FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN
Carol Cisler

We have reached the end of August, and we are approximately one third of the way through our search process. The vestry met for three hours Sunday following church services. Canon for Transition, Lynn Carter-Edmands, took us through the results of the assessment study, provided by the Holy Cow consulting company. I will share that we fared well in comparison with 1500 other surveys.

The results, along with conversation among the vestry and Canon Lynn, have provided valuable information toward finding us suitable candidates eventually. Tracy Reifer took notes during the meeting which Hazel Boettcher will use to compile a presentation to the congregation. On October 1, Canon Lynn will return to St. Luke’s to help us share the information at a combined service at 10:30. This will permit everyone to have feed-back in this process. The congregation will have the opportunity to tell your stories of your life at St. Luke’s and talk about those things you would like to see in our future. What things do we want to change? What do we want to remain the same? What attributes do we want to see in our next rector (priest-in-charge)?

Please give a lot of thought and prayer to this transition process between now and October 1. Information we collect from you that day will be added to the assessment study so that Canon Lynn will be prepared to review possible candidates that fit our profile. Hopefully we may be studying resumes by November and doing interviews soon after that.

Mark your calendars for the combined 10:30 service on October 1. We plan to serve brunch following the service and meet for about an hour to an hour and a half. We are all in this together, so, we need you to participate: new members, long-time members, future members. Your opinion is valued.

In three weeks, we will enter the autumn season. Bazaar planning and workshops will be underway. Peace and God’s blessings to all as we celebrate Labor Day and the Ohio River Sternwheel Festival.

St. Luke's Annual Rummage Sale was big success this year!! Our goal was to be able to show support to Paul Bennett in his seminary studies and all working together we were proudly able to accomplish this. Just over $2,000 was raised, the most ever. The few final larger pieces have been taken to McLeish’s Auction House for a couple more $$.

A new wrinkle was added to the rummage sale this year with the addition of The Hotdog Lady aka Gillian. The hot dogs and onions smelled so good that many shoppers included lunch in their shopping. Always room to try something new!!

When we all work together sharing our individual talents great things can be accomplished. Thanks to each and every one of you that made our rummage sale so successful. God bless Paul and Sara in their challenges ahead.

--Hazel

PRAYER CHANGES THINGS!

Please continue to pray for the victims of Hurricane Harvey
Greetings from the “Holy Hill” of Alexandria, VA. I regret that this is my first letter home to you all, but life here has a pace that increases exponentially. That means that before I know it I will be back at home in the pew at St. Luke’s for Christmas. As I write you I am finished with my last class of the August Intensive, or as we have nicknamed it “Bible boot camp”. Luckily it is almost over and after Labor Day we will start our normal load of classes. On the flip side of that, I have managed to learn an awful lot of Biblical Greek in two weeks and have completed almost all my mandatory trainings required for graduation and ordination.

Sarah and I would like to thank all of you for your hard work with the rummage sale! Sarah will not see a paycheck until sometime in October and we are living in the second most expensive area of the country, so we are thrilled to receive your generous contribution to our expenses. It truly could not come at a better time. I know that many hours and a lot of sweat went into it and we cannot thank you enough! We would like to extend an extra special hug to Hazel and all the work she put into getting things together and organizing it!

I have resisted the temptation to disappear from Facebook, so I hope you have been able to keep up with the journey through my posts. If you are not a “friend” on Facebook feel free to send me a request. While I am not the biggest advocate of social media it is an easy way for us to all stay in contact and for you to see what is happening in our lives.

We are finally almost unpacked and Sarah is setting up her classroom at Jefferson-Houston Elementary and excited about the upcoming year. Andrew has settled in nicely at the on-campus daycare, The Butterfly House. He loves “going to school with Daddy”. He loves his teacher and there are 8 boys his age in his class. The Master of Divinity class of 2020 is a wonderful blend of young and more seasoned men and women. We have all joined together to carry each other through this August term, and many professors have commented that they have never seen such unity from a class. We all really love each other. I have found some wonderful hiding spots on campus and a few great trees to sit under. Our Greek professor for August is an old buddy of Father David’s so he was thrilled to know that I was David’s last candidate. Also, the worship team I have been assigned to is responsible for the Feast of St. Luke! The church nerd in me was pretty excited about that.

As I said earlier, I am very much looking forward to seeing you all at Christmas. I am also excited about the work that you will be doing in the search process. It is an exciting time for all of us with lots of transitions. You all will continue to be in my daily prayers as I know we are in yours. Keep in mind that neither of our transitions will be quick. With patience and prayer, I think we will both have wonderful outcomes.

Your Brother in Christ,
Paul Bennett

Paul Bennett’s new address is:
1431 Martha Custiss Drive
Alexandria, VA 22302
ECW will meet on Thursday, September 14th at 10:00 AM to discuss the upcoming bazaar. Please bring a “brown bag” lunch. We have much to plan, the bazaar is November 4th, 7 weeks to get it all ready.

Thanks, Anne Etter

WINDOWS! WINDOWS! WINDOWS!

We can now see the light!!

Phase Two of our Capital Campaign Drive (Exterior Windows) has now been completed as of August 28. The frames have been repaired, painted and re-caulked. The window covers have been replaced with 1/4” tempered glass. Phase One: exterior stone work and repairs was completed previously.

Thanks to the many who have generously donated funds to make these major projects possible. Two of our goals have been met! We now need to be continuing our support to the Capital Campaign Fund so we can move forward with our original plans which included "Organ Solutions" and finally "Interior repairs and painting" (to the church proper).

2017 YTD only three contributions have been made. Let’s get back on track and keep going! Remember your donations are tax-deductible.

Dennis Boettcher, Jr. Warden

The WE BELIEVE worship event is only weeks away now and I pray that you are encouraging your church members, friends, family, and loved ones to join us at the river the Sunday morning of the Sternwheel Festival. September 10th, 2017 at 8:00 AM we will be worshiping as one body in one accord to honor the Father and to bless our community.

Our worship team will be made up of members from several area churches and fellowships. Several local and area pastors will be participating, and we will all be celebrating together the goodness of our Lord. You don’t want to miss this very special event.

Let’s let our lights shine at the Sternwheel Festival this year!

Submitted by: Pastor Kenneth Brown

REMINDER!!!

ALL SERVERS: Please remember if you are unable to serve on the day you are scheduled please find someone to swap with you. Also, please notify the office by E-Mail (slec320@suddenlinkmail.com) or telephone (740-373-5132) to let me know of any changes. Thank You!

Deb

ST. LUKE’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH COMMUNITY MEAL HAS A HOME-COOKED TOUCH.

About five years ago, Marybeth Peebles, Director of Outreach at St. Luke’s Episcopal church, attended a meeting hosted by the former Harvest of Hope Executive Director Karen Kumpf to learn how to set up community meals. Karen explained the goals and procedures of community meals, and Marybeth took that information back to her church. St. Luke’s was looking for a way to reach out to the local community in a way that would truly make a difference. The community meal concept was a good fit, but Marybeth knew that staffing the meal over time might be difficult. That challenge was met when a partnership was formed between St. Luke’s and volunteers from Marietta Memorial Hospital, and their community meal project moved forward.

Over the past five years, members of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church and hospital volunteers have worked together to plan, cook, and serve meals to 45-55 community members each month. Many of these individuals are repeat attendees, and Marybeth says they particularly like the home-cooked quality of the meals.

Harvest of Hope provides much of the food served at the meals, and Marybeth loves meeting and interacting with the drivers and truck helpers. She never knows what will be in the delivery, but St. Luke’s has sufficient storage space, and that helps with planning meals two months in advance. The meat that they have on hand in the freezer forms the basis of the upcoming meal, and they work from there to put together the menu. Two weeks before each meal, Marybeth and the Co-Directors Diane Doyle, Hazel Boettcher, and Marilyn Potash meet to do the final planning of that month’s meal and to look ahead to the next month. Because of the partnership with Marietta Memorial Hospital employees, there is never a shortage of volunteers to help set up, cook, serve, and clean up.

Marybeth enjoys serving as the liaison among Harvest of Hope, the volunteers who prepare and serve the food, and the people who come to enjoy this monthly meal. The meals are as much a social event as an opportunity to eat good food and Marybeth enjoys interacting with all who attend.

--Printed in the Harvest of Hope Summer 2017 Newsletter

“Every voice is a God given gift and guide.”