

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

We welcomed Fr. Gene Sheppard as our permanent supply on February 11. We made and ate the pancakes on February 13. We received the ashes on February 14. We began the Wednesday evening Bible Studies, along with sharing soup. The flood waters threatened to close off access to the church, two Sundays in a row. Church services were canceled two consecutive Sundays and the heating system was disconnected to save the electronic components from flood waters that might invade the undercroft. We canceled the Wednesday Bible Study and soup to hold a Holy Eucharist instead on Feb. 28. Although the service was lightly attended, we received voiced appreciation from those attending, as we were all feeling the need to hear the Gospel lesson from Fr. Gene and observe communion. Thank you, Fr. Gene.



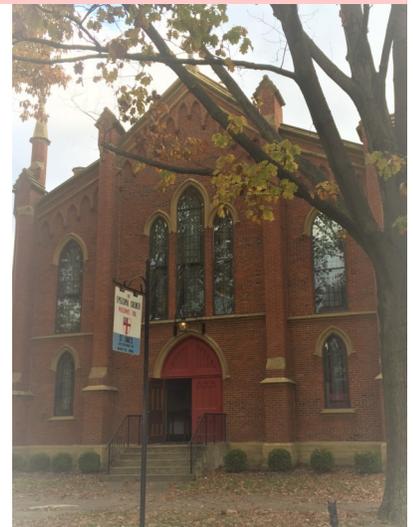
Sometimes those interrupted, unexpected, occurrences result in a “good” thing. When the furnace and air conditioning systems were restored a problem was found and repaired. This should result in a better performance for the entire system. The bill may be a shocker, but it will probably be considered well worth it if we have avoided a breakdown at an inconvenient time in the future.

This past weekend the vestry enjoyed the annual retreat to Sacred Heart Retreat Center at Coolville. This is a lovely venue, nestled among the trees just off Rt. 50. The facilities are homey, comfortable, allowing a relaxing atmosphere to be a “family”, sharing ideas and backgrounds. The “getting-to-know-you” time on Friday evening was a huge success. The discussions took us back to our school days, recalling the times, our experiences, and brought up memories we had not visited for years. Some shared a lot. Some shared a little. All listened intently and laughed loudly at the proper moments. When those moments last on into the early hours of the next day, you know it was good.

Saturday morning breakfast in the sunporch next to the kitchen, with the sun streaming into the room, was yet another time to give thanks to God for our opportunity to gather together. I was up early enough to see the sunrise, an experience I never get tired of. A bit later I was joined by Matt and we watched four deer grazing next to the building. Many different birds visited the feeder on the deck outside the sunporch. Everyone enjoyed watching their activity and none of us could identify all of them. Next year I should remember to pack my bird guide.

The Rev. Linda Steelman of The First Congregational Church arrived shortly before 9:00 am, and got a brief introduction to the vestry as we finished breakfast. Linda lead us through a study of the things our vestry would like to see happen in the next five years at St. Luke's. Linda is a former teacher, and that along with her spiritual vision and knowledge, gave us a lot to consider. Her sense of humor is also one of the reasons I asked Linda to lead our retreat. Linda was furnished with some information on each of the vestry members, I loaned her my Vestry Handbook, and she had obviously studied and prepared to address us. We are basically all alike in our beliefs, and while we may call things by different names and approach some in a different manner, we all reach the same destination. We have built the bridge between our congregations and we hope this leads to building a bridge with the other denominations in our community. Thank you Vestry, for your participation this past weekend. We have reserved the facilities for next year's Retreat and I look forward to another special weekend.

(Cont. on pg. 2)



THE STAFF

Supply Priest —	Rev. Gene Sheppard
Sexton—	John Brown
Secretary—	Tracy Reifer
Co-Treasurer—	Hazel Boettcher
Co Treasurer—	Sandia Sommer

THE VESTRY

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

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

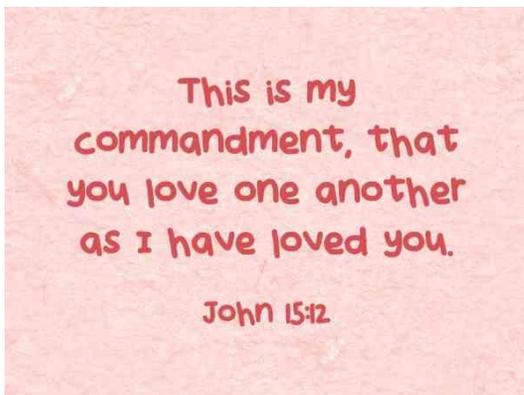
Lenten Study and Soup will resume on Wednesday evenings. Daylight Savings time arrives this coming Sunday, March 11. St. Patrick's Day is March 17. Palm Sunday is March 25. Maundy Thursday is March 29. We will have a light meal of fruit, bread, and cheeses, along with wine at 6:00, then we will head into the church for the service, stripping of the altar, and depart quietly thereafter.

Good Friday we will host the first service for the Walk of Witness at 12:00 noon. The cross will then be carried to the second church, First Congregational, on Front Street. Each service is approximately 45 minutes, then progresses to the next church on the walk. Christ United Methodist is the third stop, then the Presbyterian, ending at the St. Mary's Basilica for the pantomime performance of The Passion, ending at 3:00. If you wish to observe the services at each of the other churches, but do not feel up to making the walk, you may drive to the other locations. The pantomime at the last stop observes the Stations of the Cross and is a very moving, spiritual experience, setting the mood of the season. I highly recommend you avail yourselves of this Walk of Witness opportunity.

We thank God for those who are healing from illnesses or surgeries, and we pray for healing for those who are suffering in mind, body, or spirit. God's blessings to you all as we continue through this Lenten season, fasting, sacrificing, and reaching out into the community of St. Luke's and beyond to experience and reflect upon some of the emotions of our Lord Jesus Christ as he sacrificed for us.

Carol

ST. LUKE'S BY THE NUMBERS—FEBRUARY



Sunday Worship Attendance:

Feb. 4 — 25
Feb. 11 — 35
Feb. 18 — CANCELLED
Feb. 25 — CANCELLED
Feb. 28 — 11 (Weds HE)

Outreach

Door-to-Door Meals - 43
Community Dinner— 53

Crisis Intervention

Average Feb 2018* — 24

1 Gas Card

Average Feb 2017 — 42

**calculated with actual # of Services*

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.

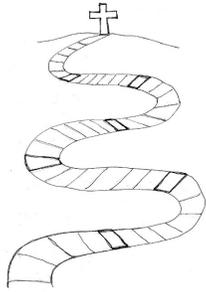
Following is the website with the calendar event that gives a description and has the registration form:

<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/>

HOLY WEEK AT ST. LUKE'S



Wednesday, March 28—6 PM

Stations of the Cross / Soup Supper / Lenten Study



Thursday, March 29—6 PM

Agape Meal, Washing of Feet & Stripping of Altar, with HE



Friday, March 30—Noon

Walk of Witness, beginning at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, then processing to First Congregational Church on Front St.

Friday, March 30—6 PM

Good Friday Liturgy with HE



Sunday, April 1—10:30 AM

Easter Sunday Liturgy with HE

PRACTICING THE PRESENCE OF GOD:

A SPIRITUAL RETREAT IN LENT

9 AM—3 PM ON THE FOLLOWING SUNDAYS:

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

MARCH EVENTS

- 4 Baby Shower for the Bennetts—coffee hour
Food Basket Collection
- 6 Community Dinner 5 PM
- 7 Stations of the Cross / Soup Supper /
Lenten Study 6 PM
- 11 Daylight Savings Time Begins
Outreach Sunday
Door-to-Door Meal 1 PM
- 14 Stations of the Cross / Soup Supper /
Lenten Study 6 PM
- 15 ECW—ECW Room Cleanup 10 AM
- 17 St. Patrick’s Day
- 18 Vestry Meeting 11:45 AM
- 21 Stations of the Cross/Soup Supper/
Lenten Study 6 PM
- 25 Palm Sunday HE 10:30 AM
- 28 Stations of the Cross/Soup Supper/
Lenten Study 6 PM
- 29 Maundy Thursday Agape Meal 6 PM
Maundy Thursday Liturgy with HE 7 PM
- 30 Good Friday Walk of Witness Noon
Good Friday Liturgy with HE 6 PM



SPRING FORWARD

Sunday, March 11. turn your clocks *ahead* 1 hour before you go to bed Saturday!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Jim Peebles
- 16 Pat Dyar
- 30 Pete Gammon



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 12 Charles and Marian Kurner
- 21 Johnny and Nina Byer



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

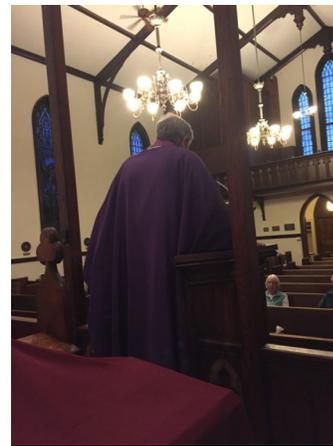
BABY SHOWER FOR THE BENNETTS



On Sunday, March 4 during coffee hour, the Parish held a baby shower for Sara and Paul Bennett. A generous amount of gift cards were collected and sent to Sara and Paul for them to use to purchase supplies for their new daughter, expected in April. We were able to chat with them and see their smiling faces by using “FaceTime” and passing around a cell phone. It was great to see them, and Andrew was especially happy to see everyone from St. Luke’s! Everyone is anxious to meet baby “pickle”.

FEBRUARY FLOODS

The flood waters didn’t keep us from worshiping and hearing God’s word! Since we had to cancel Holy Eucharist two Sundays in a row, it was decided to have a ‘makeup session’ on a Wednesday evening. There was a low turnout, but the few that did make it were certainly glad to be there! We were blessed to have only minor flooding with minimal impact to our church.



Judy Pfeiffer expresses her gratitude to those that have helped with Altar Guild, Fellowship, and maintaining the kitchen supplies during her convalescence.

Thank
you

‘SOUPER BOWL’ SATURDAY WINNER— CORRECTION

Our apologies to Nancy Ullman. Nancy was the winner of the “golden ladle” at our Souper Bowl competition in February. In last month’s *Vine*, Nancy’s last name was incorrectly listed. Nancy’s creamy bacon potato soup was voted as the best of the best!



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER



There was a great turnout for our annual Shrove “Fat Tuesday” Pancake Supper. The tables were festively decorated in Mardi Gras style by Hazel and Dennis Boettcher.



The men of the church (assisted by a few women) did a fantastic job preparing the pancakes and sausages. It's pretty apparent from these photos that a great time was had by all.

