

St. Luke the Physician Episcopal Church

120 SW Towle
Gresham, Oregon 97080

The Rev. Jennifer Creswell
Priest-in-Charge
E-mail: jennifermcreswell@yahoo.com

Phone: 503/665-9442
E-Mail: stluke120@aol.com
Website: www.saintlukesgresham.org

VISION STATEMENT

WE SEE ALL PEOPLE IN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, AND THROUGH GOD, WITH EACH OTHER.

July 2009

CALENDAR

July

15 Vestry at 6:15 p.m.
15 Sign-up deadline for
Community Garden
27 Celebration of Ministry

August

15 Work day at Butler
Elementary
16 Annual Picnic at
St. Luke

September

12 or 19 Labyrinth Open
House

October

10 SAFE Church Training
At St. Aidan
24 Quiet Day with Rev. Kurt
Neilson

Dearly Beloved,

Summer is a time for growth. The community garden is being planted with its "first fruits." The labyrinth garden is growing with a new herb garden, new bird baths, and new certification as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat by Metro. If you take a look at St. Luke's mission statements, they all embody growth: growing in relationship with God, growing in relationship with others in our faith community, and growing in relationship with those outside our faith community. Growth in relationship with God and with others in our faith community happens every Monday morning at lectionary group and every Thursday morning at craft group, not to mention on Sunday mornings. Our young people will experience growth at Diocesan summer camp in August. We continue to seek ways to grow in relationship with those outside our faith community; through Maureen's leadership St. Luke's will donate a day of help to Butler Creek Elementary School because there is a need in our community. We're still discerning other possible areas of growth: providing a meal once a month to Rahab's Sisters (E/NE ministry to marginalized women), outreach at Mt. Hood Community College, offering an evening alternative service.

This growth is all so cool to me because it's a sign that St. Luke's is listening to and acting in the Spirit. Nearly all of the ministries above are less than a year old. Which means that St. Luke's is asking...and God is answering. God is asking...and St. Luke's is answering.

The discernment continues. This process of asking what God is calling us to do, and listening for clues, is an ongoing one. Over

the summer, as you reflect on your own spiritual growth, I would be interested to hear what would help you grow in relationship with God, grow in relationship with others in our faith community, and grow in relationship with those outside our faith community.

I'll be spending the month of August on vacation with my family. Part of that vacation is a week of growing in relationship with God, making a pilgrimage I've wanted to make since I was 14. Ian, the boys, and I will spend a week on the island of Iona in Scotland, worshiping in community, going to workshops, and eating and working with other Christians from all over the world. Iona is a holy place—it's where Christianity first came to Great Britain. While I'm there, I want to hold my St. Luke's family close. I'll be holding you all in prayer. But if there is a particular prayer, a special intention, that I can take with me and pray in the sacred space, I'd like to know. Throughout July, look for papers in the sanctuary where you can write prayer requests that will travel to Iona with me.

Love,
Rev. Jennifer

Lectionary Group

Read. Laugh. Pray. Think. Remember. Hope.
It all happens in community.

Monday morning group 9:15 am in the Birch Room continues through the summer.



CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY Monday, July 27

Isn't a year-and-a-half in a little late to be doing an installation for the priest? Well, yes. But, as Bishop Sandy points out, now that we've had a chance to get to know each other, we can commit more fully to the ministry we'll share in the future. Besides, we have a new deacon, and with two relatively new clergy, what better time could there be for a celebration of ministry? The celebration of ministry is a liturgy from the Book of Common Prayer. It's not about celebrating the clergy, but the ministry of an entire congregation. It acknowledges the congregation's work in preparing for, and calling a new clergy person, and it blesses the work that the clergy and people will do together. Please be a part of the Celebration on Monday July 27 at 7 p.m. with a reception following. Bishop Sandy Hampton, Assisting Bishop of the Diocese of Oregon, will be our celebrant and guest.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

This garden is HOT! If you want to be part of the first generation of gardeners, now is the time to secure your plot. 9 single-household plots are available in our new community garden. First priority for plots will go to St. Luke's members, but we need to have your name by July 15. Any plots remaining after July 15 will be offered to neighbors and community members for the current growing season. All interested gardeners will be asked to sign a Community Garden Agreement before they start working their plot. Please call the office or contact Rev. Jennifer if you'd like to work a plot.

SLY (St. Luke's Youth)

Lots of exciting things have been happening at St. Luke's. Our young people took a leading role in the **Pentecost** service, heading up the procession and learning all about the birthday of the Church. The next weekend, **Spencer Dalling, Jennifer Ross, and Josh Tolan** traveled with Deacon Maureen to the Bishop's Ball at Camp Magruder. Not only were there exciting activities, we spent several hours with Presiding Bishop **Katharine Jefferts Schori**. We also want to give thanks to **Spencer and Brent Dalling, Nikki Long, and Josh Tolan** for serving as acolytes this past year.

Coming up:

Are you 9 years or older? If so, we would love you to join our acolyte team.

Acolytes have very important roles in our church service. Rehearsals start in July.

Summer Fun at St. Luke's. We would like to have two family-fun outings this summer. Here are the options: Beavers baseball game, visit to the Zoo, OMSI. What would you like to do?

Six of our young people will be going to camp the first week of August: *Nikki and Mary Joan Long, Christopher and Nicole Ross, Peyton Stumpf, and Josh Tolan*. It will be an experience they will remember all their lives. Please help offset the costs of camp. So far, we have raised \$650, but we **need to raise \$1000 more to cover the cost**. Please be generous.

OUTREACH

St. Luke's is joining with all the churches in Greater Gresham to help get our schools ready for the fall. St. Luke's will be helping **Butler Creek Elementary (August 15 morning)**. What a wonderful way for the people of St. Luke's to take the love of Christ into the community.

ADULT FORMATION

Are you new to the Episcopal Church? New to St. Luke's? Do you want to learn a bit more about Scripture, worship, church history, music? Do you want to grow deeper in your faith? If any of these applies to you, we invite you to join us on a three-month exploration of Anglican Christianity. Classes begin in September and are open to all. More information on **Faith Talk** (working title) is forthcoming.

If you want to know more about any of these topics, please see Deacon Maureen Hagen or contact her via email (maureenhagen@gmail.com) or phone (971.219.8219).

WE ARE THE CHURCH !!!!!!!!!!!

That was the sound of the joyful noise made by our young people this last Sunday of June. It was a great way to end this school year and begin summer vacation. What a great time we have had this year. Once again thanks to our teachers, Julia, Ann, Helen, Carolyn, Laura, Mark, Vickie, Jennifer R. and Rev. Jennifer. What was new this year? Almost everything. We had six new teachers. We had a new program we used which followed the same lectionary that was used for service upstairs. We had two different classes, little lambs and the adventure group. Our children's Christmas program returned. Overall with the family service our kids became more a part of the congregation.

What's new for next year?? Stay tuned and have a wonderful summer break.

Teacher Sandy

OPPORTUNITIES

The **Shared JoyBringers Handbell Choir** invites all who are seeking ministry through music in our community. Contact choir director Christine Weder-Kearney at joybringers@juno.com. Music background is not required.

Editor, Peggy Long
pjl.prp@verizon.net
503-667-1278

Thanks,
Raynette

Tai Chi at St. Luke's

When? Monday evenings in the fall
Where? The parish hall
Who? Taught by Christine Weber-Kearney, offered through Mt. Hood Community College, and open to St. Luke's members and the Gresham community
Where do I sign up? More information will follow soon

On Community Outreach day, St. Luke volunteered to work on cleanup at Butler Elementary School – August 15.

Annual Church Picnic following services on Sunday, August 15. Elise Astleford+ will be the celebrant. Look for sign-up in the parish hall.

SAFE church training is required of all adults and teens who work with children in the Diocese. A training will be held on October 10 at St. Aidan – close by. All those teaching Sunday School, on the vestry or who work with children in the church must attend.