash Wednesday 7:00 AM Ash Wednesday Liturgy 12:00 PM Ash Wednesday Liturgy 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Liturgy	26 Dwight Green & I...go–Green – Ann.	27 Allison Lazarus – BD 8:30 PM AA	28 Ivette Santiago Green – BD Collin Paul – BD Joyce Gibbs – BD

*The 46th Annual Meeting  
of Saint Luke's Episcopal Church*

Sunday, January 25, 2009

9:00 am

Holy Eucharist with Rector's Address

10:15 am

Parish Fellowship Breakfast & Annual Meeting



Everyone is invited to our 46th Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 25th. More than just a business meeting, the Annual Meeting Day includes a fellowship breakfast and information on our parish ministries and events in the coming year.

Please note that there is only one worship service on the 25th.  
Childcare will be provided.

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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

Wednesdays:

9:15 am, Holy Eucharist with prayer for healing