

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



A Message from the Rector

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

NOVEMBER IS HERE. I can hardly believe we are coming to the close of another calendar year, and liturgical year with Advent beginning Nov. 30th. Yet, I am glad to do so. I have had enough of the political posturing, debating and mud slinging that takes place during election years. I am particularly fed up with the accusations I hear from people condemning others for not being American or patriotic - because they do not believe or support the same positions we hold dear. In addition, we Christians have been dragged into this debate by being told we are unchristian, or at the very least, acting unchristian if we do not support a particular point of view.

There is no doubt political elections, particularly this presidential election, create a stir; they raise emotions, high and heated, on both sides. I only wish we had the same amount of fervor, fight and commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ, as we seem to muster up every four years for a political campaign. Indeed the stakes are high in this presidential election, but I assure you they pale in comparison to the high calling our Lord Jesus Christ has placed on each of our lives.

The media has flooded us with information about the campaigns for over a year. The news is dominated with every step, and yes, even the missteps of each candidate. Make no mistake about it, America's prime sporting event is politics. Religion, and especially Christianity has fallen off the scale of America's worldview, except when it seems politically advantageous.

While Americans still record high numbers who claim to be religious, or have a belief in God, we seem to hold these beliefs to be 'personal.' We have totally bought into the Great American Experiment - namely

that of being "the great melting pot," where all are welcome and everyone's beliefs and views are valid. As I understand my history, this is a correct understanding of America, and in my humble opinion, it is what makes America great. However, we Christians have taken The Great American Experiment, that of being a "melting pot", to be the law in the Church. Such should not be the case. We are called to proclaim the uniqueness of Jesus Christ. The Church should be a melting pot of cultures, but we should be of one mind and of one heart in our belief in Jesus Christ.

Every four years people put on buttons, hats, bumper stickers and other items to promote their candidate. In addition, we are inundated with information about the candidates. The political campaign will once again drive us and, more than likely, bring about more accusations and mud slinging. Some people seem to be "resurrected" to life every four years as the campaigns begin, and the closer election day gets, the more they seem to become unapologetic apologists for their beliefs and candidate. No doubt, I will once again be frustrated.

Every November we come to the end of a liturgical year, a campaign year, if you will; it is time for us to accept anew the coming of Jesus Christ — to promote our candidate to the world. Can we muster the same amount of enthusiasm to promote Jesus Christ as we do for our political candidate? We must! With respect for all, we must proclaim that the King has come to reign in his kingdom. May we do so with sincerity, immediacy, and zeal. I do wish Americans would get as "turned on" by the uniqueness of Jesus Christ as they do by elections. Oh, what a world that would be.

Mark⁺



Upcoming Events

Nov. 1 All Saint's Day

Nov. 2 All Saint's Sunday

Nov. 3 All Soul's Day (Transferred)

Nov. 23 Christ the King: There will be only one Mass this day at 9:00AM. Following the celebration of Christ the King, we will be presenting Stewardship information in the undercroft; light refreshments will be served. Representatives will present the many ways in which you can offer your gifts to support the parish. We will also discuss our finances and the future of St. Luke's. **This is an important meeting. All members and all who support St. Luke's are encouraged to attend.**

Nov. 27 Thanksgiving Day, Mass at 9:00AM

Nov. 30 Advent: There will be only one Mass on this day at 9:00AM. Following the Mass, we will have a pot luck lunch. We will also be honoring Mrs. Pearl Edwards and Mrs. Jackie Windsor, who will be retiring at the end of the year from their position as counters. Jackie has been counting the collection at St. Luke's for about 30 years. Pearl joined Jackie in this ministry upon her arrival at St. Luke's.

Dec. 1 St. Andrew the Apostle (Transferred)
Mass at 6:30PM

Thursday Night Bible Study

All members are encouraged to attend. The Bible study class is much more than just the study of Scripture; it is also a study of the historic faith and teachings of the Church. We must not be illiterate in matters of Scripture and faith. This is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, spiritual growth, and learning. St. Anselm, (1033-1109), the 36th Archbishop of Canterbury said, "Faith seeks understanding." We must be educated followers of Christ, or else, we may be prone to being "tossed to and fro" by unsound theology, and thus be led astray.

Memorials

Memorials can be purchased for \$300. You may purchase a memorial in remembrance of a loved one who

has passed into the nearer presence of our Lord. You may even purchase a memorial to honor a living person's ministry.

Thanksgiving Sunday

The last Sunday of every month is designated as Thanksgiving Sunday. After the Post Communion Prayer, we invite everyone to come forward to give a Thanksgiving Offering. This giving is in recognition of God's great goodness towards us, and is in addition to our regular giving. Our giving is a response to God. The next Thanksgiving Sunday is on November 30th.

Youth Group

The Youth Group is off to a good start. They have now elected officers and are planning future events. A Youth Group is an important part of a parish's life. It is important for our youth to have good Christian fellowship and to be nourished spiritually. Please make sure your teen(s) are part of this exciting ministry.

Wish List

We still need Altar linens for both the High Altar and the Chapel Altar. Each costs \$250.00.

Mark Your Calendars

There will be only be one Mass on November 23rd and November 30th. Both Masses will begin at 9:00AM. There will be no Sunday school on these Sundays.

Pledge Cards Due November 30th

Your 2009 pledge cards are to turned in on this date. They will be taken up during the collection, (separately from the Sunday offering and the special Thanksgiving offering). The November Thanksgiving Sunday comes one week after our Stewardship meeting. The vestry believes Thanksgiving Sunday to be a good time to commit our financial giving to support the ministry of St. Luke's Parish for the upcoming year. Remember, the parish relies totally upon the generosity of your weekly giving. Please give with a cheerful and thankful heart.

Advent Concert Dec. 7th

The annual Advent Concert will be held this year on December 7th, at 5:00PM. We will once again be selling ads in the program. This is something we all can do and it is a good way to participate in this wonderful gift to

Continued on page 6

Treasurer's Report September 2008

	<i><u>YTD Actual</u></i>	<i><u>YTD Budget</u></i>
Operating Income	\$ 127,726	\$ 166,109
Operating Expenses	<u>(127,205)</u>	<u>(165,030)</u>
Net Operating Income (Loss)	521	1,079
Furnace Funds	500	25,000
Improvement Funds	8,808	9,000
Outreach/Designated	<u>24,116</u>	<u>12,997</u>
Total Designated Income	\$ 33,424	\$ 46,997
Designated Expenses	<u>(20,890)</u>	<u>(46,780)</u>
Net Designated Income	12,534	217
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 13,055	\$ 5,973

As of 9-30-08 there was \$17,907.45 in accounts payable that could not be paid. These bills are not reflected in the totals above. On August 31 that figure was \$10,091.52. We lost a lot of ground in September. We have a lot of work to do in October to be financially healthy. Please contact your Wardens if you have ideas for raising money to help our church. You can trust me when I tell you that we do not have any wasted or frivolous spending in our church. If we did, I would be the first to confront the Vestry since I am getting grey hairs trying to manage our bills!

Yours in Christ,
Karen King

What Does Stewardship Mean to Me?

This is a real question that deserves a thoughtful reply. To me it means the giving of one's whole self to Our Lord in every way possible. Not only with our treasure but with every gift that God has blessed us. This means all of our talents and, more importantly, our time to be spent wisely in His service. One of our most valuable gifts is our time. So often we put off what we could be doing for Him because we have other things to do that are more important to us. Yet, doing these things, using our God-given talents and we all have some talent, that could be utilized, if we only could find the time.

Then, there is the matter of giving. We find four types of giving: tithing, almsgiving, first fruits and seed. Leviticus 27:30 says, "And all the tithe of the land, whether the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree is the Lord's. It is holy to the Lord." In the New Testament: "A tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain or fruit belongs to the Lord and must be set apart to Him as holy". *Tithing* is not a suggestion or option. It is commanded by God. When it comes to tithing this means everything counted, the

salary, the profit, dividends, even social security. It all gets added coming right off the top. I used to feel that you gave after all your expenses were met and some people feel this way. I don't feel this way anymore, even though I find this at times very difficult. *First fruits* to me means any increase in one's life. In these times it is different from the biblical times such as Deuteronomy 18:4, "The first fruits of your grain and your new wine and your oil, and the first of the fleece of your sheep, you shall give him." Now it is like receiving a raise and giving the entire excess to God the first month.

Then there is *almsgiving*, which kind of speaks for itself. This is what I give to the poor, to people, not directly to God. The final type of giving for me is *seed*, which means what is given in faith to God over and above the tithe. Seed means giving to the building fund for a new furnace. This is in essence how I feel about stewardship in it's many forms.

Esperanza Stewart,
Vestry Member

The 7 Ups!

1. Wake Up !!

Decide to have a good day.

"This is the day the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Psalms 118:24

2. Dress Up !!!

The best way to dress up is to put on a smile.

A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

"The Lord does not look at the things man looks at.

Man looks at outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

I Samuel 16:7



3. Shut Up!!

Say nice things and learn to listen. God gave us two ears and one mouth, so He must have meant for us to do twice as much listening as talking.

Proverbs 13:3

4. Stand Up!!

... for what you believe in.

Stand for something or you will fall for anything.

"Let us not be weary in doing good; for at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good..."

Galatians 6:9-10

5. Look Up !!

... to the Lord.

"I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me".

Philippians 4:13



6. Reach Up !!

... for something higher.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path."

Proverbs 3:5-6



7. Lift Up !!

... your Prayers. "Do not worry about anything; instead PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING."

Philippians 4:6



A POSITIVE THOUGHT

If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.

If He had a wallet, your photo would be in it.

He sends you flowers every spring, and a sunrise every morning.

Whenever you want to talk, He'll listen.

He could live anywhere in the universe, and He chose your heart.

What about the Christmas gift He sent you in Bethlehem; not to mention that Friday at Calvary.



2008 Memorials

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

The Memorial Book at the back of the church is available for requests for flowers, candles & lights.

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

Memorial items are as follows:

Altar candles **Torches**
per month \$20 per week \$2

Sanctuary lamp **Votive**
per week \$3 per week \$2

Bread & wine **Flowers**
per week \$3 per week \$30

Please remember to pray for our sick and those with special needs

All readers of The Epistle are reminded to keep members of our parish family and friends in our prayers, especially remembering Pearl Edwards, Larry Maske, Charles and Therese Sommerkamp, Chet and Espie Stewart, Sheila Taliaferro, Auburn Traycik, Doris Johnson, Alliet Jones, Vivian Murphy, Russ Maske Jr, Jean Ashman and family, Norma Bromfield and family, Patty Fitzgerald, Bishop Ackerman and Archbishop Gomez 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.

Reminder:

Please
Submit
Your
Pledges
On
Sunday,
November
30th.
Your
offerings
Are
Needed
To
Meet
The
Financial
Needs
Of
Our
Church!

St. Luke's Parish Singers Advent Concert

4002 53rd Street • Bladensburg, MD 20710 • 301.927.6466 • www.stlukesparish-bladensburg.org/htm

Advertising Agreement

Refer to the prices below for advertising sizes
in the 2008 Advent Concert Program for Sunday, December 7th 2008 at 5:00PM.

This year's Advent Concert will be dedicated in loving memory of
Ovetta Williams, a former choir member.

Client Information

Name of Company: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ email: _____

Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____

Check size: Copy for the ad must be attached to this agreement

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Back Cover (7.50" x 10") | \$600.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Full Page (7.50" x 9.625") | \$565.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Half Page (7.50" x 4.50") | \$300.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Quarter Page (3.625" x 4.50") | \$170.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Eighth Page (3.625" x 2.125") | \$98.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Patron (Listing) | \$25.00 |

Please make checks payable to St. Luke's Parish.

All proceeds from the Concert will be used to help needy children in the Bladensburg area.

Reservations and payment MUST be sent along with your advertising Order. All copy must be camera-ready according to printing specifications, or an additional charge will be incurred for corrections. Your camera ready copy suitable must be sent to **Espie Stewart 1494 Governor Bridge Road, Davidsonville, MD 21035, no later than November 28th** or if as an e-mail attachment, it may be sent to **espy35@verizon.net**. Any e-mail art attachment sent this way must be either an eps, tif, jpeg or pdf.

Further Specs. MAC System 10.4.11 (Tiger), Floppy, CD Zip disk, MAC compatible. **Photoshop 7.0 & Illustrator Version 10 for MAC** acceptable or **Creative Suite. QuarkXpress 6.01 5.0 for MAC** acceptable. Photographs must be 300 dpi or original glossy print. Any art to be in **tiff, jpeg, eps or pdf**. All screen and printer fonts must be supplied for any art on disk, *Adobe postscript preferred*, along with hard copy.

Any questions contact Espie Stewart at 410-320-5828 or email espy35@verizon.net

our community. Espie Stewart will be providing us with information about selling the ads. The concert is free, however we do ask for donations. **ALL DONATIONS GO TOWARDS PROVIDING A CHRISTMAS FOR LESS FORTUNATE CHILDREN IN BLADENSBURG SCHOOLS.** Please help with the selling of ads, and remember to bring family and friends to the concert. This year's concert will be dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Ovetta Williams, who was a member of our choir.

Counters Needed

Mrs. Pearl Edwards and her sister, Mrs. Jackie Windsor will be giving up their position at year's end as counters of the collection. One person has already volunteered his service for this ministry. The vestry would like two other volunteers to come forward. Please speak to Fr. Mark, Patrick or Ada, if you are interested in helping. Do not be discouraged from volunteering even if you have no prior experience. All volunteers will be thoroughly trained. You just need to commit approximately one hour a week to this important ministry

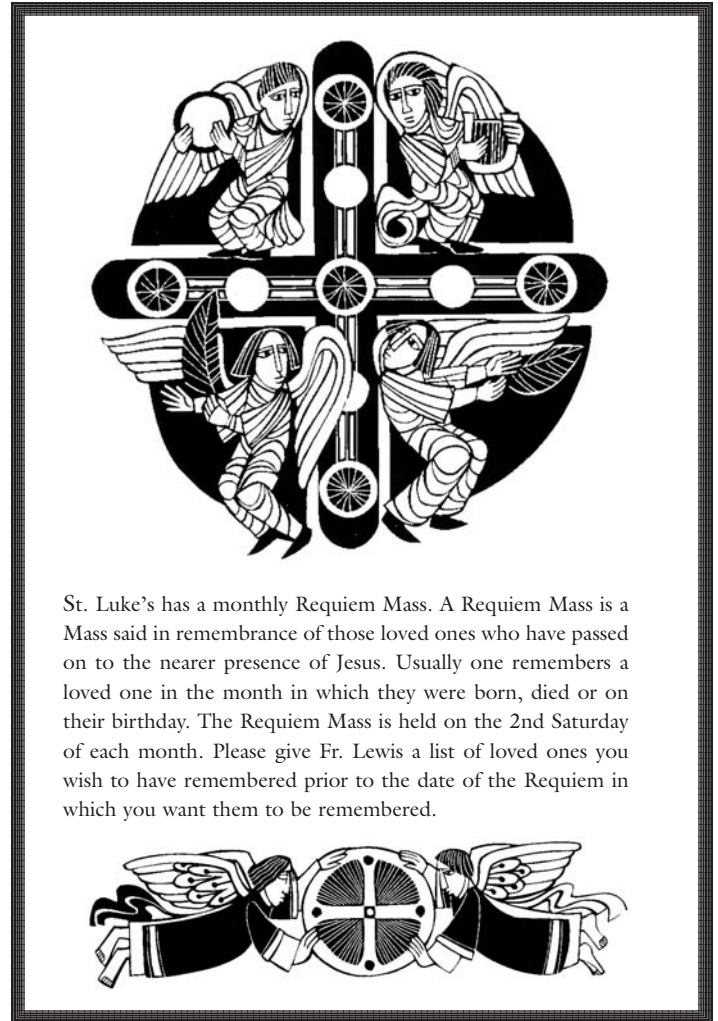
Christ has no body now but yours.

No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks with compassion on this world.

Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good.

Yours are the hands with which He blesses all the world.

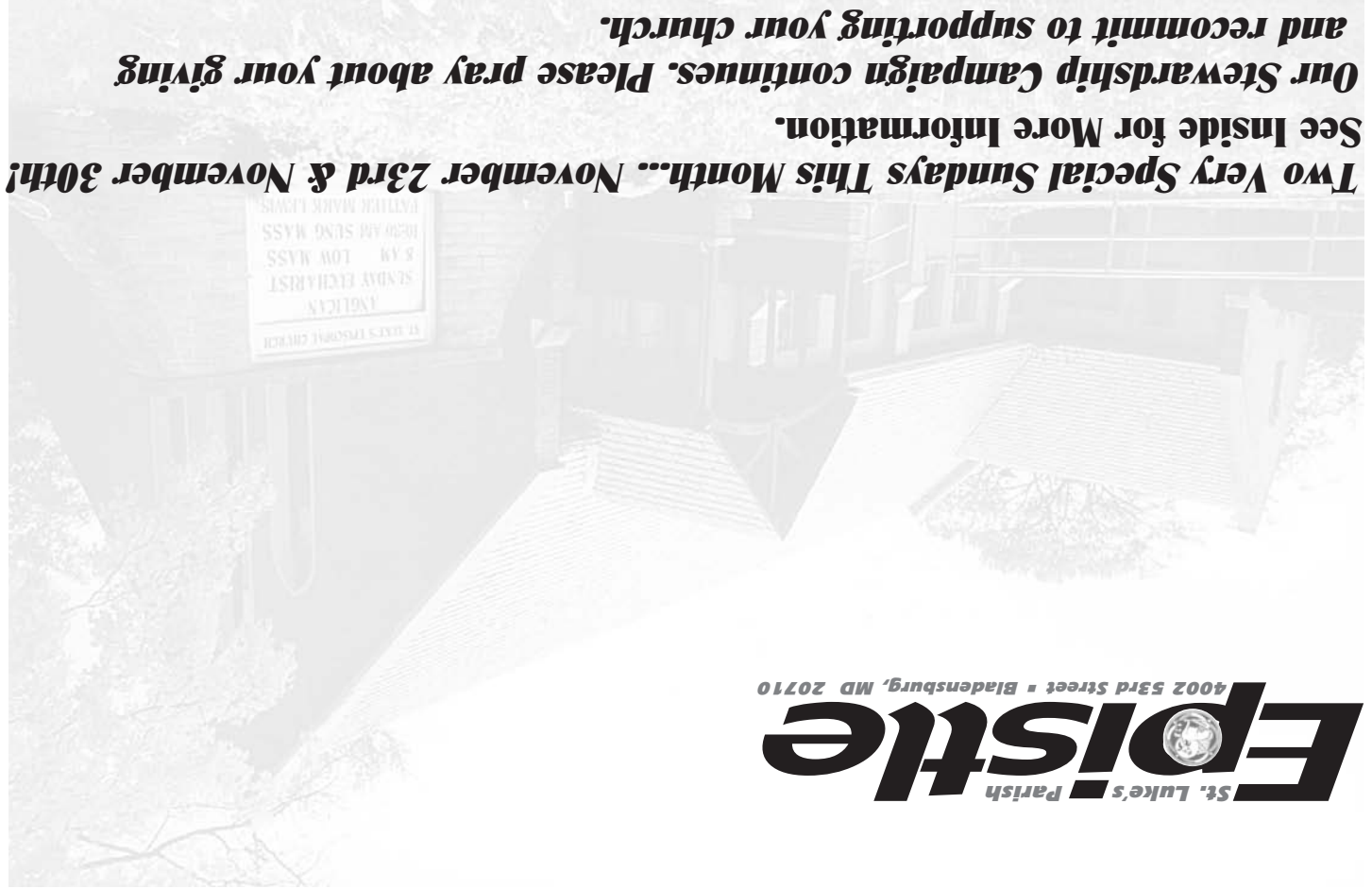
Saint Theresa of Avila



November 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	1 All Saints 11:00 AM Women's Bible Study Undercroft
2 All Saints Sunday 8:00 AM Low Mass 10:00 AM Solemn High Mass	3 All Soul's (Trans.) 7:00PM Mass	4 10:00AM Mass with Uncion	5 7:00AM Mass	6	7 Willibrord	8
9 Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 AM Low Mass 10:00 AM Solemn High Mass	10 Leo, The Great	11 Martin (Veterans) 10:00AM *Mass with Uncion	12 7:00AM Mass	13 6:30PM Mass 7:00 PM Bible Study	14 Consecration of Samuel Seabury 12:00PM Mass	15 10:00AM Requiem Mass Church 11:00 AM Women's Bible Study Undercroft
16 Twenty-Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 AM Low Mass 10:00 AM Solemn High Mass	17 Hugh	18 Hilda 10:00AM Mass with Uncion	19 Elizabeth 7:00AM Mass	20 Edmund 6:30PM Mass 7:00PM Vestry Parish Hall December Epistle Deadline	21 12:00PM Mass	22 11:00AM Share
23 - Christ the King Sunday 9:00 AM Solemn High Mass	24	25 James Otis Sargent Huntington 10:00 AM Mass with Uncion	26 7:00AM Mass	27 Thanksgiving Day 9:30AM Mass	28 Kamehameha and Emma 12:00PM Mass	29
30 First Sunday of Advent Thanksgiving Sunday 9:00 AM Solemn High Mass	31	1	2	3	4	5

St. Luke's Epistle email address: epistle@stlukesparish-bladensburg.org.
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 St. Luke's is a traditional Anglican church in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington
 4002 53rd Street, Bladensburg, MD 20710 • 301.927.6466



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St. Luke's Parish
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ST. LUKE'S Parish

Bladensburg, Maryland

An Anglo-Catholic Parish
in the Diocese of Washington