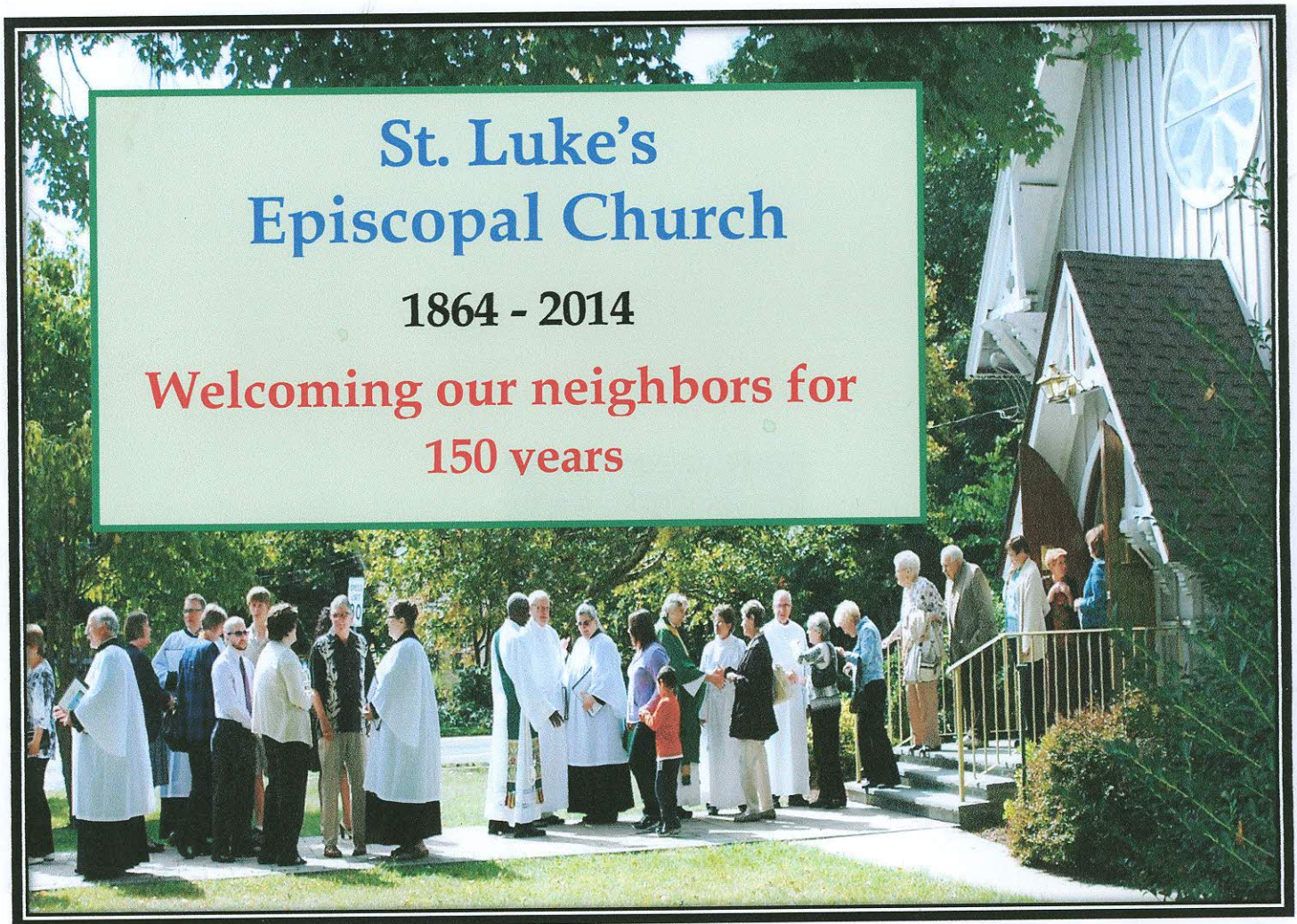


**Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Metuchen, New Jersey**

The following is a modified version of a multimedia presentation prepared by Ted Latham for the 150th anniversary celebration kick-off luncheon given on Sunday, October 20, 2013.



Shortly after the end of the Civil War in 1864, a small and unknown number of Metuchen Episcopalians, met together in unknown places for Sunday morning worship. They became the nucleus for a congregation that would soon become St. Luke's Episcopal Church. We are grateful for their efforts, and in their memory we honor them with this presentation and celebration.

Acknowledging that God is the creator of all things, as described in the “Eucharistic Prayer – Form C” found in our Book of Common Prayer (shown below), we will follow the prehistory of what God created here at St Luke’s in Metuchen, not starting at the very beginning, but sometime after He created this “fragile earth, our island home.” The history will not end on the day of this presentation in 2013, but will end with the beginning of the design, construction and dedication of our church building in 1868. Using his blessings of memory, reason and skill, we will rely on the philosophy of the study of the natural physical world, or science, to explain how a landform classified as a “temperate deciduous forest formed on a glacial terminal moraine” came to be. An environment that welcomed and supported the basic needs for survival of those human beings who migrated to this part of the earth. As our part of the creation became one of the crossroads of emerging 19th Century technologies, we changed from a simple successful farming community into a complex industrial and manufacturing economy which provided us with greater wealth and leisure time occupied with religious, political and social discourse, art, sporting events, education and greater mobility. We became co-creators with God of our own physical, cultural and philosophical environment.

Eucharistic Prayer Form C

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn

