

# ST. LUKE'S NEWSLETTER

Demonstrating God's Love through Christ to the Community and to the World

## Postcards from the Pews

We love to see what our parishioners are up to outside of St. Luke's. Take a peek here. Pg. 2

## Parishioner Spotlight

Meet new parishioners and bid farewell to one Pg. 3

## Parish Happenings

A look at some recent events at St. Luke's Pg. 4

## Fall at the Food Pantry

A pantry report. Pg. 5

## Saturdays at St. Luke's

A look into our new friends who worship at St. Luke's on Saturday. Pg. 6

## Warden's Report

A word from our Senior Warden. Pg. 7-8



Above and below: Photos from Father Mike's recent travels to Vermont

## Welcome to the Saint Luke's Fall Edition Newsletter

We hope you enjoy the latest edition of the Saint Luke's Somers newsletter. In this issue we take a peek into parishioner travels, get to know some new families, and welcome some new worshipers who now call Saint Luke's their home. Get the latest from our Food Pantry report and read a word from our Senior Warden, including a peek at their fun family vacation with Father Mike too!





# POSTCARDS FROM THE PEWS



Phyllis and Eric Rieder made up for lost time and opportunity imposed by pandemic restrictions and enjoyed a full Emerald Isle itinerary: ancient ruins, cozy pubs, friendly Irish, plentiful sheep, and "40 shades of green."

Photos: Clockwise from top, Town of Dingle, Eric & Phyllis Rieder, Phyllis with her new friend, Cliffs of Moher

Helen and Scott Curtiss got even with Covid lockdowns and traveled to Germany, The Netherlands, and Italy.



Photos: Clockwise from top, Heidelberg, Germany, Helen & Scott in Italy, Amsterdam



### RUANN ENGLAND

As Ruann prepares to move west to be near family, the score seems to be California - 1; Somers - 0! Of course, we have been blessed by Ruann's presence and participation. Although we will miss her, we will be united by our common worship. And we'll smile each time we recall her inimitable laugh and gentle heart.



### THE TROMBACCO FAMILY

St. Luke's is thrilled to welcome a recent addition to its community: Rossana and Rich Trombacco and their daughter Bella.



### THE HUISMANN FAMILY

The Dutch are known for windmills and wooden shoes, tulips and Heineken...but who would have thought they would introduce a local family to St. Luke's Church? That's exactly what happened when the Huismanns traveled to the United States for medical treatment several years ago. This summer they enjoyed a reunion with the family whom they introduced to our church: Kevin and Mary Pat Sweeney and their children Emma and Tim.

PARISHIONER SPOTLIGHT



### BECKY WEISMANN

Whether serving as Fr. Mike's technical assistant or serving coffee at post-Eucharist social hour, Becky Weissman does so with skill, enthusiasm, and a smile!

# PARISH HAPPENINGS



Ukrainian Volunteers

The July benefit concert for Ukraine featured world class pianists and singers, generous donations, and a happy “standing room only” crowd.



Performers from the Ukraine benefit concert



Blessings continued outside in the St. Francis Memorial Pet Garden

While the sanctuary is always alive with joyful conversation and fervent worship, the atmosphere emits greater enthusiasm (and atypical sounds) at the annual blessing of the animals on St. Francis Sunday. Cacophonous barks compete with the choir’s euphonious hymns and Fr. Mike’s serious sermon, but no one seems to mind!



Pups in the pews



Mary McCarthy (far Right) at her ordination

Former parishioner and choir member, Mary McCarthy, was ordained to the priesthood in September at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Currently serving at Christ’s Church in Rye, Mary makes time to visit St. Luke’s — most recently in August when we were treated to one of her edifying sermons.

# THIS FALL AT THE FOOD PANTRY

By Lynda Magrath, Chair



Somer's PTA Fall Drive

sponsored semi-annual food drives for us, and in October the Pickleball players initiated an additional drive. Plus, we received a bounty of late summer produce from the Heritage allotment gardeners. Somers Library included us as a beneficiary of their "Kindness Week" outreach project. Somers PTA, always a staunch supporter, delivered the proceeds of a "back to school" food drive. We anticipate another generous Thanksgiving donation from Somers Middle School's PTA, students, clubs and scouts.

This Advent the Food Pantry will once again ask parishioners to contribute. Donating just a few grocery items helps us to supplement the food needs of about 100 people per week, from young families with children to retirees living alone in our home communities. All the volunteers join me in saying thank you in advance for your ongoing support! We are proud to help fulfill St. Luke's mission "to demonstrate God's love through Christ to the community and to the world."

Although St. Luke's Somers Food Pantry, like all other food banks and pantries, has experienced a drop in donations of both food and funds since the waning of the Pandemic, we continue to be blessed with many generous sources of support.

This Fall we found a new and wonderful partner in *Caritas of Port Chester's* program, *Meals on Main Street*. They have delivered fresh fruit and vegetables, milk, baked goods, and 160 pounds of frozen chicken to the Pantry.

October brought the second payment of the *Basic Human Needs* grant from the Episcopal Diocese, and we have applied for funding for 2023. We also utilized the \$2000 credit given for the *Bulk Buying Program*. It is reassuring to have the support of the helpful and caring people at Episcopal Charities.

In addition, we continue to receive donations from many individuals in Somers and the surrounding communities, as well as the local DeCicco's. Since 2020 Heritage Hills has



A delivery from Meals on Main

# ST. LUKE'S SATURDAY CONGREGATION

By Lynda Magrath



On any given Saturday you may notice a sign outside St. Luke's for *Living Hope Seventh Day Adventist Church*. Before I was asked to be St. Luke's liaison to the Seventh Day Adventists (SDA), the Saturday tenants of our Sanctuary and Undercroft, all I knew about "Adventists" was that they keep a Saturday Sabbath, and advocate a healthy diet, which makes them one of the longest-living groups in the United States. I'd like to share what I've subsequently learned about the SDA, but first, let's correct some mistaken beliefs: SDAs are *not* Jehovah's Witnesses, and they are *certainly not* Muslims.

The Seventh Day Adventist church is a scripturally-based Protestant denomination founded in the US in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Usual Sabbath practices follow a general evangelical format, with the sermon as the center of worship, plus scripture reading, Bible study, prayer, and hymns. SDA places more emphasis on Christ's second coming, and less on Communion (which is celebrated four times a year), but otherwise our core beliefs are essentially the same.

SDA's most famous original members were the Kellogg brothers, who marketed a familiar brand of healthy breakfast cereal. The denomination's emphasis on healthy living and preventive medicine led to the founding of many medical institutions and missions; hundreds of hospitals, clinics, and health-care facilities throughout the US and the world.

Studies have found that practicing SDAs live healthier lives and up to ten years longer than the national average, and attribute it to healthy dietary practices (including an emphasis on a vegetarian and alcohol-free diet), and to resting on the Sabbath.

My fellow Vestry members and I were invited to attend Living Hope's Church Reopening Service in September. We were welcomed warmly by Pastor Theo Osei and his wife Abigail, the Elders and the whole congregation. We experienced an inspiring and instructive service, with uplifting music from two talented guest choirs, followed by a delicious vegetarian lunch. Each of us came away with a feeling of peace and joy, thanks to the genuine warmth, friendliness and faith of our Saturday congregation.

The Living Hope community brings a welcome diversity to St. Luke's, in that its members include people of all ethnicities and races, many young people and children. Their services, which incorporate multi-media supplements to sermons and learning, are streamed to congregants as far away as the Caribbean. Living Hope sponsors thriving youth and scouting groups, which at least partly inspired St. Luke's to develop our own youth group. Most importantly, they are the nicest, friendliest Christian people you will meet on any given Saturday.

# A WORD FROM OUR SENIOR WARDEN

*Dear Friends:*

It is both a privilege and pleasure to have served as your Sr. Warden these past two years. Having been a member of St. Luke's Church for nearly 25 years, I have come to love this special place. Indeed, our spiritual community has been blessed in many ways: spiritually, by the artful leadership of our Priest-in-Charge, Fr. Mike; pastorally, given Fr. Mike's penchant for providing pastoral care in a truly authentic manner, and from each of us in this congregation who reach out to those in need as well. Whether it be sharing a smile, a shoulder to cry on when needed, humor when appropriate, and offering a very welcoming spirit. Our Mission: Demonstrating Christ's Love in the Community and the World is manifest here in this place of worship we have all come to love and enjoy. So, when I say that I feel privileged, I really mean it! And I thank you all!



These past two years have not been without their challenges as we all know. Coming through a three-year pandemic while still offering services of one kind or another has been one of many challenges. Balancing our budget despite decreasing rental incomes and increasing costs has been offset by the tremendous support and appreciation of our entire congregation. We had a very successful Stewardship Campaign in 2022 and are poised to do so again for 2023. Stay tuned for updates throughout the coming weeks. Please know that your support is both valued and appreciated by Fr. Mike and your Vestry, who were elected by you to be servant leaders and good stewards of our Church. And we are thankful to our Stewardship Committee members: Vivian Peters, Evelyn and Ira Weissman, and Herman Clarke for their insights and willingness to share their stories with all of you.

Welcoming new members has been especially heartwarming for all of us. It has been a blessing to welcome the Living Hope SDA Church, who feel very blessed to be able to worship in our Sanctuary. In fact, we are planning to have a joint service during the holidays and will keep you updated. While we were very sorry to see Serendipity move on to a new home, we are glad to continue to welcome the Women's AA Group on Friday evenings

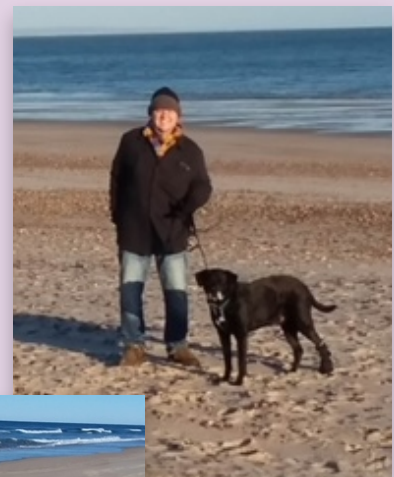
Additionally, we are very excited that weekly Coffee Hours have returned after three long years!! And thankful to Barbara and Bob Mundy for spearheading this effort along with a very robust committee of Coffee Hour stewards. It has been simply wonderful to be able to mingle with everyone after services. And how about that Thrift Shop! It is such a wonderful ministry to be able to provide lovely, gently used (and even brand new) items to the community at bargain prices. Many thanks to Dorothea Mangieri and Pat Schilpp and their team for serving our Church in such a special way!

And let's not forget our Food Pantry – who serve those in our midst who continue to be food insecure. Under Lynda Magrath's leadership along with her team of sorters, packers, and distributors of our donated food items, we know that we are benefiting our neighbors in meaningful ways. Whether you are a participant at the weekly Discover Hour – thank you Fr. Mike and Mary Churchill - or attended our Ukrainian Concert (thank you, Deacon Fulton, and his Hospitality Team) or participated in Don't Walk By where a group of parishioners went to NYC to help the homeless, know that you are keeping our mission alive and well here at St. Luke's Church.

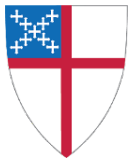
Lastly, as Sr. Warden it has been a great pleasure to come to know Fr. Mike better. In fact, my husband, Steve, and quirky pet, Max, thoroughly enjoyed spending time with Mike on Cape Cod in February: we worshiped together, enjoyed excellent seafood, traveled to Provincetown where we walked on the beach. These pictures can give you an idea of the fun we had together. So much so that I shared with the Vestry that I was lucky enough to be with two wild and crazy guys!!! Well, three if you include Maximus dog!!!

All in all, I feel confident that St. Luke's Church will continue to grow and prosper as a beacon of support to the Somers Community and beyond. We are alive in the spirit in this special place, and I know we all look forward to the time when we can afford a full-time priest. With prayer, diligence as your Vestry continues to manage our budget, and reaching out to our greater Somers community and within the surrounding communities (as Fr. Mike continues to do) I am confident that it – affording a full-time priest - is within our grasp. Wishing you all a joyous Thanksgiving and Christmas season! God bless us – everyone!

My very best,  
Karen Kellogg, Sr. Warden







# ST. LUKE'S NEWSLETTER



The St. Luke's Newsletter is one of the publications produced by the Communications Committee. Our charge is to implement St. Luke's Mission by sharing news of our worship and ministries to the parish and to the larger community.

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Lynda Magrath, Contributor

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We thank everyone who submitted articles and photos to this issue, and invite parishioners to share suggestions and material for future issues. Please speak to one of the Communications Committee members, or contact the Parish Office.

### St. Luke's Church

The Rt. Rev'd Andrew M.L. Dietsche, Bishop of NY

The Rt. Rev'd Allen K. Shin, Bishop Suffragan

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