

Annual Meeting
St. Luke the Physician Episcopal Church
Gresham, Oregon

January 24, 2021

- I. The meeting was called to order by Lainey Johnston, Senior Warden
- II. Opening Prayer – The Rev. Sara Cosca-Warfield
- III. Approval of Minutes from Last Year’s Meeting. Motion to approve: Sid Welch; second: Sandy Stumpf; all approve (Zoom poll vote).
- IV. Rector’s Address
Sara spoke about the challenges of worship and of connecting with one another during a Pandemic. Despite Covid-19, we have stayed strong and trusted God. We have cared for each other and our community.
 - The Sacred Ground program, reflecting on race and faith, was very enlightening for all who participated.
 - On January 15, Sara was inducted as Rector of St. Luke’s.
 - A vigil for Black Lives was held in June.
 - Sunday attendance was up by five from 2019.
 - We found many ways to meet safely in person whenever weather permitted, including Centering Prayer, Anxiety chat, and Communion on the Labyrinth.
 - We held new member classes in May and welcomed four new members in June.
 - Pastoral visits on Zoom and by phone.
 - Taize on Facebook
 - Open Sanctuary
 - Improved audio thanks to a grant from the Diocese.
 - The Care Team has contacted everyone in the member directory.
 - The Prayer Shawl group has been keeping quite busy.
 - Raven Herrington and Kristian Sogge have shared on-line videos with the children.
 - Building and Grounds: No outside groups have been meeting in the building. Locks have been changed and security cameras added. They have been attending to the grounds to keep them neat and clean.
 - The Columbarium was built in 2020.
 - We have a new Member Directory.
 - The Rev. Dr. Diana Akiyama was elected as the 11th Bishop of Oregon.
 - The annual convention was held via Zoom.
 - Worship planning has been done online.
 - Stewardship: We met 99% of our \$103,000 pledge. We had anticipated a shortfall of \$8000 but ended with \$5000 over.
 - Sara is thankful to the Vestry for making the difficult decisions during Covid.
 - Milestones:
 - Sara performed the wedding of Nick and James Kice Matlick.
 - Baby Cora Rose was born to Raven and Josh Herrington.
 - Our beloved usher and friend Richard Martin passed away.
 - We’ll meet in person again when we feel it’s safe for all.
 - A donation of \$10,000 has been made in Richard’s name. We will discern how best to use it.

- We're anticipating another new member class.
 - We are hopeful for this year.
- V. Ministry Reports (See below)
- VI. Financial Report
- A. Final 2020 Report – See attached.
 - B. Presentation of 2021 budget
Motion to approve budget: Steve Achilles; second: Marcy Ross. All approved (Zoom poll vote)
- VII. 2020 Diocese of Oregon Bishop Election and Convention
- A. Barry Brandt and Sandy Stumpf served as delegates for the election and the convention. See attached reports.
 - B. There are currently no nominees for serving as delegates for 2021.
- VIII. Vestry
- A. Thanks to the outgoing Vestry members:
 1. Linda Simmons
 2. Sid Welch
 - B. Thank you to the outgoing Senior Warden, Lainey Johnston.
 - C. Deborah Dobrenen is our new Senior Warden and Marcy Ross is our new Junior Warden.
 - D. Election of new Vestry members. See attached for candidate bios.
 1. Deborah Aronson
 2. Dennis Pilgrim
 3. Kristian Sogge
 4. There were no nominations from the floor.
A motion was made by Josh Herrington to approve the slate of candidates; second: Steve Achilles. All approved. (Zoom poll vote)
- IX. Closing Prayer – Sara.
- X. Meeting was adjourned by Lainey Johnston.

Ministry Team Reports

Building & Grounds

Submitted by Sid Welch

- Kathleen and Jeff Booren joined our group and assumed leadership of our campus grounds. Gale Foresman also joined.
- They spent many hours cleaning out flower beds and making improvements over the summer. This group was also instrumental in our major tree trimming and clean-up project.
- Our furnace systems were serviced and inspected this past fall. All found to be in good shape.
- We began work on making our campus more safe and secure. All exterior door locks were rekeyed and a key tracking system was implemented.
- Security cameras were installed to monitor the Columbarium Memorial Garden area and the Rose Garden door entrance along with our rear parking lot.
- We continue to study all applicable Covid regulations and guidelines as we help plan for our eventual safe reopening.

Upcoming work:

- Remedy a water runoff problem from our parking lot into the Labyrinth and Memorial Garden areas.
- Exterior paint on doors and stair railings.
- Fire extinguishers will be due for service.
- Continued Grounds improvements.
- Additional Security cameras as needed.
- Repair two non-functioning exterior lights
- Remove and repair or replace our bent flagpole.

Columbarium

Submitted by The Rev. Laurel Hart, Deacon

St. Luke's Columbarium began as a dream nearly six years ago when a small group of parishioners decided to explore the idea of establishing a place for the cremated remains of members of this parish or their family members. The church committee visited other Portland area Episcopal churches with columbaria to gain ideas that would help develop our project.

With the chosen 48-niche unit selected and site design completed and approved by the vestry, our project manager began to get information from the City of Gresham and the Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board to be certain that we did not violate any standing rules or regulations and could plan a budget to pay fees to the government.

During a year-long process, our project manager and committee chairperson kept the hierarchy of city government informed as well as the people who live in the neighborhood surrounding St. Luke's two-acre church campus. The zoning for the church site had to be changed because of the addition of human remains to the campus.

After completing a 75-page detailed application, including drawings to scale, and gaining approval from community residents and the city's Planning Department for the design of our columbarium, our contractor, Terry Olsen, of Emerald Stone Masonry began construction. The first granite unit with 48 niches was delivered and installed on May 29, 2020 to a small cheering group of the parish community.

Currently, we are waiting for the winter weather to end so that we can finish several parts of the plan that are not yet done, including a rock-faced stone bench to be placed in the middle of the stone circle. We also are waiting for certain plants to become available in the spring so that we can complete the planting of about 200 plants and trees. Last fall, we installed and reconditioned the St. Luke icon that used to be near the front of our church near Towle Avenue. To be complete, the icon only needs a rock facing on its base. The contractor will begin work on these final items during February.

All of this construction work, however, did not delay the use of the developing facility. To date, 17 niches have been sold. Several deceased parish members have been interred for their final rest and other spaces are waiting for their use by members whose families have pre-planned their final arrangements.

St. Luke's is also planning for future needs with two concrete pads already installed that meet specifications for two more 48-niche columbarium units. Those units will be added when the current one is nearing its capacity. The vestry decided to set aside three niches in the current unit and two niches in each of the two future units for charity use, at the discretion of the rector.

Sincere thanks to Maryland & Buzz Busby, Peggy Long, Sid Welch and Jim Hart for all their research, planning and execution to bring this dream to fruition.

Care Team

Submitted by Laine Johnson and Roberta Peterson

HOW do we care for each other at a time of a worldwide pandemic, social isolation and anxiety? When our community was forced to end all gatherings in our beloved worship space, we had to find other ways to reach out and care for one another. Here is a brief summary of our efforts.

We began with a core team of volunteers; we have attempted to make regular caring contact with parish members for whom we had phone numbers, emails and street addresses. Some of us call, others send emails or cards. When the weather cooperated, we were able to meet (socially distanced and masked). Others have gone shopping for our folks unable to leave their homes.

We began an ongoing "Fun Anxiety Group" which meets on Zoom (or outdoors, weather/season permitting). Despite its name, this has been a crucial safety net for battling isolation present during this pandemic. We have rallied to provide meals for our folks and their families facing medical procedures. Our Centering Prayer group continues to meet twice a month on Zoom, providing a safe place of calm and quiet for folks to rest, reflect and pray.

When specific crises have arisen, we've pulled together smaller teams to support our most vulnerable members. (Special thanks to Eva Bock and Jack Bevilacqua for all their extraordinary love, walking our Richard Martin home.) We could not have done any of this without the care and love of our members. Each and every one of you contributes to making us a Beloved Community.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

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.

Welcome

Submitted by Marcy Ross

The Vestry for St. Luke's Episcopal Church began meeting with just the slightest hint of a new virus hitting a small population of the world. Our hope for the best and Diocesan-recommended guidelines fell on the wayside as the virus quickly morphed into a worldwide pandemic, and church gatherings were immobilized.

That did not deter us from re-inventing the wheel, to conduct the business of St. Luke's and find new ways to reach our community. I must say that we were led by an incredibly gifted and quick thinker, Rev. Sara, being the light of this church in this dark and foreboding world new to all of us. An unrelenting angel of calm and vision, she has been our rock.

Each of us were given a platform on which to restructure our Committee's goals, in this case the Welcome Committee. We even discussed meshing committees together for special community purposes (i.e., Welcome and Outreach). Where once we were literally "party" to weekly coffee hours, celebrating birthdays and planning summer barbecues to welcome new members, we had to reinvent for the return of fellowship. The Welcome Committee made a New Directory sign up available and turned it over to the Office, which in turn brought it to life online. And lo and behold, in the spring/summer months, we gained some wonderful new members!

Welcome carved out a new vision to celebrate new visitors, scripting ideas of interaction with ushers and parishioners, designing a new "Welcome Brochure" and a new "Who We Are-What We Do" brochure, and envisioning the Narthex with a fresh look. With the recent passing of our beloved Richard, the Narthex will be a true focal point in the very near future, honoring all that Richard represented at St. Luke's.

We look forward to continuing our spiritual lives together in person someday very soon. In the meantime, we are grateful for Rev. Sara, Marcia, the Vestry and all the members of the parish, in continuing to worship, pray and gather through our Zoom time together.

Outreach

Submitted by Deborah Dobrenen

As I reflect upon St. Luke's outreach this past year a few highlights come to mind. Early in 2020, a few of us on the outreach team toured both Zarephath Kitchen and My Father's House to explore volunteering possibilities. When the pandemic hit in early March, we changed course and were able to contribute money only to these two organizations. Fortunately, we were still able to fill and deliver about 35 stockings to the children at My Father's House in December. Food for Families, a local food bank, was another opportunity several of us helped out with, filling hundreds of bags of groceries for families in need. Kizimani, serving struggling communities in Kenya, is also a mission St. Luke's contributes to. Sacred Ground classes carried on despite Covid-19, educating and inspiring us all to consider next steps in our work building a beloved community both inside and outside the walls of St. Luke's.

The Ark Children's Ministry

Submitted by Raven Herrington

In March we took Sunday school online by pre-recording Sunday school video lessons. We also provided printable activities and resources that went with these videos. We continued these videos until August. In October Kristian and Raven made "Boo bags" (treat bags) for our youth for Halloween and had the pleasure of going to drop them off and see our youth and their families. Our Advent wreath making zoom event at the beginning of December was so much fun and kicked off our advent season in a joyful way. Our youth also participated in our Advent services by taking turns lighting the advent candle and reading our advent prayer each week.

I have been SO proud all year of how our St. Luke's youth have shown resiliency, courage, and love during these challenging times. It is our joy to serve in this ministry and we are looking forward to another year of growth and creativity in 2021.

Worship & Music

Submitted by Ginger McIntyre & Kathy Douglass

Ginger

Thanks to modern technology, and with Rev. Sara's guiding hand, we have been able to gather together for worship on Zoom, and to find peace through Taize live-streaming on Facebook. We also have the opportunity to meet on Zoom every Wednesday morning and Friday evening to pray as a community. During Advent, Rev. Sara led us in a short prayer and candle-lighting every evening. Our Worship committee met in advance of Lent and Advent to plan our Sunday services and discuss ideas for ways to move deeper into each season.

Kathy

I looked through my music binders recently, the binders our musicians use when we gather for worship on Sunday mornings. They've not been touched since we were able to use them last March. I discovered that one of the last hymns we all sang together in the sanctuary was 'Breathe On Me, Breath of God'. As we've been distanced for so long now, unable to gather as a community in person to worship, to pray, to sing, to celebrate the Eucharist, I find it poignant that one of our last sung prayers to God was a plea for breath. "Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew, that I may love the things you love, and do what Thou wouldst do." At a time when we are lovingly and safely caring for each other by staying apart, when we have to be so careful with our

breath, the breath of God is carrying us through one of the most distressing times many of us have ever known. We are carried as individuals. We are carried as a community. That's one of the gifts of music, it carries us, the words and melodies latch on and linger long past the song's end. I am deeply grateful to Josh Herrington, to Rev. Sara, to all those who helped us build new paths to people and make such strides with the sound equipment and sound quality for our services. As we are all discovering, there is beauty in these ashes, there are gifts being uncovered during this season. We've been able to continue with our Taize Gatherings, and with the Livestream, we've been able to welcome more people into songs, stillness, sacred words and silence. Rev. Sara asked last Spring if it might be possible to stream a little live music now and then from the church, since so many of us are longing for the sight of 'home'. That idea gave birth to Open Sanctuary. It is a joy to make music with Jack Bevilacqua and Jane Day, to play songs of lament, hope, faith and peace. I long for the day when more of our musicians can safely gather, when I can look up from my piano and rather than see rows of empty pews, see your faces, and rather than hear just a few voices, hear all of us, once again, singing together, carried on the breath of God. Here's to the day.

Financial Report

2020

Submitted by Linda Simmons & Jim Stumpf

The role of the finance committee is primarily to provide financial oversight for St. Luke's.

St. Luke's committee is made up of four members: Reverend Sara, Marci Welch, Linda Simmons and Jim Stumpf. The committee was formed in August of 2019 and meet on a monthly basis 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.
- Present to the Vestry monthly reports, make recommendations and point out any financial change for their final approval.

There was a period of absence of a finance committee TEAM as we searched for a new Rector. When Reverend Sara was hired in 2019 she identified that we had no formal Finance Committee and asked if we could renew the Finance Committee. A new Committee was formed shortly after her hire.

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. Any major expense is discussed and a recommendation for payment is made to the Vestry. No monies are allocated or used without our recommendation.

It has been several years since St. Luke's has had a formal audit. We had plans to Audit Swap information with another Episcopal Church, but Covid-19 forced us to cancel this exchange. We are making plans for a professional audit in 2021.

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. This year our Stewardship chairs asked for \$115,000.00 an increase of \$12,000.00 over 2019. Our community generously pledged over \$120,000.00 allowing us to pay and increase Reverend Sara's hours, office support and the increase in our DPA.

The Finance Committee will continue to meet monthly during 2021. We would like to welcome our newest member to the committee, Steve Achilles. In addition I would like to thank Linda Simmons who is retiring from the committee. Linda has been instrumental not only on the Finance Committee, but for her work over the years serving on Vestry, Bookkeeper and much more. We appreciate your guidance and knowledge and years of loving service to the Parish of St. Luke's.

2020 Diocese of Oregon Bishop Election and Convention

Submitted by Sandy Stumpf and Barry Brandt

Election Convention

We, Barry Brandt and Sandy Stumpf, served as your delegates for the 11th Election Convention for Bishop of the Diocese of Oregon. On August 29, 2020 along with our clergy, Rev. Sara and Dcn. Laurel we cast our votes for our choice among the four well qualified clergy standing for election to this post.

The Rev. Diana Akiyama, who was the first Japanese-American female priest and ordained in Eastern Oregon was selected on the 2nd ballot. The Rev. Akiyama has served since 1988 in Oregon, California, and Hawaii. She also has served nationally on committees for Presiding Bishop Michael Curry.

All eyes were on Oregon as we were first up for an online election within The Episcopal Church. These brave candidates traversed the length of I-5 to visit the area they would represent. A big shout-out to the people of the diocese who put this together. We also give thanks to Bishop Michael Hanley who has served as Bishop of the Diocese of Oregon since 2010. He retires at the end of January 2021.

2020 Annual Diocesan Convention

On October 31, 2020, the convention opened with Bishop Michael Hanley's prayer of blessing following an interlude of sacred music. Historically this was the first electronic convention for the Episcopal Church nationally. The nation's eyes were upon the proceedings which went very well.

Three hundred and seventeen participants gathered to make appointments to the Board of Trustees, the Diocesan Counsel, the standing committee, Trinity Cathedral and Camp Retreat Board. Resolutions on Anti-Racism training, reconciliation and Budget were made by electronic voting. We were dismissed with the feeling that this next year our diocese will be well served.

Vestry Candidates

Deborah Aronson

My background is long and varied, as is true with many of us, but the relevant part begins in 2008 when I had an overwhelming experience of God during the Eucharist, at St. Peter and Paul Parish in SE Portland. That moment led me on a journey encompassing following Jesus, being in an Episcopal Monastic Community, The Community of the Gospel for several years and steadily increasing service. I have been licensed both in Oregon and California to perform most of the functions which help sustain a parish.

From 2012-2016 we lived in Northern California and I was active at St. John's in Chico. Returning to Portland, my former parish had changed its mission, so I began a search to find where God was calling me. The overwhelming answer came when I found St. Luke's. I am home, roundabout in my travels, but HOME.

I hope to assist in whatever small ways I can. My interests are broad, my enthusiasm is boundless, but my energy is not. With that in mind, prayer, loving others, welcoming everyone and sharing the love of God are, with my family, the basis of my life.

Dennis Pilgrim

The Pilgrim Family, at least our extension of it, not only consists of Mona and myself, (as well as our Great Dane, Ares), but also we share five adult children (Pilgrim on my side, Hobart on Mona's side) and we share an adopted young adult (23 y/o) man, who has Developmental Disabilities and is a member of a local Group Home with some of his peers. Additionally, we share 8 grandchildren, with Mona leading with 6, to my 2—all quite cherished.

I was fortunately born into a family with active and loving parents, my father being a Methodist minister (yes, I'm a "PK"), and my mother, a musician. I was fortunate to have two older brothers, the eldest of whom was also a Methodist minister, who is sadly now, deceased. Mona and I spent our professional lives as a Special Education teacher and I, as a Clinical Psychologist (PhD), both now retired but still quite active in our celebration and enjoyment of life.

Though I grew up in the Methodist Church, I joined the Episcopal Church early in my adult years and due to multiple moves, have been a member of 6 Episcopal churches (including an Episcopal Cathedral in Albuquerque, NM). In all those memberships I have been a participating member and have served, variously, on Vestry of two, and received training and certification as a Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM), practicing in the Cathedral. My call to involvement in the Episcopal Church, came through the recognition of the centrality of the Eucharist in worship, which, for me, had the effect of providing a foundation for the centering of my faith.

Mona and I have found a home, we believe, in St. Luke's and have appreciated the warmth and sharing of the leadership and congregation. We hope to continue to grow in those relationships, and want to do our part in the continued growth of St. Luke's.

Kristian Sogge

I have been a member of St. Luke's for a couple of years now. Since joining this wonderful community I have been involved in worship planning, assisting with the children's ministry, and co-leading our revived youth group. I'm looking forward to the opportunity to join the vestry to be able to be deeper involved in areas I'm a part of and to branch into new areas that may fit my skills or abilities to serve the community that has made me feel at home since walking through those big red doors.