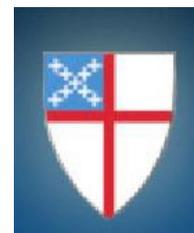


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St. Luke's Newsletter



March, 2015

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

***2015 Parish
Theme:***

***“Who is
Your Per-
sonal
Lord?”***

**Our Vestry
members** are Jay
Hildreth (Senior
Warden), Doug
Elcock (Junior
Warden), Cliff
Robb (Treasurer),
Cinnie Hill (Clerk),
Claudia McKin-
sey, Levi Hannan,
John Desper

Rector's page : Athletes and Aesthetes of the Spirit

As I continue to be on mission in India this month, I will let my dear friend Sr. Joan Chittister, OSB share a short essay with all of us about one of my Christian heroes, Thomas Merton. If you have never encountered Merton do yourself a favor and at least search his name on the Internet and discover a 20th century luminary of the gospels. Enjoy the essay and have a holy observance of Lent.

"Merton's continuing insistence that there is no real spiritual development until we plumb the depths of the self to determine who we are – without the masks, without the labels – is a call to honesty and to self-criticism. The difficulty lies in the fact that both qualities are long lost in the Madison Avenue approach to life. In this world, life becomes a matter of creating images of who I aspire to be rather than setting out to understand who I really am. What really drives me, what I really think and want and care about are the raw materials of me. It is out of these things that the self emerges, shapes and forms itself, and finally, finally, finally comes to fullness.

What Merton calls us to do as part of this slow but fulfilling process depends on the raw and ruthless debunking of the self to the self that is the ground of humility. He challenges us all to cling to the reality that is ourselves rather than enshroud ourselves in the cosmetic world around us, mere specters of who we are each meant to become. He calls us to the most daring truth of all, the truth of who we really are. In the center of the self. In the heart of us. Behind the veils.

But it is not a simple process. To discover the real self implies the peeling away of the layers of persona we have so carefully cultivated for the sake of fitting into a plastic world full of other plastic images. It requires, as they say in publishing, the courage to refuse to believe our own press. Until that happens we risk the danger daily of falling down the rabbit hole of the self. We begin to see ourselves as above, beyond, different from, superior to all the other mere mortals around us. In political language we call it "exceptionalism." In spiritual dialects we call it "holiness." We find ourselves outside the pale of basic spiritual disciplines, above the appetites that score the rest of the human race, psychological robots made out of the stuff of a papier-mâché world.

It is the task of a lifetime to work with the basic instincts and urgings, soul shifts and values, desires and hopes within us to become the fullness of the raw material of the self. But unless we do, we doom ourselves to buy into the empty images every new world creates to define itself: successful man, tough urban cowboy, wealthy woman, clerical dandy, wonder woman, obedient disciple, leader, stereotype of whatever becomes the fashion of the time." We Are One, Chittister's essay within a compilation of 100 essays to celebrate Merton's centenary.

Father Matt

~

Senior Warden's Message:

As a Congregation; let's increase our sharing of God's message

We as a congregation are supportive of several different ministries within our church. The inspiration comes from the energies of individuals among us. I believe each of these efforts is the result of communications made by God through Jesus to those individuals. There is no doubt in my mind that God is speaking through us. We struggle as humans to articulate the message as it comes to us. I see it often in our church life. I see the good work but do not see the background (as if it is some kind of vapor). I want to encourage us individually to communicate the inspiration that moves us to support any mission. That sharing requires a statement of faith that is scary in our society to us individually.

Sometimes it is easier for me to explain my thoughts through a story in my life's experience. Several years ago as I was doing my morning walk while at my lake house at Lake Pomona; I saw in the distance a large creature about 150 yards ahead crouched down in an abandoned road. As I approached, it moved off to the left, it had a large tail that curled back over its back, was black, had long legs and with hindsight appeared to be a panther or jaguar. As I reached the area where the creature was a wild turkey took off out of a pine tree where he or she was roosted. I did not believe what I had seen so I did not tell anyone even Judy or my sons. I did talk to my lake neighbor (the manager of the Corp of Engineers office at Lake Pomona asking him if there was any evidence of large cats at the lake. He responded that there was no evidence of mountain lions or cougars in Kansas. That reinforced my silence. About 6 months later, another neighbor at a pool party had pictures of a black cougar kitten that she had taken on the road in front of her cabin. I had seen a truth but was afraid of how I would be perceived if I disclosed it!

I have been fortunate in life to have been able to visit many places that report to have had miracles that have occurred there. A miracle helps the individuals around it confirm their belief. The trouble is that the farther you are from the event the harder it is to affirm. God speaks to us often in subtle ways. He does not often raise a Lazarus from the grave. We should be open to more subtle communications. I think that God is also communicating with us on a daily basis; we are just not tuned into receiving the messages. We certainly are not used to disclosing those communications amongst ourselves. I believe that there are miracles (communications of God through Christ) that occur in our daily lives. I encourage you all to join me in looking for those events. As we find them; I urge you all to share them with others. God's message is for everyone not to just remain within us as some sort of personal treasure. The treasure actually becomes greater as it is shared.

My personal goal is to support the feeling of peace of Christ's love within our congregation. That peace only increases as we share with each other.

With Christ's Love
Jay Hildreth J

Prayers:

We pray for those who are ill or are caregivers: John, Linda, Jerry, Lynn B-J, Alice and family, Bill and Family, Ed and Karen, Grace, Jillian and Jenny, Lynn C, and family. Mickey and Lisa and family.

In addition we can pray at home for those needing on-going prayers: David, Doreen; Amy Jo, Ann, Bob, Brandon, Callie, Dave, Gerlinda, Heather, Jeff, Kay, Mark, Maryanna;

Plus prayers for our Military personnel: Scott, Ben, Ian, and Mike.

BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH:

March 13-Beth Galligan
March 16-Owen Balderson

ANNIVERSARIES:

March 17-Ed & Cheri Pugh

Outreach: Our next TTEM Breakfast will be on Thursday, March 19 from 7:30 to 9 am. Please volunteer at the breakfast with food, funds or work, if you are able.

Council of Churches: Our next event is CHM Walk on April 25th. More details next month.

Vestry:

Our new Vestry members are John Desper and Levi Hannan for a two year term and Claudia McKinsey and Cliff Robb for the three year term.

The Officers are: Senior Warden: Jay Hildreth; Junior Warden: Doug Elcock; Treasurer: Cliff Robb; and Clerk: Cinnie Hill

Sunday School: In March, our Sunday School teachers will be Joyce and Laura.

Myrline

Facility Use Form:

You can find the **Facility Use Form** linked to our website, <http://www.stlukeswamego.org/facility-use-form.html>. If at anytime you wish to have a an event at St. Luke's the vestry must approve the use of the facility. This is typically done at a regular vestry meeting.

More Musings:**Why I am an Episcopalian:**

I am very impressed with the ministries that our church provides to our community, and to the world. Of course, our portion of the Episcopal Church has a limited ability to support the world wide missions, but we do participate as part of the diocese in numerous ministries that bring the Gospel to all parts of the world – this is a collective and collaborative effort. Feeding people in Kenya, sheltering and schooling people in Haiti, and providing warmth and coats to people in Wamego are all examples of Christ's love and outpouring through his body on earth (us). As an Episcopalian I welcome the pastoral leadership of clergy and the Episcopate (the Bishop – our "chief pastor"); and as a lay person of faith I welcome the calls for ministry given to me directly from God in meditative prayer (this note is one of those). I am blessed with many gifts, and I fully appreciate being able to share these gifts in a loving spirit to help share Jesus' Gospel. After all, He commissioned us to spread the Good News to all the corners of the earth. May we all find a direction from God to share His love.

Your brother in Christ,

Larry

Treasurer's Report: The following summary reflects the results of the operating fund, income and expense for the month of January 2015, with a budget comparison. (The Year-to-date includes the beginning balance on January 1st)

	Current month	Year-to-date	Budget
Income	\$ 9,291.41	\$ 9,291.41	\$ 61,108.74
Expense	\$ <u>7,214.52</u>	\$ <u>7,214.52</u>	\$ <u>70,864.01</u>
Difference	\$ 2,076.52	\$ 2,076.52	\$ -9,755.27

Discretionary Fund Sundays in March: Rector's is the first Sunday, March 1. Any loose money in the offertory goes to support this fund on that Sunday, please help with the funds. Thank you.

MARCH SCHEDULE:

Sunday, March 1: Mother Susan Sawyer will be presiding at the service.
 11:00 am – Guild Meeting
 5 pm –Ultreya–St. Paul's, Manhattan. Potluck following the meeting.

Sunday, March 8: 8:15 am - Vestry Meeting
 9:30 am – Mother Susan Sawyer will be presiding at the service

Sunday, March 15: 9:30 am – Morning Prayer and Sermon by Claudia McKinsey.

Thursday, March 19: 7:30-9 am: - TTEM Community Breakfast

Sunday, March 22: 9:30 am – Welcome back Father Matt

Upcoming Events:

St. Luke's Weekly Schedule:

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Rite II Holy Eucharist
 Mondays: 6:30 a.m. Spiritual Development Book Group – McDonalds
 Tuesdays: 9 am – 10am; Sign Language;
 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Bible Study
 8 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. AA
 Wednesdays: 6 - 7:30 p.m. Potluck Supper and Ministry
 Thursdays: 10:45-11:25 a.m. High School Service Group cleaning time
 7:30 p.m. Cursillo Reunion Group

Father Matt Office Hours are by appointment on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

Junior Warden report:

I am new to the Junior Warden position and am catching on to the new duties. I reviewed the scheduling of the Guild Hall and realized how much our facility is used. If you are planning an event in the Guild Hall, please check the monthly schedule located on the bulletin board outside Fr. Matt's office. If your date and time is open, complete a Facility Use form and submit to me. I want to avoid any duplication of use.

I am trying to keep up with the routine maintenance issues as they arise. If you notice things that need attention, please let me know and I will do my best to fix it.

Thanks for everyone who helped with snow removal and keeping the church and Guild Hall clean.
 Doug Elcock

From the Episcopal Diocese of Texas:

Why do we bury the alleluia? Posted by [Jamie Martin-Currie](#) on Jan 27, 2012

The omission of alleluia during Lent goes back at least to the fifth century in the western church. The association of alleluia with Easter led to the custom of intentionally omitting it from the liturgy during the season of Lent, a kind of verbal fast which has the effect of creating a sense of anticipation and even greater joy when the familiar word of praise returns. We do not use it at church. We do not use it at home. We let it rest, as it were, during Lent, so that when it reappears on Easter, we may hear it anew. In fact, once it returns on Easter, we give it no rest at all, repeating it again and again, in celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus. The custom of actually bidding it farewell developed in the Middle Ages in Babylon. Many churches embrace the practice of physically "burying" the alleluia. This ritual practice is especially delightful and meaningful for children.

When do we bury the alleluia? Alleluia is appropriately bid farewell on the Sunday preceding Ash Wednesday (the Transfiguration of Our Lord, also called the last Sunday after the Epiphany). This is the last Sunday when alleluia will be used until the Vigil of Easter, or Easter Sunday for those congregations not holding a Vigil. The burial of the alleluia could be the culminating activity at a Shrove Tuesday celebration just before Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent.

Diocesan News: **Episcopal summer MegaCamp** registration is now open. Camp is May 31-June 6 at Camp Wood YMCA and is open to those currently in grades 3-12 and their friends. The cost is \$420 for the week, and the deadline to register is May 8. Registration forms and more information are online at <http://edokyouth.wordpress.com/camp/>

(See below if you have a child who wishes to attend Church Camp.)

St Luke's Youth:

If your child is interested in going to Mega Camp, please have them apply as soon as possible for scholarships at the Diocese and at St. Luke's. For St. Luke's, please submit a short letter requesting funds and stating why you would like to go. Usually we will pay 1/3 of the fee.

March, 2015

	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Altar Guild	Laura Hannan, Myrline Winkler	Susan Burgess, Pat Frey	Morning Prayer	Cinnie Hill, Joyce Elcock	Ellie Baker, Martha Miller
Lay Reader	Pat Frey	Judy Hildreth	Ebba Robb	Malcolm Smith	Cliff Robb
Chalice Bearer	Ebba Robb	John Desper		Susan Burgess	Ed Dillinger
Greeter/ Usher	Judy Hildreth	John Chmiel	Martha Miller	Doug Elcock	Larry Hannan
Coffee Host	Hildreths	Cobbs	Robbs	Chmiels	McKenzie