

St. Luke's Times

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

December 2015

A Word from the Rector



After three months here I certainly have learned just what a beehive of activity this church is. So much going on seemingly all the time, I haven't had time to be bored. I wish I could look at the coming month and say things will slow down but that simply isn't the case. December looks to be just as full as the previous months. Again this is not necessarily a bad thing, and yet the gift of Advent might be worth taking a deeper look at this year.

Most people in our day and age find this time of year to be exciting but also stressful. All the activities and the plans that go into making

Christmas I know people for whom this is a truly energizing time. I also know folks who are just overwhelmed.

Advent, which begins our new liturgical year, invites us to pause for a moment and try to get ourselves in order to prepare for the arrival of the Christ child. I hope that you will find that time in the midst of all the other preparations.

I hope also that you will be able to join us for some of what we will be offering this month here at church. We will of course be offering the usual Saturday night and Sunday morning services. On the 6th at 5 pm we will have a special St. Nicholas service followed by a pizza dinner. On the 12th I become "official" with the Bishop here at 11 am. On the 20th at 10 am the choir will be offering their annual Lessons and Carols service.

There will again be four opportunities to worship with us on Christmas

Eve and Day. At 4 pm will be the Christmas pageant with Eucharist. There will be two services that night at 8 and 11 pm. And Christmas morning at 10 am.

I'm looking forward to my first Christmas in Metuchen since 1992. I look forward to seeing what if anything has changed about Christmas here. But I hope that one thing hasn't; a church filled with people joyfully expecting the birth of our Saviour.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Ed



Edmund W. Zelley
Rector

Robert Turner &
Carol A. Pepe,
Deacons

Karl Watson,
Organist & Choirmaster

Julia Jenson,
Director,
Schola Cantorum

Karina M. Davis
Administrative Assistant
to the Rector

Robbie Robbins
Sexton

Wardens
Kathy McNulty
Clay Carlisle

Vestry
Dottee Bilgrav
Jeana Mari Davis
William (Bill) Noble
Carla Elfeld Smith
Debbie Wisniewski
Rosalie DiSimone-Weiss
George F. Poppe III
Barbara Brosnan Rivera
Katherine Young

Debbie Wisniewski
Interim Treasurer

Linda Zeh,
Financial Secretary

George Poppe
Capital Funds

Calling all Children and Youth Christmas Pageant Roles Available

The Christmas Pageant this year will be during the 4pm Christmas Eve service. Any child between the ages of 3 and 18 who would like to participate is asked to attend Sunday School on Sunday, December 6 at 11:15am (immediately following the service)

All roles will be assigned then. There are speaking and non-speaking roles available. Grandchildren are invited to participate as well. The role of Baby Jesus has already been cast and will be Tony Warn and Marie Nagangast's grandson,

Dominic. There will be a rehearsal also on Sunday, December 13 during Sunday School and a final dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 20 at 3:30 pm. Julia Jenson is the pageant director this year.

St. Luke's Toy Drive and Distribution

St. Luke's will once again be collecting toys for Christmas for the clients of Hands of Hope Food Pantry. Gift Certificates and gift items for teens are encouraged as we always have more than enough for the younger children. Toys can be brought in any time beginning now through Dec. 17. If you are unable to shop, cash donations will be accepted and Denise and Robbie will do the shopping for you.

The toy distribution will be held on Saturday, Dec. 19th from 1:30-3:30.

Volunteers will be needed to help with snacks, help in the toy rooms, and help escort families to the toy rooms. If you are interested, please put your name on the sign-up sheet which can be found in the back of the Church following each of the services. There will be a meeting for volunteers immediately following the 8am service on Sunday, December 13 in the Fryer Room.

Volunteers will also be needed on Friday, December 18 from 3 pm until about 6 to set up the toy

rooms. If you would like to volunteer, please put your name on the sign-up sheet which can be found in the back of the Church following each of the services.

This year St. Luke's will only be serving snacks. Volunteers are needed to make Christmas Cookies or to donate granola bars, fruit, such as tangerines, bananas, grapes, or apples, and juice boxes. Any food donations are to be dropped off to the kitchen on Friday, December 18.

Additional Ways to donate during the Holiday

Amandla Crossing - Once again we will be collecting for Amandla Crossing, a transitional housing program for abused and homeless women and their children. We hope to present a Christmas gift bag to the moms, containing a \$25 Target gift card as well as travel size toiletries, fancy soaps, makeup, lotions, etc. Donations of Target gift cards (or money to buy them) would be gratefully appreciated as well as donations of toiletries etc. If you are seeing

your dentist soon... maybe ask for an extra toothbrush or toothpaste. Donations are needed by December 15. If you have any questions email amandalacross@stlukesmetuchen.org



Mitten Tree – St. Luke's is reviving an old tradition in the Mitten Tree. Please bring new gloves or mittens for adults and children to hang on the tree. Mittens will go to clients of Hands of Hope and St. Mark's.

Episcopal Relief and Development – This year there will be a basket in the crèche into which we invite you to make an offering to Episcopal Relief and Development which is celebrating its 75th year. The diocese has pledged to donate \$150,000 this year and has asked all churches in the diocese to participate. This is St. Luke's way of participating. Episcopal Relief and Development does a lot of good work throughout the country so let's be generous.

What's Up Warden?

Buckle up it's going to be a busy month!

What a great time of year! Saint Luke's annual flurry of activity will be enjoyed once again, and this year holds some bonus offerings.

It will be important to check the calendar to stay abreast of the multitude of events happening among us.

Some of the highlights include;

- The Christmas Fair
- The Metuchen House Tour
- The Celebration of New Ministry Liturgy and Luncheon
- The Handbell Concert by the Raritan Ringers
- The Toy Distribution Party for clients of Hands of Hope
- The Lessons and Carols Service

How blessed we are!

The Vestry has been busy preparing for Saint Luke's future. Architect, Vince Piasante has been hired to facilitate the major capital improvement project ahead. We're all very aware of the sad state of the gingerbread on the exterior of

the church, but that is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the status of Saint Luke's buildings and grounds.

Vince has been on site on two separate occasions for a total of nearly four hours to assess the campus in advance of being awarded the contract. Most recently, the Building & Grounds Team, Warden, Interim Treasurer and Rector joined Vince for a tour of the campus during which discussion was held about known issues and wishes for the future. At the Vestry meeting of 11/17/15 a team of eleven was nominated to meet with Vince in early December to formally begin this new relationship.

Smaller jobs continue to get checked off the "honey do" list. The new lighting in our parking lot is fantastic! It lights the lot sufficiently but does not create an issue for our neighbors. Also, the boiler pump that feeds heat to the portion of Fryer Hall running from the restrooms forward to the offices expired recently and has been

replaced. Next up will be a fresh coat of paint on our Oak Avenue curbs so that the handicap spots and no parking zone are visibly identifiable

Each of us provided input into the future of Saint Luke's when we completed our surveys in preparation for the creation of our Parish Profile. If your schedule allows, please join in the "official" celebration of our parish's future when Bishop Stokes installs Father Ed as our new rector in the service titled *Celebration of New Ministry*. It's a beautiful service filled with wonderful tradition. If you are able to attend either the liturgy, the luncheon or both, please be sure to RSVP either electronically 2015rectorinstallation@gmail.com } or via paper correspondence through the parish office or Gail Zolley.

In closing 2015, may your preparation for the Christ Child and celebration of his birth be filled with peace and joy.

~Kathy

Hour of Code

An Hour of Code! Sunday, December 13th following the 10am service @ coffee hour – Open to Ages 8-108. – St. Luke's is joining in the largest event in history: The Hour of code. Whether you are currently in third grade or third grade is a distant memory, join us for a fun peek behind What you see on your computer screen. We will show you in a fun interactive way how computer programs (Code) work. You will be surprised by what you will be able to do!

Last year 60 million students tried Hour of Code! Join the tens of millions of people in 180+ countries at the 48,044 Hour of Code events taking place that week. Our participation supports the effort to expand access to computer science across social class, as well as increasing participation by women and underrepresented students of color. Grab a snack and join us for a peek behind what you see on your computer screen! You will need to bring a laptop

computer, iPad, or tablet with you – If you do not have one, let us know. Also please let us know if you would like to come by calling Karina at St. Luke's or by emailing Jaden & Rosalie DiSimone-Weiss at JadenRosalie@gmail.com.



Lessons and Carols

Lessons and Carols will take place on December 20, 2015 during the 10am service. After the service, we will have a potluck to thank the choir members for sharing their gift of music with us. Everyone who is not in the choir is asked to bring a dish to share. If you would like to attend and are unable to

bring a dish but would like to donate, please give your donation to Karina. If you will be attending, please sign up on the sign-up sheet at the back of the church and indicate what you plan on bringing. If you would like to help with set-up or clean-up, please indicate this on the sign-up sheet.

Support St. Luke's through your Amazon Purchases

It is easy to have a percentage of almost everything you buy on Amazon.com go to St. Luke's - from books, electronics, groceries, clothing, music, gift cards, jewelry, Amazon Echo and much more - as well as when you sign up for Amazon Prime, Audible, cell phone with wireless plan, etc. - including Trials!

All you need to do is:

1. Go to our website www.stlukesmetuchen.org
2. Scroll down to the bottom of the home page (the page you are on when you go to the website)



3. Click on box with the Amazon logo (it may be a different color)
4. This takes you to Amazon.com
5. Search the Amazon site where you can make your selections, add them to your cart & make your purchase
6. **PLEASE NOTE:** You need to go back to the St. Luke's website & click on the Amazon logo before you put another set of items in your cart to make another purchase.
7. If you have any questions, email JadenRosalie@gmail.com. We will also have laptops at coffee hour after the 10 am service if you want someone on the IT committee to help you.

**St. Luke's
Christmas Fair**
Saturday, December 5, 2015
10am-4pm

Food, Crafts, Jewelry, Gifts,
Santa, Baskets, Knitted Items,
Poinsettias, Gourmet Stuff, Wreaths.
You Know.

17 Oak Avenue (Corner of Rt. 27)
Only in Metuchen!

2015
**HOLIDAY
HOUSE TOUR**
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6
12-5PM

TOUR BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED HOMES,
ENJOY COMPLIMENTARY SEASONAL REFRESHMENTS, AND
VISIT THE ARKANSAS BAZAAR & RAFFLE AT THE
OLD FRANKLIN SCHOOLHOUSE, 301 MIDDLESEX AVE, METUCHEN

\$20 IN ADVANCE, \$25 AT THE DOOR
ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE BRASS LANTERN,
BOYD DRUGS, GARDENIAS FLORAL, AND MARAFIKI FAIR TRADE.
OR, ONLINE VIA OUR WEBSITE OR BY CALLING 802-368-2202.

A LITTLE ABOUT THE HOMES
*Mid-century home completely renovated to include every custom amenity - A festive
delight guaranteed to put you in the holiday spirit - look for the leg lamp - An elegant
and recently expanded Linden Avenue home - Historic Lake Avenue home with a special
surprise for book lovers - Gorgeous century-old Hillside Avenue home.*

WWW.BOROUGHIMPROVEMENTLEAGUE.ORG
*All proceeds from the event benefit the
historic Old Franklin Schoolhouse.*

Second Looks at
Favorite Books

Friday, December 18, 2015
7:00 pm in the Fryer Room

~ December 2015 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8 Morning Prayer	2 8 Morning Prayer 10:00 Healing Service	3 8 Morning Prayer 3:30 Schola Cantorum rehearsal	4 8 Morning Prayer 10 Christmas Fair Set-up 12:00 Men's Lunch at Houlihan's	5 8:30 Christmas Fair Set-up 10:00 Christmas Fair
		5:30 Evening Prayer	5:30 Evening Prayer 6:30 Metuchen Garden Club Making of the Greens	5:30 Evening Prayer 7:00 Twisted Stitchers 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	5:30 Evening Prayer	5:30 Holy Eucharist
6 8:00 Holy Eucharist 9:00 Early Bird Education 10:00 Holy Eucharist followed by Coffee Hour 12 Sunday School 12:00 House Tours 5:30 St. Nicholas Evening Prayer	7 8 Morning Prayer 5:30 Evening Prayer 7:00 Metuchen Garden Club	8 8 Morning Prayer	9 8 Morning Prayer 10:00 Healing Service 7:00 St. Veronica's Guild	10 8 Morning Prayer 3:30 Schola Cantorum rehearsal 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	11 8 Morning Prayer Father Ed's Day off 5:30 Evening Prayer	12 11:00 Celebration of New Ministry followed by luncheon 5:30 Holy Eucharist
13 8:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Holy Eucharist followed by Coffee Hour 11:30 Hour of Code 12:00 Sunday School 1:00 Schola 4 Service for Autism Community 6pm Round Table	14 8 Morning Prayer 5:30 Evening Prayer	15 8 Morning Prayer 5:30 Evening Prayer 7:00 Vestry Meeting	16 8 Morning Prayer 10:00 Healing Service 7:00 Raritan Ringers Handbell Concert	17 8 Morning Prayer 3:30 Schola Cantorum rehearsal 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	18 8 Morning Prayer Father Ed's Day off 3:00 Set-up for Toy Distribution 5:30 Evening Prayer	19 1:30-3:30 Toy Distribution 3:30 Pageant Dress Rehearsal 5:30 Holy Eucharist
20 8:00 Holy Eucharist 9 Early Bird Education 10:00 Holy Eucharist followed by Coffee Hour 12:30 Schola 4 Worship w/pets 6pm Round Table	21 8 Morning Prayer 5:30 Evening Prayer	22 8 Morning Prayer 5:30 Evening Prayer	23 8 Morning Prayer 10:00 Healing Service 7:00 St. Veronica's Guild	24 Christmas Eve Office Closed 8 Morning Prayer 4:00 Children's Service 5:30 Evening Prayer 8 Holy Eucharist 11 Holy Eucharist	25 Christmas Day Office Closed 8 Morning Prayer 10 Holy Eucharist Father Ed's Day off 5:30 Evening Prayer	26 5:30 Holy Eucharist
27 8:00 Holy Eucharist 9:00 St. Mark's Hot Meal Ministry 10:00 Holy Eucharist followed by Coffee Hour	28 Karina Vacation 8 Morning Prayer 5:30 Evening Prayer	29 Karina Vacation 8 Morning Prayer 5:30 Evening Prayer	30 Karina Vacation 8 Morning Prayer 5:30 Evening Prayer	31 Karina Vacation 8 Morning Prayer 5:30 Evening Prayer		

**St. Luke's Episcopal Church,
Metuchen**

17 Oak Avenue
Metuchen, NJ 08840
Phone: 732-548-4308
Fax: 732-548-5369

E-mail:
administrator@stlukesmetuchen.org
Calendar:
calendarwiz.com/stlukesmetuchen



We're on the Web!
www.stlukesmetuchen.org

Artist: Rosemary Krupka



We know you
saw work that
you loved in

EARTH in **FIRE** water
elements / sacraments

We invite you
now to consider
bringing that energy
and beauty into your
own home or
worship space
by purchasing
a piece of art from
that exhibit...

Artist: Janice Fried



an
original work

by a contemporary
artist...

in your own home...

think about that.

NAILS IN THE WALL
The Gallery @ St. Luke's

To Contact:
732.322.6512
EarthsongsCeramicStudio@gmail.com

The exhibit continues until December 31.



Ring In the Holiday Season!

**Raritan Ringers
Handbell Concert**

**Wednesday, December 16, 2015
7:00 p.m.**

**St. Luke's Episcopal Church
17 Oak Avenue, Metuchen
(732) 548-4308**

**Admission Free with
Donation for Food Bank**

Friend Us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/raritanringers

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve
Thursday, December 24, 2015

4:00 pm - Children's Service
with Pageant

8:00pm - Candlelight Service

11:00 pm - Candlelight Service

Christmas Day
Friday, December 25, 2015

10:00 am Holy Eucharist