

ANNUAL MEETING
ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
January 29, 2023
IN PERSON

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 A.M. and it was determined that a quorum of the congregation were logged in and at least 25 members of the parish were present. Those Vestry members present in person were, Jr. Warden - Ed Mitchell, Clerk of the Vestry - Barbara Suess, Phillip Cody, Bethany Walling, Suzanne McFarlane, Joy Miller, Leonda Seamster-Lemons, April Nesbit, and Erin Bigelow.

Mother Tammy began with opening prayer. Barbara Suess was appointed Secretary for the meeting.

Mother Tammy explained there was an amendment to the Agenda. Due to procedure issues we will not vote on a Vestry term resolution.

The minutes for the 2022 Annual Meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Stan Caufield and seconded by Peggy Saunkeah.

The 2023 budget was presented by Denver Davison who reviewed each line item pointing out the increase/decrease of that item. Denver noted the increase in pledges even with loss of several long standing members. The expenses for the year were projected to be \$298,998.43, leaving a deficit of \$38,474.43. The Vestry approved this budget knowing we have unrestricted designated funds that can be used to supplement the budget shortfall. The budget was received and affirmed by the congregation.

Mother Tammy Wooliver remarked about the Annual meeting being totally in person this year. She expressed her gratitude to her Sr. Warden, Christine Pappas who couldn't be with us as she is in Kenya, Africa. Mother Tammy thanked her Jr. Warden, Ed Mitchell for all his hard work keeping our Church beautiful. The entire Vestry has worked very hard this year and she is very grateful to each member.

Election of Vestry members - Suzanne McFarlane thanked all Vestry members going off. Five new members placed in nomination to fill the vacancies are Shirley Mixon, Phyllis Wallace, Bridget Forshay, Brandon Hill and Anne Escobedo. Angus McFarlane has accepted the position as Sr. Warden. There were no nominations from the floor. A motion was made by Peggy Saunkeah to approve all candidates and this was seconded by Cheryl Cody. The poll reflected all were in favor. Nominees were elected.

Election of Diocesan Convention/Regional Delegates: The alternates moving up to delegates were Katrina McCurdy and Tonya Wood. The new alternates will be Peggy Saunkeah and April

Nesbit. A motion that the nominations cease was made by Diane Criswell and seconded by Kaitlyn Downing. The nominees were elected by poll acclamation.

A video presentation of St. Luke's 2022 was shown and applauded.

Mother Tammy expressed her thanks to all and is very grateful for everyone's support. She added if you reviewed the reports in the Annual Meeting Program you will see how much we have done this past year. St. Luke's provided camp scholarships for ten children to attend camp in 2022 and hope to do it again in 2023. Anyone can donate to this cause if you would like.

She pointed out our growth - the average attendance is up to 70 per Sunday morning. We have a new Deacon - Michael Riden and a new Rector - Mother Tammy Wooliver.

Mother Tammy would like to have deep conversations. We all have amazing ideas, hopes and dreams for St. Luke's. The changes over the past six years starting with changing Priests, the loss of members and gaining of new ones. She asked who had been a member of the Church for over 50 years and several stood. These members are our story keepers. Then asked for members of 20 to 50 years and a larger group stood. We all have different levels of attachment to St. Luke's. The last group bring to the table new perspectives. We are a diversified community to come to the table to discuss the questions of who we are, what is our direction?

Mother Tammy is grateful to be at St. Luke's. She notified the congregations that our organist Miriam White will be taking medical leave for an indefinite period of time due to medical issues. We are working for find someone to replace her during her absence.

Mother Tammy expressed her appreciation for Nickey and all she does for the Church.

Cheryl Cody asked if we could post the 2022 video on our web page to show the community how much St. Luke's does each year.

Please complete the Time & Talent cards laid out and turn them in to the office.

Angus requested volunteers for the up coming Pancake Supper.

There being no other concerns a motion to close the meeting was made by Christine and 2nd by Dan.

Closing prayer was given Mother Tammy Wooliver - "Let's move this ship forward".
Meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

Barbara Suess, Secretary for the Meeting

TIME AND TALENT

As you know St. Luke's Stewardship Campaign, for 2023 began in Nov and ended with a wonderful Consecration Sunday event. You may have noticed that it was a bit different than has normally been done. This year focused on giving as a sacrament, a word which comes from the Latin word sacramentum, meaning "an oath of allegiance, a pledge.". In other words, you and God discerned together how much of your financial resources to set aside for the work of God in the world and in the Church. You grabbed hold of it and took it seriously. What a blessing It was to experience the responses coming in. The results were a clear message of support from the congregation for the ministry of St. Luke's. For instance, we received 11 new pledges and pledging overall was up 2%. What this demonstrates is that we are growing spiritually. That you believe in and support the work God is doing in and through St. Luke's as well as the larger community of Ada. I have no doubt that the next phase of stewardship will produce a similar response.

Between now and the Annual Meeting you are invited once again to go to prayer and converse with God about your relationship to time and talent. I believe that most people have some idea of what God is calling them to do or be. But specifically for this year, how is God calling you to grow through the giving of your time and/or talent? Use the Ministry booklet available in the Parish Hall to peruse and consider where you either want to continue the ministry you are already involved in or what ministry you'd like to learn more about. Notice what ministry/s interest you, excite you, invite you to step out of your comfort zone, or activate visions of possibilities???

At the Annual Meeting, Time and Talent cards will be distributed for you to fill out and return. They will then be collated, and the leaders of the different ministries will receive your contact information and be in touch.

Please take the next step at the Annual Meeting and fill out a Time and Talent form - your unique gifts and talents are wanted for the building up of God's Kingdom!!!...(if you are unable to attend, please contact Nickey at the Church Office)

Together in Christ,
Mother Tammy

Senior Warden Report 2023

Sometimes I think I am just “plugging along” and not accomplishing much in my day-to-day life. Then I review the past year and find I have made progress in many of my endeavors. This realization happened again as I began preparing the annual summary of the St. Lukes Church.

We started off in the February meeting with three returning and five new vestry members, a new senior warden, and a budget of a little under \$300,000. Mother Tammy brought us up to date with the good work that had been done the year before and challenged us with goals for the coming year.

Brandon Hill attended a Diocesan Vestry Retreat in April; a retreat for the St. Lukes Vestry was also held in May. Mother Tammy and I met frequently throughout the year to discuss plans for events, evaluate current policies, and interview candidates for staff positions.

A significant change in the vestry structure was the appointment of Diane Criswell as the secretary of the vestry. She is a non-voting vestry member and serves a one-year term that may be extended.

Each vestry member became a liaison to a specific area of St. Lukes ministry. Progress reports from each area were submitted to the monthly vestry meetings and a summary of their activity is included in the annual meeting document.

The treasurer has begun using Quicken bookkeeping software. One of the advantages of the new software is that the reports are easier for vestry members to understand.

An audit of the Policies and Procedures of St. Lukes was conducted, and the findings of the audit committee were reported to the vestry.

National church policy requires that we participate in the Safe Church Program and conduct background checks on all new employees as well as volunteers who are in contact with people through our outreach programs.

The terms for three members of the Bequest and Endowment Committee ended in 2023. Replacements for these three positions were appointed. Available funds from this account were used to provide scholarships to St. Crispin's campers from our congregation, new vestments for the lay readers and acolytes, and a stipend for Elliot Riden to attend the EYE National Conference in Maryland.

A Compensation Committee was formed to review the salaries of all staff and to conduct personnel interviews as needed. Anne Escobedo, Phyllis Wallace, and Tonya Wood volunteered to serve on this committee.

Several vestry members directed outreach projects such as Matthew 25 and our office food bank, the Adopt-a-Family Christmas Gifts, donations to Tabitha's House in Haiti, Meals on Wheels, and Howdy Day at ECU. AA groups meet at St. Lukes three times each week.

We held a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper as a fund raiser. The beneficiaries for the event were the discretionary funds for Mother Tammy and Deacons Bobby and Robert. Nearly every man helped with the preparation, serving, and cleanup of the event; a profit of \$2,000 was collected.

Our stewardship campaign this year involved a new approach for us. We chose to follow the guidelines of the "Consecration Sunday" stewardship plan, under the leadership of Anne Escobedo. The consensus of the congregation and vestry was that, even though we had a few questions about some of the process, we felt it was very successful and are planning to give it another try next year.

We had several visiting clergy during the year: Supply priests included Fr. Art Scrutchens and Mthr. Elizabeth Davis. Fr. Jim Blagg and Mthr. Tammy teamed up during the Consecration Sunday program. Bishop Polson Reed was here April for one Baptism and Confirmation and Reception of five new communicants. Canon Betsy Randall met with us one evening to share thoughts on church vitality. She told us about grants that are available for outreach projects with the goal of church growth. The vestry has considered several projects that might be feasible for applications next year. Also, Julia Ayala Harris, President of the House of Deputies, spent a Sunday with us and explained her role with the national church.

Fellowship has been a big deal for us this year. From socials such as ice cream party, happy hours, breakfast and lunch bunches, soup suppers, animal blessings, and the annual Sheep Creek picnic to workshops and Bible studies, there is something going on around here all the time!

This fall, the vestry, upon the encouragement of the Diocesan Office, voted to change the term of office for vestry members from two to three years. The change will be effective beginning with the 2023 Annual Meeting.

Our phone system has become problematic and we decided in December to install a new system this spring.

We have an outstanding group of people on our vestry. They are innovative and willing to try new ideas, yet conscious of tradition and steadfast in maintaining policies and practices we hold dear. They feel free to express their opinions while being kind in the discussions.

I especially want to express my appreciation to Nickey McEwen for all her help and to Robert Martinez, our sexton. Our nursery attendants are invaluable, too!

Angus McFarlane

Junior Warden Report 2023

The work to preserve our grounds and buildings continues. We replaced electrical wiring in the nave, replaced several poorly functioning toilets, replaced the water heater in working sacristy, and shored up the failing office foundation. We have started work on replacing the plants at the front of the church. We have plans for a handrail in front of the office.

I am thankful for the privilege of serving you and my Lord Jesus Christ.

Very respectfully,
Ed Mitchell

Deacon's Report 2023-Bobby Saunkeah

One of my biggest highlights of the past year was the long-anticipated blessing of welcoming Robert Willis as St. Luke's newest (but hopefully not last!) deacon. I was appointed to serve as Robert's official mentor for his first year, but, honestly, I get as much out of the relationship as he does, probably even more. Robert's enthusiasm, passion and commitment are contagious and refreshing, and he brings a fresh perspective and new ideas that I know will serve St. Luke's well for many years to come. Robert truly has the heart of a servant-leader deacon.

I was honored by Bishop's Poulson's offer to serve as a member on the inaugural Deacon's Council for the Diocese of Oklahoma. Deacons report directly to the bishop, and this council is to advise him on activities, events, concerns, and other issues pertaining to the diaconate. Although this Council has yet to convene, I suspect more information will be forthcoming at our annual Deacon's retreat next month.

Another exciting highlight was coordinating the visit to St. Luke's by Julia Ayala Harris, President of the House of Deputies, who, along with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, are the two highest governing officers of our national Episcopal Church. We were the first ever (and who doesn't like to be first!) to invite President Ayala Harris to preach and speak in a parish setting, and I know it was as exciting for her as it was for us. I thought her sermon was right on point as she emphasized that the work of the church is truly done at the parish/community level. I also found her talk/Q&A on her role, activities, and priorities as President of the House of Deputies very enlightening and informative. Our diocese is truly blessed to have such a committed and gifted Oklahoman (she's from Norman) in this prestigious and important position in the church.

During this same visit some of you may recall that President Ayala Harris mentioned that one of the Church's priorities for the coming years is exploring the Episcopal Church's association with the Indigenous boarding schools of the 19th and 20th centuries and the tragedies imparted by them. To come to a full understanding of the legacies of these schools, and their lasting impact on Indigenous culture, the Executive Council of the Episcopal church has convened a fact-finding commission to study this issue and present a report to the 2027 General Convention. I was appointed to serve on this *Executive Council Committee for Indigenous Boarding Schools and Advocacy* by President Ayala Harris, and our first meeting will convene January 17-18, 2024.

More locally, I have assumed the primary responsibility at St. Luke's for setting up and maintaining the new SafeChurch program required for all Episcopal churches. Depending on which role or position you may hold at St. Luke's, certain on-line training modules are required to maintain the safety of our children, and all parishioners, as well as to satisfy church insurance requirements. We appreciate your compliance with this training and please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or need any assistance.

As always, I appreciate the pleasure and privilege of serving as a deacon at St. Luke's alongside Mother Tammy and now, Robert. 2024 will be my 14th year in ordained ministry! I really appreciate the support and gratitude you extend to me; believe me, it does not go unnoticed. And I especially appreciate the continued love, support and understanding of Peggy and Lili.

Blessings to all in 2024!

Deacon Bobby

Deacon's Report 2023-Robert Willis

Hello to my entire St. Luke's family,

Well, another year has come and gone, and here we are, back to another annual meeting. It is amazing how much can happen in that amount of time. First, let me begin by saying thank you to each and everyone of you. More often than not, when there are big changes in our lives, these turn out to be hard or difficult times. But the love and grace that this congregation and worship team has shown towards me, can only be described as truly inspired by God! So, I offer you all my heartfelt gratitude in this.

I think that this year can be summed up by saying that it has truly been a year of learning. Learning what it means to serve as a deacon, both in the church, as well as out in the real world that we all inhabit. As a newbie, there have been a million different things that I have wanted to try. But learning time management is truly a skill that is needed when serving in the role of ordained bi-vocational ministry.

Another aspect that I have learned about, is one of developing a strong rule of life, especially when it comes to Prayer. To be sensitive to God, and the Holy Spirit, is vital in all our lives, not just as a minister, but as a human being. Over the past year, I have learned that like any other physical activity, the more we practice something, the stronger we become. The more that we develop our rule of life, the better we become at following the guidance of the Holy Spirit to the places where God desires us to be.

As a deacon, God has called me to serve, not just at the Holy Table, but out in the world, outside the doors of our church. They say that the point where the things that we truly enjoy intersect with the desires that God has for our lives, is a holy place. It is where we belong. Over the past year, I have truly found one of these intersections for myself. That is, being in the Order of Naucratus. This is an Episcopal group of both clergy and laity that have come together of on accord. We work toward not only having a better understanding of God, found in his creation, the Earth, but also for the right and proper conservation and use of the things that are provided to us by God, through nature. Specifically, by providing high-quality proteins to those in need through the harvesting of the natural abundances given to us.

This past October, I participated in the annual fishing retreat at St. Crispin's. In this, I led a class on fishing basics, where I worked with people from age 4 up to senior citizens. I also helped people catch their first fish and demonstrated the proper way to clean and handle fish once they were caught.

In November, I was a primary member of the group in an activity called "Does and Bows". The order came together to not only help manage the lands of St. Crispin's, but also to help people gain a better understanding of what it means to experience God in the deer woods. In conjunction with the Seminole Nation, there were various demonstrations on the Native American ways that wild game was handled in the past. Finally, through the harvest of deer at this event, more than 400 pounds of pure meat was donated to the Seminole Nation's food pantry. All of which would go back to help feed tribal members who have found themselves in need.

Lastly, in December, I began work in conjunction with the diocese. Working in unison towards the restoration of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Coalgate. This is being done in anticipation of bringing back church services within that community. So, as I stated earlier, this first full year, as an ordained member of the clergy has truly been a learning experience. What an amazing start it has been to this journey I am on. A journey that I cannot wait to see where God leads not only me, but all of us. And I pray, that we all have the strength and courage to follow where God is leading.

Deacon Robert

Diocesan Report 2023

The Diocesan Commission on Ministry (COM) is a group that I have been a part of since April 2020. As the lay representative from St Luke's Ada and on behalf of the SE region, I have actively participated in COM's activities. Our regular scheduled meetings take place monthly and are conducted via zoom. Additionally, we use email for other important business matters. Typically, email communication is reserved for individuals who require COM approval to advance into their final year of training as Candidates for Holy Orders.

In February, COM hosted a diocesan-wide vocation day gathering. This virtual event is open to anyone who is discerning a call to ministry, whether it be as a lay leader, a deacon, or a priest. It is an opportunity for individuals to explore their gifts and passions and discern how they can best serve the Church.

In March, I attended a COM training session where we received updates on the diocesan guidelines for discernment and formation. This training helped us to better understand our roles and responsibilities in the recruitment and formation process for candidates for the Diaconate or Priesthood. It also provided us with valuable resources and tools to assist us in our work.

Throughout the year, I have been actively involved in the discernment and formation of nominees, postulants, and candidates for Holy Orders through BACM and as a COM Liaison. This has included conducting interviews, reviewing applications and recommendations, and participating in the formation and examination process. It has been a privilege to be a part of this important work and to witness the growth and development of these individuals as they prepare for ordained ministry.

In conclusion, my time on the Diocesan Commission on Ministry has been incredibly rewarding. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as the lay representative from St Luke's Ada and to contribute to the important work of discerning and forming individuals for Holy Orders. As my term has recently ended, I look forward to continuing this work and helping to shape the future of ministry within our diocese. I am listening for my next call.

Peggy Saunkeah

MUSIC MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Friends, thank you for allowing me to work with these fantastic people. This year has been a change for St. Luke's and me. Shortly before the summer started, my wife and I welcomed our first child, Olivia; I then joined the aspirants, discerning a call to ordained ministry, and became your choir director – all within three months! We welcomed Farren Rowan to the organ for St. Luke's and Christopher Bragg as the new choir director. I want to thank everyone in the choir for their dedication. Our sopranos: Anne, Tori, Hillary, and Marianna; our altos: Deanna, Emily, and Evie; our tenors: Elliot, Michael, and Trevor; and our bass Denver. Each is a fantastic person, and I have enjoyed my time with them.

Some highlights from 2023 include:

- Celebrating with Miriam White
- Premiering a new choral piece
- Sunnie performing at the Pet Blessing
- Hiring a new member
- Performing Tori and Rudy's Piece *Star Child*

Goals for 2024 include:

- Premiere more choral works
- Have service music written for St. Luke's
- Choral Evensong
- Lessons and Carols, either Advent or Christmas
- Continuing to make a joyful noise

I look forward to the new year and thank everyone at St. Luke's for their support. I look forward to serving you in 2024.

Peace,

Christopher Bragg, Director of Music

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Bequest and Endowment Trust Committee Report

2023

During 2023 the BET committee met quarterly to discuss the Bequest and Endowment Fund (#80). The current committee members include Brandon Hill (Chair), Deanna Compton, Anne Escobedo, Elliott Riden and Leonda Seamster.

The Bequest and Endowment Fund (#80) had a current market value of \$605,368.75 on 12/31/23 a net growth of \$43,493.58. Net Income that is currently available to spend is \$24,648.03.

The distributions made from this fund (#80) in 2023 was \$4,880.88, broken down as follows:

- \$500 to the new SOAR Building Fund
- \$250 to the Bishop's Fund
- \$180.88 to cover remaining expenses for Episcopal Youth Event attendance
- \$3,950 to cover registration fees for 2023 St. Crispin's Summer Camp

During the third Quarter of 2023 (June to September) the BET Fund decreased in value by just over \$18,000 which led to caution for the BET Committee. However, during the 4th Quarter (October to December), the portfolio gained over \$37,000 in value.

All BET Committee members will continue their terms during the 2024 year, and I would like to thank them for their work in considering the requests in front of us during 2023. I would also like to thank the Vision bank trust team who have engaged with us promptly and have given good advice during this year.

I would also like to take the opportunity to invite St. Luke's members to consider leaving gifts to St. Luke's Episcopal Bequest and Endowment Fund in their wills and trusts. This will grow our opportunities to serve the church and our local communities in the future. If anyone has questions about this, I would be happy to meet with them.

I am honored to serve St. Luke's as Chairperson of the BET committee, and I look forward to the opportunities for the BET committee during the next year.

Submitted,
Brandon Hill
St. Luke's Bequest and Endowment Trust Committee Chair

Altar Guild Report 2023

A friend and priest described the Altar Guild as the lifeline of the church. I was overwhelmed by such a generous compliment but after giving it some thought I find that I agree. In 2023, in addition to the two services held every week, the guild was responsible for preparing for 2 funerals, and a visit from the Bishop and Canon. Also, extra services during Holy week and Advent as well as 2 services on Christmas Eve. Next time you enter the Nave, remember that all the elements of the service did not magically appear. Leslie, Kathy, Marsha, Susan, Johnnie, Phyllis, and Leonda all pitch in to make it happen. Anyone wanting to join in this vital ministry is welcomed and appreciated.

Kathy Taylor

L.E.V. Report 2023

Lay Eucharistic Visitor (L.E.V.) is a ministry of taking communion from the service to those who are not able to attend church in person. Currently Royanna Willis, Suzanne McFarlane, and Dan Church have been trained for this ministry.

If you know of anyone who may be in need of having communion brought to their residence from the altar on Sunday morning Holy Eucharist, or if you are interested in being an L.E.V., contact Mother Tammy or the church office.

Dan Church

Acolyte Report 2023

The acolyte ministry at St. Luke's continues to thrive with its few, but devoted members.

This past year witnessed the graduation of Elliot Riden from high school, but he is proud to continue his service with St. Luke's as he is able.

We look forward to the maturation of your junior acolytes and the addition of more beginners in the years to come.

To the continuance of their ministry, we offer this prayer:

Gracious God, our great high priest;
You invite us all to your table.
Give your people the desire to serve your altar with solemnity and pride; as willing
Members of your communion feast.
That we may joyfully lift your cross and carry your light and word into the world.
In Jesus' name, we pray.
Amen.

Michael Riden

Missions Annual Report

Prepared by Shirley Mixon

Adopt-A-Family

St. Luke's "Adopt A Family Program" was again a huge success! The program is designed to assist local families who register with Ada Homeless Services. The program is for adults as well as children.

St. Luke's members stepped up and assisted with the program. With the assistance of Ada Homeless Services, five large families were identified as needing assistance during the Christmas holiday. The total number of family members provided for was 19 with most receiving multiple gifts based on their want/need list.

Matthew 25

This mission continues to thrive. On average, 25 families are served monthly with \$250 in food provided for each family. The amount spent during the year is around \$6,250 on food distribution alone. There are a few new families registered during the year. Anywhere from 5 to 10 St. Luke's members assist with food handout each month. Volunteers are always welcome.

Meals on Wheels

The St. Luke's Meals on Wheels program has five routes with approximately 10 people being served per route. Volunteers are encouraged and welcome.

Mission Report-Tabitha's Orphanage in Haiti

In September St. Luke's members donated \$900 to Tabitha's to help get her children started in school. Due to the violence and unrest in Haiti they did not start school in August, but had to wait until mid-September. Tabitha is always very appreciative of the support we give her. Tabitha's expenses include uniforms, backpacks, school supplies, and teacher salaries. The older children leave the orphanage to go to school so there is also travel expense to and from town. The younger children attend school at the orphanage and teachers come there to teach, Tabitha says, "I thank you for your support and God bless you."

Joy Dawn Miller

Columbarium Committee Report 2023

The Columbarium Committee (Angus, Tom Criswell, and Phillip Cody) met to discuss policies for the purchase of a niche in the Columbarium. Communicants may contact Mother Tammy or Angus McFarlane to negotiate a contract for a niche. The niches are designed to hold two or three urns. Tom Criswell has provided a sample of the urn that is customarily used in our niches. The sample will be shown to the family as the purchase of a niche is discussed. The cost of a niche is \$400 plus \$25 for the engraving of the brass label.

The brass labels for each niche in the columbarium have been updated. Also, two plaques which help people locate the various niches have also been updated and are found in the nave beside the door going from the nave into the columbarium.

Angus McFarlane

Stewardship Campaign Report 2023

The Stewardship Committee consisted of Anne Escobedo, Phyllis Wallace, Tonya Wood, Angus and Suzanne McFarlane, Diane Criswell, Peggy Saunkeah, and Joy Dawn Miller. Members of the Vestry assisted as well. Together, the group introduced a new form of Stewardship campaign called Consecration Sunday, which focuses congregational giving on the spiritual call to give instead of the necessity of giving to cover expenses. The program is detailed in a book by Herb Miller with week-by-week instructions. By asking our congregation to give "One More Step" compared to what they have given in the past, our congregation answered the call. After all the pledges were submitted, an almost 8.6% increase in giving was pledged this year in comparison to 2023 with pledges totaling \$243,296. This was celebrated with a catered luncheon after the service.

Anne Escobedo

Youth Formation Report 2023

There are very few updates to Youth Formation from last year. Sunday School kicked off Sept 10. The same teachers agreed to teach this year; Caity Dowing and Hillary Brown teaching Pre-School age, Anne Escobedo and Bethany Walling teaching Elementary School age, and Michael Riden and Leonda Seamster teaching High School. Additional curriculum was purchased for the Elementary School age, as they finished the last segment. The Sunday School kids participated in the Nativity play during Advent.

Anne Escobedo

Youth Group Annual Report 2023

We had a great year for 2023!

We got to see three of our kiddos graduate and move on to their next chapters.

When we returned in the fall we still had a great turn out and continue to bring in 7-8 teens each week. The youth of St. Luke's hasn't been served like this since the 90's to early 2000's.

In 2023 we were able to offer a safe place to ask questions, vent, pray and share victories with one another. We explored the Bible, watched the Chosen and learned new ways to grow in relationship with Jesus and one another.

Caity Dowing

EfM Annual Report-2023

The Education for Ministry group at St. Luke's continued to thrive throughout 2023, with a robust group of eight students.

We continue to enjoy the work of pursuing personal discernment as lay ministers in the eternal priesthood of Christ.

To the continuance of our ministry, we offer this prayer:

O God, our strong foundation and source of all gifts,
You are the author of our beings and you know our gifts.
We pray for the openness and wisdom to discern your calling for us;
That we may use our gifts with gladness and love in service to the world today.
In Jesus' name, we pray.
AMEN

Michael Riden

Pastoral Care/Prayer Chain Committee 2023

The Pastoral Care Committee is a cadre of volunteers who serve several functions. They might be considered a “communications link” between Mother Tammy and the members of our congregation. Each committee member is assigned a group of families for whom she is responsible. You may receive a phone call or email from them from time to time. They may be delivering an important message or asking for some information, or just checking up on you!

The committee also tries to stay in touch with members of the congregation and notify Mother Tammy of any pastoral needs they hear about (illness, hunger, loneliness financial assistance). Mother Tammy then follows up with the member in need and, in turn, asks the Prayer Chain to join her in praying for God’s healing.

Mother Tammy and Bobby Saunkeah visit and take communion to older members and those with chronic health issues. Three lay members of the congregation have been trained as Lay Eucharistic Ministers and are authorized to provide this service at the end of the church service on Sundays. They are most willing to do this for anyone who requests it.

Mother Tammy has implemented special church services in recognition of two groups of people who need our attention and loving care. A veterans service was held in November and a Blue Christmas service was held in December.

The Pastoral Care Committee promoted special events on Wednesday evenings during Advent: and workshop on making Episcopal rosaries. Each event was attended by ten to fifteen people.

Anyone may make an appointment to spend some time in the church nave for private prayer and meditation. Appointments should be made by calling the church office, 332-6429.

We have several lines of communication available; use any or all of them as you wish. If you are unfamiliar with how to navigate some of the newer ones, just ask! We have several teenagers who would be happy to help you!

- Email
- Face Book
- Instagram
- Text messages
- Web page
- Phone calls
- ZOOM (interactive video of meetings)

Finally, please know that an updated Church Directory, (a booklet of contact information for all members and regular attendees at St. Luke’s Church services) is available after the annual meeting. Also, please check your listing for accuracy and let us know of any updates.

Suzanne McFarlane

Hospitality Report 2023

January 29-Annual Meeting: Vestry provided lunch for church members.

February 21-Pancake Supper was held and \$2000 was raised. Funds went to the Discretionary Fund for Priest and Deacons. Virtually every man of St. Luke's pitched in to help set up, cook, serve, wait on tables, and clean up for this event.

April 23-Bishop's Visit: Brunch was held.

May 21-Julia Ayala Harris Visit: Luncheon Reception to celebrate visit and graduates honored.

August 6-Sheep Creek Family Picnic: Lunch was served. Meats provided by church, all sides and desserts were provided by parishioners. Bottled water provided by Tom Crabtree and Brandon Hill. Soft drinks provided by Tom Crabtree. Thanks to all for your contributions and thank you Denver and Tori Davison and Bill and Trigg Yerby for always sharing beautiful Sheep Creek with us. Lots of food and fun!!!

August 20-Welcome Sunday Brunch

September 11-Ice Cream Sundae Contest for Sunday School Kick-Off. Prizes for best decorated ice cream sundaes.

November 5-Brunch held for visit of Canon Steve Carlson

December 3-Consecration Sunday Celebration Luncheon-Catered Event

Many thanks to Diane Criswell and Kathy Taylor for all their organizing and helping with Hospitality events and to Suzanne McFarlane, Leslie Mitchell, Tonya Wood, Anne Escobedo, and Katrina McCurdy, for their help in setting up tables, serving food, and making coffee and providing snacks for after church services.

Many thanks to Tom Criswell, Phillip Cody, and Michael Riden for their help in making sure all dishes are washed and kitchen is clean after brunches and luncheons.

Many thanks go to our ushers Phillip Cody, Tom Criswell, Dustie Cabo-Devers, Brandon Hill, Angus McFarlane, Suzanne McFarlane, Ed Mitchell, Shirley Mixon, and Christine Pappas for always being open and inviting while greeting our members and visitors. Thanks also for your duties once our church service has begun.

Sincerely,

Joy Dawn Miller

Website Report 2023

Our website serves multiple functions.

1. It is often the first impression for non-members who are looking at a church. Therefore, we want to be welcoming, provide relevant information, drive people to come on Sunday and share who we are with the public.
2. We want it to be a resource for current members. Some information members want to see on the website is similar to the information prospective visitors look for, such as the event calendar and service times. However, members are privy to things like the member directory and we want to try to provide that for you through the website.
3. The website is also a useful tool from an analytics standpoint. With the new website, we will be able to see how site users found our website, which page they landed on and if they went to other pages, how long they use the site, information on the site that is most viewed or not viewed at all, and much more. Analytics are valuable in helping us optimize the user experience and hopefully turn the website visitor into a visitor on Sunday.

We are creating a new St. Luke's website on a platform that will allow us to see website analytics and is much more user-friendly on the back end. We are also moving the website to StLukesAda.org rather than StLukesAda.com to better fit with our non-profit organization status.

We welcome your input! Please reach out to Mother Tammy, Brandon Hill or Bridget Forshay with your website requests and we will see if we can accommodate everything you would like our website to be.

Bridget Forshay

Office and Communications 2023

There has been a steady, high demand for emergency food help from our food pantry. We are grateful for the continued generosity of our congregation to meet this need.

Nickey made some format changes and updates to our church directory. This should make it easier to print and more accessible in digital form.

We are in the process of changing our website from ".com" to "org"

Nickey worked with Ford AV to install a replacement camera. We used local business, Ada Music, for a third microphone so that the livestream audience can hear our announcements and the Gospel reading. Nickey has also trained others to help with live streaming the service.

During the summer, Nickey helped to prepare our Flat Jesus project. He accompanied several parishioners on their summer travels.

We had lovely weather and a great response from students at Howdy Day at ECU. We distributed 180 bags of snacks and supplies to incoming freshmen.

Erin Bigelow-Jacob

Office and Communications Report 2023

It was a great year and the support of the congregation means so much to me!

We finally got all of the bugs worked out of the sound system and the livestreaming. We got a 3rd microphone that can be used as either a personal mic or handheld. I trained Yoli Vazquez to do the livestreaming so that I can occasionally have a Sunday off. If anyone else is interested in learning, I am happy to show you. You do not have to be tech savvy to do it!

The emergency food pantry has really thrived and expanded, thanks to your generous donations. When I started last year we were primarily helping people who were unhoused. This past year we have helped numerous families and adults that are struggling to make ends meet. Sometimes it's enough to help them make it until they get food stamps or until they get their next pay check.

An updated church directory has just been printed and is available to pick up after the meeting.

I hope the weekly announcements sent out through MailChimp keep everyone informed of all the opportunities and activities we have going on. If you don't receive these emails, get with me and I'll get you added to the contact list. We have a daily presence on Facebook and Instagram for information and inspiration. There is also a private St. Luke's Episcopal Church Group where we share information and pictures. If you are on Facebook, you can request to join this group.

This fall we filled 180 back sacks with snacks and goodies to hand out to students at ECU Howdy Day. You know college students always appreciate free stuff! Thanks to all who contributed items for the bags and joined us in handing them out.

And of course, there was The Blessing of the Animals in October. We purchased a popcorn maker to use for this event and any other church event. It is parked over by the kitchen and is open for use. We had a good turnout at the event. There was live music provided by Sunnie Ukelady and our own Christopher Bragg. We received some donations for PAWS and Steve Boettcher was kind enough to deliver them for us.

I've learned a lot this year and I really appreciate you all. Looking forward to all 2024 has in store!

Sincerely,

Nickey McEwen

Communications and Administrative Assistant

St. Luke's 2023 Recap

Outreach

Matthew 25
Haiti Donations-Tabitha's House
AA
Office Food Bank
Christmas Adopt-a-Family
Howdy Day at ECU
Donation to Z-Tree to feed students over holiday break

Gatherings

Ice Cream Social
Sheep Creek Family Picnic
Blessing of the Animals
Soup Suppers-Advent Wednesdays
Dinner for 6+2
Holy Happy Hours
Creative Prayer/Soul Collage
Men's Breakfast Bunch
Youth Group
A Quiet Day
Labyrinth Workshop
Rosary Workshop
Halloween Trunk or Treat
Easter Egg Hunt

Fundraisers

Pancake Supper

Membership Changes

Deaths: Mary Criswell, Jim Hall, Ann Barton
Move Aways: Vandever Family
Move Ins: Sean Corcoran, Whitney Abbott

Business

Bookkeeping system converted to Quicken
Appropriated scholarships for students to attend St. Crispin's Summer Camp
Sent Elliot Riden to EYE in Maryland
Explored possibility of purchasing new vestments for the layreaders and acolytes
Financial Audit conducted in the fall
Terms for Vestry members addressed this fall
New phone system authorized in December to be installed this spring and change of internet provider

Retreat

April 25th

Visitors

April 23-Bishop Poulson Reed

May 21-Julia Ayala Harris, President of the House of Deputies

May 25-Canon Betsy Randall-Stewardship

Father Art Scrutchens-Supply Priest

Mother Elizabeth Davis-Supply Priest

Father Jim Blagg-Consecration Sunday partner

Music Department

Miriam White, Organist left in February. Vacancy filled by Sunnie Baker.

Carson Taylor, Music Director left at end of May.

Summer organist rotation: Chris Bragg, Farren Rowan, Sunnie Baker

Chris Bragg hired as Music Director in September.

Farren Rowan hired as Organist in September.

Health and Safety

Safe Church Plan

Defibrillator undated with new battery and cleaned

Wardens and Vestry-2024

Outgoing Junior Warden

Ed Mitchell

Current Senior Warden

Angus McFarlane

Vestry Members to serve 2nd term

Erin Bigelow-Jacob

Joy Dawn Miller

Tonya Wood

Anne Escobedo

Current Vestry Members

Shirley Mixon

Phyllis Wallace

Bridget Forshay

Brandon Hill

Incoming Junior Warden

Katrina McCurdy



Incoming Junior Warden

Katrina McCurdy

Katrina McCurdy has lived in Ada for the last 24 years with her husband, Michael, on their "hobby farm". She has a daughter, Ember, who is attending her first year at ECU. She has been a committed member of St. Luke's for the last 15 years. During that time has served on Vestry twice and the Endowment committee twice. She has provided service to various ministries, including the afterschool youth group, Matthew 25, Outreach, children's formation, adult formation, and has weeded the flower beds more times than she cares to think about. She is not a fan of the gumballs.....

Katrina currently works as the office manager for the Treat's Solutions Ada branch where she has worked for the last 18 years. In 2023, she earned her Yoga Instructor 200 hour certificate and continues to teach locally. In Spring of 2024, she anticipates completing her 4 year certificate of completion from Education for Ministry through the University of Sewanee. She earned her bachelor's degree from California State University, Chico in 1995.

Diocesan Delegates

Outgoing Delegates

Katrina McCurdy

Tonya Wood

Outgoing Alternate Delegates

April Nesbit

Peggy Saunkeah

Slate of Candidates for Delegates

April Nesbit

Peggy Saunkeah

Slate of Candidates for Alternate Delegates

Ed Mitchell

Royanna Willis