

The Cross in Our Choir Loft

New Visions



Reflections

By the Rev. Beverly J. Huck

An Easter Moment

One of the things every Episcopal church must do every year is fill out a Parochial report. This report, which encompasses membership and financial data, is filed with the National church. This year the report added something different: it asked questions about how parishes fared during the pandemic. Questions included whether we had live streamed our services and what platform was used as well as specific about what challenges, innovations and opportunities your congregation faced in the past year and your plans for going forward.

Now, Lent is always a good time for reflection but sometimes we can get bogged down in all the things that are negative about ourselves, our parish and the world or what we are missing. There are a lot of things we have missed personally and as a parish family. We miss gathering for services, communion, sharing the peace, being able to hug and generally being together as a parish. In many ways, this past

year has been a Lenten experience of scarcity and we need to grieve about those things we've missed. But Easter is coming.

One thing is clear: once this pandemic is under control there will be a new normal. This pandemic has forever changed the landscape of our nation as well as the church. Which leads me to the opportunities that are before us. Through necessity of being shut down we have gone to live streaming our service so instead of looking at the negatives or what we're missing, let's look at the positives.

First, it is a way of staying in touch with our members.

Second, our Zoom coffee hour after church affords a time to chit chat and catch up with each other from the safety of our own homes.

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Join Us for St. Luke's Virtual 10:30 A.M. Sunday Service via Facebook Live!

Community Prayer Chain

Recognizing that people in the larger community for prayers returned to an old practice: our lay reader mentioned the names during the Prayers of the People of those on our own St. Luke's Prayer list AND added the list of the names Paul had received from his friends

Going forward, we are going to ask people on our Facebook page to list their prayer concerns (FIRST NAMES ONLY!!!) at some point during the week before Saturday at Noon. We will then gather all of the requests that come in and add them to the list to be read on that next Sunday during the Prayers of the People at our Livestreamed service.

Who knows how this prayer ministry may help people, especially during these dark days?

Now you can read
Rev. Beverly's sermons
on our website here:
St. Luke's Episcopal
Church - Sermons
(stlukeshaworth.org)

We will be live streaming our service each Sunday going forward 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/stlukesepiscopalhaworth

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 or snail mailed to New Visions, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Massachusetts Ave. & Grant St., Haworth, NJ 07641 **New Visions Board**: Editor: Janet Beddoe, Production: Claudia Smith Wyant. Photography for this issue: Claudia Smith Wyant, Dreamtimes.com. Advertising: Jo Stephenson.

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING...

Lenten Litany of Fasting and Feasting By William Arthur Ward

Fast from judging others; feast on the Christ within them.

Fast from emphasis on differences; feast on the unity of life.

Fast from thoughts of illness; feast on the healing power of God.

Fast from words that pollute; feast on phrases that purify.

Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.

Fast from anger; feast on patience.

Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.

Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.

Fast from negatives; feast on affirmatives.

Fast from unrelenting pressures; feast on unceasing prayer.

Fast from hostility; feast on non-resistance.

Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.

Fast from self concern; feast on compassion for others.

Fast from personal anxiety; feast on eternal truth.

Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.

Fast from lethargy; feast on enthusiasm.

Fast from suspicion; feast on truth.

Fast from thoughts that weaken; feast on promises that inspire.

Fast from shadows of sorrow; feast on the sunlight of sincerity.

Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence.

Fast from problems that overwhelm; feast on prayer that undergirds.

Fast from instant gratifications; feast on self denial.

Fast from worry; feast on divine order.

Trust in God.

And finally, fast from sin; feast on the abundance of God's mercy.

RIP, Betty Weller



St. Luke's received word of the death of Betty Weller, a former faithful parishioner, from her daughter, Mary Anne Carlin. We have contact information for Mary Anne for anyone who might remember Betty and wish to write or call. Alternatively, one may always leave word for the entire family online here: Elizabeth Weller Obituary - New London, Connecticut | Legacy.com

−Eds.

Elizabeth (Murphy) Weller, 88, passed away peacefully on Dec. 1, 2020 at Fairview in Groton. Born on Oct, 12, 1932 on Staten Island, N.Y. to the late Joseph J. Murphy and Mary (Burke) Murphy, she was preceded in death by her brothers, John Murphy and Joseph Murphy, and her husband George William Weller, III. She is survived by daughter Mary Anne Carlin of Ledyard, Conn., son John C. Weller of Baton Rouge, La., and grandson Ryan P. Carlin of Manhattan, as well as several cousins, nieces and nephews.

Betty was a flight attendant for Eastern Airlines in the 1950s, where she met "her captain" George, and they married in 1956. Together they enjoyed raising a family in Demarest, N.J., spending summers at Groton Long Point, Conn., and winters in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

They moved to Ledyard, Conn., in 1985 upon George's retirement from Eastern Airlines, and were active and devoted members of St. David's Episcopal Church in Gales Ferry, where they formed many cherished friendships.

Betty was a fun, youthful and loving mother and grandmother to whom family, friends and faith were of paramount importance. Her sparkle will be missed, but we are buoyed by the knowledge that hers was a Olong and happy life full of blessings, and that she is now joyfully reunited in heaven with those she missed so dearly.

A burial of ashes was held in the memorial garden at St. David's Episcopal Church, located at 284 Stoddards Wharf Road, Gales Ferry, Conn., on Mon., Dec. 21, 2020. A reception will be held at St. David's in the summer once it is safe to gather.







RIP, Virginia Beam

Mother of our own Jenny Vesta and grandmother of Charlotte, Virginia died Feb.11 after an eight-year battle with Alzheimer's. She was an Episcopalian who sang in choir at many churches during her life. She was a professional singer in her 20s with Paul Mauriat and his (French) orchestra and then continued her career singing in local plays, summer stock, and church choir.



How shall we keep a Holy Lent this year?

Feb. 25, 2021

Dear Companions on the Journey,

How shall we keep a Holy Lent this year? It will help to start with where we are right now.

In some ways, it feels as if Lent never ended last year. In March 2020, we entered the wilderness of pandemic. While we have grown accustomed to living with COVID-19, we also carry the sorrow of so many lives lost, along with the loss of our way of life. It has been a hard year marked by tragic death, historic conflict, racial killings, economic upheaval, and the never-ending worry about the unknown.

Grief may be one of the most underestimated responses in this year of pandemic. At this writing 502,000 Americans have died of COVID-19. So many funerals we could not attend. Countless memorial services waiting to be scheduled post-pandemic. We also grieve who we thought we were, a country of people who could unite and conquer any foe. Our nation's inability to work together created a landscape of unnecessary death. Division has lengthened the time we have spent in the wilderness of pandemic, racial strife, economic distress, and political conflict.

Many of us are working or studying at home. Fortunately, many of us

stayed well. We have been generous with ourselves and our resources to make sure others have food, friendship, and our prayers. We have learned how to volunteer from our living rooms. And those who are able, have run errands for those who cannot safely do so themselves. We are getting through this. We have adapted to pandemic and we are grieving.

Grief has become a defining characteristic of this time and we are slow to recognize its presence. We tend to say and believe we are "okay" if our life is safe and our family members are well. Yet, we are the body of Christ. We feel losses in the body because compassion is a defining characteristic of our faith. Compassion makes us wonder how others are doing, brings tears to our eyes when we know of suffering, motivates us to care beyond our tight circle of family and friends. Compassion makes us more like Jesus.

How are we to keep these forty days dedicated to God? We could start by bringing our authentic selves rather than an aspirational self into the presence of God. When Jesus heard of John the Baptist's death, he went to a desolate place to be by himself (Matthew 14:13).

Could it be that shock and sadness motivated him to be alone in sorrow and prayer? What happened in the short time that he travelled and arrived in a desolate place to restore his compassion for the crowd that soon followed? While we can imagine the scene, we cannot know for sure what took place in his time alone, but one thing is certain, Jesus was his authentic self.

Every year we are invited to observe a holy Lent. This year, I encourage you to bring your authentic self into Lenten observations. Your grief, gratefulness, sorrow, relief, anger, frustration, hopefulness, and all that is your response to this time are invited to observe Lent with you. The practices of Lent found in the Book of Common Prayer (p. 265) require facing the truths of this challenging time. While this is hard spiritual work, it is also freeing spiritual work. God loves us as we are and will not leave us stranded in wilderness or grief.

I know God is calling us to be a new kind of church for the future. A church that sees the hungry crowd in need of healing and is moved by compassion to respond the way Jesus did. Perhaps Lent in this long wilderness of pandemic is shaping us into authentic followers of Jesus Christ. Our sorrows and sighs may take us to a desolate place on the way to finding the promise of God's healing and restoration.

You have my prayers for a holy and authentic Lent.

Grace and peace,

Bishop Hughes



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

Stay Connected!

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

Soul Food: The Light of Hope by Claudia Smith



I am just not operating the same in these Covid Crazy Times. My attention is bifurcated, my memory faulty and what used to be a steel trap has devolved into a steel-sieve mind. I think it's because my entire life routine has been disrupted. To cope, I have been doing what I have always done – pour myself into endeavors that allow me to structure my life. My leadership roles in my church and my Organists Guild have both provided ongoing creative outlets for me.

What the heck does that have to do with an almost-dead Mother-in-Law's Tongue, you might ask? The usually hardy plant sits on the backboard for my bed, which is right next to my computer table where I spend WAY too much time sitting to perform my creative work. The plant, along with a number of others, lived outside during the summer. Unfortunately, they were all zapped by a 28-degree cold snap in early Fall and I now need to rehab as best I can those that are hanging on despite the damage.

As I thought about a photo subject this week, I realized that I see this plant every day -- and don't see it. I now see I need to prune it severely. And I see I won't be alone in my efforts to help it. There are little buggy creatures alive and well in the dirt, playing their part in Nature's Wellness Program. Thank heavens.

I think it's the Light that really helps, either from my extra lamp near the computer table or the varying degrees of natural light entering when the curtains are open, or both. The Light that lets plants grow gives me hope that this plant will be able to recover its life. Another of God's little Miracles for us to witness.



This meditation was written for a class I have been taking, Photography as a Spiritual Practice. Encouraged to join by a dear friend in Chicago, it has been a wonderful outlet during Covid lockdown. A shorter version was published on February 27 by our Diocese as part of their Lenten Meditation series.





Holy Week & Easter Services

Sunday, March 28 — 10:30 A.M.
Blessing of the Palms & Holy Eucharist

Thursday, April 1 — 7:30 P.M. Celebration of the Lord's Supper





Friday, April 2 — Noon The Good Friday Service

Easter Sunday — April 4 — 10:30 A.M.
Festival Choral Eucharist



An Easter Moment, Continued from P. 1

Perhaps we are even staying longer online that we would have in person and talking to others we might not have.

Third, we are reaching more people, some of whom have moved away and others who are simply curious as to who we are and what we are about. This, I believe, is the golden opportunity.

It is obvious that live streaming our services is a form of evangelism and will continue after we are "back" in church for in person worship. When there was a technical glitch on February 21st, it was quite heartwarming to find out people were scrambling and asking what happened to the service. It shows that people are being fed by our virtual services.

There is something very sacramental in live streaming worship that I don't think we have completely grasped yet. We become a part of other people's lives and in some small way we connect with their desire to be part of a spiritual community. When we have the ability to reach out and interact with other people and discover that their struggles are our struggles, we not only connect on a spiritual level but we form a sacramental

bond. We often think of the sacraments only in terms of something physical such as the water at baptism or the bread and wine at eucharist but it is really about blessing and grace.

This to me is an Easter moment — recognizing these times as sacramental. Easter is about hope and new beginnings. We need to look for the opportunities that this desert experience has brought us and embrace this sacramental power of presence in so many people's lives in a totally new and different way.

We also need to ask ourselves, how do we move forward without doing the same old, same old? Be creative and think about ways in which we can be the body of Christ in this community and beyond in new ways. How can we do outreach in a different way to the people in need in the immediate communities around us? Easter is coming so let us be filled with the hope that Christ's love and grace brings us.

-Rev. Beverly

SAVE THE DATES

Lenten Study Group

Comparing

THE PASSION

NARRATIVES

Join us as Beverly continues her comparison of the Four Gospel Passion Narratives on Zoom on Thursday evenings:

Mar. 4 — Mark

Mar. 11 — Matthew

Mar. 18 — Luke

Mar. 25 — John

Sessions will run from 7:30 to 8:30 P.M. Contact us for ZOOM credentials.



Altar Guild PolishFest

Saturday, March 27

9:30 A.M.

Our Altar Guild members will assemble for a masked, socially distanced cleaning, polishing and decorating session for Holy Week and Easter. We will gather in the

Parish Hall. If anyone can join us, please message to let us know. Since we are continuing to livestream our services, we still need to care for our altar.



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, Tamera Colloff-Bennett, Jack Michael Pallatta, Dennis Pallatta, Kathy Weiss-Gilley, Jim Murray, Jim O'Donnell, Amber, Rick Plinio, Donna Randazzo, Priscilla Goldman, Bill Magnus, Kristi Kountz, Amy Janoff Karp, Carl Baniki, Sue Welzer, Annette **DeSanctis**

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

March/April Birthdays & Anniversaries



March 2	Christine Pellegrin
March 5	Amy Hernandez
March 21	Rich Gonci
March 21	Sylvania Powell
March 23	Joshua Gelayder



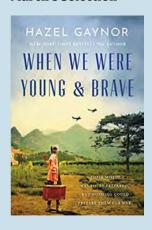
April 4	Carol Maxfield
April 15	Jenny Vesta
April 19	Helen Shaw
April 25	Ewurabena Plange-Kaye
April 26	Carol & Randy Maxfield
April 28	Jane Coleman
April 28	Bin Gelayder
April 30	Sue Gonci



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*.

March's Selection



The New York Times bestselling author of The Girl Who Came Home sets her unforgettable new novel in China during WWII, inspired by true events surrounding the Japanese Army's internment of teachers and children from a British-run missionary school.

Their motto was to be prepared, but nothing could prepare them for war.

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

March 24	When We Were Young & Brave- Hazel Gaynor

April 28 The Girl Who Wrote in Silk- Kelli Estes
--

May 26 The Perfect Horse- Elizabeth Letts

June 23 <u>The Glass Lake</u>- Maeve Binchy

July 28 As Bright As Heaven- Susan Meissner

August 25 <u>Fool Me Once</u> - Harlan Coban

September 22 <u>Like Water for Chocolate</u> - Laura Esquivel

October 27 Hillbilly Elegy- J.D. Vance

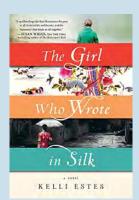
November No meeting

December No meeting/ Dinner out

April's Selection

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING PHENOMENON A Business Insider Defining Book of the Decade

Inara Erickson is exploring her deceased aunt's island estate when she finds an elaborately stitched piece of fabric hidden in the house. As she peels back layer upon layer of the secrets it holds, Inara's life becomes interwoven with that of Mei Lein, a young Chinese girl mysteriously driven from her home a century before. Through the stories Mei Lein tells in silk, Inara uncovers a tragic truth that will shake her family to its core—and force her to make an impossible choice.



"You can never get a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough to suit me."

C.S. Lewis

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St. Luke's Episcopal Church/Haworth, NJ

▼ February March 2021 April ►						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. Zoom Bishop's Hippo Network Meeting 7:30 P.M. Zoom Bible Study:	5	6 9:30 A.M Altar Guild Gladys Astorga & Priscilla Goldman
				Mark's Passion Narrative		
Third Sunday in Lent 10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist 12:30 P.M. Zoom Coffee Hour	8 Int'l. Women's Day	7:30 P.M. Vestry Zoom Meeting	10	7:30 P.M. Zoom Bible Study: Matthew's Passion Narrative	12	13 9:30 A.M Altar Guild Tamera Lynch, Kay Lynch & Linda Brescia
14 Daylight Saving Begins Fourth Sunday in Lent 10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist 12:30 P.M. Zoom Coffee Hour	15	16	17 Saint Patrick's Day	7:30 P.M. Zoom Bible Study: Luke's Passion Narrative	19 Saint Joseph	20 Start of Spring (Spring Equinox) 9:30 A.M Altar Guild Tamera Lynch, Kay Lynch & Linda Brescia
21 Fifth Sunday in Lent 10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist 12:30 P.M. Zoom Coffee Hour	22	23	7:30 P.M. Book Club Zoom Meeting	25 The Annunciation 7:30 P.M. Zoom Bible Study: John's Passion Narrative	26	27 Earth Hour 9:30 A.M Altar Guild POLISHFEST (All Members)
28 Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday 10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist 12:30 P.M. Zoom Coffee Hour	29 Monday in Holy Week	30 Tuesday in Holy Week	31 Wednesday in Holy Week	days to see be read for t www.lectiona	for This Wee	oointed to

St. Luke's Episcopal Church/Haworth, NJ

■ March April 2021						May ▶	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
Click the underlined names of the days to see the texts appointed to be read for that day at www.lectionarypage.net				1 Maundy Thursday 7:30 P.M.	2 Good Friday Noon – The	3 Holy Saturday 9:30 A.M. Altar Guild Helen Shaw & Claudia Smith	
www.ieotionarypage.net				Celebration of the Lord's Supper	Good Friday Service	Wyant	
4 Easter Sunday 10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist 12:30 P.M. Zoom Coffee Hour	5	6	7	8	9	9:30 A.M. Altar Guild Gladys Astorga & Priscilla Goldman	
11 Second Sunday of Easter 10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist 12:30 P.M. Zoom Coffee Hour	12	7:30 P.M. Zoom Vestry Meeting	14	15 Tax Day (Taxes Due)	16	9:30 A.M. Altar Guild Gladys Astorga & Priscilla Goldman	
18 Third Sunday of Easter 10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist 12:30 P.M. Zoom Coffee Hour	19	20	21	22 Earth Day	23	9:30 A.M. Altar Guild Tammy Lynch, Kay Lynch & Linda Brescia	
25 Fourth Sunday of Easter 10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist 12:30 P.M. Zoom Coffee Hour	26	27	7:30 P.M. Zoom Book Club Meeting	29	30 Arbor Day	Please look for This Week @ St Luke's in your email In Box for updates on parish news	

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
Weeping Beech

This Lent...

Fast from shadows of sorrow; feast on the sunlight of sincerity

See Page 3



St Luke's Episcopal Church

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