

THE ANCHOR

THE ANCHOR

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



November 2011 at ST. LUKE'S

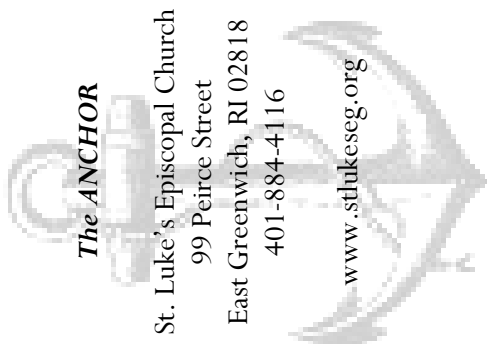
From Fr. John

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

There is so much I need to share with you; I hardly know where to begin. First of all, I want to thank you for making my ordination to the priesthood so beautiful and so joyous, not only for me but for my family and friends, as well. I feel safe to say everyone in the church that night felt the same way.

Everything was beautiful and I could not have been happier. Many of our guests remarked to me about the beauty of our church, the warm friendly people they met, the Jubilate Ringers, the Canterbury and St. Cecilia's Choirs and the music Mrs. Rigg created that moved the Holy Spirit in many hearts to the point of tears, the hospitality of our ushers and greeters, the beauty of our parish hall and the sumptuous buffet we provided. No church does it the way St. Luke's Church does it! I am so grateful for the hard work of everyone who made the ordination and the reception come together so gracefully.

For me personally, this has been a very emotional time. My ordination to the priesthood was the culmination of a lifelong journey beginning when I was about 8 years old. On the Sunday following my ordination, I celebrated my first Eucharist. It was so powerful praying the words of consecration over the bread and wine making them the body and blood of Jesus Christ. What a tremendous privilege God has given me. The emotion and memory I will always carry with me is one of this church making all of these wonderful life changing events possible.



**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 Priest-in-charge: The Rev. John E. Higginbotham
(john.higginbotham@stlukeseg.org)

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: Lisa Johnson *Junior Warden:* Arlene Serdakowski

Treasurer: Greg deGroot *Clerk:* Cindy Fogarty

Baltimore Alvarez, Ruth Batchelor, Jamie Millard

Leslie Gunther, Dave Savage, John Walsh

Jennifer Hague, Heather MacDonald, David Sampson

ANCHORLINE

ANCHOR NOVEMBER 2011

I came to you as a lay person one year ago. In that time I became your assistant to Fr. Greg who has become my mentor, friend and my brother priest. I became a deacon in January of this year and finally made priest on October 18. It has been quite a journey! In my heart, I will always have a warm and loving feeling for all of you and the wonderful role you played in helping to form me as a deacon and priest in this church.

This brings me to the second part of this letter which is very emotional for me, as well. By now, you've heard of the leadership changes for St. Luke's over the upcoming months. In November and December, Fr. Greg will be taking leave from his role as interim rector and I will have the privilege of serving as interim priest-in-charge of our church. Fr. Greg will be an "unofficial" priest associate. What this means is he will be available to me and the church for advice, counsel and to fill in for me, as needed. On Sunday, January 1, Fr. Greg will return to St. Luke's as interim rector for the last phase of the transition process.

Starting, Sunday January 1, I have accepted a call to become priest-in-charge of Holy Trinity Church in Tiverton, Rhode Island. Linda and I will move to Tiverton in what we hope and pray will be a permanent call as rector. As we have shared in the joy of this ordination together, I ask you to share in my joy on the next step in my priestly ministry. I ask for your prayers that I will always be a good and faithful priest and in the words of our prayer in search of a new rector, I ask you to pray for me that I will always boldly proclaim the Gospel, faithfully administer the sacraments and that I will serve this church of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with compassion and love.

THANK YOU!

Faithfully your priest,
Fr. John

WORDS FROM THE WARDEN

Many thanks to all who helped with Fr. John's Ordination. It was beautiful, and the people from the Diocese are impressed with St. Luke's.

Please carefully consider your stewardship to the church. We all are good stewards and need to prayerfully consider how we can help.

Let us all be mindful of the many gifts we have and be thankful for them as we begin the holiday season. Every day is a gift, that is why it is called the present.

Faithfully,
Lisa Johnson
Senior Warden

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

All Saints' Day is Sunday, November 6. This year we invite you to bring in pictures of deceased loved ones to place on the high altar at the rear of the church. You may place them on the altar yourself or ask an usher or one of the clergy to help you before or after a worship service or during the week. We would also like to have the names of any of your deceased loved ones to mention in a special way during the prayers on All Saints Sunday. You may call or email the church office with the names, barbara.defusco@stlukeseg.org—884-4116

Join us at our next
CHRIST COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Monday, November 31st @ 5pm

St. Luke's dining room
99 Peirce Street

Menu

Turkey Tetrazzini
fresh baked Panera bread
salad
desserts
hot & cold beverages

All are invited to the Lord's table

Good food, fellowship & conversation.

Free will offering appreciated.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Perhaps you have someone in your congregation who is sensing a call to lay or ordained ministry. Maybe you have identified what you believe to be a "call" in someone.

if so let them know about the...

**Introductory Session for the 2011-2012
Discernment Process**

For those exploring a call to lay or ordained ministry

Saturday, November 19, 2011, 9:30 – 11:30 am

The Diocesan Resource Center in the Annex,
275 North Main Street, Providence, RI 02903

Any one interested and his/her spouse or partner, and the rector (or in the absence of the rector, the Senior Warden) are invited to attend.

RSVP by Friday, November 4, 2011

to: The Rev. Alcide Barnaby, Jr.+
401-274-4109 or albarnaby@verizon.net

**ELECTIONS FOR ST. LUKE'S VESTRY
JANUARY 2012**

As of January 2012, three members of the Vestry will be completing their two year term. Outgoing members are: Jamie Millard, Balmore Alvarez, and Ruth Batchelor. Also, I will be completing my term as Senior Warden and Arlene Serdakowski will be considered to be Senior Warden. We will need a Junior Warden and a Clerk as well. Cynthia Fogarty will be stepping down after many years of service as Clerk. The Wardens and the Vestry are the governing body of the church and are responsible for managing the affairs of the church.

Qualifying candidates need to worship regularly, be committed to the stewardship of St. Luke's, be a good leader and listener.

Please contact someone on the Nominating Committee (below) if you would like to be considered for election or know someone whom you believe is qualified.

Nominating Committee

Lisa Johnson, Chair, lbj124@verizon.net
Evelyn Brchan, evelynbrchan@stlukeseg.org
Susan MacDonald, smac5329@aol.com
Jamie Millard, jas@msn.com
Jim Rezendes, jimrez@cox.net

St Luke's Stewardship November 2011

**“All things come of thee O Lord
and of thine own have we given thee.”**
(1Chronicles: 29: 14b)

As you read this, St. Luke's will be well into the stewardship program for this year. By now you are seeing pictures of “Stewards Caught in The Act” showing up around the church and had the opportunity to reflect on several truly inspirational sermons and witnesses. During this time of transition we ask that you prayerfully reflect on the Stewardship and Outreach Goals identified as part of the recent self study. All programs at St Luke's are self funded; achieving these goals will only be possible through your commitment and support.

Increase our focus on and participation in outreach

- Strengthen and support our outreach programs, including a cohesive outreach strategy.
- Build awareness of outreach opportunities.
- Grow parishioner participation in outreach ministries.

Deepen stewardship awareness and improve financial condition of the parish

- Increase parish giving by 5% per year – time, talent and treasure.
- Increase stewardship to deepen spiritual awareness and the joy of giving.
- Increase our financial abilities to fund current and future parish needs.
- Promote planned giving and endowments.

GREETERS NEEDED!

We are looking for Greeters for the 10:00 and 8:00 Services. Responsibility would be to greet the parishioners and to answer general information questions. Time responsibility is about once every six weeks for a half hour. If you are interest in this Ministry, please contact Pris Wormwood at 401-556-9058.



Grieving During the Holidays

A workshop facilitated by Odyssey Hospice of Rhode Island,

A GENTIVA® Company

***St. Luke's Church Auditorium
Thursday, November 17 at 7:00 pm***

The holidays can be a painful time as we struggle to balance celebrating with the deep sadness we feel when we have recently lost a loved one. It may be difficult to join in on all the celebrations around us and hard to understand how others can celebrate when we are still in so much pain. The pressure to “get into the spirit of the season” can feel overwhelming.

This workshop provides practical ideas for planning ahead to help weather the flurry of holiday activities and to absorb the love of your well-meaning family and friends, while still honoring your grief and the memory of your loved one.

***Please call the Odyssey office to register
for this FREE workshop.***

***Odyssey Hospice of Rhode Island
401-738-1492***

On Stewardship Sunday (November 13th) completed pledge cards will be presented during the offertory. ***Thank You if you have already submitted your pledge.*** If not, please take a look in your coat pocket, kitchen cabinet or where ever you stowed your pledge card, fill it out, and send it into the office. This will help make following up on open pledges a manageable task.

If you have need additional information or have questions on you please feel free to contact any of the Stewardship Committee members.

Thank you for your support, prayers and pledge.

Stewardship Committee

Steve McLoughlin, Ron Clement,
Dave Trimmer, Hank Hague, Ruth Batchelor



Stewardship Prayer

O God, our creator and giver of all good gifts, we praise you and we 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.

November's Church School & J2A News



November 6th
Church School and J2A classes

November 13
Youth Sunday **no classes today**

November 17th
Potluck Dinner for J2A group 6:00
Litany of Dedication for J2A

November 19
Rite 13 Rehearsal and Luncheon 11:30

November 20
Church School and J2A classes
Rite 13 Ceremony during the 10:00 service.

November 27th
No classes today

Family Advent Wreath Making
Taking place in the auditorium after both services today. Materials and prayers sheets will be provided.
Bring the tradition of Advent into your home.

TRAVEL PRESENTATION

Dear St. Luker's,

Our rescheduled travel presentation with Collette Vacations will be on Saturday, November 26th at 9 am in the Blackburn Room. Come join us, enjoy light refreshments and explore two exciting places: Scotland and the Danube River.

We will learn about Scotland, the highlands and islands and also the legendary military tattoo in Edinburgh. We will also preview a river cruise on the Danube and the famous Christmas Markets in Germany and Vienna.

If you have friends who may be interested in learning about either destination, please feel free to invite them to come as well. Please RSVP at 401-295-0798 or by email at catrez@cox.net. Hope to see you on the 26th.

Cathe Rezendes

PROJECT UNDERCOVER

Girl Scout Troop #277 in East Greenwich is collecting new underwear, socks, diapers and undershirts in support of their annual "Project Undercover" drive. This project helps to provide these essential items to Rhode Island families in need. A collection bin will be outside the office until November 2nd if you would like to make a donation. Thank you!

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Property Breakfasts continue every month, usually on the 3rd Thursday at 8 am in the Dining Room. Please mark November 17 and December 15 on your calendar and plan to join us for food, fellowship and fun along with some property projects and of course a coffee brake! We welcome you.

With cold weather on its way, please help the church conserve energy! Turn out lights when rooms are not in use. Keep classroom doors closed because while the classrooms are heated, the halls are not. In addition the glass doors from the hall into the church need to be kept closed during the winter. We also need leaders to be sure that exterior doors are locked and lights out when leaving the church in the evening.

Please Note: When the exterior doors are locked, people can always leave the building but no one can enter.

Sandy and Peggy Rubel (884-6594)

Music

THANKSGIVING !

On Tuesday October 18th, The Feast of St. Luke, the St. Cecelia Choir and Canterbury Choirs were privileged to sing for Deacon John's ordination to the priesthood. For the St. Cecilia Choristers it was a first time event and I hope a memorable experience for them. Most of the St. Cecilia Choristers have a close relationship with Fr. John, since he has been a faithful substitute teacher in the RSCM classes since he arrived at St. Luke's. St. Luke's and we were all deeply touched to be a part of this momentous occasion for Fr. John. We think he is a keeper!!

To continue the thanksgiving theme I personally am thankful for all the parents and friends who help in many ways to assist with the numerous details of a challenging music program. Currently we have 37 children in the choirs, 23 adult singers and 14 hand-bell ringers who maintain a busy singing and ringing schedule at St. Luke's.

However, it is not easy to maintain a traditional music program amidst the secular demands of this current society. Attendance at church is not always top priority for families and adults, who find it difficult to make a serious commitment to the discipline of such a program. Sad to say, but Sunday morning sporting events often replace the church worship experience for some families.

**ST. LUKES TO HOST
DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

Friday, November 11th at 7 p.m.

For the first time ever the Royal School of Church Music Youth Choirs will provide all the music for this service. Bishop Wolf has especially requested that the youth choirs, who attended the RSCM Summer Training Course in Newport last August, be the only choir to sing for the liturgy. The six youth RSCM choirs participating are: St. Luke's, East Greenwich, St Michael's, Bristol, St. Paul's, Pawtucket, St. Mark's, Warwick and St. Paul's, Wickford. The number of choristers participating will be approximately 60 boys and girls, who will sing in the choir gallery under the shared direction of Priscilla Rigg and Waylon Whitley.

The Episcopal Diocese has been very supportive and encouraging in all programs that help to develop Youth Choirs. They have contributed generously to the annual Youth Choir Evensongs that are held annually in several parishes and also to the Royal School of Music Summer Training Course that began in Newport 2 years ago on the Salve Regina Campus. This Course doubled its registration in the summer of 2011 and drew youth and adult choristers from 8 states. It is fast becoming a very popular and challenging chorister program for everyone!

**Search Committee Anchor Article
November 2011**

We have been meeting almost weekly for the last month, preparing for the process of reviewing candidate packets of information. This packet includes a cover letter, resume and a Ministry Portfolio, somewhat similar to the parish Ministry Portfolio that the Self Study Committee completed for St Luke's. The Ministry Portfolio lists items that would be found in a resume, web links to sermons, and eight questions covering a range of topics; ministry, liturgical style, pastoral care, incorporating others in ministry, leadership. The Committee has started the reviewing process and we will conduct Skype interviews in November.

We ask for your prayers during this search process.

Search Committee Members:

Geo Borgia
Neal McNamara
Donna Pallister
Al Potter
Jim Rezendes
Dave Savage
Meg Stowe
Fran Gammell-Roach, chair
Fran@thechemco.com or 401-595-3007

Women's Prayer Group

*Meetings begin at 7 pm in the Blackburn room
(or a nearby classroom)
Next few meeting dates –
November 7 and 21, December 5 and 19*

Have you been struggling with just how to relate to God?

Do you want to know God better, but just don't know how?

Would you like to join with other women who are looking for support with how to live out our lives as Christian women in the midst of all that life dishes out?

Do you want to try some different ways to connect with God?

Come join our Evening Women's Prayer Group as we try different methods of relating to God attributed to some of the early saints of the church – St. Ignatius, St. Augustine, St. Francis, and St. Thomas.

Come explore and grow together with us on Monday nights.

If you have questions about the group, feel free to call me, Nancy Arnold, at 398-0870.

OPEN INVITATION FOR ALL CHOIRS

St. Luke's has a lively and progressive music program, but we need singers and ringers to keep this program well functioning.

ANGEL CHOIR

STATUS: Currently we have 6 little Angels, the smallest choir ever. They are singing beautifully, but we would enjoy having more boys and girls ages 4-7 to expand this choir. In this choir they learn singing and music fundamentals, which is a great foundation for any later music study. Check the rehearsal and Sunday schedule and bring your little Angel to choir for a musical experience!

ST. CECELIA CHOIR

STATUS: Currently 31 choristers. We lost some senior choristers to college, moves and to the acolyte program. We have room for 9 new choristers. This is a traditional chorister program with emphasis on singing, music fundamentals and a Christian Education component that compliments all the music activities. Each chorister learns respect for the worship and the discipline of music study, which is an invaluable tool for further education. Entrance at this time is by conference with the Music Director, Priscilla Rigg to ascertain each chorister's music abilities and skills. This will help each new chorister adjust to the choir schedule more easily. Contact the Music Director, Priscilla Rigg, via the Church Office or cell: 486-5886 for an appointment.

CANTERBURY CHOIR

STATUS: Currently 23 singers. Without a doubt this is a friendly and jovial choir that will enliven the end of your day on Thursdays. However, we have very few altos, which make it difficult to sing in 4 part harmony. Many of the adult choristers are busy professionals, so we work around their travel and harried schedules. We have a serious problem planning good choral music for all the holidays with a lack of voices in each section. If you have thought about joining the adult choir please do not hesitate to make time in your schedule to come and sing with us. We will lighten your day!!!!

JUBILATE RINGERS

STATUS: Currently 14 regular handbell ringers. We welcome anyone who would enjoy learning the art of handbell ringing. It will help if you have some music skills, but we can also teach you all the basics. Handbell ringing is an art which enhances our worship and keeps alive the wonderful ringing skills that we inherited from the Middle Ages. The Jubilate Ringers come from all over the state and represent many churches. They are a delightful Choir and there is much fun in all the rehearsals, but you do need some muscles to lift those bells.

I hope you will give some thought to joining a choir and enjoy the fun of making music in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

WE NEED YOU!!!

ST. LUKE'S GIVING TREE

This year St Luke's will continue the tradition of sponsor a Giving Tree project beginning the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Parishioners will have the opportunity to provide holiday gifts for some of our neighbors in need. You can help in three ways:

- 1) buy a requested gift
- 2) give a gift certificate through the church
- 3) make a check donation to St. Luke's with Giving Tree designated on the notation line

More details will be forthcoming in the December Anchor and on tags on Christmas trees in the Atrium and on the bulletin board at the end of the hall. We appreciate everyone's help and generosity.

Peggy Rubel (884-6594) and Kathy Denny-Brown (885-1392)

