



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

House Call Newsletter

January/February 2023

Bringing Light to the Darkness



*What has come into being in [Jesus] was life,
and the life was the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overtake it.*

John 1:3-5

The season following the holidays can seem dark and anticlimactic. All the bustle and preparation for Christmas and New Year's Eve have ended. The gifts are unwrapped, the cards are opened, the cookies and special meals are eaten, the lights and decorations are waiting to go back into storage. The days are cold, the nights are long and spring seems very far away.

But as Christian mystic and theologian Howard Thurman observed in his poem, "The Work of Christmas," this is the season that calls us to rise up from our adoration of the infant Jesus in the manger and take up the adult Christ's work in the world. We step away from flocks of singing angels and stars dancing in the midnight sky, bid farewell to wandering kings and wondering shepherds.

It's not that we turn our backs on the magic of Christmas. Rather, we hold onto that magic, allowing it to lighten our hearts, strengthen our faith and embolden us, in Thurman's words,

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among the people,
To make music in the heart.

In the coming weeks, Matthew's Gospel will transport us from the stable in Bethlehem to the banks of the Jordan River, then on to Galilee. We'll watch Jesus gather his disciples and revisit some of his most fundamental teachings. And we'll be reminded that, through most of his ministry, Jesus focused on the day-to-day work of preaching and healing, not on mind-boggling displays of his miraculous powers.

Our Roman Catholic cousins refer to this post-Christmas season as "ordinary time." The Episcopal Dictionary of the Church explains that "ordinary time can be understood in terms of the living out of Christian faith and the meaning of Christ's resurrection in ordinary life." Ordinary time may not be as enchanting as Christmas or as awe-inspiring as Easter, but it's the time that invites us to deepen our faith by embodying Christian values in practical ways. We're still surrounded by the darkness of winter. We can light a candle in that darkness by making Christ's work part of our everyday, ordinary lives.

Blessings,
Pastor Lauren+

Vestry Highlights

December Vestry Meeting Highlights

- The donated funds that were returned to CHERA may be used to purchase a truck for outreach clinics.
- The Environmental Committee completed a grant application to improve our amphitheater. A restoration maintenance contract will be signed. Trees will be removed by Davey Tree Experts as an 'in kind donation'.
- The Treasurer reported a successful Stewardship campaign. Thank you, letters have been, sent.
- The proposed 2023 budget was accepted.
- The *House Call* will be published every other month until August then re-evaluated.
- Shallow intinction will continue to be used at the eucharist for the time being.
- The Annual meeting will be held Sunday, February 12, 2023.
- The Vestry Nominating Committee is Dianne Crews (Chair), Amanda Reynolds and Natasia Thompson.

Submitted by
Dianne Crews,
Registrar

A Note from the Treasurer

Thanks to everyone for your continued financial support for our church's activities, and for your keeping your pledges up to date.

Please watch for your end-of-year giving statements which you should receive by the end of January.

The budget for 2023 has been completed and approved by the vestry. It will be shared at the annual meeting in February.

Please contact Pete Stark, Treasurer, at 410-269-9760 or starkhe2@yahoo.com for any questions or assistance.

Treasurer's Report: 2022 Finances

As of November 30, 2022

| <u>Operating</u> | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Planned</u> |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <u>Income</u> | | |
| Pledges | 130,568 | 114,583 |
| Other | <u>39,821</u> | <u>29,834</u> |
| Total Income | 170,389 | 144,417 |
| <u>Operating</u> | | |
| <u>Expenses:</u> | <u>147,016</u> | <u>133,504</u> |
| <u>Net Gain</u> | <u>23,373</u> | <u>10,913</u> |
| <u>Assets</u> | | |
| Checking | 46,189 | |
| Investments | 81,620 | |

COVID Update

As we continue to gather in-person and online for hybrid worship, the Covid-19 infection rate in Anne Arundel County remains relatively low. The vestry is committed to protecting the congregation's health and safety, taking precautions to minimize transmission of Covid-19 and other illnesses in this cold and flu season. Although masks are not required, please feel very welcome to wear a mask if it makes you feel more comfortable when attending in person. Weather permitting, some windows will be opened to provide greater ventilation. We do not require social distancing, but please refrain from making physical contact (i.e., handshakes or hugs) with those outside your household, including during the passing of the peace. To minimize risks during the Eucharist, Pastor Lauren+ will wear gloves while administering communion. Communion under one kind, i.e., the bread or the wine alone, is the full reception of Holy Communion. If you prefer to receive only the wafer, please extend a single hand when you come forward. The vestry will continue to monitor conditions in our county and adjust our practices as needed to safeguard everyone's health.

Eastport Memorial Labyrinth Walk



The Labyrinth is an ancient tool for walking meditation and prayer, common to many faith traditions and cultures. Our journey to the center of the Labyrinth and back out again can be a powerful source of healing, inspiration, and peace.

The next walk will be January 14, 2023, 12– 1 pm.

“Gracious God, pour your peace into our hearts,
that we may work for respect among peoples
of our land. Amen.”

We meet at the log amphitheater just below the labyrinth for an introduction, and then we gather there again for conversation following the walk. Masks are OPTIONAL. Labyrinth walks take place rain or shine, so please dress for the weather!

For questions, contact the parish office at 410-268-5419 or office@stlukeseastport.org.

Bishop Candidates Slate Announced

The Standing Committee and the Bishop Search Committee have finalized and presented the slate of candidates for Bishop Coadjutor of Maryland (XV Bishop of Maryland).

They are:

- The Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent, *Canon to the Ordinary for Transition and Church Development, Diocese of Central New York*
- The Rev. Alissa Newton, *Canon for Congregational Development and Leadership Formation and Vicar, St. Columba’s Episcopal Church, Kent, WA, Diocese of Olympia*

- The Rev. Gregg Morris, *Rector, St. Andrew’s, Downers Grove, IL, Diocese of Chicago*
- The Rev. J. Randolph Alexander Jr., *Rector, Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, Alexandria, VA, Diocese of Virginia*

Information about the candidates can be found at <https://episcopalmaryland.org/bishop-slate/>. Diocesan Convention will reconvene on March 25, 2023 to vote for the new bishop. Please review the slate and share your thoughts with Anne Arms, our lay delegate, or Pastor Lauren before the meeting. We pray for the candidates, and pray that God will guide the minds of those who will choose the bishop so that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for God’s people and equip us for our ministries.

Lenten Book Study

The season of Lent, a time for reflection and repentance, begins this year on **February 22nd**. As part of our devotions, Pastor Lauren+ will lead a weekly book discussion after Sunday services throughout the season. Our text will be Rev. Mary Bea Sullivan’s devotional, *Living the Way of Love*. Church Publishing describes the book as “forty brief reflections about the seven Jesus-centered practices identified by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry in ‘The Way of Love’ initiative.” *Living the Way of Love* rotates through the seven practices each week to help readers incorporate the practices into their day-to-day lives.

Annual Meeting – Save the Date!

The Annual Meeting of St. Luke’s’ congregation will take place on **February 12, 2023** immediately after services. We will review the past church year, vote on the 2023 budget and elect new members to the vestry while thanking those who have completed their terms. Please join us as we celebrate our accomplishments in 2022 and look forward to the church year ahead.

Kasese Foundation

For several years, St. Luke’s has supported Sunniah, our Ugandan student, through the Kasese Community Health and Education Foundation (founded 2002) and

we pray for this group each week in our service. Some have asked for more information.

The Kasese Community Health and Education Foundation (KCHEF) works to transform healthcare delivery and educational opportunities in the Rwenzori region of Uganda.

KCHEF (formerly the Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation) is a collaboration of Ugandans and U.S. supporters to develop and achieve self-sufficiency. It partners with the U.S. organization – Community Health and Education for Rural Africa (CHERA). As a locally led organization, KCHEF represents the single most effective way to empower a community in a region severely impacted by conflict, disease, and extreme poverty.

[The Health Program](#) supports the KCHEF Medical Center which attends to up to 2000 patients every month and treated over 45,000 people since 2012. Its primary goal is to reduce the number of women who die in childbirth and to ensure that all children see their 5th birthday. With local leaders and highly trained staff drawn from the community, the Foundation's medical clinic focusses on obstetric and pediatric medical care and provided urgent care for all. The clinic staff manages community outreach programs to deliver public health services to outlying communities including childhood vaccinations, male circumcision, and pre-natal care.

Some interesting stats:

- 550 women per 100,000 births die in childbirth due to preventable related causes in Uganda
- 76 newborns per 1000 births die in the first week of life
- 137 children of every 1000 do not survive until their fifth birthday

Since 2015, KCHEF:

- Served over 25,000 patients annually
- Delivered over 300 babies annually
- Immunized more than 4,000 children annually
- Provided HIV counseling and testing to over 1,000 members of the community
- Treated patients with various diagnoses, including typhoid fever, AIDS, hypertension in pregnancy, depression and anxiety, hepatitis B, alcohol and drug abuse, cardiac disease, rabies, epilepsy, and snakebites
- Hosts at least one visiting specialist in diverse conditions in an annual health camp

[The Education Program](#) provides critically needed education to vulnerable children in primary and secondary school as well as vocational and university education. KCHEF's holistic approach to funding the education program secures not only committed donors for education fees, but also oversees children's health care, home life, and social development by our own leadership and staff.

According to a recent study reported in the Stanford Social Innovation Review, adults who had received charitable sponsorship as children are one third more likely to finish high school, seek at least one more year of education and 35% are more likely to have professional jobs.

The Rwenzori Region is home to 15,000 to 20,000 orphans, many living in families headed by siblings in their early teens, and other vulnerable children. Supporting and guiding these young people until they are self-sufficient and able to join the community as contributing adults is essential for the future of the region.

Interesting facts:

- The current cost for annual support of an individual child, including fees, books, clothing, health care, and the staff of two to oversee the program is \$500.
- More than 170 children are now enrolled in our education program. 54% are girls, 46% boys.
- More than 220 KCHEF students have graduated in different disciplines from universities in Uganda. Several have returned to KCHEF as medical professionals and other staff members.

Note: I had the privilege to meet Bishop Masereka many years ago when he visited the diocese while on a fundraising journey to the United States.

Dianne Crews

Vestry Member & Registrar

Are you on our email list?

If you have an email address but are not receiving our weekly email newsletters each Wednesday, please let us know by emailing office@stlukeseastport.org. These weekly emails are an important means of communicating information to our community in between editions of the House Call. If you are not on email but would like to have a printout of the weekly

“News from St. Luke’s” sent to you by hard copy, please contact Dalyn Huntley in the church office: 410-268-5419.

Earth Day Arts Festival

On **Saturday, April 22, 2023**, St. Luke’s will host an Earth Day Arts Festival. The festival will invite our Annapolis neighbors to take part in a celebration of how the arts reconnect us with God in Creation and will feature our Restoration of Nature project. The Environmental Committee is planning a full day of exhibitions, performances and workshops that will encourage participants not only to observe, but to explore their spirituality by actively creating art in nature. There will be many opportunities to volunteer and join in the fun. More information to come!

Pastor Sabbath

Sunday is the Sabbath for most of us but, for clergy, Sunday is often the busiest workday of the week. Scripture tells us to honor the Sabbath and keep it holy.

Pastor Lauren+ takes her Sabbath on **Mondays** as a time of rest, reflection and prayer. She's available for spiritual emergencies on Mondays but defers other work to the rest of the week when she can. Please let her know if you have questions or need spiritual support on a Monday or any other time.

In the case of a pastoral emergency, Rev. Lauren can be reached at 703-585-0651.

Light House Shelter Meal Support Ministry

St. Luke's is providing lunches to the Lighthouse Shelter twice a month. Lesley Margerrison will coordinate the preparation and Linda Elkington will manage shopping for supplies. Everyone is invited to help make sandwiches after services during fellowship. We are asking for volunteers to deliver the lunches to the shelter (on Hudson St., off West St.) for the month of December. The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board downstairs. For more information please contact Lesley Margerrison at lmargerrison@gmail.com

Hospitality Hour

St. Luke's offers a hospitality hour immediately following our Sunday services. Volunteer hosts are asked to set up the beverage station and bring light fare for persons attending the Sunday Service to enjoy.

The sign-up sheet for hosting Hospitality Hour on Sunday mornings is located downstairs in the Undercroft. The Fall/Winter sign up is posted. Anyone is welcome to sign up to host. If you haven't hosted before, contact our Hospitality Hour coordinator, Kathy Dinin, to learn more: dinin.kathryn@gmail.com or 914-241-3966. Kathy can also help pair you with someone else if you don't want to host on your own.

Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch is a weekly gathering for fellowship through sharing a meal. This Dutch treat meal takes place **Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m.** at [Adam's Ribs](#) in the Eastport Shopping Center, right next to the church. Who is invited? Everyone! Lunch Bunch is an open event organized by members of St. Luke's. Contact Dianne Crews 410-268-9741 or Helen Wheeler 410-224-3882 for more information. Friends and visitors are always welcome. No RSVP necessary.

Environmental Committee Meeting

The Environmental Committee at St. Luke’s seeks to spread environmental stewardship through education, advocacy, and volunteerism on a teaching campus that heals the human spirit while caring for creation.

The monthly meetings occur on the FIRST Thursday of each month remotely via Zoom at 7 pm.

The January meeting will be held **Thursday, January 5** and the February meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 2**.

All are welcome to attend. For questions, contact Chuck Gallegos (gallegoscl@verizon.net) or Anne Arms (armspna@aol.com).

Contemplative Prayer Weekly Practice



The Contemplative Prayer Practice continues to meet remotely via Zoom on **Fridays at 10 a.m.**

This practice invites us to experience rest and internal nourishment through silent prayer together. Anyone is welcome to join at any time. No experience necessary. For more information, contact co-facilitators Eve Waldman at eleanorevewaldman@gmail.com or 757-387-2367 and Chuck Gallegos at gallegoscl@verizon.net or 410-571-0562.

Holiday Closures

The church office will be closed on the following holidays.

Monday, January 16 (Martin Luther King Jr)
Monday, February 20 (Presidents Day)

Claggett Center Happenings 2023 Events

Men's Retreat February 3-5, 2023

Join men from across the Diocese of Maryland and Washington for a weekend of music, fellowship, recreation and worship.

Women's Retreat Weekend February 17-19, 2023

Grow your spiritual life in community with these women from all walks of life. This year's theme is Growing God's Garden: Cultivating Community. Activities include:

- workshops
- service projects
- nature walk
- arts and crafts
- and more!

Writer Retreat February 27 - March 2, 2023

Hone your voice, get time away to focus on your craft, and hear from experts in the field during this Informative and Creative week-long retreat.

Program:

- keynote speakers
- expert workshops
- collaborative group session
- free time to work on our beautiful campus!

Small Parish Retreat May 12-14, 2023

Would you love to enjoy a retreat with your church community, but don't have the capacity to organize one for your parish alone? Gather with other small-but-mighty churches for a classic parish retreat. Join together for worship and fellowship, while growing closer to your faith community in small groups. Parish leaders: contact us if this might fit your parish!

Visit www.claggettcenter.org for details.

Flower Ministry & Dedications

As we continue into 2023 with our Sunday worship services in the sanctuary, we are continuing the tradition of beautifying our worship space with two flower arrangements each week. These arrangements are funded through individual donations. If you would like to dedicate the flowers for a particular Sunday in 2023 in memory of someone or in honor of a special occasion, please contact our administrative assistant Dalyn Huntley at office@stlukeseastport.org or at 410-268-5419. The requested donation amount is \$50 and may be made either by check or online with the memo "Flowers." Following the service, the flowers are delivered to a member of the congregation to enjoy.

You don't need to be able to arrange flowers to join the Flower Ministry! We also need drivers who can pick up arrangements from our florist. If you're interested in learning more, contact Anne Arms at 707-479-4303 or armspna@aol.com.

House Call Deadline

The deadline for submission of materials for the March/April edition of House Call is no later than **Tuesday, February 23**. Submissions may be emailed to the office at office@stlukeseastport.org



St. Luke's has a long-standing tradition of remembering the birthdays and anniversaries of our members with a card and in the newsletter, as well as praying for those who are present on the preceding Sunday. If you are new to the St. Luke's community or unsure if we have your birthday/anniversary, please let us know when it is! Send the information to the office by phone or email (410-268-5419 or office@stlukeseastport.org).

January Birthdays

| | |
|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Arthur Cotsalas |
| 8 | Alastair McGregor |
| 16 | Ildar Khannanov |
| 21 | Sharon Williams |
| 23 | Pete Stark |
| 29 | Heather Ackroyd |
| 31 | David McGuinness |

February Birthdays

| | |
|----|------------------------------|
| 2 | Joshua Reynolds |
| 4 | Willa Govoro & Monroe Govoro |
| 7 | Penelope Reynolds |
| 10 | Jennifer Brown |
| 17 | David Dent |
| 26 | Sally Sandford |

Prayer List

Ongoing Needs: Sunniah Ngonzi Magogo; Connie Harold; the Palermo Family; Heather Cook; Sydney Ponturo; Sally and Fred Sandford; Patty Peterson (friend of Helen & Jack Wheeler); Hilda Uribe (friend of Avedis & Olgui Zarikian); David Fogle; Jimmy Riccardi; Deacon Bob McCoy; Karen Sears-Wright (mother of Lexi Wright); Deacon Mary Walton; Olgui

Zarikian; Patricia; Linda Cunningham; Sarah Lamming; Lee Riley; Dagmar Kohring; Kathy Kotowski (friend of Eve & Mike Waldman); Jennifer Miles (friend of Kathleen Rewa); the Rev. Patti Sachs; Lucy Sprigg; Nelida Godfrey (family friend of Avedis & Olgui Zarikian); Charla Rowe (godmother of Tanya Bloom); Tim Shiley & Family (cousins of Rev. Lauren Bloom).

Immediate Needs: Christine Kingerski (friend of Dan Ramirez); Nicole DeVino (friend of Dianne Crews); Ken Crisman (son-in-law's father of Sharon Williams); the Rev. John Keydel; the **McGregor** family; **Amy** and **Miriam** Hilliard; **Bill** Hodges, and **Mike** Mauzer; **Josh** Thrift (extended family member of Sharon Williams); **Lance** Landseadel (husband of Rev. Lauren Bloom); **Pat** Russell (friend of Mike & Eve Waldman); **Nancy** Lear and **family**; **Sean** Green (son of Rae Miller); **Jack & Helen** Wheeler; **Bart** Williams; **Bob** Gough (friend of Phyllis Suhr); **George & Linda** Dvorak (brother-in-law & sister of Claire Miller); the **Moorehead** family; **Frank** Raus (uncle of Elaine Kazlauskas); **Vincent** Veich (friend of Dianne Crews); **Rei** Harada (daughter-in-law of Pete Stark); **Mary** Mineo (sister of Ann McGuinness); **Gary** (friend of Avedis, Olgui and Lisa Zarikian); **Linda** Elkington.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

410-268-5419 ~ office@stlukeseastport.org
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www.facebook.com/stlukeseastport

Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

The Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton, Bishop
The Rt. Rev. Robert W. Ihloff, Assisting Bishop

Parish Staff

The Rev. Lauren M. Bloom, Priest-in-Charge
lbloom@stlukeseastport.org
Dr. Ildar Khannanov, Director of Music
drkhannanov@gmail.com
Dalyn Huntley, Administrative Assistant
office@stlukeseastport.org
The Rev. Norman Crews, Priest Associate
The Rev. David G. Flowers, Priest Associate

Parish Officers

Richard Wilson-Smith, Senior Warden
443-822-1978, richard@openpathproducts.com
Helen Leitch, Junior Warden
410-263-2783, leitchhelen@verizon.net
Pete Stark, Treasurer
410-269-9760, starkhe2@yahoo.com
Dianne Crews, Registrar
410-268-9741, dmackcrn@verzion.net

Ministry Contacts

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Altar Guild | Anne Arms 707-479-4303, armspna@aol.com |
| Environmental Committee | Chuck Gallegos 443-758-3036, gallegoscl@verizon.net Anne Arms 707-479-4303, armspna@aol.com |
| Food Pantry | Lesley Margerrison 512-921-4241, lmargerrison@gmail.com |
| Flower Ministry | Anne Arms 707-479-4303, armspna@aol.com |
| Labyrinth Committee | Anne Arms 707-479-4303, armspna@aol.com |

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St. Luke's Episcopal Church
1101 Bay Ridge Avenue
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