

St. Luke's Parish *Epistle* February 2008 Bladensburg, Maryland

A Message from the Rector

My Dear Brothers and Sisters:

ON FEBRUARY 13TH VICKEY AND I WILL BE celebrating the second anniversary of our arrival at St. Luke's. The time has gone by quickly, yet it feels as though we have known all of you much longer. Over the past two years much has been accomplished, and yet there is so much more to do. In Jesus' name we hope and pray this year will be as fruitful as the past two.

We need to grow in our love of Jesus Christ our Lord; we need to grow understanding of the faith; we need to be more faithful in our attendance and in our giving. We have witnessed such growth already, but there is always a need to grow more. I want to encourage you to become fully committed and entrenched in the life of St. Luke's.

We are blessed at St. Luke's. We are truly a family, and this closeness has united us into one mind and one spirit. As Anglicans tough times await, but we will get through in Jesus' name. St. Luke's is a place of refreshment and peace from all the unbiblical and untraditional teachings of the Episcopal Church. It is a place where God is worshiped in the beauty of holiness. It is

a place where we are set free to worship God, in the faith of the saints. As the leader of this family I will see to it that St. Luke's remains in the fold of the historic faith. And I will try, by God's grace, to be a good father.



are most excited to be with you and we are still excited to see what God is going to do in this our home.

Many times during the mass on Sunday mornings I feel as though I am transported from the altar to the gates of heaven; I pray that during our time together we all will be lifted up into his heavenly presence, feel the touch of God, and be changed forever.

Mark⁺

Matthew 4:1-11

Men's Fellowship Meeting

The Men's Fellowship is scheduled to meet the second Saturday of every month. We will begin these meetings on March 8th. The goals of the Men's Fellowship are:

- To become the spiritual heads of the parish and our families.
- To have fellowship.
- To support one another.
- To be in prayer for the needs of the parish.
- To grow in Christ.

By-Law Changes to be Considered

ACCORDING to our Parish by-laws, (Article VII), the By-Laws can be amended, modified or repealed at any Annual Parish Meeting by a two-thirds majority vote (Sec. I). In keeping with (Sec. II), written notice was sent to all qualified voters of the Parish in December, at least thirty days prior to the scheduled annual meeting.

Therefore, the following are By-Laws, with proposed changes, which will be considered and voted on at our Annual Parish Meeting on February 3.

Bible Study

Our weekly Bible Study has resumed. We are studying the Gospel of Mark. Our Bible Studies are very interactive. If you are interested in learning the Bible, if you are interested in learning the faith, if you desire to have fellowship, the Thursday night Bible Study class is the place for you. The evening begins with the weekly mass at 6:30PM, followed by a light dinner, (provided by those attending - taking turns), and followed by Bible Study at 7:30PM. Come join us!

Anglicans for Life

St. Luke's Parish is organizing, under the leadership of Mr. Gary Schenk, a chapter of Anglican's for Life. This organization promotes the right for the unborn. This is a worthy cause, and is deserving of your membership. Please speak to Gary for more information.

Upcoming Events

February 2: The Presentation of Our Lord

This is a major Feast Day in which we celebrate Jesus being brought into the Temple to be dedicated to God. According to Exodus 13: 2, 22-29, every firstborn male had to be dedicated to God in memory of the Israelites' deliverance from Egypt.

February 3: The Annual Parish Meeting

There will be only one Mass on this Sunday. The mass will begin at 9:00AM followed by a Pot Luck brunch. The snow date is March 9.

February 5: Shrove Tuesday.

All you can eat pancakes, eggs, sausage and bacon will be served from 7:00PM -8:30PM. Come join the fun.

February 6: Ash Wednesday.

The Liturgy for Ash Wednesday is celebrated at 6:30AM, 12:00 noon and 7:00PM.



February 16: Requiem Mass.

This month's requiem was moved to this date due to scheduling conflicts. Please submit the name of loved ones you wish to have remembered at this mass.



To Aid Homeless Children...

**ST. LUKE'S
Parish
SINGERS**

Presents

Francis Poulenc's

“GLORIA”

Oratorio for Soprano Soloist, Chorus & Orchestra

featuring

World Renown Soprano
Carmen Balthrop

with internationally acclaimed musicians

**Bixia Wu, Soprano Tao-Chan Yu, Violin
Lukasz Szyrner, Cello**

March 16, 2008 at 5:00PM

**St. Luke's Parish
4002 53rd Street, Bladensburg, MD 20710
Tel: 301-927-6466**

Lenten Supper to follow. Admission and reception are FREE

Donations accepted for homeless children

Treasurer's Report December 2007

As you can see, December's operating income is less than we need to keep our church going. We depend on your pledges; please honor your pledges.

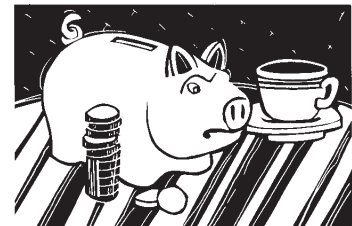
	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Operating Income	\$168,653	\$ 229,300
Improvement Funds	11,085	11,060
Outreach	25,737	3,600
Wish List	<u>15,748</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Income	\$221,223	\$243,960
Operating Expenses	225,088	228,962
Outreach Expense	21,909	8,000
Wish List	19,387	0
Renovation Nazereth House	<u>404</u>	<u>7,000</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>\$ (45,565)</u>	<u>\$ (2)</u>
Exxon Proceeds	<u>34,130</u>	
Duckett Fund	<u>5,000</u>	

<u>Wish List</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Gain (Loss)</u>
Chapel Curtain	0	2,266	(2,266)

Yours in Christ,
Karen King

Raffle Winners:

- 1,000 Sonia Ayala
- 300 Leslie Everhart– *Donated back to St. Luke's*
- 100 Carmen Delaney
- 50 Mr. Driscoll–*Donated to choir member for travel*
- 50 Kathie Frankie–*Donated back to St. Luke's*



**Reminder: Please submit your pledges.
The Finance Committee needs our collective pledges
to meet the financial needs of the church**

What Stewardship Means to Me

For me, stewardship has always been what it was taught to me as a boy in the acolyte guild those many years ago at St. Thomas Church in Monrovia, Liberia, my home town. It is a commitment of time, talent and treasure to the church, Stewardship covers all our possessions, skills, wealth, time and the environment in which we live. It is to be exemplified by how I live as a disciple of Christ and use all my resources; it should also be how I relate to my parish. While I know what the elements of stewardship comprise, it is yet unclear to me how they go together proportionally to enable a good steward to meet their duty of stewardship.

But what is clear and unequivocal to me is the essential duty that we must commit to support our church; it must be an important part of our obligations. The extent

of the support remains a personal decision, but nonetheless, its viability is predicated on being a spiritual decision. Stewardship must reflect our relationship to God, and as in all things connected to our relationship to God, I (and many of us) fall short. It is a continuous spiritual journey.

Our stewardship therefore has to be formed in prayer; it is the only means of promoting effective and faith-based Christian stewardship. Each of us is called to be a good steward of the gifts that God has entrusted to our care. We are called to be good stewards, to thank God by giving back a portion of what God has given to us. This is a duty from which we can never be relieved; it is a life long obligation.

Mohamedu Jones, *Vestry Member*

Continued on page 5

I was born and raised in El Salvador, the smallest country in Central America. My mother taught me the doctrine of the Catholic Church where I was baptized. From there I kept on growing and my faith toward our Lord began to grow.

As a Christian, I have attended different types of spiritual retreats. From Youth retreats in 1984, to marriage retreats in 1990, and Cursillos in 1992. From there I served as a leader in Cursillos for three years. In 2000, my family and I arrived in North America. In 2001, we moved to Bladensburg, Maryland, and visited St. Luke's Parish for the first time. It was only a matter of time before I started working with the Hispanic Congregation. It was then that we started to get closer to the Anglican Family. My family and I started feeling like we were home. The language difference did not matter when we decided to attend the Anglican Services at 10 AM. We felt the love from everyone since the first day. And, up

Disciplines of True Fasting

True fasting can be a means of feasting. Fasting can be a time when you could:

Fast from judging others;
Feast on Christ dwelling in them.

Fast from apparent darkness;
Feast on reality of light.

Fast on emphasis of differences;
Feast on unity of life.

Fast from pessimism;
Feast on optimism.

Fast from thoughts of illness;
Feast on the healing power of God.

Fast from words that pollute;
Feast on phrases that purify.

Fast from anger;
Feast on patience.

Fast from discontent and jealousy;
Feast on gratitude.

Fast from negative thoughts and speech;
Feast on the love that God has for us.

Fast from worry;
Feast on Divine Providence.

Fast from unrelenting pressure;
Feast on unceasing prayer.

Fast from complaining;
Feast on appreciation.

Fast from hostility;
Feast on obedience.

Fast from bitterness;
Feast on forgiveness.

Fast from anxiety;
Feast on hope.

Fast from yourself;
Feast on a silent heart.



to now we feel that the love has grown even more. I have learned that God has guided me through the right path. For the past two years, working as a vestry member and serving the Parish, God's blessings have been uncountable. Working on the buildings and grounds, planning major projects, and serving in any way I can, my stewardship has been transformed in many ways. Reaching out to the community is my main goal, and as a leader I would like to see everyone work for the service of God— and the proclamation of his word. This is a command from God that everyone goes through the world proclaiming his glory. Preaching his word, helping in the Parish and helping in the community are ways for everyone to put their Stewardship into practice and become closer to God and his Kingdom.

Elenilson Ayala,
Vestry Member

Pray Without Ceasing

Please remember to pray for our sick:

Pearl Edwards,

Edwin Freeman Sr.,

Bill Kendall,

Larry Maske,

Charles and Therese Sommerkamp,

Chet and Espie Stewart,

Millie Burgstesser

Sheila Taliaferro,

Auburn Traycik,

Ovetta Williams,

Bishop Ackerman,

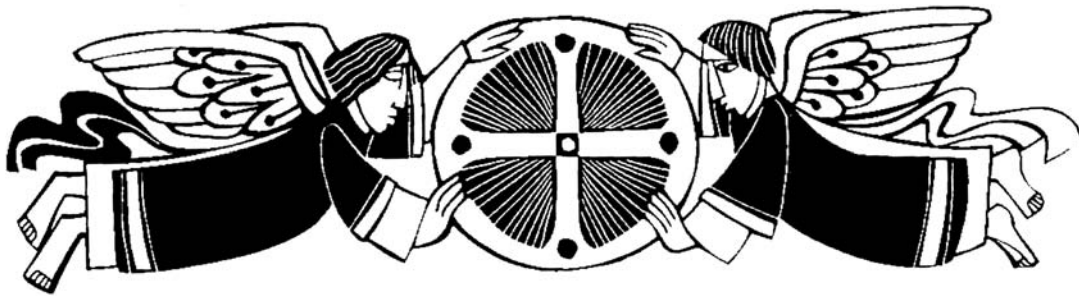
*and all others who are in
trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity.*

If you learn of any person whom you would like added to this prayer list, please contact Gloria Deigh, tel: 240-687-1647 or email glo4christ@hotmail.com so that these people's names can be included in the next issue of The Epistle or the Sunday Bulletin.



St. Luke's has a monthly Requiem Mass. A Requiem Mass is a Mass said in remembrance of those loved ones who have passed on into the nearer presence of Jesus. Usually one remembers a loved one in the month in which they were born, died or on their birthday. The Requiem Mass is held on the second Saturday of each month. Please give Fr.

Lewis a list of loved ones you wish to have remembered prior to the date of the Requiem in which you want them to be remembered.



Choir DVDs Now on Sale

If you could not attend last year's Christmas or Easter concerts, or if you did attend and enjoyed them so much you wish you could hear them again, there is good news. DVDs of the Christmas and Easter concerts can now be purchased for \$10 each, or at the special price of \$15 for both. These DVDs would make great gifts. Don't miss out; we have limited amounts to offer. You may purchase your DVD at the church office.

2008 Memorials

Candy Mitchell, the coordinator of memorials, reminds us that:

The Memorial Book at the back of the church is now available for next year's requests for flowers, candles & lights.

Ms. Mitchell can be contacted at 240-681-3307.

Memorial items are as follows:

Altar candles
per month \$20

Sanctuary lamp
per week \$3

Bread & wine
per week \$3

Torches
per week \$2

Votive
per week \$2

Flowers
per week \$20



February 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
					Bridget 12:00 NOON MASS	The Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple
3 Last Sunday after the Epiphany	4 Cornelius the Centurion	5 Martyrs of Japan	6 - The First Day of Lent ASH WEDNESDAY	7	8	9
9:00 AM Combined Solemn High Mass Pot Luck Brunch & Annual Parish Meeting		10:00 AM Mass with Unction 7:00-8:30 PM Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	6:30 AM Mass 12:00PM Mass 7:00 PM Mass	6:30 PM Mass 7:30 PM Bible Study- Book club	12:00 PM Mass	
10 1st Sunday in Lent	11	12	13 Absalom Jones	14 Cyril & Methodus	15 Thomas Bray	16 Requiem Mass
8:00 AM Low Mass 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Solemn High Mass 12:00 PM Hispanic Mass		10:00 AM Mass with Unction	7:00 AM Mass 6:30 PM Stations of the Cross & Benediction 7:00 PM Pot Luck & Lenten Study	6:30 PM Mass 7:30 PM Bible Study- Book club	12:00 PM Mass	10:00 AM Requiem Mass 11:00 AM SHARE
17 2nd Sunday in Lent	18 Martin Luther	19	20	21	22	23 Polycarp
8:00 AM Low Mass 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Solemn High Mass 12:00 PM Hispanic Mass	7:30 PM Vestry Parish Hall	10:00 AM Mass with Unction	7:00 AM Mass 6:30 PM Stations of the Cross & Benediction 7:00 PM Pot Luck & Lenten Study March Epistle Deadline	6:30 PM Mass 7:30 PM Bible Study- Book club	12:00 PM Mass	
24 3rd Sunday in Lent	25 St. Mathias the Apostle (Trans.)	26	27 George Herbert	28	29	30
8:00 AM Low Mass 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Solemn High Mass 12:00 PM Hispanic Mass		10:00 AM Mass with Unction	7:00 AM Mass 6:30 PM Stations of the Cross & Benediction 7:00 PM Pot Luck & Lenten Study	6:30 PM Mass 7:30 PM Bible Study- Book club	12:00 PM Mass	

Upcoming Event

St. Luke's Parish Singers presents Francis Poulenc's "Gloria"
Oratorio for Soprano Soloist, Chorus and Chamber Orchestra
on Palm Sunday, March 16th, at 5:00 PM



St. Luke's Epistle email address:

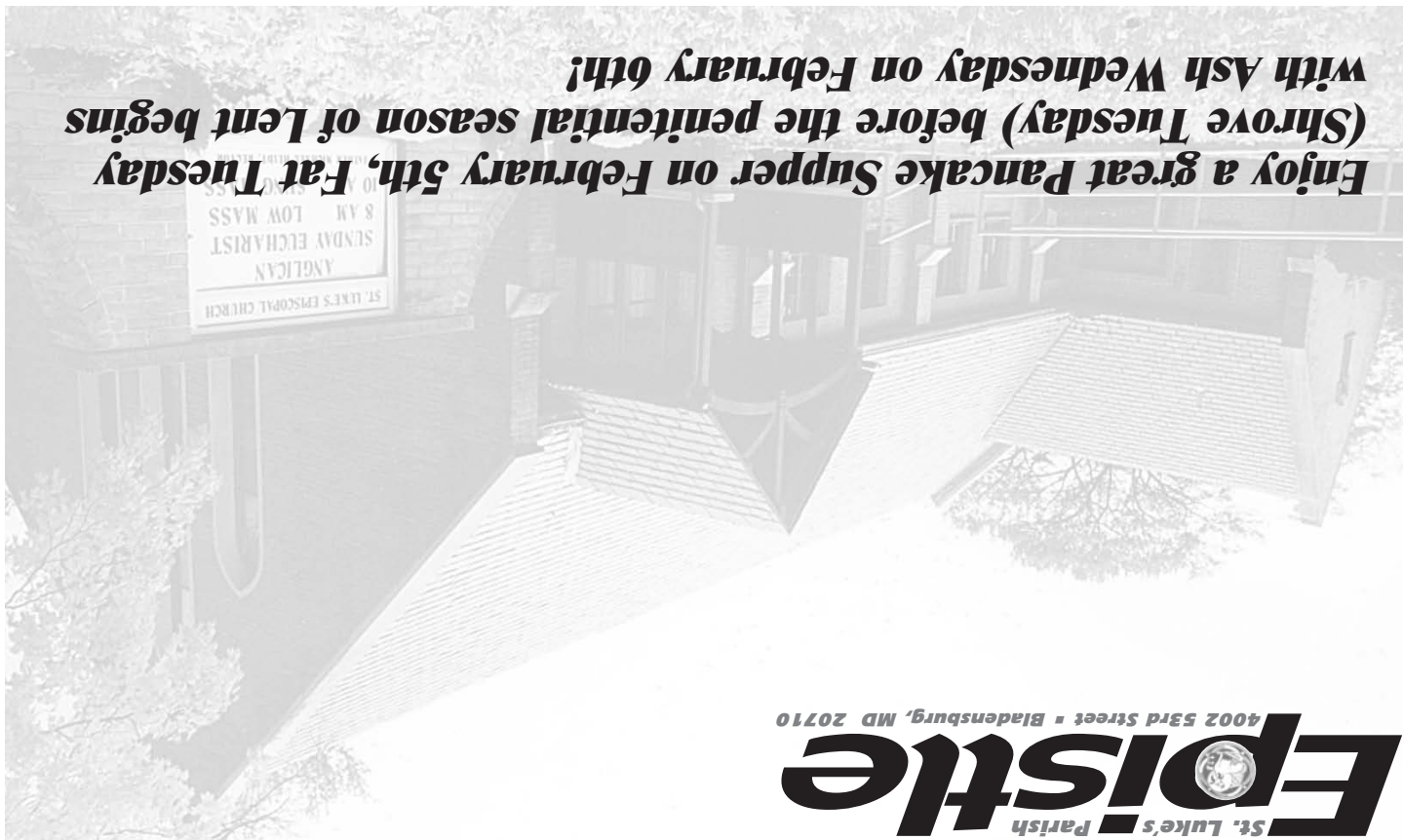
epistle@stlukesparish-bladensburg.org.

Editor, Ada Okafor, **Graphic Designer, Pre-press**, Espie Stewart • **website:** www.stlukesparish-bladensburg.org/htm

St. Luke's is a traditional Anglican church in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington

4002 53rd Street, Bladensburg, MD 20710 • 301.927.6466

**Enjoy a great Pancake Supper on February 5th, Fat Tuesday
(Shrove Tuesday) before the penitential season of Lent begins
with Ash Wednesday on February 6th!**



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4002 53rd Street • Bladensburg, MD 20710

ST. LUKE'S Parish

Bladensburg, Maryland

**An Anglo-Catholic Parish
in the Diocese of Washington**