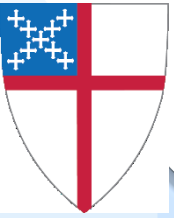


# ST. LUKE'S

## NEWSLETTER

06/2019



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## St. Luke's Church Newsletter

### Spring/Summer 2019

Many wonderful things have happened this year so far - and more to come!

#### *Spring Highlights*

##### **Baptism of Zachary Loveless**

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, Pentecost Sunday, we all joyously welcomed a new baby to our congregation. **Zachary Paul Loveless**, born February 12, the son of **Amanda and Ryan Loveless**, was baptized in our midst. The Godparents are William Dornburgh and Andrea Loveless, sister of Ryan. We presented a baptismal candle, a baby comb and brush set, and a blanket lovingly knitted by **Mary Churchill**. It was a big day for us in the church, and you can check out the photos of the event on our webpage and on our Facebook page. We all look forward to having Zachary grow up in this community of faith, and we are excited to be able to witness his growth.

*continued*

### **Lenten Adult Education Series**

We began a Lenten Series on March 13, and continued it for the next six Wednesdays. The Series consisted of a study of the life of the Apostle Peter, using six videos that we watched together, each of which was filmed in the areas of the Holy Land where Peter walked with Jesus. During each of the six sessions we focused on Scripture passages about Peter, and took lessons from those passages, attempting to understand what we could learn about ourselves and our faith from the life of Peter. Each of the sessions was attended by between 23 to 27 people. Most attendees were from our parish, but each week we also hosted between four and six parishioners from St. Lukes in Katonah. New friendships were formed, old ones re-kindled, and all the participants gave significant and thoughtful input about their own individual faith journeys. We are exploring the possibility of doing more sessions in the future, to further enrich our community's faith journeys. If there are topics or books that you believe could serve as facilitators for such future events, please share them with me. I believe this type of program can be fun and nurture spiritual growth for all of us.

### **Discernment Process for Steve Siciliano**

One of the exciting things going forward for us is our participation in the discernment process for **Steven Siciliano**. Steven has declared his aspiration to become ordained as a deacon in our diocese. We have a discernment committee formed, consisting of Marion Comins, Helen Curtiss, Dale Bergman, and Joe Ciavardini, who will meet with me and Steven every six weeks over the course of the coming six to eight months, to help Steven articulate his vision for his ministry. For those of you who know Steven, you are aware that he has been a faithful and dedicated parishioner: singing in the choir, serving on the Vestry, and leading worship in Morning Prayer. I have heard that his first sermon was a "barn-burner," so I am anxious to get him ordained and on the road to serving the diocese. My only regret is that we will lose him, somewhere in the process, to a different congregation. But Steven will be fulfilling his purpose for the renewal of the lives of the people he will serve—it is a joyous journey for him and for us.

Those of you who knew Mary McCarthy, a former parishioner and member of the choir, also know that she is now a postulant for ordination to the priesthood, and her journey will also be a joyous one. It is a testament to the congregation of St. Luke's that we have *two* parishioners whom we can watch grow into their full stature of God's purpose for them. This spirit-filled congregation, in addition to all the ministries we have, can know that we are lifting up those among us who choose a unique all to an ordained ministry—you should all be proud.

I look forward to seeing you all at upcoming services, or hearing from you directly.

Yours in Christ,

*Father Mike +*



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## BAPTISM OF ZACHARY PAUL LOVELESS



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## MAY PLANT SALE - A BEAUTIFUL SUCCESS!



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## EASTER SUNDAY



## *Father Mike's New Outreach Projects for 2019-2020*

### **Epiphany Ministry to at-risk Mothers and Children**

We recently formed a committee to work on an outreach mission to young, at-risk mothers and their babies. This endeavor grew out of the message of Epiphany Sunday, that Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were greatly at risk, and the wise men brought them provisions for their safety and sustenance as they went into exile in Egypt after Jesus' birth. So we intend to reach out to young mothers in the community, to support their needs for food, clothing, diapers, blankets and other necessities.

Nicole Ciavardini and Janet Huber are heading that group, and they will, over the course of this Summer, be planning for meeting those needs. Nicole, Jan, and I have met, and both of them are establishing contacts to find the sources of the things we will need, and we have already found several local charity groups that can help us with distribution to those in need.

In addition to Nicole and Jan, there is a long list of parishioners who have volunteered to help – Kevin Sweeney, Libby Bristow, Mary Churchill, Lynda Magrath, Duanne Simon, Robert and Barbara Maundy, and a new parishioner, Kati Pojer. Thanks to all of you who have so willingly stepped forward.

### **Mission Trip to McDowell County, West Virginia**

An initiative that is gaining momentum going forward is the planning for a mission trip to McDowell County, West Virginia, the most economically-deprived county in the entire country. I have a long history of working there to help rebuild homes for those who have enormous and unmet needs. Many of you have expressed an interest in becoming a part of that work. I travelled to McDowell County during the week of June 2<sup>nd</sup> to meet with the Bishop and his staff, and to work with him and several representatives of local organizations. We are all working toward the best way to meet the needs of our fellow Americans who are suffering under extreme difficulties. I believe it will be a spirit-filled endeavor, that we will be nurtured by our participation in it, and that week-long mission trips are a wonderful spiritual experience and provide strong bonds among those in our community.





## THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop has been extremely successful since its reopening in August 2016 following massive alterations in the store. As of February of this year we were delighted to report that we had hit the One Hundred Thousand Dollar Mark! Obviously this is due to the generosity of donations from the community and our congregation, and the devotion and hard work of our volunteers.

We are also committed to outreach, and so far this year we have donated clothing to veterans, toys to the Westchester Exceptional Children's School, and prom dresses and accessories to a local high school.

We are looking forward to a successful second half of 2019.

*Dorothea Mangieri*



## SOMERS FOOD PANTRY AT SAINT LUKE'S

An old adage says, "charity begins at home." If this is true, the Town of Somers is a shining example.

Since its inception five years ago, the Somers Food Pantry at St. Luke's has been supported through the largesse of many groups and individuals in the town. This support has grown over time, and continues to do so. The Northeast Westchester Rotary Club has provided funds for the past five years to ensure the pantry remains well-stocked; the Knights of Columbus donates monthly. The Somers Women's Club is generous in their support; in the past two years the Somers Volunteer Fire Department has conducted a weekly food drive and provided generous monetary donations.

Local foodstores have kindly provided canned and packaged goods, frozen meats, and cakes. Acme and Stop & Shop are long-time contributors; Panera bread is here every Friday for our visitors.

In addition, many, many individuals have given unselfishly to ensure our ministry remains vital and active.

The Somers Food Pantry is a happy place, often filled with laughter, always filled with kindness and compassion. It is also a very busy place both on the church premises and in the community. Our ministry is also to generate support, and to keep the community informed.

### Recent Updates:

Volunteers Corinne Wynne and Kathryn Casella had an enjoyable and productive meeting with the Somers Lions Club, facilitated by John Currie. The Lions' overwhelming support includes a food drive at the Somers Independence Day Block Party on June 29<sup>th</sup> at the Sebastian Capital Campus. We urge all who are attending this event to please help.

Lincoln Hall has also offered support by offering produce from the Boys' Haven garden, which will be picked and delivered each Friday. This is wonderful, as fresh produce is in demand by our visitors, and difficult to obtain. Hopefully the association with Lincoln Hall will continue to develop; Father Mike is also in contact with the facility on behalf of St. Luke's.



*The Pantry is open every Friday from 2:30-4:00pm in the Undercroft. Call 914/248-5709 or the Church Office at 914/277-3122 for further info.*

*Kathi Casella*



## WARDENS' REPORT

Your wardens are happy to report that Saint Luke's continues to move in a positive direction this spring and early summer.

Although we are still admiring our gleaming, newly-painted church and shutters, Phase Two of our Bedel Grant begins soon, and will include the restoration of the undercroft entry and installation of a chair lift. We are also meeting with the Town for approval to either build a new wheelchair ramp or install a Vertical Lift on the right side of the church's front porch.

Following the completion of the steeple restoration, we still have approximately \$30,000 in our steeple fund/B&G Maintenance Fund to draw from for other needed repairs.

\*Recent maintenance: included repointing the Thrift Shop chimney for a fee of \$2200.

\*Immediate maintenance: replacement of the AC coil and compressor in the unit for undercroft and sanctuary, for which we are gathering quotes.

\*Additional 2019 projects collecting quotes include -

\*installation of new parking spaces for tenant and Thrift Shop

\*bring up to code classroom external door and keypad

We are working on an extended maintenance/restoration plan for the undercroft and other areas suggested by the parish.

Other positive notes include:

\*April 30<sup>th</sup> found us several thousand dollars ahead of budget predictions!

\*the Vestry has voted to make a monthly contribution of \$500 to our B&G Maintenance Fund.

\*Sunday attendance has been steadily climbing, with above-average attendance on Easter Sunday and Memorial Day Sunday.

\*we have a newly-formed Communications Team that is up and running! Check out the weekly posts on FB and Instagram.

Word is definitely out about how blessed we are to have found Fr. Mike! He is attracting new parishioners, while also reaching many of our former parishioners who are finding their way back to St. Luke's. We eagerly look forward to the months and years ahead and where the Lord and Fr. Mike's generous and loving spirit will guide us!

*Duanne Simon, Christian Sundahl*

## MAY PLANT SALE

This year we had the opportunity to use a new vendor for purchasing all our plants thanks to the help of Vestry member John Currie. All the plant stock came from Pennsylvania and arrived looking gorgeous, even in a downpour on delivery day! The perennials were spectacular and very reasonably priced, thus allowing us to sell them quite inexpensively. They were all sold in the first few days of the Sale, and we plan to get a larger group next year. The baskets were beautifully put together with a

great variety of strong, healthy plants; all sold by end of Sale.



We had tremendous support from many parishioners who volunteered more than once to staff the sale in three-hour intervals. This has always been a way to bring parishioners together and to know one another better. Ann Hansen did a fabulous job of recruiting and keeping track of the volunteers.

At the end of the Sale we had a few flats of plants left, but they were put to good use in our planters around the church grounds. We made a very tidy profit of over \$4300, the best we have done in the past few years. All in all the Plant Sale was a great success, and we would like to thank all of you who helped to make it so! Happy Planting to all!

*Helen Curtiss, Regina Davenport, Marion Comins*







Where we started



## BEDELL GRANT TRANSFORMS ST. LUKE'S

As most of you have noticed, St. Luke's has gone through an exterior resurrection over the last six months. This project is all thanks to the funds gifted us by St. Matthew's and the Bedell Fund. Over the last three months the church's exterior was sanded, primed, and painted. It also received five new pairs of shutters, two in the front, and three on the north side of the church. In addition, the undercroft stairwell and front steps were repaired and repointed, and recently the installation of our ramp was completed. Within the next month a chairlift into the undercroft will be installed, and our project will be complete.

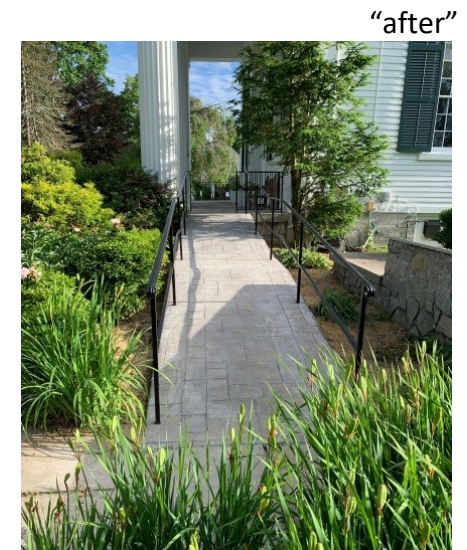
We are so blessed, and we want to thank the Bedell Committee for listening to our story and for seeing the potential that our congregation has under the guidance and leadership of Father Mike Watson.

*Joe Ciavardini*

Ramp to the church porch...



"before"



"after"



Painting in progress



Shutters replaced



Where we are now



The 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.

Current members: Doug Abdelnour, Graphics; Kathi Casella, Contributor; Angela DeSiena, Social Media; Ann Hanson, Contributor; Lynda Magrath, Editor; Janet Repman, Parish Office Liaison; Duanne Simon, Vestry Liaison; Fr. Mike Watson, *ex officio*

*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.*

### Saint Luke's Episcopal Church

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*The Rev'd* **Michael Watson**, *Priest-in-Charge*  
**Joyce Ottinger**, *Director of Music*  
**Lester Ottinger**, *Organist*  
**Janet Repman**, *Parish Administrator*  
**Debra Ramnarace**, *Bookkeeper*  
**Santos Cardona**, *Sexton*



### Saint Luke's Vestry

**Duanne Simon**, *Senior Warden*  
**Christian Sundahl**, *Junior Warden*  
**Denis Brathwaite**, *Treasurer*

#### Class of 2020:

Mike Basile  
Steve Siciliano  
Joe Ciavardini

#### Class of 2021:

John Currie  
Duanne Simon  
Sue Willis

#### Class of 2022:

Michelle Kessell  
Regina Davenport