

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Another Annual Meeting is in the archives. A new Jr. Warden is on board. Three new members are on vestry. The first weekend in March, Vestry will go on retreat to work together and pray together as we reflect on the past year, plan for this year, and into the next few years. St. Luke's is surviving and the faithful are continuing to worship together and serve God.

We were fortunate to have several supply priests with us this past nine months. Their messages have been enlightening, comforting, and encouraging. Now we look forward to securing a priest-in-charge in the near future. When that happens, we will no doubt experience some changes along the way. As in the past, we will accept some changes that occur with a new "broom". Perhaps we may return to two services. That will be decided by a new rector, the vestry, and the availability of the necessary acolytes to assist with an early service. Any changes will not come quickly or immediately. All decisions will be weighed and considered carefully at vestry meetings. Whenever that new priest-in-charge arrives we will welcome your suggestions and desires that you would like to see at St. Luke's. The decisions made at St. Luke's belong to everyone, not just the rector or the vestry. We serve the members.

I feel it is necessary to remind you all that we are not at liberty to name or discuss any candidate who may be under consideration for the priest-in-charge position. Until such time as a candidate receives an official call and signs a Letter of Agreement, no announcement may be forthcoming. When all parties have met with the above requirements, an announcement will be made to the membership. Any confidentiality that has been breached beforehand might only cause embarrassment to all concerned.

I hope that all who attended the annual meeting and took home a copy of the report will take the time to read the various reports contained in that report. Information about St. Luke's, the work of the various committees and programs, the treasurer's report are all there for your perusal. The committee chair persons take on a lot of responsibility and work hard to build crews of helpers to serve our church and the community at large. They all need additional helpers, and all welcome any-and-all who would like to serve with them. If you feel a calling to give your time and talents, please let them know. They will happily add you to the service schedules.

Fifteen new confirmands were added to St. Luke's membership in 2017. We would be so happy to see you in church most Sundays, and we would certainly be delighted to welcome you to one or more of the service jobs. Some of you have young children. How delightful it would be to see and hear the young people in church again. Our aging congregation needs help. If we have no younger generation to step up, how will St. Luke's survive in the next five years or so? Churches of all denominations are having to close their doors forever. We don't want to see this happen to St. Luke's. However, without physical presence of members and financial assistance to operate, this will become our future. We pray you will not allow this to be our fate. We love St. Luke's. We love you. Come pray with us.

God loves you too. If only we could fill the pews at the Sunday service like we do at memorial services. Oh, what a glorious sight to behold that would be!

God's blessings to you all.

Carol



THE STAFF

Rector—In Transition
Sexton—John Brown
Secretary—Tracy Reifer

THE VESTRY

- Sr. Warden—Carol Cisler (2019)
- Jr. Warden—Cliff Essig (2019)
- Co-Treasurer—Hazel Boettcher
- Co Treasurer—Sandia Sommer
- Clerk for the Vestry—Vacant
- Matt Crim (2019)
- Lara Shepherd (2019)
- Ben Windland (2020)
- Mary Marshall (2020)
- Becky Young (2021)
- Marybeth Peebles (2021)

CAROL CISLER'S 80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



This year is an extra special year for Carol - she will be turning 80! To celebrate this exciting birthday we will be throwing a birthday party for Carol. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, February 18 following the 10:30 church service. We will be celebrating with food, cake, and ice cream.

All are invited and we hope you are able to join us to celebrate our dear friend and dedicated Senior Warden. You're welcome to bring cards, but please don't bring gifts. Your presence is the best gift she could ask for!

CRISIS INTERVENTION

Carol Cisler reports that our discretionary account balance is low. The harsh winter has taken a toll on community members that live paycheck-to-paycheck. We receive many requests every month for various types of assistance and several people have to be turned away. If you are able to help, donations may be made directly to SLEC Discretionary Account.

ST. LUKE'S BY THE NUMBERS—JANUARY

Sunday Worship Attendance:

Jan. 7—	35
Jan. 14—	33
Jan. 21—	37
Jan. 28—	26

Average Jan 2018—33
Average Jan 2017— 40

Outreach

Door-to-Door Meals—43
Community Dinner—Approx 30

Crisis Intervention

Gasoline Cards—2

LAY WORSHIP LEADER TRAINING

The Diocese will be offering a two-day training for those who are interested in becoming lay worship leaders (or who are perhaps interested in further developing their own spiritual practices but not necessarily in leading worship!) on April 28th and May 12th, 9am to 3pm. It'll be held at St. Peter's in Gallipolis (541 Second Ave., Gallipolis, OH 45631), which is much more convenient for many of us than Procter.

The training needs 6 or 7 people to be viable, but we'd love to have more! The cost is \$20/session, and then they ask that each person provide a \$10/session donation to the church to cover food costs.

Following is the website with the calendar event that gives a description and has the registration form:

<http://diosohio.org/events/event/lay-worship-leader-training-part-1/>

Following is the link DIRECTLY to the registration form:

<https://diosohio.wufoo.com/forms/sfolejg1a35d82/>

***** NOTE THAT YOU ONLY REGISTER AND PAY ONE TIME FOR BOTH SESSIONS *****

LENT AT ST. LUKE'S



Pancake Supper—All you can eat!

Tuesday, February 13

5—6:30 PM

Come enjoy the delicious pancakes prepared by the men of St. Luke's!



Ash Wednesday Mass and Imposition of Ashes

2 Services—Noon and 6 PM



Lenten Studies

Wednesdays in Lent (beginning Feb. 21)

6 PM Stations of the Cross, Soup Supper, Lenten Study

LENT

∞ *Why is it called Lent?*

Lent is an old English word meaning "lengthen". Lent is observed in spring, when the days begin to get longer.

∞ *What does Shrove mean?*

Shrove Tuesday comes from the word to shrive, which means to confess one's sins.

∞ *Why do people eat pancakes on Shrove Tuesday?*

Pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday as they were a dish that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house with just the addition of flour.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

- 2 *The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ
in the Temple*
- 3 “Souper Bowl” Saturday/Movie Night 5 PM
- 4 5th Sunday after the Epiphany
The Rev Heller-HE 10:30 AM
Food Basket Collection
- 6 Community Dinner 5 PM
- 11 Last Sunday after the Epiphany
The Rev Gene Sheppard-HE 10:30 AM
Outreach Sunday/Door-to-Door Meals
- 13 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5-6:30 PM
- 13 Vestry Meeting 7 PM
- 14 Ash Wednesday Mass & Imposition of Ashes
The Rev Gene Sheppard-HE Noon & 6 PM
- 15 ECW—ECW Room Cleanup 10 AM
- 18 1st Sunday of Lent
The Rev. Gene Sheppard-HE 10:30 AM
- 18 Carol Cisler’s 80th Birthday Bash—11:30 AM
- 21 Stations of the Cross/Soup Supper/
Lenten Study 6 PM
- 25 2nd Sunday of Lent
The Rev. Gene Sheppard-HE 10:30 AM
- 28 Stations of the Cross/Soup Supper/
Lenten Study 6 PM



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Nina Byer
- 9 Carol Cisler
- 11 Betty Fleming
- 14 Becky Young
- 22 Elizabeth Dempster
- 25 Dee Crim
- 26 Dennis Boettcher
- 28 Gant Bleakley

SAVE THE DATE!

EMPTY BOWLS

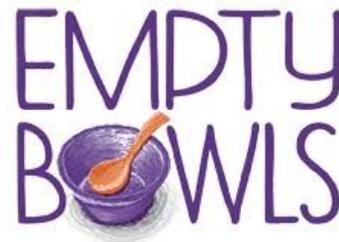
Saturday, April 7, 2018

First Presbyterian Church

501 Fourth St, Marietta, OH

11 AM—1 PM

More Info to Follow



PRACTICING THE PRESENCE OF GOD: A SPIRITUAL RETREAT IN LENT

9 AM—3 PM ON THE FOLLOWING SUNDAYS:

FEB 17 AT ST PHILIP CHURCH, COLUMBUS

FEB 24 AT CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, ATHENS

MAR 10 AT CALVARY, CLIFTON (CINCINNATI)

MAR 17 AT ST MARGARET’S EPISCOPAL, TROTWOOD (DAYTON)

COST—\$15

REGISTER AT DSOSPIRITUALITY.ORG

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT THE REV. LESLIE FLEMMING AT:

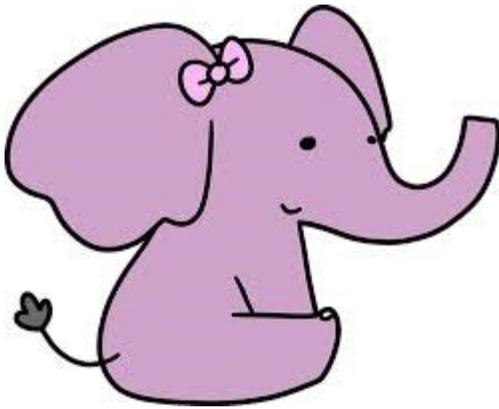
FLEMMINGLESLIE@YAHOO.COM OR 740-517-2143

BABY SHOWER FOR THE BENNETTS

During the month of February, we will collect gift cards for Sara and Paul Bennett. Sara is due mid-April (a girl!) Sara said that Target gift cards would be very helpful as they can buy diapers, clothes, formula—basically anything they may need for the baby.

On Sunday, March 4, we will have a shower during coffee hour. We will connect with Sara, Paul and Andrew via video chat. After the shower, I will place all the cards in a package and ship it to Sara and Paul.

If you want to help, here's what we need you to do:



- 1 Purchase a gift card and a greeting card (suggested gift cards are Target, Visa or Mastercard (no fee), and Amazon).
- 2 Sign the greeting card, and place the gift card in the greeting card and seal it.
- 3 Drop the sealed card off in the office, place it in the offering plate on any Sunday in February, or bring it to the shower on Sunday, March 4.

Note: Sara has also registered at Amazon; if you prefer to purchase a specific gift for them and have it shipped direct this is a good option.

ALTAR GUILD

Many of our members are cradle Episcopalians—and many are not. So it's sometimes helpful to explain the seasonal changes of the church year.

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. The altar is dressed in purple, and the priests vestment is also purple. This color represents penitence and preparation. Prior to the Ash Wednesday Mass, the Altar Guild also removes the brass cross from the altar, and replaces it with a simple wooden cross. The paschal candle is also removed to the sacristy.

Ashes for the service are prepared by burning palm fronds leftover from the prior year's Palm Sunday service.

The ashes are placed in a tin, and a vial of oil and a lemon are also placed near the altar for the priest. (The priest uses the lemon to cleanse the ashes from his/her fingers between each worshiper.)

Flowers are not displayed on the altar during lent. Instead, very simple glass jars are filled with a dried collection of stems. Loved ones may still be remembered by selecting a Sunday in Lent to donate for the altar candles.



ANNUAL MEETING

The 192nd Annual Meeting of St. Luke's Episcopal Church was held on Sunday, January 21, 2018. There were 28 communicants in attendance. Election of Sr. and Jr. Wardens, Vestry, and other officers was conducted. Reports from each committee were provided for review, and the 2018 budget was approved. Extra copies of the annual meeting report booklet are available in the Parish Hall. Following are the 2018 Vestry and Other Officers:

2018 VESTRY AND OFFICERS

(all terms expire on Annual Meeting date of year specified)

Senior Warden – Carol Cisler (2019)

Junior Warden – Cliff Essig (2019)

Co-Treasurers

Hazel Boettcher

Sandia Sommers

Clerk of Vestry—TBD

Delegates to Convention

Jim Peebles; Marybeth Peebles (2019)

Hazel Boettcher (2020)

Vestry Members

Matt Crim; Lara Shepherd (2019)

Ben Windland; Mary Marshall (2020)

Becky Young; Marybeth Peebles (2021)

Alternates to Convention

Carol Cisler; Mark Ullman (2019)

In Memoriam Committee

Janet Huggins (2019)

Judy Pfeiffer (2020)

Shelby Marshall (2021)

'SOUPER BOWL' SATURDAY & MOVIE NIGHT

On Saturday, Feb. 2, the winner of the "golden ladle" was chosen. Nancy Ullman's creamy bacon potato soup was voted as the best of the best! There were 14 in attendance, and we had 8 different soups to sample and vote on. The movie, "Bruce Almighty" incited much laughter!

