

Newsletter
December 2009

St Luke's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



A church for all people

C *hristmas Services*

Our Christmas Eve liturgies this year will be at the following times on Thursday, December 24th:

5:00 PM Christmas Eve Children and Family Service
10:00 PM Christ Mass

L *ooking ahead to 2010*

Wait! Slow down! We have Thanksgiving, Christmas & the New Year's to prepare for! Don't distract us now – we've got meals to plan, travel arrangements to make, houses to decorate and crafts to create. Not to mention jobs to do, houses to clean, kids to supervise, etc. etc. etc.

But that's exactly what I mean to do. I need you to take some time to think ahead, to reflect on your participation in your Church in the year to come. So go grab yourself a cup of coffee, settle back in your chair, and spend a moment with me if you will.

Contrary to my previously uninformed understanding of the Church and how it oper-

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Service and Program Schedule*Sunday*

Holy Eucharist	Nave	8:00 AM
Holy Eucharist	Nave	10:30 AM
Godly Play	St. Timothy's Chapel	10:15 AM
Childcare Nursery	Pritchard Hall	9 AM-12 noon

Wednesday

Vesper Mass	Nave	6 PM
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Staff

Denise Bamba	Childcare Attendant	253-254-3530
Kevin D. Pearson	Rector	425-255-3323
	Pastoral Emergency	206-954-1026
Rich Pellegrin	Director of Music	330-671-3773
German Vergara	Administrator	425-894-4411

Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 1 PM-5 PM

Fr. Kevin is available for appointments Tuesday through Thursday

Vestry and Officers

Linda Bakan	Endowment	Kate Martin	Treasurer
Chris Cornuelle		Lynette Mwaniki	Parish Life
Phil Cummings	Stewardship:	Kevin Pearson	Rector
	Endowment	Billy Ray	Evangelism
	Finance	Dan Springer	Junior Warden
Nicole Freutel	Senior Warden		B & G
	Parish Life	Soren Sorenson	Evangelism
	Education	Julie Stormes	Clerk
Sarah Lorenzen	Parish Life	Karen Uitting	B & G

ates, the institution that is St. Luke's doesn't just happen. For every decoration that adorns the altar, to every piece of music produced by Rich & the choir, for every drop of coffee consumed after the Sunday service, there are people taking the time to purchase, organize, clean, shop, cook, practice, and prepare. Let me say that again: Church doesn't just happen.

Each aspect of community & ministry has wide involvement of, or is developed and guided, by groups of volunteers from within the congregation. Sure we have a Rector who performs his ministry toward us and on our behalf and who provides guidance & leadership to the organization as a whole. We also have the Vestry whose members take fiduciary responsibility for the Church in addition to taking leadership roles within the organization. **But it takes all of us to be St. Luke's ministry—to be the hands and hearts, the leaders and disciples of the Church. And as your Senior Warden, I am calling you to step forward in a number of ways so that we be the best that God calls us to be.**

Operating Budget: Each fall St. Luke's holds a Stewardship Campaign. The money pledged by the congregation during that campaign provides a framework for St. Luke's mission in the coming calendar year. When pledges are low &/or few in number then everyone's energy turns to finding ways to pay the salaries of the staff and to keep the lights on. When pledges are generous & plentiful then we are free to focus our energy on those areas of ministry that call to us: supporting our music program, educating our children, working to support people in our community, etc.

The total 2009 budget was set at \$197,000, \$118,000 of which was pledged support. The remainder came from endowment proceeds, fund-raising, and funds from other sources. At this point pledges for the 2010 calendar year are around \$80,000. It's a good start, but we need to match last year's income level if hope to maintain our current program.

The vestry will be working hard in the coming weeks to develop a budget that we can live with in 2010. What sort of Church do we want to be together in the coming year? What aspects of our worship and outreach are most valuable to you? Are we contributing “first fruits”, or the scraps? Can we do better? What value do you place on being part of a Church that is thriving, participatory, and active in its calling?

If you haven't already made your pledge for 2010, please take a moment this Sunday to do so.

If you're curious about setting up an automatic disbursement through your financial institution (it's quick and painless) come talk to me or anyone else on the Vestry. We'd be happy to assist you. If you've already made your pledge, I thank you.

Calls to Ministry: I spoke earlier about the groups of volunteers who continually strive to provide a meaningful and beautiful worship & ministry experiences here at St. Luke's. The energy for ministry comes from each of us. Avid gardeners joined folks interested in food justice and created a beautiful garden to benefit the congregation and our community. Those who can hold 2 notes together provide music to enhance our Sunday service. Those with a knack for numbers provide a few hours each month to ensure that our finances are managed appropriately. Those who feel a call to service support our community through assisting with ARISE and Martha & Mary's Pantry. The flow of ministry goes on and on. My point is this – there is a lot going on around St. Luke's and it's likely that all of our knowledge, skills & abilities are in high demand.

I have repeatedly heard the argument that “That's my day job – I come to St. Luke's to worship”. Hmm. That's true. And ... can we make the argument that you were given certain abilities for a reason? The skills that provide your livelihood and the passions of your heart might also strengthen and improve your

church?

We will be electing 3 new Vestry members at the Annual Meeting. Additionally, there are ways to participate in just about any aspect of church life that you can imagine. Please consider where your gifts lie and consider how you might be called to serve.

Folks with an appreciation for &/or experience with the following are in high demand:

- Fund-raising
- Finance
- Marketing
- Media (blogging, website management, social networking, twitter, etc)
- Teaching
- Gardening
- Outreach
- Pastoral Care
- Greeter and Newcomer Ministries
- Sunday worship ministries

The annual meeting is coming. Scheduled for the second Sunday in January, this year's annual meeting will be January 10th, 2010. The Annual Meeting is where the elected representatives of the church – the Vestry – stand with the Rector to report on how St. Luke's is doing financially & in terms of meeting our mission and goals. Our success in meeting those goals is directly dependent on the energy of the congregation, and the willingness of people like you to step up and contribute your knowledge, skills & abilities for the good of St. Luke's.

What I'm trying to say is that we're a team. We partner together to create the institution we are called to be. The Annual Meeting is where we hold each other accountable for decisions we've made in the past, and where we chart our course for the

future. And I am calling on you to be a part of that future in a bold and beautiful way.

Niki Freutel, Senior Warden

The Return of the Wishlist

In times past, we have regularly posted items we need at St. Luke's in hopes that someone is able to fill that need. Sometimes the need is for something that you may have that has fallen into disuse, other times there is a specific item we need to purchase, or have had to purchase. Please call the parish office or email us at info@stlukesrenton.org if you are able to respond to the following needs:

- Fr. Kevin's church computer failed last week and had to be replaced. There is an outstanding cost of \$327.
- We also hope to update another office computer and need a power component that will cost \$50. in addition to already- donated parts and labor.
- A solid wood coffee table (no glass) for the Bride's Room/ Children's Room in the Guild Hall.
- A love seat or couch for the rector's counseling office in Pritchard Hall (this is a design-specific request, please send photo or speak to Fr. Kevin).

Renton Food Bank

Although we are encouraged to donate to the food bin all year round (as much as we are able), I would like to make use of the Season of Giving to offer some gentle pointers on how to make sure that our giving might be best received by those who need it.

Remember to donate items that can have a long shelf life. Donated food sometimes sits on the shelf for weeks or even months. That lovely loaf of bread or bag of bananas will not be so lovely after a couple of weeks. Not only will it be thrown away but it may contaminate other foods that sat next to them.

Please no glass containers! Transporting the food from place to place can sometimes involve a bumpy ride. Broken or cracked jars can ruin a whole box of food items and can cause a safety hazard for the food handlers. Cans and boxes make the best containers for travel.

Check the expiration date on the items you choose to donate. If it has been in your cupboard too long for you to feel safe to serve to your own family, then don't give it to another family. Kindly compost the contents and recycle the container. Remember, we are giving from our hearts, not passing on unusable items.

Give food that is nourishing. Sometimes, a family who receives a box of donated food will use one or two items from the box to feed the family for a whole day because they do not know when they will get more food. It is best if **all** the items can be used for nourishment (such as a can of stew or a box of macaroni and cheese.)

I was once in a situation where I relied on donated food to get through the month. Although I was very grateful for the help, once I received a cardboard box that had several expired items, some very low-nutrition food (three cans of olives), and a cracked jar of preserves that leaked into a box of pasta. Only about half of the contents of the box were left to feed my children and myself.

It was not all a disappointment, however. The large cans of family-sized meals included were much appreciated. I was also very grateful for a container of baby formula (my youngest was

still quite small). A package of pasta and a box of potato mix were treasured because I was able to work those into several meals. Cans of fruit made nutrition a treat for the kids.

A bonus item that came from the heart of an anonymous giver was a can of cat food. I was very moved that somebody thought of the beloved furry addition to my family. Because of that, I sometimes buy cans of pet food to donate.

St. Luke's is A Church For All People. This is not only for the people who walk through the doors of the church, but for everyone who is touched by us when we follow Christ. Let's remember this as we give with our hearts to those who need our help the most.

Julie Abraham

ARISE at St. Luke's December 2009

Dear Friends of ARISE . . . we will be hosting ARISE at St. Luke's for the month of December. St. Stephen the Martyr Roman Catholic Church will be providing meals and St. Luke's will be backing them up for as many as 7 days.

As hosts our responsibilities will include one of us opening the kitchen door at 8:30 p.m. (this might be requested a bit earlier in special circumstances) and just being there to help the folks from St. Stephen's in answering questions, locating the refrigerator, off limits areas, turning on lights, garbage bags, where are the serving pieces, etc. The Site Manager will be in charge of the men and letting them in at 9:00 or whenever he arrives.

We will be using church everyday china plates and washing the dishes in the dishwasher for reasons of health as well as economy and being a green community. Each of us will be trained in using the dishwasher and that will be part of our job. The men can put the dishes away and we will have a cost saving for paper plates.

We will supervise the cleanup in the kitchen and tell the men where to put the garbage. The support teams will begin clearing the tables at 9:30 and we can go as soon as the dishwasher is finished. Ten o'clock would be our departure time.

I feel that everyone will be more comfortable with our presence and knowledge of the facility while the various support teams are here.

Please consider offering your services for several evenings in December. The more volunteers we have the fewer nights each of us has to be here. I will be glad to create a schedule and plug you in for as many nights as you are able to participate. This can be a very flexible operation and we can switch around for our own convenience. No cooking required, unless you want to participate on one of the cooking and prep teams as well.

Please call me and tell me you would like to be a part of the December ARISE program. (425) 228-1871 or sckat4@msn.com.

Sally Cummings

I s ***ARISE on your Christmas List?***

Friends of ARISE, we are in need of funds to pay the church community's share of the matching funds they are committed to each year to help manage and supervise the program. The church community is responsible for a minimum of \$13,000 for the year, July 09-June 2010. By church community I mean ALL the churches and church people in the Renton-Kent area, not just St. Luke's. Through October only \$1,300 had been received.

I would like to suggest that you put ARISE on your Christmas List to be a recipient of a portion of that commitment. It wouldn't be very much per person to help make up this amount and reach our goal. Please consider this as you do your Christmas shopping.

Sally Cummings

C *hurch of Mary Magdalene*

A giving tree has been set up at the back of the church with gift tags on it for Mary Magdalene Seattle Women's Day Shelter. Please take a tag and return the item requested on the tag by December 6th, 2009.

Gift tags include requests for \$15 for shoes for the women. Other gift tags are available to help the women give gifts to their children and for the children to give gifts to Mom. Please do not wrap these as the women/children will be allowed to choose what they would like to give. Please do however, attach the tag to the gift.

Cathy Springer

K *itchen elves hit St. Luke's food service department!*

Magically appearing were a microwave, hot pot for tea water, dividers in the shelves and drawers, new purple (just in time for Advent) dish drainers and other items too numerous to mention. The kitchen is now in tip top shape and one hopes it will stay the same. No indication of whom these elves were but the DNA points in the direction of a pair of sisters who are long time members of St. Luke's. Thank God for elves, sisters and caring parishioners!

Sally Cummings

Treasurer's Report.

In an effort to keep the parish informed about our parish finances, we provide a brief report in each *Newsletter*. If you have further questions you may contact our Treasurer, Kate Martin k8martinwa@yahoo.com, 206-919-6212, or Phil Cummings disastergold@comcast.net, 206-353-3908.

Please note that monthly expenses are budgeted at 1/12 of the total year's expenses, though costs are rarely uniform each month. Some variance is to be expected.

Annual Budget	197,409.00
October Income	25,415.15
October Expenses	18,105.31

We have not yet closed the gap between expected income and expected expenses—a gap of approximately \$20,000.

Phil Cummings, *Assistant Treasurer*

Annual Meeting—And Notice of Proposed Constitution and By-Law Change

St. Luke's Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for January 10, 2010. At its October meeting, your vestry voted to place the congregation a vote to amend the number of vestry members from 12 to 9. St. Luke's *Articles of Incorporation* state the number of vestry members are to be between three and fifteen, they establish 12 as the originating number, and call for a majority vote at the Annual Parish Meeting to amend that number.

Over the past several years, reducing the number of people who serve on the vestry has been a topic of considerable vestry conversation (and no little passion among our Senior wardens).

12 vestry members has often felt like too large of a group to serve as a *leadership body* in a day when we are calling all members to be active in ministry. Vestry service is a demanding responsibility and our current configuration requires twelve persons serving plus the rector, when we could well—and perhaps more effectively—function with a smaller number.

The change suggested would be to move to 3, staggered, 3-year terms, thus maintaining the continuity of years so important to effective leadership.

The change, if approved by a majority of eligible voters, would be made both in our *Articles of Incorporation* and in our *Parish By-Laws*.

December Birthdays



12/04	Faye Dorsey
12/06	Bill Flora
12/12	David Howland
12/16	Lee Cummings
12/26	Cathy Springer

*If your birthday isn't listed, please help us update our records.
Call the parish office at 425-255-3323.*

Education Newsletter



December, 2009

December teaching schedule:

	Dec 6, 2009	Dec 13, 2009	Dec 20, 2009	Dec 27, 2009
School Age Storyteller	Kids in Church	Yvonne Burgess	Yvonne Burgess	Kids in Church
School Age Gatekeeper	Kids in Church	Cathy or Dan Springer	Chris Corneuelle	Kids in Church
Pre School Storyteller	Kids in Church	Niki Freutel	Niki Freutel	Kids in Church
Pre School Gatekeeper	Kids in Church	Jaime Cardenas or Michelle Habell	German Vergara or Paige Nguyen	Kids in Church

Greetings & Salutations!

The Education Committee is thrilled to announce that we will be producing A Children's Liturgy for Christmas Eve! Created by Jerome Berryman (Godly Play founder) this presentation features the reading of the Nativity Story punctuated by beloved Christmas hymns. Families play a critical role in this service, and we will be providing more details on the actual production as we get closer to the date: December 24th. 5 PM.

Remember to check your box in St. Tim's each week: this is where we distribute teaching schedules, Lesson Plans, training opportunities and various information related to our program.

If you have a conflict with your teaching assignment please try to swap days with one of the other parents. If you can't find a sub, please contact Niki Freutel (preschool) or Yvonne Burgess (school age) ASAP.

J2A News: This fall St. Luke's young adult program (Middle & High School age) began meeting every other week at 9:30am downstairs in Prichard Hall. We are studying the bible and gospel readings for the day in order to better understand the liturgy of the word. We are taking time to reflect on our life in Christ, as well as examining how we

establish and maintain a relationship with God. In the near future, we will be embracing community service projects, and you will also see St. Luke's youth taking an active role in the liturgy on the first Sunday of each month.

Wishlist: there are materials for several lessons we would like to purchase (the Books of the Bible Enrichment Lesson & the Parable of the Good Shepherd). If you are willing to donate funds towards this or for training of our volunteers, please make your check payable to St. Luke's with a note in the memo box specifying "Education - materials or training".

Vestry Liaisons:

Niki Freutel - Godly Play Programming; Sarah Lorenzen - J2A; Lynette Mwaniki - Adult Programming

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

December 2009

December 2009							January 2010								
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
48		1	2	3	4	5	52					1	2		
49	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
50	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	2	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
51	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	3	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
52	27	28	29	30	31			4	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
								5	31						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		December 1	2	3	4	5	
		ARISE					
		10:00am Lakeshore Service 7:00pm AA 7:00pm Alanon (Spanish)	6:00pm Vesper Mass 7:00pm Finance Comm 7:00pm PFLAG	7:30pm Alanon		10:00am Alanon 8:00pm 12-Step Program	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
ARISE							
8:00am Holy Eucharist 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 10:15am Godly Play 10:30am Holy Eucharist	7:00pm Alanon 7:00pm Buildings & Grounds	7:00pm AA 7:00pm Alanon (Spanish)	10:30am AIDS Care Managers 6:00pm Vesper Mass 6:30pm Vestry	7:30pm Alanon	6:00pm Family Night	10:00am Alanon 8:00pm 12-Step Program	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
ARISE							
8:00am Holy Eucharist 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 10:15am Godly Play 10:30am Holy Eucharist 4:00pm "Sing for your Supper"	7:00pm Alanon	10:00am Lakeshore Service 7:00pm AA 7:00pm Alanon (Spanish)	6:00pm Vesper Mass	7:30pm Alanon		10:00am Alanon 8:00pm 12-Step Program	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
ARISE							
8:00am Holy Eucharist 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 10:15am Godly Play 10:30am Holy Eucharist	7:00pm Alanon	7:00pm AA 7:00pm Alanon (Spanish)	6:00pm Vesper Mass	Chritmast Eve 5:00pm Christmas Eve Children and Family Service 7:30pm Alanon 10:00pm Christ Mass		10:00am Alanon 8:00pm 12-Step Program	
27	28	29	30	31			
ARISE							
8:00am Holy Eucharist 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 10:15am Godly Play 10:30am Holy Eucharist	7:00pm Alanon	7:00pm AA 7:00pm Alanon (Spanish)	6:00pm Vesper Mass	7:30pm Alanon			