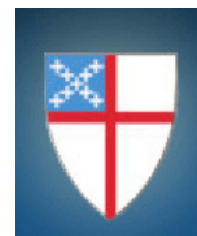


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St. Luke's Newsletter



February, 2012

*“To Know
Christ and To
Make Christ
Known”*

*2012 Parish
Theme:
“Grow in
Christ and
know that the
resources
necessary to
find answers
are within
each person.”*

Our **Vestry members** are Steve Hunt (Senior Warden), Judy Hildreth (Junior Warden), Tony Albin, Jamie Balderson and Pat Frey. Malcolm Smith, Anthony Geraci, Crissie Basham, Treasurer, Susan Burgess. Clerk, Cinnie Hill.

Rector's page

Rector's State of the Parish

Coming to the end of our fourth year at St. Luke's in Wamego, KS has brought our family to appreciate the life we enjoy here with you all. Yes, we have experienced some difficulties over the last few months and my extended absence in October and November added to the distress. Perhaps it is most important for me to begin this State of the Parish address with a sincere apology. Please accept my apology to you all for not being more proactive in seeking out better lines of communication in order to share ministry.

It is my assessment that our parish is on the verge of a growth spurt that it has not seen in many years. We are growing our ministries on Wednesday evening and Sunday evening. More people are engaging through Ible Tudy and the Multigenerational Fellowship to discover themselves as active participants in the body of Christ. Ten individuals are taking the journey for 6 months through Ible Tudy. Multigenerational Fellowship is averaging 25 people per week. At the same time these new ministries are taking root we have also seen a slight decline in our Sunday morning worship attendance with 8:00 averaging 2 people and 9:30 averaging 38.

Moreover, there is still work to be done in order for our parish to assure that our growth spurt does well with enculturation process into the Episcopal Church. I know that we have already done the initial work to assure us that our growth will increase our understanding of the Church as we know Christ to be present. We need our Parish Strategic Plan to become more functional in our weekly ministerial operations. The good news is that we have leadership teams in place and ready to become fully operational. In consultation with Ret. Col. Larry Hannan, Senior Warden, there is a necessary structural reframing of our parish that will assure us of this desired outcome. We intend to identify the Guild as the nucleus and center of our Parish Strategic Plan. We believe that this more accurately reflects the historical reality of the St. Luke's family.

Once the reframing of our Parish Strategic Plan is complete, we anticipate an infusion of better lines of communication between individuals and ministries. Opening up these lines of communication will increase cooperation and allow the emergence of a local collaborative ministry within our parish. Our six leadership teams will be aligned in a circle around the Guild. Outside the leadership teams are the Vestry liaisons who are assigned to each leadership team. The Rector will be primarily focused on the three ministries of Sunday morning worship, Sunday evening study, and Wednesday evening fellowship. As a bivocational priest serving 20 hours per week at St.

Luke's, the Rector will be available for consultation to the leadership teams and the Guild. Finally, the Rector intends to keep office hours on Sunday's from 12 - 2 pm to foster better lines of communication.

As we continue to grow together it will be important for us to be in prayer. Remember that we are only the custodians of the Kingdom of God, stewards called to self-less service here and now. At best we are to build up the Kingdom of God and it is Matthew's Gospel imperative known as the Great Commission that is our direct orders. Our faith expression is both Trinitarian and Incarnation. We are unique and diverse in the Episcopal Church. We are universal, what is often referred to as small "c" catholic. We are a healthy congregation and we know how to work through individual and interpersonal conflict. We are ready to grow and we will grow together.

Father Matt

(Contact Father Matt OD at (785) 410-0436 any time with your concerns and needs.)

Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be Tuesday, February 21st from 5-7. Please volunteer to help with the meal. Free will donation to cover costs accepted. Invite all your family, friends, and neighbors.

Senior Warden's Thoughts: Our new Senior Warden is Steve Hunt. He has contributed the following:

Currently I am reflecting on the results of our annual meeting, and the needs of the office of Senior Warden for which I was asked to serve. I will have some pretty big shoes to fill as Larry Hannan's leadership skills as the previous Senior Warden will be tough to match. I think we'll be considered successful as a vestry as long as we try to address our memberships needs and concerns with understanding and respect. Although I'm sure this job will be challenging, it is my intent to find productivity and enjoyment in doing it. It is my hope to engage my fellow vestry members in a dialog of goodwill and light heartedness as we try and tackle what lays before us.

Steve Hunt,

Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Comments: Our Junior Warden for 2012 is Judy Hildreth.

On Friday, January 27th, the service technician who checks out fire extinguishers met me at the church for our annual inspection. He commented that the one in the basement had some stuff placed in front of it. He moved the debris, but warned me that all fire extinguishers must be visible and unobstructed. If we have a visit from a fire marshal, we could be fined. He checked them all out, replaced one and recommended adding one in the main entrance to the church. He will return with that new one soon and install it

Vestry:

- Father Matt presented the need for additional Vestry members for the new year and that he has several who would serve if there was a shorter time commitment. He proposed that there be nine vestry persons elected to cover nine meetings a year with a quorum of five required at each meeting. He further suggested having only one meeting during the three summer months and a combined meeting during December/January.
- It was recommended that all motions be made and presented to the Clerk in written form.
- The Vestry approved paying our 2011 Seminary Support obligation with 2012 funds as soon as they become available.
- Bishop Wolfe attended the Vestry meeting and made the following comments: There is an aggregate statement that people with more money do less tithing or giving. He feels that our population for the next twenty years will be strapped in their resources. The laity should be more involved in the functioning of the parish and develop teams of priests, deacons, LEMs, etc. through the School of Ministry.

Father Matt has begun regular office hours on Sundays from 12 to 2 p.m.

Guild: The Guild officers for 2012 are: Kathy Hunt, president; Laura Hanna, vice president; Pat Frey, secretary, and Kally McConkey, treasurer. Pat Frey will host the first meeting of the year on Monday, February 13th in her home. It will be at 7 p.m. Everyone is being asked to bring a snack to share.

The guild will also be participating in the Chocolate Fantasy fund raiser sponsored by Community Health Ministry. Consider helping, or attending. Contact Laura Hannan to help or Pat Frey to buy tickets. The event will be held Feb. 9th, beginning at 7:00 at the Tradewinds.

Annual Meeting was held Sunday, January 29th. The meeting followed the annual soup lunch. Twenty three people attended the meeting. The 2012 budget was approved after setting it to the 2011 actual expenditures figures. The following persons were elected to the Vestry: Malcolm Smith, Anthony Geraci, Crissie Basham, Steve Hunt, Susan Burgess and Tony Albin. The Northwest Convocation representatives elected were: Laura Hannan and Susan Dillinger as delegates; Larry Hannan and Myrline Winkler as alternates. Our Council of Churches Representatives: Ed Dillinger and Joyce Elcock were reelected. Thank you to the vestry and family for providing lunch for those who attended. Reports presented were mailed prior to the meeting. The minutes will be available at the church or can be email by Cinnie if you ask.

The vestry has adopted a new parish theme.
*“Grow in Christ and know that the resources
 necessary to find answers are within each person.”*

We are looking for someone to take Martha Miller's position as **Altar Guild chairperson**. And the Altar Guild is short at least one member. Please prayerfully consider volunteering to participate in this service to your parish. Let Farther Matt know if you will help.

Treasurer's Report: The following summary reflects the results of the operating fund, income and expense for the month of December 2011, with a budget comparison.

	<u>Current month</u>	<u>Year-to-date</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 5,167.62	\$ 69,955.80	\$75,310
Expense	\$ <u>5,023.53</u>	\$ <u>69,955.22</u>	<u>\$83,884</u>
Difference	\$ 144.09	\$.58	(\$8,573)

Birthdays in February:

Feb. 3 - Frank Seufert

Feb. 5 - David Frey

Feb. 5 - Kathy Hunt

Feb. 12 - Pat Frey

Feb. 12 - Kally McConkey

Feb. 22 - Joyce Elcock

Feb. 24 - Laurina Hannan

Feb 28 - Mike Robles

Anniversaries:

Feb. 22 - David & Pat Frey

PLEASE PRAY FOR: David, Helen, Donna Ann, Doreen, Jean, Joe, Judy, Susan D, Vivian, Mike. Baby Carter, Cheryl, Dick, Dorothy, Gene, Jean, John, Mike, Robert, Jon, Berta, Geske family.

Remember our Military: Justin, Lauren, Michael; Scott and Tony.

FEBRUARY SCHEDULE:

Sunday, February 5: 5 p.m. Ultreya at St. Luke's Guild Hall

6:30 p.m. Ible Tudy will meet in another location. TBA

Monday, February 13: 7 p.m. Guild Meeting at Pat Frey's

Tuesday, February 21: Shrove Tuesday With Pancake feed, 5-7

Wednesday, February 22: 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday service

Vestry meeting Day and Time to be announced.

Weekly Schedule:

Sunday: Services are at 8 a.m. Rite I and 9:30 a.m. Rite II

Ible Tudy from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Mondays: 6:30 a.m. McDonald's Back Room:

Tuesdays: 9:00 a.m. Quilting and Crafts

10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Bible Study

Wednesdays: 6 - 7:30 p.m. Potluck Supper and Fellowship

Diocesan News

KSM fall classes now accepting enrollments. The tuition is \$150 per course for those in the ordination and lay ministry certificate tracks, and \$100 per course for those studying for personal enrichment. Students must pre-register by contacting Grosso at (913) 367-3171 or rector@trinityks.org. Upcoming courses, with instructors, are:

- **Feb. 10-11:** church dogmatics survey (the Rev. Andrew Grosso); history of the Episcopal Church (the Rev. Bill Wolff)
- **March 9-10:** Christian ethics survey (the Rev. Andrew O'Connor); church canons (Mr. Larry Bingham)
- **April 13-14:** congregational development (Dr. David Thompson); contemporary ethics (Dr. Don Compier)
- **May 11-12:** Old Testament III, the Prophets (Dr. Melissa Tubbs Loya); New Testament III, Paul (the Rev. Richard McCandless)

Next Lay Leadership Academy is coming soon. Make a note of the date of the upcoming Lay Leadership Academy: Saturday, Feb. 25 at Grace Cathedral in Topeka. This event is designed to help congregational leaders – wardens, treasurers, stewardship chairs and vestry members – make their church communities as strong and healthy as they can be. More information will be sent to all congregations after the first of the year.

Bishop Dean E. Wolfe today has named Michael J.K. Funston as the interim **Youth Missioner** for the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, effective Feb. 15. In her full-time role as interim, Funston will oversee all aspects of the existing youth program, and she also will help the youth ministry community move through the transition period that will lead to the call of a permanent Youth Missioner.

MegaCamp registration form now is online It's never too early to make plans for diocesan summer camp, and to help, the registration form for this year's MegaCamp now is online: <http://www.episcopal-ks.org/youth/Camp-reg-2012-typeable.pdf> MegaCamp – a week for all campers in the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas – takes place June 3-9 at Camp Wood YMCA near Elmdale and is open to young people in grades 3-12 in the current school year. The cost is \$390, and the deadline to sign up is May 7. There isn't unlimited space at the camp, and last year some youngsters were turned away because all spaces were filled – so sign up early!

Episcopal Church Foundation offers webinars on a variety of topics Diocesan Director of Development and Stewardship Char DeWitt encourages parishes interested in learning more about a variety of parish financial opportunities to participate in a series of webinars for clergy and lay leaders being offered by the Episcopal Church Foundation. There is no charge to attend these Internet-and-telephone-based learning opportunities.

- Basics of Planned Giving, Jan. 31, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Central time
- Basics of a Parish Capital Campaign, Feb. 8 and March 19, 5-6 p.m.
- Vestry Leadership 101, Feb. 15 and March 13, 6-7 p.m.
- Basics of a School or Joint Parish-School Capital Campaign, Feb. 21, 5-6 p.m.
- Basics of Endowments, Feb. 28, 2012, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Making a Planned Gift to Benefit Your Congregation, March 14, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

More information about all these webinars is available on the ECF website at <http://www.episcopal.foundation.org/news-and-events/events-detail?newsID=97d55d6e-3712-4691-a55a-8ab0b185f7d1> Questions? Contact DeWitt at edewitt@episcopal-ks.org or (785) 250-0060.

Feb. 4 “conversational evangelism” workshop now taking place in Topeka The location has changed for the follow-up to last fall's successful workshop on “Conversational Evangelism.” Set for Saturday, Feb. 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., it now will take place at Grace Cathedral, 701 SW 8th Ave., in Topeka. The event is designed for those who attended the October event, as well as anyone who wants to know more about engaging non-churched people in environments such as social gatherings or the workplace. The cost to attend is \$15 per person, which includes lunch. The deadline to sign up is **Jan. 27**. To register, send the names of those attending to Michele Moss at mmoss@episcopal-ks.org.

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MDG's at www.e4gr.org

The goals are

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
2. Achieve universal primary education.
3. Promote gender equality and empower women.
4. Reduce child mortality.
5. Improve maternal health.
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.
7. Ensure environmental stability.
8. Develop a global partnership for development.

FEBRUARY DUTIES

	Feb. 5	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 26		
Altar Guild	Susan Burgess, Cinnie Hill	Ellie Baker	Jean Birk, Joyce Elcock	Laura Hannan, Myrline Winkler		
Lay Reader	Myrline Winkler	Ed Dillinger	Malcolm Smith	Larry Hannan		
Chalice Bearer	Susan Burgess	Ed Dillinger	Malcolm Smith	Myrline Winkler		
Usher	Steve Hunt	Hannans	Martha Miller	Doug Elcock		
Coffee Host	Hildreths	Baldersons	Elcocks	Freys		
Greeter	Larry Hannan	Erica Cobb	Birks	Steve Hunt		