



February 2023

# Light in the Shadows

*"Let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Matt: 5:16*

## CREATION PAST AND ONGOING Tense Matters in Theology

Genesis 1:1 in the New Revised Standard English translation reads: "In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth," making it an accomplishment in the past. Past tense, "created," is also used in the Revised English Bible from the United Kingdom, in the Roman Catholic New American Bible, and in the New International Version. And then we come to the Jewish



Publication Society English translation which translates Genesis 1:1 thus: "When God began to create heaven and earth..." breaking the past tense pattern in English. The Jewish Publication Society English translation was published in 1985 and 1999. The newish English translation, the Common English Bible published in 2011,

duplicates the JPS translation, except for making heaven plural: "When God began to create the heavens and the earth." Both the JPS translation and the Common English Bible offer a note indicating the past tense version as an option.

Those of us who gather for a revised and augmented prayer for "the start of day" have been encountering in its Affirmation this description of God's creating: "We believe in God who has created and is creating...". I called attention to that tense difference, in our conversing time at the close of our morning liturgy, to creation as not only an accomplished event in the past, but rather as an ongoing activity of God with us, in us, in our midst as co-creators. Sean Whalen of our morning "start of day" prayer group remembered to me and us that I had worked with tense in the sermon for Sunday, January 22, noting Jesus' frequent statement that the kingdom of God is near, really meaning here, now, with us as its inhabitants and co-creators with the God in Christ who continues to create in and with us.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

St. Luke's 2023 Annual Meeting was convened on January 22 and immediately recessed to reconvene on Sunday February 5 to allow time to complete, print, and distribute the Annual Report. Please see page 6 of this newsletter for the Communications, Publications, and Publicity report that was inadvertently omitted from the Annual Report booklet.

Other clarifications to the Annual Report's agenda are that in the Vestry Class that ends in 2023, Beth Salisbury will not seek reelection to a 3-year seat, but Belinda Whipple Worth and Lillian Willis will run for reelection, while Sean Whalen will run for a new 3-year term. Therefore the new Class of 2026 for the Vestry is proposed as Belinda, Lillian, and Sean. In the class of 2025, Colleen Garvey and Eileen Widger were appointed by the Vestry to complete the 3-year terms when Janet Hunter and Meredith Wagner resigned in 2022. Colleen and Eileen need to be approved by parishioners at the Annual Meeting. Nominations may be taken from the floor for membership on the Vestry or for the proposed Finance Committee.

Volunteers will also be sought to help with a number of events and fundraisers. Treasurer John DesLuriers will explain the budget for 2023, and members of the Vestry will be on hand to answer any questions parishioners may have for them or for Bruce McDuffie, Transition Minister.



## PREPARATIONS FOR LENT

### Ash Wednesday Liturgy

Wednesday February 22, 5:50-6:30 PM, Willard Hall  
Optional Imposition of Ashes and Eucharist

## ***CREATION PAST AND ONGOING: Tense Matters in Theology***

*(Continued from page 1)*

We sometimes get stuck in longing for the way things were in some non-existent idealized past. Because it is what we grew up with it must have been the way God intended it to be. It can be scary to have creation and growth as an ongoing blessing of the God in Christ who comes to open our eyes to the light. So, no change except in the direction of the way it was when I felt more in control. “Don’t face me with a new and expanded vision of God.” “Don’t expose me to new hymns that preach along with the scriptures.” “Don’t face me with my wish to be in control.” We might say all those things to ourselves as the psalms and hymns and some of the recent Isaiah readings give us mirrors on the wall, mirrors we might rather cover over with pleasant scenery. Certainly not with knowledge that much of our “control” attitude creates a society where sometimes gun violence obliterates the loving selves we were created to be.

But now, in mid to late Epiphany as we gift each other with more of God’s light and hold each other in the light, we have the blessed opportunity to grow together. It is work, work that we are given the rest of Epiphany and Lent to undertake. And indeed, all of our lives. It is work we find it difficult to undertake, but also find in the midst of the frustration and pain, even when we disagree, that we are with each other. In that with-each-otherness we discover Emanuel, God with us.

**Bruce+**



*They said, “Where are you staying?”  
He said, “Come and see.”*

—John 1.38-39

Keep seeking, and remember:  
it is not enough to know.  
Come and see.

Open your other eye.  
Enter in, sink deep,  
attend, as if being caressed.

Come like a bee to a flower,  
see like darkness sees light,  
listen like the sea listens to a river.

Ice on the bridge.  
A child’s silence.  
A deep sigh in the ICU.

The smallest act of forgiveness.  
Listening to someone  
like the earth listens to a seed.

A wound that hurts and also  
knows how to heal.  
The sound of earth breathing.

Unearned hope, unjustified joy.  
The thread in you that reaches out  
to the stranger, the bird, the dream.

The holy of holies is vacated.  
Where is the Beloved now?  
Everywhere else.

Come and see.  
Come closer.  
See.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes  
*Unfolding Light*, January 12, 2023  
[www.unfoldinglight.net](http://www.unfoldinglight.net)

## REFLECTIONS ON ST. LUKE'S

By Janice Fielder

As I was reading the December issue of LITS, which came just before my recent birthday, I could not help but stop and admire the church's beautiful Red Doors and how lovely the evergreen wreaths looked on them.

Then I thought of the hundreds of times I have walked through those lovely Red Doors – through my more than 70 years of worshipping at St. Luke's, through tears and joy. Sunday worship, youth group in the 50s, and the many in-between activities and services. From my confirmation by Bishop Vedder van Dyke in the early 50s; marriage with Milford Fielder; our son's baptism, confirmation, and service as an altar boy; our 25th Wedding Anniversary party; our 50th Wedding Anniversary Party; and my husband's funeral service and interment in the Memorial Garden. Last of the major family milestones was a graveside funeral service at the High Steet Cemetery for my sister, Freddy Holden, who died in 2020; because of Covid, no inside church service could be held for her.

Over the years I have seen many changes at St. Luke's. Parishioners have come and gone, and now I am the only one left who has continually stayed with St. Luke's and the many nice friends met through time. I am still here and hope to continue to be here until my last day.

St. Luke's is God's building...the one in which we worship peacefully, securely, surrounded by old friends and others who wish to know God and his bidding better. It is a weekly blessing, a place of comfort, inspiration, and stability to those who enter its doors and even to those who merely pass by this beautiful place. This church was generously given to us as an inspiration to lead moral and responsible lives guided by God. That responsibility includes supporting St. Luke's and its community by giving – however we can, in big and small ways – to keep those Red Doors open.



Janice Fielder in 2018 with the framed photograph of St. Luke's that was presented to her in recognition of the years of service that she had given to St. Luke's. During the ceremony, Janice's sister, Freddy Holden, was presented with a slightly different photo in recognition of her service.



### A Note from the Church Musician

*Dear Parishioners of St. Luke's Church,*

*Thank you so very much for the amazing Christmas gift! I don't know how to thank you enough except by continuing what I'm doing.*

*I'm enjoying playing the organ (and keyboard) for you, especially since you are all so appreciative. I'm also enjoying getting to know you.*

*Best wishes to all for a Happy, Healthy and Productive New Year!*

*Karlaine Livingston*

## CHURCH INS AND OUTS

While winter is often a challenging season for many, with its cold winds, snowstorms and freezing temperatures, St. Luke's has been doing well dealing with those situations. Roger Sinclair has recently been contracted to remove the snow, and the blue barrels by the walk are filled with free sand from the Town Garage. Moving all church services downstairs into Willard Hall went smoothly and, as a result, we are (hopefully) saving on the amount of fuel we are using each month.

I have spent a little time recently cleaning out the cabinet under the printer in the outer office, where you will now find several packets of different colored paper, as well as plenty of white paper for printing. In that area I discovered a photo that is now posted on the noticeboard in Willard Hall. Please take a look and help identify those in the picture.

In the far corner of Willard Hall sits the large, white dehumidifier which I rolled out of the back storage room. I'm still looking for an HVAC person to stop by St. Luke's to see if it can be repaired, but I think we may be on the hook for a new one.

A small group of us, Lillian, Janice and myself, are working to update St. Luke's Parish Directory. We hope to have it out to you by Easter, but there is still quite a lot of work to do. If you know any changes to addresses, phone numbers, or family sizes that we should include in the new directory, please let one of us know as soon as possible. There will be space for name, two cell phone numbers, two email addresses, both a home and mailing address, and family members. If a parishioner no longer has a home phone, that space will be left blank.

Lastly I hope you have all received your electronic copy of the Annual Report for 2022 that was emailed the other Sunday. If you still need a copy, please let me know. There will be a few printed versions at church for our Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 5.

I'm looking forward to seeing you there.

David Carey  
Junior Warden

## ALTAR GUILD OPPORTUNITIES

The first months of a new year are a good time to think about your activities for 2023. Eileen Widger, Directress of St. Luke's Altar Guild, would like you to consider some ways you can help St. Luke's offer beautiful, spiritual, and smoothly-run worship services.

One easy way is to donate to the Flower Fund, which provides bouquets for the altar on the Sundays we are upstairs in church. You may contribute any amount at any time to St. Luke's by indicating Flower Fund in the memo line of your check. In addition, during the growing season, people with gardens may donate flowers for the two service vases by arranging ahead of time with Eileen when the flowers will be delivered, so that Eileen doesn't have to place an early flower order. Still another option is to sponsor flowers for a particular Sunday service by reserving a special day of the year through the Altar Guild and sending a \$30 check for each service you would like to sponsor in honor, celebration, or memory of someone. Both the donor and honoree will be announced at the service, and the donor may take the flowers home after the service or give them to the honoree, a friend, an ill parishioner, or anyone who would welcome a tangible celebratory gift or a sign of thought and good wishes.

A second way to help St. Luke's is to become a trained member of the Altar Guild and assume preparatory duties for a service and its closing tasks. Duty times are scheduled in advance. There are written guidelines for those responsibilities, and training is provided by a present Altar Guild member. Although the initial training may take only 30-60 minutes – depending upon the number of questions asked – the goal is to make sure each new member is confident in his or her duties and clear about the responsibilities. (By the way, all ironing duties are performed by Angel Eileen.)

Eileen would be happy to answer any questions you may have about reserving a special day for flower sponsorship or about the special services which Altar Guild members perform. There is an important ministry that a person can offer to St. Luke's. Please contact Eileen at 802-875-4604 or at [tewidger@gmail.com](mailto:tewidger@gmail.com) for more information. (Please note that this email address is a new one for Eileen and Tom and replaces their old email.)

Does one of these many options appeal to you?



## TRUE LENTEN DISCIPLINES

Fast from judging others;  
Feast on Christ dwelling in them.  
Fast from fear of illness;  
Feast on the healing power of God.  
Fast from words that pollute;  
Feast on speech that purifies.  
Fast from discontent;  
Feast on gratitude.  
Fast from anger;  
Feast on patience.  
Fast from pessimism;  
Feast on optimism.  
Fast from negatives;  
Feast on alternatives.  
Fast from bitterness;  
Feast on forgiveness.  
Fast from self-concern;  
Feast on compassion.  
Fast from suspicion;  
Feast on truth.  
Fast from gossip;  
Feast on purposeful silence.  
Fast from problems that overwhelm;  
Feast on prayer that sustains.  
Fast from worry;  
Feast on faith.

*from The Anglican Digest, Lent 2001*



## SHAPING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Please check a box or two with your interest:

- ☐ Participate in worship as able, or by ZOOM if need be.
- ☐ Learn about BAPTISM, Confirmation, Reaffirmation of faith, being welcomed as part of St. Luke's (like transfer).
- ☐ Volunteer to learn to acolyte (assist with carrying processional cross, activities at the altar).
- ☐ Volunteer to be a lector (reading lessons, other aspects of service).
- ☐ Volunteer to be a greeter getting folks to seats, showing them the service, etc.
- ☐ Assist with digital ministry helping David Carey with running ZOOM when he is not here or wants assistance.
- ☐ Assist David with help maintaining buildings and grounds.
- ☐ Learn to assist in setting church up for worship and becoming part of Altar Guild.
- ☐ Do you play an instrument you might incorporate under the supervision and assistance of our music leader Karlaine Livingston?
- ☐ I would like to participate in a study and prayerful study of our beliefs, of the Bible, of our history, of prayer and spirituality.
- ☐ Concerned about society, ethics, climate care, sustainability of our earth and our faith role in same. Are you an expert or a student of any of those and willing to lead a course on same?
- ☐ Wanting to explore what is a good study Bible and learn about same.

That list is a start. Add some areas of your concern!! Your suggestions and concerns will expand that checklist.

At whatever level you participate, please know you are valued for yourself and not judged but applauded whenever and however you are among us.

*Please return this list to [blmacduffie@comcast.net](mailto:blmacduffie@comcast.net).*

## ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER AT ST. LUKE'S

Help the Willises take care of the flower gardens.

Volunteer a couple of hours each week in the church office.

Take photos at events to help document our activities and record features of St. Luke's both inside and outside the church in all seasons. Or contribute an article or favorite prayer. These would be most welcome for future LITS editions.

Volunteer at the Annual Meeting for any of the planned events or suggest something new in the way of outreach, social gatherings, or fundraising activities.

## **For St. Luke's Annual Report 2022**

### **2022 LITS, Publications, and Publicity Report**

#### **St. Luke's Light in the Shadows Newsletter (LITS)**

The mission of LITS is to reflect St. Luke's Statement of Purpose: "St. Luke's is an intentional Christian community, deepening faith and broadening love." Light in the Shadows (LITS) was created and published by Pat Fromberger until her death in 2021, when I took over the assignment. LITS continues to be regularly published once a month and disseminated – since the start of Covid – in a PDF form that allows it to include more color photos and to be both printed and made available online. The bulk of copies are sent via email to 62 individuals in the parishioner email group and to 28 Friends of St. Luke's, who include philosophical supporters, former parishioners, and several former rectors. The PDF format and online access allow faster delivery and provide greater flexibility in design, while saving on costs for paper, printing, and postage. We encourage people to read the newsletter via the email attachment or online or to print a copy on their home printer. If a computer or printer is lacking, anyone may ask me to print a copy on my home printer and mail it to him or her. At present a hard copy of the newsletter is mailed monthly to two parishioners.

LITS has become an increasingly important source for community information and inspiration. It is a way to keep abreast of St. Luke's activities and can be a wonderful way to reconnect with old friends as parishioners move away for various reasons. That is why every email announcing the latest LITS includes a plea for information and photos. Just because parishioners may have moved far away doesn't mean that they are out of our thoughts or that we have ceased to desire details on how they are doing. Please submit information so we can keep our St. Luke's family well informed about present and faraway friends and family, as well as parishioners. We appreciate hearing from those who may not be attending church here regularly. Frequently emails or telephone calls attest to the importance of the newsletter's extended information that helps make LITS a unifying presence that transcends constraints of time and place.

#### **Other Publications**

Toward the end of 2021 and throughout 2022 it was Supply Priest Bruce MacDuffie's preference that he prepare and print an inclusive bulletin, including hymns, for each church service. Each bulletin is available on the church website and is made available to those who wish to participate in the service by Zoom.

Many thanks to David Carey and Marti Assenza for posting the newsletters, weekly bulletins, notices, and reports of meetings and services on the church website and to David Carey, in particular, for Zooming services and Vestry meetings throughout the year when he is available. Online access to services and meetings has made it possible for those out of town or hindered by bad health or bad weather to participate.

Other parish events, and their pre- and post-publicity, posters, reports, and photos, as well as bulletins for memorial services, were regularly prepared and printed by this editor.

Lillian Willis, LITS Editor, Publications, and Publicity Contact

*Note: The above report was inadvertently omitted from the St. Luke's Annual Report distributed by email.*

## CHURCH SERVICES IN WILLARD HALL

Until warmer weather returns, all church services will take place in Willard Hall. Sunday services are at 10 AM in person and, whenever possible, by Zoom and followed by coffee hour. Wednesday afternoon services are at 5:30 PM. Changes will be sent by email and posted on the church website.

In answer to a request for updated information for the Parish Directory, Jim Littrell sent the response below.

“I am still alive and kicking, and after about a year out of active ministry I’m back at it after having been called to be the Interim Rector of the Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, a large and busy parish about 15 minutes from our house. Louis, my partner, continues well, too. We’re grateful to be aging so energetically. I think of St. Luke’s often and with fondness, and Chester too, and my little enterprise with Chris and all the wonderful folk at Stone House Antiques. We’re hoping to be back to the cabin we rent in East Dover for a chunk of the summer and maybe will be up for a visit there. Blessings be!

Jim

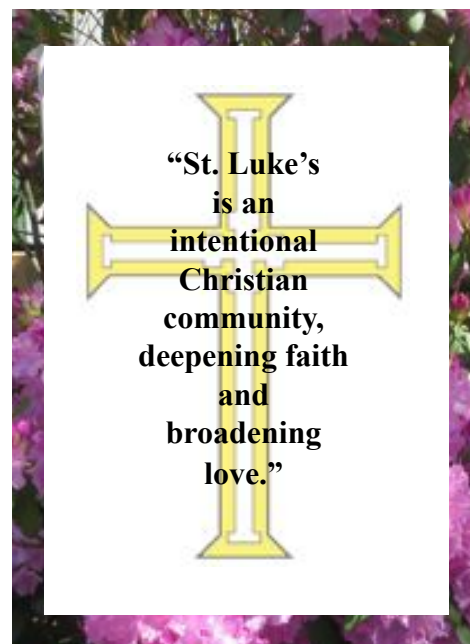
### St. Luke's Financial Update

	FY 2022 final	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget
Pledge & Plate Income	\$ 38,684.00	\$ 42,325.00	91%
Other Operating Income	\$ 37,199.37	\$ 33,950.00	110%
Restricted Income	\$ 1,508.92	\$ 2,790.00	54%
Total Income	\$ 77,392.29	\$ 79,065.00	98%
Regular Expense	\$ 58,314.54	\$ 79,100.71	74%
Restricted Expense	\$ 1,348.81	\$ 2,590.00	52%
Total Expense	\$ 59,663.35	\$ 81,690.71	73%
Net Ordinary Income (loss)	\$ 17,728.94	\$ (2,625.71)	-675%
Draw on Investments	\$ - .00	\$ 6,500.00	0%
Net Ordinary Income	\$ 17,728.94	\$ 3,874.29	

Having just finalized the Treasurer's annual report in preparation for our annual meeting I can report we finished the year on a solid financial footing. As noted in my annual report narrative our overall income was within 2% of budget while our expenses were 27% below budget (largely in part to having Supply Clergy vs. a full- or part-time Rector. As a result of these savings, there was no need for any funds from our investment portfolio to be used as budgeted.

John DesLauriers, Treasurer

Reminder: please mail in your pledge contributions. Thank you!



## FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

### Birthdays:

2 Sarah Funt  
10 Mary Anderson  
10 Field Willis  
12 Leigh Dakin  
17 Marjorie DesLauriers  
23 Fred Fielder

### Anniversaries:

12 Brad & Bev Dunbar



## St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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## MARCH LITS



February 20<sup>th</sup>

Send articles and photos to  
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