



St. Luke's Sentinel

The Parish Paper of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Blue Ridge

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Blue Ridge, Georgia

November/December 2017

Celebrating St. Luke's 30th Anniversary Year

Sixth Annual Men's Conference "best ever"

The Sixth Annual Men's Conference at St. Luke's was one of the best according to many who attended. Held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 13-15, the conference featured presentations by Rev. Dr. Justin Hardin and Mr. Sam Garrison on the theme of "Christianity: What's in it For Me? A Conversation."

The conference started on Friday night with an Evening Prayer service featuring an excellent sermon by our Rector, Fr. Victor Morgan. The Bishop's Dinner followed the service. After dinner, the Rt. Rev. Bishop William Millsap, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Missionary Church, gave an informative talk on the persecution of the Christian church over the ages.

On Saturday, there were two sessions in the morning and two in the evening during which Hardin and Garrison discussed the main theme of the conference. The succinct point of their presentations was that there is everything for you in Christianity if your faith is all about Jesus and rests on God's wisdom and nothing in Christianity for you if your faith is all about you and rests on human wisdom.

Heard receives a gift of stoles

Our scholar in resident, Dcn. Dr. Thomas Heard, received a surprise on Friday, Oct. 13, at the bishops dinner at the Sixth Annual Men's Conference. Bishop William Millsaps presented him stoles for each season of the church year: green for Trinity-tide; white for Easter, Christmas and other high days; red for Pentecost and feast days of martyrs, purple for Lent and Advent, etc.

The stoles were made or collected by Deidra Duncan, a devout lady at Christ Church, Monteagle, Tenn.

A stole is a liturgical vestment consisting of a band of colored cloth about seven and a half to nine feet long and three to four inches wide, whose ends may be straight or may broaden out. The center of the stole is worn around the back of the neck and the two ends hang down parallel to each other in front, either attached to each other or hanging loose.

As a deacon, Heard will wear them draped over one shoulder and connected on the side. When he becomes a priest, he will wear them in the customary way over both shoulders. †



Bishop Millsap's address at the Bishop's Dinner

Garrison's discussion on Saturday afternoon and the afternoon recap session afterward with both Garrison and Hardin centered on how we can present Christianity to emerging generations in light of the great changes that have occurred in culture and technology. Noting that the old days are not going to come back, both speakers emphasized that many of today's youth are finding that the impersonal distractions and amusements of modern life

Continued on next page



Dcn. Thomas Heard, Bishop William Millsaps and Rev. Victor Morgan

Men's Conference continued

are unsatisfying. They suggested that the way to reach these young people and bring them to Christ is through a relational ministry involving personal relationships.

The conference ended on Sunday with two Holy Communion services at which Dr. Hardin preached.

Prominent attendees to the conference were the Rt. Rev. William Millsaps, Christ Church, Monteagle, Tenn.; the Rt. Rev. Edwin Whatley, St. Paul's Church, Tuscaloosa, Ala.; the Rt. Rev. Michael Pease, St. Charles Parish , Dennison, Texas; Rev. Paul Oxner, Christ Church, Monteagle, Tenn.; and Deacon Thad Osborne, Holy Cross Anglican Church, Farragut, Tenn. In total, the conference had 42 attendees from Alabama, Tennessee, Texas and Georgia. There were 54 attendees at the Friday night bishop's dinner.

A special thanks to Roger Johnson for all the work he did to make the conference a success, and thanks to the St. Luke's Men's Group and the Episcopal Church Women for all their help. †

St. Luke's 30th Anniversary Picnic

On Sunday, Oct. 22, following the 10:00 am Morning Prayer service, St. Luke's held a picnic to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the church. Thankfully, the weather cooperated, and about 40 parishioners attended.

Highlights of the picnic were a slideshow of photographs from St. Luke's past, a huge 30th anniversary cake and Fr. Morgan's stories from St. Luke's first 30 years.

Fr. Morgan was given a hearty round of applause for his 30 years of service to the church.

Parishioners attending the picnic from the era when services were held in the old Blue Ridge City Hall were Nancy Goodson, Sonya Burleson, Marge Krutulis, Ann Johnson, Quey Bassett, Dick Gensel, Eileen Kerr and Roger and Ruth Johnson. Those of us who came afterwards owe these "founders" a debt of gratitude for their vision and hard work.

Special thanks to the St. Luke's Men's Group for planning the event and for providing and cooking the hot dogs and hamburgers and to the Episcopal Church Women for providing side dishes and the anniversary cake. Thanks also to Neil McDonald for organizing the picnic and creating the slide show. †



Top: Sam Garrison. Bottom: Gathering for one of the sessions.





FROM THE RECTOR

St. Luke's 30th anniversary parish picnic is now history, and what a great event it was. The food was good as usual, and the time of recollection prior to the meal brought back happy memories for long-time members and greater insight into St. Luke's history for those who came later.

At major intersections such as this we do right to look back and to reflect on God's goodness and faithfulness in the past. But, we dare not get locked into that backward-looking stance. God's future is always out there before beckoning us. Sunrise, not sunset, must be our primary focus.

A favourite Bible passage of our first senior warden Preble Staver was Philippians 3:13, 14: "Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." These words became our guiding star in those early years and were often repeated. They still hold. As God opens doors of new opportunities, let us not be afraid to go through them. Let's continue to be risk-takers for Christ.

What is the mission of the parish church? It is, first and foremost, to worship God, not just any god mind you, not the god of our own imagination, not one made in our own image, but the One who has revealed Himself in the works of hands, in His Word Written and supremely in the Word Made Flesh, Jesus Christ.

Flowing from the parish church's worship comes witness. The physical structure itself does this. It points to the Gospel work in a community done by those in past generations. At the same time, it stands as sentinel for men and women today, directing them upward to God.

But even more important than buildings are people. In the New Testament dispensation, the glory and presence of the God who made heaven and earth does not dwell in temples made with hands, but in Jesus' believing people. You and I, by the power of the Holy Spirit who indwells us, are called to be little points of light in this community. We are to witness to Jesus both in what we say and in the works of our hands.

But for us to be effective witnesses, something more is needed. We must be instructed and equipped. That is another vital function of the parish church. I like what John Killinger says on the subject: Christians are people "who come together like paratroopers for a briefing on Sunday before being dropped behind enemy lines on Monday."

This being the case, let me encourage you make full use of the resources that are provided here at St. Luke's, namely our Christian education classes, our weekly e-publication "This Sunday at St. Luke's" and the Sunday sermon. Concerning the latter, if for any reason you find

yourself unable to attend the service, you can, via St. Luke's listen-again option on our website, access the missed sermon at any time during the following week. Roger Wankel, our faithful webmaster, usually posts recordings on Sunday afternoon.

What is St. Luke's mission? It can be summarized in three words: worship, witness and instruction. We dare not stand idle. There is more work to be done.

I would be remiss if I did not thank Teresa Wankel and members of St. Luke's ECW for having a booth in the Blue Ridge Harvest Sale. Not only did the ECW raise additional revenue for their many good works, members were on hand to greet and provide information about St. Luke's to those visiting the booth. At least one person came along to Sunday service as a result of receiving a personal invitation. †

Dates for November & December

Recurring dates

- Mon through Fri 7:30am **Matins** read
(Matins and Litany on Wed and Fri)
- Mon. 10am **Needlepoint Guild** meets at High Hope.
- Mon. 1:15pm **Knitting Guild** meets in Thomason Hall
- Green Room: Mon Tue Thu Noon—AA (Serenity Group)
Fri 7pm—AA (Blue Ridge Group)
Mon Thu 8pm—AA (Blue Ridge Group))
- Yellow Room: Mon noon—Al-Anon
Mon Tue Thu Sat 7pm —NA
Sun 6pm—Al-Anon

November 2017

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|--------|---|
| SUN 5 | <i>21st Sunday after Trinity.</i> HC – 8:15am; 10am |
| WED 8 | ECW Meeting and Bazaar Workshop – 9:30am |
| FRI 10 | Floors cleaned in Thomason Hall – All day |
| SAT 11 | Floors cleaned in Thomason Hall – All day |
| SUN 12 | <i>22nd Sunday after Trinity.</i> HC – 8:15am; MP – 10am |
| SAT 18 | Safe Driver Course Floors – 9am to 4pm |
| SUN 19 | <i>23rd Sunday after Trinity.</i> HC – 8:15am; MP – 10am
(Remembrance Sunday. Bishop will attend). |
| THU 23 | Thanksgiving |
| SUN 26 | <i>Sunday Next Before Advent.</i> HC – 8:15am; MP – 10am |
| THU 30 | <i>St. Andrew.</i> HC – Noon |

December 2017

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| SAT 2 | ECW Christmas Bazaar (Thomason Hall) – 9am to 3pm |
| SUN 3 | <i>First Sunday in Advent.</i> HC – 8:15am; MP – 10am |
| SUN 10 | <i>Second Sunday in Advent.</i> HC – 8:15am; MP – 10am |
| SAT 16 | Concerts by Candlelight: Carols, Festive Choir and String Quartet – 7pm |
| SUN 17 | <i>Third Sunday in Advent.</i> HC – 8:15am; MP – 10am |
| THU 21 | <i>St. Thomas the Apostle.</i> HC – Noon |
| SUN 24 | <i>Fourth Sunday in Advent (Christmas Eve).</i>
Family Service and HC with Carols. HC – 5pm
Festive Choral Eucharist Candlelight Service – 10pm |
| MON 25 | <i>Christmas Day.</i> HC with Carols – 9 am |
| SUN 31 | <i>First Sunday after Christmas.</i> HC – 8:15am; MP – 10am |



The Ethics and Motivating Ideas for Outreach

by Rev. Ron Wikander

Greetings to all. I write to you at this opportunity in order to express the principals and practices that drive us toward outreach to others.

The subject matter is an outcome of my reading the New Dictionary of Christian Ethics & Pastoral Theology, specifically the article on (Eastern) Orthodox Ethics. The article speaks to each of us that require a justification for our motivation toward helping others. I have enclosed article material in quotes so that the reader will realize where the information came from.

"The Orthodox patristic tradition distinguishes between 'image', understood as the complex of uniquely human characteristics, and 'likeness', understood as the goal towards which humanity is called through divine grace and self determination to grow. The goal of human existence is 'God-like living' often referred to in Orthodox literature as 'divinization' (Greek theosis)."

We are to become "little Christs", which means that our actions should emulate the perfect life of Christ. The idea is to act as if we are Christ so that we may become more like Christ. Rather than think of acting as a form of hypocrisy, we should understand this approach as a mimicry of perfection that will allow our hearts and minds to reflect the good news of the Gospel and the love of God through our actions toward others as we increase in spiritual strength through practice.

"God-likeness as a goal recognizes several important values that are emphasized in Orthodox moral, ethical, and spiritual thought. Chief among these is love; agape and theios eros, understood as both as selfless benevolence for the neighbor – and - interpersonal communion with God, the neighbor and the created world, though the focus is on participation in divine life as the source of all other relationships.

"Related to this supreme virtue of God-likeness are particular virtues such as humility, self-sacrifice, and pa-

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tience. Growth toward God-likeness requires a continuing struggle against evil and sin (agonia and askesis), through practices of spiritual discipline, constant repentance, ongoing sacramental and personal communion with God, and spiritual guidance.

"In practice, the ethical life is manifested in three spheres, all of which interpenetrate and inform each other. In the personal dimension, the deepest forms of divine-human communication that makes possible growth in God-likeness ought to be cultivated. In the ecclesial (relating to the church) dimension, the person finds that ethical living requires the presence of others, particularly

the shared life of the people of God. In the outreach dimension the Christian ethical life is expressed in mission, philanthropy, and social concern."

Let me conclude with these words from Bishop N.T. Wright: "...God builds God's Kingdom. But God ordered His world in such a way that His own work in that world takes place through one of His creatures – the human beings who reflect His image.

That, I believe, is central in the notion of being made in God's image. God intends His wise, creative, loving presence and power to be reflected - imaged if you like - into His world through His human creatures. ... Following the disaster of rebellion and corruption, He has built into the Gospel message the fact that through the work of Jesus, and the power of the Spirit, He equips humans to help in the work of getting the project back on track.

So the objection about us trying to build God's Kingdom by our own efforts, though it seems humble and pious, can actually be a way of hiding from responsibility and keeping one's head down when the boss is looking for volunteers.

"But what we can and must do in the present, if we are obedient to the gospel, if we are following Jesus, and if we are indwelt, energized and directed by the Spirit, is to build for the Kingdom."

That, my friends, is the motivation and purpose for reaching out to others! †



CLASSICS BY CANDLELIGHT

"Carols by Candlelight"

Saturday, December 16, 7:00 pm

**The 4th Annual
Christmas Concert**
**Featuring Choir, String Quartet, Soloists
and Organ**



worship.

Very early on, a consensus developed that the building it should be of Carpenter's Gothic design, so typical of Episcopal churches in rural areas, especially in the South, during the late 19th century.

That dream began to take shape at a vestry meeting held February 13, 1993, when Vestryman Ward Foote nominated five men to serve on a building committee. They included: the Rector, Bill Mundy, Glenn Thoreson, Preble Staver and James R. "Tick" Johnson. By the end of 1993, the Rector was often heard saying, "Let's go in '94."

Despite a consensus that the time to act had come, members differed on whether the services of an architect were needed. Some believed Vestry member Tick Johnson, a draftsman, could draw up suitable plans.

Mr. Johnson eventually did draw up plans, however, in the end, these plans were not used. Even so, a number of the features found in his plans were incorporated in subsequent plans.

Difference of opinion over the size and manner of construction were publicly voiced at a congregational meeting held Sunday, July 24, 1994. Preble Staver chaired the meeting. The meeting became raucous, and all the members of the building committee resigned. The day became known as "Black Sunday."

Following the meeting, Mr. Staver and Mr. Foote resigned from the Vestry, Mr Staver, along with his wife, from the church.

In his letter of resignation, Mr. Foote wrote:

I'd like to suggest that Pat McConnell be considered as my replacement on the Vestry effective with the acceptance of my resignation. On that fateful Sunday when the pillars of the church were shaking and all hell broke loose, Pat stood up and calmed the congregation, for which she should have our everlasting gratitude.

Pat (Mrs. Jere) McConnell was eventually appointed to the Vestry to fill Mr. Foote's term.

The following month a new building committee was appointed. Members of the reconstituted committee were

A Short History of St. Luke's, Part 3

The Middle 90s and the New Millennium: Stepping Out on Faith and Years of Growth and Challenge.

If the early years of the '90s were years of hope, the middle were years of achievement. St. Luke's members continued to raise money and dream of the day when they would have their own house of

Bill Mundy, chairman, George Hedges and Al Vandervelde.

At the recommendation of the building committee, the Vestry signed a contract with T. Michael Little, AIA, CSI, CCS, of Cohutta, Ga., to draw plans for the church. Construction of the church would not begin until December of 1994.

The last service held in the City Hall was on Palm Sunday, April 9, 1995, and the first Sunday service held in the new building was on Easter Day, April 16, 1995.

THAT REMINDS ME: Once church member Chuck Seiler, with a twinkle in his eye, told the Rector, "Don't ever let the membership of the church exceed 50. After 50 you start having problems." Needless to say the Rector did not take Mr. Seiler's recommendation.



Groundbreaking ceremony for the new church

At the end of 1999, St. Luke's, following the lead of many congregations in the Church of England, began a push to get the Gospel out by end of the millennium. To that end, plastic bags with a door hanger were purchased, into which were placed a candle to be lit at midnight on Dec. 31, along with a letter from the Rector (printed in both English and Spanish) and a copy of the Gospel of John.

St. Luke's parishioners, with the help of members of other congregations, in turn, placed these bags on the door of every home in Fannin County. Many positive comments were received from those who received them. With all the secular hype about Y2K in the news, St. Luke's focus on the year 2000 being an anniversary of our Lord proved to be a helpful corrective.

Also during this period, St. Luke's, under the leadership of Senior Warden Dr. Jim Burleson, purchased a new organ. The Johannus digital instrument from the Netherlands replaced the 1950s Hammond that had faithfully served the church for over a decade.

As the 2000s opened, Christian education continued a

Continued on next page

Church History

priority. A Tuesday morning community Bible study lead by Deaconess Earnestine "Gus" Sizemore drew members from a number of local congregations. In addition to books of the Bible, the group also read and discussed J.I. Packer's classic *Knowing God*.

In addition, the Rector did a number of Wednesday evening studies, one of which was on C. S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity*.

In September 2001, British Lewis scholar Michael Ward presented a public lecture and taught several classes at the Fannin County Learning Centre. The Rector took him to the Atlanta airport on Sept. 10, from which he flew to Hillsdale, Mich., where he was to do some additional lectures. Because of the 9-11 crisis, he was in the U.S. a week or more longer than he had planned.

During the late '90s and early 2000, Barbara (Mrs. George) Cary orchestrated yearly Sedar Dinners on the Wednesday in Holy Week. Many from outside of St. Luke's attended. The commentary that went along with the meal showed how the Jewish Passover meal intersected with the Christian Eucharist. These meals ended with Barbara's death from pancreatic cancer on Feb. 27, 2003.

THAT REMINDS ME: Barbara Cary was very fond of me . . . most of the time. Occasionally, she wanted to kill me. One of these times was when I asked her to prepare a Michaelmas Day meal with a goose I had in the freezer. We would have the meal at the church and invite a few others to join us. As the day approached, over 60 had committed to come. Since we had only one goose, I had to go on a "wild goose" chase . . . drive south on Highway 515 stopping at every grocery store buying whatever geese I could find. When she sent her husband George and me to Roses to buy some trussing needles, I ran into others and invited them. When George reported that to Barbara I was still inviting folk, she threw up her hand in mock defeat.

In the late '90s, two men from St. Luke's stepped for-

ward and offered themselves for the ordained ministry, Ronald O. Wikander and Eric A. Ballenger. The vestry recommended both, and the Bishop accepted them as Postulants. The Rector was put in charge of directing their reading for Holy Orders. Both were later ordained.

Following ordination in early 2000s, Mr. Ballenger, an attorney, briefly served a congregation in Canton before he and his wife made the decision to join the Roman Catholic Church.

Mr. Wikander, meanwhile, served a fledgling congregation in Hiwassee during the same period. After the congregation disbanded, he returned to St. Luke's where he continues to serve as assisting clergy, with his focus being on community outreach. In 2010 he completed a distance learning program for ministry at the Nashotah House, an Episcopal seminary in Wisconsin.

During the same period, Dianne (Mrs. Ronald) Wikander began a number of ministries of her own, including coordinating Six-Plus-Two fellowship dinners, leading a knitting guild and sending out birthday cards for the Rector.

THAT REMINDS ME: In 1998 Ron and Dianne went with me to England. While in York, Dianne got tired of Ron and my antics and shooed us out to go to the pub. While in one down by the river that runs through York, Ron confessed that he had a calling to the ordained ministry, which gave rise to my story that he got his 'call' in a pub.

In 2001, at the urging of Pat (Mrs. Jere) McConnell, St. Luke's purchased a ranch house on two lots adjacent to the church. At that time, offices were relocated from the ground floor of the church to the ranch house. The acquisition was not without controversy; however, when a vote was taken at a congregational meeting, only four dissenting votes were received.

Speaking of her efforts to get vestry members and others interested in purchasing the property, Mrs. McConnell said, "There are people in the church who don't speak to me. I just keep on."

To be continued.



**Join the
ECW and
Help Your
Parish**

The Episcopal Church Women are looking for a few good women who are willing to help them work for the good of St. Luke's



Just who the heck are we?

When it comes to St. Luke's, I guess the simple answer to the question is that we are a small parish church in the mountains that uses the 1928 Book of Common Prayer, follows the Continuing Anglican tradition and tries to do the best we can to serve the Lord and our fellow man. At least that's the simple answer I like.

But it seems that nothing is ever simple these days. The complicated answer to the question starts with the fact that St. Luke's is a member of the Episcopal Missionary Church (EMC).

The EMC, in turn, is part of the Continuing Anglican movement. The Continuing Anglican movement encompasses a number of churches from the Anglican tradition that disagree with what they see as deviations from historic Anglicanism on the part of the Church of England and The Episcopal Church in the United States of America (ECUSA), now called The Episcopal Church (TEC).

Continuing Anglican churches claim that they are "continuing" or preserving the Anglican line of apostolic succession as well as historic Anglican belief and practice.

The modern "continuing" movement dates to the 1977 Congress of St. Louis in the United States at which the participating churches rejected the ordination of women and the changes that had been made to ECUSA's Book of Common Prayer. The Continuing churches in the United States still use the 1928 version or prior versions of the Book of Common Prayer for their services.

EMC's founding can be traced in the early 1990s to the protests of members of TEC who were concerned that their church had become massively influenced by secular humanism. Initially, these clergy and laymen formed a voluntary association, the Episcopal Synod of America, to try to change the direction of TEC by working from within it.

When they saw that this approach would not succeed, they formed a new missionary diocese but still attempted to remain within TEC. In 1992 the missionary diocese withdrew from TEC and formed the EMC as a separate church.

The sign outside St. Luke's identifies us as an "Episcopal (Anglican)" church. We are episcopal because we believe that a bishop is the primary ruler of the church and that the bishop's authority follows a line of succession back to the Apostles by the laying on of hands in ordination. That is the original definition of episcopal.

To distinguish themselves from TEC churches, many continuing tradition churches call themselves Anglican. It is in this sense that we identify ourselves as Anglican.

However, there is another, more traditional definition

of Anglican and that is a church that is associated with or that follows the Church of England and is part of the Anglican Communion. The 1930 Lambeth Conference (a periodic conference of bishops associated with the Church of England) described the Anglican Communion as a "fellowship, within the one holy catholic and apostolic church, of those duly constituted dioceses, provinces or regional churches in communion with the see of Canterbury."

This has led to disagreement and confusion over whether the EMC (and St. Luke's) is part of the Anglican Communion. The Church of England takes the position the EMC is not part of the Anglican Communion.

However, many Continuing Anglican churches take a different position. In 2008, a conference of Continuing Anglican churches—the Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON)—was held in Jerusalem. A number of bishops from continuing churches attended including EMC's presiding bishop, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Millsaps. The conference issued the GAFCON Jerusalem Statement which indicated that the Continuing Anglican churches in attendance believe they are still part of the Anglican Communion.

Among other things the statement said, "[w]e cherish our Anglican heritage and the Anglican Communion and have no intention of departing from it," and "[o]ur fellowship is not breaking away from the Anglican Communion." The statement also said that "[w]hile acknowledging the nature of Canterbury as an historic see, we do not accept that Anglican identity is determined necessarily through recognition by the Archbishop of Canterbury."

So it appears that it is an open question whether the EMC and St. Luke's are part of the Anglican Communion.

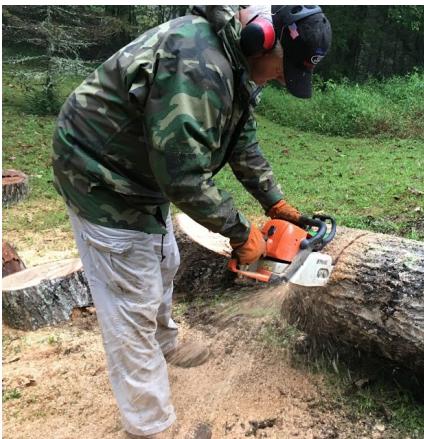
The core beliefs of the EMC are defined by the Constitution of the EMC, the Canons of the EMC and the 39 Articles of Religion contained in the 1928 Book of Common Prayer. The constitution and canons can be found at <http://www.emchome.org/>. A good source for the 39 Article of Religion in modern English is http://archive.churchsociety.org/issues_new/documents/Text_39Articles.pdf.

Having gone through all that, I'm more than happy to stick with the simple answer to the question of who we are—a small parish church in the mountains that uses the 1928 Book of Common Prayer, follows the continuing Anglican tradition and tries to do the best we can to serve the Lord and our fellow man.

Jim Yacavone

Besides everything else, I have a daily burden because of my anxiety about all the churches.

St. Luke's Men's Group: Manly men doing manly things in the service of the Lord



In September, the St. Luke's Men's Group (SLMG) helped a parishioner clear a fallen tree from her property. The split wood was delivered to other parishioners for a winter wood supply.

Thanks to Al Cash, Dewey Cates, Bob Cranor, Pat Dearing, Tony McConnell, Neil McDonald, Fr. Ron Wikander and Jim Yacavone.

You too can be a part of the men's group and do manly things in the Lord's service. Just don't forget the motrin afterwards.



Midnight at the barbecue pit

The Good Samaritans Labor Day Bar-B-Q is a big deal in Blue Ridge, and it takes a lot of work to cook chicken and ribs for the huge crowd of people who attend this annual event.

A four man team from St. Luke's—Fr. Morgan, Fr. Wikander, Neil McDonald and Jim Yacavone—lent a hand to the Good Samaritans by helping to barbecue the meat and stoke the fires on the midnight shift before Labor Day. Fortified by samples of the meat and an occasional nip of the good stuff, the St. Luke's men completed their shift in good order and retired to a well earned rest early on Labor Day morning.

On Saturday, Bob Morgan helped out by serving food at the event.

Good Samaritans of Fannin County is an association of 15 area churches, including St. Luke's, that raises funds to help those in need. †



Upper right: Fr. Morgan and Neil McDonald discuss the finer points of cooking hundreds of pounds of ribs. Right: Fr. Ron puts sauce on the ribs. Left: Fr. Morgan carries coals for the cooking fire. You better listen to him the next time he preaches on the terrors that await you after a life of sin.





Stewardship

by the Rector

With Fall comes St. Luke's annual stewardship appeal for the coming year. Stewardship is more than about money.

It is about the totality of one's life. After we sign on the dotted line as followers of Jesus Christ, stewardship is what follows.

Stewardship is more than about money, but not less. As we think ahead to 2018, allow me to offer you the following thoughts:

1. "If I give nothing -- I cast a vote in favour of closing my parish church.
2. "If I give grudgingly -- I shall find no joy, nor receive blessing of the Lord.
3. "If I give proportionately -- I give something even if, of necessity, mine must be small. (Remember what Jesus said about the widow's mite).
4. "If I give sacrificially -- I shall testify to the high value I place upon Christ and the Church in ministering to the physical and spiritual needs of suffering humanity."

Please reflect on these four "ifs" and pray about

your part in this important matter. If you are able, please consider increasing your pledge so St. Luke's can expand her witness and outreach.

For your convenience, a pledge form for 2018 is included on the back page of this month's *Sentinel*. To assist St. Luke's Vestry in planning, you are encouraged to return your pledge card on or before the First Sunday in Advent, Dec. 1.

Before I close, let me offer a word to those who give faithfully, systematically and sacrificially, but, for whatever reason, choose not to sign a pledge card. Please know that your customary generosity is appreciated and that your choice in this matter is respected.

Finally, no matter what has been accomplished in the past, "There is new work to be done." As a new year approaches, let us resolve to be faithful, beginning each new day with these words from the hymn writer Charles Wesley:

Forth in thy Name, O Lord, I go
My daily labour to pursue;
Thee, only thee, resolved to know,
In all I think, or speak or do.

ECW garage sale a big success

The Episcopal Church Women held their annual garage sale on Friday and Saturday, September 8 and 9. In typical ECW fashion, it was a great success. The money raised by the ECW with projects like these is used to support the church and charitable outreach projects in the community.

We're lucky to have such a group of dedicated and industrious women at St. Luke's. †



Ruth Johnson surveys just a portion of the items collected for sale



Priscilla Cashman and Ruth Johnson



Lauren Burgreen



Lauren Burgreen, Meredith Yacavone and Angie Arscott



Senior Warden's Corner

Oh no! It's time for the annual stewardship campaign! Yes, in a few short weeks the Vestry will start its annual stewardship campaign to ask parishioners to make their annual pledges to St. Luke's.

It is not something we looks forward to. Amid the glory of worshipping our Savior and the contemplation of life eternal, asking the congregation to make pledges to support the church seems so ... commercial. Unfortunately, your financial support is vitally necessary if St. Luke's is going to continue to be a viable community of the faithful serving your religious needs.

I can assure you that the Vestry is parsimonious with your money. I'd go so far as to describe us as penny-pinching, miserly and tightfisted. And we're proud of it. We work hard to make sure that every cent of your support of St. Luke's is spent wisely.

What do we spend your money on? The vast majority of it goes to pay the bills—heat and air, electricity, sewer

and water, maintenance, salaries, the mortgage, copying expenses, office supplies, and the other unavoidable costs of running a church. None of it is spent foolishly.

When all is said and done, there is very little left over after paying the bills. Consider this: In the 2017 budget, after allocating money to pay necessary expenses, only 3.3 percent of our projected income was left for charitable outreach. As Christians obedient to the second great commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves, we should be all about charity and outreach to help others. Thank God for the ECW, the men's group and all the individual parishioners who do so much for others in the parish.

One of our goals is to increase the church's charitable outreach. Not only is it the Christian thing to do but it will increase our visibility in the community and attract people to our church.

Please consider this during our stewardship campaign.

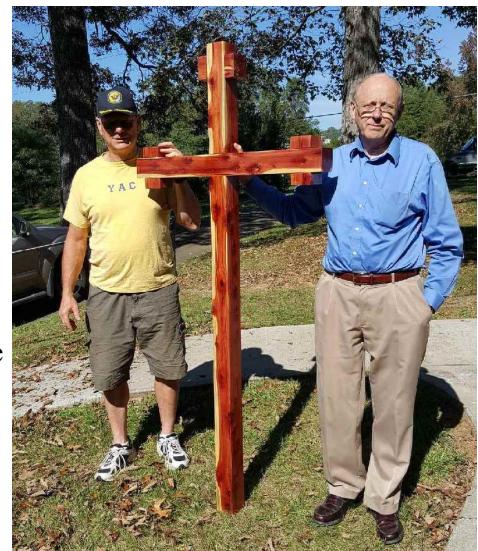
Jim Yacavone

A new cross for St. Luke's

St. Luke's has a new cross on its steeple thanks to the men's group and Neil McDonald.

The old cross needed to be replaced when it was discovered the wood was rotten. The men's group found a local sawmill that could make the new cross out of cedar, a rot resistant wood, and paid for the work. After the cross was made, Neil took it back to his "man cave" and gave it multiple coats of a protective finish.

Pictured are Senior Warden Jim Yacavone and our Rector, the Rev. Victor Morgan, proudly holding the new cross before it was mounted on the church's steeple. †



November and December Birthdays and Anniversaries

November

- 01 John Johnson
- Brad and Lucy Alderman Bradbury**
- 02 Joann Myers
- 03 David Geiger
- 04 Juanita Green
- 05 **Chris and Joanna Kirkpatrick**
- 11 Emily and Doug Jones
- 12 Austin Adams
- 16 Lucy Alderman
- 17 Mary Hanzlick
- 18 **Roger and Teresa Wankel**

21 Mike Brady

Mike and Pat Brady

21 Dan and Joann Myers

22 Jim Langley

23 James Kirkpatrick

24 Neil McDonald

25 **Bob and Zenda Morgan**

Betty Payne

27 Paul Blais

Syl Findley

Joe Webb

28 Rose Brass

Nancy Goodson

30 Rodney Allen

Katie McCormick

December

02 Jim Crews

Kent and Susan Lipham

05 Sally Hess

08 Richard Peck

09 Evelyn Bryant

Emily Jones

Kyree Oneal

11 Wiley and Ellen Grantham

12 Susan Lipham

Jean Allen

14 Victor Morgan

16 Sally Granda

17 Brooke McHan

18 Richard and Mercedes Misinco

19 William Millsaps

Randy Romig

20 **Joe and Susan Brandon**

22 **William and Martha Millsaps**

24 Brad Bradbury

Barbara Norsworthy

27 Judy Evans

28 Stephanie VanCampen

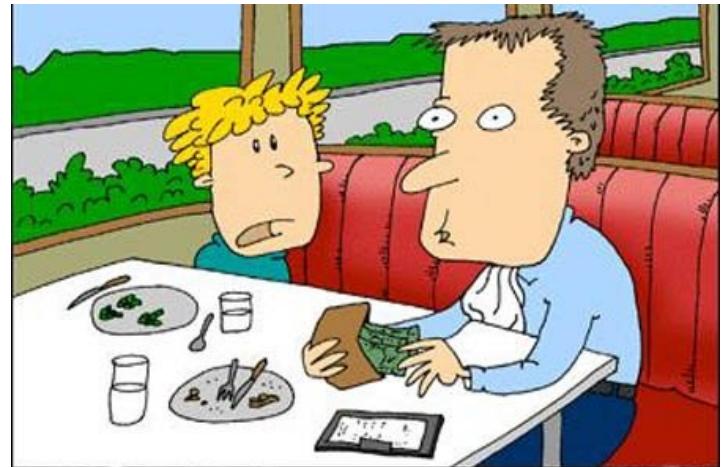


On the lighter side

After church service one Sunday morning, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother, "Mom, I've decided to become a minister when I grow up."

While walking along the sidewalk in front of his church, our minister heard the intoning of a prayer that nearly made his collar wilt. Apparently, his five-year-old son and his playmates had found a dead robin. Feeling that proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box and cotton batting, then dug a hole and made ready for the disposal of the deceased. The minister's son was chosen to say the appropriate prayers and with sonorous dignity intoned his version of what he thought his father always said: "Glory be unto the Faaaather....and unto the Sonnn....and into the hole he gooooes."

A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages. "Mama, look what I found," the boy called out. "What have you got there, dear?" With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he



HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?

answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

"That's okay with us, but what made you decide that?" "Well," said the little boy, "I have to go to church on Sunday anyway, and I figure it will be more fun to stand up and yell, than to sit and listen."

Sentinel Classifieds

Women wanted to help the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) prepare for the Christmas Bazaar. Creativity, artistic talent and experience with handi-

HELP WANTED

crafts helpful but not required. Hours flexible. If interested contact Theresa Wankel at 404-375-6702 or email her at twinkel@tds.net.

Wanted: Church men to join the St. Luke's Men's Group (SLMG) for fellowship and to help parishioners and those in need. Meetings are infrequent. Must be able to have a good time. Carpentry, yard work, electrical and camping experience not required. Contact Neil McDonald at 407-538-7523 or n.mcdonaldiii@gmail.com.

Wanted: Men and women to help distribute food to the needy at the Fannin County Family Connection Food Pantry. Short two hour shift slots available, 10-12 am or 1-3 pm, Monday through Thursday. Contact Jim Yacavone at 727-480-5356 or at jim.yacavone@gmail.com.

Can you sew, crochet or knit? If so, you can help the **St. Luke's Knitting Guild** knit or crochet lap blankets to donate to the local Hospice organization or sew activity blankets for the Hospice memory unit. Contact Meredith Yacavone at 727-492-0837 or meredithyacavone@gmail.com.

Wanted: Donated items for the North Georgia Action Network to improve the quality of life for the low-income, elderly and home-bound populations in

this area. Paper and soap products are especially needed, as well canned foods and baking products, but all items are accepted. Bring items to the church each Sunday.

A sign-up sheet for **Altar flowers** is available in Thomason Hall for 2017. Please sign up for days you wish to commemorate.

AVAILABLE

Pat McConnell has some **leather bound prayer books** and combination prayer/hymnal books for sale. If you are interested, call Pat at 706-632-8443.

Memorial Garden/Cemetery information is available from Pat McConnell at 706-632-8443.

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10

St. Luke's Sentinel

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7 Ewing Street / P.O. Box 1821
Blue Ridge, Georgia 30513

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Please consider showing your support for St. Luke's by making a financial pledge so that we can continue serving the Lord and our community.

I pledge the following amount to the work of Christ through St. Luke's Church for the remainder of 2017

Name _____

Address _____

Amount _____

Weekly _____ Monthly _____ Yearly (Please check the appropriate blank)

"Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7