

# ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

September 2013



## Joyfully Seeking and Serving Christ

### In This Issue:

Fall Picnic	2
Clergy Messages	3
Youth and Children	4
Music	5
Worship Without Walls	6
Cyber Sunday	7
Spiritual Enrichment	8
Fellowship	9
Outreach	10
Pet Blessing	11
Confirmation	12

The summer may be over but the fun has just begun as we explore new opportunities to joyfully seek and serve Christ this fall at St. Luke's. As you look through this newsletter, the Sunday Paper, and the weekly e-mails, I want you to pray about where your heart is calling you to know and experience God. Consider what activities at St. Luke's will fill your soul and your mind. I know I am excited about what we are doing and how we are doing it.

So much of it starts with Worship. Our choir returns this week, and our organ has been expanded to enhance the congregational experience. It is going to be easier and more fun to sing in church. Our Joyful Noise celebration on September 15 will highlight our new instrument as we sing the favorite ten songs selected by the congregation. This is a great opportunity to invite friends, as is the Blessing of the Animals on Sunday October 6 at 4:00 p.m.

We also have opportunities to dig a little bit deeper. Each Sunday we will have an adult spiritual enrichment program at 11:30 a.m. Diana Wilcox will lead the series in October

*Continued on page 2*

*(continued from Page 1)*

and Jerry Racioppi (our new seminarian) will lead the program in November. On the fourth Sunday of each month I will lead us through, "Signs in the Times" as we explore where our faith calls us to act in the face of world, national and local events.

The "Signs in the Times" program will likely have some overlap with our Wednesday evening Christianity and Islam series that will begin in early October. A special speaker will join us on Thursday, November 14 to talk about Islam. The more we know about the world and how God is understood, the better our responses will be.

We also have new opportunities to study the Bible. Our Education for Ministry program will meet on Friday nights; Tom Laws will begin a Sunday Morning 9:00 a.m. study; and I will lead a Tuesday Noon Bible study that looks at the readings for the upcoming Sunday. More information on all of these can be found on the website.

Our youth programs are also kicking into high gear. In addition to the Celebrate! Service 9:00 a.m. on Sundays that teaches our youngest (ages 2-7 and their families), our Church School begins with registration on September 8 and classes on September 15. Look for the Youth Group kick-off meetings for Middle School (Sept. 22) and High School (Sept. 29).

And, don't forget our big fall fundraising event – Jazz, Jeans and More on October 5.

The chances to meet, to see, and to know God are abundant. It starts with each of us saying, "yes" when we can. I am excited about where our answers will lead us this fall.

*Peace,*

*The Rev. John Mennell*



Join us on the Lawn at St. Luke's after church for our Fall Picnic on September 15. While many people believe that church slows down in the summer, St. Luke's remained active and busy. We'd love for you to join us as we come together to spend some time gathering with fellow parishioners to celebrate the fall and the launch of our fall programming. Bring friends, family, and neighbors. The more the merrier! We'll see you then!

## St. Luke's Fall Picnic

September 15  
11:30am

For more information and to sign up to bring a dish to pass, please email [info@slechurch.org](mailto:info@slechurch.org). We look forward to seeing you there!



**“We are a resurrection people, and we know that life and death are cyclical...”**

## A Message from The Rev. Diana Wilcox

As we enter September, with the planning for fall events and activities quickly replacing the memories of summer vacations, we begin the journey to the end of our church and calendar years. This can seem odd, as it is a time when we are also gearing up to start many of our church programs again – Church School and Youth Groups, Jr. and Sr. Choir, Confirmation Classes and Spiritual Enrichment Courses. This juxtaposition of beginnings and endings is a wonderful metaphor for the continual cycle of our life, and the very embodiment of our faith. We are a resurrection people, and we know that life and death are cyclical, bringing us full circle again, as the trees, which shed their leaves, soon will again be green this Spring. And so, it seems fitting that we begin a new church year of programs even while we step forward to the end of our liturgical and calendar years. And through it all, our Sabbath day brings us together each week to refresh, renew and restore us to live fully into who we are called to be as beloved children of God – enabling us to walk this ever changing cycle of life-death-life as the Body of Christ alive in the world today. Thanks be to God! See you in church.

## Welcome to Jerry Racioppi, St. Luke's Seminarian

*St. Luke's is happy to say that Jerry Racioppi will be joining us as a Seminarian for the academic year. We look forward to being a part of his priestly formation.*



Jerry A. Racioppi is a second year Masters of Divinity student at Drew Theological School in Madison, NJ. Jerry was approved as a Postulant with the Diocese of Newark in October 2012. He and his partner of 11 years, Randy Johnson, were members of Church of the Redeemer in Morristown since 2003; they own a home in West Orange where they reside with their dogs, Max & Bear. During his time at Redeemer, Jerry led the Altar Guild and Home Communion Teams for many years, and more recently he led the Senior Youth Group for two years. At Redeemer he also served as an Acolyte, Lector, Vestry Member and Healing Prayer team member. Prior to entering seminary, Jerry worked at various Marriott Hotels in NJ and New York City in the field of Human Resources. He has a MS. Ed in Counseling from Fordham Lincoln Center, NYC and a BA in Speech Communications from Iona College, New Rochelle, NY. He grew up in Verona, NJ and lived in Montclair from 1996-2003. He is excited to be returning to Montclair to serve as our Seminarian.





## Senior High Youth Group Mission Trip

Our Youth Group went on their mission trip over the summer to Topsail, North Carolina. They rebuilt houses, spent time with youth from other programs, and went on a life-changing spiritual journey together. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the trip possible. We appreciate all who helped with fundraisers, sent prayers, coordinated the trip, made posters, took pictures, attended events, or helped in any way. Our Senior High Youth made a presentation the parish on July 13 and were able to share pictures and videos of their experiences. For more information on St. Luke's Youth programs, contact The Rev. Diana Wilcox at [atwilcox@slechurch.org](mailto:atwilcox@slechurch.org). To see additional pictures and to read about the trip as it progressed, please visit <http://slecyouth.wordpress.com/>.

*"Then we came back to our worksite to bless the house and say goodbye to Mr. Mike. I wish this trip was longer, because I truly enjoyed working on his house, and being a help to someone in need."*

*Walter Booker Jr. from the SLEC Youth Mission Trip Blog*

## Vacation Bible School



Thank you to Kathy DeWalt and our volunteers for coordinating our VBS programming. Children enjoyed dinner, craft-making, playing in sprinklers, telling bible stories, and spending time together. Vacation Bible School is a free summer program for children ages Pre K- 5<sup>th</sup> grade. If you missed VBS this year, not to worry, it will be back! For more information on St. Luke's family programs, please contact Director of Family Ministries, Kathy DeWalt at [dewalt@slechurch.org](mailto:dewalt@slechurch.org).





© Harry D. Mayo III

# Church Organ Restoration

This past summer, St. Luke's has been actively renovating the organ in the church. The Antiplioval division of the organ is almost finished. It will provide much needed support for congregational singing, and will greatly enhance the sound of the organ. When it is completed, the organ will be able to be heard as clearly in the back of the church as it is now in the front. We greatly appreciate your patience through the process and look forward to sharing the results of the renovation with the congregation at our special, "Joyful Noise Celebration."

## Joyful Noise Celebration September 15 5:00pm

We will have a celebration to exhibit the organ's new depth of sound on September 15 at 5:00 p.m. After the restoration, we've been accepting votes for favorite hymns. The top ten most voted for hymns will be played at the Celebration. The last day to get votes into the church office is September 8, so make sure to make your selections before the deadline! For more information or to learn more about St. Luke's music programs, please contact the Director of Music, Charles Hunter at [hunter@slechurch.org](mailto:hunter@slechurch.org).

## Sacred Music Choral Competition November 9 2:00pm

On November 9 at 2:00 p.m., St. Luke's will host a Sacred Music Choral Competition. Qualifying choirs are choirs that primarily sing sacred music in a language other than English. After several choirs sing, they will be judged on their musicality and presentation and the top choir will be awarded with a large gift, which will also be matched and given to St. Luke's as a donation. For more information on the Choral Competition, please keep a lookout in the Sunday Paper or weekly emails, or email Charles Hunter at [hunter@slechurch.org](mailto:hunter@slechurch.org).

# Worship Without Walls

Worship Without Walls collections went to Ceasefire NJ, Montclair Conversations on Race, The Society for the Teen Prevention of Suicide, BlueWave NJ, Montclair Protestant Chaplaincy, Interfaith Hospitality Network, the Montclair Neighborhood Development Commission, the Veterans Support Organization, the YMCA to send a child to summer camp, the Montclair Volunteer Ambulance Unit, HomeCORP, 9/11 Relief, and the Holy Trinity Food Pantry.



This past summer, St. Luke's launched a new type of service called, "Worship Without Walls" and it has been an exciting way to bring worship into the community. Each week, we brought our service into a different part of the community, which was able to participate in our service. Some of the areas that we held our services included the Mission Street vacant lot, Porter Park, Eagle Rock Reservation, the corner of Church Street and South Fullerton Avenue, and even in the second floor of a local restaurant when we were rained out. The offering collected at each service was donated to an associated local cause. Subscribing to St. Luke's text messages allowed people to receive a message with the service location the same day as the service. Participants can be a part of the service too, in roles such as crosser (the person who brings the cross to the service), the snapper (the person who photographs the service), the smoker (who brings incense) and more. It was a joyous way to offer a 5:00 p.m. Sunday service while entering into the community and demonstrating that church





# Cyber Sunday

One of the goals that St. Luke's had over the summer was to provide online alternatives for many church resources. In an effort to make a church-wide launch of our online options, St. Luke's held its first ever, "Cyber Sunday." People were encouraged to bring tablets, phones, and computers to church on Sunday, July 14, so that they could follow along with the service bulletin digitally. Attendees without technology were not left out; instructions for accessing

online resources were printed on their very own tablet insert. St. Luke's encourages all members and guests to freely use technology during any of our services to follow along as together, we can lower our paper usage and look forward together toward a greener future. For online resources, please visit our website at [www.slechurch.org](http://www.slechurch.org). For questions or more information, contact our Communications Director, Tara Fardellone in the church office at [communications@slechurch.org](mailto:communications@slechurch.org).

## How to Log In to St. Luke's Online Resources

Visit [www.slechurch.org](http://www.slechurch.org). Click Log In on the top right of the website. If it's your first time logging in, click, "Need A Login? Click here." Make sure to use your email that St. Luke's has on file. An email will be sent to you with a temporary password. You can then log in, update your password to a permanent one, click on "Directories" on the left, click on "Directories" again as it drops down, choose your view options, and click "View Directory."

Also, while you're signed in on that page, you can also check out which groups you're in at St. Luke's, get an overview of your giving history, make your pledge online and update your contact information online. You are also be able to pay your pledge online or give online to the funds to which you normally contribute, such as the capitol campaign, flower dedications, Roseanne Morey Christ Child Project, and more. If you have questions or would like assistance, just contact Tara in the church office and she will gladly help in any way possible.

If you bring technology to a St. Luke's service, you will be in good company. To the right, Cyber Sunday service attendees showing their digital bulletins as they followed along reading prayers, singing hymns, and participating in the service. Note that St. Luke's priests and servers also follow along digitally.





## Women's Retreat

September 6-8

The St. Luke's Women's Group will be on retreat Sept. 6-8 at Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, NY. The retreat is titled "Praying Women: A Weekend with the Saints, and will be led by the Rev. Dr. Shane Phelan, co-founder of the Companions of Mary the Apostle, a new women's community located on the grounds of Holy Cross. Shane is also a priest from our diocese. Prayer is conversation with God, and has been proven to be restorative to mind, body, and soul. It has many forms – meditation, mandala sand painting, dance, chant, kneeling beside the bed - and prayer crosses all faith traditions. But so often we find it hard to do, or we don't know where to begin. In this retreat, the women will explore what it means to pray as a woman, spending time with the prayers of great women of the past and of our time, reflecting on how life experience as women shapes our prayers, and how our prayers shape our lives. The Women's Group meets on the second Friday of each month from 7-9pm in the Davis Room. Our first regular meeting of the fall will be on October 11. See The Rev. Diana Wilcox for more information, or contact her at [Wilcox@slechurch.org](mailto:Wilcox@slechurch.org).

## Adult Forum: Spiritual Enrichment Courses

September 22  
11:30am



The Spiritual Enrichment Team will off a new spiritual enrichment season at the Adult Forum on Sunday, September 22, at 11:30 a.m. Learn about upcoming offerings and meet the leaders of a Christianity & Islam course, group spiritual direction, Bible study on the Beatitudes, a group to help us discover our God-given gifts – and more. We offer something for everyone, so if you do not know what classes might interest you, this is the place to come to find out! For more information, please contact a SET member, Jinni Rock- Bailey, Joanie Collyer, Walter Booker, or Anne Mockridge by emailing [joaniecollyer@verizon.net](mailto:joaniecollyer@verizon.net)





# Post-College Pre-Children Reception

September 27  
7:00 p.m.

Join us at the St. Luke's Rectory at 7:00 p.m. on September 27 for a Post-College, Pre-Children gathering. We'd love to meet you, hear about your interests, and gather in the name of fellowship amongst peers and friends. For more information, email The Rev. Diana Wilcox at [wilcox@slechurch.org](mailto:wilcox@slechurch.org). We look forward to seeing you there!

# Newcomer Reception

October 25  
7:00 p.m.

If you are new to St. Luke's in the past year or so (or have not attended a Newcomer Reception), please come to the Rectory (across the lawn from the church) on Friday, October 25 at 7:00pm. This is a great opportunity to get to know other people at the parish, and meet Vestry members who can explain programs that might be interesting to you. Snacks and drinks will be available. Childcare can be provided upon request. For more information, please email [info@slechurch.org](mailto:info@slechurch.org). We look forward to getting to know you



The Big Din is on! Put Sunday, November 17, on your calendar for the night of the Big Din. We will return to our theme of being thankful - but don't expect turkey for dinner! Anne Marie Senior has again agreed to be our head chef and we are excited. Keep your eyes open for updates!

# The Big Din

November 17

# Battle Against Hunger

September 6 - 8



Every year, St. Luke's and Toni's Kitchen participate in Battle Against Hunger, a three day bike ride from Pennington, NJ to Washington Pavilion, PA. This year's "Battle Against Hunger" bike ride fundraiser will take place on September 6-8, 2013. Join us for a long bike ride through beautiful scenery and with great fellowship, where the proceeds go to battle hunger. You can volunteer to ride, volunteer to help at the ride, help hand out water, drive the support cars, and more. For more information, to sign up to ride, and to volunteer, contact Anne Mernin at [mernin@slechurch.org](mailto:mernin@slechurch.org).

Join us for Jazz, Jeans 'n More at St. Luke's on October 5. Come for great food provided by the French Quarter Food Truck, a four piece jazz band, the "EarRegulars", silent and live auctions, and more. Brass level tickets are \$100 and include a Red Carpet Reception at 5:00 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m., and the auction. Denim level tickets start at \$75 and include dinner at 6:00 p.m. and the auction. This is a great place to pick up gifts for someone special, win certificates for fine dining, and to advertise your business or services in our Tribute Journal. We are also still looking for people to donate auction items, so please contact us if you have an item, service, or opportunity to donate to the cause. To purchase tickets or donate, email [events@slechurch.org](mailto:events@slechurch.org). All proceeds to go to St. Luke's, which supports several outreach programs such as Habitat for Humanity, Seaman's Church Institute, and the Roseanne Morey Christ Child Project. For more information on St. Luke's outreach, please go to our website at [www.slechurch.org](http://www.slechurch.org).

## Jazz, Jeans 'n More Fundraiser

October 5



# Annual Pet Blessing

October 6  
4:00 p.m.



Join us on October 6 at 5:00 p.m. for the St. Luke's Annual Pet Blessing on the lawn. If inclement weather occurs, we will meet in the church. Bring all of your family pets, service animals, rescues, and creatures of all kinds for a blessing at St. Luke's. For more information, please email the church at [info@slechurch.org](mailto:info@slechurch.org). We look forward to seeing you there!

***Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends, the animals.  
Especially for animals who are suffering; for any that are  
hunted or lost or deserted or frightened or hungry;  
for all that must be put to death.***

***We entreat for them all Thy mercy and pity,  
and for those who deal with them, we ask a  
heart of compassion and gentle hands and kindly words.  
Make us, ourselves, to be true friends to animals,  
and so to share the blessings of the merciful.***

**-Albert Schweitzer**

## Clergy Contact Listing

Rector  
Assistant to the Rector  
Seminarian  
Non-Stipendiary Clergy  
Non-Stipendiary Clergy

The Rev. John Mennell	<a href="mailto:Mennell@slechurch.org">Mennell@slechurch.org</a>
The Rev. Diana Wilcox	<a href="mailto:Wilcox@slechurch.org">Wilcox@slechurch.org</a>
Jerry Racioppi	<a href="mailto:Racioppi@slechurch.org">Racioppi@slechurch.org</a>
The Rev. Tom Laws	<a href="mailto:laws@slechurch.org">laws@slechurch.org</a>
The Rev. Oscar Mockridge	<a href="mailto:Mockridge@slechurch.org">Mockridge@slechurch.org</a>

## Staff Contact Listing

Director of Outreach  
Director of Family Ministries  
Director of Music  
Director of Communications  
Facilities Manager

Anne Mernin	<a href="mailto:Mernin@slechurch.org">Mernin@slechurch.org</a>
Kathy DeWalt	<a href="mailto:dewalt@slechurch.org">dewalt@slechurch.org</a>
Charles Hunter	<a href="mailto:hunter@slechurch.org">hunter@slechurch.org</a>
Tara Fardellone	<a href="mailto:communications@slechurch.org">communications@slechurch.org</a>
Jay Richardson	<a href="mailto:Richardson@slechurch.org">Richardson@slechurch.org</a>

**General Information** | [Info@slechurch.org](mailto:Info@slechurch.org) | 973.744.6220

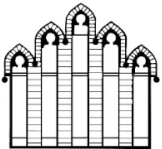
# Confirmation Classes

Begin October 27  
5:00 p.m.



*“In the course of their Christian development, those baptized at an early age are expected, when they are ready and have been duly prepared, to make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism and to receive the laying on of hands by the bishop.” BCP p. 412*

Confirmation is a sacramental rite of the church, open to all who have been baptized. We will have our confirmation service on Saturday, May 13 at 3:00 p.m. at Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral in Newark. Those interested in being confirmed must be at least 16 years of age and participate in a period of discernment in the form of Confirmation Classes. These classes, led by the Rev. Diana Wilcox, will engage the Confirmands in discussion and reflection about their faith. Each class will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Conference Room, beginning October 27. All those interested in participating must contact the Rev. Diana Wilcox prior to October 27. All classes are mandatory, and after October 27, no additional names will be added to the list of Confirmands. For more information on confirmation, please contact the Rev. Diana Wilcox at [Wilcox@slechurch.org](mailto:Wilcox@slechurch.org).



St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
73. S. Fullerton Ave.  
Montclair, NJ 07042

*“Joyfully Seeking and Serving Christ”*