

ACTS of ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MARCH 2023

Tell Your Story



I'm asking you to consider telling your story. The story of you and God. Or rather, a small snippet of the story of you and God. Because I think formulating a snippet of the story of you and God will be good for you, and I think sharing it would be good for others.

Whenever I share a story during a sermon (or an **ACTS** article!), I try to make sure it is a story you can see yourself in. And I know that doesn't work all the time for all of you, but I hope it works for all of you some of the time. While I am on sabbatical, it is my hope that parishioners will share their stories during the sermon time of the Sunday service—and that you all will be strengthened in your ability to see God at work in your own lives and in the world around you.

This likely won't be something that you right away know that you WANT to do. But it is something that you might sense God calling you to do. As with all things, it is important to pay attention to our discomfort, and whether our discomfort is trying to keep us safe from a real threat to our well-being or whether it is just normal anxiety about trying something new, something that involves some vulnerability.

Attending the March 25th workshop on story sharing is a first step of discerning whether you are called to share your story with the St. Luke's community (or perhaps talking to Katie Beth or Lesley or me would be another option for a first step in your discernment). The workshop will be led by lay preacher Chris (Christina) Vasquez, who recently shared with me this quote from Frederick Buechner: *My assumption is that the story of any one of us is in some measure the story of us all.*

I think you'd like to hear each other's stories. I think it would be good for your souls to hear each other talk about your spiritual journeys. And sharing your own story would be a holy gift to offer your St. Luke's community.

Peace,
Jessica

PARISH

Birthdays

Ann Blandamer	4
Margie Orrick	4
William Bryan	5
Lucy D'Agostino	6
Mandisa Griffin	6
Alex Votaw	10
Clay Miller	11
Kevin Curtin	12
Logan Zimmerman	23
Julia Schneider	24
Renata Gonzalez	24
Alby Williams	27
Bridget Legates	27
Stephane Le Bouder	27

March						
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	



March Special Dates

7 March	Book Lovers
	All-Parish Finance Meeting
12 March	Family Fun Day
	Daylight Savings begins
14 March	Lunch and Conversation
20 March	Spring Equinox
22 March	Ramadan begins
23-24 March	Office closed
25 March	Story Sharing Workshop
31 March to 10 April	MCPS no school



Birthdays

Mary Kimelblatt	15
Pat Rogers	15
Kristin Katulis	17
Sally Curtin	19
Nancy Voit	22
Eric Hutchins	24
Jack Orrick	26
Pete Rogers	27
Arlene Antonicelli	28

April						
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						

April Special Dates

31 March to 10 April	MCPS no school
1 April	Garden Guild workday
2 April	Palm Sunday
5 April	Passover begins
6 April	Maundy Thursday
7 April	Good Friday
8 April	Holy Saturday
9 April	Easter Sunday
	Family Fun Day
10 April	Easter Monday
	Office closed
11 April	Lunch and Conversation
21 April	Ramadan ends

The ACTS is distributed electronically using the email addresses on file in the office. If you did not receive it, or if you do not see your birthday listed in the appropriate month, please contact the office at admin@stlukesbethesda.org.

SENIOR WARDEN



Deb Marks

Thinking about St. Luke's

Haiku writing month
Happens each February:
Short month and short poems This year, it's the month
When we begin to observe
The season of Lent.

On the 21st
It's St. Luke's Pancake Dinner:
Mardi Gras, in church!..... We've waited 2 years
To celebrate together
At a shared table.

And then, Ash Wednesday:
7:30 am, Noon,
And evening drop-in A cross of ashes
Marks the start of our journey
Of self-reflection.

Like Micah, we ask:
What does God require of us?
How are we to be? The Prophet answers:
Do justice, love kindness, and
Walk humbly with God.

We follow Jesus
Through liturgical seasons
That lead to new life.

Deb



St. Luke's Zoom Hosts

While attending the 10 am in-person worship, you have probably heard clergy extend a welcome to those joining online and encourage online responses at other points in the service. This inclusion is something Jessica and Lesley do seamlessly, which online parishioners appreciate.

The 10 am online community is alive and well!


There are many reasons why people may decide to attend virtually. Thankfully, **St. Luke's is committed to providing online Sunday worship.** The Zoom option is here for you if you are out of town, ill, unable to drive to church, have a tight schedule, or are simply running behind.

Part of this commitment includes a small (but hearty) group of people who volunteer as Zoom Hosts each Sunday. Zoom Hosts are important, as St. Luke's chooses this more welcoming and interactive format, rather than simple live-streaming. **Ask any one of the hosts, and they will tell you how meaningful it is for them to be part of this service,** helping those who cannot make it to church, and expanding access to our wonderful services...oh, and the option of wearing pj's at home.

Please consider being part of this ministry. You may choose to host regularly or just occasionally, and you will receive as much training as desired. While you are scaling the learning curve, there is not a more encouraging and understanding group of people than the 10 am online worshippers!

Have questions? Want more info? Contact Michelle Canick, Jen Luna, Deb Marks, or Veronica Walgamotte.

Zoom Host Team



Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington

Join us at the **Next Step Breakfast!**
March 22, 7:30-9:00 am

For more information, contact Table Captains:
Jack Orrick or Pete Stelnyk.

PARISH

GARDEN GUILD NEWS

When the world wearies and society fails to satisfy, there is always the garden.

-Minnie Aumonier

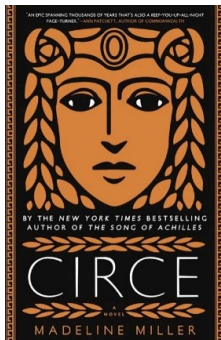
The Garden Guild is a volunteer group that maintains the gardens on the church grounds. We are a very welcoming group and encourage those who love to garden, or who want to learn more about gardening, to join us during our monthly workdays. It's a great way to pick up gardening tips, get some exercise, and enjoy God's beautiful creation. So please consider joining us for one or more of our workdays.

The first workday of 2023 is scheduled for **Saturday, April 1**, 9 am-12 noon. All parishioners are welcome to join us. The time commitment is flexible—come for all or part of the time and bring tools, if you can. Other workdays are scheduled as follows: May 13, June 10, July 8, Sept. 9, and Oct. 21. ***Please mark your calendar and plan to join us!***

For more information, please contact Susie Casson.

Susie Casson

BOOKLOVERS



Booklovers will meet on **Tuesday, March 7, at 1 pm** in person in the Reaves Room at St. Luke's. We'll be discussing Madeline Miller's ***Circe***. You are welcome to come at 12:30 pm and bring your lunch to have some social time before the discussion.

"A bold and subversive retelling of the goddess's story," this #1 *New York Times* bestseller is "both epic and intimate in its scope, recasting the most infamous female figure from the *Odyssey* as a hero in her own right." (Alexandra Alter, *The New York Times*)

Here is the schedule for the rest of 2023:

Thursday, May 18: ***Booth*** by Karen Joy Fowler

Tuesday, July 18: ***Pachinko*** by Min Jin Lee

Tuesday, Sept 19: ***A Waiter in Paris*** by Edward Chisholm

Tuesday, Nov 28: ***Lincoln Highway*** by Amor Towles

We still need facilitators for ***Booth*** and ***Pachinko***. It's super easy: all you have to do is read the book and show up! This group isn't usually shy about talking.

Everyone is welcome to join. To get on the Booklovers email list, or if you'd like to facilitate a discussion, please email Nancy Reding.

Nancy Reding

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Service/Volunteer Opportunity!

Want to directly affect the life of a neighbor who's fallen on hard times? Bethesda Help needs you! Requests for food and financial assistance are up by 137% since 2020, and to meet this need we need **Officers of the Day (ODs)** to take calls from clients and assess their needs, and **Drivers** to deliver food to their homes. As an **OD** or **Driver**, you'll witness the profound impact a food delivery or some financial assistance can make on those in crisis. Please consider volunteering with us one or two days a month. Call us at (301) 365-2022 or email us at info@bethesdahelp.org. You'll be glad you shared your time!

Fellow parishioner Meg Shematz is a current Bethesda Help Driver, and Anne Elsbree is a retired Driver and OD. Contact either of them to learn more about these volunteer positions. Thank you!



Christmas, Advent, and Holy Cow Thanks!

Thank you to everyone for once again being so generous with our brothers and sisters in Christ near and far during this past holiday season. Together, we:

- Contributed **\$1,850** to provide emergency assistance to children in Ukraine (through UNICEF-USA) as our Christmas Eve offering. UNICEF continues rehabilitating schools and provides medical equipment for maternal and neonatal health services, safe drinking water, mental health and psychosocial support, and cash transfers for vulnerable families affected by the war.
- Raised more than **\$23,000** for Episcopal Relief & Development's work all over the world through the *Gifts for Life* program. This brings our cumulative 15-year total to more than **\$257,000**. Holy Cow!

Thank you, St. Luke's, for living out your baptismal promises so faithfully, year after year.

Marta Montoro

FINANCE

FINANCE REPORT JANUARY 2023

	2023 Budget	'23 Actual Thru Jan.	% of '23 Budget *
REVENUE			
Offering Plate	\$ 20,000	\$ 1,456	7%
Pledge Payments	425,716	110,811	26%
Donations for Facilities	45,000	5,330	12%
Altar Flower Donations	4,000	390	6%
Miscellaneous			
Operating Revenue	494,716	117,987	24%
EXPENSES			
Compensations	\$ 385,466	\$ 30,313	8%
Church Activities	22,500	321	1%
Parish Operations	99,200	13,129	13%
Community Engagement	20,000	0	
Diocesan Giving	50,000	0	
Operating Expenses	577,166	43,763	8%
Surplus/(Deficit)	(82,450)	74,224	
Additional Funding – reserves	82,450	0	
	\$ 0	\$ 74,224	

ENDOWMENT FUND BALANCE \$127,962

* YTD January = 8.3% of the year

Budget Analysis: Donations for Plate and Flowers were less than straight-line budget projections, but Use by Outside Organizations and Pledge Payments exceeded projections. Expenses for Staff Compensation and Church Activities were either equal to or under straight-line budget projections, but Parish Operations exceeded projections, resulting in Net Revenue of \$74,224 for January 2023.

Thank you! Your continued support is very impressive during these challenging times.

All financial obligations for the year to date have been met and bills paid.

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.

Susie Casson, Acting Treasurer

CALENDAR

March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (Zoom) 6:00pm <i>Dog training classes</i> 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	2 8:00pm <i>Women's AA Meeting</i>	3	4 11:00am Lent Yoga 2:30pm <i>Dog training classes</i> 5:00pm Talk & Pray (in-person) 6:30pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i>
5 8:30am Worship Service (in-person only) 9:30am Children's Church (Reaves) 10:00am Worship Service (in-person & Zoom) 11:30am Lenten Book Study 2:30pm <i>Dog training classes</i> 5:00pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i> 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	6 8:00pm <i>Men's AA Meeting</i>	7 1:00pm Book Lovers 7:00pm All-Parish Finance Meeting (Zoom) 7:30pm <i>Suicide Bereavement Group</i> 7:30pm <i>Dog training classes</i>	8 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (Zoom) 6:00pm <i>Dog training classes</i> 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	9 7:30pm Lent Yoga 8:00pm <i>Women's AA Meeting</i>	10	11 11:00am Lent Yoga 2:30pm <i>Dog training classes</i> 5:00pm Talk & Pray (in-person) 6:30pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i>
12 8:30am Worship Service (in-person only) 9:30am Children's Church (Reaves) 10:00am Worship Service (in-person & Zoom) 11:00am Family Fun Day 11:30am Lenten Book Study 2:30pm <i>Dog training classes</i> 5:00pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i> 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	13 7:00pm Finance Meeting 8:00pm <i>Men's AA Meeting</i>	14 12:00pm Lunch and Conversation 7:30pm <i>Dog training classes</i>	15 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (Zoom) 3:00pm <i>Piano Lessons</i> 6:00pm <i>Dog training classes</i> 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	16 3:00pm <i>Piano Lessons</i> 7:30pm Lent Yoga 8:00pm <i>Women's AA Meeting</i>	17	18 11:00am Lent Yoga 2:30pm <i>Dog training classes</i> 5:00pm Talk & Pray (in-person) 6:30pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i>
19 8:30am Worship Service (in-person only) 9:30am Children's Church (Reaves) 10:00am Worship Service (in-person & Zoom) 11:30am Lenten Book Study 5:00pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i> 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	20 8:00pm <i>Men's AA Meeting</i>	21 7:00pm Vestry Meeting 7:30pm <i>Dog training classes</i>	22 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (Zoom) 6:00pm <i>Dog training classes</i> 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	23 Office closed 7:30pm Lent Yoga 8:00pm <i>Women's AA Meeting</i>	24 Office closed	25 9:00am Story Sharing Workshop 11:00am Lent Yoga 2:30pm <i>Dog training classes</i> 5:00pm Talk & Pray (in-person) 6:30pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i>
26 8:30am Worship Service (in-person only) 9:30am Children's Church (Reaves) 10:00am Worship Service (in-person & Zoom) 11:30am Lenten Book Study 5:00pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i> 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	27 8:00pm <i>Men's AA Meeting</i>	28 7:30pm <i>Dog training classes</i>	29 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (Zoom) 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	30 7:30pm Lent Yoga 8:00pm <i>Women's AA Meeting</i>	31	

For up-to-date calendar information, go to stlukesbethesda.org/calendar.

CALENDAR

April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9am-12noon Garden Guild workday 5:00pm Talk & Pray (in-person) 6:30pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i>
2 Palm Sunday 8:30am Worship Service (in-person only) 9:30am Children's Church (Reaves) 10:00am Worship Service (in-person & Zoom) 11:30am Lenten Book Study 5:00pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i> 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	3 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i> <i>Meeting</i>	4	5 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (Zoom) 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	6 Maundy Thursday 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service 8:00pm <i>Women's AA</i> <i>Meeting</i>	7 Good Friday 12:00pm Good Friday Service	8 Holy Saturday 8:00pm Easter Vigil
9 Easter Sunday 8:30am Worship Service (in-person only) 9:30am Children's Church (Reaves) 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>	10 Easter Monday Office closed 7:00pm Finance Meeting 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i> <i>Meeting</i>	11 12:00pm Lunch & Conversation	12 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (Zoom)	13 8:00pm <i>Women's AA</i> <i>Meeting</i>	14	15 5:00pm Talk & Pray (Zoom service) 6:30pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i>
16 8:30am Worship Service (in-person only) 9:30am Children's Church (Reaves) 10:00am Worship Service (in-person & Zoom) 12:00pm <i>Dog training workshop</i> 5:00pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i> 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	17 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i> <i>Meeting</i>	18 7:00pm Vestry Meeting	19 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (Zoom) 3:00pm <i>Piano Lessons</i> 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	20 3:00pm <i>Piano Lessons</i> 8:00pm <i>Women's AA</i> <i>Meeting</i>	21	22 5:00pm Talk & Pray (Zoom service) 6:30pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i>
23 8:30am Worship Service (in-person only) 9:30am Children's Church (Reaves) 10:00am Worship Service (in-person & Zoom) 5:00pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i> 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	24 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i> <i>Meeting</i>	25	26 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (Zoom) 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	27 8:00pm <i>Women's AA</i> <i>Meeting</i>	28	29 5:00pm Talk & Pray (Zoom service) 6:30pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i>
30 Jessica's last Sunday before sabbatical 8:30am Worship Service (in-person only) 9:30am Children's Church (Reaves) 10:00am Worship Service (in-person & Zoom) 5:00pm <i>Cristo La Roca</i> 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>						

For up-to-date calendar information, go to stlukesbethesda.org/calendar.

St. Luke's Financial
Health & Sustainability:

Where we are

Where we want to go

How we plan to get there

How you can help

Important All Parish Meeting
Tuesday, March 7th, 7 pm
on Zoom

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