

# The Vine

St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
320 Second Street  
Marietta OH 45750

January 2018  
Volume 1, Issue 1

## FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

This is the second time I have served as the Sr. Warden of St. Luke's, and the second time that I have served during the transition between rectors. The title of warden makes it sound like I am in charge of the inmates. In the case of the Anglican church, however, it means I am the steward, elected by the congregation to be the leader of the vestry or our governing body or council. The wardens, Sr. and Jr., operate under the diocesan canons (laws) and by-laws of the church. So, the wardens are the directors of the church operations in the absence of a rector, but are the servants of the congregation. All those titles: wardens, stewards, directors, servants. Titles have never impressed me. As far as I am concerned, we are all in this together.

We must all get down and dirty to get the job done. The congregation needs someone to come to when they have needs and concerns, so part of my responsibility is to be available. I am charged with finding supply priests to serve our congregation for pastoral visits, for burial services, and for Sunday services.

The Jr. Warden is responsible for keeping the physical plant and grounds up to speed. The Treasurers are responsible for keeping the accounting up-to-date and the bills paid on time. The Secretary is responsible for the day-to-day office operations and printing the proper services for the Sunday service.

The sexton keeps everything swept, mopped, and tidy. Then, there are the various committees: Altar Guild, Outreach Commission, Music Committee, Fellowship Servers, Christian Education, Greeters, Acolytes, Readers, Counters, In Memorium, and not the least, Vestry. Then there's the ECW: Taskmasters & Crafters. There's the Webmaster/resident internet tech. Did I forget anyone?

All those committees have chairpersons and some of those committees have many branches, all needing church members to help achieve each purpose. Again, so many titles. The titles are not important. We don't wear badges, or uniforms, or sit in designated seats, or put our feet up on a desk in an office. We all work together to carry out the mission of our church community. No one does his or her job alone. We assist each other in many capacities, overlapping in many of the services. We are a church community working together to stay together, serving God and spreading our ministries.

I cannot express in words what it means to have had the support and loyalty of everyone at St. Luke's working together. The common thread is love; love of God, love of St. Luke's, love and respect for each other. No matter how tired and discouraged we get sometimes we keep coming back to do the jobs we have taken on. At the start of each new week we gather to seek peace and renewal in Morning Worship service or Holy Eucharist. Thank you all and thanks be to God for all the St. Luke's community that continues to move forward together as we await a new priest-in-charge in the coming year. May God's blessings be with each and everyone of you in 2018.

*Carol*



## THE STAFF

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

## THE VESTRY

- Sr. Warden—Carol Cisler (2018)
- Jr. Warden—Dennis Boettcher (2018)
- Treasurer—Hazel Boettcher
- Asst. Treasurer—Sandia Sommer
- Clerk for the Vestry—Tracy Reifer
- Mike Reifer (2018)
- Kurt Morgenstern (2018)
- Matt Crim (2019)
- Lara Shepherd (2019)
- Ben Windland (20120)
- Cliff Essig (2020)



## STEWARDSHIP

At St. Luke's our financial struggle to meet operating costs alone continues to be a serious issue. Each one of us is at a different stage of our lives spiritually and financially but we all have a responsibility and commitment that cannot be ignored. Please reflect on Christ's redeeming love to us and return your Pledge Card as soon as possible with your financial support and areas where you would like to serve with your time and talent.

We are considerably lower than last year in both Pledge Cards returned and financial pledges. If you have not done so, please return your donation card to the church office this week. The 2018 Budget must be approved at the upcoming Annual Meeting January 21 and the numbers crunch is on!

Hazel Boettcher, Treasurer

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*“.....Reflecting God’s love and care for all creation.”*

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### ATTENDANCE

As you can see, our attendance is down from this same time last year. Even though we are without a rector, we have been blessed to have a supply priest at every service in the month of December.

### COMMUNITY DINNER

Program chairman Marybeth Peebles reports that attendance continues to grow. The need for food is real in the Marietta area.

### CRISIS INTERVENTION

Carol Cisler reports that our discretionary account balance is low. 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 the discretionary account.

## ST. LUKE’S BY THE NUMBERS—DECEMBER

### Sunday Worship Attendance:

Dec. 3—46  
Dec. 10—39  
Dec. 17—37  
Dec. 24—38  
Xmas Eve—51  
Dec. 31—32

Average Dec 2017—41  
Average Dec 2016— 59

### Outreach

Door-to-Door Meals—45  
Community Dinner—70+

### Crisis Intervention

Gas Cards—2  
Gas Shutoff prevention —1



## A LETTER FROM OUR SEMINARIAN

First I want to thank the ECW for their generous support! It was a welcomed surprise and a much needed gift. As you know we are surviving on one income and Sarah will be taking unpaid maternity leave when our daughter is born, so your gift was a very gracious blessing, and I promise it will be put to good use.

It was so wonderful to see all of you at Christmas. St. Luke's is and forever will be home for me, both geographically and spiritually, and it was great to be home. The church looked amazing and Rev. Shepherd did a wonderful job. I was brought to tears a number of times throughout both services. It was great to see so many warm familiar faces. I wish Christmas eve hadn't fallen on a Sunday and I could have been with you all for another Sunday, but I had to get back at it here for my January Term. But I can not express how awesome it felt to be back in the pew with you all!

I am now 1/6 of the way through seminary! I have experienced a wide range of emotions throughout the experience so far. I assure you that your continued prayers have sustained us through this transition. While I can only assume that this experience will continue to present challenges and tough times, I feel like I have finally got my feet under me and have found a rhythm to academic life. I am proud to let you know that I have written somewhere around 36 papers in my 12 weeks of this semester, so that gives you an idea of the pace of life here.

Andrew continues to be the star of his class at the Butterfly House. His teachers are very impressed with his unending energy and curiosity. He still is very proud of the fact that he goes to VTS with his daddy and we have even found time to have lunch together occasionally.

Sarah continues her work at Jefferson-Huston elementary and has found a group of friends there that she enjoys teaching with. We have passed the halfway point of her pregnancy and she is healthy and everything is going well with the baby. We still have not decided on a name yet, however Andrew has decided that her nickname will be Baby Pickle, I assure you that Pickle will not be her name.

All in all, things ended very well this past semester and I look forward to next semester and the opportunities and challenges it will bring. On behalf of Sarah, Andrew, and Baby Pickle I want to thank you all for your continued prayers and support. This is a difficult transition and it is very much a formation process for the entire family. Please continue to keep us in your prayers especially as we draw closer to the birth of our daughter. Thank you and God Bless!

Paul Bennett



*Advent Candles at Christmas Eve Mass*

## ALTAR GUILD

Signup sheets for 2018 Flower and Candle memorials are on the mission table in the parish hall. Money from these donations are used to purchase wine, wafers, flowers, candles, and other supplies for our Sunday Holy Eucharist. Donations are down and our funds are low. Flowers are \$25 and candles are \$10; checks should be made out to SLEC Altar Guild. You may purchase these in memoriam of a loved one who has passed on, or to honor a birthday or anniversary. Please consider signing up for a Sunday or two.

## PARISH NEWS

Our condolences to the Hamperian family, on the loss of their matriarch Marj. She passed away on December 7, and a memorial service was held on December 16. It was nice to hear the stories of Marj's life that were shared by her sons. St. Luke's was blessed to have had this talented woman as one of our organists and she is greatly missed.

## JANUARY EVENTS

- 1 *The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ*
- 2 Community Meal 5 PM
- 6 *The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ*
- 7 1st Sunday after the Epiphany—  
The Rev Richard Heller HE—10:30 AM
- 9 Vestry Meeting 7 PM
- 14 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany—  
The Rev Art Bennett HE—10:30 AM
- 18 *The Confession of Saint Peter the Apostle*
- 18 ECW Meeting 10 AM
- 21 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany—  
The Rev Art Bennett HE—10:30 AM
- 25 *The Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle*
- 27 Thurman and Julie Hill's Memorial Service 11 AM
- 28 4th Sunday after the Epiphany—

## ANNUAL ENGLISH CHRISTMAS TEA AT GILLIAN'S

Another festive time was had by all at Gillian's English Cottage on Cornerstone Drive. This year, Gillian mixed it up with a new theme "The Twelve Days of Christmas." All of the decadent appetizers and desserts were designed with this theme in mind. One new addition to her eclectic décor this year was audible snoring coming from one of the bedrooms (was it the big man in red?) Catching him taking a long-winter's nap is always exciting for the children that attend, and this added touch made it even more thrilling! It was a wonderful opportunity to spend time with one another outside the church walls.





## EPIPHANY

On Saturday, January 6, we celebrate The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ. This begins a season of four to nine weeks, from the Feast of the Epiphany (Jan. 6) through the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday (this year Feb. 13.) The length of the season varies according to the date of Easter. The gospel stories of this season describe various events that manifest the divinity of Jesus. The coming of the Magi is celebrated on the Epiphany. The Baptism of our Lord is observed on the Sunday after Epiphany (Jan. 7.) The gospels for the other Sundays of the Epiphany season describe the wedding at Cana, the calling of the disciples, and various miracles and teachings of Jesus. The Last Sunday after the Epiphany (Feb. 11) is always devoted to the Transfiguration. Jesus' identity as the Son of God is dramatically revealed in the Transfiguration gospel, as well as the gospel of the baptism of Christ. We are called to respond to Christ in faith through the showings of his divinity recorded in the gospels of the Epiphany season.

Epiphany is a Greek word meaning “manifestation” or “appearing.” At the Feast of the Epiphany we celebrate Jesus being made manifest or appearing as Christ. Traditionally, there are three manifestations celebrated on this feast day. The most widely celebrated manifestation of Christ on this feast day, and the one that has been historically celebrated by Christian churches in the West, is Jesus revealed as Christ to the three wise men, or Magi, from the East, who followed the Star of Bethlehem at Jesus' birth. The second manifestation celebrated today is the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan. Although this was part of the original Epiphany celebrations in second century Christian churches in the East, by the fourth century Western churches had largely stopped observing the Holy Baptism in Epiphany celebrations. The 1979 Book of Common Prayer began to reintroduce Jesus' baptism into this celebration by revising the lectionary readings for the First Sunday After the Epiphany to include gospel passages each year about Christ's baptism. The First Sunday After the Epiphany is now also known as the Baptism of Our Lord. The third manifestation of Jesus as Christ that is traditionally celebrated on this day is the miracle of turning water into wine at the wedding at Cana in Galilee, Christ's first recorded miracle.

