

NEWS FROM THE PRIEST

Today is Monday. That is when I usually begin my Bible study and meditation for my sermon on Sunday, plus it prepares me for the clergy Bible studies on Tuesday and Thursday. As I study the Gospel lesson for this Sunday it seems Jesus is most critical of the religious people who try their best to do what is right. At times Jesus is more forgiving to those who do not seem to care whether they try to live right or not. As I ponder this realization, I realize Jesus really does know best what is in our hearts, whether Christian or those yet to be called.



As Christians we always struggle with knowing what we believe is God's will. Especially on the issues that are important to us as individuals and as God's children wanting to please our Father. The "hot" topics in our churches today are issues that we must face not only as Christians but as individuals living within our communities. People of faith find themselves in opposition with each other when it comes to issues such as homosexuality, abortion or even politics. How do we determine God's will in such matters?

Depending on which Christian tradition we come from, the Church today is always in danger of giving too much weight to its own authority. We must be careful what we profess as a Church when we think we know what is the will of God.

Since becoming an Episcopalian, one of the most important tools I have used to know God's will, not only in my life but in ministering to the people God has placed in my spiritual care, is discernment. Discernment for me means meeting with my peers and those I trust to assist me in discerning God's call and mission.

From the beginning when I felt called to serve St. Luke's, I used the spiritual gift of discernment to affirm that call. Some of those I asked to discern with me before making the decision to speak with the bishop were members at St. Luke's, my wife, and clergy friends, who through prayer and discussion led me to make the right decision to accept the call to St. Luke's. Thanks be to God.

As I am writing this article for the Vine, two of my most pressing thoughts are about re-establishing the 8:00 worship service and beginning Thursday evening Bible study in September. Some have said they believe this is a something that will not be successful because few, if any, will attend. Perhaps only a few will come but for those who come it will be important. I want to offer choices to members of St. Luke's church family, as well as those who will be becoming part of our family in the future.

I have to admit no one has asked me to re-establish the 8:00 service, that is my doing alone but I have had some ask about Bible study and offering other programs as well. I am at St. Luke's to serve you as best I can and if any of you have ideas on how to do that, I would like to hear you.

Fr. Gene+



THE STAFF

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

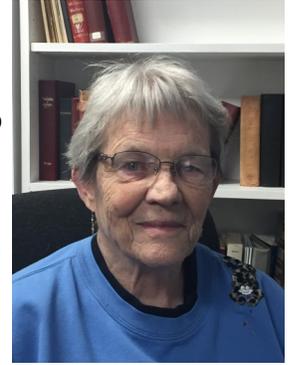
THE VESTRY

- 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

Vestry reviewed our Emergency Preparedness Plan at the meeting Sunday, August 26. One change was requested and discussed. Callie and I made the changes and sent them to the vestry for final approval. The finalized plan will be submitted to the diocese this week, prior to the September deadline. We will post the completed outline on the bulletin board and email it to those who can receive it via email.

Our thanks to Callie for researching all the information to complete the forms and compile the information. Thanks to Fr. Gene and Cliff, who met with Callie and me on August 15, to share our ideas and input to map out the safety practices and procedures we needed, not only to provide the information to the diocese, but to bring our staff and members up-to-date. Many things about the day-to-day operations in and about the buildings and need-to-know information will now be at our fingertips. Bomb threats, gun threats, hurricanes, tornadoes, and other catastrophic issues may never come our way, but whatever may arise, we hope we will be able to respond efficiently and effectively.



Free signs appropriate to indicate our emergency shelters, assembly points, first aid stations, etc, were offered by the diocese. Callie has determined which signs and the number we need and has placed the order for those. Fire extinguisher signs will be ordered from Marietta Office Supply and placed in those designated areas. Do you know where the fire extinguishers are? Would you know how to use them if needed? You pass by them every Sunday and probably do not even notice them. Just a heads up: One on the end of the counter in the kitchen; one near the St. Andrews Bell in the fellowship hall next to the office foyer; one to the left of the door as you enter the church from the elevator area; and one in the coat rack in the narthex. The fire extinguisher company just completed the inspection of these and has stated they offer an instruction program if members feel we should take advantage of it.

Vestry positions will need to be filled in January. Nominations for the open positions for vestry and other service positions will be need to be posted by the middle of December. Matt Crim and Lara Shepherd will be completing their three years on vestry, so they will be the nominating committee, along with Fr. Gene. If you would like to have a voice at the vestry meetings, please contact any of the vestry members to throw your name into the hat. St. Luke's needs you!

Diocesan Convention is November 3. If you are a delegate, please let Hazel know if you plan to attend and if not, let the alternates know you are unable to attend. This is a one day convention this year, so not a lot your time required unlike the weekends in prior years. Anyone is eligible, but only delegates or alternates may vote on the issues. More to come on this. Watch for the Connections mailing soon. Delegates attending will need to be registered by October.

Bazaar coming up November 10. Do you can foods, do woodcrafts, sew, quilt, crochet, knit, needlepoint, paint, sketch, decoupage, do creative photography? If you do any of these things we would love to have you share those talents by donating them to the Bazaar. Workshops begin soon.

Loving the organ music Becky Wright has provided this past month and loving having a full choir. Many have expressed the desire to have Becky continue playing, even if on a part time basis. She has said she will think about it. We cannot ask for more than that. She was very generous to offer to play for us this past month and to coax the music from our beloved organ. Thank you, thank you, Becky.

God's blessings to you all as we enter the autumnal season, and stay in good health.

Carol

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 2 15th Sunday After Pentecost HE Rite I 8:00 AM
HE Rite II 10:30 AM
- 2 Food Basket Collection
- 4 Community Dinner 5 PM
- 6 Bible Study in Library 7 PM
- 9 16th Sunday After Pentecost HE Rite I 8:00 AM
HE Rite II 10:30 AM
- 9 Outreach Sunday
Door-to-Door Meal 1 PM
- 13 Bible Study in Library 7 PM
- 16 17th Sunday After Pentecost HE Rite I 8:00 AM
HE Rite II 10:30 AM
- 16 Vestry Meeting in Library 11:45 AM
- 20 Bible Study in Library 7 PM
- 23 18th Sunday after Pentecost HE Rite I 8:00 AM
HE Rite II 10:30 AM
- 25 Newsletter Deadline
- 27 Bible Study in Library 7 PM
- 30 19th Sunday after Pentecost HE Rite I 8:00 AM
HE Rite II 10:30 AM

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Robert Etter
- 2 Pinkie Tucker
- 5 Douglas Bergen
- 7 Ann West
- 13 Jake Morgenstern
- 15 Tom Tucker
- 24 Bill Briggs
- 25 CJ Crim
- 28 Christine Huggins
- 30 Hannah Gammon



Sep 5 Jim & Marybeth Peebles

Sep 18 Paul & Sarah Bennett

ST. LUKE'S BY THE NUMBERS— AUGUST

Sunday Worship Attendance:

Aug 4 — 38
Aug 11 — 46
Aug 18 — 74
Aug 25 — 35

Average Aug 2018 — 48
Average Aug 2017 — 38

Crisis Intervention

Rent—1
Utilities—2
Food Cards— 4
Gasoline Cards —4

AUGUST BAPTISMS

We were blessed with not just one Baptism, but two! The church was full with smiling faces and the joyful noises of small children.

On Sunday, August 12, Mariska and Mariah Bennett were baptized by Rev. Gene Sheppard. They are the daughters of Hank and Callie Benedict (our Parish Secretary).

On Sunday, August 19, Elizabeth Abigail Bennett was baptized by her grandfather, Rev. Art Bennett. She is the daughter of our seminarian, Paul Bennett, and his wife, Sarah.



DONATE LIFE TRANSPLANT GAMES

In early August, Tracy and Mike Reifer traveled west to attend the Donate Life Transplant Games in Salt Lake City, UT. The Donate Life Transplant Games is a multi-sport festival event produced by the Transplant Life Foundation for individuals who have undergone life-saving transplant surgeries. Competition events are open to living donors, organ transplant recipients, bone marrow, corneal and tissue transplant recipients. More than an athletic event, the Donate Life Transplant Games highlight the critical importance of organ, eye, and tissue donation, while celebrating the lives of organ donors and recipients.

Tracy celebrated her three-year liver transplant anniversary in June, and works hard to take care of the gift of life she was given. Part of this involves working out and training for these games. She participated in two events: the 5K run and the women's 800 meter run. Her hard work training paid off as she finished 4th in her division in the 5K, and won a gold medal for the women's 800 meter run!



But the games are much more than about the medals. It is a way for transplant recipients and donors to get to know others that have gone through this unique experience. Many lifelong friendships are made. Mike and Tracy attended the Donor Tribute which honors all of those who have passed away and selflessly chose to be organ donors. The highlight of this particular tribute was a performance by composer and pianist, Paul Cardall, who also happens to be a heart transplant recipient.

While at the games, Tracy was also able to be part of setting a Guinness World Record, for the most organ transplant recipients in one place.

Mike & Tracy plan on attending the World Transplant Games being held in Newcastle, England in August of 2019.

RUMMAGE SALE—SUCCESS!

The annual Rummage Sale was certainly a success! The parking lot was full of shoppers bright and early, August 4. Shoppers were treated entertained by our own hot dog vendors, Gillian and Father Gene.



Thank you to everyone that donated and helped with this major fundraiser.

LOVE FOR JUDY DAY

To show love and support for Judy Wurtzbacher as she undergoes treatment, the parish was asked to wear a hat to church on August 5, 2018 at our 10:30 service. Prizes were given for Most Colorful Hat, Funniest Hat, and Best Oldies Hat. The winners were:

Most Creative: Lindsay Mullen

Most Colorful: Larry Pfeiffer

Most Traditional: Betty Fleming

Congratulations to these three and thank you to every one who participated!

With the donations collected, three items were purchased for Judy. Thanks to everyone that participated and helped brighten Judy's day!



THE SOUND OF MUSIC

What a treat it has been to have Becky Wright back with us playing the organ during the month of August. It has been a nice change, and also nice to give David Marshall a much deserved break from managing the electronic music. Thank you Becky!



If you have news to share with the Parish, please submit it to the office no later than August 27.

Submissions may be emailed to: teebs84@gmail.com