

# The Nugget

For March 2010

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

## March Message from Reverend Susan

What a wonderful Shrove Tuesday Pancake Festival we had last week!! The hall looked so festive, the food was great, lots of people volunteered to help, the raffle prizes were such a hit. We even had the photographer show up from the Auburn Journal and the next day, there we were on page 2, Jack Buffington flipping pancakes and Erin and Sarah Harker smiling with their colorful Mardi Gras masks on. The pictures are posted in the hallway. The next morning of course was Ash Wednesday. As I prepared to leave the house my mind wandered back to the previous evening and the scene that came to mind was of Phil Park (part of the clean-up crew) popping a balloon with a pin to deflate it so it could be thrown away and commenting "the party's over."

Now there's a contemporary image for Lent, the deflating of that balloon back down to its original size. Lent is a journey to being right-sized again--not too big, not too small--but just the size God created us to be. We can be thankful that God doesn't just send angels down to prick our swollen egos every once in a while. Instead, God, through the wisdom of our Church tradition, gives us this rather gentle time to attempt to be honest with ourselves as we reflect, pray, repent, accept God's forgiveness, and choose to start anew in humility and trust.

I encourage you to give some added attention to your spiritual journey these next weeks; perhaps attending the Wednesday Lent series, adding additional prayer or reflective reading time to your day (choose a Gospel, the Psalms, the Baptismal Covenant on pages 204 & 205 in the BCP, the Hymnal even), giving of yourself to others, attending Sunday worship, being quiet and still. I pray that this is a gentle, yet changing time for you.

Rev. Susan

## Annual Meeting News

The Annual Meeting Report for 2009 is available for everyone. If you are not able to pick one up at church and would like one mailed to you, please call the office at 885-2316 and one will be sent to you. The meeting itself, which was held Saturday, January 30, went well. People enjoyed the video, "Focus Your Vision", and it helped

to generate good follow-up conversations and ideas around the three topics of Visibility, Financial Help, and Spiritual/Education Needs. All the ideas generated will be carefully reviewed and some goals set for 2010 at the Vestry Planning Meeting to be held, Saturday, March 6 at Rev. Susan's home.

Your new Vestry Members are: Carol Roy for a 1-year term; B.V. Rao, Chuck Stephan and Marge Hier for 3-year terms. Current members include: John Leininger, Jim Webb, Meredith Guy, John Barnsdale and Bruce Choate. John Leininger is your Sr. Warden, Jim Webb is the Jr. Warden, Marge Hier is Clerk, Bruce Choate is head of Buildings and Grounds and Jack Buffington continues as Treasurer.

We are in good hands and spirits and looking forward to an exciting and fruitful year with God's help and guidance.

## Holy Week Schedule

Wednesday, March 31 10 a.m. - Stations of the Cross  
Thursday, April 1 7 p.m. - Maundy Thursday Service  
Friday, April 2 - 12 noon Ecumenical Good Friday Service at  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

## Open Sanctuary

Thanks to many volunteers, our desire to be able to have our worship space open to the public from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday is being fulfilled. Beginning March 1, the sanctuary will be open with greeters present. Please help us get the word out. Tell your friends, club members, partners at the bridge table. We have a beautiful, historic, sacred space and want people in the community to be aware that they are welcome to come to rest, enjoy, pray, be still, be quiet. If you are interested in volunteering, you can leave a message at the office at 885-2316 and Peggy McCray will be in touch with you. Remember: Open Sanctuary, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday - Friday.

## St. Luke's Vestry Meeting - February 9, 2010

**Sr. Warden:** Jim Webb will be Jr. Warden, and Marge Hier will continue as Clerk.  
MSP

**Buildings and Grounds:** Bruce discussed the structural problem with the Victorian Attic. Bruce also commented on the positive response to the removal of the two trees near the Victorian Attic.

The Saturday "Blow and Go" group has volunteers, Rob Tuttle, B.V.Rao, John Leininger, Bruce Choate, Todd Warner and Dean Decker. There will be a schedule for each volunteer so that they can contact another member if they are unable to cover their day. Thanks to all of these gentlemen.

**Worship:** Holy week schedule will be in the Nugget. Incarnation Parish will be

holding a Good Friday evening service at St. Luke's. There will be a joint noon service at Bethlehem Lutheran. More details to come. The Ecumenical Services will start next week. The schedule will be in the bulletins and the Nugget.

**Christian Education:** The Episcopal Experience Classes will begin Feb. 21 in the afternoon. Rev. Susan and Bruce Anderson will lead the class.

**Hospitality:** Meredith has photographed @ 45 people for the Directory. She will continue to try and get more photos. She will get more information on the cost of printing, collating and putting into folders or binders, and ask Jack B. about funds to cover them. We discussed possibly using the "old" directory folders that congregants already have, using the RisoGraph to color print the pages, or home printers that have color capabilities. Marge Hier will work with Meredith on the project.

**Outreach:** Food Closet continues to be one of our primary Outreach areas. Don Dunton is our Representative, and Todd Warner has expressed interest in working on making our congregation even more actively involved.

**Evangelism:** The Open Sanctuary program will begin 3-1-2010. The Church will be open from 11-1, Monday through Friday. We need to make sure that there is publicity to let the community know.

Roland Shields will be taking over as Webmaster.

Rectors Report: Vestry Planning Day has been set. Rev. Susan went over her Ministry Report for December. She will be taking time off next week and we will have MP service on Sunday. She also will be taking the week of 4/5-4/11 off, right after Holy Week and Easter. Traditionally this is a "low Sunday" and a MP service. Meredith would like us to restart the "Friendship Bread" to visitors to St. Luke's. This will be discussed further at the Planning meeting.

A current email address list will be given to all Vestry Members.

Prayer assignment for next meeting John Leininger

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: Sunday evening, 6-7:30PM 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**

Lenten Community Worship Services Continue

We have been having a good time of worship and fellowship with our brothers and sisters in the Faith from other traditions in our community-celebrating our Unity in Christ. The theme 'Following the Footsteps of Jesus, features sermons from the ministers, and services in the traditions of the various churches in Auburn... All service are on Wednesday evenings at 7PM.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. These services are an excellent opportunity to experience the rich diversity (and commonality) of our Christian Faith.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

The Elementary Class is continuing apace—we are just wrapping up our second major section of study (containing the units Advent/Christmas, Touched By Jesus, and Healed By Jesus). Our third section will take us to the end of this Sunday school year, and in this section, we will be covering the units Remembering Jesus, Easter And A New Life, and Paul Tells the Good News.

The Youth Class is also just about to complete a study section—The Youth Class is using the "e-Merge: Developing Youth as Fully Devoted Disciples" curriculum. We will either move into the third section of this curriculum, or begin a brief Lenten study course on the Revelation to John (depending on whether I can find the Revelation curriculum in my mass of study materials at home!!!) Also in the works

for the Youth Class members, is the upcoming Technology Fast (March 12 -13), to raise funds for the people devastated by the recent earthquakes in Haiti.

And the SNOW DAY IS COMING!!! Save May 11 (the Sunday after Easter Sunday), for this annual fun day!

Friends, extended family, and guests are welcome at St. Luke's Sunday school, which meets downstairs after the middle service (10:30 - 11:30). Hope to see you there!!!

Toney Gausewitz, Sunday school superintendent

## **St. Patrick's Day Celebration**

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 14 to help us celebrate St. Patrick's Day at St. Luke's. Families are welcome. Our social hour will begin at 5:30. A potluck dinner will be served about 6:15.

Please sign up in the parish hall for the dish you wish to contribute. We would like to have corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, onions and carrots. Also, Irish soda bread and a "green" dessert. Bring your own drinks (sodas, beer or wine).

Call Bobbie Grabau (885-9639) or the church office with questions.

## **THE ANGEL AT THE BUS STOP**

I had an "adventure" (an adventure is always more fun to tell about than it was to actually experience) the other night. At 4:55p.m., I was in downtown Sacramento, at G Street, getting onto the eastbound freeway to go home. At 9p.m., I finally made it home.

I'll start from the ending—which, thanks be to God, was happy. Happiness for me is eating dinner, and that night it was especially good, since it was nine o'clock and quite a long time since lunch. Before eating, my husband Bill had come to give me a ride home. My car had been towed from somewhere in central Del Paso Heights, after one of my engine coolant hoses blew off of its connection for the fourth time. The aforementioned coolant hose connection had been three times "ghetto-rigged" by various "helpers" (kind-hearted people who took pity on a middle-aged woman in a dress and high heels)—the most knowledgeable of whom was also the most certifiably crazy, and had really made the hair on my neck stand on end.

After the plugging the hose with a stick of wood found by the side of the road (I couldn't make this stuff up!), and dropping my two helpers off at their homes—as thanks for working on my car (I felt I owed them at least that much, since the total cash I had on hand was a handful of coins scraped out of the bottom of my purse)—I carefully, with one eye on the temperature gauge, began to drive out of the neighborhood towards the freeway.

And that brings you up to the point of the fourth blow (turns out, the stick of wood didn't work out as well as we thought and hoped it would!), and subsequent tow. Understand, it was just me sitting in my parked car with the emergency flashers on, in the dark, all alone, in the 'hood—waiting for the tow truck. And this was actually the first time during the entire ordeal that I felt at all “at risk”—in spite of crazy men yelling at me and my car, being stranded in a not-so-nice neighborhood, and having other strange folks walking or driving by, staring at me and my predicament. Why? In a wonderful twist, that afternoon, before approaching the freeway entrance at G Street, I had done something I rarely do: I had offered someone I knew only slightly (one meeting, and a few minutes' conversation, plus some business telephone calls) a ride home. My thought was to save him the one and a half-hour bus ride home, since I had to drive past his area anyway. Turns out, his ride home was much longer than even a long bus ride would have been, and for that I had to apologize. But for me, having him there meant such peace of mind as my car limped along block by block, spouting steam and antifreeze along the way, as various individuals came by to offer “assistance.”

I knew enough of my friend Mike to believe that I was in good company, and just having a tall man in my car with me, I believe, prevented any “funny stuff” from starting with all the strange people coming past. Mike's presence certainly lent me a sense of peace, and I could refuse offers of “help” that I felt were not sincere, from a position of strength. And Mike was unflappable—he refused to be drawn into an argument with the “crazy man” (that could easily have turned nasty!)—and he was so calm and persistent in looking for the source of the problem, I credit him with the ability to drive my car far enough to drop off him and my erstwhile mechanics (who by this time, I was ready to be rid of!) I think of Mike as my “angel at the bus stop,” and I know that God put him there for me that afternoon, and nudged me to offer him a ride. I give thanks to God for this, and all the other times that angels have been put in my path, over the course of my life, and for all the other angels I have yet to encounter . . . .

What angels have you encountered?

Toney Gausewitz, Daughter of the King

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

Our not-for-profit coalition of thrift shops, Secondhand Roads, is having our spring event, Spring Forward, on Saturday, March 20th, from 10:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. We are hoping to have lots of gardening items and spring clothing for that day. If you are doing any “almost spring” cleaning, please remember the shop. Our donations are down so far this year and we can use women's clothing, linens, knick-knacks and household items, as well as small pieces of furniture.

Because of your donations we have been able to support many fine charities. So far this year we have donated \$1,000.00 to the Auburn Interfaith Food Closet and \$500.00 for the Haitian relief effort. Thank you so much!

Phil Beukema & Carol Roy

# Altar Guild News

Even though we have just begun the Lenten season as I write this, Palm Sunday is just around the corner. Members of the Parish of all ages are invited to join the Altar Guild in making the palm crosses given away at the Sunday services. Please join us on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m., to help make palm crosses or to learn this “age-old” craft.

*Reminder to Altar Guild members:* All Teams will be on duty March 27<sup>th</sup> through April 4<sup>th</sup>. This year I will be doing sign-ups a little differently. Each Team will be assigned a service during Holy Week. The assignment sheet will be in the Sacristy. Please feel free to trade with another Team, if necessary.

A short Altar Guild meeting will be held at 9:45 a.m. on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. **Team #1** will be hostesses for this meeting. In addition, all members will be needed to prepare the Church for Easter. This involves polishing all of the brass and silver, arranging flowers for the baskets, and beautifying the Church after Lent. Please lend your support on Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9 a.m. A sign-up sheet for these 2 Saturdays will be in the Sacristy. And again, my deepest thanks for your support of this valuable service to St. Luke’s.

~ Sue Webb, Directress

# Mardi Gras Thank You

As Chairman of publicity and the donation drawing for the Mardi Gras Festival, I would like to give a special thank you to those members of the Parish who donated to our prizes: Toney Gausewitz, Molly Hance, Beth McMurtrie for her many dinner baskets, Beth Myrick, Patty Park, Joan and Peter Stafford.

In case you did not hear, the most popular item donated was the dinner for 8 from Sarah Acrich, Susan Barnsdale and Jeanette Choate. So even though their efforts were noted the day before the event and at the Mardi Gras Festival, their work is still not done!

I also appreciated Fiona and Rob Tuttle stepping in to award prizes at the end of the evening. Finally, a big THANK YOU to all who purchased tickets and helped make the drawing a big success! Sue Webb

# Lay Server Schedule

Services	8:00	9:15	11:00
<b>2/28/10</b>			
LECTOR	Liz R.	Erin H.	John B.
USHER		Fiona T.	Susan B.
USHER		Constance H.	Kristina B.
ACOLYTE	Bob H.	Spenser T.	Dianna M.
CHALICE	Bob H.	Dianna M.	Jack B
CHALICE			Jane B.

<b>3/7/10</b>			
LECTOR	John L.	Peter S	Ginny D.
USHER		Bruce C.	Susan G.
USHER		Jeanette C.	Shirlely J.
ACOLYTE	Jim W.	Joan S.	Ginny P.
CHALICE	Jim W.	Patty P.	Janey C.
CHALICE			
<b>3/14/10</b>			
LECTOR	Todd W.	Fred H.	Jane B.
USHER		Toney G.	Sarah A
USHER		Fiona T.	Adam A
ACOLYTE	Linda H.	Keaton T.	Tabitha & Erica
CHALICE		Carol R.	R.
CHALICE			Judy E.
			Jack B.
<b>3/21/10</b>			
LECTOR	Liz R	Molly H.	Beth Mc.
USHER		Peter S	Bruce A.
USHER		Joan S.	Debbie A.
ACOLYTE	Bob H.	Dianna M.	Patty P.
CHALICE	Bob H.	Bruce A	Peggy Mc.
CHALICE			
<b>3/24/10 Ecumenical Service @ Mercy Center</b>			
ACOLYTE			<b>TBD</b>
LECTORS			<b>TBD</b>
<b>3/28/10 Palm Sunday</b>			
LECTOR	Todd W.	Bill G.	Ginny D.
USHER		Constance H.	Susan G.
USHER		Keaton T.	Shirlely J.
ACOLYTE	Jim W.	Spenser T.	Janey C.
CHALICE	Jim W.	Patty P	Jack B
CHALICE			Jane B.
<b>4/4/10 Easter Sunday - Alleluia!</b>			
LECTOR	John L.	Molly H.	Marge H.
USHER		Bruce C.	Susan B.
USHER		Jeanette C.	Kristina B.
ACOLYTE	Linda H.	Joan S.	Patty P.
CHALICE		Ginny P	Judy E.
CHALICE			