

## NEWS FROM THE PRIEST

I just returned from CREDO, which was held at Lake Logan, North Carolina. Lake Logan is a six and a half hour drive from Marietta and it is a beautiful place. I shared a cabin with four other priests. We each had a private room with a private bath. My room faced the lake and I went to sleep each night with the windows open so I could hear the geese and other wildlife as I drifted off to sleep and was awoken each morning hearing the various birds singing God's praises of thanksgiving for a new day.

The priests that I shared the cabin with were from Michigan, New Jersey and Oregon. There were a total of over fifty priests from all over the United States and the Virgin Islands and it was wonderful hearing their different stories as they talked about their various ministries.

CREDO was a time well spent as part of my required continuing education. I had time to reflect on God calling me to St. Luke's, which was something I needed after supply preaching for three years at various churches in West Virginia and Ohio.

I had time to discern how to best serve St. Luke's, while at the same time being in awe that God called me to a church in the Diocese of Southern Ohio and that the bishop, vestry and congregation were so willing to accept me as part of their worshipping community.

Another awesome aspect of CREDO was that we had worship every morning and evening and celebrated Eucharist on Saturday and Sunday. The meals were buffet style and we could eat healthy or if we chose or we could eat all the good stuff that wasn't as nourishing, but to me tasted better.

Our day began with breakfast at seven in the morning and usually ended around nine in the evening. Everything was planned for us during our stay with time set aside each day for discerning our calls to ministry. We would sit in small groups to share our concerns as well as discussing how to bring something new to our ministries.

Yes, I missed being at St. Luke's last week but as I look back I believe CREDO will benefit both me and the congregation at St. Luke's. I know some of those I met at CREDO will continue to keep us in their prayers, as I will keep them in mine.

As I returned to the church on Tuesday for the community dinner I was welcomed by the beautiful flowers and greenery in the gardens as I walked to the side entrance to the parish hall. Thanks to all of you who work so hard to make the garden a welcoming presence for all who walk through it. Thanks to God for the creation and surprises that he gives us each day.

Fr. Gene+



## THE STAFF

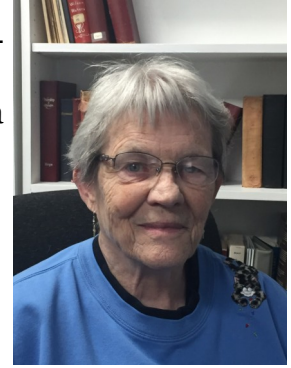
Priest-in-Charge —	Rev. Gene Sheppard
Sexton—	John Brown
Secretary—	Tracy Reifer
Co-Treasurer—	Hazel Boettcher
Co Treasurer—	Sandia Sommer

## THE VESTRY

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

## FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

It is difficult to define the seasons any longer. Mother Nature just keeps changing things around, keeping us guessing April showers used to be May flowers. Now winter lasts through April, May brings us showers and more showers and then June brings us the hot, humid weather that used to appear in July. Whatever Mother Nature's reasons for keeping us confused, we must learn to adjust and take it as it comes. The grass is growing faster than the mowers can keep up, but the flowers are abundant. It is a beautiful world and there is so much to be grateful for. I hope you all are enjoying your part of the world and getting outside to enjoy the blue skies, the white, billowy clouds, the songs of the birds, the sweet fragrances of life, and yes even the rainy days. At least it is no longer cold and gray. Blessings come in many forms.



The walkway and court yard through the Meditation Garden have been cleaned and the worn bricks replaced. The decision was made to take the bricks from in front of the columbarium and put new bricks there. The bricks removed from there were used to replace the worn bricks in the walkway coming into the garden from 2nd Street. A few low spots, including in the Memorial Garden, were raised to improve cosmetic effect as well as to eliminate liability.

The metal and wooden bench beside the fountain was power washed and moved. We will select a sunny spot for that bench, some of the boards will be replaced and some type of coating will be applied to help preserve the bench. The newly donated bench has been placed next to the fountain and the pavers under the bench have been cleaned off. The new butterfly house has been installed in the flower bed. Work on the butterfly bed is in progress. Much of the mint has been removed and new plants are going in. Tracy and I were excited to see a butterfly inspecting the garden this last week. The garden has already attracted new, interested visitors. We had some bird watchers, as well as a lady who brought her book and her lunch and sat next to the fountain enjoying her work break.

The new kiosk, which will hold the meditation verses, and a map and walking tour information will soon be set in place. Once the beautification and kiosk projects are completed we hope to get the word out to the community that St. Luke's offers a relaxing, welcoming retreat in the middle of town. It would be great to see our own members enjoying the gardens now and then.

Our sign on 2nd Street has been updated with Fr. Gene's name. The 3rd Street sign antenna has been shipped to the dealer to be repaired or replaced. Unfortunately, the person Tracy spoke with neglected to let her know he would need both antennas returned in order to sync them, so another delay until they receive the laptop antenna once again. Hopefully we will soon be able to turn it on again and update the scrolling information.

Cliff and I have discussed some projects that need to be addressed soon. The church doors are all in need of new paint and there are some eave gutters needing cleaned or repaired. It has been a while since we had a work party. Kurt plans to haul some mulch for us soon to spruce up the planter beds. Keep your paint brushes and work gloves handy. Cliff may be planning that party soon.

Fr. Gene was in North Carolina at *Credo* (for continuing education) this past week until June 4. Resumes were reviewed and interviews have been conducted in the search for the new office manager. We have made our selection and Callie Benedict will begin training beginning Monday, June 4. Tracy will end her duties on June 15, then will be off for vacation for a week. Upon her return, she will be available to us on a volunteer basis and plans to continue publishing the monthly newsletter. ECW is working on a new church member cookbook. Vestry is on hiatus in June and July (unless there is a need to meet), reconvening in August. Items continue to come in for the August 4 yard sale. St. Luke's continues to be a happening congregation. Thanks to all who continue to contribute your time, talents, and treasures.

***Blessings and peace, Carol***

## JUNE EVENTS

- 3 2nd Sunday After Pentecost HE 10:30 AM  
Food Basket Collection
- 5 Community Dinner 5 PM
- 10 3rd Sunday After Pentecost HE 10:30 AM  
Outreach Sunday  
Door-to-Door Meal 1 PM
- 14 ECW Meeting 10 AM
- 17 4th Sunday After Pentecost HE 10:30 AM
- 24 5th Sunday after Pentecost HE 10:30 AM

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Betty Knight
- 7 Jean Bergen
- 11 Jessica Etter
- 13 John Graecen
- 19 Dottie Ramsey
- 19 Grant Shepherd
- 20 Shelby Marshall
- 23 Mark McKarnin
- 24 Victoria Kenninger
- 24 Silas Shepherd
- 25 Anne Etter
- 26 Kelly Gammon
- 29 Janet Huggins



**June 24 - Tom & Pinkie Tucker**

### ST. LUKE'S BY THE NUMBERS— MAY

#### Sunday Worship Attendance:

May 6 — 29  
 May 13 — 35  
 May 20 — 45  
 May 27 — 35

Average May 2018 — 36  
 Average May 2017 — 38

#### Outreach

Door-to-Door Meals - 45  
 Community Dinner— 32

#### Crisis Intervention

Gasoline Cards—6  
 Water Shutoff—2  
 Food Card—5

## ST. LUKE'S EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBER CREATES SCHOLARSHIP

Katie Heller, daughter of the Reverends Richard and Lisa Heller, is following in her parents footsteps. She has established a scholarship for Public Service and Advocacy. This was created to help a graduating senior from St. Marys High School (WV) in his or her pursuit of a college degree in government, non-profit, or advocacy. The following excerpt is from the June 5, Parkersburg New & Sentinel article:



“Ryan McFarland, a recent graduate of St. Marys High School, is the first recipient of the Katie Heller scholarship, awarded on May 24. He will be attending the University of Charleston.

The fund is set up through the Pleasants Community Foundation and will award an applicant a one time amount of \$1,000 to go toward tuition and related fees.

“In addition, I aim to provide mentorship to the recipient by helping them build a network in-state and find internships and opportunities that will help them gain experience in their desired career path,” Heller said. “I find that the networks I’ve built through volunteer and extracurricular activities were the most invaluable in establishing my career in the public sector,” she said.

Heller, 26, is a 2010 graduate of St. Marys High School and a 2014 graduate of West Virginia University with a bachelor’s degree in strategic communications.

Heller said that politics and public service is a path she wouldn’t have pursued had it not been for growing up in West Virginia.

West Virginia fosters a deep sense of pride in its culture and resilience, Heller said. “It instills in you the fundamentals of public service and the understanding that we all have a responsibility to fight for our people,” Heller said.

“Since my current career has moved me out of state, this scholarship is my way of maintaining a connection with West Virginia and investing in its future by identifying young leaders who have the passion and ability to move our state forward,” Heller said.

After working on the 2016 presidential campaign, Heller said, she set off on a few personal adventures to expand her education of the world and diverse cultures.

Between November 2016 and March 2017, she traveled to Italy and Spain, spent 10 days in Cuba between Havana and Trinidad, then began a two-and-a-half-month expedition through Southeast Asia, touring Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar (Burma), Singapore, and ending with a couple weeks in the Maldives, an island nation in the Indian Ocean.

In June 2017, Heller moved to Los Angeles where she works for the City of Los Angeles as part of Mayor Eric Garcetti’s executive operations team.”

## **A LETTER FROM OUR SEMINARIAN**

Dear friends at St. Luke's,

It is with tremendous joy that I am writing you to let you know that I have officially completed my last academic assignment for my junior year at Virginia Theological Seminary. However, I have ten more weeks ahead of me before I get a breather.

On May 21<sup>st</sup> I will begin my Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), other wise known as the program where I get my "pastor pants". I will be providing pastoral care for the residence of the Goodwin House in Alexandria. The Goodwin House is an Episcopal centered retirement community that provided assisted care as needs arise for the residence. I will be working as a summer chaplain, preaching in the chapel, teaching some art classes, and guiding conversations concerning the end of life. It is a tremendous opportunity to learn from one of the most respected chaplains in the country.

As you all know we celebrated the birth of Elizabeth in April and she and Andrew are keeping me and Sarah very busy. Again, we thank you for your generous gifts and loving support! We hope to be home sometime in August to see and worship with you all. We would love a chance to welcome the new Priest-in-charge in person, what an exciting time in our parish!

Sarah is doing well and will be heading back to school for the final few weeks of the school year starting June 1<sup>st</sup>. Andrew continues to love his time at The Butterfly House and he has laid the ground work for baby Elizabeth by but-tering up all the teachers at the Caterpillar Club, where Elizabeth will be while Sarah wraps up the school year.

We want to take this opportunity to thank you all for the continued prayers and support, there is no way we could have made it through this wild, tumultuous yet exciting year without you. These coming weeks will be life giving and exhausting for both me and Sarah, and we thank you in advance for your prayers. We look forward to seeing you all in August!

Your Brother In Christ,

Paul Bennett





## ECW COOKBOOK

The ladies of the ECW are now accepting pre-orders for their new cookbook. If you wish to place an order, you may contact any of the women of the ECW. To make this fundraising effort a success, they are requesting at least 2 recipes from each person in the parish. Please submit a typed or neatly printed recipe to either Tracy in the office, or to Anne Etter at home.

## MISC. NOTES

**3rd Street Sign** is still out of commission. Thanks to Larry Pfeiffer for removing the part that was the suspected issue. It has been shipped back to the vendor and we hope to have it back up and working again in June.

**Yard Sale**—don't forget to keep collecting items for our annual sale in August. Items can be put in the large room upstairs in the Parish Hall marked with the sign "Yard Sale" on the door. If you are not able to take them upstairs, please let Tracy know and we will take care of it for you. If you have items too large, call Dennis at 740-374-5079 and arrange for pickup. Please separate and clearly label what is in the box or bag (e.g. kitchen, bath, toys, etc.) Please price items whenever possible. Go easy on the clothing donations; the last several years we have received much more than we could possibly sell. Thanks!



Father Gene attended the Washington State Community College Foundation's 2018 Annual Scholarship Reception and Ceremony in May. He presented the St. Luke's Episcopal Church Scholarship to this year's recipient, Carolyn Wilson. Our scholarship is one of 75 which were awarded through this foundation for the 2018-2019 academic year, providing 65 Washington State Community College students with critical financial support.