



# THE ANGELUS

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, LEBANON, PA

Volume 8 No. 1

January 2018

## Rector's Corner: *Finding Another Way*

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I listen to many young people discuss what is happening in their lives, I am struck by the times I hear personal tales of crisis, confusion, and sometimes even despair. Yes, even despair! It is no wonder that rates of opioid addiction and suicide continue to skyrocket among youth and young adults. These two realities indicate a deep spiritual malaise that is settling over our society. This leads me to ask further, "What barriers block progress toward living happier, healthier and more productive lives in our communities?"



I am increasingly convinced that part of the problem lies in societal trends that have drifted away from an emphasis on community and the common good and have moved toward an emphasis on the need to take care of self, perfect oneself, even to the point of self-aggrandizement. Our greater culture seems to emphasize terms like "self" and "unique" and "I come first" or "I can do it myself." Words like "collective," "share," "band together," and "common good" have not only receded but increasingly are taking on negative meanings. Similarly, notions like virtue and conscience seem to take a back seat to ideas about self-betterment and self-strengthening.

In a real sense, the spiritual message being whispered to our kids in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century is simply to take care of themselves and ignore the community-at-large. We are living in changing times, an era of a shift in morality that will have drastic consequences in the future.

Take, for instance, the popularity of TV reality shows. Academic research has been looking into the interplay of reality TV shows and moral trends in the lives of young people in our society. Researchers in individual and social psychology have found that these trends emphasize *narcissism*, a mental framework that is characterized by pride, vanity, and a focus on oneself, even at the expense of others. They uncovered a subtle relationship between immersion in shows like "The Real Housewives of (wherever)" and others like "Survivor" and the development of certain narcissistic traits in their often youthful audience. Tendencies toward exhibitionism, voyeurism, the drive to have power over others, and the need to see oneself as very, very special seem more pronounced in those that are immersed in these shows versus those who are not. The distinction becomes even clearer when reality show viewers are compared with those that usually watch more educationally directed shows.

While researchers acknowledge that the issue of cause and effect remains fuzzy, their work allows us to ask some questions: do the shows themselves, during which the Kardashians go on a shopping spree at the mall or when Snooki, while lunching with a friend, disses her friend for being overweight, attract youths because they are already prone to being self-centered? Or do they instill in a sensitive viewer the idea that these types of behavior are actually positive and so make this kind of self-centeredness a normal way of thinking?

My own perspective, biased as it is by my own experience and my desire to convince others of the value of gospel/kingdom values, tips me toward seeing both these ideas as true. Many young people often struggle with their own identity and so may be attracted to self-centered activities and entertainments. Shows may simply strengthen and affirm this trend. Many, often impressionable, young people might find that such shows sway their perceptions of what is normal. Is it possible that this all may underlie some of the moral crisis that we in American culture seem to be facing of late?

The answer isn't simply to avoid certain television shows, music, or social media. The answer must go deeper into the very values that infuse our society of our common life. For us in the Church, the answer is about creating an alternative way of viewing who we are and how we relate to the world around us. It goes to the very core of Jesus' mission and ministry and so to the mission and ministry of the Church. I don't pretend to have any easy answers because there aren't any. However, I can suggest that maybe, just maybe, we can begin to discover a way forward by listening intently to the gospel's message to be less focused on ourselves and more focused on the welfare of others and strive to share that good news with young people in our communities.

We began that process this Fall with our efforts at *discovering Christ* and hope to continue that effort this Lent as we explore *Following Christ* during our mid-week soup suppers. That process will deepen as we continue to *Re-imagine Christian Formation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* as part of our VISION 20/20 efforts. A key element of this process will take flesh as The Rev'd Mary Kisner joins our staff as an Assisting Priest with special responsibilities in the area of children, youth, and young adult ministries (see the announcement elsewhere in this newsletter for more info). Meanwhile, let's think about how we can discover the values of God's kingdom and help our young people become another "Greatest Generation" having been infused not with reality TV but with the generous self-giving and good news of Jesus Christ.

In the loving heart of Christ, I remain faithfully,

David +



## St. Luke's to Welcome The Rev'd Mary Kisner as Assisting Priest

St. Luke's is happy to announce that The Rev'd Mary Kisner will join its staff as an Assisting Priest.

St. Luke's pastoral plan, VISION 20/20, called the parish to engage a specialist in youth and young adult ministry on a part-time basis. In response to that call, the parish has been able to engage The Rev'd Mary Kisner, recently retired as the rector of Christ Church, Berwick, PA, for that work. Reverend Kisner is an experienced story teller, a form of ministry where imagination and story take center stage in the work of spiritual formation among children and youth.



The Rev'd Mary Kisner (left) with Deacon Wanda Kloza (right) at a recent service in Christ Church.

In this position, Mother Kisner will help us re-frame our ministry with youth as a sort of "resident bard" where both Scripture and the Church become "narratable" worlds into

which our youth are invited to live. In addition to the theological power of imagination and story, such ministry draws upon literature and the arts and considers how these might equip the Church and its youth for telling and living the gospel of Jesus through worship and discipleship. She has been trained in the ways of *Godly Play*, which is based in Montessori principles and uses a special curriculum to serve children through early, middle and late childhood and beyond.

By engaging Mary as an assisting priest, said Father Zwifka, we are getting a "two fer," since she will be able to exercise her priestly ministry among us as well as work with our children, youth, and young adults. Beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>, Mother Kisner will work as a half-time member of the parish's pastoral staff. She will assist with worship, preaching, and pastoral counsel when appropriate.

As the key staff member working with children and youth, Mother Kisner will also provide a rich resource for our efforts at *Re-imagining Christian Formation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, an initiative also undertaken as part of VISION 20/20.

St. Luke's is able to take this important step with financial support provided in part by the Diocese of Bethlehem through a Congregational Development Grant and from the VISION 20/20 Fund, which was

established from an anonymous donation given for new initiatives and special needs in the parish. As the value of this ministry is made clear, the parish will need to find its way toward a more sustainable funding stream, since we cannot always rely on special outside sources," said Father Zwifka, "but the resources we have now will help us get things started and will give us some time to think creatively on how best we can reach sustainability for such a key element of our parish's mission and ministry in our community."

The St. Luke's parish community will formally welcome Mother Kisner at a special "super coffee hour" on Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, to be held between 8 and 10:30 AM service that day.



## HOPES: SERVE

By Jennifer Hackett



Our HOPES weeks are fast approaching! The HOPES (Helping Others by Providing Emergency Shelter) program of Lebanon provides short-term overnight shelter to individuals and families in need over the winter months. HOPES depends on local churches for sleeping space and volunteers to oversee the overnight shelter, and St. Luke's is proud to be a participating church again this year. We will be hosting the program from January 15 to 29, and our greatest need is for volunteers. The work is not difficult, and our interactions with the guests in past years have been very positive. An informational meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 3 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall, but attendance at the meeting is not required to be a volunteer. To sign up for a shift, visit the St. Luke's website: "Outreach," "HOPES shelter," "Sign up." If you would like help selecting a shift, contact Jen Hackett at 717-838-1028.

In addition to volunteers, we also need food and monetary donations so that we can offer an evening snack and a light breakfast to our guests. Granola bars, healthy cereals, graham crackers, goldfish crackers, and bottled water are all appreciated. As you do your holiday shopping, please consider picking up some snacks for our HOPES guests. During the weeks we are hosting HOPES, our volunteers will purchase milk, juice, and fresh fruit as needed. Food donations should be marked "HOPES" and left in the church kitchen, while monetary donations should be sent to the parish office, with "HOPES" in the check's subject line.

If you have any questions, please contact Jen Hackett at 717-838-1028 or Soon Slayman at 717-838-9612. Thank you so much for your support of this vital ministry in our community.

## Stewardship: Light & A Manifestation of God's Gifts

The idea that foreign royalty, whether kings or their priestly magi, came to pay homage to a poor infant king born in a backwater town a few miles outside Jerusalem shakes up our cultural ideas of wealth and power. The message of God's gift in the form of this vulnerable child speaks volumes about God's sacrificial desire to be with us.



In the middle of the story of how God enfleshed his love for us in Jesus, we cannot forget that these Gentile visitors from afar brought gifts to lay at the feet of the Christ Child, gifts from secular sources that represented a recognition of Jesus's sovereignty in the world. This giving provides us an opportunity to reflect on just how faithfully we recognize Jesus as king of *our* lives by how we offer our own gifts: our time, our God-given abilities and our financial and material resources.

The Epiphany as the revelation of Jesus to the whole world gives us the opportunity to understand how we seek to shine the light of Christ on the community outside our doors through our works of mercy (outreach projects). H.O.P.E.S. (in which we will participate later in January), Free Noon Meal, Power Packs, Tower Roast Coffee, the Almoner's Fund (Rector's Discretionary Fund) are just a few of the ways in which we currently seek to spread that light. Soon we hope to enter into deeper reflection on how we can improve and expand our stewardship of God's gifts to see ourselves as light-bearers to a cold and darkened world.

Now is the time when we finalize our annual reports and get ready for our annual meeting (February 11<sup>th</sup>). This can bring an intense focus on our budget and can tend to generate some anxiety, which may in turn cause us to cramp our vision. But instead of becoming anxious, we need to keep our focus on our giftedness as a parish community on how richly God has blessed us and how our parish continues to extend that blessing to others by transforming lives within and beyond our own faith community.

14 January 2018 6:00 PM

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Celebrating the Feasts of the Manifestation The Nativity, Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord

Festal Evensong

&

Organ Recital by

Theodore Davis

Organist, Saint Bartholomew's Church, Baltimore, MD

NOTE: INCENSE WILL BE USED AT ALL EVENSONGS

Vestryperson shall be considered to have served a complete term is he/she has served for two years.

Delegates to the Annual Diocesan Convention are also elected at the Annual Meeting. Nominations for delegates to the Annual Diocesan Convention will be accepted from January ? to February ?. The requirements are as follows:

ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION...At each Annual Meeting there shall be elected that number of delegates and alternate delegates to the ensuing Diocesan Convention as merited by the parish under Diocesan Canons (three delegates, three alternates). A person to be listed on the ballot for delegate or alternate must be qualified to vote at the Corporation Meeting (adult, confirmed members in good standing)=he or she shall notify the Rector or Clerk of the Vestry in writing or his or her intent to become a candidate, and which of the two positions he or she seeks (delegate or alternate). A person may be nominated by another member of the corporation. Nominations will be accepted not more than three weeks or less than one week prior to the Annual Meeting. The names of the nominees shall be posted on the bulletin boards throughout the church and parish house as the nominations are submitted.

Annual Meeting—February 11, 2018

by Parish Office

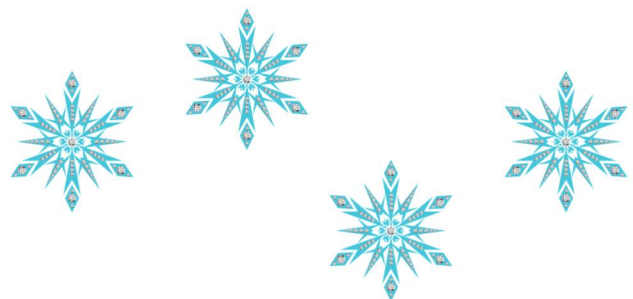
Nominations for new Vestry members will be accepted from January 7 to February 4. Nomination forms are available in the Parish Office. Requirements are as follows:

ELECTION OF VESTRY PERSONS ... A person, to be chosen to serve on the Vestry, must be nominated in writing=said nomination shall be executed by three or more members of the corporation, consented to by the nominee, and submitted to the Rector or Secretary no more than four weeks and no less than one week prior to the Annual Meeting. The names of the persons nominated shall be posted on the bulletin boards throughout the church as their nominations are submitted. Vestrypersons shall be chosen from the nominees at the Annual Meeting by lot utilizing such random and fair method as may be agreed upon by the Rector and the Senior Warden. Vestrypersons shall be eligible to serve two consecutive terms, but thereafter may not be chosen to serve on the Vestry again until a year has elapsed from the completion of their second term. A year shall be defined as the time between annual meetings. An appointed

Annual Report Notice

Parish Office

The day of the Annual Meeting is fast approaching and for those who are contributing to the formation of the Annual Report, emails were sent out on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 informing you of your area(s) of responsibility as well as the deadline (Monday, January 15), you will be receiving two more reminders (Wednesday, January 3rd and 10th) before the deadline date. Annual Report forms can be picked up at the parish office during regular business hours 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Monday thru Friday. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the parish office at (717) 272-8251 or email info@stlukeslebanon.org and we will get back to you as soon as possible, thank you and God bless.



## Liturgy and Life

### Epiphany: Seeing and Spreading the Light

The Feast of Epiphany, or Manifestation (revelation) of Christ to the Gentiles, is observed on January 6<sup>th</sup>. ðEpiphanyö comes from a Greek word that means, ðshowing forth, appearance, manifestation, revelation.ö This feast proclaims the good news that Jesus has revealed God to all humanity, Jew and Gentile alike. At Christmas, the Church celebrates the birth of Jesus, when God entered fully into our human experience. The Feast of Epiphany takes the Christmas message a step further ó when the divine revelation in Jesus was revealed to the whole world in the person of the magi, who ðcame from the East.ö The Eve of the Feast of the Epiphany (Twelfth Night) marks the end of our Christmas celebration. The season of Epiphany is comprised of the Sundays that follow until we begin our observance of Lent on Ash Wednesday (February 14<sup>th</sup>). The length of this season varies from four to nine Sundays, depending on the date of Easter (April 1<sup>st</sup>). During this season we reflect on our mission and ministry (individually and as a faith community) and how we are responsible to spread Jesusølight in the world. On the first Sunday after Epiphany, we remember Jesusøbaptism by John in the Jordan ó and our own. Just as those first disciples were called, we received our calling (or vocation) as disciples (followers of Jesus) through our baptism. For this reason, the principal theme of the readings in the Epiphany season focus on the idea of discipleship and what that means in our daily life.



In the scriptural story of the visit of the *magi*, Matthew tells of three wise men who came from the east, following a special star and bringing gifts to the child Jesus. These men were Gentiles (not Jews) and they came to worship him. Legends emerged in the Medieval period that gave them these names: Melchior, Caspar, and Balthazar. In some lands, a custom has been observed where the lintel of the door is marked with chalk blessed on the Feast of the Epiphany recalling the first letters of these names and the number of the year. So this year, the inscription would look like this: 20 C+M+B 18.

Other traditions focus on the giving of gifts. Many Mediterranean countries reserve holiday gift giving for this day (rather than Christmas). The gifts given by the *magi* to the Christ Child included *gold* (for royalty, wealth, kingship)=*frankincense* (for divinity, holiness, prayer) and *myrrh*, (used to anoint bodies for burial, foretelling Christø selfless suffering and death).

Throughout this season, a central theme emerges: human solidarity. It calls us to examine our relationships, to strive for justice and a respect for the rights of all humans, and to grow in love for all people, even those perceived to be enemies because in Christ, all nations, tribes, and peoples are reconciled into the one family of God.

### Christian Formation: Epiphany – God claims us all

The Epiphany season calls us to explore how ðGod Claims Us All.ö The word vocation comes from the Latin word *vocare*, which means ðto call.ö In the church we often think of vocation in the context of ordained ministry, but biblical witness suggests otherwise. God calls each of us in a variety of different ways in the course of our lives.

During the Epiphany Season, biblical passages, short commentaries, and questions for reflection will guide us to reflect on what it means to be called by God. These will be available on new Christian formation website (<http://www.journeyinfaith-stlukeslebanon.org/>). Each week there will be three different types of offerings for you to use. On Sundays we will post an introduction to the theme of that weekø study.

In the first week of study we will focus on three short passages associated with the Feast of the Epiphany ó the manifestation of Jesus as Godø anointed one to Gentiles, Jews and the whole world. In Week Two we will focus on ðThe Will of God.ö Week Three will draw our attention to ðListening For Godø Call.ö ðGrace Experiencedö will be our focus in Week Four and in Week Five we pay close attention to ðThe Role of Othersö in discerning and benefiting from our various vocations.

This is in addition to our regularly scheduled Sunday School classes, which meet regularly every other Sunday from 10:15 AM until our youngsters rejoin the community in church at the Sign of Peace.

Dates for Sunday School in January and February are as follows:

January 7 ó *God is an awesome creator of the universe*

January 21 ó *Jesus calls his first disciples – what does that mean for us?*

February 4 ó *Jesus teaches us how to care for one another*

February 18 ó *There is hope in God's*



## Pastoral Care

By Soon Slayman



As I approach the end of a year as Pastoral Care Coordinator, I am so thankful for having been asked to fill this role. Having a title gave me the courage to reach into people's lives whom I might never have had the privilege knowing.

Every emotion I have felt including grief, sadness, pain and joy, has made me live my life more deeply and fully. I hope I have been able to give back some of this to others.

Each of us can be a pastoral care provider as we move through life. If you would like to participate in an official way, please speak with Fr. David, Sue LeBaron or me. You can give as much time as will fit in your schedule. In particular, there is an urgent need for people who would like to bring the Sacrament of Communion to parishioners who cannot come to church. Several of us are working toward qualifying for this and we need others to join.



## ECW News: SHARE

by Eileen Sidelnick



The Episcopal Church Women will meet on Sunday morning, January 14, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All women of the church are invited to join us for breakfast and a short business meeting. Find out about upcoming programs and projects. Hope to see you there!

## That's My Pan! Fundraiser

By Sue Dreibelbis

Help raise money for St. Luke's Episcopal Church Women (ECW), the money goes to helping great causes such as helping the war torn Kajo Keji victims and many other community causes, thank you and God bless. To place an order go to <http://thatmypan.biz/ecwlebanon>.

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## Bazaar 2017 Wrap Up

by Soon Slayman

From any perspective the 2017 Bazaar was a great success. Sharon Weaver's handmade ornaments set the stage for a beautiful sparkling Hall to showcase the booths. My late friend, Ellie McDonald, told me that two friends told her that unlike others, St. Luke's Bazaar looked like a fairy land. Add Santa and his train and the choir caroling from the balcony, it was truly heavenly.

Via the Plant Booth, we experimented with making concrete planters and even a millstone! We had particularly festive and interesting items for sale at St. Luke's Sweet Shoppe. The Jewelry Booth was very creatively and successfully rearranged to honor items from special donors. The Craft Booth had its annual wealth of hand made gifts including the 3rd Limited Edition ornament which quickly sold out. Lauralee again provided buyers with colorful, delicious homemade condiments and in her test kitchen experimented with hors d'oeuvres for holiday entertaining of which we hope to see more next year. The Raffle Table had opportunities to win wonderful theme Baskets and special Arts and Crafts. The Book Sale was visited by many and some children's books which remain are being shared with Harding School students who love picking them out when they come to Power Packs.

Downstairs, Wiley's Cafe served as many people as ever in spite of the cancellation of the Parade due to rain pouring down. It featured a beautifully decorated Fellowship Hall and in addition to the traditional menu there were more dessert items.

Finally we had the Open House in the church with the organ being played on the half hour and volunteers available to talk with visitors about the history of the building or about worship at St. Luke's. The following week, a teacher from Harding, who had come to the Open House, brought a friend to our Friday bi-weekly hot chocolate give away and asked if she could come inside to show her friend how beautiful our church is.

All this was made possible by a very large group of volunteers beginning in June. Laughter and fellowship are their rewards. Thanks to Jason we were able to advertise the event more extensively on the Internet. It is difficult to assess what form of public advertising makes a difference but it appears that our net financial gain is roughly 10% larger than in the past which is another form of great success! Many, many thanks to all who have supported me as chair person of the Bazaar over the past couple years. Now it is time for someone else to add their organizational and creative talents.

**Bazaar Craft Group Request**

*By Laurie Daub*

"Crafternooners" are already looking ahead to Bazaar 2018! We are hoping for donations of glass Christmas tree ornaments for a wreath project for next year. ALL sizes, shapes, ages of decorations are acceptable for this project. Also old tinsel garland and beaded garland could be used by our crafters. Make in your storage area as you pack up your holiday decorations this year. St Luke's will happily accept those old unused ornaments. A container will be placed in the auditorium for drop-offs thank you!

**Undecorate Church**

*by Sharon Weaver*

A few helpful persons are needed to undecorate the Church, please look to the Sunday bulletins for when or contact The Weavers at 717-273-3224 for more information and all assistance is welcomed!

**Thank You Note: SHARE**

*Angela Santiago & LCCM*



I wanted to extend to you my deep and genuine thanks for opening your kitchen to LCCM during our time of renovation. Your willingness to help allowed us to continue to serve the community with food and a safe place to connect. The impact for those who attend the meal is not only physical but emotional and spiritual. Your partnership during this time was essential to keep the program running.

May God continue to bless you, brothers and sisters at St. Luke's, as you continue to serve Lebanon as the body of Christ.

**Please pray for our Homebound: SHARE**

Frances Arthofer, Barbara Bross, Joe Dowhower, Betty Gates, John & Pete Gates, Doris Kern, Grace Reich, Charles Wood, and Janet Zimnoch



**Lebanon County Christian Ministries Donations**

The item from the LCCM wish list for January is Canned Soups

**Service Cancellations**

*by Parish Office*

If services need to be cancelled for bad weather, in addition to being posted on the website, it will be announced via these outlets:

Radio stations: WLBR 1270 AM or WQIC 100.1 FM

Television stations: WGAL Channel 8=WHTM Channel 27=WLYH Channel 15



**Hospital Admissions**

*by Parish Office*

If you or a family member or friend has been admitted to the hospital, please call the office. DO NOT expect the hospital to inform us. Please let us know when you or someone is admitted, and tell us the room number if you know it. This is especially true for those who are admitted through emergency or over the weekend.



**Flower List**

*By Parish Office*

**January 7** The First Sunday after the Epiphany

- \* Barbara Boltz
- \* Dr. and Mrs. George Conner

**January 14** The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

- \* Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Asbury

**January 21** —The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

- \* Judy Binkley
- \* Bob and Fran Kunath

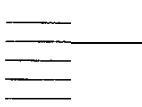
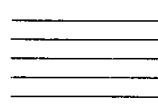
**January 28** The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

- \* Bob and Fran Kunath
- \* Grace Cecil
- \* Mr. and Mrs. Robert Daub

**st. luke's church**

22 South 6th Street  
LEBANON, PA.  
17042-5338

**Return Service Requested**



DATED MATERIAL

**JANUARY  
2018**

