

THE ANCHOR

THE ANCHOR

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
East Greenwich, Rhode Island

February 2012 at ST. LUKE'S

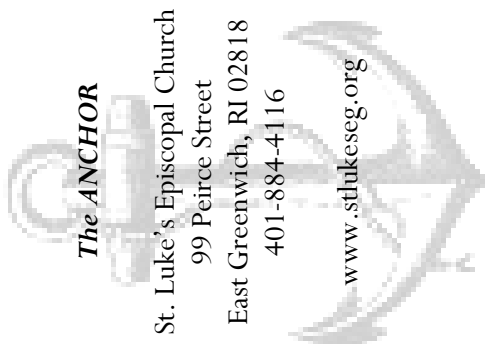
Dear Friends:

Jesus Freak?

That is the title of the new Clergy Forum that will begin at St. Luke's on the first Sunday of February. I have not taken the title solely for its shock value. It is also the title of a new book by Sara Miles who will be the keynote speaker for the Diocesan Convocation coming up in March. We will be using the book as a basis for our series of six classes scheduled at the 9 o'clock hour.

The term "Jesus Freak" emerged as a term to describe the young people committed to the Jesus Movement of the late 60's and early 70's and it took on a more-and-more negative connotation as the years went by. It began to be a way to talk about someone who was an extremist, who just would not stop talking about Jesus, who might scare some people away. (According to bible scholars, this is pretty much the way the word "Christian" came about. In the first generation of the church, the citizens of Antioch kept hearing the followers of Jesus talking about "the Christ" and nicknamed them "Christians".)

The term, then, expresses the thesis of Sara Miles book, which she subtitled "Feeding, Healing, Raising the Dead". She argues that being a follower of Jesus should not be something we are half-hearted about. We are not to be Christians in name only, but to take Jesus with life-challenging seriousness. Here's what Diana Butler Bass has to say about Sara Miles and her book:



**The Mission of St. Luke's Episcopal Church
East Greenwich, RI:**

*To worship and serve God
as we reflect and pass on the Light of Christ*

Interim Rector: The Rev. J. Gregory Prior

Deacon: The Rev. Dorothy L. Brightman (dlbrightman@aol.com)

Deacons Emeriti: The Rev. Hedwig B. Neale (hbneale@aol.com)
The Rev. Edwin F. Hallenbeck (teddeacon@aol.com)

Christian Ed Director: Susan MacDonald (smac5324@aol.com)

Music Director: Priscilla A. Rigg (priscilla.rigg@stlukeseg.org)

Parish Admin: Barbara DeFusco (barbara.defusco@stlukeseg.org)

Nursery/Wedding Coordinator: Karen Simas

Sexton: Steve Yanku

Assistant Sexton: David Rodriguez

Anchor : Barbara DeFusco (barbara.defusco@stlukeseg.org)
Noel Bassett, editor

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays 8 am and 10 am Holy Eucharist

Sunday School: 9 am Gr. 3-12; 10 am preschool-Gr 2

Monday -Thursday 9:10 am Morning Prayer in the Chapel

Tuesdays 10 am Centering Prayer

Tuesdays 12 noon Holy Eucharist & Healing

*Church is open Monday through Friday
for prayer and meditation between 8:30 am and 2 pm*

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 2 pm (September—June)

VESTRY

Senior Warden: Arlene Serdakowski *Junior Warden:* Neal McNamara

Treasurer: Greg deGroot *Clerk:* Julie Gemma

Leslie Gunther, Dave Savage, John Walsh

Jennifer Hague, Heather MacDonald, David Sampson

Linda Potter, David Trimmer, Pam Dresselhouse

ANCHORLINE

ANCHOR FEBRUARY 2012

When Jesus calls, Sara Miles follows him into the beautiful and messy diversity of human life, where people long to be fed, healed, and forgiven, and discovers the vibrancy of Christian faith that often eludes the institutional church. If this is what it means to be a 'Jesus freak,' sign me up!"

It is precisely the “vibrancy of Christian faith that often eludes the institutional church” that I hope we can consider in our clergy forums. Sara Miles believes that being a follower of Jesus today means going about doing in our own world what Jesus did in his. This is a daunting task, but it has the power to transform our lives. Listen to how Sara Miles puts it:

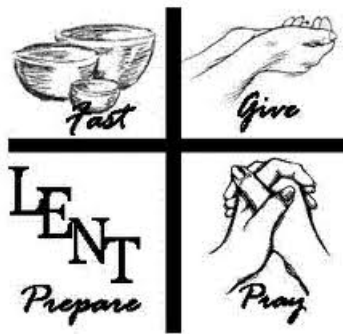
In stories that still have the power to scare us, Jesus tells his disciples to live by the upside-down values of God's kingdom, rather than the fear-driven values of human society Sure it's impossible to feed five thousand people, make a deaf man hear, bring a dead girl to life, as long as you obey human rules. So do it God's way instead , Jesus teaches. Say yes. Jump right in. Come and see. Embrace the wrong people. Don't idolize religion. Have mercy.

One way for us to explore what “saying yes” might mean is to take part in the study and conversations at the Clergy Forum as we examine how Sara Miles responded to Jesus' invitation. We will also consider how our parish is responding, and what this invitation might mean to the ongoing transformation of our personal lives. We hope this can be a time of blessing for us all.

Greg Prior

LOOKING AHEAD...

LENT BEGINS



ASH WEDNESDAY

We will mark the beginning of holy season of Lent with Ash Wednesday services of Holy Eucharist and the Imposition of Ashes on Wednesday February 22nd. Services will be at Noon and 7:30 p.m. You are encouraged to attend church on this day to mark the start of this season. As the prayer book says, "I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word."

Pastoral Care Committee

Do you need a ride to church?
Or to a night function?

If so, please call Peggy Rubel at 884-6594.

We will try to arrange for a parishioner
to pick you up.



CHURCH HUMOR

Our church administrator isn't the only one who makes mistakes
in the bulletin. Check some of these out...

"Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help."

**"The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of
every kind. They may be seen"**

**"The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new
campaign slogan last Sunday:
'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'"**

Property Committee

Property Breakfasts continue on the 3rd Thursday,
February 16 and March 15.

Mark your calendar and plan to join us at 8 am in the
Dining Room. We welcome you!

Rooms are heated; halls are not!

Please turn out the lights and close the doors
when you leave classrooms and meeting rooms.

This will save the church money as well as
electricity and oil!

The doors are fire doors and would help contain a fire.

Sandy and Peggy Rubel (884-6594)

LENTEN PROGRAM

Supper and Study

St. Luke's Lenten Program of supper and study will run on the Wednesdays during Lent beginning February 29th at 6. A simple supper of soup and salad will be served followed with a study and discussion titled Embracing the Prophets--- Confronting Today's "Pharoahs". The study will focus on DVD presentations by Walter Brueggemann, arguably America's leading Old Testament scholar and theologian. He will take us on an exploratory journey through the poetic prophecy of the Hebrew Scripture, identifying cultural contexts, putting a framework to Israel's history, and, most significantly—and at times challengingly --- drawing connections between Israel's sociological, economic and spiritual status and that of America today.

Session 1: Moses, Pharaoh, the Prophets and Us

Session 2: The Prophets as Uncredentialed Purveyors of Covenant

Session 3: Moral Coherence in a World of Power, Money and
Violence

Session 4: The Shrill Rhetoric that Breaks Denial

Session 5: The Grief of Loss as Divine Judgment

Session 6: The Promissory Language that Breaks Despair

For information about obtaining a Participant's Workbook for use with the study sessions, please contact the church office.

Save the dates for Convocation 2012:

Feeding the Hungry

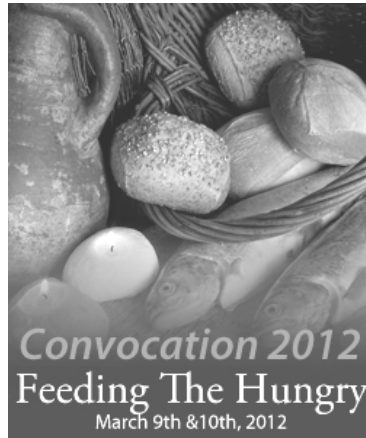
Friday, March 9, 2012, 6:00 pm

St. Luke's, East Greenwich

Holy Eucharist followed by a community supper.

Saturday, March 10, 2012, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm –

Providence Marriott, One Orms Street Providence RI



Feeding the spirit and body through worship, fellowship, and formation. This is an opportunity to worship together in creative and nourishing ways, hear an inspirational keynote address by Sara Miles, and attend workshops to deepen our engagement. Workshop topics include: “A foretaste of the Heavenly Kingdom: Transcendent Worship,” “Radical Kingdom Hospitality,” “Ministry that feeds bodies and strengthens the Body of Christ,” and “The Kids are Hungry: Nourishing the spiritual lives of young people.” Check www.episcopalri.org/convocation for more information and to find registration details, and be sure to mark your calendars so that you can join your brothers and sisters across our Diocese for this important event!

Stewardship Prayer

O God, our creator and giver of all good gifts, we praise you and thank you for the gifts you have bestowed upon us. Nourish our hearts with the spirit of Christian stewardship so that we may share generously and joyfully the gifts we have received. Bless St. Luke's and strengthen our faith and commitment to stewardship. We ask all of this in Jesus' name.

Amen

Respectfully submitted,

Steve McLoughlin



STEWARDSHIP

“All things come of thee O Lord and of thine own have we given thee.”

(1Chronicles: 29: 14b)

The 2011 Stewardship Program was centered on the role that stewardship plays in bringing to life the Goals defined by the parish as part of the profile developed during the search process. The program was based on furthering our understanding of the direct relationship between the good works that we are doing today, our vision of the future and the ability to support these efforts thru stewardship of time, talent and treasure.

Stewardship committee members include Steve McLoughlin (Chair), Ron Clement, Dave Trimmer, Hank Hague, Ruth Batchelor (Vestry Liaison) as well as the support of the entire vestry and volunteers. Their effort made this year's program a pleasure to chair and the main force behind advancing our understanding of Stewardship at St. Luke's. Hank Hague and Dave Trimmer have agreed to co-chair the committee for next year. I am sure that they will continue to receive your continued encouragement and support.

“Thank You” to all that have made your pledge for 2012. We have received 210 pledges totaling \$354,660 to date. This is short of our goal, but still within reach. There are 49 pledges from last year totaling \$45,313 still outstanding. If you have not pledged yet now would be a great time to do so.

Sara Miles is the founder and director of The Food Pantry (www.thefoodpantry.com) and Director of Ministry at St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church in San Francisco

(www.saintgregorys.com). She is the author of *Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion*, and *Jesus Freak: Feeding Healing Raising the Dead*.



OUTREACH IN A NEW YEAR

One of the persisting topics at recent Vestry Meetings has been the issue of Outreach. Is St Luke's known for our outreach activities? Are there enough opportunities – and how do you get involved? Are we setting aside enough money in our parish budget for outreach or does this mostly happen through fund raising and special contributions? Is Outreach something all of us think about and consistently do, or a seasonal and special event like the Giving Tree or our Mission Trips? Is Outreach simply an activity - or - a way of living in a neighborhood and community, with a sharing of our gifts.

All are questions we should be thinking about as we move forward with a new vestry and soon new clergy. To start, I suggest that we think about who – on the outside of the parish walls needs help. What are we doing now? What else – what special gifts of time and energy - can we offer to those in need? Let vestry member Heather MacDonald or me know your ideas and questions.

Deacon Ricky

CLERGY FORUM

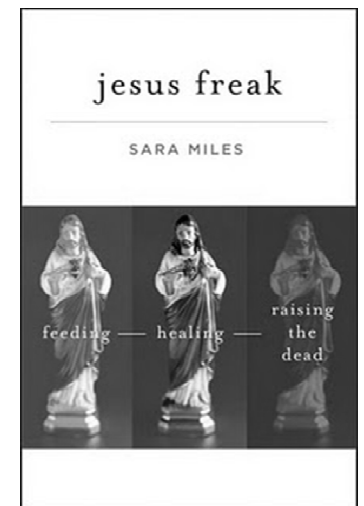
begins

Sunday, February 5th @ 9 am
in the Blackburn Room.

The term „Jesus Freak”, expresses the thesis of Sara Miles book, which she subtitled “Feeding, Healing, Raising the Dead”. She argues that being a follower of Jesus should not be something we are half-hearted about. We are not to be Christians in name only, but to take Jesus with life-challenging seriousness. Here's what Diana Butler Bass has to say about Sara Miles and her book: *When Jesus calls, Sara Miles follows him into the beautiful and messy diversity of human life, where people long to be fed, healed, and forgiven, and discovers the vibrancy of Christian faith that often eludes the institutional church. If this is what it means to be a 'Jesus freak,' sign me up!"*

If you are interested in attending, sign the sign up sheet on the bulletin board across from Fr. Greg's office.

It is never too late to jump in!





A Surprise Honor at Convention's Opening Eucharist

By Ruth Metzger, Diocesan Communications Director

This year's Diocesan Convention Opening Eucharist at St. Luke's in East Greenwich was a very special one in many ways; it was Bishop Wolf's last with us before her retirement in late 2012; the sermon was given in dramatic form by a Christian theatre troupe called "Friends of the Groom", and the Music for worship was lead by the combined Royal Church School of Music (RSCM) Children's Choirs of at least five Rhode Island parishes.

Priscilla Rigg, St. Luke's Organist and Choirmaster for over 45 years, directed the impressive choir and the young voices made for a very meaningful liturgy. It was a special evening for Priscilla Rigg in more ways than one though, there was a surprise waiting for her.

At the end of the liturgy the RSCM choirs processed up to the front of the nave for the service's blessing and dismissal. Then, just before the dismissal Bishop Wolf called Priscilla Rigg down from the organ loft. Priscilla bee lined the aisle full of her usual energy and

exuberance, but without a clue as to what the Bishop had in mind.

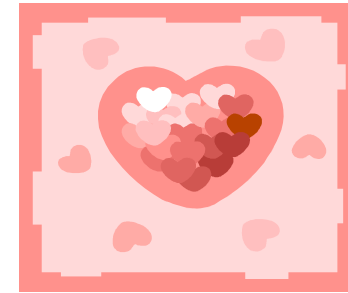
To Priscilla's complete surprise she was then awarded an honorary doctorate of music from the trustees of St. Dunstan's College of Sacred Music, for a lifetime of service. Priscilla stood shocked with face in hands, and as she was robed in her cap and gown. There was an uproarious response from the St. Luke's congregation and the RSCM Choristers who affectionately refer to Priscilla Rigg as "Queen Mom". It was a much deserved award, and a special moment for everyone who has been affected by Priscilla's ministry over the last half century.

It all started when Priscilla Rigg decided she wanted to play the organ at age six. By age twelve she had a regular job playing the organ at an area Baptist Church, as many musicians had left their posts to go off to WWII. She learned as she preformed and eventually went on to study at Rhode Island Conservatory, and many special organ programs in the US and abroad.

Then, forty five years ago Priscilla took on the position of Organist and Choirmaster at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in East Greenwich, where she has been ever since. She coordinated the arrival and installation of their impressive Tracker organ, one of the finest in Rhode Island. She has also been an integral part of the RSCM program in this Diocese, directing the children's choir at St. Luke's, helping many other churches start up the program, and coordinating the RSCM Summer camp program at Salve Regina University in Newport. With 57 choristers, she runs the largest youth choir in Rhode Island.

Priscilla's most impressive attribute however, is her indefatigable energy. She is well known and loved for her ability to get lots of people excited and involved. One of her colleagues, The Rev. Patrick Campbell from St. Paul's Pawtucket says "She is very gracious. I'm amazed at how she is always moving, has vision, such life and great spirit."

At the end of Convention's Opening Eucharist more than one grinning chorister mentioned excitement about this summer's Newport program, where now they can all call Priscilla by her newly promoted title "Doctor Queen Mom".



February News

February 5th

Church School and J2A classes meet
Making Valentine's Cards for Veterans

February 12th

YOUTH SUNDAY
NO CLASSES TODAY

February 19th

Church School Classes and J2A meet
(Presidents' Day Long Week-end)

February 26th

Church School and J2A classes meet
Grades 4-6 making dessert plates for
St. George's Soup Kitchen

**Heartsong
Finding Your Voice
with
Ana Hernandez**

*Saturday, February 18, 2012
St. Luke's Church
9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.*

Ana Hernandez, one of the most talented and amusing musicians in this country, will delight you with her skills on the drums, a variety of instruments and exceptional improvising skills. Everyone over the age of 10 can attend this lively workshop. No singing experience is required, but a good sense of humor is a must!

Registration includes lunch, but please register by February 13th to reserve a place at the table.

*Adults: \$10.00
Youth over 10: \$5.00.*

Brochures for registration are in the office and on display in the Atrium at St Luke's Church.

Invite your friends! Come and enjoy a great day with laughter while making music with Ana Hernandez.

Why not Join a choir in 2012?

St. Luke's Church has a very active choir program with 3 singing choirs and 1 handbell choir. Starting with the Angel Choir, ages 4-7, St. Cecilia Choir, age 8-16, Canterbury Choir, any age and the Jubilate Ringers, a happy ecumenical group will welcome you warmly into the Music Program. Brochures for the Angel, St. Cecilia and Jubilate Ringers is available in the church office. If you have an interest in singing or ringing please contact the Music Office for more information and make a date with Priscilla Rigg to start making music: cell:486-5886

A LENTEN JOURNEY

to

Ground Zero

March 3 & 4, 2012

There are a few seats still available for the trip.

Brochures with full details are available in the church office. We will visit the beautiful new Memorial Gardens and stay in the nearby World Center Hotel. Total cost for the trip is \$222. based on double occupancy. Full payment is due on February 1st.

For questions contact Priscilla Rigg at:
884-2237 or 486-5886.