

The Bridge

The Newsletter of
St. Luke's Memorial Episcopal Church
Worshipping God, Serving Christ, Loving One Another

March 2010

From Our Rector:

Share, Save, Spend: Financial Sanity for Individuals and Families

Whether we like to admit it or not, money is an important part of our lives. Money is a big factor in what makes the world go round. We utilize money as a tool to carry on our daily lives and business. Yet, money can be a very scary and challenging issue for most of us. The recent and ongoing economic recession has caused all of us to take a serious look at our financial lives and the way we handle money. We all have lots of questions and concerns. There is a great deal we can learn about how to be better stewards of our financial resources.

For our Lenten program this year we are going to watch a DVD series presented by Nathan Dungan. The program is called "Financial Sanity." Dungan is a nationally recognized teacher on personal and family finance. He has a passion and a mission for helping individuals, parents, youth and families reflect upon their attitudes towards money and to examine their financial practices. He also gives good, sound advice on healthy financial management and how to be more faithful stewards of God's blessings. Dungan teaches personal and family financial management from a Christian and Biblical perspective.

I want to encourage everyone in our parish to come participate in this timely and helpful Lenten program. Dungan's presentations are geared especially for parents and youth to study this material together. The goal is to stimulate family conversation around financial values and stewardship. I hope many of our youth and parents will attend this program. We need to equip our youth to be confident and responsible in their use of money as they become young adults.

Our Lenten program and dinners will be held on Wednesdays March 3, 10, 17, and 24. We will have two soup suppers and two potlucks all starting at 5:30 p.m. The Lenten program will run from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the parish hall. Please call the parish office as soon as you can to sign up for our Lenten program. We need to know how many people will be attending so that we can order the right number of student workbooks. Finally, I offer two scripture passages which underscore the importance of teaching Biblical wisdom and principles to our children:

Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.
(Proverbs 22:6)

These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.
(Deuteronomy 6:6-7)

May God bless and guide us as we grow as stewards of his blessings.

Fr. Paul +

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

By Lisa Vance

On March 7th Adopt-A-Family begins! Adopt-A-Family is a great way of helping some St. Luke's families that have fallen on hard times.

There are a variety of ways that you and your family can help with Adopt-a-Family. You could sign up and bring in pantry items, or Easter baskets for the kids, or make a cash donation so that gift cards can be purchased. If you would like to donate time, on Palm Sunday (March 28th) after the 10 a.m. church service we will be sorting the donations so the families can pick up their Adopt-A-Family packages during Holy Week.

The sign up and information sheets for what is needed will be on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall starting March 7th. Donations need to be brought to St. Luke's by Palm Sunday, March 28th. If you have any questions please contact Lisa Vance or Julie Williams.

Lenten Mite Boxes: Hope Chests for Haiti

During the season of Lent we are continuing our efforts to help with the relief of the people of Haiti after the devastating earthquake. So far St. Luke's has raised \$3,500 in donations for Haiti relief through Episcopal Relief and Development. Our Junior High Youth Group had a very successful St. Valentine's Day bake sale, raising \$400 for Haiti relief through World Vision.

Our Lenten mite boxes this year are dedicated to Haiti relief through Episcopal Relief and Development. Mite boxes are available in the church, in the parish hall or at the parish office. Giving alms is a very meaningful form of Lenten discipline which all members of the family can participate in. We will collect our Lenten mite boxes on the Sunday after Easter, April 11th.

Thanks to everyone for your generous support of this outreach project. And please keep the people of Haiti in your Lenten prayers and devotions.

FISH FOOD BANK

By Cindy Stangl

Our February food bank week was busy, with over 300 families served. Remember that every donation helps someone have food on their table! Monetary donations buy four times the amount donated (\$25 buys \$100 worth of food). If you are able to make a food or monetary donation, it will be put to good use! Thank you to all of you who make a difference for people in our community! Checks can be made to St. Luke's with "food bank" on the memo line. This allows you to receive the tax benefit of your donation.

The food bank can always use canned foods; but they **ESPECIALLY** need things that FISH does NOT buy: toiletries (shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, shaving cream) **TOILET PAPER, DIAPERS**, baby food and pet food. Large family sized cans of soup and cold cereal are much appreciated. "Extras" **ARE MUCH NEEDED** including: stuffing mix, jam/jelly, cake/frosting mixes, muffin/roll mixes, cookies/crackers, candies, coffee/tea, ketchup/relish/salsa, jello/pudding. **FOOD BANK NEEDS PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS. NO EGG CARTONS PLEASE!**

St. Luke's continues to collect Campbell Soup labels and "box top for education" coupons from cereal/kleenex boxes, which are donated to Mont Downing Elementary school throughout the year. If you have these items, please put them in the box in the parish hall, or give them to Jane Hansen or Cindy Stangl.

Our next opportunities to serve food bank are April 7&10. Volunteer hours are from 11:30 to 4pm. Upcoming food bank dates are: May 19 & 22, June 30 & July 3. If you are not able to volunteer during the "St. Luke's week", other churches sometimes struggle to fill their volunteer slots, so teaming up to help another church is an option! Please contact Cindy Stangl at 460-6892 if you would like to work one of these dates.



VESTRY NOTES

By Margaret Hoyer

As many of you know, the annual parish meeting was held February 7, and a good time was had by all. Bobbie and her youth crew did a spectacular job of feeding us a delicious brunch. During the meeting we bid a “fond farewell and job well done” to outgoing Vestry members, Chuck Johnston and Mary Pat Minor who both finished their three-year term, and Kathleen Figetakis, who was serving a one-year term. By acclamation, the parish confirmed its new three-year term Vestry members, Bob Black, K.C. Hawthorne, and Atem Mabior, and Kathleen Figetakis, who will serve a one-year term.

Bob Black, is a biologist for the U.S. Geological Survey in Tacoma. When he, his wife Beth and their daughter Bailey are not involved in a parish activity, they enjoy any activity that takes place in the great outdoors.

K.C. Hawthorne, an attorney, and his wife Alice, who sings in our wonderful choir and is a member of the Altar Guild, have been part of the St. Luke’s family since 2006. Their Kelby serves as an acolyte.

Atem Mabior needs no introduction. Atem has been attending St. Luke’s for over four years. We all know of Atem’s attempts to bring his lovely wife to the United States, and we continue to pray for their success. Atem has worked with the Sudanese Episcopal Church as its senior warden for the past three years.

Kathleen Figetakis, a valued member of the Vestry last year, is serving her second, one-year term. Kathleen sings in the choir, and worked diligently last year to help St. Luke’s achieve its historic designation and she was actively involved in getting Children’s Outreach Ministry up and running. Kathleen must think serving multiple one-year terms will never add up to three years of service!

New members joined ongoing Vestry members Josh Vance, Shirley Shoffner (who was elected Junior Warden by the Vestry) and Margaret Hoyer, Senior Warden, at the February meeting. Vestry member Judy Alie is vacationing in beautiful Mexico and while we missed her, we all

wish we were enjoying the sun with her. Julie Christoph continues her year of teaching in Tanzania. We look forward to her return this summer.

Kathy Maxey was elected to continue on as Clerk of the Vestry. Steve Jones has volunteered to serve as our parish treasurer and will be joining the Finance Committee this year.

The Vestry is planning its retreat for late April, at which time we will continue with our orientation of the roles and responsibilities of a Vestry member, and we will plan for ways in which we can even more fully bring to life our mission of “*Worshipping God, Serving Christ, Loving One Another*”.

Should you have any needs or wants, please feel free to contact me or any Vestry member. We are here to serve you and our parish.

ST. LUKE’S PRESCHOOL

by Carolyn Linden

It’s hard to believe that we are more than halfway through the school year! The recent warm weather has been a tremendous blessing as it has allowed students and staff outside to work out the cumulative wiggles acquired during the rain of the preceding weeks.

The Saint Luke’s Preschool Open House on Tuesday, February 9 was a smashing success. All of our teachers were on hand to welcome new and returning families and to answer questions about the program. Fr. Paul and Julie Williams were available to greet parents and children as well, and the classrooms buzzed with the energy of excited, curious prospective students.

Openings are still available for all classes; if you know of friends, family, or neighbors who might need a nurturing, joyous, Christian-based education option for their children, please direct them to Julie for further information and a registration packet. The preschool’s contact phone number is: (253) 759 3519. (There is an answering machine, if no one is immediately available to take calls.)

We look forward to Easter and the approaching Spring with great anticipation and are thrilled to watch our students continue to blossom!

ADULT EDUCATION: WINTER OFFERINGS

By Cindy Stangl

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDIES continue on! The small group Bible studies are working through the Gospel of Luke, which is the Gospel that is being read in church for 2010. Please consider joining a group or forming one of your own to learn more about how Jesus can impact your daily life. Please see any of the adult education committee members for more information.

UPCOMING FORUMS

Each TUESDAY at 1:30pm: Fr. Paul is leading a “Lectionary Based Bible Study” series. The goal is to read the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday and discuss them. This will give participants a better understanding of the readings for each Sunday, and see the continuity of the readings over the course of the church year. Meet in the parish library for this stimulating study.

March 28, 2010 after church forum: Fr. Paul and Sallie will present “Common themes in Judaism and Christianity.” This forum will be the third of six (one given each month), and will focus on the celebration of Passover and Easter. These discussions will enlighten participants about how Jewish and Christian celebrations and traditions are intertwined; and where the root of some of the Christian traditions come from.

LENTEN OFFERING: Wed. Evenings March 3, 10, 17, 24 beginning at 6:30 (Following the Lenten Soup Suppers at 5:30): Fr. Paul will be leading the “Share, Save, Spend: Healthy and Faithful Family Finances” video series by Nathan Dungan. Given the economic times, Fr. Paul and the adult education committee thought this would be a timely series. This program is designed for adults, and families with junior and senior high aged youth; but, ANYONE can benefit from this series! Dungan teaches healthy financial habits from a Christian perspective. Please plan now to attend this wonderful opportunity to improve your family’s finances! Can’t we all use this?

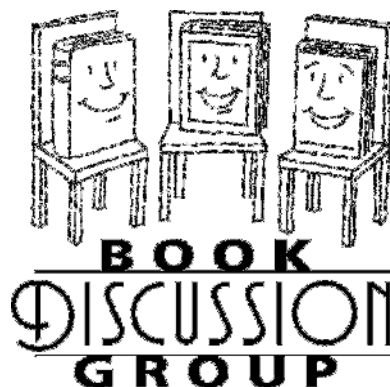
If you have questions regarding any of the above offerings, please contact anyone on the adult education committee: Jim/Cindy Stangl, Brian/Betsy Johnson, or Stephen Gorham.

Good...Better...Best

By Martha Bandy

It has been said, there are three levels of conversation. The lowest level is a discussion about people. A bit higher is of things and events. And the loftiest of all levels of discussion is to share ideas.

Once a month on the third Wednesday of the month at 2PM the Book Review group meets in the church library. In February a presentation was from the book entitled A Panorama of Rural England. The book includes: English villages, country houses, cities, small towns, gardens, Inns, ports and harbors. “A Proper Tea” was served to all in attendance.



We share our ideas of a wide range of topics and books we are reading or would like to read.

All are welcome! For further information feel free to call: Martha Bandy 759-6216

DON'T WE LIKE TO PARTY!

By Jane Hansen

What a good time we all had at the annual meeting. Everyone at St. Luke's seems to enjoy our coffee (cookie) hour after church, our brunches, dinners, and soup suppers. Many help in the preparation.

Now here is the problem. We have three women who always help with set up and stay to clean up when everyone leaves. I feel this is unfair to Janet Wendt, Florence Ehricke and Annette Williams. They should have help.

Our congregation is very generous in so many ways and now it is time for more of us to step up for that extra hour or half hour to help clean up after our gatherings.

Word Studies on Hope, Joy and Peace

By Dick Falise

“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13

The Christian life is to be characterized by hope, joy and peace.

Our Christian hope is a gift of God. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure (Hebrews 6:19). Give the assurance of hope, Christians live in the present with confidence and face the future with courage.

Our future hope is in our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thessalonians 1:3). A balanced and effective Christian life features these three – faith, hope and love – working together to prepare us for the return of Christ.

Joy is the fruit of a right relation to God. It is not something people can create by their own efforts. Joy in the Lord enables people to receive all that God has given. They rejoice in family (Proverbs 5:18), food (1 Timothy 4:4-5), celebrations (Deuteronomy 16:13-15), and fellowship (Philippians 4:1). They share with other believers the joys and sorrows of life. Rejoice with them that do rejoice; weep with those who weep (Romans 12:15). Joy is the fruit of a Spirit led life (Galatians 5:22).

Peace is a spiritual gift of God. It is a sense of well being and fulfillment that comes from God and is dependent on his presence, “shalom,” “well being,” or “wholeness.” Peace is a fruit of the Spirit rightly related to god and rightly related to one another. God is the God of peace. In Him we discover that ultimate peace which only God can give (John 14:27). This peace is experienced as an inner spiritual peace by the individual believer (Romans 15:13).

Church Words and Customs: What is "Lent" and how is it observed?

Lent is the Church's forty day season of preparation for Easter. The word "lent" is an Old English word for spring which acknowledges the "lengthening" of the days during this season. Lent is a time of fasting, penitence, almsgiving, prayer, and study. It is a time to renew our relationship with God by focusing upon the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For a good short description of Lent see "The Exhortation to a Holy Lent" in the Ash Wednesday liturgy pages 264-5 in *The Book of Common Prayer*.



St. Luke's Cross recipients past and present: Louisa Johnson, Trudy Johnson, and Venetia Magnuson. Jerry Squier (not pictured) was also given a St. Luke's Cross at our Annual Parish Meeting in February.

**Meditations on the
Stations of the Cross**



**You are invited to a
Lenten Quiet Morning**

**Saturday, March 13
9:00 a.m. - noon**

*Sponsored by
The Daughters of the King*

Prayer Corner

Love of Jesus, fill us,
Joy of Jesus, surprise us,
Peace of Jesus, flood us,
Light of Jesus, transform us,
Touch of Jesus, warm us,
Strength of Jesus, encourage us.
O Saviour, in your agony, forgive us,
in your wounds, hide us,
and in your risen life take us with you,
for your love's sake. *Amen.*

- Angela Ashwin

In the name of Jesus Christ, who was never in a hurry, we pray, O God, that thou wilt slow us down, for we know that we live too fast. With all of eternity before us, make us take time to live - time to get acquainted with thee, time to enjoy thy blessings, and time to know each other. *Amen.*

- Peter Marshall (1902-49)

**Easter and the Sacrament
of Holy Baptism:**

Easter is the next major celebration when we will be administering the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Here at St. Luke's we hold Easter baptisms during the afternoon of Holy Saturday.

If you, a member of your family, or someone you know, is interested in baptism, please contact the parish office at 759-3534. Fr. Paul will set up a time to meet with you and begin preparations for Holy Baptism.

Baptisms at Eastertide profoundly celebrate the new and eternal life given to us through the death and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ.



UPCOMING EVENTS

April

- 1 Maundy Thursday
- 2 Good Friday Liturgy & Tenebrae Service @ Bethany Presbyterian
- 3 Holy Saturday & Holy Baptism
- 4 Easter Sunday
- 9 JYC/Laser Tag
- 11 Flowering of the Cross @ both services
- 14 HYC Hike
- 24 Sunday School – Family Night & Potluck

May

- 1 & 2 HYC Retreat
- 13 Ascension Day
- 16 Graduate Recognition Sunday
- 22 Kid's Night
- 23 Pentecost

March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 10:30AM-12:30 PM Crafters 1:30PM Bible Study/Library	3 8 AM Sr. Men 10 AM Holy Eucharist Noon/BPH St. Monica's 5:30 PM Potluck 6:30 PM Lenten program	4 6 PM Choristers 7 PM Choir	5	6
7 LENT 3 8 & 10 AM Holy Eucharist Adopt-a-Family Kickoff JYC @ movies	8 7 PM Bldg & Grounds	9 10:30AM-12:30 PM Crafters 1:30PM Bible Study/Library 5 PM Exec. Com.	10 10 AM Holy Eucharist 5:30 PM Potluck 6:30 PM Lenten program	11 6 PM Choristers 7 PM Choir	12	13 Lenten Quiet Day 9AM-Noon
14 LENT 4 8 & 10 AM Holy Eucharist Daylight Savings Time Begins HYC Hike	15	16 10:30AM-12:30 PM Crafters 1:30PM Bible Study/Library 7 PM Vestry Mtg.	17 10 AM Holy Eucharist 2 PM Book Review Group 5:30 PM Potluck 6:30 PM Lenten program	18 6 PM Choristers 7 PM Choir	19	20
21 LENT 5 8 & 10 AM Holy Eucharist Children's Homily & Choristers @10AM service.	22 6PM Daughters of the King	23 10:30AM-12:30 PM Crafters 1:30PM Bible Study/Library	24 10 AM Holy Eucharist 5:30 PM Potluck 6:30 PM Lenten program	25 6 PM Choristers 7 PM Choir	26	27
28 PALM SUNDAY 8 & 10 AM Holy Eucharist Adopt-A-Family Ends today.	29	30 10:30AM-12:30 PM Crafters 1:30PM Bible Study/Library	31 10 AM Holy Eucharist 6 PM Choristers 7PM Chancel Choir			
			7			

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St. Luke's Memorial Episcopal Church
3615 N. Gove Street
Tacoma, WA 98407

Non-Profit Organization

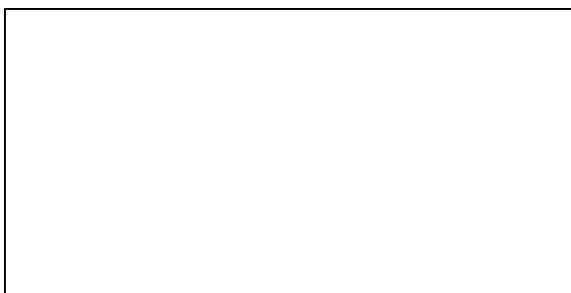
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Please submit articles by the 15th day of each month to *The Bridge*
by mail, fax, personal delivery, or e-mail. **Articles via e-mail are preferred!**

St. Luke's Clergy

Rector: The Rev. Paul D. Rietmann

Staff

Parish Administrator: Cindy Russell, Sexton: Dana Squier

Music Director: Linda Johnson, Organist: Bob Hansler

Director of Children and Family Ministries: Julie Williams

Vestry

Senior Warden - Margaret Hoyer; Junior Warden - Shirley Shoffner;

Judy Alie, Bob Black, Kathleen Figetakis, Julie Christoph, KC Hawthorne, Atem Mabior, Josh Vance
(Steve Jones -Treasurer, Kathy Maxey - Clerk)

Worshipping God, Serving Christ, Loving One Another