

The Nugget

For January, 2012

A monthly newsletter from St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Auburn, California

Email articles to: stlukesnugget@att.net

Fr. Dan Becomes “Priest-In-Charge”

Beginning Jan. 1, I will have a brand new title, “Priest-in-Charge” of St. Luke’s.

The title change reflects the reality that, for now, the parish doesn’t have the financial resources to hire a full-time rector. It extends my presence at St. Luke’s for three years, with year-to-year renewal afterwards by mutual consent. The change was necessary because an interim rector can have only a short tenure.

The new Letter of Agreement changes very little about my day-to-day ministry. The pay remains the same, as do my essential responsibilities.

The greatest change is in a slightly different perspective in carrying out my ministry: An interim prepares the landing strip for the incoming rector, making as little change as possible, especially when the changes create long-term consequences.

As Priest-in-Charge, I will work with the parish leadership to create programs and policies aimed at the longer-term life and ministry of St. Luke’s.

Like the interim rector, the priest-in-charge has both the authority and the responsibility to oversee the ministries of the parish, the staff, all aspects of worship, pastoral ministry,

In practice, I work closely with Vestry on all my areas of responsibility, seeking the good advice of the lay leadership of the parish.

For the parish, the new challenge is to “re-think St. Luke’s” and create a new, shared vision of the Church God is calling us to become in a new era without full time clergy present. Just exactly what is God calling us to be and do at St. Luke’s? How can we best organize our life and ministry to respond to that call?

Quite honestly, I’m excited about this challenge because the process of listening for God’s voice and inviting the Holy Spirit to re-create us afresh has vast potential for new life and new blessing. These are exciting times.

If the situation changes and resources allow St. Luke’s to hire a full time rector, be assured that

I will gladly step aside and try actually being retired in my retirement! Know, also, that if age and health issues significantly diminish my effectiveness, I'll move on so that St. Luke's can move forward.

In the meantime, know that I am so very much blessed to be part of the St. Luke's family. I thank God for calling me here, and for the blessing that each of you has become to me.

--Fr. Dan+

St. Luke's December 13, 2011 Vestry Meeting

Opening Prayer John L.

Present: Father Dan, John Leininger, Meredith Guy, Jack Buffington, Don Dunton, Chuck Stephan, Todd Warner, Marge Hier, B.V. Rao

Absent: John Barnsdale, Susan Gedney

Father Dan's Reflection - The Christmas story in Luke.

May each of us hear this story again and let it be heard in our heart of hearts.

Agenda : Stewardship Campaign, Treasurer Report, Nominations for Vestry

Minutes from the November meeting MSP

Treasurer's report: Review of our current financial picture with a projected Budget for the upcoming year (2012) There are still some regular members who have not returned a pledge card, so our budget numbers could change. Some of our members prefer not to sign a pledge card but support St. Luke's.

Jack will prepare his financial report for the Annual Meeting and give an overview of our situation. Father Dan reminded us that we must be flexible in our thinking about what St. Luke's can expect and that we need to pray for guidance in leading St. Luke's future. MSP

Stewardship Comm. Report. The person to person contacts were very positive and the feeling of the Committee was that this was a very good Campaign. We had hoped for more pledging units to respond, but as of Dec. 13, there have been only 45 pledge cards returned to the church.

The Letter of Agreement between St. Luke's and Father Dan Williamson has been signed by Father Dan and the Sr. Warden, John Leininger. The letter will be mailed to the Bishop 12-14-2011 for his signature.

Security Concerns by members of the congregation:

Ushers will be asked to check the Parish Hall double glass doors AFTER each service begins. They have been left open, and while nothing has occurred, the Vestry feels that this measure is a prudent one. The side door will be left unlocked during services. USHERS PLEASE CHECK ALL DOORS TO THE CHURCH AND PARISH HALL AFTER THE 10:30 SERVICE.

Calendar UPDATE: ANNUAL MEETING 1-22-2012 at 10:00 am This will be a consolidated service. The Annual meeting in the PARISH HALL will follow. Your input and attendance at the meeting is needed. Please make it to the meeting.

Nominating Committee Report: Meredith, B.V. and Todd have contacted members of the congregation who have indicated interested in serving on the Vestry. They will be asked to stand for election to the Vestry at the Annual Meeting. ANY MEMBER OF ST.LUKE'S IN GOOD STANDING MAY BE A VESTRY MEMBER. (1. Regular attendance at Services, 2. Baptised and Confirmed, 3. 18 yrs of age or older, 4. Pledging member of record)

NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR MUST HAVE THE APPROVAL OF THE NOMINEE PRIOR TO THE ANNUAL MEETING. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN STANDING FOR ELECTION ONTO THE VESTRY, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE, FATHER DAN OR ANY MEMBER OF THE VESTRY BY January 1, 2012

January meeting will be 1-10-12 @ 6:30

Mutual Ministry Review for 2011 will be at the church 1-14-12 9-2:00

Vestry Retreat January 28th. Don Dunton to plan and details to be emailed to Vestry members. The new Vestry will be meeting to set our goals and areas of Ministry for the coming year.

Upcoming dates to be noted: Father Dan will be gone March 13,2012- March 22,2012 for Continuing Education.

Fred Hartmann has agreed to act as Parish Administrator at Father's Dan's request. Fred will assist Father Dan and the Vestry, and help us to complete the agenda items of the Vestry and St. Luke's. THANKYOU Fred!

Nugget Articles to Tom Stephenson by December 20!

Opening prayer for January ; Meredith, closing Todd

Meeting closed with a prayer read by B.V. 8:30 pm

Marge Hier, Clerk

Vestry Nominations For 2012

There are three three-year terms to be elected for the vestry of St. Luke's at the January Annual Meeting. The nomination committee has put the following three names on the ballot for vestry. Other nominations may be made by any member in good standing of St. Luke's. Vestry members must be members in good standing who are at least 18 years old and have been members of St. Luke's for at least one year. It is the hope of the vestry that each parish member will prayerfully consider for whom they will vote to fill the important ministry of vestry of St. Luke's.

Bill Gausewitz

Bill has attended St. Luke's for about 25 years. During that time he's been involved in several different ministries. He has taught Sunday School. He served two different terms on the Vestry between 1997 and 2004. From about 2000 to 2010 he was the director of the Youth Choir. He is also a licensed lay preacher. He works as an attorney in Sacramento. He is married to Toney and has three children (all of whom were baptized and confirmed at St. Luke's), Barbara, Polly, and Robbie.

Beth McMurtrie

Beth has been a member of St. Luke's for 30 years. During that time she has taken part in many ministries. She has served on the vestry for 4 different terms and been Senior Warden 2 times. She was in charge of Buildings and Grounds for 3 years. Beth has sung in St. Luke's choir for 15 years. She has coordinated the Shrove Tuesday/ Mardi Gras pancake festival many times. For 10 years she coordinated St. Luke's work with Gathering Inn and she originated and hosts Stone Soup each month.

Patty Park

Patty has been a member of St. Luke's for over 30 years and has been actively involved in many ministries. Along with her husband Phil she has been a mentor for the Education for Ministry program for the last 10 years. Patty has served on the vestry several times and has been Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Clerk and Treasurer. Patty is a Lay Eucharistic Minister and is the coordinator for St. Luke's Lay Ministries. Patty has been active in the Cursillo Program for many years and is also very involved at the Diocesan level.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study Announces Next Course - “The Episcopal Handbook”

Beginning in January we'll be exploring “The Episcopal Handbook “: Sometimes in a not so serious way, this book provides historical and theological information about our Church alongside fun-filled facts and practical tips for being a churchgoing follower of Jesus Christ.

Complete with illustrations, we're presented with a combination of vast truths, complex details, and bits of humor about the Episcopal understanding of the Christian life. This unique and handy resource is perfect for youth, adults, students, families, and all those interested in learning about much of what encompasses life in the church.

Subjects include:

- How to Stay Alert in Church
- How to be a Greeter (or Usher, or Acolyte, etc.)
- How to tell the difference between a “Vocation” and a “Vacation”
- How to Survive a Service in an Un-Air-Conditioned Church
- A brief history of the Anglican Communion
- How to Interpret “Controversial” Bible Passages and Remain Episcopalian
- ...and more!

All are welcome! We meet at 11am in the church Library

“The Episcopal Handbook’ can be ordered by Sheri from the Cathedral bookshop.

For more information Contact:

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