



# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

## House Call Newsletter

### November 2021

#### Note from the Rector



Dear friends,

The Broadway musical "Hamilton" tells the story of our nation's founding and early years through the life of Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of the Treasury and an architect of many aspects of our national finances and government.

One of the most moving songs in the show comes at the moment when George Washington chooses not to run for another term as President. Hamilton tries to convince him that he has to stand again, that the nation needs him. In response, Washington sings:

*No. One last time, the people will hear from me  
One last time, and if we get this right  
We're gonna teach 'em how to say goodbye...  
If I say goodbye, the nation learns to move on  
It outlives me when I'm gone*

Washington's decision laid the foundation for one of the most important aspects of our government: the peaceful transfer of power. No one stays in the role of leader forever. The strength of the nation lies not in a single person, but in the collective will of the people.

The time has come for me to write my own farewell address to you, the community of St. Luke's Eastport. It has truly been an honor for me to serve among you for the past ten years. I came to you as a relatively new priest, 30 years old and never having been in charge of a parish before. With your love and support, I have grown into the fullness of my priestly ministry here in this place. I have benefitted from your wisdom, your caring hearts, and, when I have fallen short, your grace and forgiveness. You have shared the intimate moments of your lives with me, the joy and the grief, the celebrations and the heartache. It is a gift beyond compare to be entrusted with your stories. I will carry them with me always.

The lay leadership of St. Luke's is strong, resilient, and capable. They have led you through times of transition before, and they will do so again. Give your love and support to them, as you have to me.

My parting appeal to you is this: keep showing up. It is tempting when a rector leaves to take a step back, to wait and see who the next priest will be. I am asking you not to fall prey to that temptation. The community of St. Luke's is still here to support you, and it still needs your involvement, no matter who is standing at the altar or in the pulpit. Keep showing up for one another, loving one another, and encouraging one another to embody the love of Jesus Christ in the world.

After November 21, I will no longer be your pastor, but you will continue to be in my heart and in my prayers. For everything you have given me: thank you, thank you, thank you.

Blessings,  
*Diana+*

## October Vestry Highlights

The vestry was pleased to welcome Bishop Sutton to our October 16 meeting. He told us the status of the diocese was good and the complications of the pandemic minimal. He explained the transition process in calling a new rector and discussed the various options available. He had wonderful things to say about Pastor Diana and her contribution to the diocese. Likewise, he praised the members of St. Luke's for being 'small but mighty'. He acknowledged our mission statement and core values and how we live them out in the community. He encouraged us to get back into church for worship and fellowship.

The redesigned mission statement and core values card was approved and will be posted on the website.

Our church investment portfolio will be transferred from Ameriprise to Truist Bank, for better access to services.

Nancy Jones' resignation was accepted, as of November 30, and Pete Stark will finish out her term as Treasurer. The Senior Warden expressed our sincere gratitude to Nancy for her years of excellent service.

The vestry will be meeting with Canon Stuart Wright to start the transition process on October 30.

The next vestry meeting is Saturday, November 20 at 9:30am.

*Dianne Crews*  
Registrar

## Treasurer's Report

Sept 2021

Income;	Actual	Budget
Pledges	106,072	106,145
Other	<u>63,325</u>	<u>40,328</u>
Total Income	169,397	146,473
<b>Expenses:</b>	<u>174,191</u>	<u>158,872</u>
<b>Net gain</b>	<u>-4,794</u>	<u>-12,399</u>
Checking	22,600	
Investments	79,102	

## Treasurer Transition & Thank You

Nancy Jones is stepping down as the Treasurer of St. Luke's after nine faithful years of service in this role. We are deeply grateful for all that she has done for our faith community and our many ministries during this time, and we wish her much rest and enjoyment in her "retirement"! We will be giving Nancy a thank you gift from the parish this month as a token of our appreciation, and she will also be formally thanked at the Annual Meeting next February.

Pete Stark has been elected by the Vestry to succeed Nancy as Treasurer as of December 1, 2021. Please join us in welcoming him to this new role!

## Stewardship Season Thank you

Thank you so much to the **25** individuals and households who have made a pledge of financial support for St. Luke's as of October 31. Your generosity is what makes all of our congregation's work and worship possible.

The total amount pledged so far for 2022 is **\$89,840**. We have received 6 new pledges, 7 increased pledges, 3 decreased pledges, and 9 pledges at the same rate as 2021.

**If you plan to support St. Luke's in 2022 and have not yet made a pledge, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible.** You can either make a pledge online or mail your physical pledge card to the church office. Pledges are both an act of commitment to our church community and an essential part of our financial planning process for the year ahead. Thank you!

## Save St. Luke's Money!

We are deeply grateful to everyone who has continued to give so faithfully to St. Luke's throughout this challenging time. Many of you have made use of our online giving program Givelify to schedule regular donations. Thank you!

You may not be aware that **for every Givelify donation, a 3% fee is charged.** This comes out of the donation itself, reducing the amount that comes to the church.

Over time, these fees collectively add up to hundreds of dollars!

If you give online, please consider one of these options to help St. Luke's save money:

1. Increase your online gift by 3% to offset the fee.
2. Use your bank's online bill-paying feature to have a check mailed to the church on a regular basis at no additional cost to you.
3. Contact our Treasurer, Nancy Jones, to set up a regular direct bank transfer (ACH) from your checking account to ours.

And don't forget, if you are receiving distributions from an IRA, you can have contributions go directly to St. Luke's from the IRA, and they will not be taxed as a distribution. This is especially helpful if you are no longer itemizing deductions on your tax returns.

## Hybrid Worship Returns this Sunday

**Sunday, November 7**, on All Saints' Sunday, we will return to offering our regular 10 am worship service in a hybrid format. This means that worshipers have the option to participate in person in the sanctuary, on Zoom, by phone, and on Facebook Live. We are making this change, with the encouragement of Bishop Eugene Sutton, in light of falling COVID case rates in our county and the high vaccination rate in our congregation.

### What to expect if you come in person:

Those attending in person are required to mask, regardless of vaccination status. We will not require social distancing, however we ask that you refrain from making physical contact (i.e. hugs and handshakes) with those outside your household, including during the passing of the peace.

Some windows will be opened to provide greater ventilation, so **please dress warmly!**

The service will be shortened slightly to reduce the total length of time we are together. Music will be a combination of live instrumental pieces provided by Dr. Ildar Khannanov and recorded music sung by our virtual choir. Under new guidance from the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, **the congregation will be permitted to sing with masks on.**

Communion will continue to be offered as wafers only. There will not be any in-person Hospitality Hour for the time being.

Please read the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland's [Covenant for Regathering with Less Mitigation](#) before attending in person.

### What to expect if you attend on Zoom, by phone, or through Facebook Live:

The goal of the Worship Planning Team is to continue enabling those who attend worship remotely to be fully included in the service as much as possible. Our setup will be similar to what we were doing at the end of July: the video will originate on Zoom and be shared from there to Facebook. Those online will be able to hear and see what is happening in the sanctuary, and those in the sanctuary will be able to hear those on Zoom when desired (for instance if someone wishes to be a Reader or Intercessor remotely).

Based on feedback received in July, the worship bulletin will continue to be shared on the screen. The text of the worship service is also available to download from our website (and at the links further down in this email) as a seasonal worship booklet and weekly inserts.

We expect our setup to continue evolving over the coming weeks. We welcome feedback at each stage of this process.

### What about other forms of gathering?

- **Masks are still required of everyone when entering the building, regardless of vaccination status.**
- St. Luke's Food Pantry continues to operate on Tuesday mornings from 11 am to noon under their revised protocols. Donations are received at the church on Monday mornings between 10 and 11 am.
- The Friday Morning Contemplative Prayer Group is meeting solely on Zoom at this time.
- Small groups, such as committees, are encouraged to meet outdoors or on Zoom. If you are meeting in person at the church (even outside) or using the church Zoom account, **please make sure to check the calendar for space/Zoom availability and schedule your meeting with Dalyn Huntley.**

- With permission of the Rector, Alcoholics Anonymous has resumed meeting indoors in the Undercroft on Monday evenings at their old time of 5:45 to 6:45 pm. Cub Scout Pack 153 meets on Thursday evenings in the Undercroft and in the amphitheater area. Other outside groups will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

## Farewell Celebration for Pastor Diana

St. Luke's will be hosting a Farewell Celebration honoring Pastor Diana on **Sunday, November 21 at 2 pm**. The celebration will be held outdoors on the church grounds, and there will be a large tent to provide shelter in case of inclement weather. Everyone is welcome, including members of our wider community who may wish to celebrate with us. Watch for additional details in upcoming editions of the enews.

If you are able to help with setting up and/or taking down chairs and tables, or serving food, please contact Dianne Crews at [dmackcrn@verizon.net](mailto:dmackcrn@verizon.net) or 410-268-9741.

## Holy Communion for Remote Worship

Following diocesan guidelines, we are again distributing Holy Communion to be received by remote worshippers during our hybrid worship service. Prepackaged wine and bread are consecrated on a Sunday and made available for pickup from the church at a designated time.

The next date for pickup will be **Saturday, November 20 from 2 to 3 pm** to receive during the following day. If you are unable to pick up from the church during that time, please contact Dalyn Huntley to make alternate arrangements (410-268-5419 or [office@stlukeeastport.org](mailto:office@stlukeeastport.org)).

## Advent Wreaths

Candles and metal frames for decorating will be made available for pickup **beginning Saturday, November 20 during the distribution of Communion for Remote Worshippers**. They may also be picked up after

worship on **November 21 or 28**. (Suggested donation: \$10 per kit to offset the cost of materials.)

The Advent wreath is a devotional practice to help us prepare for Christmas. Each Sunday in Advent, another candle is lit as we reflect on the Light of Christ coming into the world. We suggest keeping your wreath on your table and lighting the candles before meals throughout the week, perhaps with a song or a prayer. The First Sunday of Advent is November 28.

## Stewardship Stories

*During Stewardship Season, the second reading each Sunday is replaced by a series of "Contemporary Epistles" shared by our own members on the theme of Stewardship. The talk below was given by Richard Smith on Sunday, October 10, 2021.*

Good morning! I love this yearly tradition of stewardship popups, and it's a privilege to kick off this time of stewardship with you.

I, like all of us no doubt, have been thinking a lot recently about Pastor Diana's departure. And I've also been thinking about her beginning. In particular, about her very first service with us, which was also joined by the Rev. Stuart Wright, who was and still is the Diocesan Canon for Transition. Stuart helped our search committee 10 years ago and will be helping us once again in this transition process.

What I clearly recall from that first February 2012 service are the words that Stuart shared with us after introducing our new priest. He said "No doubt there will be both wonderful times and challenging times together, but my most important guidance to you is: Love her. Love her. Love her."

And I thought at the time, that's pretty good advice. Not only as applied to our shiny new priest, but for one another. And for our wider community. And even for nature and the world as a whole. "Love. Love. Love." And I guess that about sums up the Gospel for me.

And that's what I love about St. Luke's. We actually, honestly, and deeply believe in love. The vestry recently met to re-examine our identity and mission. Each of us separately listed out the words or phrases that we felt were most essential to our nature

and calling. Love and inclusion were the most commonly mentioned words.

From that exercise, we took a fresh look at our identity and our mission. We are even updating the 4 quadrant mission statement cards that we're all familiar with. Don't worry - nothing has radically changed in our mission or messaging. But I think you will like it... in fact I hope you will love it. Because inclusion, prayer, learning and growing, caring, and justice all play essential roles... and at the center of it all is the love of Christ Jesus.

And that's why I give to St. Luke's. That's why I serve on the vestry and as senior warden. That's why I tithe. Small as we are, we are still a light to the world. A city on a hill. St. Luke's is a living example of Christ's love in the world.

St. Luke's, the church, and the world are all in a critical time of transition. It's a time for love. And a time to show our support.

Thank you very much for all you do for our church, and may God bless us all.

## **Gratitude Walk At the Eastport Memorial Labyrinth**

**Saturday, November 13  
12 noon to 1 pm**

At this time of year when the hours of darkness increase, many people find comfort in family and friends while others draw into themselves. Gratitude may take the form of celebration or quiet reflection. The labyrinth provides a path that draws gradually toward center, a place of stillness. Nature is doing the same as plants grow dormant and animals hibernate. We can be grateful for this time of rest. Like the seasons and the light, the labyrinth opens out again, offering a return journey toward opening and new possibilities.

We meet at the log amphitheater just below the labyrinth for an introduction, and then we gather there again for conversation following the walk. Masks are OPTIONAL but encouraged for those that are unvaccinated. Labyrinth walks take place rain or shine, so please dress for the weather.

We strive to make our events as accessible and inclusive as possible. The grassy path of the Eastport Memorial Labyrinth is wide and flat enough to navigate with a wheelchair or walker. A hand-held labyrinth is also available as an alternative to walking.

Labyrinth walks are held at the Eastport Memorial Labyrinth on the front of the grounds of St. Luke's on the second Saturday of each month from noon to 1 pm. Everyone is always welcome.

**Upcoming Walk:** December 11: Walking in the Light

For questions, contact the parish office at 410-268-5419 or [office@stlukeseastport.org](mailto:office@stlukeseastport.org).

## **NEW DATE! OutLove: A Queer Christian Survival Story**

**Friday, November 12 at 7 pm at First Presbyterian  
Church of Annapolis,  
171 Duke of Gloucester St.**

Hear from Julie Rodgers, author of Outlove and featured on the Netflix documentary, Pray Away. It will be a night of storytelling and song from local LGBTQ leaders and a chance for fellowship. All are welcome. The event will be livestreamed and recorded on Facebook and Youtube.

## **Episcopal Presence at UN Climate Summit**

The Episcopal Church is going to the [UN Climate Summit](#) (COP26). Check in directly with the church delegation during these virtual events:

- [Liturgy for Planetary Crisis: Episcopal Worship Service during COP26, November 6, 11:00 AM \(Eastern\)](#)
- [COP26 Closing Event: Report Back from the Presiding Bishop's Delegation, November 12, 2:00 PM \(Eastern\)](#)

You can also subscribe to a daily digest during COP26 and/or monthly creation care updates from the Episcopal Church [at this link](#).

## Environmental Justice in Baltimore City

The Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights (MDEHR) is excited to host Alexandria Casteel, an environmental anthropology graduate student, for a **Zoom** webinar about "Environmental Justice in Baltimore City" on **Friday, November 12 at 12pm EST**. Alexandria Casteel, an environmental anthropology graduate student at Dartmouth College in the Ecology, Evolution, Environment and Society (EEES) program. Broadly, she is interested in environmental justice and her dissertation examines how legacies of structural racism shape the ways that Black Baltimoreans relate to the outdoors.

This talk will discuss Alexandria's involvement with the Ecology of Racism, a book project examining the environmental consequences of institutionalized racism, including redlining and segregation in Baltimore City; outline the previous work done by the Baltimore Ecosystem Study (BES) on environmental justice and human health; discuss Alexandria's current work in Baltimore, including re-storying parks and forests as part of the imaginary of Black communities in the City.

We look forward to you joining us for this environmental justice storytelling session. [Click HERE to RSVP to get the Zoom link.](#)

## Restoration Work Day Thank you



Camo can't conceal these standouts! Thank you to the eager volunteers from USNA Twelfth Company who came out to help us with maintenance at the Restoration today, and especially to MIDN Aubrey Calef

and Prof. Noah Comet for making the arrangements. We also want to give a special shout-out to the volunteers from Mom's Organic Market in Bowie who joined in for Project Clean Stream. Together they managed to plant 7 15-gal. trees, 5 spicebush shrubs, a dozen perennials, and removed 12 bags of invasive plants and 5 bags of trash. Thank you for a great day, and also to St. Luke's members who came out to help with food and snacks.

## Environmental Committee Meetings

The Environmental Committee at St. Luke's seeks to spread environmental stewardship through education, advocacy, and volunteerism on a teaching campus that heals the human spirit while caring for creation. **The next will be held remotely via Zoom at 7 pm on Thursday, November 11.** All are welcome to attend. For questions, contact Chuck Gallegos ([gallegoscl@verizon.net](mailto:gallegoscl@verizon.net)) or Anne Arms ([armspna@aol.com](mailto:armspna@aol.com)).

## Calendar Donations

Many of us receive too many calendars in the mail at this time of year – yes already!

For several years members and friends of St. Luke's have donated our extra calendars to the Baltimore International Seafarer's Center for distribution to worldwide seafarers. "Serving those who go down to the sea in ships." **Collection deadline is Sunday, December 12.** Please give your extra calendars to Helen Wheeler or drop them at the parish office.

## General Convention in Baltimore next Summer

The 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church will take place **July 7 - 14, 2022**, at the Baltimore Convention Center. Anyone can attend the worship services, observe the House of Deputies and House of Bishops, and visit the exhibit hall. Worship services and legislative proceedings are also streamed online.

If you are interested in volunteering for one or two days, sign up here: [https://dfms.formstack.com/forms/volunteer\\_interest](https://dfms.formstack.com/forms/volunteer_interest)

If you are interested in being a volunteer supervisor (minimum commitment of five days), click here: [https://episcopaldioceseofmaryland.formstack.com/forms/gc\\_volunteer\\_supervisors](https://episcopaldioceseofmaryland.formstack.com/forms/gc_volunteer_supervisors)

## The Claggett Center Adult Retreats

### Women's Weekend – January 14-16, 2021 Regathering & Re-creating: God Makes All Things New

Women of all ages and backgrounds gather at Claggett for the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Women's weekend! Featuring keynote addresses from clergy and lay leaders throughout the dioceses, workshops to restore your spirit and inspire your creativity, and plentiful time for fellowship and rest.

### Men's Retreat – February 11-13, 2022

Keynote speaker, the Rev. Rick Larabee, leads inspiring sessions for men to reflect on God's work in the church and our lives. Enjoy small- and large-group sessions, fireside chats with new and old friends, and explore the campus in the stillness of winter.

### Writers' Retreat – March 7-10, 2022

#### Tell Your Story

In its fourth year, the Writer's Retreat provides an opportunity for professionals and serious amateurs to hone their craft and find inspiration. Balance time to rest and write with expert workshops on a variety of topics and supportive sharing sessions with peers.

Registration and Additional Information can be found at <https://www.claggettcenter.org/adult-programs>

## Altar Flower Dedications

It is the tradition at St. Luke's to beautify our worship space with two flower arrangements each week. These arrangements are funded through individual donations.

If you would like to dedicate the flowers for a particular Sunday in 2021 in memory of someone or in honor of a special occasion, please contact our administrative assistant Dalyn Huntley at 410-268-5419 or [office@stlukeseastport.org](mailto:office@stlukeseastport.org). The requested donation amount is \$50 and may be made either by check or online with the memo "Flowers." Following the service,

the flowers are delivered to a member of the congregation to enjoy.

## Are you on our email list?

If you have an email address but are not receiving our weekly email newsletters each Wednesday, please let us know by emailing [office@stlukeseastport.org](mailto:office@stlukeseastport.org). These weekly emails are an important means of communicating information to our community in between editions of the House Call. If you are not on email but would like to have a printout of the weekly "News from St. Luke's" sent to you by hard copy, please contact Dalyn Huntley in the church office: 410-268-5419.

## House Call Deadline

The deadline for submission of materials to the next edition of House Call is no later than **Monday, November 22, 2021**. Submissions may be emailed to the office at [office@stlukeseastport.org](mailto:office@stlukeseastport.org)

## Holiday Office Closure

The office will be closed on **Thursday, November 25, 2021** for the Thanksgiving holiday.



St. Luke's has a long-standing tradition of remembering the birthdays and anniversaries of our members with a card and in the newsletter, as well as praying for those who are present on the preceding Sunday. If you are new to the St. Luke's community or unsure if we have your birthday/anniversary, please let us know when it is! Send the information to the office by phone or email (410-268-5419 or [office@stlukeseastport.org](mailto:office@stlukeseastport.org)).

### November Birthdays

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| 4 | Michele Morgado         |
| 6 | Nancy Jones             |
| 8 | Connie Harold           |
| 9 | Keyarria Varonica Riley |

- 13 Phyllis Suhr  
25 Vrej Zarikian

### **November Anniversaries**

- 5 Fred and Sally Sandford  
9 Mike and Eve Waldman  
9 Natasia Thompson and Jorge Nieto

## **Prayer List**

**Ongoing Needs:** Connie Harold; the Palermo Family; Heather Cook; Sydney Ponturo; Sally and Fred Sandford; Nicole DeVino (friend of Dianne Crews); Patty Peterson (friend of Helen & Jack Wheeler); Hilda Uribe (friend of Avedis & Olgui Zarikian); David Fogle; Jimmy Riccardi; Chuck Suhr; Deacon Bob McCoy; Karen Sears-Wright (mother of Lexi Wright); Deacon Mary Walton; Olgui Zarikian; Lance Binnal (friend of Kathleen Rewa); Patricia; Bill Huebl; Linda Cunningham; Sarah Lamming; Diana and Alastair McGregor.

**Immediate Needs:** Bill Beachy (uncle of Pastor Diana); John Lamming (father of Sarah Lamming); Ned; Vince Musgrave (son-in-law of Dianne & Norm Crews+); Kathy Kotowski (friend of Eve & Mike Waldman); Dagmar Kohring; Lucy Sprigg; Paul Craley; Lee Riley; Ian Wilson (father of Johanna Wilson-Smith); Jennifer Brown; Jack Wheeler; George Dvorak (brother-in-law of Claire Miller); Jennifer Miles (friend of Kathleen Rewa); and the Rev. Patti Sachs.

**Thanksgiving for Healing:** Carolyn Abbott (mother of Robert Abbott); George Dvorak (brother-in-law of Claire Miller); Rei Harada-Stark

**For the Departed:** Regina Gross; Antonio Gardner

## St. Luke's Episcopal Church

410-268-5419 ~ [office@stlukeseastport.org](mailto:office@stlukeseastport.org)  
[www.stlukeseastport.org](http://www.stlukeseastport.org) ~ Tw: [@stlukeseastport](https://twitter.com/stlukeseastport)  
[www.facebook.com/stlukeseastport](https://www.facebook.com/stlukeseastport)

### Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

The Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton, Bishop  
The Rt. Rev. Robert W. Ihloff, Assisting Bishop

### Parish Staff

The Rev. Diana E. Carroll, Rector  
[pastordiana@stlukeseastport.org](mailto:pastordiana@stlukeseastport.org)  
Dr. Ildar Khannanov, Director of Music  
[drkhannanov@gmail.com](mailto:drkhannanov@gmail.com)  
Dalyn Huntley, Administrative Assistant  
[office@stlukeseastport.org](mailto:office@stlukeseastport.org)  
The Rev. Norman Crews, Priest Associate

### Parish Officers

Richard Wilson-Smith, Senior Warden  
443-822-1978, [richard@openpathproducts.com](mailto:richard@openpathproducts.com)  
Helen Leitch, Junior Warden  
410-263-2783, [leitchhelen@verizon.net](mailto:leitchhelen@verizon.net)  
Nancy Jones, Treasurer  
410-268-6469, [catfancy1@aol.com](mailto:catfancy1@aol.com)  
Avedis Zarikian, Assistant Treasurer  
410-713-7842, [avedis3e@outlook.com](mailto:avedis3e@outlook.com)  
Dianne Crews, Registrar  
410-268-9741, [dmackcrn@verzion.net](mailto:dmackcrn@verzion.net)

### Ministry Contacts

Altar Guild	Dawn Moorehead 443-852-0371, <a href="mailto:dmorehead9@aol.com">dmorehead9@aol.com</a>
Environmental Committee	Chuck Gallegos 443-758-3036, <a href="mailto:gallegoscl@verizon.net">gallegoscl@verizon.net</a> Anne Arms 707-479-4303, <a href="mailto:armspna@aol.com">armspna@aol.com</a>
Food Pantry	Mike Waldman 757-387-2251, <a href="mailto:mwaldman@juno.com">mwaldman@juno.com</a>
Flower Ministry	Anne Arms 707-479-4303, <a href="mailto:armspna@aol.com">armspna@aol.com</a>
Labyrinth Committee	The Rev. Diana Carroll 410-921-0157, <a href="mailto:pastordiana@stlukeseastport.org">pastordiana@stlukeseastport.org</a>

# November 2021 House Call

St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
1101 Bay Ridge Avenue  
Annapolis, MD 21403