

*The Cross in
Our Choir Loft*

New Visions



Reflections noiceR

By the Rev. Beverly J. Huck

Love Thy Neighbor — But How?

As we enter the Pentecost season in the church and the summer season in everyday life, we are all looking for an end to the Pandemic and embarking on a more normal way of life. We often refer to the Pentecost season as the green season or ordinary time. The Pentecost season is all about immersing ourselves in the Gospels, the acts of Jesus, the acts of the early church and the acts of the church throughout history. It is a time to welcome the Holy Spirit's leadership in our lives.

I recently said in my Pentecost sermon that the Holy Spirit imbued the disciples with new life, vitality and purpose to carry on Christ's mission on the day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit breathed on the disciples and in doing so gave them a new lease on life — a new way of doing things, new air to breathe and, most of all, hope.

One of the things the early Christians learned was that the church wasn't a

building. It's about a community of believers. Too often we have forgotten that it isn't the building that makes a church, it is the people. To stay connected with each other, we had to learn a new language — one of technology — that allows us to live stream our services and have face to face meetings with each other. This time has shown us the importance of every member of our parish and the need to stay connected with them. It has also made us more aware of those outside these church walls. There are people who are connecting with us through virtual worship.

In many respects the church has to be reborn. Or, as the Bishop of San Diego recently told the clergy of the diocese, it is time to do some church planting.

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Pentecost

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**"...remember, I am
with you always, to
the end of the age."
—Matthew 28:20b**

Grace Happens...

All the time. Grace is
God's gift to us.

The signs of God's grace
are abundant. Some are
dramatic. Many at first
glance seem mundane.
All are potentially life
transforming.

God created us, but God
was not – and is not,
finished with creating.
God keeps showing up.
God is very much at work.

Our job, as God's
creatures, is to pay
attention to God's grace.
And to join with God
in God's work.



DIVERSITY

*O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay,
and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.*

*Now consider, we are all your people.
— Isaiah 64:8, 9b*

If you can't make it to church, you can always join us for St. Luke's Virtual Sunday Service via Facebook Live!

We will continue live streaming our service each Sunday on Facebook Live. That means you can watch the service both in real time at 10:30 A.M. or later at any time as a recorded video. Our Facebook page is public, so you do not need to be a member of Facebook to view it. If you visit online with us, please check in or make a comment so that we know you are worshipping with us.

To get to the page, go here:

www.facebook.com/stlukeseiscopalhaworth

OR

access it from the home page on our website at

www.stlukeshaworth.org

Our Facebook page is public. If you get a message saying you need to log in or create an account you can ignore that and click ANYWHERE on the LEFT column (videos, photos etc.) and that message to log in will disappear and you may now enjoy the live Facebook presentation. You cannot make comments the way other people do unless you have a Facebook account and you are logged into that account.

Whether you have an account or not, we would love to know that you worshipped with us. Check in or leave a comment if you are on Facebook. Otherwise, send us an email at office@stlukeshaworth.org and let us know you were with us!

New Visions, the newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, will be published bimonthly 5 times per year. Submissions for the upcoming issue should be e-mailed to claudiasmith@msn.com by 20th of month preceding publication date or snail mailed to *New Visions*, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Massachusetts Ave. & Grant St., Haworth, NJ 07641 **New Visions Board:** Janet Beddoe, Claudia Smith Wyant. Photography for this issue: Claudia Smith Wyant, Dreamtimes.com.

A Letter from The Presiding Bishop

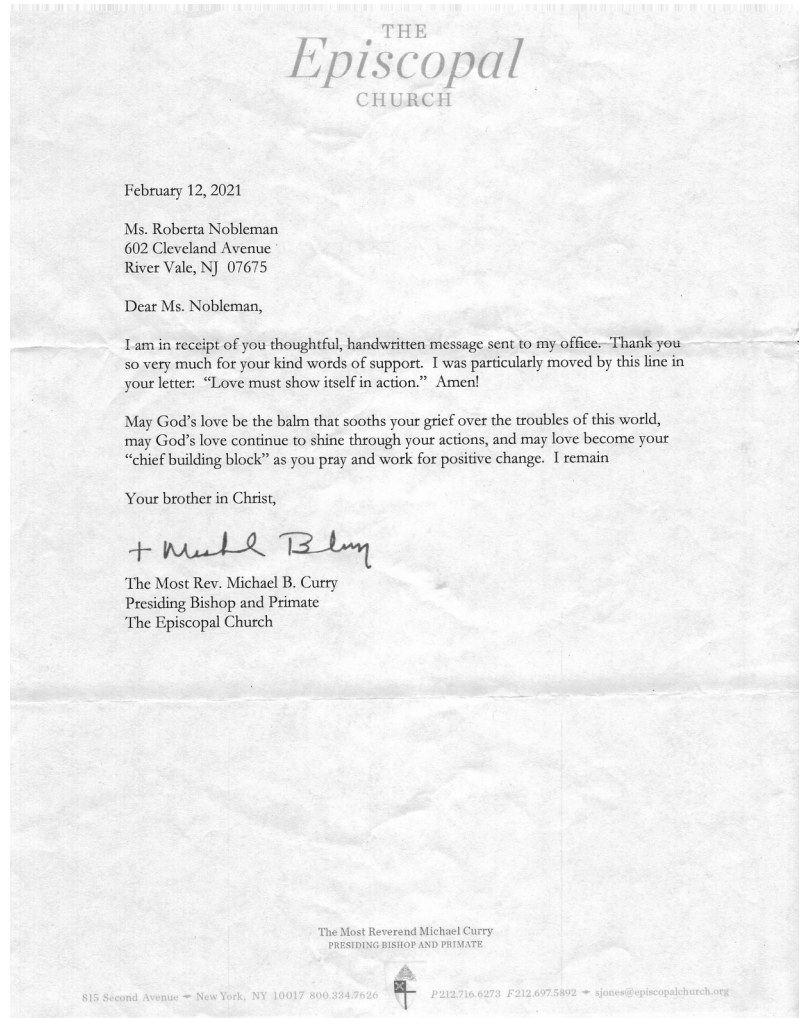
Roberta Nobleman wrote to New Visions some time ago to say that our reprint of a message from The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry prompted her to write to our presiding Bishop, referencing the passage from Matthew (21:42) in which Jesus tells the chief priests and the elders of the people “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”

Roberta said she was so honored to receive Bp. Curry’s gracious reply and she wanted to share his letter with St. Luke’s. — *Eds.*

Stay Connected!

This Week @ St Luke’s and other eBlasts deliver news of online services/ gatherings during the Pandemic and beyond. To sign up so you’re in the know,

[CLICK HERE](#)



Love Thy Neighbor—But How? Continued from P. 1

Church planting is associated with starting new missions in a geographical place. Even though our churches have been in these places for many years, she told us it’s time to plant ourselves once again in the community. Who is in our community? When was the last time we made an effort to get to know them? Yes, we’re a building to our neighbors but do they know us personally? How can we get to know them and let them know we are here for them? It’s not about getting butts into the pew but showing the presence of God to the community around us. Letting them

know there is a caring and loving community who prays for them and stands with them.

How can we be a more impactful presence to our immediate community? What opportunities are out there for us to show God’s love to our neighbors? Even though we are small in numbers we can still do some things that are neighborly. What about an ice cream social where we offer the people in our neighborhood to come and enjoy some ice cream so we can get to know them and their needs? I know it’s easy to fall back and say that

we’ve been there and done that but we also have to recognize that this Pandemic has changed everything -- even what we think we know about our community.

What other ideas do you have? This is a new day for the church. This is a new dawn – a new beginning. Let’s dream and hope and let the Spirit of Pentecost help us to imagine, encourage, love, pray and laugh so we can bring the gift of God’s love to our neighbors.

— Rev. Beverly





A Note from The Stephensons

119 Madison Green
Pompton Plains, NJ

May 28, 2021

To: St. Luke's Church
Haworth, N.J.

Dear Friends,

Being able to work, play, party and worship at St. Luke's over the years has been a blessing unto itself, but we can never tell you how much the special edition of "New Tidings" has meant to us. We have never been so moved by anything and it is something we will always cherish.

Many thanks for all the warm wishes from the young and not-so-young, from near and far, for the Pelham touch and to Claudia for putting it all together.

We are slowly getting settled here at Cedar Crest but it will never match Demarest and attending St. Luke's service virtually doesn't compare with being there, but we hope to get to Haworth occasionally. In the meantime, love to all and many thanks again for the wonderful, warm sendoff.

— Jo and Steve



*A view of Cedar Crest,
Pompton Plains, N.J.*

St. Luke's 99th Annual Parish Meeting Highlights

Rev. Beverly Huck called the meeting to order with a quorum present and opened with a prayer. This meeting had been postponed from January due to Covid-19.

Election: Tammy Lynch, Sr. Warden, presented the nominating committee report. Nominations from the floor was opened. After lunch Rev. Huck moved that nominations be closed and that the secretary be instructed to cast one ballot for the slate as presented. Seconded by Rich Gonci and carried by voice vote. The following were elected:

- ∞ Warden (Term of 2 years): **Tamera Lynch**
- ∞ Vestrypersons (Terms of 3 years): **Priscilla Goldman** and **Jack Klie**
- ∞ Deputies to 2021 Diocesan Convention: **Sue Gonci, Tamera Lynch, Paul Nobleman**
- ∞ Alternate Deputies to 2021 Convention: **Rich Gonci, Claudia Smith, Roberta Nobleman**

Rev. Beverly expressed thanks to outgoing vestrypersons **Gladys Astorga** and **Robert Plinio** for their service to St. Luke's.

The congregation voted to ratify the decision of the Vestry to restructure and simplify the administration of the parish's Trust and Endowment Funds and to allocate the annual proceeds of the Trust Fund to support the parish operating budget.



At the Annual Meeting on Sun., June 6, the Vestry hosted Coffee Hour with a catered lunch — the first in-person social gathering since the pandemic began.



ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC ∞ SUNDAY, JUNE 27

After the 10:30 service, come out and join us when we hold the Annual Parish Picnic.

A sign-up sheet has been posted in the Parish Hall. Let us know what you plan to bring and whether you can help with the set-up/clean-up.

As is our tradition, the church will provide the hamburgers and hot dogs, coffee, tea and soft drinks. The guys have already volunteered to man the grill.



PICK YOUR SUMMER HYMN FAVES!

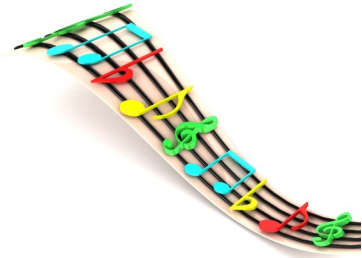
Check Out the Survey!

Pick your favorite hymns and get ready to sing your heart out this summer! We want to give everyone an opportunity to participate, so you may write in your **three (3)** favorites. We may not be able to use every hymn over the summer months but all the favorites will be sung at some point.

To take the survey, click here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NG2QBBP>

To have your hymns faves included, please complete your survey by **Friday, July 25**.



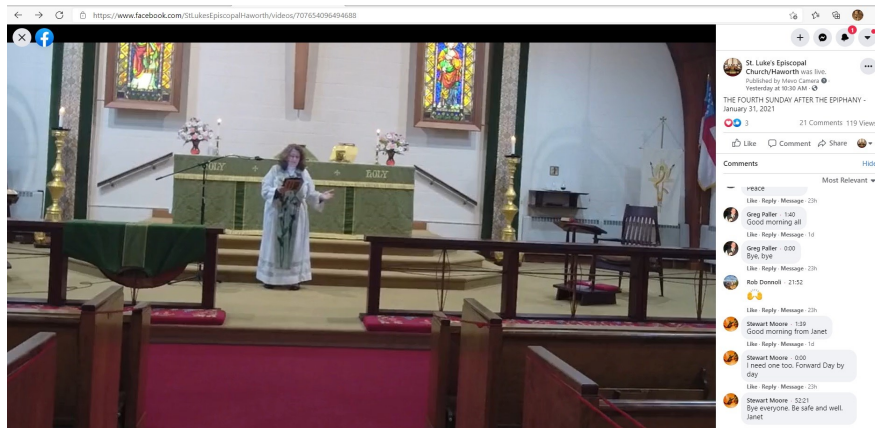
Help Us Grow Our Social Media Presence

Did you know?

There are people **we don't know** who are worshipping with us on Sundays. *Online*. They find our service on our Facebook page.

We started out live streaming the service from an iPhone. Thanks to Rev. Bev, we now have a camera that gives us a nicer presentation. People are able to check in and let us know they're there.

If you're on Facebook, watch the service live or later. Invite friends to view it by sharing it. Do your own posts or share ours. Talk about something at church that touched you with friends and in the groups you follow. Ask folks about their prayer concerns and we will add them to our list at St. Luke's. ***You never know how the Good News we share will reach and affect others.***





Pastoral Letter

The Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes, XI Bishop of Newark

Addressing racial targeted violence

June 2, 2021

Dear Companions on the Journey,

The road out of pandemic has been, and remains, complicated by an ever-increasing level of violence and hatred. While some of it was anticipated because of the growing racial tension in our country, we had been lulled into a sense of security by the reduced activity during the pandemic, which led to fewer mass shootings. This lull has ended, however, and racially targeted violence seems to have gathered strength and to be growing rapidly. Reports of racially motivated killings and violent attacks against African Americans and Latin Americans continue and we increasingly become aware of similar attacks toward Asian Americans. Ant-Semitism and hate-based attacks towards Jewish people in this country have increased in the midst of the increased hostile actions and tension between Israel and Palestine.

None of this violence and hatred is what we hoped for the ending of the pandemic. We hoped for a joyful future after pandemic. We had begun to ask ourselves what we learned to value in the midst of pandemic and how our lives going forward might change to accommodate a new sense of what is important and what matters most to us. In our reflecting on this past year and discerning about the coming year, we may have at the same time, developed this false sense of security.

We underestimated the narrative of fear that so thoroughly gripped the spirit of many people in our country and fueled a gun-buying spree that has outpaced all previous records. While gun sales remained flat for the last ten years, sales in the last 12 months have continued to grow with no end in sight. Alongside the growth in gun sales has been growth in homicides and mass shootings.

There have been 239 mass shootings in the first five months of 2021. In the month of May alone, 69 mass shootings occurred. We can expect this trend to continue. These are hard and harrowing facts we face, in some ways harder to deal with than the virus that disrupted the world. Yet, as the people of God, we must deal with all of it.

How shall we start?

Remember who we are and whose we are. In God's own image we are created (Genesis 1:27). It is with God's eyes that we see and with God's ears that we hear. God's heart gives us compassion for those who have been harmed or are at risk, the courage to respond to terrible acts and the wisdom and fortitude to counter the contempt which begets intolerance. *The strength needed to end violent hatred comes from God.* We are uniquely and marvelously made to serve God and all of God's people at just this time. When we feel inadequate for the task at hand, it is even more

important to remember that the God of all creation guides us and gives us what we need to meet every challenge.

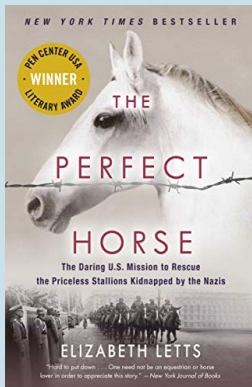
Study history, face facts, and speak the truth. Opinions, disinformation, and disputes over facts have clouded discussion for the last five years in particular. We have watched as lies repeated often and loudly have taken hold and done damage to the ability of our nation to unite in crisis. Just as dangerously, lies have been a breeding ground for hate. Hate has led to relentless violence based on race, gender, sexual orientation, and religion.

To complicate matters, a growing movement has begun to avoid those parts of our history that could lead to discomfort. Be assured that regardless of skin color, gender, or ethnic identity some parts of our nation's history will make you proud and other parts will leave you in a profound state of discomfort. It is hard and important to learn about suppressed or ignored parts of our history. These untold parts of our history were a portent of the troubles we now face. We cannot learn from a history that we do not know, and, strangely, that same lack of knowledge leads to an increased potential for further harm to people, institutions, and the nation.

It is not unusual for clergy to speak the truth about complicated issues. Inevitably, some feel the need to respond that it is not the role of clergy or the church to speak about racism, oppression, justice, or social issues that tear at the fabric of our communities and nation. People who think this way are *almost* correct. We need to add one word to

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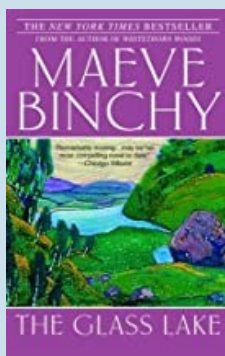
May's Selection



NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

From the author of *The Eighty-Dollar Champion*, the remarkable story of the heroic rescue of priceless horses in the closing days of World War II

June's Selection



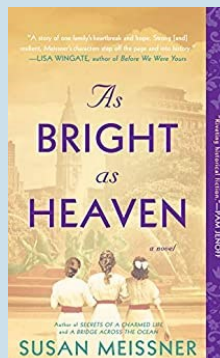
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

Night after night the beautiful woman walked beside the serene waters of Lough Glass. Until the day she disappeared, leaving only a boat drifting upside down on the unfathomable lake that gave the town its name....

Between the Lines Book Club 2021 Reading List — Meetings TBD @ 7:30 P.M.

May 26	<u>The Perfect Horse</u> - Elizabeth Letts
June 23	<u>The Glass Lake</u> - Maeve Binchy
July 28	<u>As Bright As Heaven</u> - Susan Meissner
August 25	<u>Fool Me Once</u> - Harlan Coban
September 22	<u>Like Water for Chocolate</u> - Laura Esquivel
October 27	<u>Hillbilly Elegy</u> - J.D. Vance
November	No meeting
December	No meeting/ Dinner out

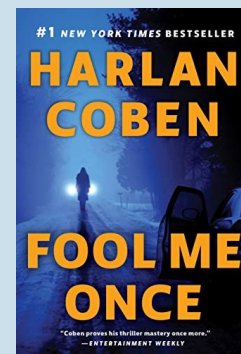
July's Selection



From the acclaimed author of *The Last Year of the War* comes a novel set during the Spanish flu pandemic of 1918, telling the story of a family reborn through loss and love.

A widowed veteran gets the shock of her life in this impossible-to-put-down thriller from the bestselling author and creator of the hit Netflix drama *The Stranger*.

August's Selection



“Books are a uniquely portable magic.” — Stephen King

Soul Food: My Other Companion by Claudia Smith Wyant

The following meditation was written as part of my Easter season session of our "Photography as a Spiritual Practice" course. Since I needed to round out this issue, I thought I would share it with you as well. I hope you enjoy it.

— Claudia



Mr. Kitty is intently staring — not to help me with New Visions but to make sure I know it's past his mealtime

You guys have "met" Ms. Zarah, our wonderful canine companion, *[if not in person then]* through some photos of her but I'm not sure how many of you realized that there is a second rescue in our household. Our cat came to us from a woman at church who had to surrender it. Her daughter had named the cat Kitty and, like many young people, left the cat with her parents when she moved out. The church lady made an announcement one Sunday and, since I have always had cats and was missing one in my life, I said, O.K.

From the beginning, things changed up. Despite his feminine name, the cat was a boy, so to give him some kind of dignity, I renamed him MR. Kitty or MONSIEUR KITTÉ (accent on the "e"). He was supposed to be 9 years old; we discovered he was 12 when we got his vet records. And, although he is the tiniest member of our household, he somehow has the loudest voice of all. Zarah will not cross in front of him because he puts the paw out on her (with claws out) and makes the typical "nasty" noise and hissing sounds that cats make to warn adversaries to stay away. And when he's hungry, he is relentless about announcing that fact to the world.

He who MUST be obeyed...

We have had him for, what? Five years now? So he is in 17th year. He is way too skinny and has the beginnings of some kidney disease. Of course, he will NOT take the treatment or eat the special diet food. In fact, he would rather starve than take it. Can't fool him into it either. So now he gets Fancy Feast whenever he wants. Did I tell you he does not like combing, brushing or being handled either? Good grief. I have to give him tranquilizing medication just to take him to vet otherwise he turns into the cat from hell.

All that said, I decided some time ago that all that hissing and yowling and posturing was because I actually have a very smart, very affectionate, very needy boy. He wants the closeness and attention and the "lovin's," as Chris calls it. But he wants it all on his terms. So? He gets it. Even Daddy feeds him now, no matter how much he hollers that Mr. Kitty was just fed... And he talks to him and pets him, too. But really, he is a Mama's boy. He sleeps on Mama's belly, while I'm watching TV, he gets under the blankie with me when it's time for sleep and he even sits on the arm of my office chair to give me suggestions for my meditations.

Again, I say, Alleluia!
Praise God for our animal companions.

Claudia Smith Wyant
May 14, 2021

Addressing racial targeted violence

Continued from Page 7

their thought: *alone*. It is not the role of the clergy *alone* to speak about these issues.

All followers of Jesus are called to speak the truth about racism, oppression, justice, and social issues. And the truth we are called to speak begins with God's love for all people. To some, this will sound political. The Beatitudes sound political. The Greatest Commandment sounds political. The Ten Commandments sound political. God's love of all people will always sound political to some people. And still, we speak this truth.

Pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Our spiritual lives have grown, deepened, and developed in pandemic. Many of us learned how to lead others in prayer, to pray our own words, have written prayers, and/or have increased our capacity to pray. We have also learned that God answers our prayers and that praying changes us. We are more able to trust God, to see God's presence, and to wait on God's response.

Our prayers are needed now. Pray daily for the people you love, for the troubles of these times that worry you, and for healing of all the issues that trouble us. God will guide your prayers and the *Book of Common Prayer* is a treasure trove of

prayers, truly making it a prayer book for daily use.

Get involved. Many of our parishes have ministries devoted to looking at issues of justice, race, hunger, homelessness, and/or housing. Pandemic led us to begin asking how we get to the root causes of these issues. Several groups have been formed in our diocese to support the ministry of parishes and to unite the efforts of the diocese. The co-chairs of these groups will welcome your involvement; please use this link to contact these groups: <https://dioceseofnewark.org/form/contact-diocesan-justice-groups>

- **Commission for Justice and Peace**
Co-leaders: Jody Caldwell, Redeemer, Morristown and the Rev. Deacon Diane Riley, Grace, Madison The commission will focus on supporting parishes and developing diocesan advocacy and responses to issues such as environment, affordable housing, gun violence, hunger, gender equality, and homelessness.
- **Racial History Committee**
Co-leaders: Ken Bledsoe, St. John's, Ramsey and the Rev. Willie Smith This committee will explore, collect, and determine how best to chronicle the racial history of our diocese. The committee will also advise parishes on ways to discover the racial history of their church.

• **Racial Justice and Healing Commission**

Co-leaders: E.V. Janopaul, St Peter's, Mountain Lakes and the Rev. Michelle "Chellie" White, Christ Church, Teaneck

The commission will look at issues of racial justice and healing within the diocese and in the larger community and world. Their focus will include teaching, updating, and guiding our responses to the myriad issues we face around the construct of race.

We may never understand the forces of chaos, confusion, and catastrophe experienced during this time. How are we to ever understand what motivates those who unleash violence at every turn? While we may never understand, if we remember who we are and whose we are, if we learn all we can about the factors leading to the challenges we face, if we pray for God's guidance, and walk in that same guidance once received, then we have done what we are called to do.

We are not alone on this journey, nor are we the first to grapple with unchecked violence, racial hatred, and religious attacks. Every generation faces a time when it must stand with courage to speak truth, protect the vulnerable, and uphold respect and dignity for all of God's people. This is our time and God will be with us every step of the way (Matthew 28:20b).

Grace and peace,
The Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes
 XI Bishop of Newark



PRAYER LIST

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers these members of our parish and extended family:

Rachel Lynch, Doug Lynch, Roxanne Gabriel, Maryellen Pais, Quinn Rosa, Linda Stephenson, Patricia Stephenson, Michael Snyder, Diane Kansas, Kenny Calderon, Tresten, Sue Pastore, Chan, Hung-Kwong & family, Carol Maxfield, Donna Sisti, Muriel Brandt, Leah Ogena Collins, Thomas Chase, Jimmy Rivera, Jay Rizzo, Judy Ashbrook Hoffman, the People of Hong Kong, Maureen Bownes, James, Sylvania Powell, Vivienne Hall, Brian and his family, Stephanie Bailey, Nicolas Nocero, Jack Michael Pallatta, Dennis Pallatta, Jack & Greta Pallatta, Kathy Weiss-Gilley, Mike and Lily Chan, Jim O'Donnell, Amber Cox, Bill Magnus, Amy Janoff Karp, Annette DeSanctis, Cathy O'Donnell, Avery, Ken Abelson, Tom Caloz, Heather Gratton

To add names to our Prayer List, please call: Sue Gonci, 201-220-3090 OR Email the Church office at Office@StLukesHaworth.org



May/June + July/August Birthdays & Anniversaries

May 2
May 18
May 22
May 23

Susanne Gelayder
Elizabeth Plange-Kaye
David Astorga
Maureen Bownes



June 1
June 2
June 21
June 21
June 24

Christian Coleman
Al & Gladys Astorga
Harry Smith
Christopher Wyant
Pete & Taylor Daniele



July 4
July 20
July 25
July 27
July 29

Michele Smith
Linda Brescia
Samuel & Elizabeth Plange-Kaye
Harry & Michele Smith
Jun-Ha Gelayder



August 5
August 6
August 8
August 15
August 25
August 29
August 29

Donna Sisti
Patrick Plunkett
Todd Gelayder
Dave Emerson
Tamera Lynch
Louise Meyers
Oliver Pellegrin



Our Parish Prayers Concerns & Celebrations

Loving God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: accept our prayers, and to those who seek healing [especially those named on our Parish Prayer List and all whom we name in our hearts], grant the power of your grace, that the weak may be strengthened, sickness turned to health, the dying made whole, and sorrow turned into joy; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

St Luke's Episcopal Church

St. Luke's is a church in the Episcopal Diocese of Newark, N.J. We seek to be a bridge between traditions and communities. We welcome anyone who wants to learn and grow in the knowledge and love of God. Our members come from many different traditions but are joined together through a love of Christ and our neighbors. We are located at the crossroads of Demarest, Haworth, Dumont, and Cresskill.

Check It Out — St. Luke's Annual Meeting Luncheon — IN PERSON!!! See Page 5



St Luke's Episcopal Church

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

