



STL ACTS OF FAITH
The Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

May, 2011

The Bishop is coming!

People ask me, "What do Episcopalians believe about _____?" I usually respond that Episcopalians are less defined by our peculiar beliefs or doctrines and more by our practices. We follow in the faith and traditions of the early Christian apostles. The early church appointed certain "overseers" or "bishops" to lead and guide them in their faith. The Greek word for such a person is "episkopos," from which we get our name, "Episcopal." We are a church with a core practice of following the leadership of our bishops. We believe our bishops are ordained in accordance with ancient tradition all the way back to Jesus' followers. So if you ask me what Episcopalians believe, I might be inclined to say, "let me ask a bishop."

I am not only referring to one person's opinion. The bishop is an office, a sign of leadership and unity. Bishops are pastors, responsible for overseeing and caring for the larger church. We at St. Luke's are one parish, one part of a larger "flock." A bishop represents our tie to a network of faith. This network links many people from the present and the past (going back nearly two thousand years). When I say "let me ask a bishop," I am saying, "before I answer that question, let me remember that I am part of a web of faith relationships." At St. Luke's we are fortunate to have the Rt. Rev. Robert "Bob" Johnson as a parishioner and rector emeritus. The presence of a bishop, even a retired one, among us is a constant reminder of our wider connections.

Our Diocesan Bishop, the Right Reverend Michael B. Curry, visits St. Luke's on May 8. The Diocesan Bishop visits each parish and mission within the diocese on a regular basis.

Our diocese is so large, Bishop Curry has two other bishops, Bishop Gregg and Bishop Marble, who assist him with these official visits. It has been two and a half years since Bishop Curry was here in this capacity, so it is a special occasion. He will preach and celebrate at the 10:30 service and lead a discussion during the Christian formation hour at 9:20 (unfortunately, he will likely not be able to join us for the 8:00 service). He will baptize a child. He will confirm and receive persons into the Episcopal faith by placing hands on their heads, a sign of the Holy Spirit strengthening them in their faith. The bishop will attend a reception after the service and then meet with our vestry.

We are honored to receive Bishop Curry, not only because he is a delightful and gifted person (he is often referred to as one of the best preachers in the nation). He and alal bishops represent our connection with the wider Episcopal family. His presence among us signifies that we are not alone, that we stand with many brothers and sisters across North Carolina and across the world. In these times when individualism is so prevalent, a bishop reminds us that greater strength comes when people bind themselves to God and one another. I hope you will be able to join Bishop Curry and your St. Luke's family on Sunday, May 8.

Joe Hensley

The Rev. Joe Hensley

Diocesan Response to Tornado Damage

Bishop Curry has appointed the Rev. Michael Hunn as Diocesan Disaster Relief Coordinator. Look at the Diocesan website for up-to-date information about where to donate time and money to aid victims of the recent tornados in April in Central North Carolina. www.episcionc.org or call the Diocesan office at 919-834-7474.

Youth Sunday is May 1

The youth will lead the 10:30 a.m. service in as many ways as possible. Three of our older high school students will preach at both 8 and 10:30 a.m. We will also honor our graduating high school seniors.

Bishop Curry ordains Roxane Gwyn, former St. Luke's intern, on May 8

After he visits St. Luke's, Bishop Curry will drive to Trinity Episcopal Church in Fuquay-Varina, where he will ordain the Rev. Roxane Gwyn to the priesthood. Roxane was at St. Luke's in 2007-2008 as an early part of her ordination process. The ordination will be at 5:00. For more information contact Trinity Church at 919.552-1056 or www.trinityfuquay.org. If you want to carpool, contact Joe Hensley.

Adult Christian Formation

Adult Christian Formation classes meet each Sunday morning from 9:20 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. for fellowship, learning, and renewal.

May 1: No Sunday morning Adult Christian Formation classes.

Easter Season Series: Our own Bishop Curry will be visiting on the Second Sunday after Easter, May 8, and we are anticipating his usual inspiring teaching. Beginning on Sunday, **May 15** we will begin an exploration of various aspects of Hope through Outreach: What Does Hope Look Like When You Have "Hit Bottom", especially in our own community? Martin Fowler from St. Philip's

will join us for a discussion of their vibrant and long-standing prison ministry to inmates in the Durham County Jail. On **May 22** we will hear from Terry Allebaugh of Housing for New Hope, a nonprofit organization established in 1992 that serves the needs of homeless individuals and those at risk of homelessness in Durham and Orange Counties. The **May 29** speaker is still to be confirmed. **June 5** we'll move in a slightly different direction with "Living Prepared", a presentation by Renee Weisner. Renee suggests that now is the time to do a little spring cleaning with essential documents to ensure that your wishes are met at the end of life. Renee will share tips on important documents - how to keep them in order, and how to replace lost documents of loved ones. She will also discuss the importance of living wills and choosing a health care power-of-attorney. Renee not only shares her experience from working at Duke's Geriatric Evaluation and Treatment Clinic at Duke Medical Center for 20 years but also her personal experience with her mother's illness and subsequent sudden death.

Looking Ahead: It's time to think about summer book reading in anticipation for our early fall book discussions. Sign-up sheets will be out in May. If you have a specific book you would like to recommend to the Adult Christian Formation Committee for inclusion in the list of options for reading, please contact any of the members of the committee.

Farewell to Joe Lenow

For nearly three years, Joe Lenow has been a regular part of our life at St. Luke's. For the past eight months, Joe has been our Divinity School intern and has been heavily involved in teaching, youth ministry, liturgy and pastoral care. Joe graduates from Duke Divinity this month and heads to Charlottesville, VA for a PhD program this Fall. Thank you, Joe, for your faithful presence and service to God among us.

**Vacation Bible School:
"Healing A Hurting World",**

June 12 – June 16, 5:45 – 8 p.m.

Our annual VBS for all ages will begin each evening with dinner together in Johnson Hall, then divide into age-appropriate groups for discussions and activities, and conclude by gathering together again for closing worship.

We will continue the Easter series theme of Hope by exploring our individual and collective responses to the pain in the world around us. Look for registration forms in the Sprague Room in May.

Youth Events in May

EYC (Episcopal Youth Community) is open to 6th -12th graders. Parents and youth can keep up with youth events by getting on our email list (write to assistant-rector @stlukes-durham.org). Youth, join our facebook group. Contact Joe Hensley or Erich Hoffmann to be added to the group.

May 1: Youth Sunday. EYC at 4:00. Confirmation class at 6:00

May 8: Youth confirmations at the 10:30 service. Mother's Day: No EYC. Honor your mother!

May 15: Sunday school 9:20. No EYC

May 22: Sunday school 9:20. EYC 4-6

May 29: Sunday school 9:20. EYC 4-6

June 5: End of the year lunch after church. More details coming.

Youth Group Mission Trip: June 24-30

All youth in grades 6 through 12 (including graduating seniors) are invited to join us for a mission trip to Eastern NC in June. We will feed the hungry by gleaning fields and distributing food near Wilmington. Then we will camp at Hammock's Beach State Park for a couple of days and assist with wildlife habitat restoration. Then we will spend a night at the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry in Newton Grove and visit farmworker camps. Registration forms are available in the Sprague Room. Please see Joe Hensley with any questions. We would like youth to sign up no later than May 15.

Pastor Anne's Mission Trip

As you may know, our rector Anne Hodges-Copple plans to travel to visit Father Joseph Taban Lasuba in Sudan, this coming July (if it is safe to do so). Father Joseph served St. Luke's as a visiting priest in 2009-2010 while studying at Duke Divinity School. Father Joseph invited Anne to visit before he left with hopes she could come and share time with women ministers in Sudan who often experience very difficult working conditions. As Anne wrote before she left, "I feel called to go and just listen to them, listen for the Holy Spirit and wonder if I might find some ways that Episcopal women in the US might be in some kind of partnership with Episcopal women in the new Sudan." Anne would accompany the Rev. Dr. Jo Bailey Wells, who makes annual trips to Sudan to support and build ties with the Episcopal Church there.

The costs of travel to Sudan are not included in St. Luke's 2011 budget, and therefore Anne will be personally responsible for these costs. We, the people of St. Luke's, value our connection with Father Joseph and the Episcopal Church of Sudan. We also value our Rector. She will not only represent us in Sudan; she will share her experiences to encourage us in faith. Therefore, I'm asking that those who are able to please make a special contribution to support this mission trip. Your support will foster a special connection between two churches and their parishioners, which hopefully will become ever more meaningful with time.

Thank you very much for your consideration. Checks can be made to "St. Luke's" with "Sudan mission" in the memo line.

Bill Gutknecht
Senior Warden

**Episcopal Church Women
Wednesday, May 18, 11:30 a.m.**

The ECW May meeting will be on May 18. We will meet at Papa's Grill at Loehman's Shopping Center at 11:30 a.m. for the end of the year luncheon. I hope all can come. Please let Phoebe Brinskelle (477-1413) or Joyce Avery (477-6047) know if you are planning to attend. If anyone needs a ride please also let us know.

Officers for the next season will be:

- President – Phoebe Brinskelle
- Vice President – Joyce Avery
- Treasurer – May Bailey
- Secretary – Wynn Cherry
- Devotionals – Sarah K. Taylor

St. Luke's Men's Fellowship

St. Luke's Men's Fellowship Breakfast will meet on the 4th Thursday, May 26, at 7 a.m. in Johnson Hall. Bring food to share if you can. We will have informal conversation followed by a brief devotional and Bible reflection. All men welcome.

Men's Group outing to see the Bulls

The St. Luke's Men's Group invites all men in the parish to join us for an evening of fun at the DBAP on Thursday, May 19 at 7:05 p.m. Tickets are \$8.00 each. Please sign up in the Sprague Room and pay by May 8, so that we can purchase our tickets together. You may pay either with cash or with a check written to St. Luke's with "Men's Group / Bulls" on the memo line. Contact Bob Moore (remoore@alumni.rice.edu) for more information.

Financial Update

March	YTD
Income	
\$34,080.52	\$130,628.52
Expenses	
\$30,239.32	\$102,689.16

Financial Update on May 22nd

Please join your Treasurer, Hope Galunas, for an update regarding St. Luke's financial status. The meeting will be held after each service on May 22nd at 9 and 11:30 in the Johnson Hall classroom. Bring your coffee and snacks from the Sprague Room and any and all questions! We want to ensure everyone is as informed as possible.

Vestry Report

The Vestry meeting of April 11th opened with a prayer followed by approval of the minutes of the March 14th meeting. Monthly reports from the Clergy, Vestry officers, and various committee chairs were reviewed and discussed as necessary.

In an effort to maintain our recently improved grounds, the Vestry approved a new contract with Sands Landscape Management, Inc., which includes cutting the additional grass, trimming bushes and trees, and mulching. Paul Stirrup serves as St. Luke's contact with this company. Junior Warden, Scott Chapman, will lead a group to perform other needed tasks such as watering of the new plantings. Pastor Joe strongly encouraged attendance at Holy Week services. Deacon, Jan Lamb, and the Outreach Committee have started St. Luke's "Nets for Life" campaign. John Wyman and Jim Hooker will take the lead in evaluating St. Luke's current telecommunications systems. Plans were made for the Bishop's visit on May 8th.

Pastor Joe then led a presentation of reports from those responsible for the "very important opportunities" we have as we follow Bishop Curry's challenge to "go to Galilee." Progress is being made on each of some 12 different opportunities ranging from reaching out to those who seem to "disappear" from church, to new Parish life activities such as picnics, to being more proactive in taking care of our senior parishioners.

Bill Gutknecht, Senior Warden

Third Sunday Lunch

If you would like to have a time of food and fellowship, come join the Third Sunday Lunch Group. Just show up in the Sprague Room after the 10:30 a.m. service and after a brief time of socializing, we will decide where to go and proceed to a local restaurant. Come join us on May 15.



The adult choir, St. Cecilia Children's Choirs, and our other musicians had a great time preparing and presenting the music for Easter Sunday! We hope that you were blessed and that the trumpet, violin, organ, vocal and choral music contributed to your joyful celebration of the Resurrection. A huge thank you to all who participated! A huge thanks, also, to Kathy Barnes for her careful attention to all the music in the bulletins throughout Holy Week – a lot of extra work which she handled with her characteristic aplomb. Thanks, too, to the adult choir for being a part of the Maundy Thursday and Easter Vigil services. They are a dedicated group of singers who take their commitment to this ministry seriously. And our appreciation to our "guest" musicians on Easter, Cathy Rimer-Surles and Ken Morehead; we are always so happy to have them with us.

I am very pleased with the progress of the St. Cecilia Choir. We recently added Iris Newlin to our musical ranks (many of you know that Iris was baptized at the Easter Vigil) and she earned her RSCM medal and white ribbon and cotta in mid-April. We would love to have more children in this Royal School of Church Music choir! Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 4-4:45 and consist not only of singing, but a variety of important teaching: music

theory, ear training, using the hymnal, music in the liturgy and church year, music history, and other relevant areas. We are beginning our first song in Latin this month. The children are very enthusiastic about choir, and not only rehearse and sing together, but enjoy each other's company a great deal. We are planning a social outing for the choir, and some fun and educational activity this summer. Your child can join us anytime, s/he does not have to wait until the fall. Current St. Cecilia choristers are: Tatiana Edmiston, Torrey Edmiston, Lucy Hensley, Iris Newlin and Tomas Rimer-Surles. Don't miss this educational, rewarding opportunity for your child!

When Bishop Curry comes to visit May 8, we hope you will help us "raise the roof" with our singing that day! The congregation does seem to be joining in more enthusiastically on the hymns more and more, which is a blessing at the liturgy. Don't be shy about singing out, even if the "quiet" acoustics make you feel as though you are singing by yourself -- of course you aren't! When the whole congregation joins together, all voices blend in one great sound that raises the worship experience to an even more jubilant level. If you have specific hymns, songs or other selections you would like to suggest, always feel free to do so.

The music at St. Luke's usually undergoes some changes over the summer. The choir still participates to a degree, but there is also opportunity for instrumental and vocal solos and small ensembles to play and sing on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in taking part in this, please contact me so that we can get you on the summer music schedule. Also, summer is a great time to sing with the choir and see if this is a ministry you would like to join. Our rehearsals in the summer are only on Sunday mornings, not Wednesdays, so the schedule is lighter. Come try us on for size! You might get hooked and want to be a part of this group of intelligent, talented, savvy folks. All are welcome.

Faithfully, Kaye Saunders,
Music Director

Outdoor Eucharist at the Eno on May 28 at 5:00 p.m.

Come experience the grace of worshipping in God's creation. We may not think about it much, but Jesus spent a lot of time outside and prayed outdoors often (remember the sermon on the "mount"?). We will gather at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 28, in a central meeting place at Eno River State Park and walk a short distance to where we will hold a Eucharist service (watch the bulletin and website for more details). If you like, stay after the service and bring a picnic. This service, like all our services, is open to everyone, so share the good news with others.

Share the good news about St. Luke's Preschool and Kindergarten

We still have some openings for the fall at the school, especially in the younger classes and kindergarten. Please help St. Luke's School by telling families with young children about our wonderful school, which continues to be a significant part of outreach at St. Luke's. Literally thousands of lives have been touched. The school celebrates its 50th anniversary this fall.

Come and support the school scholarship fund by eating at Chick-Fil-A on Roxboro Road on Monday, May 23, 5-8 p.m. Vouchers may be picked up at the church office or the school building.

Practice the art of hospitality: help with receptions

You may have noticed that there will be a reception when Bishop Curry visits on May 8. What is often unnoticed is the amazing work that goes on behind the scenes when we have such receptions several times a year. Our receptions ministry, led by Laura Danes, prepares and serves the food and drink and then cleans up afterwards. This ministry needs new volunteers (and help is needed for the Bishop's reception). If you are drawn to the sacred work of hospitality, please contact Laura at hop.to.it@frontier.com.

– The Rev. Joe Hensley

UTO Ingathering

The UTO (United Thank Offering) will be collected on Sunday, May 15. It is a personal and family devotional program of the Episcopal Church. It is the sum of our daily thanks for the blessings in our everyday lives – for sunny days, for needed rains, for good friends, support in times of trouble, and unexpected joys. There are so many things for which we can be thankful. At the very least, we can be thankful to God who loves us. Pause, think back over your day, thank God for your blessings and put a coin in your Blue Box. Twice a year you are asked to bring the amount of your thanksgivings for the ingathering, where it is combined with the offerings of thousands of other Episcopalians to become the UTO.

The UTO is not just women's work. It is an organization founded by women in 1889 and originally supportive of women missionaries. It has become a worldwide effort to aid in ministry for compelling needs – for men, women and children throughout the world. It is a way for each person to express thanks to God, united with other Episcopalians, by offering prayers and money that reach around the world.

May Bailey

Could you give someone a ride to church?

St. Luke's says "all are welcome" to worship with us. But what if you can't drive? For a long time, a few St. Lukers have been quietly and faithfully providing rides to church to handicapped and elderly persons. We need a few more persons to be on our call list when our regular drivers are unavailable. If you could help, please contact the Rev. Joe Hensley at the church office (286-2273, assist-ant-rector@stlukesdurham.org) or Vestry member, Valleri Callahan, (309-1204, vcallahan@nc.rr.com). Thank you.

Change of Address

Even though our Parish Handbook is brand new, we already have some changes. Please jot them down today.

Judith Stallings
3741 Sunset Ave. Apt. C5
Rocky Mount, NC 27804

Robert and Rita Weimer
131 Essex Dr.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Bulletin Board

The deadline for the June newsletter will be May 15.

Calling all Graduates

If you are graduating from High School or College, please contact the church office at 286-2273 or parish-admin@stlukesdurham.org

God bless you!

Prohibitions against prayer are now common in most public school graduations. But some students at a high school in Washington, Illinois, came up with a way around the ban.

Ryan Brown, a graduate scheduled to speak, paused to bow in silent prayer as he approached the podium. Moments later, with all eyes on him, Brown faked a sneeze. In response, a handful of his friends shouted, "God bless you!"



We're Proud of You!

Thank you's

Thank you so much for everyone's prayers and kind letters during my surgery and recovery. I'm feeling better with each passing day. Ryan and I are truly blessed to have such a caring church family behind us. I hope we will be able to find a parish as warm and welcoming in Oklahoma. I will miss many things about St. Luke's, but I will miss the people most of all!

Thank you again,
Ryan and Tori (Callahan) Belanger

Holy Week is a busy time—even more than Christmas. Many thanks to the following Altar Guild members who helped us with the many services: Hope Galunas, Valleri Callahan, Phoebe Brinskelle, Denise Beaver, and special thanks to Monnie Riggin for the lilies on the processional crosses, Jean Willard who polished all the brass and silver and to my co-chair, Cindy Henry, for all her help.

Anetta Annis

AND, a special thanks to Anetta Annis for her time and dedication to the Altar Guild.



How many Easter Eggs did you find?

Parish Register

We pray for those who have died: Bertha Pomar, sister of Jim Shreve; Howard Helmle, brother-in-law of Bill Gutknecht; Bettye Smith.

We welcome those baptized at the Easter Vigil: Harrison James Hendrix, son of Brian and Morgan Hendrix, grandson of Bobbie Hendrix and great grandson of Mary Miller and Jack McGee; Anson Louise Lee and Evan Bernard Lee, children of Matthew and Katherine Lee and grandchildren of Keith and Regina Kronmiller; Iris June Newlin, daughter of Jon Newlin and Amy Davis; and Sophia Grace Ray, daughter of Jason and Sarah Ray, granddaughter of Kennon Taylor and great granddaughter of Ken and Sarah Taylor.

We give thanks and pray for those having birthdays during the month of May.

- 1 - Scott Chapman, Martha Lassiter
- 2 - Karen Gray
- 3 - Joe Veasey, Charlie Wescott
- 4 - Neil O'Toole
- 5 - Mary Jane Moore
- 6 - Joe Clark, Jia Brooks

- 7 - Alexandra Kretz, James Anderson
- 8 - Kim Schwantes
- 9 - Lizbeth Videau, Debbie Carter, Colby Kulenic
- 10 - Fran Wescott
- 11 - Van Blalock, Carline Babb
- 12 - Andy McDaniel, Keith Haynie
- 13 - Dot Borden
- 14 - Jean Carter, Andy Porcelli, Jean Wipperman, Debbie Stonehouse
- 16 - Barbara Buschman, Nick Hoffmann, Tomas Rimer-Surles
- 17 - Suzanne Blankfard, Kirby Cook
- 19 - Matt Morrell, Alfred Takla
- 20 - May Bailey, Jean Willard, Sam Stonehouse
- 21 - Marleen Taflan
- 22 - Bob Atwell, Jim Short, Naomi Ansano, Kate Parker
- 25 - Mary Faulkner
- 28 - Kristi Duke, Alexander Opiri
- 29 - Wendy Harp, Kat Anderson

Congratulations to Wes Blalock and Leigh Fylstra who will be joined in Holy Matrimony on May 14 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Mt. Pleasant, SC (The Rev. Joe Hensley officiating).

Some pictures from our Easter Celebrations



Joe's Easter story.



Thanks to all the participants who made the Holy Week services so special.

Green Team continues to help keep heating/cooling costs down!



In mid-April our Green Team assisted a local insulation vendor in “filling open wall holes” in both the Pre-school and the community and staff room walls in the Church complex. Our Green Team worked two afternoons by taking down the ceiling tiles, and covering up the walls and floor to prevent foam splatter, and we later came back the second day and cleaned up the mess in the Pre-school. Pictured participants (left to right) are Dr. Jean Reniers, Wallace Newton, Green Team Co-Chair Jim Hooker, Wes Blalock, and Wilbur Longmire. Attending (but not in this picture) were Paul Stirrup, Joe Martin and John Wyman (Green Team Co-Chair).



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the art of living your faith

