

The Nugget

For July 2010

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

July Message from Reverend Susan

Most of you, but perhaps not all, have heard the news of my upcoming retirement as of October 1. My letter of June 21st to the parish family is included below. I'm at a loss to know what more to say at this time until I return from vacation and we begin the transition process together. My vacation time is scheduled through July 25. Sundays, July 4 and July 18, Morning Prayer will be celebrated. Sunday, July 11 and July 25 will be Holy Eucharist with supply priests The Rev. Deborah Hawkins and The Rev. Dan Williams. The Wednesday services and Bible Study will continue also with Eva Mehringer and Bruce Wilson leading Morning Prayer. Stay faithful in worship for each other!

With sadness, I received the news that our sweet friend Dina Durfee died Sunday, June 20. Please keep her daughter Erica in your prayers. She and I are in conversation regarding a memorial service for Dina at St. Luke's when I return from vacation. As soon as the service is scheduled, we will get the word out.

Your vestry and I also want you to know that at the last vestry meeting it was decided to stay with our two Sunday service schedule as we move into fall. So worship services will be at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. with Sunday School classes taking place at 9 a.m. We'll be reminding you again as we move through summer.

Summer blessings to all as we remain faithfully open and prayerful to the future God has for us.

Rev. Susan

Text of Letter Follows

June 21, 2010

Dear Church Family,

With a confusing mixture of sadness and excitement for myself and for St. Luke's, I need to inform you that I will be retiring from full-time parish ministry October 1, 2010. On a certain Monday in May, God seemed to be working mighty hard to make it clear that this was my next step. After praying and talking with my family and spiritual advisors and friends, with their support I made this difficult decision to retire. And as my spiritual director, Colleen Greg reminded me, this call from God is not just about me, it is also about you and the new that God has in store for St. Luke's. So here we all go into a new chapter of living out God's will for us.

I have been in conversation with Bishop Barry, Canon Britt, the vestry and other parish leaders. Bishop Barry and Canon Britt will work closely with you in this transition period. A meeting with the Bishop and Vestry is already scheduled for June 29th. Please keep our parish leadership in supportive prayer.

I am not leaving Auburn at this time, nor am I leaving my involvement with the Diocese of Northern California. I don't know what form my ministry will take in the future, but I'm confident that God will provide that answer in due time. I am not ill, nor angry or disgruntled and I'm not going to Tahiti (a fun rumor already circulating). I love you and have been loved by you. Our time together has been challenging, enjoyable and fruitful. I leave healthy and confident of God's grace and I believe that I leave this parish healthy and confident of God's grace also.

Now I invite you to move with me into the not easy work of saying good-bye; grieving what we will no longer have together, but also celebrating what God has accomplished with us.

With much love and prayers

Rev. Susan

St. Luke's Vestry Meeting - June 15, 2010

OPENING PRAYER AT 6:30

Attending: Carol Roy, Rev. Susan, John Leininger, Meredith Guy, Chuck Stephen, Jim Webb, Marge Hier.

Absent: Jack Buffington, B.V.Rao, John Barnsdale, Bruce Choate

Agenda OK

Minutes accepted MSP

Treas. Report. Brief synopsis by Rev. Susan. No questions. **MSP**

Rector's Report. Rev. Susan reviewed the CRT questionnaire sent by the diocese and there was some discussion and the answers will be forwarded to the diocese.

Fall Convocation of Deanery will be held at St. Luke's October 30. We will be providing our facilities and light refreshments.

PPFT Report was discussed. Deacon Bill Hefti will represent St. Luke's. Participation in this group would have some financial aspects, but could result in greater outreach. Vestry was asked to carefully look over the Mission statement and support information to be discussed further next Vestry meeting.

Rev. Susan will take the scheduled vacation July 1st through the 25th. At this time, she plans to be in the Auburn area, and would be available for urgent needs.

Sr. Warden: John L. has had an offer from Carolyn Richardson to help fund a professional cleaning of the carpet in the Parish Hall. Bruce Choate will be asked to get bids on cleaning. Vestry approves this action.

The Stuff a Bus Saturday will be staffed by St. Luke's members.

The plans for the Ecumenical Golf Tournament have begun. John L. hopes to have greater participation this year.

Jr. Warden: The calendar will be updated to reflect the changes that have occurred.

Stewardship: Plans for the upcoming Grateful, Glad and Giving program will be copied and each Vestry member will have them to look at before the next meeting.

Buildings and Grounds: Many favorable comments on the new Parish Hall doors. Thanks to Bruce for the rapid accomplishment of the project. The Vestry approved accepting the bid for the painting of the Victorian Attic exterior. Rev. Susan has been assured that the play yard grass will be mowed and maintained during the summer. This job must be done every week so that the play yard is usable for any children in the Nursery.

Worship: No Report . After discussion about attendance figures given out to each Vestry member, there was a motion to continue with two services in the fall.

Christian Education: No Report

Hospitality: Meredith has tried to contact Stephen North about the Parish Picnic and will continue to work on this. The camps out plans are being handled by Bruce Choate. More information at the next meeting. Directory progressing.

Evangelism: Written report from B.V. updating Vestry on the current status of the Web site.

Outreach: The major projects that have been started regarding the Victorian Attic include the Thrift Shop Alliance, clean out of parts of the upstairs in the VA, garden clean up and maintenance by the Dean and Jean Decker, and hopes for window cleaning to go along with the painting

Nugget articles due.... To Tom Stephenson

Prayer assignment for next meeting Carol Roy

Meeting closed with Compline at 8:30

Marge Hier, Clerk

A Wakeup Call And A Message

By Tom Stephenson

Sunday Morning May 16, 5:00AM – Lord, Oh Lord, What is that pain? Did someone cut off my arm? Elaine – Wake up! Wake Up! Get me an aspirin, we have to go to the hospital! Now!

As we drove, I tried to think about anything but what was happening. Memories of scriptures came to me, particularly Psalm 46:10 “Be still, and know that I am God.” I believe that was God’s message to me that morning. From then on I was calm.

Yes, it was a heart attack. I was very lucky that day, we got to the hospital in 25 minutes and within 10 minutes I received blood clot busting treatment. After an incredible ambulance ride to Sutter Memorial, two stents were placed in an artery in my heart and, today, I am fully recovered. I just returned from a trip to visit my Dad in Mexico.

I have a message for you, especially if you are of the Macho persuasion. If you ever even begin to wonder “Could this be a heart attack?”, you are wasting valuable time! You have 60 minutes to get into the hospital and begin treatment. After that, the only question is how much damage will there be.

Hopefully, this will help someone. Thank you all for the prayers and good wishes. I also particularly want to thank Doctors Owen and Shah and a whole lot of Sutter people, whose names I don’t remember, for making a difference that day.

“Don’t Worry—Be Happy!”

I know, I know—that sounds trite, and for that, I apologize. Lest you think I am “preaching,” let me preface this with the statement that I am writing this article, as a means of talking to myself—because I think this is what I need to hear these days. But I am inviting you to come along for the ride . . .

Recently, I’ve found myself feeling especially stressed and busy. That’s weird, isn’t it? This is the summer time—the time when I should be able to relax a bit—kids are out of school, and scheduling is a bit less tight. But that’s not how I feel. Currently, I have so much on my plate—nothing too major, but lots of small dates and times and people to keep track of, and it’s getting a bit overwhelming. And in the background of that, is the fact that my house is falling apart (literally—30+ years of “postponed maintenance” has finally caught up with it) and my yard and pasture are so overgrown, it looks like I live in a jungle. I was awakened the other night by a tree branch falling on the roof, the thistles are now taller than the barn, the lawnmower is broken, and on and on it goes

Historically, when I have become overwhelmed by the details of daily life, I have pulled myself aside and whispered, “It’s time to take more time and sit with God—get yourself centered with Him.” This time, I answered back (with a touch of hysteria), “More time! If I had more time, maybe I could take care of some of this stuff, and then I wouldn’t feel so overwhelmed!!!”

Now for the “preaching” part: Toney, even if you had more hours in a day, they would be filled up with stuff. You know that the discipline of Sitting, Asking, Waiting, Listening, and Trusting on a regular basis is where you can draw strength to put one foot in front of the other, and take care of what you can take care of But, like a child, I find myself whining: “And where am I going to carve out an extra hour?”

It doesn’t need to take an hour—you can find a few minutes here and there—turn off the radio when driving, and intentionally speak to Me—I want to hear what you have to say, what you’re worried about, what you’re grateful for. How about as you wash your face and brush your teeth before bed? How about the last few moments of consciousness before falling asleep? Waiting for the water to heat up in the morning? I am with you, waiting to hear what’s on your heart at those times, too. Trust me. I am with you always. You don’t have to solve everything by yourself. Together, we’ll come up with solutions to all the things that are bothering you. I just ask that you’re patient, and willing to trust Me to work things out in my own way, in my own time. And know that I love you.

And are all my problems solved? Nope, the thistles are still high, the house still as rickety, friends and loved ones are still ill, but I think I can go on, and perhaps even bring a spark of light to someone else’s life today—maybe by doing something really great, maybe by just giving them a smile. And I’ll begin using the “cracks of time” in my life for renewal—for developing that patience and trust in God’s strength, instead of foot-tapping, or fretting about how I can’t get it all done. That’s just a bad habit. I’ll begin today to cultivate a

new one: When I find a “chunk” of time, I’ll remember to intentionally Sit, Ask, Wait, Listen, and Trust, and in my life’s little “cracks,” I’ll pray: Thank-you, Lord, for all you have given us—the good stuff and the hard stuff. Let us more fully appreciate the good stuff, and help us to grow through the hard stuff. Guide us and protect us, and give us the strength to do your will, that all we think, do, and say, may be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

Toney Gausewitz,
Daughters of the King

Altar Guild News - July

With summer here, commitments may have tapered off so keep in mind that the Altar Guild is still looking for members. If there are those of you who find they now have time for the once-a-month commitment and would like to join this group of delightful women and one man, please contact me at 530/ 637-0081.

During the month of July, Altar Guild members should note the following:

Team #2: Morning Prayer is scheduled for Sunday, July 4th.

Team #4, the same holds true for Sunday, July 18th.

Also during July, Wednesday morning services will be Morning Prayer only.

As a reminder to the Altar Guild members, please do not put water in the brass flower vases. The water should be added to the plastic liners only.

Also, another reminder that the thermostat in the church has been programmed to come on each day, including Saturday while you are working. So, currently there is no need to turn it on or off after services – we can depend on the thermostat.

Team members are asked to take a copy of the new Schedule through November which is in the Sacristy. Lastly I would like to thank the Altar Guild members for their reliability, dedication and for making my job so easy!

~ Sue Webb, Directress

Gratitude

I have found several quotes on Gratitude for you to ponder:

“Gratitude feels so good because it is the state of mind closest to your natural state in which you were born to live.” - *Abraham-Hicks*

“Counting your blessings” is simple to the point of stupid and powerful, to the point of life-altering. Gratitude, that very specific feeling of thankfulness in your heart, allows you to see and absorb all you have, forgetting for a moment all you may lack. It connects your brain with your heart, and gives you grounds to be a more giving, effective, loving human. Being grateful allows generosity to flow. And many believe it also makes us more receptive - as in, the more you love what you have, the more you get what you want.” -

Valerie Reiss

“Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, and confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.” – *Melody Beattie*

Jim Webb, Stewardship Chair

Canadian pastor Richard Fairchild shares this:

Contributed by Bruce Anderson

A mom, tells the story, about her young son and herself.

My little boy came into the kitchen one evening while I was fixing supper and he handed me a piece of paper he'd been writing on. After wiping my hands on my apron, I read it, and this is what it said:

For mowing the grass, \$5.

For making my own bed this week, \$1.

For going to the store \$.50.

For playing with baby brother while you went shopping, \$.25

For taking out the trash, \$1.

For getting a good report card, \$5.

For raking the yard, \$2.

The woman continues ;

I looked at my son, standing there expectantly, and a thousand memories flashed through my mind. So, I picked up the paper he had given me, and turning it over, this is what I wrote:

For the nine months I carried you, growing inside me. No Charge

For the nights I sat up with you, doctored you, prayed for you. No Charge.

For the time and the tears, and the cost through the years. No Charge

For the nights filled with dread, and the worries ahead. No Charge.

For advice and the knowledge, and the cost of your college. No Charge.

For the toys, food and clothes, and for wiping your nose. No Charge.

When you add it all up, the full cost of my love my Son. No Charge.

Mom concludes the story by saying

When my son finished reading, he had great big tears in his eyes.

He looked up at me and he said, "Mama, I sure do love you." Then

he took the pen and in great big letters he wrote on his bill:

PAID IN FULL.

Like the Mom in this story, we do not earn God's love, or justification and forgiveness – God has written NO CHARGE upon our bill, he has written it in the sign of the cross. Rather -we love as we are loved by God, unconditionally - as a gift - Without ties or conditions, With only the hope that those whom you love might in turn love others in the same way.

That is what our Faith is all about. There is no charge. Just a lot of hope - God hoping for us - God praying for us - God feeding us, God watching over us. God saving us.

Got Boxes? ...Want Boxes?

I have a continuous supply of cardboard boxes 15 1/2"(L) X 9 1/2"(W)X7 1/2"(D).

Excellent for moving, storage, etc. Call or e-mail me:

Bruce Anderson

530-878-4941

BroBrooz@sbcglobal.net

ST LUKE'S - LAY SERVER SCHEDULE

<u>JULY</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>USHER</u>	<u>ACOLYTE</u>	<u>CHALICE</u>
<u>7/04</u>	Morning Prayer			LEADER
8:00	Todd W		Linda H	Bob H
10:00	Judy E.	Susan G Shirley J	Dianna M	Patty P
<u>7/11</u>				CHALICE
8:00	John L		Jim W	Jim W
10:00	Constance H	Bruce C Jeanette C	Tabitha R Erica R	Toney G.
<u>7/18</u>	Morning Prayer			LEADER
8:00	Bob H		Bob H	Jim W
10:00	Fiona T	Fiona T Keaton T	Spencer T	Patty P
<u>7/25</u>				CHALICE
8:00	Liz R		Linda H	
10:00	Annie H	Sarah A Adam A	Ginny P	Judy E