

St. Luke the Physician Episcopal Church

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VISION STATEMENT

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

September 3, 2008

CALENDAR

The Spirit Speaks...

Sept

6 2-4 p.m.
Labyrinth Open
House

The results of our whole-congregation discussion on where God is calling us

8 Lectionary Group*
And each Monday
following

Ideas are listed in order of enthusiasm, with most popular at the top of each section

10 6:30 p.m.
Book discussion*
The Return of the Prodigal Son by
Henry Nouven

Growing in relationship with God

This is, perhaps surprisingly, *not* the area which showed the most enthusiasm. Could this be because we feel we already have fulfilling relationships with God? Did the ideas proposed in this area not speak to us? Do we need to look more closely at growing in relationship with God?

14 Sunday School begins
1st, 2nd & 3rd
Sundays

Offer training in **Lectio Divina**
Establish **spiritual direction** relationships
Plan **quiet days**

24 6:30 p.m.
Book discussion*

Focus on **service music**—keep it inviting and energetic
Pray: education about prayer, praying in groups

28 Children's Service

Growing in relationship with others in our faith community

*For more information,
contact Rev. Jennifer.

There was a lot of interest expressed in expanding and creating ways for the St. Luke's community to come together. Family language was used to describe the way we relate to each other. One of our greatest strengths is the way we work together in community.

Form **small groups** for fellowship
Make **dinner groups** for eating in people's homes
Make **welcome packets** available to visitors
Continue and expand **healing ministry**
Have regular **nametag Sundays**
Continue **book club**

Growing in relationship with those outside our faith community

A desire to connect with our outside community continues to be expressed. The idea "labyrinth" had far more blue dots than any other idea on the charts. This shows a satisfaction with the labyrinth as it is, and a desire to use it as a tool for connecting with Gresham and beyond.

Invite and teach using the **Labyrinth**
Make St. Luke's more visible through **advertising, signage**
Expand involvement with **Zarephath, Scribbles, AA, Scouts**
Open **church** 1 night per week
Outside **volunteer** opportunities
Create community vegetable **garden**

Rev. Jennifer

LABYRINTH GUILD NEWS

The Labyrinth Garden is looking beautiful!
Thanks to all our "fearless weeders!" And
NOW, at last!....drumroll please....the
Labyrinth Garden is ready for an

OPEN HOUSE

September 6th from 2:00pm – 4:00pm

This will be an opportunity for St. Luke's to practice hospitality and reach out to our community! We are inviting our local neighborhood and other friends, relatives, businesses, churches from the area. We will offer a **tour of the Labyrinth & Garden** and **general guidelines** for **walking the path**. It will be a chance to share **cookies, balloons, ice cream and conversation** with our neighbors. A special "Butterfly Walk" for the children is planned.

Come and be part of this celebration!

(If you have any local business or civic or church contacts, we would be happy to provide them with brochures or posters for their windows!)

Thanks, the Labyrinth Guild (Judy Bevilacqua, Chair)

HOLIDAY STORE

Christmas is coming! Oh dear, you say, not yet. But it is time to plan for our contributions to the Human Solutions Holiday Store. St. Luke has been generous in the past in providing gifts for those less fortunate. The date and further information will be coming from our Santa's Elf soon, so keep watch.

PRAISE BE TO GOD... WE HAVE TWO ACOLYTES!

We are so blessed by the ministry of Josh Tolan as our acolyte—our sole acolyte for a long time. Now Nicole Long has joined the ranks of the acolytes and she will trade off with Josh to serve at the altar. The word ‘acolyte’ comes from the Greek meaning ‘to follow.’ Nikki and Josh hold the cross high in our processions, inviting all of us to follow the One who knows all our ways. Thanks to both of them, and thanks to God for their gifts that they share with us.

LECTIONARY GROUP FORMING

When we had our parish conversation about where God is calling St. Luke’s, it became clear that one of the areas in which we want to grow is in our personal relationship with God. Our vision statement says “We see all people in relationship with God, and through God, with each other.” In the spirit of nurturing personal relationships with God through living with the Bible, and also in the hopes of making my preaching more relevant to all of you, I invite you into a lectionary group.

What to expect

A small group (probably 4-8 people, possibly more depending on interest) will meet once a week to read the coming Sunday’s lectionary passages together. But we won’t *just* read them. I may ask group members to each read a voice in a story. I may find it helpful if we block out the story together with our bodies. (This is not acting—no drama experience necessary. Blocking can help us form a better picture in our mind of what’s actually happening in the story, and therefore gives us insights that we wouldn’t otherwise have.) We

may get out colored pencils and draw the words of the passage. As we’re interacting creatively with the readings, we’ll share what is coming up for us. We’ll tell stories of experiences in our own lives. We’ll share how the readings make us feel. We’ll tell each other what we understand the scripture writers to be saying. We’ll talk about the context the passages were written in. All of this will happen in an informal, non-judgmental, no-experience-required sort of way. When we’re finished, we will spend a few moments praying for St. Luke’s.

Logistics

The lectionary group will meet weekly, probably on a Monday morning. Anyone is welcome to come any time, and there’s no need to let me know ahead of time. More voices and different voices lend richness to the reading of scripture, so this is a group that will actually benefit from flexibility. Stay tuned for exact meeting day and time.

2008 Diocesan Convention Project: *NetsForLife*

Last year the Diocese of Oregon asked its churches to support the water bottle project and the response was phenomenal! Faithful and generous people in our diocese contributed over \$22,000 which Episcopal Relief and Development is using to build wells to provide clean drinking water for communities throughout the world. This year’s *NetsforLife* project continues our support of the Millennium Development Goals by working to prevent malaria, a disease that kills more the 1 million people each year, 75% of whom are children under the age of 5.

Our goal for 2008 is to invite every individual or family unit in our diocese to purchase a net

for \$12 that will protect a family in sub-Saharan Africa from malaria. *NetsforLife* collaborates with Episcopal Relief and Development and other implementing partners in affected communities to distribute long-lasting insecticide-treated nets to the most vulnerable, build awareness about malaria, and train community leaders to teach prevention and treatment methods.

At a time when the Anglican Communion is in conflict over one issue, the *NetsforLife* project is a chance for us to do what we do best as Christians: work together for the good of others. The Diocesan goal for the project is to receive one net for every pledging unit in the Diocese of Oregon. Here at St. Luke's we have 32 pledging households. Imagine the impact our little church can have if we send 32 nets to families who need them! If we are able to send more than 32, the Diocese may exceed its goal.

To donate a net, please make out a check for \$12 to St. Luke's with *NetsforLife* in the subject line. Thank you!

ANNUAL PICNIC—A SUCCESS

The 2008 Annual Picnic is now history!! We had a beautiful morning for our service, led by our own Rev. Jennifer. Our service also included some wonderful singing from our very talented music team.

A total of 23 parking passes were issued. So you know we had a good crowd to enjoy the array of foods that everyone brought to share.

I want to take a moment to say a couple of extra thanks to a few. Thank-You Julia (St. Lukes newest RN!) for the wonderful games for the kids. They sure really seemed to be having fun! And then a big Thanks to Jim, Allen and Ted for their hard work over the hot

grill to make sure there were plenty of burgers and hot dogs to go around!

And last, I want to Thank EVERYONE who helped make our picnic such a success!!

Barbara Miller
Picnic Chairperson

!!!!A BIG SHOUT OUT FROM ST LUKE SUNDAY SCHOOL!!!!

New school year starts September 14th. How could it be time already for a new year of Sunday School. I am still enjoying these dog days of summer but looking forward with anticipation to all that is happening at St. Luke.

Two years ago I was asked to head up the St. Luke Sunday School. This came out of the blue to me. I had to PAUSE, BREATHE AND PRAY AND PRAY. It was not what "I" thought God had in store for me. Well today I feel that it is exactly what he had in store. He also brought me two wonderful partners in Debbie and Julia.

It has been said over and over by the fellowship that we need a strong Sunday School program. That it is one of the most important parts to the growth of St. Luke. Although, we don't have a large group of kids at this time, we are putting a strong program into place. We will do a rotation of teachers again this year. That means a teaching assignment once a month. Sunday sessions are usually 30 to 40 minutes. What's new is that we are expanding our number of groups. Classes may start out with two or three children in a group. My feeling is, "IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME.". OK, so I borrowed a little from Hollywood.

We will have the "Little Lambs" 3-5 yrs.
"Rainbows" 6-8 yrs
"Explorers" 9 and older

These are approximate and can be adjusted. The larger room will be shared by the Lambs and Rainbows. The Explorers will be in their own room. If two teachers would like to work together once a month they could team teach the Lambs and Rainbows.

We strive to provide a safe environment for the children of St. Luke. We are asked almost always by visiting parents how we do this. A simple background check is done on each teacher. This is paid for by the Sunday School. We try if possible to work in teams. Also we would like to have more of a Sunday School presence on the web-site. We will not post pictures of children or teachers without their permission. No names will be used on the web-site.

Debbie, Julia and I have managed teaching, along with other Sunday activities of reading, singing, ushering and participating in coffee hour. If we can get our staff into place before some of these other schedules are posted it will be beneficial to us all.

The rotation has also allowed us to make trades when necessary. We all have vacations or emergencies that occur.

It is my sincerest wish that you will give this good thought and pray on the idea that maybe this is a calling for you at St. Luke. Any questions please contact myself, Debbie or Julia.

Sandy Stumpf

Building & Grounds Report

It was a busy June and July at St. Luke's for building repairs and upgrades...I called those two months my "Plumbers Nightmare"! June started out with a broken sewer line in the restrooms off of the parish hall and then we experience multiple toilets with issues and for several weeks the restrooms off the parish hall were closed and in addition we had a broken water on the utility sink in the parish hall. Just to make things more interesting we experienced problems with the restroom upstairs off the Birch Room. The plumbing problems of June were now behind us and the toilets have been repaired.

In July, Karla Rackleff called me regarding a church water bill that she had received that was double in water usage and cost. She told me she could hear water running and asked if I would check it out. We found that we had a water line break under the concrete floor in the pre-school and the hot water heater also required replacing. I'm happy to report that by the first week of August that all of the toilets throughout the church have new parts, 25 feet of new sewer line was replaced and repaired, water line replaced and new hot water heater replaced that services the upstairs restroom and kitchen. Many thanks to Karla for her keen hearing and for monitoring the church utilities bills. Hallelujah! I believe the water and plumbing problems are finally behind us.

Spring and Summer have been very busy on the church grounds and much work has taken place. We had four scheduled work parties and several work parties unscheduled. Many of you have participated in the continuous job of weeding in the Labyrinth and I'm happy to report that it appears we are winning the battle. Those parish members who have taken on the responsibility to weed an area should continue to weed and monitor your area into fall. Some of the projects that were tackled during work

parties were removal of the junipers, hawthorn trees, cottonwood trees, blackberries bushes, tree and shrub pruning, and spreading bark dust.

On August 9th we resurfaced the gravel parking lot and driveway with 100 ton of new crushed gravel and increased the parking lot size to accommodate 25 additional vehicles. In addition six giant cottonwood stumps located along the north part of our grounds were removed, large pieces of concrete and other debris were put into a 30 yard dumpster for disposal. Very long hours were worked that day and many thanks to Mark Ebberts, Justin Ebberts, Chuck James, Marty Glander, Steve Smith and Scott Wood with special thanks to Lance Ebberts who spent the entire day (11 hours) operating a backhoe.

Jim Stumpf

HEALING TEAM MINISTRY

St. Luke has a healing team and we are here for everyone. Our team consists of four people. They are: Hazel Hebert, Maryland Stephens, Vivian Wilson and Carolyn Johnson.

Communication is the key to everything so the Healing Team is letting the congregation know that we are here for healing prayers and laying on of hands on individuals. We also ask that if you know of an individual that needs our services, please don't hesitate to call one of us. We will get back with you for more details.

It was suggested that every member of St. Luke's should carry with them the following items for emergency proposes:

Emergency Contact information to include:

A: Husband/wife/partner phone numbers

- B: Children's names and phone numbers
- C: Doctor's name and phone number
- D: All Medications
- E: All Allergies to include food and medications
- F: Any other information you may deem important for your peace of mind.

Again, the Healing Team wants to keep the lines of communication open so please don't hesitate to call one of us. We are all listed in the Church's Phone Directory.

ST. LUKE'S ALTAR GUILD

By Carolyn Johnson

Earlier this year, I attended an Altar Guild Workshop in Eugene, where I met the Head Directress of the Altar Guild for the Diocese of Oregon. I learned that the Bishop's Close has a variety of items that we could have to use in our churches and to come by any time to look over said items. Well, I took her up on this offer and went to see what they had. I found a complete red set of vestments, which I brought back and have shown to Rev. Jennifer. We are in the process of deciding if we should keep this set temporarily while we are contemplating making our own red set.

Speaking of the red vestment set, a fund has been started for this and anyone wanting to donate money towards it, would be appreciated. In the meantime, Linda Simmons and I have been fabric shopping and found some promising fabrics to make our new set, should we go this way. This is an exciting time.

In June, I joined the National Altar Guild Society. They have a great website with a lot of interesting information, which I hope to use here at St. Luke's.

We now have gluten free wafers for those who are allergic to wheat wafers or bread. We also

have grape juice available for those who prefer that over the wine. Just let the lay Eucharistic minister know your preference during communion.

Please give thanks to Ann Muir for her continual support in handling our Altar Flower sign up sheet. Please call her or check the Altar Flower Chart in the Narthex on the availability of days you would like to place flowers on the Altar. She would love to hear from you.

We continue to look for new members to the St. Luke's Altar Guild. If you feel this is your calling and would like to serve the Lord in this ministry, please come talk to me and I will get you started. Training is very easy with a step by step Altar Guild Manual and a knowledgeable member giving instructions until you feel comfortable with the setting of the Lord's Table. We have lots of fun in what we do and would love to have you come join us.

Julie Wood has been assigned Vestry Liaison to Altar Guild. She will help us communicate back to the Vestry any concerns that may arise. On behalf of all the Altar Guild members, we want to thank the entire congregation for your continual support of our guild.



Environmental Stewardship

Hello again from the "Environmental Stewardship" section. In the last news letter we opened with some facts about plastic bags. We thought we would stay with this subject a little longer. We would love to hear from you about suggested topics!

PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING

Now, we know we all recycle our plastic bags. But I heard rumors that not all places that say they recycle plastic bags actually do. So, we thought it would be a good idea if we went around to a few of the major chain stores and checked to see if they truly recycle the plastic bags that are brought to them. The good news is that the three we checked do. These are Wal Mart, Fred Meyer and Safeway (at least the stores that we checked). Each of these stores has a place where one can place their plastic bags for recycling. We mention this because most garbage pick-up services do not take plastic bags. But we can keep our plastic bags in a small receptacle in the garage or under the sink at home and then periodically take them to one of the above stores when we happen to shop there. This takes care of that. But wait, there is another option now.

You can carry your plastic bags to church each Sunday and place them in the recycling receptacle in the Parish Hall (or the hallway outside the Parish Hall). This is a new service that is being made available to our parishioners. Our garbage service has said they will pick up these plastic bags and recycle them since we are a "commercial" entity. Now recycling those plastic bags got even easier!

MORE ABOUT PLASTIC BAGS

Now it is near impossible to completely avoid receiving things we purchase in a plastic bag no matter how hard we try. This is because nearly every store in Oregon uses them. But we can reduce our use of plastic bags and the toll this takes on God's earth by taking a cloth bag to the store with us when possible. Here is an idea that one reader has put forth: Might we at St. Luke's design and make our own cloth bags? Anyone got any ideas?

The main point is, however, that we cannot get completely away from using plastic bags (see our “Fact Corner” below about plastic garbage bags). But by making a real effort we can reduce our use of these little beasts. After all, we do want to take good care of God’s earth.

THE “FACT CORNER”

Once again we take our information from the National Geographic “Green Guide” web site, under plastic bags, the “Board Index”: This person says that they still find themselves having to use plastic bags to line the garbage can under the sink. But by recycling as much garbage as possible (paper, metal, plastic, etc.) they can significantly reduce the number of times the plastic garbage bags must be changed. That’s the spirit!

AND FINALLY, A “SMART SHOPPER’S PLASTIC PICKS LIST”

For the sake of God’s earth, it’s best to reuse water bottles and avoid plastic packaging, choosing glass, metal, paper or ceramics instead. But, when plastics are the only choice, look for options with these recycling codes on the bottom:

#1 PETE

#2 HDPE

#4 LDPE

#5 PP

Of these, #1 and #2 are most commonly recycled (from the “Green Guide”).

Another reason for minimizing our use of plastic might be the fact that all plastic is a by-product of fossil fuels. So, if we do not like \$4.00 a gallon gasoline, maybe we can find another way to reduce our use of oil.



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