



The Ark of the Covenant

A Newsletter for the People of
The Memorial Church of St. Luke, the Beloved Physician &
All Saints Episcopal Church of Rhawnhurst
The Rev. Dr. Timothy Griffin, Rector

July 2021
Issue 99

The Memorial Church of St. Luke, the Beloved Physician

1946 Welsh Road
Philadelphia, PA 19115
215.969.3645 (office)
stlukesoffice1946@gmail.com
www.memorialchurchofstlukes.org

SUNDAY SERVICE

11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
with music
Followed immediately by
refreshments and fellowship in
the parish hall.

Weekly Schedule

Thrift Store

Sundays 12:30 – 2:30 PM
in the church hall

AA

Monday – Friday 1:00 p.m.
Monday 7:00 p.m.
in the church hall

Contemplative Prayer

Wednesday 6:30 - 7:00 PM
Followed by Bible Study 7:00 –
8:30 PM

Celtic Eucharist with Healing
(suspended for the present)

Irish Dance Classes

Tuesdays and Thursdays
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
in the church hall

Most of you by now know that things have opened up considerably during the past few weeks: We no longer need to sign up to attend, we no longer need to wear masks if we are vaccinated, we are even able to sing. That does not mean that the pandemic is over—we must still be cautious—but things have significantly improved as so many have now been vaccinated.

I recently attended (by Zoom) a training of sorts offered by one of my former seminary professors, Bill Kondrath. Bill emphasized that as we return, we should take stock, with our self and with one another, what we have gone through. I think that is good advice because we have lived through an extremely difficult and challenging time. We have lived through a pandemic, through unprecedented social and political unrest, through racial protests and the efforts of a former president to delegitimize an election. I put all of this in the past tense but it is ongoing. I am sure that most of you have opinions about these matters and the troubling thing about it is that our opinions tend, for the most part these days, to blame and pit us against one another. “It is their fault,” you no doubt think. I know this because my mind and opinions work in much the same way. So that is where we are. I have lived a fair length of time now and I have never seen this nation so polarized. We are at the point where we cannot even agree to disagree.

However, you and I are Christians. As Christians we subscribe to a Baptismal Covenant that instructs us that we must respect the dignity of every human being. Our covenant does not say “respect the dignity of those who think like I do;” it says respect the dignity of EVERY human being.” In addition, our Christian faith teaches us that there is no higher duty or allegiance than the duty and allegiance we owe to God and one another. In other words, we are not first a republican or democrat; a socialist or capitalist; a viewer of Fox news or MSNBC. We are first and foremost children of one Father in heaven, and recipients of the gift of eternal life because of the sacrifice of our Brother Jesus the Christ. That is who we are first and foremost, and we deny Christ and betray that primary responsibility when we act as though anything else was as important as that commitment.

All Saints Episcopal Church of Rhawnhurst

1811 Loney Street
Philadelphia, PA
19111
215.342.6310 (office)
Email: allsaintsrh@gmail.com
www.allsaintsrhawnhurst.net

SUNDAY SERVICES

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist,
Rite II, with music

Followed immediately by
refreshments and
fellowship in the
undercroft.

Weekly Schedule

Al-Anon

Wednesdays 7-8:30 p.m.
in the undercroft. Open
Meeting for Adults.

St. Paul's Anglicans

Sundays 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Bayit Abba Adonia

Thursdays 6 – 8:00 p.m.
Sundays 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Yoga

Saturdays 10 – 11:00 AM
(outside- weather
permitting)

Message from the Rector (continued)

It is important that Jesus (and the earliest Christians) also lived through difficult and challenging times. The nation in which he lived (Judea) was occupied by an oppressive nation (Rome) that exploited the inhabitants of Judea in order to enrich the citizens of Rome. The Roman occupiers used military force to control the Jews. But here's the important thing to observe about Jesus' response to these occupiers: When a Centurion (a Roman officer in charge of 80-100 troops) asked Jesus to heal his child, Jesus went. He did not dismiss the Centurion because he held a different political outlook and clearly embraced a different agenda. Instead, he healed the Centurion's child. And in the same way, when the Centurion Cornelius wished to learn about the Way, as it was then called, from Peter, Peter did not reject Cornelius' overture out of hand. Instead, after receiving a vision from God Peter went to Cornelius' residence and in the end, he baptized Cornelius' entire household.

Imagine how unpopular these actions would have been. Imagine how many of Jesus' and Peter's fellow Jews would have regarded what they did. And yet, they did not weigh the costs to their popularity. They listened to the needs of another human person—another child of God—and they responded as God would have them respond, not how their particular group would have directed them.

In the same way, as you know, Jesus sometimes had conflict with the religious leaders of his times. The exact extent of the bad feelings between the Pharisees and Jesus is not exactly clear, but there was often tension in how they understood God and one's responsibility to God. Still when a Pharisee asked Jesus to heal his child, Jesus responded. He did not reject the Pharisee as one with whom he disagreed. Jesus responded; he healed the child.

Similarly, tax collectors in Jesus' time were seen as collaborators with the Romans. Tax collectors were Jews who worked for the Romans collecting revenues from their fellow Jews in order to enrich the oppressors. And they were often dishonest, seeking to enrich themselves as well. For that reason, tax collectors were despised. But we know that Jesus ate with them and that he did not dismiss them for this reason or refuse to acknowledge them.

One final example. The Samaritans in Jesus' day were despised. The Samaritans lived in the northern region of the Holy Land. They were the product of the forced assimilation that occurred when the Northern Kingdom was overrun by the Assyrians and its population forced to assimilate with their oppressors. The Jews regarded the Samaritans as heretics and blasphemers, and they would have nothing to do with them. For a Jew to be called a Samaritan was very offensive. Thus, some of the Jews who disagreed with Jesus insulted him by calling him a Samaritan. Nonetheless, Jesus upheld the Samaritans in his parable of the Good Samaritan, surely meant to shock his listeners. And according to John's gospel he spent some days imparting the gospel to the Samaritan "woman at the well" and her townspeople.

I bring all of these examples up in order to remind us of our heritage. It is so easy for us to disrespect one another because we know ourselves to be in the right and others with whom we disagree to be in the wrong. I know how easy that is because I have often done it. Recently I have noticed something else: There is now a tendency to explain away problematic behavior on the part of those we favor, and to offer excuses for such behavior. And this just shows the extent to which we no longer care about the truth but about winning a point.

The interesting thing about Jesus' response in the cases I cited above is that he was responding to the individual child of God in front of him. He was not responding to a Samaritan or a Centurion or a Pharisee, at least not in the first instance. No, he was responding to a child of God in need of his attention and his help. I am embarrassed to note that I have often judged people on the basis of whether they agree or disagree with me rather than on their status as a child of God.

So, what must we do? I think it is clear that we should—I should—see those who I encounter as first and foremost a child of God and hence as my brother or sister, who I am to love and respect as a fellow traveler on our journey to God. I hope we can do that. I hope St. Luke's and All Saints can be seen by the world as places that are safe for all people, regardless of their beliefs, opinions, skin color, gender identity or orientation. I hope we can live into our faith in full awareness that we will only be judged to the extent and by

the standards that we use. And I hope that in this way we will uphold and support one another through the dark times through which we are moving so that we may help to usher in the light of God's presence among and within us.

God Bless,
Fr. Tim

Message from Sebrum Morris, Senior Warden, All Saints

A FATHER

The concept of Father's Day erupted 1907 in Fairmont West Virginia when a mine explosion killed more than 360 men, most of whom were fathers. However, it was not until 1972 that president Richard Nixon made Father's Day a Federal Holiday.

Webster defines Father as the first person in **TRINITY**, the male parent of a child, a church clergy and an elderly male. Father also represents high authority. The word **FATHER** has six (6) letters and I will give meaning to each in the order of arrangement in the word.

Faithful: A father must be faithful to God by obeying His commandments thereby being blessed and faithful to his family. As fathers, we must remain faithful to our vows and keep our family intact despite Satan's attempts to put us asunder.

Available: A father must avail himself to God through prayers and thanksgiving for by so doing, he will be available to his family. Too many fathers are so busy that they at times forget the reason and purpose for which they are busy. All their time is occupied in work, meetings, sports and travel so that there is never time to attend church services or sit with the very family God has blessed them with. Many good families have shattered due to the unavailability; and, consequently the lack of guidance and protection of Fathers.

Trustworthy: Children need to know and feel that they can trust their fathers to keep whatever promise made regardless of how insignificant it may seem. This is extremely essential as fathers' actions tend to mold the character of children. Fathers must not lie to nor deceive their children as this only leads to disobedience and anger.

Humble: Our Lord and Savior despite being God's son humbled Himself to the extent of washing the feet of His disciples. While it is written that the father is the head of the home, fathers must always keep in mind that the best way to lead is by serving.

Ethical: Fathers must incessantly strive to do what is right in obedience to God. It is not uncommon that we do and cherish wrong things simply because they seem to make us popular. As fathers, the need to tell the truth and conduct ourselves appropriately must supersede the drive for popularity.

Respectful: A father must be respectful thereby earning respect. Often some Fathers conduct themselves insolently to family and friends alike because they develop the false sense of toughness though rudeness/crudeness. This is a very certain way to lose one's God given Family.

Finally, fathers must be prepared to **KNEEL** and cry out to God in prayers and supplications when things of this world become too hard to **STAND**.



All Saints - July

3	Annemarie Eagles	15	Theodore Blohm, III	21	Kathryn Bachman	25	Patrick Eagles
7	Ernest Morris	15	Kristen Young	24	Alan Patterson	25	Kym Meisner
8	Tamieka Elia	21	Roseann Eagles	24	Timothy Bachman	30	Joshua Elia
						30	Nicolas Elia

St. Luke – July

1	Mark Kriss	4	John Raysor	17	Adam Fox	25	Stephen Zuccarni
2	Jennifer Fox	12	Katherine Gibson	19	Nancy Orlando	29	Nellie Runewicz
2	Jo Ann Runewicz	13	Walberta Nelson	25	Manny Hogans		



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

St. Luke's and All Saints are facing considerable expenses in the near future to maintain our buildings and grounds. The Vestry is asking each family that is able to contribute to the Capital Improvement Fund to help offset some of these costs.

St Lukes: asking for \$25 per quarter (\$100 annually) All Saints: asking for \$10 per month
(of course, anything you are able to give is greatly appreciated)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ark Submissions – Please send any articles or news that you would like included in the Ark to the Church Administrator at stlukesoffice1946@gmail.com no later than noon on Monday, July 19th; the August Ark will be emailed and in church mailboxes by Sunday, July 25th.

Pastoral Concerns – Please contact Father Tim.

Vestry Meetings – St. Luke's: Monday, September 13th at 7:00 p.m.; All Saints: Monday, September 20th at 7:00 p.m.

Compline - Please consider joining us for Compline, which is held each night (Monday through Friday) at 8:30 p.m. It is a beautiful prayer that lasts about 10 minutes. If you are interested in joining, please let Father Tim know.

Jean Zekas - If you would like to send Jean a get well card, her address is:

15 Greenbriar Court
Harleysville, PA 19438

Thrift Store

Closed until further notice (St. Luke's)

Prayer Requests

St. Luke's Prayer List- The prayer list is now being updated monthly. Please email **all** requests to **Caroline Cotugno** (pinevalleyfan@aol.com) and cc. **Terry Weikel** (stlukesoffice1946@gmail.com). You may also see Caroline in church or write in the book located at the church entrance, whenever indoor church services resume. **Member Requests:** please let us know when you need prayers, but also when you need to come off the prayer list. **Non Member Requests:** Please make your requests monthly, as names will be removed at the end of the month unless notification is received. **Please submit all August prayer requests by Monday, July 19th and the list will be updated by Sunday, July 25th.** Please note, as per Father Tim's request, we are only accepting names for the prayer lists, rather than praying for groups of people.

"The world was made partly that there may be prayer; partly that our prayers might be answered."

C. S. Lewis

All Saints, Rhawnhurst



Dawn Bachman
Margaret Baehr
Wayne Bindernagle
Jamie Campbell
Diane Celotto
Scott Clothier
Linda Colwell
Marie Coraluzzi
Regina Domanico

Dorothy Dugan
Irene Elia
John Fello
Yassah Fello
Fr. Tim Griffin
Merle Hirschman
Massa Hunder
Ray Kaspar
Lisa Kimball

Denise Lalka
Frank Moore
Marion Morabito
Fr. Jim Morris
Sebrom T. Morris III
Walter Morris
Vivian Robinson
Nancy Strang
Jean Zekas
Jennifer Zekas

All of the families who lost loved ones to Covid-19.

All of the victims who succumbed to Covid-19.

St. Luke's



Elaine Woods
Genevieve Scott
Ruth Fischer
Joe Hanis
R. Lee Kostic
Jackie Oxenford
Patricia Cellini
Rosa Michnya
Susana Navarro
Charlene Segal
Michelle & Kenya
Gerry
Peggy

Gregory Park
Robert Palma
Walburta Nelson
Bob Baur
Bob Carter
Bruce Sholley
Don Shifflett
Caroline Cotugno
Carol Mitchell
Marge Sharples
Sidney
Justin & Emily
Becca

Elaine Black
Nancy M. Wright
Llyn Carter
JoAnn Runewicz
Rose Whaley
Meaghan Kriss
Aurelia Thorpe
Nancy Orlando
Dolores Howard
Deneen Raysor
Eileen
Denise
Evie

Alan Wilkinson
Fr. Tim
Laure Padian
Barbara Kaufold
Anna M. Pascarella
June Mueller
Thomas Duncavage
Patricia Gantz
Linda Roussis
George Mitchell
Tabitha
Augustine
Constance

Josh	Lori	Audrey	Rosalind
Vince	Pam	Aissie	Karen
Ed	Robert	Roger	Earl
Sabrina	Emani & Erica	Marsha	James
Robert	Anita	Elizabeth	William
Steven	Anna	Patricia	Ruth
Stella	John	Ricky	Caylee
Joseph	Bobbie	Betsy	Minerva
Finley	Suzanne	Michelle	Connie
Vernon	Janine	Robert	Othniel
Mark	Brian	Warren	Madu
Reethi	Vasu	Meena	Kala
Chris	Sherri	Christopher	The Rev.Randy
Henry	Evelyn	Rudy	Brubaker
Shambhu & Mom	Arlene	Kali	

Message from Caroline Cotugno, St. Luke's

Summer's Splendor By The Sea - By Patricia L. Cisco

"Summer's splendor by the sea, a gentle, blue serenity,
Caressing rays of golden sun, blushing, bronzing all who come.
Enticed by its romantic lure, lovers stroll the sandy shore.
Hushing rhythm of the waves and salty, misty ocean sprays.
Sea birds echo call of cries, pierce the deep blue azure skies.
Dolphin dancing on their way across the sea out to the bay.
A glistening, shiny, sun-soaked day. All young and old alike at play,
Building castles by the sea, jumping waves and spirits free.
No place on earth as perfect to be as summer's splendor by the sea!"





Happy 4th of July



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the Beloved Physician
1946 Welsh Road
Philadelphia, PA 19115

FIRST CLASS MAIL
Address Correction Requested

