

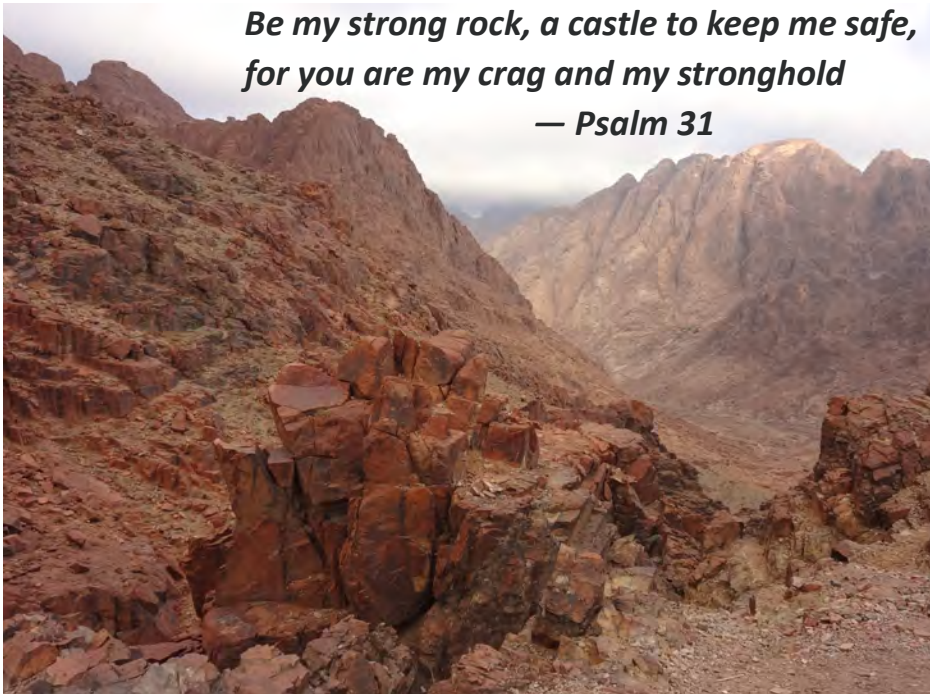
New Visions



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

May 2020

*Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold
— Psalm 31*



Editor's note: Presiding Bishop Michael Curry is offering *Habits of Grace*, a [weekly](#) meditation to help Episcopalians cope during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Hello to everyone who is kind enough to watch and listen to *Habits of Grace*. I just wanted to give you an alert, not a spoiler alert, but just a simple alert that when you listen to this video you will hear in the background the sound

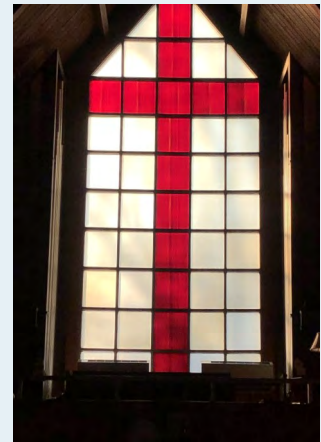
of construction at the elementary school on the other side of our backyard. We've listened to the video and you can hear it. But I just wanted to let you know that that noise that you hear is remodeling a school so that little children can go to a school that is modern and nice and meet and right so to do. God love you and you keep the faith.

I don't know about you, but one of the

Continued on P. 2

Welcome to Our St. Luke's Newsletter

We invite you to worship with us .
The Good News is that God's love is for ALL of us.
Come and See!



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Habits of Grace: Our time is in God's hands Continued from Page 1

things that has been a bit confusing during this pandemic has been sort of a discombobulation or a confusion about what time it is and what day it is. I found myself on more than one occasion just asking someone, "What day is today?"

There's a Psalm in the Hebrew scriptures, Psalm 31. It's actually quoted in the service of Compline, which is a late night prayer service, and it's also quoted by Jesus on the cross. It says this:

*In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame:
deliver me in your righteousness.*

And then it goes on and says,

*(Lord) Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold;
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me. . .
Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me,
O Lord, the God of truth.*

On the cross Jesus quoted this psalm as he commended his life into the hands of the father. Into thy hands I commend my spirit. But as the psalm goes on, later on in the psalm it says, "My times are always in your hand." It may well be that if we have little reminders as the day goes on, we will have a sense of time not determined by a clock but determined by God.

In Psalm 55 the Psalmist says, "In the morning, at noonday and at evening I cry out to you, oh Lord." Maybe a little habit of grace during this time may be a moment of prayer in the morning, another one at midday, and another in the evening, whether using a prayer book or just a moment to pause and be silent. Whatever way you do it take a moment – morning, midday, evening. Father into

Check out the videos: <https://episcopalchurch.org/habits-of-grace>

thy hands I commend my spirit. For my times are always in your hand.

In 1931 a man named Thomas Dorsey composed a hymn, the words of which and the song have been a long-standing favorite with many people. Lyndon Johnson, President Johnson asked for it to be sung at his funeral. Martin Luther King asked that it be sung at his funeral. Mahalia Jackson sang it. Aretha Franklin sang it. B.B. King played it and sang it. Tennessee Ernie Ford sang it. Johnny Cash sang it. It was composed by Thomas Dorsey living in a time when his times were very much discombobulated. His wife died in childbirth, both she and the child died. In his time of grieving he wrote the words of the hymn that say just simply, "Precious Lord take my hand."

My times are in thy hand, oh Lord. Father into thy hands I commend my spirit this morning, in noonday, and in the evening.

God love you. God bless you. May God hold us all in those almighty hands of love.



+ Michael Blum

Worship online on Sundays at 11:15 at www.Cathedral.org

Say your prayers and keep the faith.

Say your prayers and fight the fear.

Say your prayers and share God's love

wherever and whenever you can.

— The Very Reverend Randolph Marshall Hollerith,
Dean, Washington National Cathedral



Watch for This Week @ St Luke's and other eBlasts for news of online services/gatherings during this Pandemic.

New Visions, the newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, is published 10 times per year. Submissions for the upcoming month's issue should be *snail mailed* to *New Visions*, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Massachusetts Ave. & Grant St., Haworth, NJ 07641; or *e-mailed* to claudiasmith@msn.com **by 20th of month**. **New Visions Board:** Editor: Janet Beddoe, Production: Claudia Smith. **Photography for this issue:** Claudia Smith, Jennifer Plunkett, Christine Pellegrin, Heidi Plinio, Dreamtimes.com. **Advertising:** Jo Stephenson.

Despite Coronavirus, Carrying On... GRADUATION 2020

St. Luke's acolyte cousins TJ Pellegrin and Patrick Plunkett will be graduating high school this June and have been accepted to TCNJ, The College of New Jersey. . . . Congratulations and we wish you both well. **Love, Grandma and Grandpa (Linda & Frank Brescia)**

From Jen Plunkett: Patrick won a 3-year Army ROTC scholarship. So he will begin ROTC this fall and upon college graduation, will be a Second Lieutenant in the Army.



A Prayer for Families

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who settest the solitary in families: We commend to thy continual care the homes in which thy people dwell. Put far from them, we beseech thee, every root of bitterness, the desire of vainglory, and the pride of life. Fill them with faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness. Knit together in constant affection those who, in holy wedlock, have been made one flesh. Turn the hearts of the parents to the children, and the hearts of the children to the parents; and so enkindle fervent charity among us all, that we may evermore be kindly affectioned one to another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

—The Book of Common Prayer, Page 828

A Few Words from Our Wardens, Tamera Lynch & Rich Gonci

News: Within the first two weeks of June, Peter Englishman & Sons will be resurfacing St. Luke's parking lot and driveway.

The company was recommended to St. Luke's by the Diocese and has worked for several other churches in our area.

Help: If anyone is experiencing severe financial hardship or getting services and/or food, please let one of the Wardens know. They will see if they can be of assistance.

Emergency contact information: No one likes to think about the end times. But it is part of life and especially in this era of Covid-19.

The church, which is there for its people from birth, is also there to help its people through grave illness and the final stages of life. As part of your parish family, we hope you will share your emergency contact info with us – *especially if you live alone*. And, in an emergency, tell those folks to call the Wardens at St. Luke's.

Remembering Edith Biondi



Whether at Bible Study, Snack Pack Assembly, Book Club, ECW events or any other of the many activities at St. Luke's, one was sure to see Edith Biondi coming out to support them. A long-time, faithful parishioner, Edith will be sorely missed.



Food insecurity amidst pandemic

A Message from the Bishop , May 13, 2020

There is a hunger emergency going on in our state right now as a result of the pandemic and the large number of people who have lost their jobs. Bishop Hughes reminds us that one of the ways that we love our neighbors is to help them have enough food to eat. (Time: 3:48.) Check out the video here: <https://dioceseofnewark.org/bishops-vlog/food-insecurity-amidst-pandemic-heres-what-we-can-do>

This is Bishop Hughes in the Diocese of Newark. We've been talking off and on all through the pandemic about the ways that we love our neighbors. And right now, one of the ways that we love our neighbors is to help them have enough food to eat.

There is a hunger emergency going on in our state right now. It's a result of pandemic and the large number – record number – of people who have lost their jobs. And the financial pressure that resulted from that has created food insecurity amongst people who have not ever been food insecure before. It also has created a level of pressure on the organizations that provide meals and provide food for households. And as every organization scrambles to double or triple the number of people they serve, they have run into obstacles along the way. Some of this will eventually sort itself out, but one thing that seems quite clear is there is a pressing need that is going to remain in place for a long period of time as the pandemic continues in our area.

And so I come to you asking how you can help with hunger. I have some ideas and one of them is quite simple. Many of our parishes have some sort of feeding ministry, and I've asked our parishes to let us know how they're doing and if they could use some help from the rest of the diocese. They're excited to get some help from all of us, and so every week in this newsletter we'll focus on a different parish. This week, the very first one, St. Andrew's in Newark.

And they're a perfect example of exactly what has happened: the need in their area increased, their income did not increase, as a matter of fact it decreased as members of the congregation lost their jobs, and the shelves in their pantry are completely bare. They're not able to help anyone at the moment and the need continues to be as pressing.

Each week those parishes that have a food ministry will tell us how they're doing and they'll also be specific with us about ways that we can help, whether it is our financial resources or whether we can volunteer for them or they could use someone to make phone calls to leave a word of cheer with people – however they could use help they are going to let us know what it is we can do.

And I think all of us are reminded in this, of the number of times that Jesus asked his followers to feed the sheep, take care of my people in essence. Please make sure they are not hungry, not hungry for food, not hungry for friendship, not hungry for God, but all of these things are ways that we address hunger. But this first one, the hunger for food, is a pressing one in our diocese right now. So I invite you each week to consider how you can help. And I hope at the end of every night that every single one of us as, we say our prayers, can also look back on the day and see that yes indeed, we helped someone to have something to eat and when we did that we took care of one of God's people.

Grace and peace,

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



St. Luke's Outreach Continues with the Walk-in Dinner in Hackensack on June 24

The COVID-19 pandemic has stretched the resources of nearly all organizations – businesses, organizations, not-for-profits. All are trying to figure out how to adapt in this rare situation, and Family Promise is no different. We found that we had to reimagine our Network program to continue to bring in families, yet keep them and our volunteers safe. And so we have placed families in hotels so that we could begin working with them and, during the past weeks, one of the families has moved into one of our New Leaf apartments and, with our help, another moved into an apartment of their own. Active case management continues, albeit in new and different ways. Zoom is a part of everyone's lives at this point!

We continue our Walk-in Dinner program in Hackensack. In the "Old Days" – you know, more than ten weeks ago – we would provide dinners to those who lived in the county shelter in Hackensack, every night of the year. In order to keep the residents safe, however, all were moved to local motels. So, Family Promise adapted to that new reality and [we now deliver](#)



[meals to them](#) . . . and we also provide meals to others living in the motels. And a number of community residents come to the now-vacant shelter facility to get their to-go meals. The number of meals each night has increased by over 65% in the last two months.

The issue of food insecurity in Bergen County is real, and growing. Family Promise was introduced to World Central Kitchen, the non-profit founded in 2010 by the prominent chef Jose Andres to provide meals in the wake of natural disasters. WCK agreed to provide 400

meals six days a week for two weeks for Family Promise to distribute in Englewood – those weeks went fast! WCK added a third week and, we just found out (as I am writing this letter) that they have decided to provide meals for a fourth week! This means that meals worth \$100,000 will be distributed in Englewood – on top of the meals provided in Hackensack.

We're not just trying to blow our own horn. We think there's a lesson here. Family Promise of Bergen County's *primary* mission is not feeding the hungry; it's sheltering and assisting working families with children who have become homeless. We're still doing that, by placing our clients in family-friendly hotel rooms equipped with kitchenettes, providing apartments for some, and by supporting them in various ways.

Continued on P. 7



Soul Food:

Remembering Bishop Harris



*The Rt. Rev. Barbara C. Harris, at her historic consecration service on Feb. 11, 1989. Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts
Photo: David Zadig [Courtesy of Episcopal News Service]*

The Rt. Rev. Barbara Harris, the Anglican Communion's first female bishop, died in March. Roberta Nobleman has a fond personal reflection on this remarkable person. Click here to read the Bishop's obituary: <https://bit.ly/3cc4CfF> —Eds.

In the 1980s, I performed a play called “Solo Flight” about one of the “Philadelphia Eleven,” the first women ordained in the Episcopal Church. I took it to General Convention in Los Angeles. In the front row was the Rev. Barbara Harris. She loved the play: it was her story, too.

Later when I performed “All that I am” – a play about often nameless, forgotten women in church history, like St. Peter’s wife – the now Right Rev. Barbara Harris invited me to perform at a Clergy Conference for the Diocese of Boston out on Cape Cod. After the play, Bishop Harris played the piano (jazz), smoking a cigarette in a holder, and encouraging us all to sing along. It was the best hymn singing I ever heard.

There is a lovely story of when she was first consecrated and someone asked her if they could kiss her ring. “Hell no,” she replied, “Kiss the Bishop!”

Doesn’t that story make you glad to be Episcopalian?

— Roberta Nobleman

Family Promise, continued from Page 6

But this crisis has shown the need to help people whoever and wherever they are – even if they’re not in a family, not working, or childless. So we’re feeding the needy in Hackensack, surrounding cities, and Englewood – wherever there’s food insecurity. Wherever there’s hunger.

And we can do this because of the support of many – including our faithful volunteers and financial supporters. Thanks to you, we are meeting new needs as we continue to live into our mission.

*Paul Shackford
President of the Board of
Family Promise of Bergen County*

P.S. – In describing our dinner programs, an otherwise accurate article that appeared in *The Record* reported that the meals that are delivered to the motels are for families when in fact they are mostly for individuals who were temporarily relocated from the county shelter. The meals in Englewood are helping many families and individuals. To read



Center for Food Action is not able to accept food donations until the social distancing guidelines are lifted, as we do not have the space, or the volunteers, to sort and stock food. During this time, they request that anyone who wants to help make a gift online at www.cfanj.org or by mailing a check to: Center for Food Action
192 W. Demarest Ave,
Englewood NJ, 07631.

They will use the funds to purchase food in bulk which eliminates issues of sorting and stocking. They can also accept supermarket gift cards which can be shared with the increasing number of families and individuals requesting assistance.



New Signs for St. Luke's



Thanks to Heidi Plinio and Dave Emerson for getting the signposts scraped and painted and new signs produced and to Todd and Joshua Geylayder for joining the team to get them installed around the church property. And special thanks to the donor whose generosity made the project possible.



*“ The more that
you read,
the more things
you will know.
The more that
you learn,
the more places
you’ll go.*

—Dr. Seuss



Between the Lines Book Club

Book Club Meetings are usually held at 7:30 P.M. at the Rectory. **During this time of social distancing, we invite you to check out our list of books and read on your own for now. We hope to see you all again as soon as it is safe to do so!**

June 25 (pizza)
The Summer of '69
Elin Hilderbrand

July 23 (appetizers)
The Secret Kept
Tatiana de Rosnay

August 27 (dessert)
Still Life
Louise Penny

September 24 (potluck)
Fall of Marigolds
Susan Meissner

October 22 (wine/cheese)
Finding Dorothy
Elizabeth Letts

November
No meeting

December 3
Dinner out—venue TBD

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, Jason Edone, Tresten, Sue Pastore, Chan, Hung-Kwong & family, Carol Maxfield, Michael McCarten, Elizabeth Secari, Donna Sisti, Muriel Brandt, Leah Ogena Collins, Thomas Chase, Jimmy Rivera, Denilson Interiano, Dr. Leonard Scalfani, Jay Rizzo, Judy Ashbrook Hoffman, the People of Hong Kong, Maureen Bownes, Gloria Wilson §

Pray for Brian & Sharon Vaccaro, Philip Feldman, Gerry, and Louise Meyers, all now affected with Covid-19., and all those remembered in Fr. Paul's Facebook group, Intercessors Praying...§

Please also pray for the repose of the souls of Sandra Hyatt Harth, Lee Harper, John Bullough, Edith Biondi, Adele Corrado, Anthony Pitruzzello John Plinio, and Grace Repp§

We join with those around the world who pray for EVERYONE affected by the pandemic.

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



JUNE Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Christian Coleman
- 2 Gladys & Al Astorga
- 21 Harry Smith
- 22 Lisa Abrahamsen Seiler
- 25 Gladys Astorga



If you don't see your special day in our monthly listings, please e-mail the editors and we'll gladly add it!



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 symbol is the ox. This may explain the fact that he is patron saint of butchers. In art, Luke is represented by a winged ox. The ox represents the sacrificial aspect of Jesus' ministry and the wings remind us that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is to travel throughout the world.

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.

The Garden in Full Bloom Photos by Heidi Plinio



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St. Luke's Episcopal Church/Haworth

June 2020						
◀ May						July ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (transferred from May 31)	2	3	4	5	6
7 The First Sunday after Pentecost (Trinity Sunday) Virtual Coffee Hour 12:30 P.M.	8	9 Virtual Vestry Meeting 7:30 P.M.	10	11 Saint Barnabas the Apostle	12	13
14 The Second Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 6) Flag Day Virtual Coffee Hour 12:30 P.M.	15	16	17	18	19	20 Start of Summer (Summer Solstice)
21 The Third Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 7) Father's Day Virtual Coffee Hour 12:30 P.M.	22	23	24 The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist Family Promise Walk-in Dinner	25	26	27
28 The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 8) Virtual Coffee Hour 12:30 P.M.	29 The Apostles Saint Peter and Saint Paul	30				

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 cross-roads of Demarest, Haworth, Dumont, and Cresskill.

Check It Out!

A spruced up look at St. Luke's!

Turn to page 8 to check it out!



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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