



THE CHIMES

November/December 2009

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK EVANGELISM, DISCIPLING AND EDUCATION

My beloved brothers and sisters,

I can hardly believe November is here, that so much change has happened and so much freedom bestowed. As hard as leaving old things behind can be, even when they are beautiful and lovely things, it is often also freeing. With our move, I have sensed that freedom both in our corporate life and in our worship. And I know many of you have as well. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us" (Eph 1:3) so.

A friend recently wrote me that we 'orthodox' were all being 'stripped down to the nitty gritty to reveal a depth of faith that we had never known before,' and my thought was that perhaps we were even like Eustace who had his dragon skin scratched off by Aslan. Remember, Eustace acquired his scaly skin by sleeping on dragon's treasure. And it hurt when it was scratched off, but Eustace was restored to his "son of Adam" self as a result. Well perhaps we former Episcopalians have treasured our "things" a bit too much and they made us scaly, too scaly perhaps to be used for the good things that lie ahead. My sense is that the light of Christ now shines more brightly through us. As they say, restoration is always more lovely when it is completed!

However we are to understand what has happened, God has set us in motion for his kingdom, for good things that we are now more freed and ready to do than ever before. First and foremost I believe it is to "gather in those who are perishing." Macc 3:9b Look around you. They are everywhere and many are Anglican (that is, Episcopalian) brothers and sisters still sitting under false teaching, still being led further astray from the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Mark my words, God will drive them out and we need to be ready to gather them in with arms of love as he sends them our way.

As you know, I have appointed Bob Berta as a lay pastor of evangelism. He is working with a great team of people to help us gather in those who are perishing and give them life. Stay tuned to participate in the things Bob helps us with. And remember, evangelism isn't his job, it is ours and he is going to help us take up our calling to evangelize the least and the lost around us.

And once we gather them in, we need to disciple them. I intend for much of this to happen in our small groups. And yet we will also have more offerings for adult discipleship on Sundays under the direction of our teaching pastor, The Rev. Garry Parker. He has a wonderful mind and is a gifted teacher. He will be leading a course on Anglicanism after Christmas for both those needing to be confirmed and those needing to be received by the Bishop when he comes in late February/early March.

For now, let us focus on what we have learned from the preaching and small group series based on "Our Life Together." Let us be a church of love and light set upon a hill. And let us celebrate Advent and the birth of our Lord with a renewed and infectious joy.

In thanks for each and every one of you,

Fr. Rob+

FR. ROB HOLMAN +



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PLANNED GIVING PLANNING FOR ST. LUKE'S FUTURE

With the loss of our La Crescenta church properties last month the need to focus on the future of St. Luke's Anglican Church has never been greater. One obvious way we can do that is through an active planned giving program.

You may already have designated a dollar amount or a percentage of your estate to go to St. Luke's Anglican Church (or our newly incorporated name, "Crescenta Valley Anglican Church") upon your death or that of your spouse. If so, we thank you for your future bequest. However, if you have not provided in your will or trust for such a gift, please consider doing so now. It is an easy process to amend your will or trust to make such a provision. If you don't have your own attorney, just contact me if you would like a referral of a reputable local lawyer to assist you.

I am currently in the process of forming a Planned Giving Committee to work with me in such areas as the development of a planned giving brochure; writing articles for The Chimes; and meeting with parishioners who want to learn about the ways they can designate future estate assets as bequests for our church. If you have had experience in fields such as estate planning, financial planning, or probate law and would like to be part of the Planned Giving team, please give me a call (818-437-7351) or E-mail me hemstr@pacbell.net.

We often hear or read about stewardship as it relates to tithing or giving a portion of our income. However, it is just as important to consider planned giving of our accumulated assets as perhaps the most effective means of leaving a legacy for the development and growth of St. Luke's long after you have joined our Lord in His heavenly Kingdom.

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

If you previously designated
St Luke's of the Mountains or St. Luke's Episcopal Church as beneficiary of your estate

PLEASE CHANGE YOUR WILL OR TRUST TO
St. Luke's Anglican Church or
Crescenta Valley Anglican Church

DAVID HEMSTREET

UNDERSTANDING ANGLICANISM

OUR ANGLICAN IDENTITY

We are planning an adult education program on our Anglican identity for the Epiphany season. This will be a six week study to look at how our church is apostolic and catholic. We will explore our sacramental theology and look at the influence of the Reformation. We will practice our spiritual disciplines and examine the role of liturgy. We will consider how our local church and our Anglican Communion are organized and the role of the Holy Spirit in enabling us to grow in Christian Discipleship. Watch for details on this program for January & February, 2010.

Fr. Rob and Pastor Garry will lead this class with others assisting.

LEGAL UPDATE

MARCHING AROUND JERICHO

After prayerful consideration, the vestry has unanimously agreed to make an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court to get the legal travesty of the Dennis Canon nullified for churches following our same path, hoping that soon churches like ours will not have to suffer what we have suffered at the hands of apostate religious leaders. Dean John Eastman, the constitutional scholar and law professor we have consulted on these issues, believes the high court will indeed take up such a petition soon. The more petitions there are, the more likely the high court will take up a petition. We have agreed to be another group who will “march around Jericho”.

The two problems in proceeding with this appeal, the “burden of the legal fight” and the cost, have been lifted. As to burden, there is nothing else the L.A. Diocese or The Episcopal Church can do to us, and we are getting on with our mission of *Encountering Christ, Transforming Lives and Demonstrating Love*. As to cost, two anonymous friends have stepped forward and donated two thirds of the cost of making a petition to the U.S. Supreme Court. We have also received a commitment from friends to raise the rest of the funds for us.

It may be that we will be one of many small prods to the U.S. Supreme Court before they finally take this up, but we are willing to be used by God for that purpose as we go about our mission in the Crescenta Valley.

DEBBIE KOLLGAARD
SENIOR WARDEN

SISTER CHURCH UPDATE ST. JAMES INVITES YOU

... to an Advent Quiet Day!

“Hear What the Spirit
Says to the Church”

Rev. Kathleen Adams,
Rev. Cathie P. Young,
Pastor Richard Crocker

Saturday, December 12
8:30 am:
fellowship & cinnamon rolls!

9 am to 2 pm: teaching
Noon soup lunch ~ Free will offering

Everyone is welcome!
Signups begin Sunday, November 22,
or call the church office, [949] 675-
0210.

More info available at
www.stjamesnb.org

THE CONSECRATION OF BISHOP BILL THOMPSON





St. Nicholas Day

Sunday, December 6th
For children in 6th grade and below
Bring an unwrapped toy to Give to St. Nicholas.



Angel Breakfast

Saturday, December 5th,
8:30am - 11:00am
at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church
3561 Foothill Blvd. La Crescenta,

For families with young children.

Enjoy this St. Luke's tradition of breakfast, storytelling, crafts, family photo & a visit from our Angel Choir.

RSVP to Kaydi Draney
(818) 957-2979 or
paigefern@aol.com

Donations accepted at the door or an unwrapped toy for CV Sheriff toy drive

CHILDREN & FAMILY NEWS

Hello Families and Friends of St. Luke's Anglican Church,

We are so happy to be worshipping our Lord and Savior, together as one big happy family. We want to thank our friends at Vallejo SDA church for offering such wonderful space to gather each week.

Our children have spent these last few weeks learning of our Heavenly Father and Creator of all. We know God's love for us and His promise to always love us. As we approach the Season of Advent, we continue to see how great this love is and how God always keeps His promise. We will be celebrating this season with wonderful lessons, songs and activities that will deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Exciting Holiday events to put on your calendar are:

St. Luke's annual Angel Breakfast. This year our breakfast will be on Saturday, December 5th, 2009 from 8:30 am to 11:00 am at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church located at 3561 Foothill Blvd. on the corner of Dunsmore and Foothill in La Crescenta, Ca. We are so grateful to our community of believers in the Crescenta Valley and their extended helpful hands and hearts in offering us space to continue our fellowship and our celebration of God's Son.

St. Nicholas Day is Sunday, December 6th, 2009. This is truly a delightful day and one we all look forward to. We learn how giving gifts comes from the heart and is truly how God asks us to give. Children, 6th grade and under are asked to bring an unwrapped toy to present to St. Nicholas who will pass them on to those in need. Children will also be leaving one of their shoes outside the sanctuary door in hopes of receiving a treat of their own.

Christmas Eve Family Service. Our family service this year will be Thursday, December 24th, 2009 at 5:00 pm in the chapel at Vallejo SDA Church. Come enjoy a special service of music and the telling of the Nativity Story by our children. This service promises to be a blessing to all.

The first Sunday of Advent is November 29th, 2009. Be sure to pick up the "Christmas Countdown" Advent sticker sheets we have for each family. Together, you and your family can read the Bible verses that tell the story of Jesus' birth and celebrate the true 'reason for the season'. These will be available on the information table at the entrance door of the Chapel.

Blessings to us all!

Kaydi Draney

KAYDI DRANEY



TEA & SYMPATHY

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

Dave Hemstreet and Jane Bender are co-chairs of this ministry. We try to aid our clergy in making pastoral visits to those in our congregation who are ill, either at home or in hospital, or those who live alone and just enjoy a visit.

Some of our friends may be dealing with emotional problems or the death of a family member. Someone to pray with can be a great comfort. A little tea and sympathy may be just the thing to help them know that our St. Luke's family is aware of their needs and is sharing our love through Jesus.

We invite anyone who would enjoy visiting with our parishioners, making phone calls or sending cards to join us. Our ministry also includes providing rides to doctor visits, out-patient care for treatments, or to the church services and activities.

If you are interested in being a member of our "mobile ministry" please contact Dave or Jane or contact the church office at:

(818) 249-5100

If you are in need of transportation you may call the church office, and we will do our best to get you matched with a driver.

JANE BENDER

PARTNERING WITH ST. JAMES WE MEET AT LONG LAST

After postponing our gathering with St. James in August because of the Station Fire, we were able to gather together our two congregations from St. Luke's and St. James on October 25, 2009, at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church- thanks be to God for their hospitality to us.

The evening started with worship and a homily by Fr. Richard Crocker on Hebrews 12:1-6, "*The people of God are exhorted to set their hearts for the challenges ahead by looking to Jesus' example at the cross*". We followed this time with food and fellowship in the fellowship hall at Mt. Olive Lutheran. The meal was wonderfully organized by David Fernandez, who was assisted by many "angels".

While we feasted we shared our thoughts on the table topic questions. One question, to be answered by a St. Luke parishioner, was to share the experience of the move from our old building to where we are now, its effect and what was encouraging. Many comments were centered on the feeling of "lightness" and "freedom." There were comments that we (St. Luke's) still have all our ministries and the power of prayer. But most impressively was the incredible presence of the Lord in our new place- how he seemed to go before us in our move, like the cloud or pillar of fire for the Israelites.

Another question was how we keep our eyes focused on the proclamation of the gospel as the main thing as we (St. Luke's and St. James) still face the challenges before us. It was noted that we are a haven for the proclamation of the gospel- our eyes are fixed on Jesus (Heb. 12) - where people come to hear the gospel when they don't hear it elsewhere. It was also noted that the circumstances in which we find ourselves, whether losing our property or continuing in lawsuits, were opportunities for sharing with others why we made the decisions we did- hence sharing the truth of the gospel! It was shared that the focus of our lawsuits has really been about the stand that we have taken for the sake of the gospel- not for the property. How many of us have shared our story of why we did what we did, consequently sharing the gospel? I know I have.

In concluding our evening we offered our thoughts on how St. Luke's and St. James could continue to support one another. It was definitely agreed that coming together is a great encouragement for one another. Praying for each other was high on everyone's list! Suggestions of ministry to others in need (Habitat for Humanity was just one idea) and mentoring other churches who would perhaps be headed down legal paths by standing for the gospel in their own denomination were also mentioned. We acknowledged that as we form our relationship we will be able to say "What is God calling us to do together?"

At the close of the evening, as we held the hands of our brothers and sisters in Christ and sang the Doxology with thankful hearts to God, I was encouraged and felt that God is with us.

DEBBIE KOLLGAARD
SENIOR WARDEN

FINANCIAL UPDATE

PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS

Dear St. Luke's Family,

In these trying economic times and with the effects of our own transition, I need to bring you up to date on our finances. Our financial plan in the previous fiscal year showed a remarkable resilience to the effects of the economy. Our budgeted income and expenses were \$532K and \$529K respectively while our actual revenues and expenses were \$559K and \$440K respectively, leaving us a surplus of almost \$120K.

But those numbers hide a bit of the real story as giving was actually down \$111K from our initial budget and our significant legal expenses are not part of our operating budget. What saved our budget was our not spending to our plan and two significant bequests. The two bequests kept up our income and paid for our legal bills. *Please also take note that once again no legal payments were made from congregational giving.*

But this year, the economy and fallout from our legal situation has come home to roost. Not only is pledging down \$154K from last year for the '09-'10 fiscal year but the keeping of our pledges at the end of October is in arrears by \$22,727. The economy continues to affect us, as it has most going concerns. The bottom line is that our unrestricted reserves are less than \$5K and things are very tight for us financially.

In keeping with good financial stewardship in difficult times, we are doing our best to reduce our spending and meet our needs in more cost effective and creative ways. For instance the altar guild no longer purchases arranged flowers but arranges our flowers themselves. Every bit helps. And yet I would like you to help further by: 1) praying for God's provision, 2) keeping up or making up your giving if you can, and 3) making a greater financial commitment at this time.

For those of you that have not made a financial commitment to St. Luke's, we ask that you would do so now. God can of course miraculously provide for all our needs, but he often chooses to bless us by giving through us. Please pray about participating in his provision and consider giving a special year-end gift. There is much kingdom work to do and a harvest of souls to bring in. Please give.

FR. ROB HOLMAN +

ALL SAINTS DAY BAPTISMS NOVEMBER 1, 2009

Sydney Adams

Born: December 5th, 2008

Joshua Benedict Denny

Born: August 21st, 2009

Timothy Daniel Denny

Born: August 21st, 2009

Oliver Tristan Fisher

Born: June 23rd, 2009

Jacob Charles Putman

Born: June 30th, 2009

REST IN PEACE

Steve Arrington

Passed away on September 17th
Services were held on September 26th.

Have a wedding, a new baby in the house, or a major life milestone you would like to share with the St. Luke's family? Contact the church office and we'll be glad to get the word out for you!

THE GREAT COMMISSION

EVANGELISM AND NEWCOMERS MINISTRY

As we get our breath back...

We've just finished the "great distraction". Worship and small group fellowship has begun afresh. There is a sense that, at least among the "family" we are settling in.

So next we start addressing again the topic of our Great Commission; one that comes directly from our Lord at his Ascension: "Making disciples of all nations, baptizing them . . . and teaching them to obey what I have commanded you, . . ." And oh what a message he's given to us. How can we hide it beneath a basket?

We become love within our refreshed fellowship. From that base, we then bear witness by being "salt and light", by bringing that to the wider community, and by welcoming that community into our midst. Frankly, they will know us by our love.

Before the property move, we'd identified an initial group who expressed interest in Evangelism and Newcomers. Now with our breathing back to normal, we will re-form and take up the task again.

One important very basic element is: identifying and tracking for follow up. If a person blesses us with a visit, at the very least we can thank them. But more importantly, we must seek to help them. Our group started to identify a possible new role each Sunday, augmenting the Ushers and Greeters.

What is the immediate task for all? First it is to make sure we welcome well, those who visit us.

Fr. Rob has noted that a goodly portion of visitors we draw now may already be believers, and often believers who are seeking the things that make us distinctively Anglican, especially Anglicans believing the "faith received".

What can each of us do? What many already do.

- Notice visitors. Introduce yourself. Welcome. Help them.
- Introduce that visitor to someone else if they are willing.
- Try to get a newcomer card from them (but 'tug' gently, they aren't tuna).

We will talk later about the specifics how we can help, and who we might connect visitors with, and then on how we share "outside" what's been given to us.

BOB BERTA

ST. LUKE'S YOUTH MINISTRY

OUR NEW BEGINNINGS

The youth group's Halloween party/Walk-a-thon was a time of fun and bonding. The youth walked to raise nearly \$300.00 for Elizabeth House and earned themselves some Halloween treats along the way. Roasting marshmallows, sipping hot chocolate, playing games, watching movies, and a time of devotion reflecting on God's love were all a part of the night's agenda (sleep was not). The evening helped to bond the kids and their new leader and will add to the many shared experiences where Encountering Christ, Transforming Lives, and Demonstrating His Love will become the primary focus of our times together.

Our youth have been blessed to have the use of Hook Tree House for our Sunday evening meetings through the month of November and into December. For more information and directions, please contact David Bartholomew.

DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

CHRISTMAS AT ST. LUKE'S

- ❖ **COMBINED THANKSGIVING**
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Thursday, Nov 25th, 7:00 p.m.
- ❖ **ANGEL BREAKFAST**
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Saturday, Dec. 5th, 8:30 a.m.
- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS' DAY**
Sunday, Dec. 6th
- ❖ **GREENING OF THE CHURCH**
Saturday, Dec. 19th, 3:30 p.m.
- ❖ **LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE**
Sunday, Dec 27th

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

- ❖ **FAMILY SERVICE**
5:00 P.M.
- ❖ **FESTIVAL OF MUSIC**
10:30 P.M.
- ❖ **CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**
11:00 P.M.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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