

ACTS of ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MAY 2023



Jessica Hitchcock

Percolating on 2023-2024

I've been thinking about the future. Thinking about the next "school" year. Now, as a person who wants to scream, grumpy angry screams, when the stores put out the school supplies right after July 4th—I get it that you might not want to think about next year, you might want to focus on summer and what is hopefully a slower pace for you and yours. For me, I'd rather think about next year now than in July when I really do just want to be in summer mode—and especially in this sabbatical year, it makes sense to go ahead and start percolating.

I invite you to join me in this percolating.

I hope that next year, 2023-2024, we will have a Christmas Party and a Chili Cook-Off/Talent Show. We will need people to coordinate these two events. Jen Luna has agreed to serve as chair of fellowship; we have seen her work as an event coordinator at our Mardi Gras Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. As chair of fellowship, Jen serves as a resource and support for those willing to coordinate church fellowship events and watches over the budget. If you are willing to coordinate the Christmas Party or a Chili Cook-Off, please reach out to Jen.

I also am looking forward to two different small-group programs, one in the fall and one starting in mid-January 2024.

In the fall, in between Indigenous People's Day and Thanksgiving, we will offer a 6-week program offered by the Diocese called Embrace. It has been designed to foster a deeper understanding of the Episcopal tradition, our liturgy, and our common life in prayer. This journey into the life of the church provides an open forum for asking questions. Study of scripture and prayer are central to each session.

Starting after MLK day in 2024 and running up until Holy Week, we will offer a program coming out of the Episcopal Church called Centered. It is a discipleship series guiding small, gathered communities to get deeply rooted in love with God and one another, so that we all may grow to look, act, and love more like Jesus. The experience includes nine sessions during which church members, neighbors, and friends gather to share a meal and grateful prayer; view two short films; discuss questions about God, belonging, and living a meaningful life; and support each other in committing to intentionally follow Jesus and his Way of Love.

(Percolating, continued on page 4)

PARISH

May Birthdays

Karin Bolte	1
Linda Fong	8
Marta Montoro	9
Theresa Wambach	9
Liz Votaw	12
Fiona Nellist	13
Gayle Countryman-Mills	13
Laura Edwards	13
Phoebe Milhollin	13
Kendall Montgomery	16
Joaquin Gonzalez	17
Luke Bergeron	19
Charles Rice	22
Zachary Bernier	22
Roxanne Leal	23
Bennett Sharp	26
Andrew Mills	28
Hannah Fourcard	28

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



Special Dates

5 May	Office closed, 9 to noon
9 May	Lunch & Conversation
13 May	Garden Guild workday
14 May	Mother's Day
	Family Fun Day
18 May	Book Lovers
21 May	Flower arrangements
25-26 May	Office closed
28 May	Pentecost
29 May	Memorial Day
	Office closed
	MCPS no school

June Birthdays

Kathy Makos	1
Safia Kuriakose	1
Ivy Martin	10
Margaret Roper	12
Bob Allnutt	15
Ian Mills	15
Sacha South	15
Debbie Grosvenor	16
Wanda Cockrell	16
Catherine Nellist	17
Linda Freeman	19
Christine Zakarka	22

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



Special Dates

10 June	Garden Guild workday
11 June	Family Fun Day
16 June	MCPS last day of school
21 June	Summer Solstice

The ACTS is now distributed electronically using the email address that we have for you on file in the office. If you did not receive it, please update your email address. admin@stlukesbethesda.org.

If you do not see your birthday listed during the year, please contact the office.

SENIOR WARDEN

Our Own Sabbatical



Deb Marks

“You have a meandering writing style,” my husband said, when I asked him to read the first Warden’s article that I wrote last fall. Initially, I regarded the comment as a criticism. Today, I regard it as accurately descriptive, and I appreciate the sense of ease that comes from imagining these few lines as a conversation with a friend.

Conversations with friends, and an element of meandering, are two ways that I would describe the recent Sugarloaf Mountain excursion that Jessica organized in preparation for her sabbatical. Although I was not one of the hikers, I’m confident that I did the most meandering of anyone. Despite my best planning and good intentions, a wrong turn while “following” my cellphone GPS app resulted, unexpectedly, in being southbound in slow-moving I-270 traffic, and driving away from Sugarloaf Mountain, with an empty gas tank icon flashing rapidly on the car dashboard. Given the occasion, it was challenging not to interpret this as a metaphor for Jessica’s sabbatical.

So, what if it *were* a metaphor for the sabbatical? Although finding myself in an unexpected circumstance, feeling a tad confused and anxious, I was also relieved and impressed by how far I travelled on a seemingly empty gas tank. (To be clear, I don’t recommend this as a driving or lifestyle challenge!) Nonetheless, I did not end up stranded on the side of the road. And when I finally arrived at the designated picnic spot, where I was supposed to be the person welcoming hikers as they finished their trek, a small group of beautiful souls was there to welcome me. What an unexpected gift.

As the various groups of hikers came and went from the picnic meeting place over the next couple of hours, people shared their experiences. Although everyone started and ended at a common point, different paths were taken...sometimes intentionally, and sometimes, unexpectedly. Everyone found some element of the trail challenging, but everyone made it. And nobody walked the full distance alone.

I think that our experience of Jessica’s sabbatical will have many of these same elements. Some things will go as planned, and some will not. There will be challenging moments, and lovely, unexpected gifts. A common point in time will mark the start of Jessica’s sabbatical, and although her path will diverge from ours for a while, we will find ourselves joined back together in the end. I look forward to everyone’s story of the paths they took in-between. During that interim, my prayer for Jessica, and for St. Luke’s, is the assurance that nobody walks the distance alone.

Deb

PARISH

(Percolating, continued from page 1)

I don't know what day of the week or what time of day we will gather. We will figure that out after I get back in the fall. Be thinking about whether either or both of these is something you would like to do, and how you might make space in your schedule.

I write all this to let you know and to allow you time to think about these opportunities and needs, but also so that you know: I'm already excited to come back. I am already looking forward to being back with you. I will enjoy my sabbatical and I really do need the rest, but I'm also looking forward to hitting the ground running—at a reasonable pace—come mid-August.

Peace and Blessings - Jessica

A Kind and Gentle Welcome for Refugees

Please stop by the Flower Guild table in Ludlum Hall on **Sunday, May 21**, as we make small silk flower arrangements for refugee apartments being set up by Homes Not Borders. We will make these gentle and welcoming home accessories both between the services and after the 10 am service.



Extra hands make the work merrier, as we all get to know each other better. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Flower Guild

Holly Stone, Sylvia Lu, Tay Hahn,

Barbara Roybal, Jenny Bradley, Meg Shematz,

Dawn Armstrong, Catherine Nellist, Theresa Wambach

Lunch and Conversation

Join us on **May 9 in the Reaves Room at 12 pm**. Bring a brown bag lunch and prepare to socialize with individuals who attend all the various services at St. Luke's.

We have lots to celebrate after the wonderful Easter services and the shared brunch that brought everyone together.

How can we continue these feelings of one community while Jessica is on sabbatical? Join us to discuss this and other topics of interest.

Because Lent is over, goodies will make a reappearance. We welcome old and new friends to attend.

Questions, please contact Marie Holbrook.

Marie Holbrook



Results of January-February Bethesda Cares Clothing Drive

Over 400 articles of clothing were donated to our annual Bethesda Cares clothing drive. Highlights included 24 jackets and coats, 46 wonderful scarves, 14 pairs of gloves, 17 stocking caps, 32 pants/sweatpants, 181 pairs of socks, and 121 shirts and tops.

We also collected \$345 worth of gift cards to help clients. Thank you for your generosity.

bethesdacares

Clay Miller

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Engagement Budget—2023 Updates

Earlier this year, the Vestry authorized \$20,000 for the Community Engagement Committee as part of the church’s Operating Budget. This authorization is \$2,000 less than the last several years’ total annual authorization of \$22,000. Like many other ministries, the Committee prayerfully wrestled with how to accommodate this reduction. The Committee’s Charter requires that the annual budget allocation be published in the *ACTS* Newsletter; the Committee will also share this information with the parish more broadly at a later date.

Historically, the Committee has allocated most of its budget to the organizations that St. Luke’s supports financially, while setting aside a small portion of the overall total for discretionary expenses—such as making additional gifts to an outside organization(s) working for social justice, responding to an emergency or new request, or supporting 5th Sunday “Be the Church” Days.

Ultimately, the Committee voted to reduce its Discretionary Fund and endeavored to minimize Organizational Giving impacts. Of the \$20,000, \$18,300 will be allocated directly to the nonprofits the parish supports (see chart below for 2022-23 comparison), with \$1,700 held in reserve through the fourth quarter. All the funds will be spent by the end of the calendar year.

<i>Organizational Giving</i>	2022 Budget	2023 Budget
Bethesda Cares	2,800	2,800
Bethesda Help	1,500	1,500
Bishop Walker School for Boys	1,500	1,500
Cornerstone Montgomery	2,000	2,000
Episcopal Relief & Development	500	500
Interfaith Works (IW)	2,500	2,500
IW - Women's Assessment Center	1,500	1,500
Interfaith Power & Light	1,000	500
Loaves & Fishes	2,000	1,500
Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington	4,000	4,000
<i>Subtotal</i>	19,300	18,300
<i>Discretionary</i>	2,700	1,700
<i>TOTAL</i>	22,000	20,000

Despite this reduction, the Committee is grateful to be able to continue providing mostly steady, ongoing financial support to these organizations doing God’s work in the world during these difficult times. We remember the story of Jesus giving thanks for small gifts and feeding 5,000 people under circumstances that seemed impossible. KNOW that the Committee is making every effort to be good stewards of our financial resources by sharing them with organizations that feed, clothe, educate, and provide social services to our siblings in Christ near and far, while also caring for creation.

Thank you for your pledges which make these contributions possible!

Lesley Krauland

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ICCP Interfaith Iftar Event

The ICCP Interfaith Iftar Event was held at the Islamic Community Center of Potomac on Thursday, March 30. Attendees from St. Luke's were Kimberly Mathis, Miranda Marks, Patrick Crump, and Soumaia Shafik.

The Imam delivered a sermon on the universal theme of kindness and compassion being the key to overcoming the challenges communities face; he specifically mentioned recent anti-Semitic vandalism. He explained that the real meaning of fasting, and of self-denying Lent traditions, is not the giving up of something, but rather building a discipline and strengthening one's heart for God. This discipline and strength are illustrated in the story of Mary and her wisdom when faced with criticism to remain silent, not to engage her opponents, but rather to remain calm and quiet and seek God.

Also, different faith leaders joined in the charge to show kindness by encouraging members of the faith community to show up—be in marches advocating climate attention, justice, equality—be present in those spaces. The Q&A portion was an opportunity to hear from faith leaders and members of various faith communities about what they liked about their religion; it was enlightening.

And of course, the meal was a good time to engage in conversation with the diversity of people in attendance—another wonderful display of warmth, welcoming, and kindness from the ICCP.



Kimberly Mathis

Interfaith Works Women's Center Meal Week

Mark your calendars. St. Luke's will host supper for guests at the Interfaith Works Women's Center at Crabbs Branch, and this year, ***we return to serving in person!*** *

When? **Monday, May 29, through Thursday, June 1 & Saturday, June 3.**

Where? Interfaith Works Women's Center at Crabbs Branch
16911 Crabbs Branch Way, Derwood



Watch! Updates on how to participate by providing main/side dishes, salad, bread, or dessert, being a Meal Coordinator, or serving supper in person to our guests will be shared in the Hot News, Weekly E-News, and church announcements.

Sign-up sheets will be available in Ludlum, and online via SignUpGenius

(<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B48AFAF2BA0FC1-2022>) (Yes, 2022 is OK!)

*A maximum of 5 people are permitted to serve supper in person each evening at the IW Women's Center; you must sign up as an In-Person Server.

Questions? Contact Andi Pringle
Karen Schneider
Deb Marks

Andi Pringle, Karen Schneider, Deb Marks

FINANCE

FINANCE REPORT MARCH 2023

	2023 Budget	'23 Actual thru Mar.	% of '23 Budget *
<u>REVENUE</u>			
Offering Plate	\$ 20,000	\$ 3,342	17%
Pledge Payments	425,716	200,251	47%
Donations for Facilities	45,000	14,519	32%
Altar Flower Donations	4,000	1,487	37%
Miscellaneous		8,263	
Operating Revenue	494,716	227,862	46%
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Compensations	\$ 385,466	\$ 94,772	25%
Church Activities	22,500	2,297	10%
Parish Operations	99,200	26,391	27%
Community Engagement	20,000	0	
Diocesan Giving	50,000	12,501	25%
Operating Expenses	577,166	135,961	24%
Surplus/(Deficit)	(82,450)	91,901	
Additional Funding – reserves	82,450	0	
	\$ 0	\$ 91,901	

ENDOWMENT FUND BALANCE

\$141,015

* YTD March = 25% of the year

Additional revenue: St. Luke's received a \$3,150 Congregational Growth Grant from the Diocese of Washington to promote family-oriented activities. In addition, a matching grant of \$8,240 was received from the Pew Charitable Trust. St. Luke's has also been approved for an \$8,000 Montgomery County government grant for certain security improvements.

If you need to be reimbursed for a purchase or need the Treasurer to pay an invoice, please send an email to the office at admin@stlukesbethesda.org and include the receipt, the amount, and the purpose for the expense. All requests for extra money or donations by committees, individuals, or church members should have prior approval of the Vestry before solicitation.

Susan Casson, Acting Treasurer

CALENDAR

May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>30 Jessica's last Sunday before sabbatical 8:30am Worship Service (in person only) 9:15am and 11am: 5th Sunday: Meal packing for Rise Against Hunger 9:30am Children's Church 10:00am Worship Service (in person & Zoom) 12:30pm <i>Dog training</i> 2:00pm Music for Food Concert 5:00pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i> 5:00pm <i>Odyssey of the Mind</i> 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i></p>	<p>1 8:00pm <i>Men's AA Meeting</i></p>	<p>2 7:30pm <i>Suicide Bereavement Group</i></p>	<p>3 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (Zoom) 5:45pm <i>Dog training classes</i> 8:00pm Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>4 8:00pm <i>Women's AA Meeting</i></p>	<p>5 9:00am - 12:00pm Office closed</p>	<p>6 2:30pm <i>Dog training classes</i> 5:00pm Talk & Pray (In person) 6:30pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i></p>
<p>7 8:30am Worship Service (in person only) 9:30am Children's Church 10:00am Worship Service (in person & Zoom) 5:00pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i> 5:00pm <i>Odyssey of the Mind</i> 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i></p>	<p>8 7:00pm Finance Meeting 8:00pm <i>Men's AA Meeting</i></p>	<p>9 12:00pm Lunch & Conversation</p>	<p>10 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (Zoom) 5:45pm <i>Dog training classes</i> 8:00pm Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>11 8:00pm <i>Women's AA Meeting</i></p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 9:00am Garden Workday 2:30pm <i>Dog training</i> 5:00pm Talk & Pray (In person) 5:00pm <i>Odyssey of the Mind</i> 6:30pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i></p>
<p>14 8:30am Worship Service (in person only) 9:30am Children's Church 10:00am Worship Service (in person & Zoom) 11:00am Family Fun Day 5:00pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i> 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i></p>	<p>15 8:00pm <i>Men's AA Meeting</i></p>	<p>16 7:00pm Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>17 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (Zoom) 3:00pm <i>Piano lessons</i> 5:45pm <i>Dog training</i> 8:00pm Choir</p>	<p>18 1:00pm Book Lovers 3:00pm <i>Piano lessons</i> 8:00pm <i>Women's AA Meeting</i></p>	<p>19 5:00pm <i>Odyssey of the Mind</i></p>	<p>20 2:30pm <i>Dog training classes</i> 5:00pm Talk & Pray (In person) 6:30pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i></p>
<p>21 Flower Arranging between services and at 11:15 8:30am Worship Service (in person only) 9:30am Children's Church 10:00am Worship Service (in person & Zoom) 2:00pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i> 2:30pm <i>Odyssey of the Mind</i> 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i></p>	<p>22 8:00pm <i>Men's AA Meeting</i></p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (Zoom) 6:00pm <i>Dog training</i> 8:00pm Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>25 Office closed 8:00pm <i>Women's AA Meeting</i></p>	<p>26 Office closed</p>	<p>27 2:30pm <i>Dog training classes</i> 5:00pm Talk & Pray (In person) 6:30pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i></p>
<p>28 8:30am Worship Service (in person only) 9:30am Children's Church 10:00am Worship Service (in person & Zoom) 5:00pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i> 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i></p>	<p>29 Memorial Day (Office closed) 8:00pm <i>Men's AA Meeting</i></p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (Zoom) 6:00pm <i>Dog training</i> 8:00pm Choir</p>	<p>1 8:00pm <i>Women's AA Meeting</i></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 1:00pm Dana Smith Student Recital 2:30pm <i>Dog training</i> 5:00pm Talk & Pray (In person) 6:30pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i></p>

For up-to-date Calendar information, go to stlukesbethesda.org and click on Calendar

CALENDAR

June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:30am Worship Service (in person only) 9:30am Children's Church 10:00am Worship Service (in person & Zoom) 5:00pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i> 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	29 Memorial Day (Office closed) 8:00pm <i>Men's AA Meeting</i>	30	31 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (Zoom) 6:00pm <i>Dog training</i> 8:00pm Choir rehearsal	1 8:00pm <i>Women's AA Meeting</i>	2	3 1:00pm Dana Smith Student Recital 2:30pm <i>Dog training classes</i> 5:00pm Talk & Pray (In person) 6:30pm
4 8:30am Worship Service (in person only) 9:30am Children's Church 10:00am Worship Service (in person & Zoom) 5:00pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i> 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	5 8:00pm <i>Men's AA Meeting</i>	6 1:00pm Staff Meeting 7:30pm <i>Suicide Bereavement Group</i>	7 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (Zoom) 6:00pm <i>Dog training classes</i>	8 8:00pm <i>Women's AA Meeting</i>	9	10 9:00am Garden Guild Workday 2:30pm <i>Dog training</i> 5:00pm Talk & Pray (In person) 6:30pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i>
11 8:30am Worship Service (in person only) 9:30am Children's Church 10:00am Worship Service (in person & Zoom) 11:00am - 12:30pm Family Fun Day 5:00pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i> 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	12 7:00pm Finance Meeting 8:00pm <i>Men's AA Meeting</i>	13 1:00pm Staff Meeting	14 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (Zoom) 6:00pm <i>Dog training classes</i>	15 8:00pm <i>Women's AA Meeting</i>	16	17 5:00pm Talk & Pray (In person) 6:30pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i>
18 8:30am Worship Service (in person only) 9:30am Children's Church 10:00am Worship Service (in person & Zoom) 5:00pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i> 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	19 Juneteenth (Office closed) 8:00pm <i>Men's AA Meeting</i>	20 1:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Vestry Meeting 7:30pm <i>Grosvenor HOA</i>	21 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (Zoom)	22 6:30pm <i>Dog training classes</i> 8:00pm <i>Women's AA Meeting</i>	23	24 5:00pm Talk & Pray (In person) 6:30pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i>
25 8:30am Worship Service (in person only) 9:30am Children's Church 10:00am Worship Service (in person & Zoom) 5:00pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i> 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	26 8:00pm <i>Men's AA Meeting</i>	27 1:00pm Staff Meeting	28 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (Zoom)	29 6:30pm <i>Dog training classes</i> 8:00pm <i>Women's AA Meeting</i>	30	1 5:00pm Talk & Pray (In person) 6:30pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i>

For up-to-date Calendar information, go to stlukesbethesda.org and click on Calendar

Sugarloaf Mountain Pre-Sabbatical Congregational Hike
Friday, April 14



St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Trinity Parish

6030 Grosvenor Lane
Bethesda, Maryland 20814-1852
Phone: 301-530-1800 Fax: 301-530-1802
email: admin@stlukesbethesda.org
website: stlukesbethesda.org

The Rev. Jessica K. Hitchcock
Rector

email: jessica@stlukesbethesda.org

ACTS of St. Luke's

Newsletter for members and friends of St. Luke's;
published monthly, except January & August.

ACTS Deadline: 15th of the preceding month