

St. Luke's Times

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

July 2016

A Word from the Rector



In my former town, the 4th of July was the biggest holiday. It was the stereotypical small town celebration with a huge parade; actually drawing thousands of visitors to this 1 square mile borough. You may recall I was a pie eating champ for many years there.

The Fourth of July interestingly enough is also a recognized Prayer Book Holy Day. The collect for the day reads, "Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen."

I hope you would agree with me that we live in an amazingly great country. I'm awed by its natural beauty and I've seen all but one state. I love the level of choices and freedoms that we have. And while I know that there are aspects of our shared humanity in this country that are yet as they could or should be, I never lose hope that the vision of this nation reflecting the kingdom of God and what that stands for without becoming a theocracy is still achievable.

We know from Paul's letter to the Galatians "For **freedom** Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." (Galatians 5:1) Our faith in Jesus gives us freedom; much like being a citizen of this country gives us freedoms. Yet much like the freedom we have in Christ it comes with responsibilities. Paul continues "for you were called to **freedom**, brothers and sisters; only do not use your **freedom** as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another." (Galatians 5:13) The author of I Peter echoes these

sentiments "As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your **freedom** as a pretext for evil." (I Peter 2:16)

For me this faith based freedom we have in Christ should also be reflected in the freedoms we enjoy as Americans. Our freedoms and rights are there for our enjoyment in community with others. And these freedoms need to be safe guarded not so much from being taken away from us, but in our own hearts and minds to be used properly.

I hope you will have a safe and enjoyable Independence Day. Again if you are home on a weekend I hope you will join us for worship at one of our three services. Unlike some churches we do not alter our worship schedule. And if you are away I encourage you to find a church to attend.

Also look for more information in this Newsletter about our upcoming Vacation Bible School which will be held July 24-28 from 6-8 pm with classes for Pre-K through adult.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Ed+

Edmund W. Zelley
Rector

Carol A. Pepe,
Deacons

Karl Watson,
Organist & Choirmaster

Julia Jenson,
Director,
Schola Cantorum

Karina M. Davis
Administrative Assistant
to the Rector

Wardens
Kathy McNulty
Debbie Wisniewski

Vestry
Chuck Gudorp
Carla Elfeld Smith
Rosalie DiSimone-Weiss
George F. Poppe III
Barbara Brosnan Rivera
Katherine Young
William (Bill) Noble
Nancy Torok
Kasi LeGrand

Beth Lucas
Treasurer

Courtney Macdonald
Assistant Treasurer

Linda Zeh,
Financial Secretary

George F. Poppe III
Capital Funds

Welcome to Our Newest Members



Brandon Michael Novak was baptized at the 5:30 service on June 25th. His mother, Jennifer Lynn Muniz Novak was baptized the previous Saturday. Jennifer and her husband Michael started attending the 5:30 service a few months ago.

Open Mic Night/Talent Show a Success!



Hands of Hope For the Community, Inc. Food Pantry/Soup Kitchen Needs Help

Summer time presents "the perfect storm". Schools are closed so there are no free breakfast or lunch for children. Donations of food and money to Hands of Hope are low when the need is the greatest. Please remember those in need this summer and bring donations to church with you. Suggested non-perishable items are: canned fruit, cereal or oatmeal, pasta, rice, canned kidney beans, pinto beans,

etc.; canned ravioli, spaghetti o's etc.; canned tomato sauce, canned beef stew, macaroni & cheese, canned meat, canned vegetables, canned tuna, canned soup, and fun foods such as cookies, crackers, candy, etc.

Monetary donations are also very welcome. Checks can be made payable to Hands of Hope Food Pantry and mailed to Hands of

Hope 2136 Woodbridge Avenue, PO Box 1057, Edison, NJ 08818. All donations are tax deductible.

Please note: 95 cents of every dollar donated goes directly to food recipients. Hands of Hope has an all-volunteer staff!! If you would like to volunteer your time, contact the volunteer coordinator at sandy.smithson.hope@gmail.com Thank you for joining the fight against hunger.

What's Up Warden? - Change

"Most people don't like change. They revolt against it unless they can clearly see the advantage it brings. For that reason, when good leaders prepare to take action or make changes, they take people through a process to get them ready for it." John C. Maxwell

I'm hopeful that folks associated with Saint Luke's are experiencing the process of preparation for the myriad of changes on our collective horizon. The vestry and SLRTF (St. Luke's Renovation Task Force) are conscious of the need to communicate what will be happening before it does happen. We are making a concerted effort to avoid surprises.

The first mini project you'll soon

see happening is labeled "Phase I Landscape Modifications". The beds around Fryer Hall will be cleared in order to prepare for the work that will begin on the building itself as well as the updated landscaping that will highlight Fryer Hall rather than hide it.

Hot on the heels of the landscaping will be the creation of a new entry plaza into Fryer Hall. This mini project will correct the unsafe sidewalks and improve accessibility to the building, as well as create an inviting entryway.

As these projects get under way portions of the property will become "construction zones". As a result, we will have to avoid these areas for short periods of time as it will be unsafe to be near them.

When possible, communication of various forms will be used to provide advance notice of areas that are "off limits". However, it is very likely that an area may become closed without notice.

The SLRTF continues to meet every other week during the summer months so that the campus wide renovations remain on track and moving forward.

Change is coming.

"Christians should be ready for a change because Jesus was the greatest changer in history."
Ralph Abernathy

Peace~
Kathy

Summer Break; a time to plan for the fall

Summer has begun. All the schools are finally out for the summer (some schools seemed to end a little later this year) and summer camps have begun. Many St. Luke's programs are on summer break. The choir, Schola Cantorum, and Sunday School finished in May. Hot Meal's Ministry, the Round Table, and the Men's Luncheon had their last meeting in June. Even the Flea Market takes a break during the month of July. There are a few programs that do not take a summer break. Early bird education continues through the summer with only an occasional Sunday off. The ladies continue to meet on Mondays to work on blankets, as long as enough of them are in town. And the ladies luncheon is still held. Although Sunday School is not held, Vacation Bible School is and many of the teachers give of their time to help with VBS.

Summer is a good time to think about and make plans for the next

"school" year. It is a good time to think about how much time you have given to St. Luke's and to which ministries you have given it to. It is a time to think about what ministries you would like to give time to in the upcoming year. Do you enjoy singing? September is a great time to join the choir or Schola. Would you like to participate in worship? Eucharistic Ministers, crucifers, acolytes, lectors and ushers are always needed. If you like to participate in a quieter way, the Altar Guild always needs new members.

Another area that needs volunteers is fundraising. We are still in need of more volunteers in order to keep the flea market going. The few who have been doing it from the beginning are getting tired of carrying the load. The more volunteers that we have, the less time each person needs to give. Come October, we will once again need volunteers for the Pumpkin Patch and then in December for the Christmas Fair but preparation

begins in November. Sarah and Betty are looking for someone, who is interested in one day becoming the chairperson, to work with them and learn the ropes.

Here are the dates to put on your calendar:

Flea Market

Saturday, August 6

Sunday School Begins

Sunday, September 11

Parish Picnic

Sunday, September 11

Gallery Opening

Saturday, September 23 at 2pm

Metuchen Country Fair

Saturday, October 1

Pumpkins Arrive – Patch begins

Sunday, October 2 at 4pm

Christmas Fair

Saturday, December 3

Clip a Dollar for

The Clip a Dollar program to sponsor a child from the Good Shepherd Home began several years ago after a visit from Elizabeth Geitz who spoke about her work there. Debbie Sharp Loeb arranged for us to sponsor a child with epilepsy. When Katherine Young visited The Good Shepherd home almost 2 years ago, she learned that child had returned to her family. She met Cedric and arranged for him to be our sponsored child. Katherine learned recently that Cedric has now gone to live with a relative. Therefore, we have now been assigned Joseph as our sponsored child. This is Joseph.



The Good Shepherd Home for Children is located in the North West Province of Cameroon, an area in West Africa where an estimated 50,000 children are orphaned. Over 100 of those children have found a home at Good Shepherd where they are sheltered, fed, clothed, educated and most of all, loved. Sister Jane Mankaa, founder of the Home, does not turn any child away and no child is put up for adoption. The children truly live in a loving family environment with a hundred brothers and sisters.

The Good Shepherd Home is the brainchild of Sister Jane Mankaa who has dedicated her life to nurturing the orphans of

her country. Sister Jane saw a small boy sleeping on the street in Yaounde, the capital of Cameroon. "I asked him why he was sleeping there and he told me that's where he lived," she said. "I brought him some rice, and when I came back to see him the next morning, there were ten other boys with him." She learned that the street children were all orphans whose parents had died of AIDS. "I knew then that caring for these children was what I was called to do."



With just a \$15,000 grant, Sister Jane purchased the property that would become The Good Shepherd Home for Children. In just a few years they now have a dormitory, primary school, fresh water system, bakery, piggery, and chicken farms.

Another dream which has become reality is the opening of the Good Shepherd Home Annex in Batibo, Cameroon for special needs children with HIV/AIDS and epilepsy. The Annex came about when one of the children at Good Shepherd tested positive for HIV and Sister Jane could not find a facility available to care for her. Currently over 30 children live in the Annex; their needs for

healthcare are well attended.

Sister Jane is a member of the Benedictine Sisters of Bethany which is a religious community of women affiliated with the Anglican Church in Cameroon.

The Community of St. John Baptist, in Mendham, New Jersey is a strong supporter by prayer, money raising activities, as well as making a yearly visit to encourage, support, pray and ascertain needs.

St. Luke's is sponsoring Joseph for \$360.00 a year. When you place a paperclip on a dollar and put it in the offering plate, it goes towards our pledge.

Individuals can also adopt a child or donate to one of the many ongoing projects such as the Medical School Scholarship Fund which is set up to help those orphans who aspire to become doctors to achieve this dream. To learn more about this and other projects go to their website:

www.goodshepherdhome.org .

Additional Donations to the Good Shepherd Home for Children

May be made payable to:

The Good Shepherd Home
c/o community of St. John Baptist
PO Box 240
Mendham, NJ 07945
Attn: M. Wood



~July 2016~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 8:30 Morning Prayer 5:30 Evening Prayer	2 5:30 Holy Eucharist
3 8:00 Holy Eucharist 9 Early Bird Education 10:00 Holy Eucharist followed by Coffee Hour	4 Happy Independence Day Office Closed	5 9 Morning Prayer 5:30 Evening Prayer	6 9 Morning Prayer 10:00 Healing Service followed by Bible Study 5:30 Evening Prayer	7 9 Morning Prayer 5:30 Evening Prayer 7:00 Twisted Stitchers	8 9 Morning Prayer 5:30 Evening Prayer	9 5:30 Holy Eucharist
10 8:00 Holy Eucharist 9 Early Bird Education 10:00 Holy Eucharist followed by Coffee Hour	11 9 Morning Prayer 1:00 Ladies Who Tie Knots 5:30 Evening Prayer	12 9 Morning Prayer 5:30 Evening Prayer	13 Father Ed's Vacation 7:00 St. Veronica's Guild	14 Father Ed's Vacation	15 Father Ed's Vacation 11:30 Ladies Luncheon at Panera'	16 Father Ed's Vacation 5:30 Holy Eucharist
17 Father Ed's Vacation 8:00 Holy Eucharist 9 Early Bird Education 10:00 Holy Eucharist followed by Coffee Hour	18 9 Morning Prayer 1:00 Ladies Who Tie Knots 5:30 Evening Prayer	19 9 Morning Prayer 5:30 Evening Prayer	20 9 Morning Prayer 10:00 Healing Service followed by Bible Study 5:30 Evening Prayer	21 9 Morning Prayer 5:30 Evening Prayer	22 9 Morning Prayer 5:30 Evening Prayer	23 5:30 Holy Eucharist
24 8:00 Holy Eucharist 9 Early Bird Education 10:00 Holy Eucharist followed by Coffee Hour 6 VBS	25 9 Morning Prayer 1:00 Ladies Who Tie Knots 5:30 Evening Prayer 6 VBS	26 9 Morning Prayer 5:30 Evening Prayer 6 VBS	27 9 Morning Prayer 10:00 Healing Service followed by Bible Study 5:30 Evening Prayer 6 VBS 7:00 St. Veronica's Guild	28 9 Morning Prayer 5:30 Evening Prayer 6 VBS	29 9 Morning Prayer 5:30 Evening Prayer 7:00 Second Looks at Favorite Books	30 5:30 Holy Eucharist
31 8:00 Holy Eucharist 9 Early Bird Education 10:00 Holy Eucharist followed by Coffee Hour						

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

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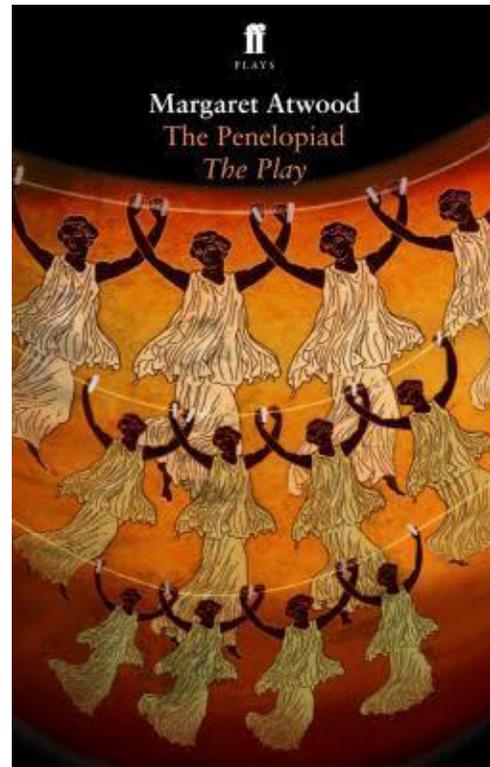
E-mail:
administrator@stlukesmetuchen.org

Calendar:
www.stlukesmetuchen.org



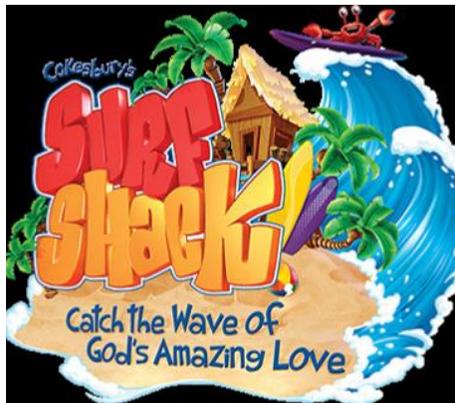
We're on the Web!
www.stlukesmetuchen.org

Second Looks at Favorite Books



Friday, July 29, 2016 in the Fryer Room

Vacation Bible School Sunday, July 24-Thursday, July 28 6pm-8pm



**For ages 3 years old
through adults
Includes dinner, music,
crafts, and more....**

Go to www.stlukesmetuchen.org to get the registration form and return it to the parish office.
