

St. Luke's Messenger



Vision Statement: "St. Luke's is a Christian Community
Called to vital, ever-deepening relationship with Christ and neighbor."

January 2012

From the Interim Rector.....

Dear Companions on the Way,

I hope you are still having a blessed Christmas and are remembering to celebrate it as a 12-day season and not just for single day (or for that matter, that you pledge to keep Christmas in your heart every day of the year, as did the awakened and enlightened Ebenezer Scrooge).

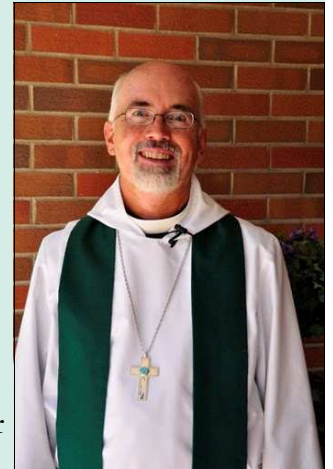
One of the images of the season that came to me during Advent was the power of a phrase in the proper preface for Advent. The proper preface is a sentence that is included in the first part of the Eucharistic Prayer that changes depending on the liturgical season we are in. They are found on pages 377 and 382 in the Book of Common Prayer. In Advent the priest recites or sings, "... that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may **without shame or fear** rejoice to behold his appearing. ...". The phrase "without shame or fear" is taking deep root in my consciousness as a key to understanding what our life in Christ is all about and what our mission as church should include.

What does it mean to await God's appearing without shame or fear? For we who are Christian, the meaning would include the sense that in Christ, God has taken away our guilt, our shame, our estrangement from God, our sin. In my prayers, I often ask to see myself or to see others or to see a situation in the same way God sees. I have never found that prayer to be answered with a sense of judgment or alienation. Rather, in the deep recesses of my heart, God is always, always drawing us in, loving us, accepting us and calling us by name. God never turns away from us, rejects us or abandons us.

But also, what does it mean for a community that proclaims the good news of God in Christ to renounce shame and fear? I believe that we cannot be a community that traffics in shame and fear, and that may be one of the more radical, counter-cultural postures we can take. Churches have long been accused (perhaps rightly) of generating shame and fear and trafficking in guilt. Churches have threatened people with hell, excommunication or the softer threats that "God wouldn't like it if ..." or "a good Christian would never ...".

More and more, I am convinced that our deepest struggles come from the games and power plays that are built on shame and fear. Many people who end up going into psychotherapy discover that defects in their personalities or mental functioning are due to having a "shame based personality." I am one of those people. We get ourselves into trouble by trying to satisfy an inner judge who seems to never be satisfied; or to avoid a condemnation that seems as permanent as if it were etched in stone. I know some attend church in part to appease what is believed to be a capricious or wrathful God, or avoid some impending or inevitable doom meted out by the hand of God.

Trying to satisfy that judge or avoid that doom may lead people to do noble, generous, self-sacrificing deeds that benefit the church, but shame and fear still are the engine that drives the behaviors. I'd like to think that a healthy church is one that proclaims a God who abandoned wrath and condemnation with the rainbow after the flood that Noah rode out. Indeed, we are called to manifest a God who has come, as a baby in Bethlehem, to reveal God's infinite and unconditional love.



Interim Rector's Report continued.....

I'm trying to be more aware when shame and fear bubble up in me and I'm trying to be more conscious of how the institution of the church unwittingly (or overtly) winks at language and behavior that is grounded in shame and fear – and bring it to light where it can be transformed. For instance, when someone says “I'm sorry,” there may be a legitimate regret being expressed; and then it is my opportunity and delight to offer an expression of release such as “all is well” or “don't give it a thought.” But it may be that apologies are made for events or circumstances beyond one's control, like the weather or the call of a higher priority, and they make a person feel trapped. Once in a while, those apologies come with an edge: “I'm sorry BUT ...”. It may not be in my power to release someone from shame or fear in those instances, but perhaps I can bring some light and grace to the situation.

Shame and fear grow in the dark, but light causes them to shrink, and in the light of Christ, they disappear. So let us keep Christmas in our hearts every day of the year. And consider that a way to keep Christmas is by bringing the shame and fear that infect us into the light of Christ's presence and love. And let us – with gentleness and sensitivity – shine some light and grace on one another when shame and fear trap them. And perhaps put over the door a “no shame and fear zone” sign to remind us all.

Shalom,
Andrew

Adult Education: January 8, 15, 22, February 5 & 12 9:30am in the Parish Hall

The Gospel of Action: Mark

Join Fr. Andrew for Adult Formation in January and early February for an in depth look at Mark's Gospel. Mark is the shortest of the Gospels and may be the most misunderstood. Fr. Andrew has studied Mark's Gospel at Oxford and also taught "the Bible as Literature" at Fort Lewis College. He is eager to share the power and urgency with which Mark presents Jesus. We will devote 5 weeks (taking a week off for the Parish Meeting, January 29th) to look at various themes and unique features found in Mark:

- January 8: Overview and the problem of Mark's ending.
- January 15: Mark's Relationship to Paul and Peter
- January 22: Mark's Structure and Issues of Power and Apocalypse
- February 5: Humor and Paradox in Mark
- February 12: Mark's Gospel in a Post-Modern, Post-Christendom world

Friends and Spirit.....Are you looking for some special time with your friends from St. Luke's? Friends and Spirit is open to adults of all ages (single or married). Come join us for our next gathering on January 6th at 6:30. Mike and Cindy Hohl will be hosting at 6401 Pumpkin Ridge Drive in Windsor. Give The Hohl's a call to let them know you are coming @ [970-292-8622](tel:970-292-8622) or for directions. Please bring an appetizer to share and a beverage if you desire one.

St. Luke's "**Singles on the Go**" is a fun, informal social group for parishioners 55 and over. We gather each Tuesday morning at 9:30 at the coffee shop at Sunflower Market. On the second Tuesday of each month we go to dinner. On January 10 we will go to Bisetti's Italian Restaurant, 120 S. College, at 5:30 pm. RSVP to Gail McKenzie, at 482-8052.
Please join us!

youth group

MISSION TRIP, 2012 to New Orleans June 9-14. Applications for the trip and the \$200 deposit need to be submitted to Bob and Tamara Rowland ASAP as there are only 50 slots available. (These 50 slots are pooled from 11 CO churches. There were 48 youth who went last year from 4 churches.) Slots are filling up quickly and all late applications will be put on a waiting list so if youth are planning to go, we need their information and money right away.

SLY Nights (St. Luke's Youth) are weekly hang out times for the youth, grades 6-12 **every Wednesday in the youth room from 6:30-7:30.** We are currently studying The Apostles Creed. Please come and bring your friends for a fun time of discussion, prayer, snacks (pizza on the second Wednesday of the month!), and hang time. See you there!

Youth Ski Trip to Eldora coming up. Details are still in the works, but please call or email the Rowlands for more information. tamrowland@gmail.com, 215-5070.





*Music at
St. Luke's*

St. Luke's 35th Bach Festival 2012

Sunday, February 12 at 4:00 p.m.

Bach Choral Vespers
Cantata No 78: *Jesu, der du meine Seele*
Commissioned Anthem by Thomas Pavlechko
St. Luke's Parish Choir
St. Paul's Parish Choir
Rocky Mountain Chamber Singers
Free-will offering

Saturday, February 18 at 10:00 a.m.

Organ Masterclass at
Colorado State University
Organ Recital Hall
Dr. Christopher Young
Professor of Organ, Indiana University, Bloomington
Free of charge & open to the public

Sunday, February 19 at 4:00 p.m.

Organ Recital at
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Dr. Christopher Young
Professor of Organ, Indiana University, Bloomington
Free of charge & open to the public

Music at St. Luke's to honor Edward D. Anderson. The Bach Choral Vespers service on Sunday, February 12 at 4:00 will honor the founder of St. Luke's Bach Festival, Ed Anderson. A choral work has been commissioned in Ed's honor by composer, Thomas Pavlechko. A festive reception will follow the service. Former singers and students of Ed's are invited to join in singing the choral portion of Cantata No. 78 *Jesu der du meine seele* with St. Luke's Choir, St. Paul's Choir and The Rocky Mountain Chamber Singers. Attendance at the rehearsal on Saturday, February 11th (9:00-10:00 a.m.) is required. Please contact Tamara if you would like to sing with the choirs for Choral Vespers. 970-493-7512 x 206 or musicdirector@stlukesfc.org. If you would like to make a contribution to *Music at St. Luke's* in honor of Ed you may do so by sending a check to *Music at St. Luke's* 2000 Stover Street Fort Collins, CO 80525. If you are not able to be with us on February 12th and would like to send Ed a card or a note you may send it to St. Luke's
c/o Music at St. Luke's.

St Luke's Search Team and Vestry Selection

If you are interested in serving on the Search Team and/or Vestry please review the expectations and questionnaire that are located at the Transition table in the Narthex. When complete, please leave for Jeff Fryer; Senior Warden, in his mailbox at church. For more information contact Jeff: jrfryer@comcast.net; (970) 206-9274.

The **Search Team** will be charged with reviewing the candidates who are willing to be considered for Rector of St. Luke's and making a recommendation to the Vestry who will make the final selection. This process will take many months. The Vestry will appoint the members of the search team.

The **Vestry** oversees the operation, life and ministry of St. Luke's and will choose it's next Rector. In addition to administration and financial oversight, the Vestry works with the Interim Rector (and new Rector once in place) to determine the vision and direction for the parish, and to oversee all the ministries of the parish. Vestry terms are for three years and members are elected by the parish membership at the annual meeting (January 29, 2012).

Please plan to attend both of these important meetings.

Pre-Annual Meeting Workshop

is scheduled for Monday, January 23rd 2011 at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall.

Annual Meeting

is scheduled for Sunday, January 29th at 9:15 a.m.

Your Staff

Interim Rector--The Rev. Andrew Cooley	493-7512, x.202	interimrector@stlukesfc.org
Deacon--The Rev. Marc Genty	303-994-2030	deacon@stlukesfc.org
Parish Administrator--Deborah Joncas	493-7512, x.200	parishcoordinator@stlukesfc.org
All Publications, Newsletter/Editor, webmaster		
Finance Manager--Peggy Goetz	493-7512, x.203	bookkeeper@stlukesfc.org
Preschool Director--Nancy Singleton	493-7515, x. 207	preschool@stlukesfc.org
Director of Music, Dr. Tamara Schmiege	493-7512, x. 206	musicdirector@stlukefc.org

Your Current Vestry

Senior Warden—Jeff Fryer	206-9274	jrfryer@comcast.net
Jack Moore—Jr. Warden	484-1195	docmoore123@comcast.net
Elizabeth Dyer-Clerk	419-8706	ead80524@gmail.com
Ed Gregori	223-2113	Baxter@frii.com
Lee Hurd	377-1882	lejah@comcast.net
Lynn Leedy	227-1602	Lleedy1662@gmail.com
Annette Lynch	493-5148	alynch@jurisdata.com
Rob Mygatt	223-2019	rmygatt@thegroupinc.com
Jana Parker	225-9926	jrpark@frii
Don Piermattei	568-9047	dlpier@colostate.edu
Connie Vogel	443-8839	conv60@comcast.net

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

2000 Stover Street,
Ft. Collins, CO 80525

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday
8:00 am-4:30 pm

Phone: (970)493-7512
Fax (970)493-7514

Email:
ParishCoordin-
ator@stlukesfc.org
Website:
www.stlukesfc.org

**Prayer for Transition**

Lord, you trace our journeys and our resting-places, and are acquainted with all our ways. Be present with your people at St. Luke's Church and guide Andrew, the search team, the vestry and all who will lead us through our transition. Raise up a faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries. In all things help us to see that you are always with us and calling us to a deeper life in you; all this we pray in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

**A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF ST. LUKE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
2000 Stover Street
Fort Collins, Colorado 80525

Phone: 970-493-7512
Fax: 970-493-7514
Email: parishcoordinator@stlukesfc.org



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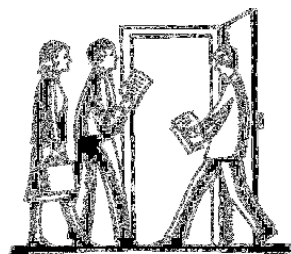
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Lectionary Bible Study with the Rector:

Every Tuesday the Lectionary Bible Study continues at 12Noon in the Library. Fr. Andrew is offering a Bible Study using the lessons appointed for our worship the following Sundays. **Resume 1/10/12**
B.Y.O.Lunch

**"Bridges to Contemplative Living with
Thomas Merton"**

This program is ongoing Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. at St. Luke's. Each session would include about 20 minutes of silent meditation, then some readings from Thomas Merton and other sources, and then a method of engaging with the texts, the silence and each other called "contemplative dialogue." **Resume 1/12/12**