



# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

## House Call Newsletter

### September 2021

#### Note from the Rector



Dear friends,

20 years ago, I was just starting my sophomore year of college. A few weeks into the semester, on a beautiful Tuesday morning, I woke up to the news that a plane had flown into one of the towers of the World Trade Center. As the day unfolded, it quickly became clear that our country was under attack in a way I had never experienced in my lifetime. In the months that followed, it also became clear that nothing would ever be the same again.

Each one of us who lived through September 11, 2021 remembers where we were and how it felt: the images, the sounds, the destruction, the loss of life. One of my clearest memories did not come from a television screen at all, but from an email sent by a Sri Lankan student to the entire campus community. "Now you know what it is like for the rest of us," she wrote, or words to that effect. Her entire life, she said, she had woken up to news of terrorist attacks in her country. What she pinpointed was the false sense of security that so many of us American students had, and how much of an illusion it was.

A few weeks later, I was horrified when the bombing of Afghanistan began. A year after that, I was even more horrified when our military invaded Iraq. How, I wondered, were these wars going to make us safer? How could the deaths, injuries, suffering, and displacement of the peoples of these lands be justified? As I write, the last of our American military personnel have just left Afghanistan, declaring "America's longest war" to be over. My views on this war are more complicated than they were when it began. I do not know whether I believe this withdrawal to be wrong or right. I only know that many people are suffering and afraid, and that my heart breaking for them is a reflection of the broken heart of God.

When the Labyrinth Committee noticed earlier this year that the 20th anniversary of 9/11 would fall on the day of our regular monthly labyrinth walk, we had no idea of the events that would take place in Afghanistan between then and now. I had envisioned something much like we did five years ago on a Sunday morning: recalling the events of 9/11, remembering those who died, and honoring first responders. But the meaning of this day has become much larger than the terrorist attacks themselves, and so our Remembrance Walk will also be larger in focus.

There may be those in your circles of friends and family who were directly impacted by the 9/11 attacks, or who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan, or who work in national security, or who are simply struggling with what has taken place over the past month. I encourage you to extend an invitation to them to come to the labyrinth walk (details on page 4). Together, we will create an open and sacred space to hold all that we are carrying.

Blessings,  
*Diana+*

## Vestry Highlights

- In lieu of a regular vestry meeting, a vestry retreat is planned for September 18.
- Pete Stark will gradually be taking over responsibility of Treasurer and Payroll Clerk.
- Pat Geisendaffer, our Bookkeeper for many years, is retiring.
- The Finance Committee is reviewing the church's investment portfolio.
- Church office hours will change to Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9am-12pm, by appointment only during September.
- Next regular vestry meeting is on Saturday, October 16 at 9:30am, via Zoom.

Complete vestry meeting minutes and financial reports are available in the vestry folder in the church office.

*Dianne Crews*  
Registrar

## Treasurer's Report

June, 2021

Income;	Actual	Budget
Pledges	51,675	67,500
Other	<u>45,930</u>	<u>26,270</u>
Total Income	97,605	93,770
<b>Expenses:</b>	<u>97,961</u>	<u>91,148</u>
<b>Net gain</b>	<u>-356</u>	<u>2,621</u>
Checking	31,415	
Investments	78,796	

## 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.

## Worship Updates: Delta Variant

In light of rapidly increasing COVID-19 infection rates and the ability of vaccinated individuals to spread the Delta variant, we have suspended hybrid services and returned to worshipping fully online or by phone for the time being.

Under diocesan guidelines, we are back in the Orange Phase of regathering. **Masks and social distancing are required indoors for everyone, regardless of vaccination status.** The safety and well-being of our worshipers and their families continues to be our highest priority.

**Other forms of gathering:**

- St. Luke's Food Pantry continues to operate on Tuesday mornings under their revised protocols.
- The 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.
- Outside groups may meet only if the requirements for masking and social distancing can be maintained, with the agreement of the Rector.

## Holy Communion for Remote Worship

Following diocesan guidelines, we are again distributing Holy Communion to be received during our remote 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, September 11 from 1 to 3 pm** (after the Labyrinth Walk) to receive during worship 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@stlukeseastport.org](mailto:office@stlukeseastport.org)).

## Outdoor Communion Service: Hildegard von Bingen

We will hold an outdoor communion service in the amphitheater on **Saturday, September 25 at 5 pm**, weather permitting. The service will celebrate the Feast of Hildegard von Bingen, transferred from September 17, and will include singing hymns.

COVID-19 mitigation strategies, such as wearing masks and social distancing, will be dependent on diocesan guidelines at that time. You are welcome to bring your own chairs or blankets to supplement the log benches.

Hildegard von Bingen was a 12th century abbess, mystic, scholar, scientist, and composer. Read more about her life here:

<https://holywomenholymen.wordpress.com/2016/09/17/sep-17-hildegard-of-bingen>

In case of inclement weather, a decision whether to cancel the service will be made by 4 pm that day. It will be posted to our website and Facebook page.

## Thank you for Supporting Sunniah!



Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to our special appeal to support Sunniah Ngonzi Magogo in continuing her studies in the faculty of Medicine at Makerere University in Uganda. **Together with members of St. Philips' Church, we raised a total of \$4,060.40!** Because of your generosity, Sunniah will be able to enter a two-year Masters program in cytotechnology later this fall. Her goal is to help her community by working in the field of public health, diagnosing and detecting preventable diseases like cholera.

The cost of tuition and fees for Sunniah's program is \$2,500. In addition, about \$500 was used to purchase a new phone for her when the university closed this summer due to COVID-19. The phone enabled her to continue her undergraduate studies online during the shutdown. The remaining funds will go to support the general work of the Kasese Community Health and Education Foundation, which provides vital medical care and educational opportunities in the Rwenzori region of Uganda. To learn more, visit [www.cherahealth.org](http://www.cherahealth.org) and [www.kasesecommunity.org](http://www.kasesecommunity.org)

# 9/11 Remembrance Walk At the Eastport Memorial Labyrinth

**Saturday, September 11  
12 noon to 1 pm**

You are invited to join in a time of remembrance and reflection as we mark the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. This date holds many different emotions for each of us, and there is room for all of them as we come together in community.

**Please consider sharing this invitation with others in our community who may be seeking a way to mark this day, especially first responders, military veterans, and civilians who have served.**

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 Walks

October 9: Honoring Indigenous Peoples

November 13: Gratitude 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).

## Forum:

### The Right to a Healthful Environment

On **Sunday, September 12**, St. Luke's member Claire Miller will share with us about the proposed Maryland

Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Human Rights in a presentation following worship.

Claire writes: "Our baptismal covenant calls us to love thy neighbor, but how do we put that into practice? I am choosing to advocate for a proposed constitutional amendment that would address the human right and dignity of each Marylander to have a healthful environment. I'm choosing to love people I have never met and the future ones yet unborn by addressing the injustice and the loopholes in our legal system today. A healthful environment shouldn't be a privilege that only the wealthy can afford; it is our human right. Unfortunately, our current system has allowed environmental pollution to be concentrated in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color."

The proposed Maryland Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Human Rights (MDEHR) would change that system. It would legally protect each person's right to a healthful environment in Maryland, and recognize the state as trustee of Maryland's public natural resources. In the presentation, Claire will talk about this proposed amendment, how it could be used by both the people and the government, and how you can help. GreenGrace - the Maryland Diocese's Environmental Ministry and the Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network support this amendment. The amendment campaign website is [www.mdehr.org](http://www.mdehr.org).

*Claire Miller*

## Book Discussions: "The Church Cracked Open"

*"Beloved community is the community animated by this non-clinging, self-emptying, persistent love. It seeks wholeness and kindness, as the individual and the collective strive and sacrifice for the sake of the flourishing of the greater whole and for the end of all forms of domination and oppression that diminish the children of God." --Stephanie Spellers*

On **Sundays, September 19 and 26**, following our worship service, Pastor Diana will facilitate discussions on our summer reading, "The Church Cracked Open: Disruption, Decline, and New Hope for Beloved Community", by the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, our Presiding Bishop's Canon for Evangelism, Reconciliation, and Creation.

**September 19** will focus on the Introduction and Chapters 1 to 4, and **September 26** will focus on Chapters 5 to 8 and the Conclusion.

Copies of the book are available at the church and may be delivered or mailed on request. Donations according to your ability are gladly accepted to defray the cost.

Learn more about the book at [www.churchcrackedopen.com](http://www.churchcrackedopen.com).

## Save the Date: Blessing of the Animals

Bring your feathered, furry, and scaly friends to be blessed at St. Luke's on **Saturday, October 2, 2021 at 4 pm**. The service will be held outdoors in our amphitheater. Everyone is welcome, so invite your friends and neighbors! If your pets are particularly averse to crowds, you can bring a photograph or a beloved toy to be blessed.

## Environmental Minute: Volunteers – Plants, that is!

Over a decade ago, newly retired and with minimal gardening skills, I joined a weekly group that weeded, pruned, and dead-headed at a local public garden. It was there that I first heard the term “volunteers” applied to plants that show up on their own to make interesting and unplanned contributions to the landscape.

Some of them are quiet but lovely, like native violets (*Viola soraria*) whose seeds, according to a recent article in the Capital, are spread by ants as they consume other parts of the plant. There is a volunteer colony of violets at St. Luke's near the tool shed, and we human stewards are hoping to “encourage” them to spread beside the paths so visitors to the Restoration of Nature will be able to enjoy their springtime beauty up close.

Other volunteers are beautiful but annoying, like the non-native multiflora roses (*Rosa multiflora*) that have escaped cultivated gardens and, if not discouraged at St. Luke's, threaten to crowd out native plants more beneficial to the natural food web.



Most heartening for me to see, standing in the water at several locations in the Restoration, is pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*). I don't think we planted it (or if we did it is spreading nicely on its own), but there it is, in all its impressive beauty, with its arrowhead-shaped leaves on

erect 3 ft. stems. A native perennial that is useful as well as visually striking, it has nutty-tasting seeds that are eaten by ducks and muskrats, and its blue flower spikes are favorites of pollinators. Humans, too, are known to have made use of the plant: pickerelweed was part of the pharmacopeia, or medicine cabinet, for some native American tribes.

The ancient words of Genesis 1:30 apply so aptly to our twenty-first century Restoration of Nature: “And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.

The flourishing of pickerelweed in our wetlands, and our frequent encounters there with families of ducks, are signs that a complex natural food web, sustained by plant “volunteers” as well as our human planting efforts, is taking hold right here in urban Eastport!

*Linda Elkington*  
Environmental Committee Member

## 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.” Please give your extra calendars to Helen Wheeler or drop them at the parish office.

## 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 meetings will continue to be held remotely via Zoom at 7 pm on Thursday, September 9.** 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)).

## Thank you & Goodbye From the Porcelli Family

We want to say a deep and heartfelt thank you to the beautiful and loving St. Luke's community as we head off on a new adventure in Vermont. St. Luke's has been such an important part of our time here in Annapolis and you all have a special place in our hearts. Thank you for welcoming us with open arms and for giving us opportunities for fellowship, worship, and to be of service. We are forever grateful for this.

With love and hugs,  
*Kate, Elizabeth and Joseph*

## Education for Ministry (EFM)

Do you have questions about your faith? Most people do, and most find it challenging to get answers. Education for Ministry (EfM) was developed by the School of Theology in Sewanee, Tennessee, to provide a mechanism for people to work through those questions. This four-year course of study provides the framework for the group to connect faith to their daily lives through reading and discussion.

Meeting once a week in small groups with people from your neighborhood, led by mentors trained to facilitate the experience, you will begin to think theologically, reflect faithfully, and speak civilly when confronted by beliefs and principles in opposition to your own. And that's something we can all appreciate in today's world.

By being an EfM participant, you will learn how to articulate your faith. You will learn how to shape your faith into action. You will become involved in ministries in your community and you will make a difference.

At its heart EfM is a program in practical theology, a program based in a set of five core practices that form and support us in the various ministries to which we are called.

- Living in Community, Regular
- Prayer and Worship
- Theological Reflection
- Study of the Christian Tradition
- Vocational Discernment

Since its inception in 1975, more than 100,000 people have participated in this vital program. EfM groups meet regionally in nearly every diocese of The Episcopal Church, in six provinces of the Anglican Communion, and some in virtual classrooms with participants from across the globe. We would love to have you join us!

Our Fall class is registering participants now. Contact Dianne Crews, Chuck Gallegos, Claire Miller or Pete Stark to learn more about our class. We meet Wednesday mornings, starting **September 8**. Mostly likely it will be a combination of Zoom and in class meetings at St. Margaret's.

You can learn more about EFM online <https://efm.sewanee.edu>

## 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.

## Join a Team!

Even though we are not gathering indoors for worship or meetings at this time, many of our ministries have remained very active and would welcome new

members! We invite you to consider joining one of these ministry teams, which are open to everyone:

**Worship Planning Team**  
**Formation Team**  
**Environmental Committee**  
**Labyrinth Committee**  
**Flower Ministry**  
**Altar Guild**  
**Readers/Intercossors**  
**Altar Servers**

Many of these teams meet regularly over Zoom, and the meetings are open to everyone. For meeting times and more information, contact Pastor Diana at [pastordiana@stlukeseastport.org](mailto:pastordiana@stlukeseastport.org) or 410-921-0157.

## Updated Office Operations

Beginning the week of **September 6** the office will be open **Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am to Noon**. Office hours will be by appointment only.

The Office will be **closed Monday, September 6** in observance of Labor Day. In case of a pastoral emergency; please contact the Rev. Diana Carroll at 410-921-0157.

## 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 **Thursday, September 23, 2021**. Submissions may be mailed or delivered to the office or emailed to the office at [office@stlukeseastport.org](mailto:office@stlukeseastport.org)



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)).

### September Birthdays

- 1 Dawn Moorehead
- 2 Miriam Eliana Zarijian
- 5 Casey Pearl Govoro; Paul Craley
- 6 Dejahnae Chisolm
- 13 Fred Sandford
- 20 Peter Crews

### September Anniversaries

- 14 Katherine and Ron Govoro

## 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 Zarijian); David Fogle; Jimmy Riccardi; Chuck Suhr; Deacon Bob McCoy; Karen Sears-Wright (mother of Lexi Wright); Mary Walton; Lee Riley.

**Immediate Needs:** Diana and Alastair McGregor; Sarah Lamming; Ned; Patricia; Bill Beachy (uncle of Pastor Diana); John Lamming (father of Sarah Lamming); Vince Musgrave (son-in-law of Dianne & Norm Crews+); Carolyn Abbott (mother of Robert Abbott); Bill Huebl; Kathy Kotowski (friend of Eve & Mike Waldman); Dagmar Kohring; Lucy Sprigg; Linda Cunningham; Jennifer Miles (friend of Kathleen Rewa); Paul Craley; Olgui Zarijian; Mabel Zelle (friend of Paul Craley and Joy Philips); the people of Haiti and Afghanistan.

**Thanksgiving for Healing:** Lawrence Coleman; Anne Arms

**For the Departed:** **Rev. Carl Harris** (Friend of Jack Wheeler); **Glenn Shuart**; **Robert Tongue** (Uncle of Del Thompson); **Bob Wesley** (friend of Paul Craley & Joy Philips); **Bryan Williams** (Nephew of Bart & Sharon Williams); **Rev. John Mitchell** (family friend of Amanda Reynolds); **Rev. Beatrice Billups**; **Elizabeth Tillack** (friend of Helen Leitch).

## 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>

# September 2021 House Call

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