

Annual Meeting
St. Luke the Physician Episcopal Church
Gresham, Oregon
On Zoom and In Person in the Sanctuary

January 23, 2022

- I. Call to Order – Deborah Dobrenen, Senior Warden
- II. Opening Prayer – The Rev. Sara Cosca-Warfield
- III. Approval of Minutes from Last Year’s Meeting
Motion to Approve: Lainey Johnston; Second: Robert Weber-Kearney. **Vote: All approved with one abstention.**
- IV. Rector’s Address
 - Rev. Sara acknowledged all the challenges we have faced over the past year.
 - We continued to worship on Zoom only, until the vaccine finally became available.
 - By May, 95% of our congregation were vaccinated so we were able to meet again in person. At first, we met with no masks and drank the wine from individual cups.
 - With the Delta variant, everything changed, and continued to change.
 - We wore masks, stopped offering wine, and maintained a safe distance.
 - We adapted, re-adapted, then adapted again.
 - Despite all these challenges, we were doing beautifully.
 - Average attendance was up for the third year in a row.
 - We’ve created a welcoming atmosphere, working with and around all the restrictions.
 - Ministries have made space for much-needed rest.
 - We have connected with each other and the community in many ways:
 - Planning worship together;
 - Grief and healing service in August;
 - Our music ministry;
 - Spirituality and formation;
 - With Zoom, we had the opportunity to see Bishop Diana consecrated;
 - AA, NA, and Al-Anon are meeting here;
 - Volunteers have been taking care of our grounds.
 - \$120,000 has been pledged for 2022. This is 99% of our goal.
 - We’re looking for ways to rent out our extra space and to reach out to the community.
 - We’re discerning projects for the money donated in Richard Martin’s honor.
 - Rev. Sara then thanked the Vestry, Deacon Laurel, Kathy, and the entire congregation.
- V. Ministry Team Reports
(All reports are below)
 - A. Building and Grounds
 1. Columbarium
 2. Labyrinth
 - B. Care Team
 1. Prayer Shawl Ministry
 2. Time for Us

- C. Children & Youth Ministry
- D. Outreach
- E. Welcome
 - 1. Coffee Hour
 - 2. Greeters
- F. Worship and Music
 - 1. Acolytes & LEMs
 - 2. Altar Guild
 - 3. Compline
 - 4. Morning Prayer
 - 5. Music
- VI. Finance Report
 - Marci Welch presented the 2021 Financial Reports and 2022 Budget.
 - Michael Lasfette moved that we approve the 2022 budget; Second: Debbie Kohler. **Vote: All approved with one abstention.**
- VII. Delegates to Diocesan Convention
 - A. Report on 2021 Diocesan Convention (See attached report by Sandy Stumpf).
 - B. Election of 2022 New Delegates
 - (See attached for bios)
 - 1. Raven Herrington (Voting delegate, two-year term)
 - 2. Ginger McIntyre (Alternate delegate, three-year term)
 - Motion to approve slate: Bob Pierson; Second: Kirby Gleason. **Vote: All approved with one abstention.**
- VIII. Vestry
 - A. Thank you to outgoing Vestry members
 - 1. Lainey Johnston
 - 2. Linda Meade
 - 3. Kristian Sogge
 - B. Election of New Vestry Members
 - (See attached for Candidate bios)
 - 1. Mel Foresman
 - 2. Roberta Peterson
 - 3. Sr. Marlene Ita Pryts
 - Motion to approve slate: Sid Welch; Second: Lainey Johnston. **Vote: All approved with one abstention,**
- IX. Closing Prayer – The Rev. Laurel Hart
- X. Adjourn

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

Building & Grounds

Dennis Pilgrim, Sid Welch & Deborah Dobrenen

Dennis moved which left a vacancy in the Building and Grounds position. I am filling that role on a temporary basis. Vestry is exploring possibilities to maintain our campus into the future.

Repairs this year:

- The parking lot catch basin drain was replaced nearest the labyrinth.
- One exterior water faucet on the building was replaced.
- The electric entry keypads for the parish hall and the exterior office were repaired and brought back online.
- The photocell light above the main church doors was repaired.

Upcoming Repairs

- A roof leak was discovered which caused some water damage in the large classroom downstairs. It was determined that our existing roof above that room is still serviceable with at least 5 years of life remaining so repairs have been scheduled rather than replacement at this time.
- We are obtaining quotes to have our large parking lot security lights repaired. They are inoperable currently.
- Water damage to the downstairs classroom will be repaired.
- The Springwater Studio bathroom will be updated to include removal of one broken toilet.
- The area between the Labyrinth and Memorial Garden will be re-graveled with a walkway between the two spaces added for foot traffic. Additionally, we will add a walkway to the Memorial Garden from the parking lot. We are tracking down bids for that work.
- Hopefully we can have the exterior trim and doors painted (as needed) this year.

Columbarium – Deacon Laurel Hart & Jim Hart

After some years of planning by a small church committee, headed by Deacon Laurel Hart, by the spring of 2020, St. Luke's church has made a home for its first columbarium unit and surrounded it with a memorial garden.

Construction also is planned for a physical connection with the church's labyrinth to aid mourners and friends of the deceased whose ashes are inurned in our columbariums.

Constructing the columbarium project included trees, roses and other plants surrounding sites for three 48-niche units with benches for people to rest while remembering their loved ones. The project's landscape was designed by Kathleen Booren of St. Luke's. More plants and trees are being protected through the cold winter months at a local nursery, and will be planted in the spring of 2022.

The project site, located just east of the church buildings, also includes a restored, 7-foot tall St. Luke's Icon, with rock base, that for years was seen by passers-by on Towle Ave.

The design, planned by Terry Olsen of Emerald Stone Masonry, includes creative work with flagstone, concrete and other quarry materials.

Among the challenges with this project were the detailed regulations and protocols the City of Gresham required before approval of the project. Those procedural details and the records of each part of the project were managed by Project Manager Jim Hart, who was in close contact with city officials for more than a year.

Deacon Laurel reports that to date 20 of the 48 niches that were available have been purchased. While some have been filled with remains, others have been purchased in advance of need with partial engraving completed. Plans include the installation of another unit of 48 niches at a time when the current unit has about a dozen niches still available. The third unit of 48 niches would follow in a similar manner when the first two were nearly full.

The St. Luke's Vestry voted last year to allow the current and future rectors to approve for charity burial two niches in each columbarium unit.

This project, Deacon Laurel says, would not have been possible without the dedication of six people who spent many hours during the long hot summer of 2021 keeping water on all of the plants and trees. Deacon Laurel also recognizes the members of her committee, who gathered many times to plan the project and continued to support it during the early phases of its development.

Thanks go out to committee members Maryland and Buzz Busby, Sid Welch, Peggy Long and Laurel and Jim Hart. Kudos also to the long summer maintenance team of Pat Canham, Marcia Chisholm, Bill Dobrenen, Rob Ede, Gale Foresman and Jim Hart.

Labyrinth – Judy Bevilacqua & the Labyrinth Guild

The Labyrinth has been on a long Covid "hiatus" preventing the planning of community events, but we continued to pray & plan for 2022. The kiosk remains our faithful Maître D' to welcome all visitors.

- We took down our Black Lives Matter staging in early 2021, after an appreciative response from many visitors.
- Visitors continued all year to walk, leave prayer requests, notes and to find solace in this space - locally and from Canada, ID, Iowa, NY, CA, MA, WA. etc. ☺
- Terry Olsen continues his good excavation work in the bio-swale area, creating a new meditation space with huge stones and walkways. Stay tuned!
- We were finally able to resume placing our labyrinth brochures in the newly re-opened libraries.
- We find so many comments that say "thank you" for this (quiet, holy, beautiful, safe) space to walk with my (questions, concerns, pain, sadness, joy, gratitude, friends).
- And last...we have been finding some "Gracias notes" from our local Hispanic/Latinx friends who have discovered this space belongs to them too.

Care Team
Lainey Johnston

We continue to function as our caring members reach out to our folks amid the ups and downs of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. We've worked in close communication with Rev. Sara, as our community's needs have arisen. Our outreach has included "safely distanced" home visits, phone calls, emails, participating in the Meal Train, sending cards, collecting baby shower gifts, and more. Thank you all for your continued participation, support, love and prayers.

Prayer Shawl – Roberta Peterson

The Prayer Shawl Ministry at St. Luke's was formed in October 2017 and as of this writing we have given out eighty-eight of these beautiful shawls to members of our parish or to their friends and family members who are in need of comforting care. These shawls have been sent to a number of places within the United States, Canada, Alaska and one was sent to Kenya.

Prior to the outbreak of Covid-19 our group would meet one Saturday per month at Springwater Studio from 10 o'clock until noon chatting over cups of coffee and enjoying fellowship as we did our knitting and crocheting. We haven't met since February 2020 but production has not slowed the progress of our dedicated and talented members.

Members are Lucy Mulford, Mona Pilgrim, Sally Day, Linda Meade, Laurel Hart, Roberta Peterson and, Gesila Ray. Gesila had enjoyed making little hats for newborn babies at Mt. Hood Medical Center.

We look forward to meeting in person again when it is safe to do so and anyone who would like to participate in this ministry is welcome to join us.

Time for Us – Deborah Aronson

"Time For Us", St. Luke's weekly opportunity to provide support for anyone wishing to feel heard, share a burden, exclaim a joy, work through grief, or any other human emotion, meets weekly, Tuesday at NOON, for lunch and conversation. The goal of the group is to be a stable, safe, confidential moment for all. During 2021, 18 people used the group for support. It has met both on ZOOM and in person, as conditions have dictated.

Children & Youth

Raven Herrington & Kristian Sogge

This year our time and resources for children and youth focused on quality time together. Between COVID surges we were able to take the kids on several fun outings including Oaks Park in the summer, the Pumpkin Patch in the fall, and some fun advent activities at church in November/December. We had the pleasure of leading Riley through confirmation and were thrilled to watch him become a sibling in Christ. We also were able to have the kids assist in stuffing stockings for My Father's House during Christmas. Next year it is my hope to dig deeper into ways that we can connect to other children's and youth communities in our diocese.

Outreach

Deborah Dobrenen

We have been a team of four or five people for the past year. Meeting every month or two either in the labyrinth or Birch Room has been a joy, as we share, report, reflect, and brainstorm. The generosity of parishioners allowed us to give both food and money to Zarephath Kitchen in Gresham. Team members led an effort to fill Christmas stockings and Easter baskets for the children at My Father's House. St. Luke's also generously filled tubs with household necessities for Afghan refugees. A few of us also volunteered at Food for Families filling bags of groceries for neighbors in need. Linda Simmons continues to participate in Kizimani Ministry in Kenya, and we hope to bring that more to our attention in 2022. We also look forward to deepening our involvement with our local neighbors.

Welcome

Marcy Ross

The purpose of the Welcome Committee has been to develop ways to create a friendly and warm welcome to those who are visitors and prospective new members. The Committee has been working on new Welcoming forms to be available in the narthex and the pews. We are grateful for Sara's presence, and her active involvement in welcoming several new members in 2021. Her activity during these pandemic times has been most beneficial. We are also grateful for the generous donation made on Richard's behalf. This donation will contribute to Richard's genuine embodiment of "Welcome" in a soon to be re-imagined Narthex design-and-build.

The Welcome Committee is eager to resume its primary purpose of making new friends and growing our Body of Christ, moving beyond these challenging times of the COVID19 Pandemic.

Coffee Hour – Sandy Stumpf

Coffee hour ministry did start up robustly after our first round of Covid. I thank the multitude of volunteers. We had to halt that unfortunately. We are once again on hold and look forward to the time longingly when we feel we can again gather.

Greeters – Bill Dobrenen

In May, St. Luke's began meeting again face-to-face for the first time since worship had moved to Zoom in March 2020. The greeting ministry had waned in that time, so I decided to assist. I thought it best to assign usher duties quarterly so as to have more structure and order in the services. Presently, there are 20 people involved with this ministry and it seems to be going well. The greeters/ushers are assigned through March 2022. The good thing about this set up is that no one has to serve more than twice per quarter. I am happy to continue this ministry into the New Year.

Worship

Kathy Douglass, Ginger McIntyre, The Rev. Sara Cosca-Warfield

Acolytes & Lay Eucharistic Ministers – Ginger McIntyre

We are in the process of training two new acolytes to serve at our altar. If anyone else is interested in serving as an acolyte, please talk to Laurel or Ginger.

Altar Guild – Vicki Ebberts

Due to the pandemic the Altar Guild duties were a little lighter than usual. Setting up for Sunday services required less time since communion does not include wine at this time. A brief description of the current duties include keeping the candles filled, providing flowers, setting weekly readings, changing the color to coordinate with the current season, refilling Holy water and cleaning up wherever needed. Our current members include: Vicki Ebberts, Marci Welch, Debbie and David Kirkpatrick, Sally Day, Linda Wright and a pending new member, Michael Lasfetto. We are always looking to add new members. We welcome anyone who might be interested in learning more about what we do. Serving on the Altar Guild is a very fulfilling way to contribute your time to St. Lukes.

Compline – Lisa Achilles

This past year saw Friday evening prayer move from online to in person with a variable gathering of 3-5 persons in attendance each week providing an additional opportunity to grow together as members of St Luke's. The focus this year was to experience the beauty and simplicity of corporate prayer in worship and gratitude at the end of the week. Friday evening prayer adopted the compline prayer format in the latter part of 2021, incorporating the poem of the upcoming Sunday as a prompt for reflection. An opportunity was extended to every voice to lead a portion of the evening as was comfortable for each member. It is the hope of this ministry to continue to grow in number and intimacy as we end our week in prayer.

Morning Prayer - Sr. Marlene Ita Pryts

Morning prayer meets every Wednesday morning on Zoom at 9 am to 9:30 am. A link to the Zoom meeting is posted every Wednesday early morning in the "St. Luke's News" along with a link to the scripture reading for the day. We are now using the Book of Common Prayer-Rite II Morning Prayer as our format. Our attendance is very small at this time. Usually only one other person is in attendance besides myself. We are hoping that more will join us in the future as it is a beautiful way to jump-start the middle of the week.

Music – Kathy Douglass

How is it that you can play one chord, and then another... and your heart just breaks in two? This quote is posted in my office and every time I read it, I'm reminded of its truth. I have experienced the heart-breaking beauty, the soul-opening invitation of a melody. I have lived into that way music can wrap itself around us - in lament and praise, in joy and in wonder. In this past year of ongoing and exhausting pandemic, through the music we play and sing together, our broken hearts have been held. In the silence of all that is unknown, there is a song.

I'm deeply grateful for each person who faithfully offers their gifts to nurture our music ministry: Jack, Barry, David, Judy and Jane - what a joy to make music with you. I'm so delighted to be welcoming additional singers and instrumentalists: Eva, Michael and Bob. The impact Joshua Herrington's gifts and time have had on our sound is remarkable. For each one who settled for humming through your mask for months and now lift your voices to worship in song together, you are a joy.

Finance Team

Marci Welch, Steve Achilles, Jim Stumpf

The role of the finance committee is primarily to provide financial oversight for St. Luke's. St. Luke's committee made up of four members. Rev. Sara, Marci Welch, Stephen Achilles and Jim Stumpf. We meet monthly to discuss the finances of the church. Marci Welch provides the monthly Profit and Loss and Balance Sheet for the review of the committee.

Primary Functions of the Committee:

- Develop an annual operating budget.
- Approve the budget within the finance committee.
- Present Budget to the Vestry for final approval.
- Monitor adherence to the budget on a monthly basis.
- Set long-range financial goals.
- Oversee our invested funds
- Present to the Vestry monthly reports, make recommendations and point out any financial change for their final approval.

Pre Covid-19 we would meet in person in Sara's office and now we meet monthly via ZOOM, which for the most part works fine. We discuss what our income is for the month and also go over our spending, bill paying, bank accounts, savings and investment accounts.

Audit

It had been several years since St. Luke's had a formal audit. We had plans to Audit Swap information with another Episcopal Church, but Covid-19 forced us to cancel this exchange numerous times during 2021. After many delays we made the decision to hire an outside firm to provide us with a professional audit in 2021. The final audit report stated that our financial statements are in accordance with Episcopal church guidelines. The audit did recommend some minor operational changes and the committee will speak with the auditor to better understand these changes.

Investment Funds

During the last year we spent a significant amount of time on our investments. We now receive regular statements and have merged our short term invested funds with our long term funds to increase our expected returns. As of December 31, 2021, our invested funds totalled \$261,450.

Pledging

As you know we have a community of wonderful parishioners at St. Luke's and without their generous gifts we would be in a financial struggle. Our preliminary Budget for 2022 was \$155,000, an increase of \$20,000 pledged in 2021, which would allow our community to increase Rev. Sara's current hours from 32.5 to 35 hours, working toward paying at 40 hours in the next few years. In addition, this budget would support an increase for our office staff and pay the increase in our Diocesan Assessment (DPA).

Convention Report

Sandy Stumpf

On November 6, 2021, the 133rd Annual Convention of the Diocese was held via Zoom. Rev. Sara, Deacon Laurel and I represented St. Luke. Presiding over this, her first convention, was Bishop Diana Akiyama.

Following are the highlights of the convention:

- Elections of Committees. Our own Rev. Sara Cosca-Warfield was elected to the Diocesan Council, Clergy.
- Resolutions passed were;
 - Substitute Resolution: Affirming Gender- Diverse and Trans Identities. This is replacing a 2012 resolution.
 - Dissolutions(Closings of parish) of Christ the King, Stayton,Or. and St. David Episcopal, Drain. This matter is always a very heart wrenching vote.
 - The support of St. Timothy's Brookings in their efforts to feed the hungry by letter, to protest the actions by the City of Brookings.
 - Passing of the budget.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your delegate the past two years. I have also served as a delegate in the past. I would encourage you to consider this position for St. Luke. There will be an election at our annual meeting for two delegates and one alternate. Any questions please feel free to contact me at roxyrue1@comcast.net.

2022 Delegates to Diosesan Convention Candidates

Raven Herrington (Voting Delegate)

I have been at St. Luke's for three years now. Fun fact: my first Sunday was the Sunday before Rev. Sara came. In my time at St. Luke's I have felt myself pulled deeper and deeper into this beautiful community. In answering this call I have served our youth and children's ministries, became a vestry member, and most recently become an acolyte. I feel called to serve as a delegate because I hope to bring the concerns and hopes of the convention back to St. Luke's and to be a voting voice for our congregation. On a personal level I am also excited to learn more about the way the Episcopal Church is governed and lead.

Ginger McIntyre (Alternate Delegate)

Looking back, I can see how the Holy Spirit has been guiding me my entire life. Sometimes I even listened! When I lived in Phoenix, having left my Catholic upbringing far behind, I knew I needed to find a church home. In 2007 I found the Episcopal Church, where the Holy Spirit led me (sometimes dragged me) into various ministries. Needless to say, these all turned out be wonderful opportunities for spiritual growth.

I had moved to Phoenix from Southern California to be near my younger son Steve and his family. In 2014 I moved to southern Oregon to be near my older son and his family. My granddaughter in Phoenix was nearly grown by then and Allen now had two kids. We all moved to Troutdale in 2018 and the Holy Spirit led me to St. Luke's.

I've learned that when God puts opportunities in my path, it's best to pay attention. He obviously knows me better than I do. So when Sara asked me to be a delegate to

Convention, after praying about it, I absolutely believe it's what the Holy Spirit wants me to do.

In attendance:

On Zoom:

Gale Foresman
Mel Foresman
Jack Bevilacqua
Judy Bevilacqua
Kristian Sogge
Marcy Ross
Amy Paynter
Bob Day
Sally Day
Janet Walker
Ann Talarico
Carmen Talarico
Jeff Booren
Kathleen Booren
Joshua Herrington
Raven Herrington
Robert Weber-Kearney

In person:

Roberta Peterson
Lainey Johnston
Kathy Douglas
Elvin Busby
Barry Brandt
Michael Lasfetto
Deborah Dobrenen
Robert Pierson
Maryland Busby
Celia Carlson
Kirby Gleason
Sid Welch
Marci Welch
Peter Schmidt
Deborah Aronson
Ginger McIntyre
Debbie Kohler
Elaine Schmidt
Vicki Ebberts
Sister Marlene Ita Pryts
The Rev. Laurel Hart, Deacon
The Rev. Sara Cosca-Warfield, Rector

Respectfully submitted,
Ginger McIntyre
Vestry Clerk