

# The Nugget

For February 2010

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

## February Message from Reverend Susan

Soon we will be entering this year's season of Lent. Ash Wednesday is February 17. Our 10 a.m. service that day will be the liturgy for Ash Wednesday and all are encouraged to attend that service or the ecumenical service at 7 p.m. at St. Teresa's Roman Catholic Church. Below you will find a complete schedule of the Lent ecumenical series of worship opportunities provided for you by churches of our community.

This Lent, my desire is that we intentionally focus on our baptism covenant that we made or was made for us and that we recently renewed Sunday, January 10, The Feast of the Baptism of Jesus. I often hear from others that we are brought into this world without an owner's manual, with no set of instructions. Then, each time we repeat the promises of our baptismal covenant, I think, here they are. Here are our instructions, our marching orders. With God's help, we will:

- 1) Continue in the apostle's teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers.
- 2) Proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
- 3) Seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
- 4) Strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.

Christian living can be as simple as these seven promises, although that doesn't mean "easy" to do. We need the power of God working in and through us to come close to accomplishing them, that very power received at our Baptism. In my sermon that morning, I relayed an anecdote regarding Martin Luther. It is reported that when Martin Luther was assailed by temptation or self-doubt he would sit in his study and recite almost as a mantra, "I am baptized. I am baptized." I again suggest that we take up that refrain, "I am baptized", practicing repeating it through-out our day. It is a succinct reminder that as we heard in the scriptures lessons of that Sunday: "God upholds us." "God delights in us." "God's spirit is upon us." Join me in this simple Lent discipline and let us be open to God empowering us to know and be who we are in God's eyes.

Lent blessings on us all,

Rev. Susan

# JANUARY 12, 2010 ST. LUKE'S VESTRY MEETING

Present: Rev. Susan, Carolyn Richardson\*, John Leininger. Jack Buffington. Jim Webb, Bruce Anderson\*, Bruce Choate, Beth McMurtrie\*, Meredith Guy, John Barnsdale, Marge Hier

Absent: Molly Hance \* \* Retiring Members of the Vestry of 2009

OPENING PRAYER: Bruce Anderson Father of all, We ask for your blessing on our meeting tonight. We pray for clarity of thought and unanimity of purpose in our deliberations so that the decision we make will serve not only this Parish, but the wider church. Make us aware of our responsibilities and help us to ensure that whether the issues before us relate to spiritual or material matters, we are conscious that above all, the endeavors of our parishioners and our physical assets are directed to your glory and the spreading of the gospel. Help us not to be inward looking, but to be aware of needs in the wider community, that we at St. Luke's may promote the gospel message through our words and our examples. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen. (Courtesy of the Internet)

Agenda approved

Minutes from Dec. meeting approved MSP

Treasurer's Report: Jack spend considerable time going over the financial report for the end of the year and explaining the proposed budget. He recommended acceptance of the budget. Concerns of the Vestry were addressed particularly with regard to Outreach programs being included as line items in the budget. (Food Closet \$1200/yr and the Gathering Inn \$600/yr.)

Rev. Susan asked that Child Care be included in as a line item. (\$1440.00/yr.) We need to have Child Care available for our families during services.

Dr. John Barnsdale, Carolyn Richardson and Beth McMurtrie would like

the contributions by members of the parish to the Food Closet and the Gathering Inn be acknowledged and mentioned at the Annual Meeting.

Amended Proposed Budget approved... MSP The Budget as amended will be presented to the Parish at the Annual Meeting.

Treasurer Jack Buffington will not be able to attend the Annual Meeting. Dr. John Barnsdale will not be able to attend the Annual Meeting. Reports by both will be included in the Annual Report to the Parish.

Senior Warden's report: B.V. Rao has agreed to stand for election to the Vestry. Members of the Parish are asked to consider this service to our Church and let any Vestry Member or Rev. Susan know if they will join us.

Shrove Tuesday plans are coming along nicely. Sue Webb will head up the publicity. Carolyn Richardson has ordered the sign and it will be ready to be displayed, however, we are unable to get any firm information from the City on an available site due to the ongoing streetscape project. We need to hang the banner in a high visibility site.

It was suggested that information be sent to the Chamber of Commerce, KAHI, Fox 40 News and NPR as a PSA, Diocesan News, Auburn Journal Web page. (Clerk's note A.J. Web site had a bullet on the Pancake Fest as of 1-13-10). We still can use more help. Tickets will be in the mail in the coming week.

Annual Meeting will include brief reports and financial update, Election of new Vestry Members, and showing of a DVD to help small group Focus on the issues of concern for the year at St. Luke's

Patty Park will have Ministry Materials available at the Meeting.

Refreshments will be served. Beth McMurtrie and Susan Barnsdale with help from other members of the Vestry. Clean up: Jim Webb, Marge Hier and John Leininger

Jr. Warden's Report: Parish calendar information is current but any events need to be put on the Master Calendar and the Jr. Warden notified so that we are aware of dates, times etc.

Stewardship: The Giving in Gratitude campaign was successful with a response of 60-79% of families responding. Jim will have final figures in his annual report. We will be able to present a budget that is balanced.

Buildings and Grounds: PG&E has notified the church that there will be a power shut down from 11 pm to 5 am on January 14th.

During the last heavy rain, there were leaks in the office. The roofing company came out, inspected the areas and determined that they were not due to membrane failure, but to flashing inadequacies. They were repaired at the cost of \$285.00.

The rear porch of the Victorian Attic (an addition on piers) is separating from the main building. Bruce Choate will be working on repairing the problem with help from parish members.

We need to have someone who will sweep or blow the front entrance of the church every Saturday. The Nugget will publish this request. (The heavy moss buildup on the shingles needs to be taken down.) John L., Bruce C. and John B. will make an announcement about this at Sunday's services.

The Parish Hall window replacement was discussed. The Insurance Company has been advised of the accident. More information to be available by the next meeting. Considering a temporary fix, versus a redo of the front façade to be more architecturally in keeping with the Sanctuary will be addressed at the next meeting. There will be renderings of proposed changes to the façade available.

Worship: Approval for Eucharistic Minister Licenses of Ginnie Pankowski, Toney Gausewitz, Joan Stafford, and Diana Montague were signed by Vestry and will be sent to the Diocese.

Christian Education: No report. Youth will be having a Game Day on Sunday January 17th from 2-4 pm.

Hospitality: Meredith and Marge will be working on finishing the Directory in the next two weeks.

Evangelism: The Open Sanctuary Committee continues to work on getting Volunteers and a Schedule in place. Please contact Molly Hance or Rev. Susan about this program.

Outreach: Conflict with Annual Meeting date and St. Luke's day to staff the Food Closet, hopefully will be resolved by trading dates with another church. Don Dunton and John L. are working on this.

The generosity of St. Luke's during the Christmas season was truly an Outreach to our Community. John L. said that when he helped Don Dunton unload a very full Jeep at the Food Closet, the fullness of the shelves was heartening. The toys made many of the children's Christmas Merry. John L. and the Vestry would like to make this an on going part of our Outreach.

Rector's Report: Rev. Susan will be gone 1/12-13, but this will not affect any services. She will be gone 2/11-15. We will have MP that Sunday. Diocesan Congregational Leadership Conference 2/20/10.

Discussion: Diocesan Policy requires two people doing the counting of offerings. Marge Hier asked for someone who could help her on Sunday after the 11 service. Linda Kenney helps when possible, and John B., John L., Jim Webb and Meredith Guy are willing to fill in as needed.

Compline closed the meeting at 8:00

Nugget Articles Due.... Annual Reports Due... Opening Prayer Feb. John L.

Marge Hier, Clerk

## **Episcopal Experiences is beginning again this Lent.**

The focus of our gatherings will be a recent research study of the Episcopal Church, "Around one Table, Exploring Episcopal Identity." Not only will we learn about the Episcopal Church; more importantly, we'll have opportunity to get to know one another, and our worshipping community. Those who have recently joined us at St. Luke's are especially encouraged and invited to participate as are you "old-timers" and "not-so-old-timers" as well. All are welcome! Meeting time and place: Sunday evening, 7-8:30 p.m., Feb. 21 & 28, Mar. 7 & 21. Rev. Susan will be leading the sessions with the assistance of Bruce Anderson.

# Lenten Community Worship Services

We will again be celebrating Lent by joining with other Auburn churches in Ecumenical Worship services. All Wednesday evening services begin at 7PM.

There will be a special Ash Wednesday service at St. Luke's February 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM with a service of Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes. Evening Services follow.

Ash Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at St. Theresa's Catholic Church, 1160 Atwood Rd.  
Preacher: Pastor Joshua Lickter of Incarnation

February 24<sup>th</sup> at Pioneer United Methodist Church, 1338 Lincoln Way. Preacher: Pastor Ken Winter of Auburn Presbyterian Church

March 3<sup>rd</sup> at First Congregational Church, 710 Auburn Ravine Rd. Preacher: Fr. Michael Carroll of St. Theresa's Catholic Church

March 10<sup>th</sup> at Auburn Presbyterian Church 13025 Bell Air Dr. Preacher: Pastor Rick Kuykendall of First Congregational Church

March 17<sup>th</sup> at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1279 High St. Preacher: Rev. Susan Pucker of St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

March 24<sup>th</sup> hosted by St. Luke's Episcopal church at Mercy Center, 535 Sacramento St. Preacher: Pastor Barbara Smith of Pioneer United Methodist Church

These community services will conclude with Special Good Friday Service, April 2nd 12 Noon at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1279 High Street. Their Pastor, Bryon Hansen will be preaching.

There will be maps to each of the churches in the Sunday Bulletin prior to these worship dates. This is an excellent opportunity to celebrate Lent in the unity of our Faith. "...that they all may be one...(John 17:20)".

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday school at St. Luke's has been busy. Our classes are continuing to study and learn; the Elementary class is currently studying units called "Touched by Jesus," and "Healed by Jesus," and the Youth class is just wrapping up a unit of study called "Contagious Faith."

The Youth class recently sponsored a "Bring A Friend Game Day" (on a Sunday afternoon) which was a huge success. Almost every family attending brought a visitor; there was much good food for snacking, and we had so many games, there was not time to play them all! Everyone had a wonderful time making friends, playing games, and sharing food and laughter.

A couple of upcoming events: The Sunday school is planning a fundraiser to raise money for those devastated by the recent disaster in Haiti. We will be doing this this year in place of our usual 30-Hour Famine, and sending all money raised directly to the Episcopal Diocese in Haiti. This event is still in the planning stages, so look for more details soon!

And mark your calendars for the SNOW DAY, coming up on April 11 (The Sunday following

Easter Sunday). The Snow Day is a longstanding tradition at St. Luke's; Howard and Liz Richmond generously open their cabin in Soda Springs after church for an afternoon of playing in the snow, accompanied by much food, fun and games, and fellowship. The entire parish is invited to join in. More details on this are coming later, too, but be sure to save the date!

Our Sunday school strives to be a welcoming place, where young people learn that God cares for them through both bad times and good, and we try to model that love and acceptance for each other, and for our guests and visitors. Friends and relatives are encouraged to join us—classes usually meet downstairs, 10:30 – 11:30, Sunday mornings. (For those adults wishing to attend the 11 o'clock service, come and bring your students to Sunday school at 10:30, have a cup of coffee or tea in the Parish Hall before going to church, and after class ends, teachers can bring students in to church to finish the service with you!)

See you in Sunday school!

Toney Gausewitz, Sunday School Superintendent

## **HOLD ON—SPRING'S COMING!**

(Thoughts from a Daughter of the King)

Like many people, I struggle with the tail end of winter. Maybe it's a touch of Seasonal Affective Disorder, or maybe it's just weariness of short days, and being cold most of the time, and the often wet and dreary weather. During these sunshine-deprived days, I need to fight off the depression that threatens my psyche with everything (legal and moral and not too destructive!) at my disposal. In recent years, I have found it comforting to look for solace and inspiration in a simple, readily-available place: my Bible. Here is a listing of a few of my favorites: Isaiah 26:12, Titus 1:2, Romans 5:5, 2 Corinthians 13:11, Acts 24:15, John 16:33, Psalm 29:11 (and many other of the Psalms—and for a smile, I like some of the Proverbs [16:33 is one of my favorites!!])

Even if you don't need or want to pause to read these (or others—what are your favorites?), I invite you to remember a Big Idea from the Good Book: The idea of renewal and rebirth--after darkness comes the light, after winter comes the spring, after death comes life. Some days, that alone keeps me going. And that's enough.

Daughters of the King is an order of Episcopal (and Catholic and Lutheran) women, who have taken vows of prayer, service, and evangelism. We live our vows by adopting a Rule of Life, which includes daily prayer, study, and each of us doing what we can to work to spread God's Kingdom throughout the world. The St. Luke's chapter of the Daughters of the King has recently changed its monthly meeting days back to Thursday mornings. We have returned to this day, as it is more convenient for a majority of our members. We do however, have quarterly Saturday meetings, to accommodate those members who work, or whatever reason are unable to attend on Thursdays. If you are interested in becoming a Daughter, please speak to a member (identified by the small silver cross worn habitually).

If you have a prayer need, please speak with any Daughter. We are honored to pray with and for you or your loved ones. (Prayer requests are held in confidence within our chapter.)

Toney Gausewitz

## **News From St. Luke's Victorian Attic**

In spite of the turmoil for several months due to the refurbishment of the town square we were able to meet our goal of \$1,000.00 per month for the year ending 12/31/09! Our shoppers and "Attic Angels" had to endure potholes, one way streets, the complete closure of Lewis Street as well as no street sign for Lewis Street. It certainly has been an interesting year!

Many thanks to our Angels: Annie Holmes, Virginia Kauk, Jean Decker, Joyce Dirnberg, Molly Hance, Susan Howell, Janet Turner, Shirley Hockstaff, Sarah Acrich, Sandy MacGregor, Marge Hier and Carol Yancy for their enthusiastic and welcoming presence in our shop. Without their dedication there wouldn't be the ambience that draws repeat customers. If you are interested in becoming an "Attic Angel" contact Carol Roy at (530) 888-0360. If you like old houses and new acquaintances (not necessarily in that order!) we can guarantee you'll enjoy being a volunteer at the Attic.

Thanks, also, to Bruce Choate for keeping the Attic in repairs. The additional lighting in the workroom is so appreciated!

We are known for the fine clothing and merchandise that our valued parishioners donate to us. Thank you, without your kindness we could not exist. Please remember us when you are "decluttering," downsizing or cleaning out closets and cabinets.

Carol Roy

## **Altar Guild News**

The 2010 Flower Chart is located in the Parish Hall. There are a few openings for a donation of Altar flowers. Donations are made by arranging with a local florist to deliver the flowers to the Church. Or, if you prefer, you may purchase flowers at one of our local supermarkets or any other source of your choosing. Since the Altar Guild has no formal fund raisers, your donation of Altar flowers is appreciated. Please sign up on the Chart for the date of your choice. A letter will be sent to you as a reminder prior to your Sunday. Thank you.

Altar Guild members: For your information, a new procedure for the Travel Communion Kits has been developed by Rev. Susan and myself and placed in the black notebook in the Sacristy. Also updated are the instructions for setting up for Baptisms.

Sue Webb, Directress

## **St. Luke's Annual Pancake Mardi Gras**

Shrove Tuesday or "Fat Tuesday" is a great time of celebration for St. Lukes. For over fifty years we have been serving pancakes to our community. This is a wonderful tradition and our one big money maker for the year. We hope to make this the biggest ever. Please buy or sell your tickets for the event. If you are paying for a ticket and giving it to someone please mark it paid. Start the day off right and come to breakfast before going to work. High school students can come for \$4.00. You can't beat the price for pancakes, sausage, eggs and juice. Breakfast 7 - 9 AM, Bunch 11 - 2 PM, Dinner 4 - 7 PM Lots of fun. Lots of great raffle prizes. Join with your family, friends club or lodge members and come to St. Lukes. Posters to advertise the event are in the parish hall for you to pick up and post if you want to help in that way. Sign up to do your part! This is a parish wide endeavor. Let all hands make this Shrove Tuesday a huge success.