

St. Luke's Episcopal Church House Call Newsletter

November 2018

A Note from the Rector



Dear friends,

Over the summer, the Vestry approved my request to take a sabbatical in 2019 from May 20 through August 20. This includes 12 weeks of sabbatical leave that I have accrued during my first six (now nearly seven) years at St. Luke's, as well as one week of vacation.

A number of people have asked about my plans for the sabbatical, and I know many are also wondering about how the parish will run while I'm away. My intention is to use this sabbatical leave as a time of pilgrimage, rest, and reconnection with loved ones. The shape of the sabbatical that I envision is inspired by the stages of walking a labyrinth: Remember (before entering), Release (walking into the center), Receive (stillness at the center), and Return (walking back out from the center).

Remember: Attend my 15th class reunion and college choir reunion at Kenyon College, hopefully joined by other family members who are alumni. Worship with the parish that sponsored me for ordination, which meets in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit on Kenyon's campus, where I was ordained as a deacon.

Release: Begin the sabbatical with several days of retreat at Bon Secours in Marriottsville, to aid in letting go and transitioning to sabbath time. Travel to the island of Iona in Scotland to let go of my everyday surroundings.

Receive: Spend close to a month on Iona, including two weeks of retreat in a traditional shepherding hut. Worship daily with the Iona Community and participate in pilgrimages and walks around the island. Read. Rest. Sink into stillness.

Return: Together with my wife Sarah, visit family and friends in the United Kingdom and in Canada. Worship with Sarah's parish, St. Mary Magdalene, particularly celebrating their patronal feast day with them. Spend time in Annapolis swimming, kayaking, and seeing friends. Conclude the sabbatical by returning to Bon Secours for a few days of retreat to prepare for my transition back into ministry at St. Luke's.

A rector's sabbatical can also offer an opportunity for growth for the parish, particularly in the areas of lay leadership and spiritual growth. The Senior Warden will have a key leadership role in my absence, and Richard Wilson-Smith accepted this position knowing that he would be continuing in it during my sabbatical. I expect that others will also have the chance to take on new roles - for instance, vestry members might take turns making the announcements in worship or welcoming supply clergy.

I am arranging for a rotation of different clergy, including the Rev. Joanna White and the Rev. Norman Crews, to preach and lead worship at St. Luke's during the sabbatical. There will be a schedule of "on call" clergy to be available for pastoral crises and funerals, and we will put together a team of lay members to tend to the general pastoral needs of our members. Clear lines of communication and responsibility will be key, and I will work with the vestry, staff, and other leaders

to put these into writing and communicate them to the parish well in advance.

On a very practical level, you may be wondering how my sabbatical will be funded. The only anticipated cost to the parish is the 12 additional Sundays of supply clergy in 2019. St. Luke's has been forward-looking in setting aside funds each year to prepare for this expense, so it will be fully covered from the designated sabbatical fund. My travel and activities will be funded through a combination of the professional development funds provided by the parish, a few small grant sources I intend to apply for, and personal resources.

It is my deep hope that this sabbatical will be a true sabbath time - a time of renewal and refreshment - both for me and for the parish, and that it will prepare us well for the next stage of our life and ministry together.

Blessings,
Diana+

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report	Sep-18	
<u>01/01-09/30/2018</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
Income	91,977	32,013
Pledges	<u>84,948</u>	<u>86,250</u>
Total Income	176,925	118,263
 Expenses	 196,661	 129,235
Net Income (-loss)	<u>-19,736</u>	<u>-10,972</u>
 Assets:		
Cash	19,129	
Investments	<u>91,949</u>	
Total	<u>111,078</u>	

Stewardship Season: Celebration Sunday

Our annual giving program marks a season of discernment in which we are invited to reflect on how God is calling us to support St. Luke's in 2019. The theme of this year's program is "Transforming Generosity." The program will culminate with a Celebration Sunday on **November 4**, the Feast of All Saints.

We invite you to pray about what your pledge will be and bring your pledge card to worship on **Sunday, November 4**. Pledge cards for 2019 are available in the foyer at the church. If you did not receive the stewardship mailing and wish to have it sent to you, please contact the church office.

Stewardship Stories

During Stewardship Season, the second reading each Sunday is replaced by a series of "Contemporary Epistles" shared by our own members on the theme of Stewardship. The talk below was given by Kate Porcelli on Sunday, October 21, 2018.

Good Morning! I'm Kate Porcelli. My daughter Elizabeth Rose and I have been coming to St. Luke's for almost three years now (Elizabeth turned 3 yesterday and most of her life she has been a member of St. Luke's). I'm happy to be talking with you all today. I'll share about how I've given in the past, and why I plan on giving a little differently. But first I'll share with you the important place St. Luke's has in my heart.

Finding St. Luke's has been an answered prayer for me. I had been looking and longing for a new spiritual home since leaving the Christian mystic community I was a part of in California.

When my husband Joseph and I relocated from DC to Annapolis almost 3 years ago, he met Daniel Walton via the social network, Nextdoor (where my husband also works). Joseph also met Deacon Mary, who told him all about St. Luke's, and she extended an invitation to attend a Sunday service. I was so excited, as I was curious about this church that was right down the street from our new home.

During my first Sunday Service, I remember Alice Hall's warm welcome and big smile as she greeted me. My first labyrinth walk, with Elizabeth in tow, where everyone was so kind and welcoming. I knew I had found my new spiritual home, with the added bonus that it was just down the street. You see, in addition to God knowing the prayer in my heart for a new spiritual home, I also believe he knows that I can be kind of lazy and gave me my new spiritual home right down the street and one I can walk to.

I remember meeting with Rev. Diana and being blown away by all the opportunities there were to serve here, and I loved that I could get involved right away. Over my time here I have gotten involved in different ministries as I felt called. Flower ministry? Yes, please. Altar guild? Sign me up. You have a labyrinth committee? That sounds great! Being involved in these ministries has been life-giving for me.

While my service with St. Luke's has been robust, my financial giving hasn't been so. Giving has always been important to me, but I have never had tons of money to donate. I'd often volunteer for causes in lieu of making a donation, because that's what I could do at the time. Or I'd make modest one-time donations. This worked.

Then in my 30s, I was introduced to tithing and tithed to my spiritual community, and this became an important part of my spiritual life and practice.

Upon joining St. Luke's, I had gotten out of the habit of tithing, and I also didn't have my own income as a stay-at-home mom. I would donate cash most Sundays, but not all. Sometimes, I'd put the offering in an envelope, but most times I did not. I was okay with this at first, but as I got more involved and invested in St. Luke's, I wanted my financial contribution to match this.

Then when I was part of a formation class with Rev. Diana, I remember how she described how her and Sarah discuss and plan their financial giving. This motivated me to change the way I had been thinking about my giving and to have a bigger picture conversation about this with my husband Joseph.

I brought this up with my husband Joseph, and we discussed and came up with a plan for our giving for the year. What organizations we'd give to, how much, and when. We have set a budget for donations every month, and until last month this had been pledged to an environmental non-profit. This month is the month

I'll start making consistent monthly online donations to St. Luke's. (Yay!)

Even though this sounds pretty simple and probably something many of you already do, this was actually a pretty big deal for me. I typically hate talking about finances and budgeting. It makes me anxious and uncomfortable, especially since I don't currently make much money. I honestly felt a little powerless with finances, but this was not the truth. It was just my fear talking. When I brought up that I wanted to give to St. Luke's more consistently, Joseph was enthusiastic about it, and then we discussed other organizations and causes that are important to us that we wanted to support. This conversation I had been dreading turned into a wonderful one and set our plan and intentions. Our financial giving now matches what we care about as individuals and a family. And I feel very grateful for this.

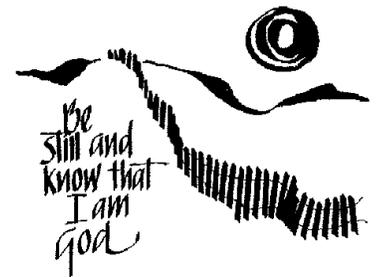
Thank you and blessings to you all.

Contemplative Prayer Practice

All are invited to participate in the upcoming Contemplative Prayer Practice which will be facilitated by our Parish Intern, Charity Humm. We will be meeting on

Wednesday mornings at 10-10:45 starting on **November 7th**. This offering will allow participants to engage in a meditative form of prayer with the intent to deepen one's relationship with the Divine and to experience rest and internal nourishment through silent prayer together.

For more information on Contemplative Prayer, join Charity after coffee hour on **November 11th** for a brief presentation. Also, if you are curious about this type of prayer form, but it seems a bit out of your comfort zone, this is your chance to give it a try. All are welcome, no experience necessary.



Labyrinth Walk : Gratitude

Labyrinth walks are held at the Eastport Memorial Labyrinth on the front of St. Luke's grounds on the third Saturday of each month from **noon to 1 pm**. The gatherings include guidance for walking the labyrinth, an introduction to that month's theme, and time for reflection following the walk. The next walk will be our annual Gratitude Walk on **November 17**.

At this time of year when the hours of darkness increase, many people find comfort in family and friends while others draw into themselves. Gratitude may take the form of celebration or quiet reflection. The labyrinth provides a path that draws gradually toward center, a place of stillness. Nature is doing the same as plants grow dormant and animals hibernate. We can be grateful for this time of rest. Like the seasons and the light, the labyrinth opens out again, offering a return journey toward opening and new possibilities.

“We have a lamp inside us, the lamp of mindfulness, which we can light anytime. The oil of that lamp is our breathing, our steps, and our peaceful smile. We have to light up that lamp of mindfulness so the light will shine out and the darkness will dissipate and cease.
Our practice is to light up the lamp.”

-Thich Nhat Hanh

Upcoming Dates:

December 15 – Walk with Joy

January 19 – Justice Walk

Labyrinth walks are open to all and take place rain or shine. A hand-held labyrinth is available as an alternative to walking. For questions, contact Kate Porcelli at 202- 617-1546 or joyofkate@gmail.com.

Labyrinth Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Eastport Memorial Labyrinth Committee will take place on **Saturday, November 17** from **10 to 11:30 am**, prior to our regular monthly walk at 12 noon. For more information, contact our labyrinth chair Kate Porcelli at 202- 617-1546 or joyofkate@gmail.com.

Holy Baptism

On **Sunday, November 4**, we will welcome Alma Marie Govoro into Christ's one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church through the sacrament of holy baptism. Alma is the daughter of Katherine and Ron Govoro and little sister to Casey, Willa, and Monroe.

The next opportunity for holy baptism will be Sunday, January 13, the Feast of the Baptism of Christ. If you are interested in learning more about the difference baptism could make in your life, or if you would like to discuss baptism for a child, please contact the Rev. Diana Carroll at pastordiana@stlukeseastport.org or 410-921-0157.

Environmental Committee Meeting

The Environmental Committee at St. Luke's seeks to spread environmental stewardship through education, advocacy, and volunteerism on a teaching campus that heals the human spirit while caring for creation. Our meetings typically take place on the second Thursday of each month at **7:00 pm**. **The next meeting will be November 8**. For more information, contact environmental chair Betsy Love 917-939-9409 or at truenorthintl@me.com.

Winter Relief at Mt. Zion

Mt. Zion UMC is providing Winter Relief for 30 homeless men and women again this year during Thanksgiving week. They provide shelter, showers, laundry and three meals a day. This is a huge undertaking! In the past, St. Luke's members have provided breakfast items, fruit and cash donations. Dianne Crews will accept cash donation by **November 25**.

Calendar Donations

Many of us receive too many calendars in the mail at this time of year – yes already!

For several years members and friends of St. Luke's have donated our extra calendars to the Baltimore International Seafarer's Center for distribution to worldwide seafarers. “Serving those who go down to

the sea in ships." Please give your extra calendars to Helen Wheeler or drop them at the parish office no later than **December 10**.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our next shawl ministry meeting will be held **Thursday, November 29, at 2:00 pm**, at the home of Helen Leitch. We will be knitting shawls and pocket shawls to give to those in need of comfort and prayers or for those celebrating joyous events. Bring yarn and needles (We do have a small amount of yarn to get started.) All levels of experience are welcome. For more information contact Helen Leitch (410-263-2783) or Eve Waldman (757-387-2367), or Kathy Dinin (914-241-3966). We look forward to seeing you!

20's/30's/40's' Brunch

Anyone in their 20's, 30's, or 40's is invited to gather for brunch on **Sunday, November 18 at 12:30 pm** at Jack's Fortune at 960 Bay Ridge Rd. Spouses, significant others, friends, and kids are welcome. Please **RSVP by November 16** to Dan Ramirez (dramirez12000@gmail.com)

Advent Devotional: "I Am Mary"

During the season of Advent, which begins **December 2**, we are providing a booklet of daily devotions titled "I Am Mary." The reflections are written in the first-person and delve into Mary's experiences of pregnancy, childbirth, poverty, and oppression. The booklet also include a candle-lighting ceremony for each week of Advent that may be used at home when lighting an Advent wreath.

From publisher Chalice Press: *Open yourself to the divine chaos and wonder that Advent brings. Join young Mary as she experiences the surprise, confusion, fear, anticipation, and blessing that follows her brave response to God's call: "Here am I, Lord." Listen carefully, and you may hear that call in your own life. Best-selling author and minister Carol Howard Merritt leads us on a remarkable Advent journey with the blessed ordinary girl who becomes the holy and revered Mother of God.*

Booklets will be available starting mid-November, and we anticipate offering at least one opportunity for discussion during December.

Advent Wreath Making

Join us after the worship service **Sunday, December 2** -- the First Sunday in Advent -- for an Advent Wreath making party. Candles and metal frames for decorating will be provided. (Suggested donation: \$10 per kit to offset the cost of materials.)

Please bring evergreen clippings of any size and variety to help us make beautiful wreaths!

The Advent wreath is a devotional practice to help us prepare for Christmas. Each Sunday in Advent, another candle is lit as we reflect on the Light of Christ coming into the world. We suggest keeping your wreath on your table and lighting the candles before meals throughout the week, perhaps with a song or a prayer.

Sing in the Choir!

Our choir sings each Sunday in worship under the direction of Dr. Ildar Khannanov. The choir rehearses on Sunday morning at 8:45 am and is open to anyone with no auditions. We will hold special rehearsals in December to prepare for Christmas Eve. If you would like to join, contact Ildar at drkhannanov@gmail.com or 410-818-6794, or simply come early on a Sunday to try it out!

Holiday Office Closure

The office will be closed on Wednesday, November 21 and Thursday, November 22 for the Thanksgiving holiday. In the case of a pastoral emergency please contact the Rev. Diana Carroll at 410-921-0157.

Food Pantry

This time of year most of us are thinking about what blessings we have and how we can give thanks. One of the blessings we have at St. Luke's is our food sharing

ministry. Every week the participants express their gratitude for what we provide. Although some of us are more involved than others, this is a total church ministry. All of us can and should share in the joy of its success.

Attached is a list of the usual items we need always. If every family would donate some of these items each month, we could keep our shelves stocked.

Unfortunately, the staples we are getting from the federal government and county food bank has been minimal lately. Thankfully, we do have grant money to subsidize as needed.

We do have some other requests that money can't buy:

We need people to help with registering clients (doing the paper work!). A couple of people could alternate Tuesdays, perhaps.

For many years, Helen and Jack Wheeler have given their time to supervise the playroom each Tuesday. They have decided their service needs to end. We appreciate their dedication and regret losing their contribution. Consequently, we need someone to monitor children in the playroom so their parents can obtain food more conveniently.

We have started a baby pantry. The food bank provides us some diapers, baby wipes, formula and food each month. We are unable to keep up with the demand. We only dispense diapers to a family once a month. We need diapers in all sizes, with wipes. Some parishioners are using coupons to purchase diapers to supplement our supply.

Contributions can be made at church on Sunday morning or any Tuesday morning. If you want to deliver items any other time, call Dianne Crews or Dalyn in the church office (410-268-5419) so we can accommodate.

Thank you for your continued support.

Dianne Crews
(410-268-9741)

Suggested food donations:

- cans of fruit (in fruit juices)
- 100% fruit juices
- cans of vegetables and beans (low sodium)
- cans of soup or stew (low sodium)
- assorted pasta and noodles (semolina and whole wheat)
- spaghetti sauce
- Rice (white and brown)
- boxes of pasta or rice dinners

- cans of tuna or chicken (packed in water)
- dried beans
- peanut butter (reduced sugar)
- boxed cereal (whole grain)
- boxed milk (shelf safe)
- pancake mix (whole grain)

Other items:

- toothpaste (fluoride)
- toothbrushes - individually wrapped (adult - soft; children - soft)
- bar soap - individually wrapped
- shampoo
- deodorant (men's and women's)

Invitation to the Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch is a weekly gathering for fellowship through sharing a meal. It takes place **each Wednesday at 12:30 pm** at Adam's Ribs in the Eastport Shopping Center, right next to the church. Who is invited? Everyone! Lunch Bunch is an open event organized by members of St. Luke's. Friends and visitors are always welcome.

Occasionally, the location moves, or Lunch Bunch may be canceled in light of other church activities. Contact Alice Hall for the most current information: 410-562-0276 or bamahall83@gmail.com.

Beginners Tai Chi Class

Tai Chi is gentle, meditative movement. It improves balance, core strength, coordination, and flexibility. This class is geared toward beginners and appropriate for all ages. Classes are held **every Thursday from 10 – 11 am**. You are welcome to join at any time. Please use the lower level entrance. For more information call Annette Staubs at 443-235-0065.

Amazon Smile

Amazon.com donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Sign in to your account using the link on the church website, stlukeseastport.org, and St. Luke's will receive the donation.



Save the Date! **January 18 - 20, 2019**, Claggett Center.

Join women from around the Diocese of Maryland for workshops, worship, Sunday School class, Bible Study, sharing, good meals, fun, and formation in faith. The retreat will be held at the gorgeous Claggett Center in Adamstown. Join us for time to explore the significance of freedom in Christ, and to deepen our clarity around how we are called to live transformed in that freedom.

Are you on our email list?

If you have an email address but are not receiving our weekly email newsletters each Wednesday, please let us know by emailing office@stlukeseastport.org. These weekly emails are an important means of communicating information to our community in between editions of the House Call. If you are not on email but would like to have a printout of the weekly "News from St. Luke's" sent to you by hard copy, please contact Dalyn Huntley in the church office: 410-268-5419.

House Call Deadline

The deadline for submission of materials to the next House Call is no later than **November 26**. Submissions may be mailed or delivered to the office or emailed to the office at office@stlukeseastport.org.

Weekly Activities

- Worship:** Sunday, 10 am, Holy Eucharist Rite II
- Office Hours:** Monday - Thursday, 9 am – 12 Noon
- Food Pantry:** Tuesday, 11 am – 12 Noon
- Alcoholics Anonymous:** Monday, 5:45 – 6:45 pm and Wednesday, 5 – 6 pm
- A.M. Song Circle:** Wednesday, 11 am – 12 noon
- Lunch Bunch:** Wednesday, 12:30 at Adam's Ribs
- Tai Chi Class:** Thursday, 10 – 11 am

St. Luke's has a long-standing tradition of remembering the birthdays and anniversaries of our members with a card and in the newsletter, as well as praying for those who are present on the preceding Sunday. If you are new to the St. Luke's community or unsure if we have your birthday/anniversary, please let us know when it is! Send the information to the office by phone or email (410-268-5419 or office@stlukeseastport.org).

November Birthdays

- 4 Michele Morgado
- 6 Nancy Jones
- 8 Connie Harold
- 9 Keyarria Varonica Riley
- 13 John Collings and Phyllis Suhr
- 16 Honora Karslo
- 25 Vrej Zarikian
- 26 Erwin Reyes

November Anniversaries

- 5 Fred and Sally Sandford
- 5 Pete and Delia Stark
- 9 Mike and Eve Waldman

Mark Your Calendars

November

- 4 All Saints' Sunday with Holy Baptism
Daylight Savings – Fall Back
- 8 Environmental Committee Meeting
- 10 9:30 am – 12:30 pm, Vestry Meeting
- 17 10 – 11:30 am, Labyrinth Committee Meeting
12 – 1 pm, Gratitude Walk at the
Eastport Memorial Labyrinth
- 18 20s/30s/40s Brunch at Jack's Fortune
- 21 - 23 Office Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday
- 25 1:30 pm, Living Water Inclusive Catholic
Community

December

- 2 11:30 am, Advent Wreath Making
- 8 10 am – 12 pm, Vestry Meeting
- 13 7 – 8 pm, Environmental Committee Meeting
- 15 Advent Quiet Day

- 12- 1pm, Walk with Joy at the
Eastport Memorial Labyrinth
- 23 1:30 pm, Living Water Inclusive Catholic
Community
- 23 11:30 am, Greening of the Church
- 24 4 pm, Children’s Christmas Service
7:30 pm, Christmas Eve Service
- 25 10 am, Christmas Day Service
- 25 – Jan 1. Christmas Holiday – Office Closed

Prayer List

Prayers for Our Church Community

Ongoing Needs: **Connie** Harold; **Sunniah** Ngonzi Magogo; **the Palermo Family**; **Heather** Cook; **Edna** Pittenger; **Madelaine** Riley; **Linda** Cunningham; **Max** McGregor; **Kathy** Ward; **Honora** Karslo; **Vera** McMahan; **Elizabeth** Sammis; **Pepe** Grau (cousin of Olgui Zarikian); **Sue** Farmer; **Delia** Stark; our seminarian **Tom** Clement & his husband **Ron** Hafliidson; **Sally & Fred** Sandford.

Immediate Needs: **Nicole** DeVino (friend of Dianne Crews); **Jimmy** Riccardi; **Lyn & Thomas** Armstrong; **Bill** Elgie; **Jesse** Richter (friend of Alice Hall); **Bill** Ferris; **Pat** Mason (friend of Johanna Wilson-Smith); **Jill** Gusewell (friend of Alex DeVino); **Kate** Smith (daughter of Helen & Jack Wheeler); **Jackie** Allen; **Tom** Leitch; **Crystal** Jackson; **Jennifer** Crews Carey (daughter of Norm & Dianne Crews); **Bill & Janet** Starr and their family.

Thanksgiving for: Birthday of Alan Buchanan (brother of Linda Cunningham).

For the departed: **Bill** Elgie; **Margot McGregor** (Aunt of Alastair McGregor); **Nancy Como** (sister-in-law of Sharon Williams).

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

410-268-5419 ~ office@stlukeseastport.org
www.stlukeseastport.org ~ Tw: [@stlukeseastport](https://twitter.com/stlukeseastport)
www.facebook.com/stlukeseastport

Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

The Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton, Bishop
The Rt. Rev. Chilton R. Knudsen, Assistant Bishop

Parish Staff

The Rev. Diana E. Carroll, Rector
pastordiana@stlukeseastport.org
Dr. Ildar Khannanov, Director of Music
drkhannanov@gmail.com
Dalyn Huntley, Administrative Assistant
office@stlukeseastport.org
Nadine Barber, Childcare Coordinator
The Rev. Norman Crews, Priest Associate

Parish Officers

Richard Wilson-Smith, Senior Warden
443-822-1978, richard@openpathproducts.com
Helen Leitch, Junior Warden
410-263-2783, leitchhelen@verizon.net
Nancy Jones, Treasurer
410-268-6469, catfancy1@aol.com
Avedis Zarikian, Assistant Treasurer
410-713-7842, avedis3e@outlook.com
Holly Every, Registrar
410-703-5238, hollyevery0@gmail.com

Ministry Contacts

Altar Guild	Dawn Moorehead 443-852-0371, dmorehead9@aol.com
Environmental Committee	Betsy Love 917-939-9409, truenorthintl@me.com
Food Pantry	Dianne Crews 410-268-9741, dmackcrn@verizon.net
Flower Ministry	Anne Arms 707-479-4303, armspna@aol.com
Labyrinth Committee	Kate Porcelli 202-617-1546, joyofkate@gmail.com
Light House Lunches	Chris Kienstra 314-651-2730, chrisk2008@yahoo.com

November 2018 House Call

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
1101 Bay Ridge Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21403