

## NEWS FROM THE PRIEST

I just returned from clergy Bible study and my article for The Vine is due. The issue I am concerned with today is the question, "Why should I go to church?" I have been asked that question numerous times, especially when there has been some conflict in the church. I have been thinking about this question for the last few days. I am sure many of you have asked yourself that same question when you wake up on Sunday morning and feel tired or are pressed with a personal issue that has drained you of the strength and will to continue.



As St. Luke's priest, one of my duties is to be your spiritual leader and to answer questions as best I can.

Many of you are a continual inspiration to me as I ponder the question, "Why should I go to church?" I see those who get up early on Sunday to get dressed and head out to get in your car to come to church when that car left you stranded the day before and you're not sure it will get you home from church. You come anyway. Why? I see those to whom it is a chore to get dressed ... it is raining outside ... They have no car... But still they grab an umbrella and walk to church. Why? I see those who are in pain and yet they come to church and do extra things to make other church members feel welcomed and loved. Why? If I were to ask that question I believe many of you would answer it the same as I do, "Because I love God, I want to worship and praise him publically because he sent his Son to die on the cross for me, so that I can be fed at His altar with the body and blood of Christ, as I prepare to be with God in eternity."

I also believe we go to church to remind each other of who we are and to whom we belong. In spite of our differences we are there to help each other navigate in a complex world. To say to each other "I love you, you are important to me and I know you have my best interest at heart."

We go to church because we are a family and want to help each other through difficult times as well as to celebrate the wonderful times. We go to church to encourage growth in ourselves spiritually, growth in the church as we outreach to the community to spread God's message which keeps us from stagnation.

We go to church because it is a wonderful way to spend time with our church family. A family that does not look at our scars but loves us in spite of ourselves, especially when we don't feel worthy of anyone's love.

We go to church because it is where we can find hope in a world that sometimes seems hopeless. I ask you to think about those you have helped through your service at St. Luke's and especially about those who have helped you through difficult times.

If you are feeling like church is not for you, I promise you, I and other members of St. Luke's can come up with more reasons to come and trust God than you can for not coming.

*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

Happy first week of Autumn. I hope everyone is enjoying the milder, fall-like temperatures. It is a welcome relief to many, I know. Now, if we can just have some dry weather so we can get the outside work done that we have waited all through the hot, humid weather to be able to tackle.

Vestry will have two members finishing their terms this January. We are looking for two new members to step up to run for the open positions. Matt Crim and Lara Shepherd are the nominating committee, so if they approach you about serving on vestry, please give it your consideration. Any current vestry member, or Fr. Gene, may explore vestry service with you. All members in good standing are eligible to run for vestry. It's one meeting per month, approximately an hour to an hour and a half. There are times special meetings may be necessary, but that rarely happens. Currently we have been meeting on the third Sunday of the month, following the 10:30 service and a short time to enjoy some fellowship.



There will be other openings that need to be filled. We will need a financial officer to replace one going off. The Memorial Committee will need one new candidate. There are convention delegates needed. Cliff and I will run for a third term, but 2019 will be the last year we are eligible. If anyone has a burning desire to step into either the Sr. Warden position or the Jr. Warden position, Cliff and I would welcome the competition. Let Matt or Lara know if you wish to toss your hat into the ring for any of the vestry positions. You don't have to wait to be asked. A list of nominees will need to be finalized and posted by the middle of December and election will take place at the Annual Meeting in January.

The Every Member Canvass is close at hand. Teresa Essig has agreed to steer this and Becky Young has agreed to assist. They will be sending out information about stewardship, helping members to review their own giving practices. Stewardship giving is not only our annual pledge, but a variety of other types of giving, such as donation of time and talent, deferred giving, and bequests. Stay tuned for information Teresa and Becky have selected to conduct the canvass. Information is forthcoming.

Bazaar workshops continue every Thursday from 10:00 am until noon, until the Bazaar on November 10. We need helpers, ticket banders, envelope stuffers, pricers, organizers, and crafters. We hope you will join the ECW ladies on Thursdays.

A special thank you goes out to Fr. Gene, who has been serving us as our Priest-in-Charge the past six months. We look forward to many months of ministry together and the continued pastoral care he extends to those unable to join us at Sunday services.

Blessings to all and prayers for all those who are recuperating from illnesses, surgeries, or other issues.

*Carol*

**ST. LUKE'S  
BY THE  
NUMBERS—  
SEPTEMBER**

### Crisis Intervention

Rent—0  
Utilities—1  
Food Cards— 6  
Gasoline Cards —1

## OCTOBER EVENTS

- 2 Community Dinner 5 PM
- 4 ECW Bazaar Planning 10 AM  
Bible Study in Library 7 PM
- 6 Contemporary Service 6 PM
- 7 20th Sunday After Pentecost HE Rite I 8:00 AM  
HE Rite II 10:30 AM
- Food Basket Collection
- 11 ECW Bazaar Planning 10 AM  
Bible Study in Library 7 PM
- 13 Movie Night with Potluck Dinner 5 PM  
Contemporary Service 6 PM
- 14 21st Sunday After Pentecost HE Rite I 8:00 AM  
HE Rite II 10:30 AM
- Outreach Sunday  
Door-to-Door Meal 1 PM
- 18 ECW Bazaar Planning 10 AM  
Bible Study in Library 7 PM
- 20 Contemporary Service 6 PM
- 21 22nd Sunday After Pentecost HE Rite I 8:00 AM  
HE Rite II 10:30 AM
- Vestry Meeting Noon— in Library
- 23 Newsletter Deadline
- 25 ECW Bazaar Planning 10 AM  
Bible Study in Library 7 PM
- 27 Contemporary Service 6 PM
- 28 23rd Sunday After Pentecost HE Rite I 8:00 AM  
HE Rite II 10:30 AM



- 7 Nina Oates
- 9 Cecilia Morgenstern
- 13 Hazel Boettcher
- 15 Emily Traugh
- 20 Drew Marshall



Oct 4 Robert & Anne Etter

**ST. LUKE'S GET TOGETHER NIGHT**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13—5 PM**  
**POTLUCK DINNER**  
**MOVIE: HOCUS POCUS**

Bring a comfy chair if you wish.  
The popcorn machine will be up and running!



## ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

It's that time of year when the treasurer and vestry will soon begin the process of formulating the yearly budget and we begin our stewardship campaign. A lot of discussion will undoubtedly be if our income, which is mostly comprised of our pledges, will cover our expenses. As most church members are aware, many years we have to dip into the endowment fund to cover our expenses. The endowment fund is not unlimited and is dwindling. Our expenses are already bare-bones.

We know that most are probably tired of hearing this, but it is true that our pledges are not meeting our expenses. Perhaps we think of our pledge as, "How much will we give to the church?" or "Can we afford to tithe?" Instead, we might want to consider how much we want to thank God for our blessings.

"Blessed to be a Blessing" was a stewardship reflection series written by the Episcopal Church for the 2012 year. This series of 6 weekly Sunday reflections features a different writer from across the Episcopal Church, exploring stewardship as a response to that week's lectionary reading for the Gospel of Mark. Coincidentally, the 2018 year is the same lectionary year (Year B) and has the same dates as 2012! Note, that the November 11<sup>th</sup> contributing writer is Michael Curry, our Presiding Bishop, who was then Bishop of the N.C. diocese. We will provide these as bulletin inserts from October 7<sup>th</sup> through November 11<sup>th</sup>.

At the end of November, the stewardship committee will request everyone to place a pledge card in the plate during the offertory. It is our hope that this series give us all "food for thought" as we reflect on the many blessings that God has given us and how we may be able to thank God for these blessings.

Peace,

*Teresa Essig and Becky Young*

Co-chairs, Stewardship Committee