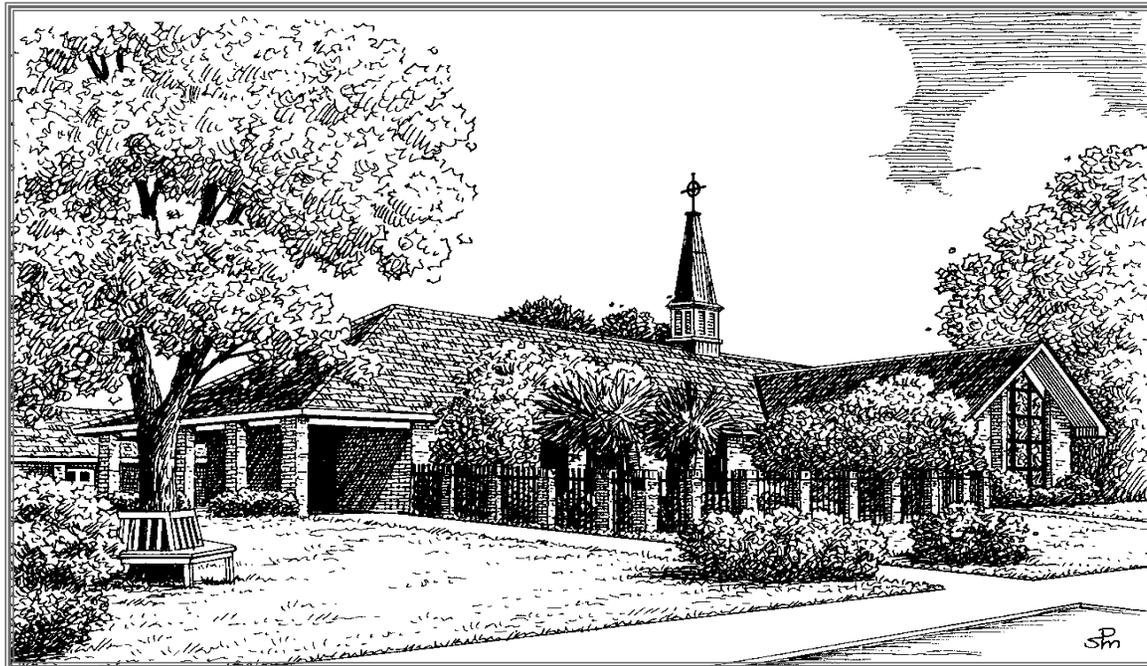




B A T O N R O U G E

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2019



"Saint Luke's is committed to caring for one another, to spiritual growth, and to bringing others closer to God through Jesus Christ."

1. Opening Prayer & Call to Order
2. Opening Remarks
3. Announce Quorum
4. Introduce Current Vestry & Recognize Outgoing Vestry
5. Review Election Procedures & Introduce Vestry Nominees
6. First Ballot (additional ballots to follow if necessary)
7. Oral Reports:
 - ◆ Connie Bradford, Interim Head of School
 - ◆ Wanda Allphin, Treasurer
 - ◆ Lacy Howe, Senior Warden
 - ◆ Fr. Bryan Owen, Rector
8. Other Business/Announcements
9. Closing Prayer & Adjournment

Rector's Report

by Fr. Bryan Owen

“Almighty God ... give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days.” - The Book of Common Prayer

That sentence from “The General Thanksgiving” in the Daily Offices of our Prayer Book reminds us that genuine awareness of God’s mercies overflows in gratitude. That gratitude is expressed, not just in the words we say, but in deeds of service. Truly thankful hearts help us love God and love our neighbors as ourselves.

Looking back over 2018, we have much to be grateful for. And thus much to offer in praise to God in our words and deeds.

Sunday morning worship and weekly Christian formation remain strong. I am grateful for faithful attendance and participation in our Sunday liturgies. And the faithfulness of our Sunday school teachers, VBS volunteers, Bible study leaders, EYC, and EfM participants give us all many reasons to have truly thankful hearts.

Looking at financial stewardship, giving each month has often exceeded the amount budgeted. Many of you have stepped up to the plate and given more. Viewed from a big picture perspective, we still have financial challenges to address. But we are making progress.

I’m particularly grateful for the many ways we have redoubled our outreach efforts in 2018. Our Mission & Outreach Committee has done a wonderful job of offering monthly opportunities for persons of all ages to seek and serve Christ beyond the walls of our church building.

Our welcoming and hospitality efforts continue to bear good fruit. As we become more responsive to newcomers, more of them are choosing to become members of our church. 2018 was a particularly challenging year in the life of our school. After it became clear that we needed a change with the Head of School position, God blessed us beyond measure by bringing Connie Bradford to us. Due to her leadership and the support of the Board of Trustees, the Vestry, and other key stakeholders, there’s a renewed energy and joy among our teachers, staff, students, and parents. The future is bright for our school.

by Fr. Bryan Owen

(cont'd...)

Another welcome change was bringing Fr. Chris Golding on board as Associate Priest. On the job now for about 6 months, his gifts are making a tangible difference in our church and school.

One bittersweet change in 2018 was the decision of Shannon Hannaman and Michael Giles to retire from youth ministry. Shannon has served as Youth Formation Director for 13 years, and Michael has assisted for 10 years. We cannot put into words how thankful we are for their years of service. But even as we mark the ending of their tenure, we are excited to welcome Julia Golding on board as Youth Formation Director for both our church and Trinity Episcopal Church. Exciting opportunities are coming for the youth of our two churches.

Looking ahead, the recent sale of property gives us a renewed opportunity to revisit our building and grounds needs. This will be a primary focus of the Vestry in 2019.

We have many exciting challenges and opportunities awaiting us this year. I am grateful to work with you all in meeting them.

Blessings,



Fr. Bryan Owen

6th Rector of St. Luke's

by Fr. Chris Golding

I so very joyful that the Golding family has been called to Baton Rouge! Everything that 2018 was for us was an affirmation of that call and so we give thanks to God the Trinity for putting us in the right place at the right time. I am most grateful to you, the faith community of St. Luke's Church and School. For your welcome, your hospitality, your generosity, your listening, your feedback, and much more: thanks for being in ministry together.

Much energy in 2018 has been spent settling into a new ministry, new state, new city, and new house, as well as assisting the family in the same. I've been enjoyed spending intentional time across different groups in both the church and the school. There has been lots of sharing of stories, and lots of getting to know one another. This will continue of course for years to come, as I work intentionally to get to be familiar with the history of St. Luke's, the present relationships and ministries, and the future hopes and dreams of God's people here at 8833 Goodwood.

Church side I have been naturally involved in the regular rota of celebrating and preaching at the Sunday Eucharists and on Wednesdays the All-School Chapel Eucharist and the Healing Eucharist. I've assisted with five funerals since arriving. In 2018 I prepared five people for the Sacrament of Baptism during the All-School Chapel in October and three people for Baptism during Sunday services.

Regularly involved in Adult Formation, I serve as the mentor of the Education for Ministry (EfM) group at St. Luke's: an intentional four-year formation program. I attended mentor training for EfM at Sewanee, TN in September. EfM is meeting twenty-five times from August '18 to May '19, reflecting on a set of biblical and theological readings, sharing our Spiritual Autobiographies, and mutually facilitating regular Theological Reflection. I also contribute to the Pope Hall adult forum and work hard to maintain regular theological reading.

School side I have made myself a regular presence at the afternoon carpool and am working to intentionally visit each grade in Religion class during the 2018-19 school year. I'm also working to a program of visiting other grades in their classrooms, building visible relationships with staff, students, and parents. All of this is naturally assisted by ministering and living as a parent at the school and being involved in group sport and other school events. In November I acted as a chaperone to the 7th Grade Camp Allen trip, participating in activities, supporting staff, and co-leading worship songs before supper.

by Fr. Chris Golding

(cont'd...)

As a priest of the Diocese of Louisiana, I attend regular Area Deanery meetings and am part of the Transitions In Progress (TIP) group, designed for newly ordained or new-to-the-diocese clergy. Other events include the pre-Convention meeting in Metairie and Diocesan Convention at St. Martin's Episcopal School. I'm also being intentional about making time to meet one-on-one with clergy of the diocese to build a supportive network of collegial relationships and friendships.

Thank you to St. Luke's for supporting my Continuing Education and self-care. In October I took time for a personal retreat in New York state with the Episcopal Community of the Holy Spirit (CHS) during which I met with my Spiritual Director. That same week I attended a Society of Catholic Priests (SCP) conference on Baptismal Ecclesiology. This conference featured spiritually significant daily worship, while seminars examined the nature of baptism and the way it functions as the missional foundation for our Christian life and faith.

In 2019 I am looking forward to continuing to get to know St. Luke's Church and School, and exploring possibilities for the building of small groups with the young adults and families across our campus. I'm slated as a chaperone for the 8th Grade school trip to Washington D.C. and New York City and will continue to explore deeper school involvement as time goes on. In all things, I am thankful and hopeful and ask for your continued support and prayers.

Epiphany blessings,

The Reverend Christopher P.J. Golding, SCP | Associate Priest

Facilities Report

by Deacon Reese Wiggins

The facilities budget consists of utilities, buildings and grounds maintenance, service contracts, insurance, Tara House property and security. While our budget has been shrinking for several years now, we are still managing to work within our budget constraints, for the most part. We were fortunate to avoid any unusually large maintenance issues during 2018 and that is always welcome.

Planning for a new maintenance organizational structure to better serve St. Luke's Church and School is underway for 2019. Several campus improvement highlights during 2018 included:

- Replacement of drop off canopy at Witter Hall
- Cleaning and painting ceiling beams and all wood trim in Witter Hall
- Replacement of ceiling fans in Witter Hall
- Replacement of four outdated computers in the Church office
- Updated sound system in church
- Updated Wifi from east to west breezeways in Pope Hall building structure
- Replacement of church washing machine
- Replacement of Pope Hall range/oven and dishwasher

Many thanks, as always, to Roy Foster for his dedication and hard work, as well as Robert Johnson, our all around grounds keeper and assistant.

Thank you all for the privilege of serving as your Senior Warden this past year and serving on the Vestry for the past 3 years. **What a year 2018 was for St. Luke's Parish!** We have a new priest, a new head of school, a welcoming & loving parish, and a firm foundation to build for our future.

With the vision of Father Bryan, your Vestry set an aggressive agenda for this past year. At our Vestry retreat, we set five goals for this year. This vision included the following:

Mission and Outreach Committee – The purpose of the committee was for St. Luke's' to look outside our parish for ministry purposes in our community. Here are just a few of the projects we have participated in this year, Habitat for Humanity, Hope Ministries Food Pantry, VOA Detergent bags, Seamans Christmas Bags, St. Vincent de Paul food prep, etc. There have been over 50 volunteers from St. Luke's in the various ministries, not to mention our Thanksgiving and Christmas outreach programs. The committee headed by Lisa Lee and David Palmer plan for us to do at least one outreach program every month.

Endowment Fund – Under Tom Cole's leadership, the Endowment Fund Committee set policy for the committee. We set policy regarding ongoing membership, policies for investing and distribution, providing new bylaws, quarterly fund reviews, review Baton Rouge Area foundation investment criteria & fees, and policy for grants & distributions. Having a clear vision from this committee will enable St. Luke's to thoughtfully provide grants for each of the various funds which will have a significant impact on all our ministries, including by not limited to school scholarships, music, and facility requirements.

Land Sale – We sold the corner lot in February for \$1,224,600 and the net proceeds were set aside in our General Endowment fund to earn interest for this year as we discerned the best use. We also have a second parcel of property under contract, (approximately 2.5 acres for \$700,000) that is scheduled to close in the spring. These combined proceeds will be the foundation the new Vestry uses as they set the vision for 2019.

Associate Priest – Father Bryan along with Deacon Reese held our parish together without the assistance of a 2nd priest for a year. It was the main priority of the Vestry at our retreat to hire a 2nd priest. As we created the budget last year we planned for the 2nd priest, but it was still done on a leap of faith that we would find someone who would fit in and love St. Luke's like we all do. We were very blessed that this actually happened with the addition of Father Christopher Golding. We are fortunate to have Father Chris and his family as part of our parish.

(cont'd...)

Stewardship – One of the Vestry's primary responsibilities is the finances of the parish and each Vestry member committed to be a part of the Stewardship Committee. Under the leadership of David Trusty and Laura Thomas, we focused on setting a written guide to stewardship. Jim Thompson gathered, assembled, and researched our parish giving patterns to better assist us in communicating with our entire parish. One item that did come out of this committee is the need for the parish to understand the importance of pledging. I would like to thank each of you who did pledge and encourage those who have not pledged to do so for this year and the years to come.

After working on these five goals (plus the regular job of the Vestry), I am proud to report that we made great strides in 2018 in accomplishing these goals. Of course, all of this is an ongoing process and I am confident our new Vestry will build upon and expand these programs.

It is an exciting time to be at St. Luke's, and although there is much work to be done, we have a firm foundation for our new Vestry to set a Vision for how next to proceed. I for one am very enthusiastic about the future of St. Luke's.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your Senior Warden and I look forward to working with Father Bryan, Father Chris, Deacon Reese and our new Vestry to continue this exciting time at St. Luke's.

Blessings,
Lacy C. Howe
Senior Warden

by Martha Singletary

It has been a privilege and pleasure to serve as Junior Warden of your Vestry. Thank you for allowing me to serve in this capacity. This Vestry is a wonderful group of people committed to the continued momentum that has begun with our new Associate Priest, Father Golding, and our new interim Head of School, Connie Bradford. This is an exciting time in the life of our church and school. We value and appreciate your continued support in our efforts.

Here at St. Luke's, our attendance has remained steady over the past four years. Our efforts in reaching out to our St. Luke's school families has brought some new young families to our congregation. This is wonderful news, but we still need your help. Please continue to invite your friends and family members that may be looking for a church home to enjoy the fellowship that we have here, both for Sunday services as well as our variety of Sunday School classes.

Your Vestry is committed to the revitalization of the parish and is looking forward to many opportunities in the coming year.

Blessings,

Martha Singletary

Average Sunday Attendance for 2015 – 2018

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
January	285	267	253	292
February	314	270	269	276
March	324	306	296	287
April	340	293	378	364
May	304	268	301	255
June	269	252	252	237
July	244	225	238	227
August	278	262	287	299
September	267	278	273	301
October	248	263	252	283
November	303	304	292	247

by Vee Morrow

Vestry members absent from a vestry meeting are marked with an "X".

2018	Jan.	Annual Retreat	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov	Dec
Owen Cope				X			X		X			X	X
Chuck Duggar													
Rob Hinkle													
Lacy Howe Senior Warden													
Vee Morrow Secretary													
Cade Nichols								X					
David Palmer							X		X				
Martha Singletary Junior Warden			X										
Lynda Stockinger								X				X	X
Mary Tharp							X						
Laura Thomas				X									
David Trusty						X				X			

Vee Morrow
Vestry Secretary

by Wanda Allphin

St. Luke's had a positive 2018. The budget for 2018 projected an operating loss of \$10,713. I'm happy to report that we ended the year with a \$33,811 surplus! Regular envelopes were budgeted to bring in \$771,229. The actual total was \$818,565 --\$47,335 higher than budgeted. A 6% overage! This accounts for our surplus and more. Regular and loose offerings were also over budget by \$2,244.

Staff did an excellent job keeping expenses in line with the budget, even though it required moving around of some funds. In 2018 it was the Father Bryan and Reese show for half the year. Fortunately, we were able to bring in Father Chris and his family this past fall. While there were costs to the move, that was covered by the lack of salary paid in the first half of the year. Unfortunately, several categories had unprojected increases, mostly with software and user fees and insurance.

The Endowment Fund had a major increase due to the sale of 3.75 acres of land, producing a gain on sale over \$810,000. Funds from the sale were used to pay off the remaining \$35,000+ debt that was outstanding. As of September 30, 2018, the Endowment Fund has a value of \$5,157,000.

Because the property debt was paid off, the capital fund netted a surplus. Also, the Tara house, owned by St. Luke's, was rented for a portion of the year rendering \$9,250 in rental income. Several parishioners are still honoring capital campaign pledges, which brought in \$13,990. The balance owed on the Tara house as of December 31, 2018 is \$129,745.

With a positive 2018, **I hope you are not thinking you can cut back on your giving.** The budget for 2019 will certainly need the continued support of our parishioners. Regular envelopes were budgeted for a 2.8% increase, giving small growth in income. Our annual giving campaign for 2019 currently has 143 pledges totaling \$641,458 to regular offering. In 2018, we had 163 pledges for a total of \$630,076. The expenses have gone up over 10%. It was recently brought to our attention that St. Luke's has not had an audit for several years, which is a requirement in the diocesan canons. The diocese has agreed to let us start with an audit of 2017/2018 and continue moving forward. The cost for a two-year audit is \$38,500. The diocese also approved keeping our diocese giving down considerably again for 2019. Health insurance had an increase of almost \$20,000 for 2019. We not only had an increase in the cost, but we also have additional staff on the policy.

So while 2018 was positive, the next couple of years will bring challenges. Personnel, facilities and diocesan giving are our largest expense items and will only continue to grow. This budget does not include funding for new facilities, which are desperately needed. (If you do not believe me, take a walk to the church offices and look at the security of the entrance door.) Our program expense has been stagnant, using money from designated gifts. Staff have not had increases for several years. The diocese expects St. Luke's to get back to proper giving. We must continue to grow our giving to cover operations and enhance programs. If you have not made a pledge for 2019, it's never too late!

St. Luke's Episcopal Church				
Fiscal Year 2018 Actual and Budget				
Fiscal Year 2019 Budget				
	2018	2018	2018	2019
	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget
Operating Accounts				
Regular Envelopes	\$ 771,229	\$ 818,565	\$ 47,336	\$ 841,500
Other Income	\$ 73,920	\$ 72,164	\$ (1,756)	\$ 71,000
Total Income	\$ 845,149	\$ 890,729	\$ 45,580	\$ 912,500
Personnel Expenses	\$ 563,398	\$ 536,881	\$ (26,517)	\$ 607,506
Diocese/Seminary Giving	\$ 47,794	\$ 54,162	\$ 6,368	\$ 53,219
General and Administrative	\$ 30,900	\$ 53,948	\$ 23,048	\$ 73,550
Program Expense	\$ 56,720	\$ 53,803	\$ (2,917)	\$ 52,775
Facilities	\$ 157,050	\$ 158,124	\$ 1,074	\$ 158,500
Total Expenses	\$ 855,862	\$ 856,918	\$ 1,056	\$ 945,550
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ (10,713)	\$ 33,811	\$ 44,524	\$ (33,050)
Capital Funds				
School Building Assessment	\$ 27,900	\$ 28,050		\$ 28,000
Schwing Income/Investment Income	\$ 20,000	\$ 19,508		\$ 18,000
Dividends/Interest	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,027		
Rental		\$ 9,250		
Capital Campaign-Pledges	\$ -	\$ 13,990		
Transfers from endowment	\$ 30,000	\$ -		
Total Capital Revenue	\$ 79,900	\$ 72,825		\$ 46,000
Equipment/Improvements	\$ 25,471	\$ 25,515		\$ 38,400
Property/Land Note-Principle	\$ 45,399			
Property/Land Note-Interest	\$ 9,030	\$ 7,802		\$ 7,600
Total Disbursements	\$ 79,900	\$ 33,317		\$ 46,000
Net Growth in Fund	\$ -	\$ 39,508		\$ -

	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget
Restricted Revenue				
Sale of Land Gain		\$ 810,068		
Market Income/(Loss)		\$ 350,882		
Tara House Interest		\$ 7,421		
Total Receipts		\$ 1,168,371		
Grants		\$ 1,000		
Settlement Costs		\$ 66,197		
Investment Fees		\$ 38,984		
Total Disbursements		\$ 106,181		
Net Growth in Fund		\$ 1,062,190		

Stewardship Report

by Laura Thomas and David Trusty

Our church family has so much to be grateful for, so our Stewardship Committee asked members to pledge this year “with truly thankful hearts.” We asked for parishioners to prayerfully consider how each of you could support the many wonderful missions here at St Luke’s and help us, through those pledges, to reach out to the community and offer a guiding light to all.

We got an early start and had our first meeting in March looking ahead for planning in the year. Our Stewardship Committee was filled with wonderful Parishioners this year and their hard work and great ideas has paid off for St. Luke’s. We worked closely with the church office staff to access the research to better understand the giving patterns in the past and communicated to the past givers as well as those regular attendees that were invited to join the campaign and give.

This year our committee:

- Created a legacy process guide to provide a foundation for future Stewardship committee members to build off the successes of previous years without starting over, helping to insure successful efforts and ideas can be repeated in coming years.
- Reinstated cash envelopes to better assist cash givers in tracking their donations
- Invited representatives of all ages from our Parish family to give us better insight into their giving patterns and ways to improve communication to their age groups
- Provided one message to all parishioners communicated in different ways (Realm, email, texts, signage, letters, calls, newsletter, Facebook, website)

Used weekly Sunday service programs to keep up the message that pledging was much appreciated in the life of our church

Our online efforts grew this year as we saw many new pledges coming from our website and the REALM mobile app. To date we have received 143 pledges for a total of \$641,458.

We are so appreciative of the renewed giving from our parishioners. We have noticed that our congregation is made up of many different age groups in varying stages of life. This year our goal was to communicate to each group in a way that was best received.

Our effort to include the primary mission of our parish, St Luke’s school was closely involved in this year’s stewardship drive capitalizing on the many new families with children that are joining St. Luke’s Church. We look forward to working closely with each of the various ministries in the new year and welcome new pledg-

Endowment Committee Report

by Tom Cole

The Endowment Fund Board was recently re-established to assist St. Luke's Vestry in setting policies for and overseeing the church's endowment funds. The Board consists of a Chairman, the Vestry's Senior Warden, immediate past Senior Warden, and the Treasurer, the Rector, a Board appointed member and a representative from St. Luke's School. The Board is charged with the responsibility for reviewing all facets of the Endowment Funds' investment performance, maintaining detailed records on each fund, and providing recommendations to the Vestry for receiving and distributing endowment funds. The Board held an organizational meeting this past summer and has been holding regular quarterly meetings to carry out these responsibilities.

Currently, St. Luke's has a total of eleven endowment funds, of which 3 are general endowments and 8 are scholarship endowments. These endowments are held and managed by the Baton Rouge Area Foundation in a portfolio combined with many other local private endowments. The Foundation uses two investment managers, J P Morgan Private Bank and Goldman Sachs, and returned gains of 11.75% in 2017 and 2.68% through the third quarter of 2018. These returns compare favorably with the returns of investment portfolios managed by other nationally recognized investment managers and with many of the state's public retirement systems. The Board anticipates receiving the 2018 fourth quarter statements for review sometime in February. We also plan to continue working with our church school to establish reasonable criteria for awarding scholarships to deserving students for the next school year.

Communications

by Anne Craven

At St. Luke's, we use several communication channels to show parishioners and potential parishioners what our church has to offer. We have a strong website, e-newsletter, social media presence, and church bulletins. In addition to our intracongregational communication, we also reach out for coverage from the diocese and local media.

Goals for 2019 include:

including spiritual formation messages more often on social media
sharing brief, informal videos on a more regular basis
increasing size of social media audience
reaching out to surrounding neighborhood civic associations

In 2018 we updated the look of our church bulletin announcements and introduced "Top 5 Things to Know" pew cards. Both of these efforts will hopefully help visitors feel informed and make a great first impression.

Please continue to help us spread the word about the good things happening at St. Luke's by forwarding our e-newsletter; engaging with us on social media; and casually inviting your friends and neighbors to a Sunday service, a Christian Formation class, or one of our special fellowship or outreach events.

I am always open to suggestions and feedback- please be in touch!

Anne Craven
225-772-0570
anne@stlukesbr.org

Top 5 Webpages in 2018 (excluding our homepage)

About Us
Sunday
Our School
Ministries
Clergy

Notes on Facebook

- I monitor the Facebook pages of other local churches. Of the ten that I watch, we rank fifth in audience size. However, our content engagement generally ranks first or second.
- In 2018, we gained about 100 Facebook followers for a total of 553. Other Episcopal church totals for comparison: St. James 853; St. Patrick's Zachary 606; Trinity 464; St. Margaret's 321; St. Francis Denham Springs 296; St. Alban's 256. (FYI: Healing Place 27,000!)

The St. Luke's music team is thankful to serve by contributing to a vibrant and vital worship experience for our church family.

Weekly, our congregation participates in worship by singing hymns and liturgical responses selected to amplify the Scripture lessons of the day. The Family Choir and the Parish Choir each lead in worship by providing anthems that offer additional insight into the Scriptures in Sunday services as well as at weddings, funerals, and memorial services.

We continue to join all of our musical forces for the Fifth Sunday services, Maundy Thursday, and other special events – including elements from various worship styles into the liturgy for those important days.

Both the Family Choir and Parish Choir continue to enjoy the support of section leaders. This on-going arrangement is essential -- not only in strengthening our weekly musical offerings, but also in assisting to educate future church music leaders, as well as broadening the scope of the St. Luke's spiritual community.

At the 9am service, our Family Choir offers blended music styles. 2018 included a song written by our own Jim Sells along with solos from parishioners Carole Tilley, Laura Thomas and Braden Ulmer as well as our professional vocalists, Ransom Woodson, Sharon Delamar & Cody King. The precious "Kids Choir", under the leadership of Celeste DeFrances, continues to grow in number and musicianship. The Kids Choir sings during the service each month and during the 3:00 Christmas Eve service. Allen and Emory Duggar, Michael Giles and Hobson Owen often assist by playing guitar.

The Family Choir welcomes requests from the congregation, many of which are now a part of our standard repertoire. We have grown to 21 members and are constantly on the lookout for new singers. We thank Kelly Root, who graciously volunteers as the sound director for the 9 am service when he is able. Kelly and Mike McLaughlin will be working with the priests and vestry to improve the sound mechanics in the sanctuary during the coming year.

The Parish Choir continues to provide weekly anthem selections selected from the finest sacred choral literature of the past 500 years. Additionally, in 2018, the choir led evening services in the spring and fall that featured works by several contemporary composers including Ola Gjeilo, Morten Lauridson and John Rutter. Generous donations beyond the annual operating budget provided funds for several of these works to be accompanied by instrumental ensembles.

In addition to Woodson, Delmar and King mentioned above, the Parish Choir's work is enhanced by the skills of section leaders Catherine Pletsch Hedges, Ben Thomas, Don Hill and Keith James.

Music Report
by Terry Bowman, Meg Duggar and Leslie McLaughlin

(cont'd...)

We also acknowledge Keilor Kastella's on-going work as our organist/pianist. Keilor's advanced musical skills as well as his humble way of accomplishing all that needs to be done in his role each week have earned him the respect of everyone involved in the St. Luke's music ministry.

Each season of the liturgical year provides new opportunity for worship through music. In 2019, we look forward to continuing to lead the St. Luke's congregation in exploring the musical riches available to us.

Terry Bowman– Meg Duggar– Leslie McLaughlin

by **Connie Bradford**

The St. Luke's Episcopal School is blessed to be a mission of the St. Luke's Episcopal Church. The school tries to adhere to our mission of challenging and nurturing mind, body and spirit while inspiring our students to lead lives of purpose, faith, and integrity in all we do. This statement impacts every decision we make.

Our year has been very exciting. Our curriculum is one of developing respect, patience, leadership and teamwork. We use real life opportunities to develop critical thinking skills, higher order problem solving, and communication skills. The results have been brilliant. Our gifted faculty are creative innovators who motivate and inspire our students to meet our mission.

And we do it well. Our students scored exceptionally well on the ACT Aspire Test. Overall, our students scored in the top 16th percentile in the nation. We understand that our students' future success depends on the education they receive today, that is why St. Luke's School provides the learning opportunities today for their future successes tomorrow.

Our students have stayed busy this year. We have won football championships, had cross country success, and we are now participating in soccer and basketball. Our students participated in the Memory Project, where students drew portraits for children in another country. We had thirty one students qualify for Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP.) We have had Flag Raising Ceremonies where we celebrated events and culminated a Christmas Service Project by collecting gifts for the less fortunate.

St. Luke's is a very special place full of wonderful faculty, staff, students and parents. Our dedicated Board of Trustees and Vestry Board continue to support and further the vision of our school. Together with God's continued blessings, we will continue to grow. May we always honor Him in all that we do.

Connie Bradford,
St. Luke's Interim Head of School

by Becky Williams

This past year has just flown by, and I appreciate all of the support and guidance from each of you with Health Ministries and Pastoral Care...these ministries continue to evolve, and only because of the support and encouragement of all of you.

In 2018, there have been many offerings, and it has been heart-warming to see the differences made in lives of so many...not only parishioners, but also those we come in contact with.

Thanks to the hard work of Ivey Smith, The St. Francis Pet Memorial Garden became a reality! This garden, located at the end of the parking lot, is a resting place for the ashes of beloved pets



The LEV Ministry continues to grow, with Paula Carter, Lynde Ulmer and Sandra Hopson being commissioned as Eucharistic Visitors. Through this ministry, those unable to be present on Sunday receive Communion, and are thus in communion with all of St. Luke's.

The Shawl Ministry continues to bring healing and hope to those needing God's arms around them. Many little red hats were made for the American Heart Association's "Little Hats, Big Hearts" campaign to raise awareness about heart disease...which can also affect children.



Health Ministries & Pastoral Care
by Becky Williams

(cont'd...)

Being the Safeguarding Minister for St. Luke's has been an opportunity to help make our church a safer place for any child that may come our way. How better to love children than to be aware of when they are most vulnerable, and how to help them?

On September 8th, "Embracing the Journey" was offered to the community as well as the Diocese, and one attendee found out about Veterans Benefits for elder care...this provided much relief for her.

This year, as we said "au revoir" to many of our beloved family members, St. Martha's provided comfort by having hostesses for the visitations. Brookie Allphin-Smith has tirelessly led this ministry.

Working together with Fr. Bryan, "Longest Night Service" was offered on December 20th. This service acknowledged the grief and losses that have happened, and allowed these concerns to be lifted up.

In addition to the continued ministries of the Hospital Visitors, Lay Eucharistic Visitors, Shawl Ministry, Stephen Ministries, and St. Martha's Helping Hands, offerings have included flu vaccines, blood pressure screenings, and the "Toilet Papers" in the bathrooms. Personal visits are always a special time.

I look forward to the growth of Health Ministries and Pastoral Care in 2019, and continuing to work closely with our Clergy to provide care for our parish family.

But none of this happens without the support, encouragement and understanding of each of you, and it is truly a blessing to serve at St. Luke's. I am indebted to you all, and especially want to thank the Clergy and fellow staff members who have been of such support and encouragement.

"Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you, and that you may be in health...." 3 John: 2

Faithfully yours,

Becky Williams

by Ashley Danos

Children's Christian Formation

2018 was another fun and meaningful year for the "Kids of the Kingdom." In the spring, we continued our year-long Bible study with a look at the New Testament. In the fall we did a curriculum called "Faith in Action" during which we learned about some heroes and heroines of the Bible, and realized that we have the same super power of FAITH that they did. Attendance averaged around 32 kids each week, which was consistent with the prior semester.

Children's church gives younger kids an opportunity to get an age appropriate lesson during the first half of the church service before joining their families for the second half. Weekly attendance increased to an average of 18 kids towards the end of 2018! We are seeing lots of new faces on Sunday mornings, and the back of church is alive with joyous sounds of children!

St. Luke's traditions held strong in 2018 while we are purposely encouraging more school families to attend parish events. Attendance was up at our annual Easter Egg Hunt, and 70 kids enjoyed VBS this past summer. This number is down from previous years. We will advertise and open online registration earlier this year to hopefully increase attendance. October brought our second annual Trunk or Treat which was lots of fun for an estimated 300 kids and parents who ran games, decorated cars, and trick or treated through the parking lot! We saw more school families this year, and plan to slowly grow this event by starting to include small parts of our wider community.

Our main goal in 2019 is to continue to reach out to school families and invite them to join our church family for fun events and Sunday morning worship. I also want to begin working with Fr. Chris on growing our Family Ministry to address needs of our families with young children and to continue the fun and fellowship around St. Luke's!

Ashley Danos

Youth Christian Formation

by Shannon Hannaman

The 2018 EYC year was full of Christian fellowship, service to others, and spirituality. Junior High and Senior High EYC met approximately three times a month: once for a social event such as lasertag, once for a discussion/activity with a focus on faith, and once for a service project.

During the summer both the Junior High and Senior High EYC went to Houston, Texas to participate in the Christ Church Cathedral urban service experience program. The junior high youth spent three nights and four days giving of themselves in service to the poor. They worked hard and had fun! The senior high youth spent five nights and six days hard at work.

2019 is going to be another great year for EYC! Mrs. Julia Golding is the new youth director. We appreciate your continued support of the EYC program!

Shannon Hannaman

Former Youth Director

by Margie Gaudet

This was a year filled with many good things – almost too many to number. Our Adult Formation year started with programming entitled “Bringing the Kingdom”. We offered three classes that in some way pointed us to the ways in which each of us in our daily lives are called to be bearers of the Kingdom of God. Our “Pope Hall” class looked at an overview of the book of Acts, called “You Will be my Witnesses”, an abbreviated look at the success story of early Christianity. Our “Scoundrels” class looked at ways that we order our days and our lives in order to restore us to our callings as individual Kingdom-bearers, in the class “Finding Balance”. And finally, our Thy Word class did a Kerygma study of “Isaiah, Holy, Holy, Holy”, a study of the messianic prophet who foretold the coming of Jesus to institute His kingdom on earth.

And we had yet another Soup and Salvation series this Lent, marking our 5th year! We spent time with the book by Father Haase, “Lord make me an instrument of your Peace”, remembering that we are, each of us, called to be peacemakers in the world. The soup was just marvelous each week - we even sold a bit to aid in our church outreach ministry!

In May, we eagerly welcomed Fr. Albert Haase to St. Luke’s as a part of our “Clarence C. Pope Lecture Series, with an over-flowing supper and over-flowing company, many not members of our parish family. Fr. Haase was heartwarming, and funny, and very authentic in his story-telling as a witness to Christ. It was a night we’ll not soon forget.

And then, this past fall, our classes fell under the banner of “The Way of Love”, sessions that each in their own way brought us into closer contact with the abundant and life-giving nature of God’s love. Our “Pope” class worked from a book entitled “Yours are the Hands of Christ”, a look at what Jesus’ hands did while he was among us, pointing us to what our hands can do in love and compassion in the world. Our Library class looked at ways of understanding the depth and breadth of God’s love for us, recognizing the daily graces that God gives in a class called, “Gracious Living”. And our Thy Word class looked at the many faces of God through the book, “The Power of God’s Names”.

It’s been a delight to be a part of the joy of learning together, becoming an ever closer family of God here at the church we love, keeping in touch each week as we enjoy the food and the feeling that Vee Morrow and her crew create each week in Pope Hall. The world outside of our doors is surely touched as we grow into our individual and community callings to serve God’s world. Our goal in the coming year is to move forward in our transformations by going backward just a bit – watch for the ways we’ll come to know more about our true identity and how deeply God loves each of us. Please – join us!

In the spring of 2018, St. Luke's formed a new Mission and Outreach Committee. Following our baptismal covenant to "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves", the Mission and Outreach Committee is charged with discerning the parish's call in the community and providing the people of St. Luke's the opportunity to contribute their time, talent and treasure outside the parish.

Under the leadership of co-chairs Lisa Lee and David Palmer, we have established and are maintaining a goal of anywhere from one to three parish outreach activities per month, with projects that are mostly family friendly, allowing participation by all ages.

Some of our new 2018 projects included:

- Assisting the Red Cross with installing free smoke alarms in low-income and at-risk neighborhoods
- Ministering to homeless people on the street by distributing blessing bags
- Building a new home with Habitat for Humanity
- Assembling detergent bags to help low income seniors and veterans wash clothes
- Helping families and seniors struggling with food insecurity at Hope Ministries Food Pantry
- Collecting and distributing Halloween costumes for impoverished children
- Preparing and serving meals to homeless men at the Bishop Ott Men's shelter
- Providing gift cards for disaster affected families in the Carolinas and Florida
- Landscaping and painting at Thrive Academy
- Assembling Christmas boxes for hardworking mariners away from their families during the holidays

Additionally, our long-standing outreach projects continued to thrive, including:

- Our Thanksgiving meal outreach program prepared and delivered enough food to feed over 450-500 people in partnership with Volunteers of America and St. Vincent de Paul
- Through our Christmas Gift Outreach Program, St. Luke's parishioners provided 100 gifts to folks who normally would not receive anything at Christmas
- Our Daily Outreach Walk-in Ministry continues to provide brown bag lunches for visitors in need. We help with canned goods brought to us each week by the children of our school. When funds are available, we help with \$20 of gas, as well as the occasional \$50 assistance with a utility bill.

by Lisa Lee and David Palmer

(cont'd...)

- Our vital partnership with Southeast Ministries continues as it has done for almost 15 years now. Our financial assistance and the steady contribution of food from our school children each week contribute to the success of Southeast Ministries, which assists hundreds in our area throughout the year. Our continued representation on their Board of Directors keeps an eye on the distribution of funds

All of these opportunities are made possible by the incredible generosity of St. Luke's parishioners. Thank you for your faithful stewardship.

Our work in serving our community is just beginning. Stay tuned for many more new and exciting opportunities to get involved in 2019!

Hospitality is not just serving food and greeting people at the door or how you follow up with visitors. Hospitality happens in the context of relationships which are built on caring what is happening with people. Individuals open their hearts and become more accepting. It is through our change of hearts that we become more hospitable. Invite, welcome and connect with other people and strangers to join our St. Luke's family. Invite others to our community events such as Christian Formation, the Lenten series and Fifth Sundays. Using shared meals is an opportunity to enact mission and community. A common table with acceptance and equality teaches us grace.

The Hospitality Guild provides social hours and fellowship opportunities. Many volunteers not only prepare food and assist with the events but welcome parishioners and visitors. This past year included exciting and rewarding activities such as:

- Annual Parish Meeting lunch

- Fifth Sunday lunches

- Lenten suppers

- Monthly Crossroads suppers

- Christian Formation classes

- Receptions for the Bishop's annual visit and confirmations, Easter Vigil, recognition of Sunday School teachers and St. Luke's graduating 8th graders

- Easter Egg hunt

Services of the Hospitality Guild are available to the ministries of St. Luke's. Volunteers are also needed to cook, serve and provide a welcome place for parishioners and visitors. We thank the clergy and staff and dedicated volunteers for their support and encouragement in 2018.

"And whoever welcomes one child in my name welcomes me." Matthew 18:5

by Mary Tharp

Your 2018 Welcoming and Connecting Committee co-chairs Cade Nichols and Mary Tharp and members Ashley Danos, Anne Craven, Lynda Stockinger, Vee Morrow and Bill MacNaughton were quite busy in 2018. With goals of welcoming newcomers on each Sunday and recruiting Sunday greeters and ushers, the Committee was busy with:

- Welcome Dinners on May 6 and October 7
- Fellowship Dinner for Greeters and Ushers on August 21
- Greeters' & Ushers' Training Manual completed in July
- Visitors' Table stocked with St. Luke's window decals, mugs, and information on ministries, clergy, and outreach missions
- Crawfish Boil for Greeters, Ushers, spouses and guests on May 17

The Committee thanks everyone who participated in 2018 in furthering our goals! We are particularly proud of the 50 participating ushers who cover all four services each Sunday, four Sundays a month!

Acts of the Parish

2018

Confirmations/Receptions	0
Transfers Out	13
Transfers In	12
Baptisms	18
Deaths	13
Marriages	01
Average Sunday Attendance	268

Necrology

2018

Requiescat in Pace

Remember thy servant, O Lord, according to the favor which thou bearest unto thy people: and grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of thee, he may go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in thy heavenly Kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ida Newman	02/06/2018
Arthur (Art) Root III	03/05/2018
Janice Harper Collins Hughes	04/04/2018
Carolyn Pratt Perry	04/22/2018
Bush Davidson Joffrion	05/04/2018
Kathy Bowersox	06/12/2018
Rosa Kennedy	08/02/2018
Tyler Alden Johnson	08/21/2018
Charles Bradley	09/06/2018
Jackson (Jack) Ashton, Sr.	10/04/2018
Keith William Schilling	10/23/2018
Joann Shonk	11/03/2018
Elizabeth Hawkins	11/17/2018