



**STL ACTS OF FAITH**  
The Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

January, 2012

### **A Light for Revelation**

When Jesus was a baby, Luke's Gospel tells us that he was presented in the Jerusalem temple by his parents according to Jewish law and tradition (read the whole story...Luke 2:22-40). A "righteous and devout" man named Simeon was guided by the Holy Spirit into the temple and took the baby in his arms! He then praised God in words that we now commonly call "the song of Simeon" (or *nunc dimittis* from the Latin). Christians all over the world recite or chant it daily, especially during evening prayers (find it in the Book of Common Prayer on p. 120). The phrase of this song that strikes me this time of year especially is "a light for revelation..." or "a light to enlighten..." January brings an end to Christmastide and the celebration of Epiphany, the revelation of the light of Christ to the whole world. The season after the Feast of the Epiphany is a time for reflect on the Biblical stories of Christ's revealing and a time to pray about how we are called to continue to show Christ in our lives.

At the Feast of Lights celebration on January 5, our youth will present a pageant of apostles and saints, those who have shown the Christ light in their lives. It is a wonder-filled way to end the Christmas season. The church will be aglow with hundreds of candles as we hear descriptions of the saints and sing our praises to God (by the way, you can also "light"-en your load by contributing leftover Christmas goodies for the party afterwards).

As we begin a new calendar year and a new season of the church calendar in January, take some time to ponder how God is calling you to be a bearer of Christ. How,

like Simeon, will you embrace Christ and declare God's light? Instead of a new year's resolution, how about a new year's "revelation?" Perhaps you will bear and reveal Christ by getting involved in a new service to others or a service of ministry here at St. Luke's. Find opportunities for service in the pages of this newsletter, the weekly bulletin, and our parish handbook. Maybe your new year's revelation will involve daily practices of prayer and scripture reading, alone or with the members of your household. It could be that your practice of revelation in 2012 will involve learning more about your faith so that you can encourage faith in others (see information inside about confirmation and new member classes and Christian formation for all ages).

Christ came to bring us the light of God, not so that we would keep it to ourselves, but so that we would share it with everyone. May we say with Simeon, "my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel."

The Rev. Joe Hensley

## **Adult Christian Formation**

### ***Sunday Adult Forum***

Sundays from 9:20 – 10:15 am in the conference room of the Elizabeth Gray Building.

January 8<sup>th</sup> - Dean of Duke Divinity School and George Washington Ivey Professor of New Testament, Richard Hays will teach on Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. This is a remarkable opportunity to hear one of the world's foremost scholars of the New Testaments. Please make an extra effort to attend this class which will meet in the conference room of the Gray Building.

January 15<sup>th</sup> Bible Study of First Corinthians continues with particular focus upon how this early Christian community worked through great tensions within its multicultural context at a crossroads between the East and West civilizations.

*Note that on this same Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, there will be a meeting of those interested in being confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church during our 2012 Bishop's visit. This will be an information session for those in eighth grade and older, interested teens and their parents as well as adults.*

January 22<sup>nd</sup> – No Sunday classes. All are encouraged to attend our parish Annual Meeting in Johnson Hall. Breakfast served before meeting begins at 9:15.

January 29 – Reports from the Clergy and St. Luke's delegates to the 196<sup>th</sup> Diocese Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina. There are always fascinating resolutions about everything from world affairs to local outreach efforts.

February 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> – Bible Study on the Gospel according to Mark.

## ***Other Adult Christian Formation Offerings in January and February***

**Confirmation Information for Adults and Teens: Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 9:20 and Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm** Kramer Room) Information sessions for those interested in learning more about the rites of confirmation, reception and reaffirmation of faith in the Episcopal Church. This is for adult inquirers as well as teenagers in eighth grade and older and their parents. The actual classes, which will start in mid-February, will be separate with Pastor Joe conducting youth confirmation preparation and Pastor Anne conducting the adult classes. Contact Anne and/or Joe with any questions.

**Christian Households Epiphany Series** begins Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 4-6 pm in the Kramer Room. At Baptism we welcome the newly baptized into the household of God. Households are the tangible living arrangements for experiencing the intangible love of God. How we arrange our communal living should be founded upon the ethical foundations of our Christian faith. Marriage is one way, though certainly not the only way, or even a superior way to learn and practice the love of Christ. Like each of the four orders of ministry, the laity, bishops, priests and deacons, marriage is a sacramental rite that, when practiced with integrity, illuminates and enriches the other faithful practices of Christian householding.

The background materials for this four session series will be the book *Christian Households*, by Thomas Breidenthal, now Bishop of Southern Ohio, and *Writings on Marriage*, a collection of essays compiled for use by the people of the Diocese of North Carolina. These classes will have a particular focus upon the creation of intimacy and sanctuary in the home and the ways good boundaries contribute to closer, Christ-centered relationships in all arenas of life.

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January 29<sup>th</sup> – What makes a household Christian? What are the marks and practices of the home that help shape us as Christians? Where do we best learn what it means to draw closer in the bonds of affection with God and the other members of our households?

February 5<sup>th</sup> – A history of biblical portrayals of marriage beginning with Genesis 1 and 2 and working our way through the New Testament.

February 12<sup>th</sup> – A history of the Rite of Holy Matrimony as well as the relationship of Holy Matrimony to civil/secular definitions of marriage.

February 19<sup>th</sup> – Current Controversies for the Church and the State. This last session will set the stage for further reflection upon the questions of the place of same gender marriage in the church and in society as a whole.

### **Christian formation for Children and Youth**

Godly play for elders and younger and Sunday school for middle and high school youth continues at 9:20 in the Gray Building.

There is no Sunday school or children's chapel on Sunday, January 1.

### **Godly Play helpers needed**

Our Godly play leaders would like help during Sunday school and especially Children's Chapel time (beginning of the 10:30 service) from adults or older youth who can simply provide calm encouragement to the children so that the leader can better focus on the lesson. No special training needed. Just contact Ginny Brooks, Kelley Lawton, Suzanne Blankford or one of the clergy if you'd like to assist once in a while.

### **Feast of Lights: January 5 at 7:00 p.m.**

Witness the church aglow with hundreds of candles representing the light of Christ spread by the saints. On Thursday, January 5, we will celebrate the end of the Christmas season and the coming of Epiphany, the revealing of Christ to the world. The Feast of Lights is an evening service which includes a "pageant" of saints, led by our St. Luke's youth.

Afterwards, we have a party (a chance to share leftover Christmas treats...and get them out of your houses!) and then take down all the Christmas decorations in the church. Come to the service, and invite new friends. If you wish, bring a tray of leftover treats to share and stay to help with the de-decorating.



### **First Sundays Series: "Raising Cain: Faith formation in the family".**

On Sunday, February 5, during the Christian formation hour (9:20-10:15), we will resume a conversation that began on All Saints Sunday about the challenges of raising children as Christians. Led by Joe Hensley, this series of sessions will look at spiritual, practical ways for parents to encourage faith formation at home and as a part of our parish family. We will continue on the first Sunday of each month and welcome everyone, parents and parent-supporters, whether your children are newly born, out of the house, or in between.

## Youth Events for January

Youth Sunday school usually meets from 9:20-10:15 a.m. in the youth room. Our youth group, "EYC" typically meets Sunday afternoons from 4-6 in the Gray Building youth room. For more information about specific activities, parents and youth can sign up for email updates or go to the youth page on the St. Luke's website. Youth can join our facebook group. Contact Joe Hensley for more information: [assistant-rector@stlukesdurham.org](mailto:assistant-rector@stlukesdurham.org)

Jan 1: No EYC. No Sunday school.

Jan. 5: Feast of Lights. Youth participants arrive at 4:30 sharp for rehearsal. Dinner will be provided before the 7:00 service. Youth are encouraged to bring treats from home for the celebration afterwards. Please stay afterwards if you can to help clean-up.

Jan. 15: Interest mtg for confirmation in the youth room at 9:20 Sunday morning.

Jan. 25 (Wednesday): Interest mtg for confirmation in the church at 6 p.m.

## Third Sunday Lunch

If you would like to have a time of food and fellowship, come join the Third Sunday Lunch Group. Just show up in the Sprague Room after the 10:30 service and after a brief time of socializing, we will decide when to go and proceed to a local restaurant. Come join us on January 15.

## St. Luke's Men's Fellowship Breakfast

St. Luke's Men's Fellowship Breakfast will meet on the 4th Thursday, January 26, at 7 a.m. in Johnson Hall. Bring food to share if you can. We will have informal conversation followed by a brief devotional and Bible reflection. All men welcome.

## Episcopal Church Women

At our January 18, 2012, meeting we will have as our guest speaker, Dr. Norman Pendergraft. Dr. Pendergraft was the long-time director of the Art Museum of NCCU, now retired. He will speak on the women of the Bible in art. He is a member of St. Philip's Church in Durham. He has spent much of his retirement traveling on cruise ships and freighters. Norman spends the month of October each year in Italy. Muriel DePasquale and I, along with others, have had the pleasure to travel with him in Italy seeing and learning first hand about the beautiful art and the country. I encourage all to come and enjoy the fellowship and informative program.

Come at 9:45 a.m. for coffee. The meeting will start at 10. At 11 there will be a short business meeting.

Joyce Avery

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Winter Walk for the Homeless: Saturday, January 21

This four mile walk, sponsored by Open Table Ministries, is to raise awareness of homelessness in Durham and Orange Counties and to raise funds to help our neighbors in need. Start outside the Durham Bulls Athletic Park and walk along the American Tobacco Trail. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. and the walk begins at 1:00. Free registration. Music and refreshments. Visit [www.opentableministry.org](http://www.opentableministry.org) for more info or contact [otmwinterwalk@gmail.com](mailto:otmwinterwalk@gmail.com).

## Looking to Lent

Durham Convocation Lenten Quiet Day – 2/25 at Church of the Holy Family, Chapel Hill. **A Time for Reflection** 9:30a-3p.

The Reverends Samuel and Jo Bailey Wells will offer a look at four characters from the Holy Week narratives taken from Sam's book, *Power and Passion: Six Characters in Search of Resurrection*. This book was commissioned by The Archbishop of Canterbury for the 2007 Lent book. Brochures and registration materials under the Christian Formation Bulletin Board in the Sprague Room.

**St. Luke's Hosts IHN, Jan 1-3**  
We Need YOUR HELP!

Our next hosting of the Interfaith Hospitality Network will take place Jan 1-3. Temporarily homeless families stay in area churches, while volunteers from those churches provide rides, shelter and meals. When St. Luke's hosts, the families stay at Westminster Presbyterian Church. There are usually about 8-12 people in all.

This is a terrific outreach opportunity! It is such a pleasure to find a real, practical and immediate way to do something that helps people in our own community. So often we feel helpless or overwhelmed when we confront the needs of folks around us, and our lives are often so complicated that we can't commit to tasks that require many hours or special skills from us. But you can participate in IHN in ways small or large, and you don't have to be anybody special to do it! If you can drive, or make meatloaf, or pack a sleeping bag, you can make somebody's life easier. There will be sign-up sheets in the Sprague Room, or you can contact Edith Keene (493-9539 or [edith.keene@da.org](mailto:edith.keene@da.org)) to get information or volunteer.

Edith will gladly walk you through the whole process, in case you're wondering how or where you do something, so don't be shy!

Thank you for giving your time and care to members of our community who need help.

**Mark your calendars:**

The 38<sup>th</sup> annual Durham CROP Hunger Walk will be April 1, 2:30 p.m., at Duke Chapel. Look for information in the next month about joining this year's St. Luke's hunger-fighting team. If you want to help us coordinate this year's team, contact the church office.

**Spring Fling is Back!**  
**Yard Sale date is changing!**

St. Luke's Annual Yard Sale is moving back to spring! Next year's event will be held on Saturday, March 3rd, so please start saving items like toys, books, kitchen items, furniture, sporting goods, tools, household items, small appliances and crafts (no clothing or shoes, please). All proceeds from this sale will go to our Outreach efforts. If you have any questions, please contact Karen or Andy McDaniel at [amcdaniel20@nc.rr.com](mailto:amcdaniel20@nc.rr.com) or 477-1958.

**Emergency Meal Volunteers Needed**

If you like to cook and would like to help a fellow St. Luke's or family in their time of need (most often on the occasion of an illness or death), please contact Karen McDaniel at 919-477-1958 or [amcdaniel20@nc.rr.com](mailto:amcdaniel20@nc.rr.com). You will be added to a call/e-mail list where you are free to volunteer as your schedule permits. Please consider being a part of this important ministry. It is an easy and meaningful way to help your fellow parishioners.

**Can you help drive someone to church?**

We often get requests for transportation to church. There are a variety of reasons why some people are not able to drive themselves, and we do not want transportation to be a barrier to participation in our parish family. All are welcome, right?! Some of you are already involved in helping, and it makes a huge difference. If you would be willing to occasionally offer someone a ride to church, please contact the church office or one of the clergy. We hope to form a team of drivers who will coordinate with each other.

## Advent Wreath Storage

In 2011 we were blessed to have handmade wooden Advent wreath platforms to offer to the parish. These platforms were wonderfully crafted by Wilbur Longmire. If you would like St. Luke's to store your platform to re-use next year, there is a box in the Sprague Room where we are collecting them the first three Sundays of January.

## Society of St. Andrew Advent Collection for Hunger Ingathering

If you used the Passing the Peace devotional booklet for Advent, please consider making a donation to the Society of St. Andrew's efforts to alleviate hunger in our world. Make your check to "St. Luke's" and write "Passing the Peace collection" in the memo line. Your check and/or the collection boxes that came with the booklets can be turned in at the Feast of Lights and on Sunday, January 8. Contact Joe Hensley with any questions.

## Thank you!

Thank you to all those who helped decorate the church for Christmas: John and Anne Hodges-Copple, Wendy, Chris and Kirby Cook, E. June Santa, Jeff Pitts and son, Karen and Andy McDaniel, Bill and Grams Gutknecht, John and Bob Mloore, Joe Clark, Patricia LeMoine, Amanda Smith, Joe Hensley and Owen, Elizabeth Sabiston, Jan Lamb, Beth Bonner, Steve and LaRue Dedrick, Audry, Jan's mom, Edith, and Cindy and Mike Henry.

Anetta Annis

Thanks to all for the Christmas gifts, cards, etc. They are certainly appreciated.

Kathy Barnes

## Christmas Tree Fundraiser Success!



Thank you to everyone who ordered trees or physically helped support the Christmas Tree Fundraiser (especially Bill and Valleri Callahan!) Many trees were generously donated to local charities and needy families & \$750 was raised for the Youth mission trip to Montana in 2012.

Liz and Fred Takla

We received "thank you's" regarding the trees that St. Luke's parishioners bought for donation to others. Rev. Martin Juarez at La Iglesia El Buen Pastor delivered four trees to families in his congregation. Maple Court housing for homeless vets received a tree for their commons room (with decoration by our EYC). We also delivered a tree to "Ms M." and family. A minister who visits Ms M. regularly wrote us this note:

*Dear pastor and people of Saint Lukes,*

*I was so happy to see the love of God at work yesterday when I visited my friend, Ms M. She was so very encouraged and uplifted by the grace your congregation shared with her to bring some joy in this season of preparing for Christmas. Good job you faithful servants of Christ. Well done.*

*Peace.*

*Maggie Mraz, lead pastor  
Bull City Vineyard Church*

Thank you to everyone who donated trees. These gifts made a big difference.

## Senior Warden's Report

The Vestry meeting of December 12<sup>th</sup> opened with a prayer followed by approval of the minutes of the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

EMC Chairperson Mike Henry reported that pledges for 2012 are continuing to be submitted and we are within about 5% of the minimum amount necessary to operate St. Luke's in 2012. Bob Moore and Julie Hege reported on their work on a Facilities Use Policy that will set guidelines for who can use our three buildings and who and how much they might be charged for usage. The Finance Committee has developed Savings Fund Guidelines that describe how what used to called "contingency" funds are to be divided; these funds will now be divided into three funds - Capital Renewal and Maintenance Fund, Emergency Reserves, and Operating Budget Contingency Balance. The Vestry approved acceptance of these guidelines. The proposed budget for 2012 was reviewed and questions answered by Treasurer Hope Galunas. The Clergy were excused from the meeting so the Vestry could review salaries, which were found to be acceptable. Unfortunately, there have been no clergy and staff raises for the last two years. John Wyman reported that installation of the new campus communications system is underway. Jan Lamb reported that St. Luke's will meet its own goal for number of Nets for Life purchased. Numerous other reports were submitted.

There was a special meeting of the Vestry on Sunday, the 18<sup>th</sup>, at which time the final budget for 2012 was approved.

Bill Gutknecht, Senior Warden

## Financial Update

November	YTD
Income	
\$39,391.49	\$368,051.50
Expenses	
\$45,416.82	\$354,661.90

## Bulletin Board

The deadline for the February newsletter will be January 15.

The 2012 Flower Calendar is here. Contact the church office at 286-2273 or [parish-admin@stlukesdurham.org](mailto:parish-admin@stlukesdurham.org) to reserve your date. The cost is \$60.

The next date for Baptism is January 8, 2012. If you know of any candidates, please contact any of the clergy.

New Parish Handbook will be printed in January, please check your listing to see if there are any corrections and that you are, in fact, listed.

## Alternative Gifts Fair 2011

My sincere thanks to everyone who participated in this year's Alternative Gifts Fair. It was our best one ever! Special thanks to Tara Hopkins, Patricia LeMoine and Elaine Scagnelli who helped with the planning this year. And grateful thanks to all who staffed tables, provided and served the wonderful food and those of you who kept those cashiers hopping!

While we still have some coffee to sell and a few checks are outstanding, our total as of now is almost \$11,300. Every penny of that will go to the organizations you so generously supported. Even better news is that HEIFER, Holy Cross Education Foundation and Meals on Wheels dollars will be matched AND we completed our 5<sup>th</sup> ARK for HEIFER! A total accounting will be in the February newsletter, but I wanted to share the good news with you now. I'm deeply grateful for your support of this wonderful event! Thank you.

Jean Willard

## Parish Register

We pray for those who have died: Barbara Ann Portelli, mother of Brian Gullett.

We pray for those who were born: Samuel Benjamin Peretti, son of Marc Peretti and Allison Serra, grandson of Rich and Linda Serra; Joseph Collin Ray Wipperman, grandson of Tim and Jean Wipperman.

We welcome by letter of transfer: Daniel, Venicia and Elijah Emory from the Episcopal Church of the Advocate in Carrboro, NC; Daniel Smith and Dania Ermentrout from Chapel of the Cross in Chapel Hill.

We give thanks and pray for those having birthdays during the month of January

- 1 – Stella Hensley
- 2 – Betty Grant
- 3 – Tim Wipperman, Marcia Slaughter
- 4 – Monnie Riggin, Rich Kells, Jake Beauchaine
- 5 – Carlton Brown, Oran Blankfard
- 9 – Jim Hooker, Brady Faulkner
- 10 – Doug Marlowe
- 11 – Dot Baucom, John Wyman, Cathy Smith, Sally Hodges-Copple
- 12 – Nathan Warden, Emmerson Morrell
- 13 – Bob Moore
- 14 – Joshua Pitts
- 15 – Seng Ung, Margaret Larson
- 16 – Arthur Goods, Jr.,
- 19 – Rebecca Wade
- 20 – Harry Hendrix
- 21 – Kasey Henry
- 22 – Craig Galunas
- 23 – Lisa Pitts
- 24 – Hope Galunas
- 26 – Joan Wall, Sandra Jacobi, Connor Duke
- 27 – Connie Pierpoint
- 29 – Marcia Jones, Carrie Riggin
- 30 – Randy Griffn, Kaye Saunders, Liz Talka, Anne Moore
- 31 – Joye Pursell, Laurie Renard, Janet Ramsey

## St. Philip's hosts series: "Steadfast Hope: The Palestinian Quest for Just Peace"

Come learn more about the complicated situation in Palestine and Israel. St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Durham, is hosting six Wednesday evening sessions from 6:30 p.m. - 7:25 p.m. beginning on 11 January 2012. They will include Bible study, historical background, discussion of events on the ground, meeting people in Palestine and Israel (via DVD), and finally discerning some action in response. It's suggested that you make plans to attend all the sessions and commit to a small piece of work at home during the weeks in between sessions.

Questions? Contact Donna Hicks  
[djhicks2790@earthlink.net](mailto:djhicks2790@earthlink.net) or 919.688.3419.



# LIGHT SWITCH COVER

Everyone who believes in God and lives for him is a child of light. Make this cover for your bedroom light switch to remind you to be a light for God.

**What you need:**

- An adult to help
- Light switch cover
- Screwdriver
- Colored paper
- Markers
- Scissors
- Decoupage glue
- Paintbrush
- Craft knife



**What you do:**

1. Remove the screws from the cover.
2. On the paper, draw small images related to light and write out "Live as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8, NIV).
3. Cut out the drawings and verse. Make sure they'll fit on the cover.
4. Paint the cover with a coat of decoupage glue, and then immediately place the drawings and verse on the cover.
5. Paint over them with another coat of glue. Let it dry.
6. Turn the cover over and use a craft knife to cut out the opening for the light switch.
7. Using a screwdriver, place your new light switch cover on your wall.



## From darkness to light

In the Bible, God speaks often about light and darkness. He gives us much instruction about which path we should choose.

- |           |               |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1. Good   | Righteousness |
| 2. Death  | Children      |
| 3. Go     | Life          |
| 4. Evil   | Come          |
| 5. Adults | Bad           |

Match the opposites and then write the word in the right-hand column in the correct blanks to finish each verse.

"When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are \_\_\_\_\_, your body also is full of darkness." Luke 11:34, NIV  
(1)

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of \_\_\_\_\_." John 8:12, NIV  
(2)

"I have \_\_\_\_\_ into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." John 12:46, NIV  
(3)

"For what do \_\_\_\_\_ and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?" 2 Corinthians 6:14, NIV  
(4)

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as \_\_\_\_\_ of light." Ephesians 5:8, NIV  
(5)

Answers: 1. bad, 2. life, 3. come, 4. righteousness, 5. children



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You will not want to miss

## **St. Luke's Parish Annual Meeting**

Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> in Johnson Hall

9 am Breakfast Potluck begins (sign up in the Sprague Room)

9:15 am Meeting begins

Commissioning of new Vestry and the 2012 Belize Mission Teams

Presentation of the 2012 Budget

Update on the Generation to Generation Project (Presentation by the Vestry and Dream Team)

Special music and other presentations

ALL ARE WELCOME

