

THE ST. LUKE'S VOICE

Quarterly Newsletter

December 2024

Looking Back at 2024
Moving Forward to 2025

Making Us One Lord

The year 2024 has introduced notable changes for the St. Luke's community. Regrettably, we experienced the departure of our priest, Reverend Kim Turner Baker. Although her absence was a source of distress, we extend our best wishes for her recovery.

In her absence, we have effectively utilized supply priests and are fortunate to have garnered the services of Father John Ball. His presence has not only filled the void but also brought a renewed sense of hope and reassurance to our church. He and his wife have seamlessly integrated into our community, becoming esteemed members of St. Luke's.

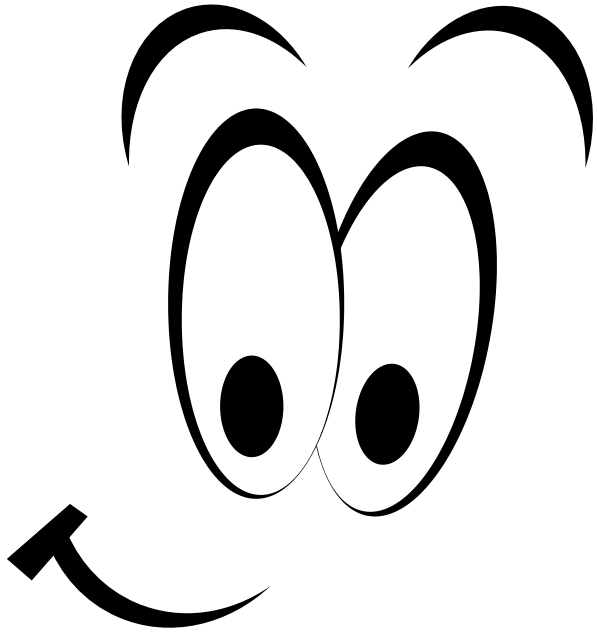
The Vestry, remains steadfast in its efforts, diligently working to ensure the church's ongoing vitality. Their unwavering commitment and dedication provide us with a sense of security and confidence. We acknowledge the essential role played by our parishioners, who serve as the foundation of our community and provide critical support for our activities and programs during this transitional phase.

As we look back on the changes of 2024, we do so with a sense of optimism and anticipation for the opportunities that 2025 will bring. With our collective purpose and determination, we will continue to move forward, building on the changes we've made to the St. Luke's family in 2024.

2024 Activities



Looking Ahead 2025



A New Vestry

Senior Warden and five Vestry members' terms are up in February 2025. We look forward to a new Vestry.

Music

Music Ministry is developing a new music program.

A New Priest

St. Luke's Vestry is working towards this effort.

Looking Within

St. Luke's needs to look within itself to establish new priorities, programs and ministries to thrive. Let us think outside the box.

Property Committee

The Property Committee, under the direction of the Junior Warden continues to make improvements to the church.

ST. Luke's Acolytes



My name is Rene Alexandre Correa and I was born in Washington DC. I have been a member of Saint Luke's Episcopal Church since I was a baby. I was baptized at Saint Luke's and confirmed at the Cathedral. I have been an Acolyte at Saint Luke's for over ten years. I was trained by my cousin, George Nicol, Jr. and my duties include, but are not limited to carrying the processional cross, during the Gospel procession and recession, lighting and extinguishing the altar candles, receiving the elements from the ushers, handing and receiving offering plates to and from ushers, and assisting junior acolytes as needed during the service.

Being an Acolyte has helped to deepen my understanding of the Anglican way of worship and rewarding in that it has brought me closer to God. Serving at the Lord's table with the Reverend on Sundays has also been amazing and one of the favorite moments of my life.



Hello, My name is **Julius Pearson**. I am currently a grade one (1) student attending Cherokee Elementary School in Adelphi, Maryland. I celebrated my seventh(7th) birthday on November 6, 2024. I am the proud son of Julian Pearson and Maritza Pearson. I am the youngest of three (3) siblings. I have a beautiful sister and a handsome brother. I enjoy reading, looking at cartoons and playing video games during my free time. I love sports and I am a fan of soccer, which I also play with my cousins. As far as my academics, I work very hard to stay on top and I am on the honor roll. I will continue to climb the ladder of success in the future. Along with my other cousins, we collect Pokemon cards. I love my family and I love attending church with them.



Hello, My name is **Romalo Pearson** and I am ten (10) years old. I am currently a 5 th grade student at Cherokee Lane Elementary School in Adelphi, Maryland. I am the oldest son of my parents, Dexroy Pearson and Briana Nichols. I have a very handsome, loving and kind brother, Jaylun Pearson and an adorable sweet baby sister named Alora Pearson. I am from an extended family. I enjoy reading storybooks, looking at cartoons and playing video games during my spare time. My interest lies more in sports and I love to play soccer. I am also a hard-working student as far as academics is concerned and that makes me an all-year honor roll student. I like to spend time with my family and friends because I enjoy their company and I also learn ethics and social values. My goal in the future is to attend a college or university. I also love attending church.



Hi, My name is **Julian Pearson** and I am 12 years old. I am the eldest of three (3) siblings. My parents are Julian Pearson Sr. and Victoria Dunn. My siblings are Julius Pearson and Issa Green. They are both loving and caring. I currently live with my grandmother in Adelphi, Maryland where I attend Buck Lodge Middle School and I am in the 7th grade. In the future after completing school, I want to attend college to study programming. In my spare time, I love playing video games, drawing and making art. I love spending time with my family and friends. I also enjoy different types of foods. I will continue to work very hard to maintain good academic grades to further my studies. I'm excited about my future.



Christian Education



Advent is a season in the Church calendar dedicated to the hopeful anticipation for the arrival or "advent" of Jesus of Nazareth. The word advent comes from the Latin term *adventus*, meaning "arrival" or "coming," particularly the coming of something having great importance. Advent season, then, is both a time of joy-filled, anticipatory celebration of the arrival of Jesus Christ

Advent season is an extraordinary time of year. The first day of Advent is the first day of a new Liturgical (or church) calendar and begins four weeks of preparation for the nativity of Jesus Christ at Christmas. Advent is all about reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth in the world as it is today. It is a time for faith communities and families to remember, through prayer, reflections, special music, and good deeds, the true meaning of Jesus.

The evergreen wreath and candles in the church are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season. The wreath, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes God's eternity, the soul's immortality, and the eternal life we find in Christ. The wreath is meant to remind us of both the immortality of our souls and God's promise of everlasting life through Christ.

Christian Education

The candles also have their special significance. The four colored candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one additional candle is lit each Sunday. The flames of candles represent the Christmas light approaching, bringing hope and peace in the struggle against darkness.

- The first candle, which is the color purple, symbolizes Hope. It is called the “Prophecy Candle” in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.
- The second candle, also purple, represents Peace. It is called the “Bethlehem Candle” as a reminder of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem.
- The third candle, which is the color pink, symbolizes Joy. The “Shepherd’s Candle” is called pink because the rose is a liturgical color for Joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.
- The fourth week of Advent, symbolizes Love. We light the third purple candle to mark the last week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior.
- The final candle, which is white is called the “Angel’s Candle.” It symbolizes Peace and reminds us of the message of the angels: “Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.”



Highlighting Paula Singleton



Paula Singleton, a dedicated member, has committed herself to serving others through her ministries at St. Luke's, the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, and various nonprofits in the metropolitan area. Her unwavering dedication is truly inspiring.

Paula's journey at St. Luke's began in her childhood when she was an active participant in church school and the Young People's Fellowship group (YPF). It was here that her leadership skills first emerged, setting the stage for her future contributions.

As with so many, she took a break from every Sunday attendance to occasional visits after starting college. In 1979, through a message received from God during a storm, she renewed her relationship with St. Luke's. In the late '70s and early '80s, many families with young children had already begun to migrate away from St. Luke's, causing fewer youth to be present at the church. Her return excited the older members who had remained at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. They took her under their wing and encouraged her to participate at the parish and diocese levels.

After retiring in 2006 due to illness, Paula began supporting the ministries at St. Luke's. Her passion for helping others led to outreach projects, supporting senior parish members with everyday tasks, and providing rides.

She worked with the existing feeding program seniors had in place in the 70s. She has continued to be concerned about welcoming those in need. Working to provide assistance with projects started by the various rectors and groups, she has continued as Chair of Outreach to work with such nonprofits as Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington, Housing Up (formerly known as Transitional Housing), Christ House, Seabury Resources for the Aging (formerly Episcopal Senior Ministries), Martha's Table, Bishop Walker School for Boys, and providing donations/support to senior housing residents and displaced families.

She has served as Treasurer of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington (EDOW), Lay Eucharistic Minister, EDOW Finance and Audit Committee member, and Episcopal Church Women of EDOW. She has also served as St. Luke's Senior and Junior Wardens and Treasurer.

God has chosen to direct Paula to continue the work at St. Luke's that many elders whom she respected and loved started. He has promised to walk with her, giving her strength and resources to continue.

Highlighting George Nicol, Jr.



I started attending St. Luke's Church as a youth, thanks partly to my dad's upbringing in the Anglican church, which he had in his home country of Sierra Leone. It's been a great experience in shaping my spiritual bringing and, ultimately, my faith. I have participated in several organizations at St. Luke's and held various positions. In my formative years, I participated in St. Luke's youth group, serving on the altar as an acolyte. Participation in these two activities is really what helped shape my love for St. Luke's. As a member of St. Luke's, I also participated in the Men's group and the Brotherhood of St. Andrews. As I continued to grow, I became more active in leadership roles, serving on the altar as a Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM), serving on the Vestry, and leading the team through our Tending our Soil cohort. This has been a real eye-opening experience thus far, and we are currently in the second year. The first year was just for us to look at where we are as a church and how we fit in our ever-changing community. This year, we are working on revisiting our mission and vision statements and then working with our Vestry to make sure the ministries we have are working to fulfill those statements. This is a great opportunity for St. Luke's to decide who we want to be in the community. I also help with social media and technical support, so if you aren't already, follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. I love St. Luke's and have wanted to contribute to its being here for generations.

Stewardship



Christian Crossword

God is Love



X	S	G	M	E	R	C	Y	J	K
E	A	L	D	W	I	S	D	O	M
F	L	P	O	J	F	H	I	T	V
O	V	A	O	V	H	E	J	E	G
R	A	T	V	Q	E	A	W	A	R
G	T	I	R	D	A	L	E	C	A
I	I	E	F	A	I	T	H	H	C
V	O	N	Y	M	P	A	L	E	E
E	N	C	T	R	U	S	T	R	E
Q	Q	E	K	K	G	U	I	D	E

Word list:

FAITH
FORGIVE
GRACE
GUIDE
HEAL
LOVE
MERCY
PATIENCE
SALVATION
TEACHER
TRUST
WISDOM

In Appreciation

Thank you Alma

Thank you for your unwavering dedication and heartfelt devotion to the music program at St. Luke's. Your remarkable musical expertise has been the cornerstone of our exemplary music ministry, inspiring and uplifting our congregation in countless ways.

Your talent and passion have not only enriched our worship but have also touched the hearts of all who have had the privilege of hearing your music. As you move on, please know that your contributions will be cherished, and your absence will be deeply felt.

You will be sorely missed, but your legacy will continue to echo in the melodies and harmonies you have so lovingly nurtured.



Thank you Father Ball



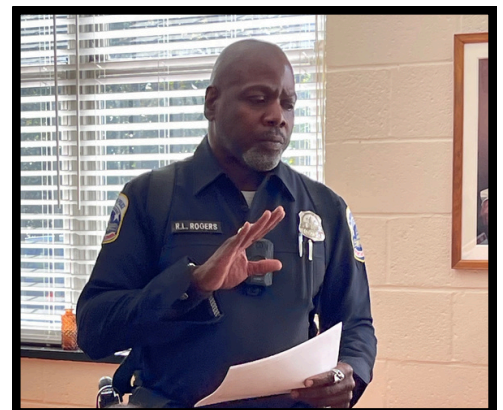
On behalf of the entire congregation of St. Luke's Church, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for stepping in to shepherd us during a time of need. Your willingness to serve and guide us in faith has been a true blessing, and your dedication has deeply touched our hearts.

Through your sermons, prayers, and presence, you have brought light, comfort, and inspiration to our church. Your commitment to sharing God's Word and leading us in worship during this transitional period has strengthened our faith and reminded us of the Lord's unwavering provision.



Thank you Officer Randy Rogers

On October 27, 2024, an introduction to the Cops and Clergy Coalition was presented to the parishioners at St. Luke's Episcopal Church during our after-service brunch. The presentation was conducted by Officer Randy Rogers, who serves as the liaison to the community faith-based institutions. Officer Rogers has been with the Third District Community Outreach Unit since 2021. Parishioners seemed enthused by their attentiveness to the presentation.



Community News

Thank you, St. Luke's, for the Books

Thanks to St. Luke's, the children living at The Terrell, a transitional housing community in the neighborhood for single parents, received more than 500 books in November. The fifty-plus families residing at The Terrell transition every ninety to 120 days, so with 500 books, there are sufficient books for the children living there for six months ...or more. The books collected and donated by the community and our parishioners' included books for young people of all ages, including some textbooks such as an Algebra book and novels and story books for new readers. There were also books that parents could use to help teach their young ones to read. This generous donation has had a profound impact on these children, providing them with a sense of ownership and a love for reading that will last a lifetime.

The gift of books to the children at The Terrell means a great deal to these young people, as they have very few things they can call "their own." The books St. Luke's gives them are the exception, as the books they select for themselves are "for keeps"; they don't have to return them as with library books.

Again, thank you, St. Luke's, for your personal and heartfelt contribution that is making a significant difference in the lives of the children at The Terrell.

Prayer

A Christmas Prayer for St. Luke's

O Holy Child, born on this sacred night,
Fill our hearts with Your radiant light.
At St. Luke's, we gather, one family in grace,
Seeking Your presence in this holy place.
We thank You, Lord, for the year that's passed,
For blessings received, both great and vast.
Through trials and triumphs, You've been our guide,
With mercy unending, always by our side.
As the star once led wise men from afar,
Lead us, dear Savior, wherever You are.
May our hands bring comfort, our voices bring cheer,
Sharing Your love as we enter the new year.
Lord Jesus, we celebrate Your humble birth,
The gift of salvation, Your peace on earth.
May St. Luke's be a beacon, shining Your name,
Spreading Your joy, forever the same.
In this season of hope, this season of cheer,
We lift up our hearts, for You are near.
Bless our church, our families, our friends,
With Your eternal love that never ends.
Amen.

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