
THE ST. LUKE'S VOICE

Quarterly Newsletter

December 2023

150 YEARS PROUD



What a banner day! On November 4th, the sun and God were smiling down on nearly 300 past and present St. Luke's parishioners and dignitaries who assembled to celebrate the 150th anniversary of our beloved Church. This sacred community has a proud tradition of faith in action: service, struggle, and spirituality. For 150 years, the church has been a leader in Black liberation, education, economic equity, musical excellence, social justice, and "good trouble." The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde spoke at the luncheon, as did rector Rev. Kim Turner Baker, George Nicol, Jr., John Yahner, Kelvin Page, and Vestry Warden Michael McKenzie. Rev. Canon Michele Hagan served as honorary chair of the celebration. Mayor Muriel Bowser sent a letter of congratulations, citing St. Luke's as a "beacon of light and hope in our city since its founding."

It was a moving occasion that allowed all participants to catch up with old friends, make new ones, and give thanks for all St. Luke's offers. Founding rector Rev. Dr. Alexander Crummell would have been proud—as were several past rectors who attended the event. A dedicated team worked tirelessly to make it happen; a special thanks to them. The Church is extremely grateful to all who supported the event, from flowers to financial gifts, especially Sesquicentennial Partner Dr. Clarence Gilkes, who has been a member of St. Luke's for 96 years!

The next day, the Feast of All Saints, the church was packed as parishioners and visitors were blessed with stunning spiritual music by the choir and a stirring sermon by the Rev. Canon Michele Hagan. A memorable weekend indeed. Amen!

Rev. Kim at Yale



Finally Doing the Right Thing at Yale

Our founding rector, Rev. Alexander Crummell, studied theology at Yale in 1840 and 1841. But he was barred from formally registering as a student—or speaking in class—or using the library—because he was Black. More than 180 years after that indignity, Yale University decided to finally do the right thing and award him his M.A. degree. On September 14th, in a powerful procession and moving ceremony at Yale’s Battell Chapel, the University honored Rev. Crummell and the Rev. James W.C. Pennington, who suffered similar indignities. The chapel was filled with Yale and New Haven community members, including Yale President Peter Salovey and New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker.

Rev. Kim attended the long overdue honors, accepted Rev. Crummell’s degree, and spoke on behalf of St. Luke’s. She described Crummell’s extraordinary life, how he fought to obtain an education in the face of racial discrimination, his 20 years of missionary service in Liberia, and his founding of St. Luke’s. “We strive to live up to the example of our founder...,” Rev. Kim said. “His legacy lives on. That’s why what you’re doing today is so important. We give thanks to you for looking into your history, all of the Yale leaders assembled here today, and especially all the student groups who agitated and persevered. You’re doing the right thing. Continue to fight.”

Anniversary Celebrations



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Highlight



Meet Cathy Motley

I came to St. Luke's on a temporary assignment from Manpower Employment Agency. I thought I would be here a few weeks because they were looking for a full-time Parish Administrator. I have an accounting background, so that I could assist for a short period.

I worked at the door while the telephone rang off the hook. The new rector, Rev. Raymond Massenburg, looked very flurried, pushing buttons, and I said let me help you. I took over the telephone and took messages, and he was very relieved.

I was thinking seriously that this was not the job for me. However, eleven years later, I'm still here. I was introduced to some wonderful people who have helped me tremendously in the position and continue to help me, and I have learned a lot from all of them. Rev. Massenburg and I learned together. We developed a great working relationship. There were so many terms I was introduced to coming from a Baptist background. I was learning about the Episcopalians and their 20-page or more Sunday bulletins. I doubted I would get everything right, but everything worked out. I met his family and parents and I developed a relationship with his two sons, whom I saw daily.

Rev. Gayle Fisher-Steward came in as an Interim Rector. She was here for a year and a half. Initially, I was a little nervous, but she and I got along very well. I learned from her and enjoyed her Bible Class on Tuesdays with the Tuesday Group. I loved her teaching style. She was here when the pandemic hit, and we were out of the office for at least a year, but she and I stayed connected by telephone and email until we returned to the office.

St. Luke's formed a search committee to find their 10th Rector because the pandemic took a while, and finally, they hired Rev. Kim Turner Baker, who came on April 1st, 2022. Again, with a new Rector, I wondered what would happen, but I am still here, and she and I are working together as a team. Rev. Kim was installed in February 2023 and was a great success. I wish St. Luke's the best in the future.

Highlight



Meet Audrey Thurman

Audrey Thurman is a native Washingtonian, born in Freedmen's Hospital. However, she claims home as being in Lawrenceville, VA where she attended kindergarten through high school. A cradle Episcopalian, Audrey was baptized by Father Dillard Brown at St. Luke's Episcopal Church and confirmed at St. Paul's Memorial Chapel in Lawrenceville, VA.

Audrey has spent her adult life in Washington, DC. where she attended Howard University receiving a BA in Secondary Education and a M.Ed. in Curriculum and Teaching. While at Howard, Audrey was initiated into Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Audrey had an enriching career working at the Department of State for 32 years where she travelled the world.

Audrey is an active member of St. Luke's, where she is a member of Outreach, Altar Guild, Finance Committee and a member of the Count Team. Audrey is a team member of Tending Our Soil. She is also on staff at St. Luke's as an Accounts Payables Clerk, a position she has held since 2019.

Audrey's hobbies include photography, letter writing, and stamp collecting. She also loves journaling and being grateful for each day. Her passion is volunteering whenever she can. Currently, she is a regular volunteer at Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington as a substitute Front Office Coordinator.









One of Audrey's favorite Bible verses is taken from Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.



Thank you to Roupetta Plummer for keeping our plants beautiful!

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Covenant for Positive Change

1. Sabotage		Attendance
2. Controlling		Accountability
3. Disrespect		Outward Mind Set
4. Triangulation		Trust
5. Bullying		Collaboration
6. Overcommitting		Communication
7. Distancing		Reconciliation
8. Infighting		Respect

Reflections

How will you support the Covenant?



I will try to increase attendance at the church, especially with young people.

Anita Correa



It's hard, but I do it because it is what a Christian should do. Our road is not easy.

Luke McCoy



I will be warm and welcome to those who enter our doors be it a member of the church or a visitor. I will remember why I come to church.

Yolanda Barnett

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.”



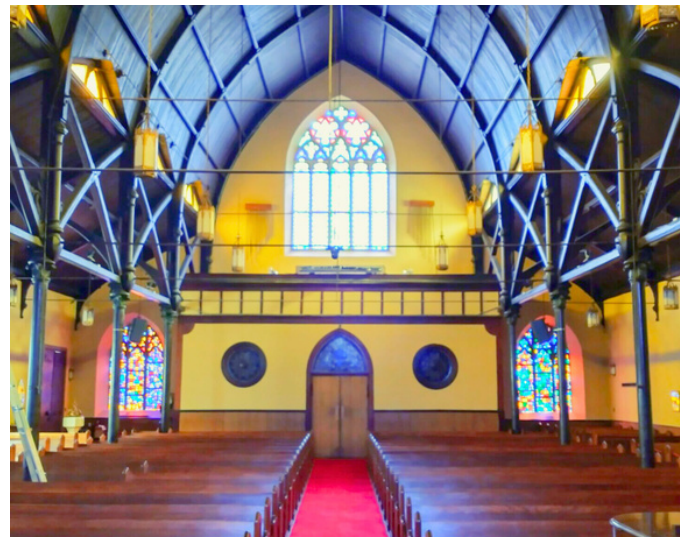


The St. Luke's logo was created by Georgetta Nicol. Do you know what it stands for and means???????????

Answer: The logo for our church depicts all parishioners with arms outstretched embracing all God's children in a spirit of love and unity.

Do you know the mission of the church?

Answer: Our Mission is to spread the love of Christ, build on our traditions, grow spiritually, and make disciples. We serve Our Lord Jesus Christ through the Anglican/Episcopal liturgy and our unique Pan-African heritage.





Community News

Residents Oppose Plan to Replace U St. Police Station for 10-Story Luxury Apartment Building.

At the DuPont Circle Citizen Association (DCCA) meeting, the community passed a resolution 33-4 opposing the Mayor's plan to increase the allowed building height in our neighborhood. The Mayor's plan includes selling city-owned land where the police and fire stations are now at 1617 U Streets NW. This is the DC area that spawned DC's Black Renaissance a hundred years ago. The DCCA Vice President, Ed Hanlon, made a presentation, followed by presentations from nearby homeowners (within 200 feet of 1617 U St.) and a non-profit group, "Black Neighbors of 1617 U St". DCCA members voted 33 against with 3 for the Mayor's plan. DCCA will send the vote to the Mayor, and community members plan to testify against selling the police and fire station land to a developer.

District Opens First Stabilization Center

On Monday, October 30, 2023, the District opened DC's first Stabilization Center at 35 K Street, NE, to provide emergency crisis interventions for substance users. The new healthcare facility offers crisis interventions 24-7, lasting 24-72 hours, for adults who are experiencing substance use disorders. Services are available for those 18 years and older, free of charge. There are no insurance or residency requirements necessary. DC's Stabilization Center offers a safe, comfortable space for immediate care and individualized support. The non-profit Community Bridges partners with the District's Behavioral Health staff to provide care.

ACT NOW

New legislation to help address DC crime was announced. ACT Now will help create an environment that prioritizes communities and victims and will support MPD's ability to hire and retain police officers. The legislation also gives police new tools to help DC neighborhoods prevent crime, including organized retail theft, loitering around open-air drug markets, and people wearing masks to commit robberies and carjackings. This new legislation is in addition to the Safer Stronger Amendment Act of 2023 (Safer, Stronger DC) introduced earlier this year, which gives the courts more discretion to determine who should be retained behind bars pre-trial, such as defendants convicted of a violent or repeated crime. Both ACT Now and Safer, Stronger DC are to help keep people in DC safer.

The Vestry Invites You

To An Annual Holiday Brunch



**December 31st
After Church Service**

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