

The Evangel

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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November 2017



From the Rector

Dear Friends,

It is November and once again our Church life revolves around the Holiday Fair. I would like to thank everyone who works and supports this important outreach, and a special thanks to Pam Zeitler and Sherrill Stramara who are organizing the event.

We should be proud of our Fair - it is important that we do not fundraise for our own needs but only for others. Through the Central Brevard Sharing Center we are able to help some of the most deprived people in our community - many who are unable to get other assistance.

While it's important that we as a parish continue to support the Sharing Center, and that as individuals we discharge our duty to share what God has given us with those in need, charity does not fulfill our obligations as a community or as an individual. Our God also demands justice.



According to government statistics, in 2015 (the last year data is available) 43.1 million Americans (13.5%) had incomes below the poverty level and the majority of Americans will spend at least one year in poverty between the ages of 25 and 75. In 2013, 16.7 million children lived in households deemed "food insecure", meaning they do not have at all times enough food for an active, healthy life for all of the household members.

Some are poor because of disability or disadvantage, especially during childhood, which means they were unable to get the education necessary to compete in the world. Some of these people need to be given the opportunity to gain the skills or knowledge they need to support themselves and their families. We will also just have to accept that many will need our ongoing support, perhaps for the rest of their lives. Some are poor because they make bad choices or live a bad lifestyle. They need to be encouraged to change.

But the vast majority of the poor are the working poor, that is, people who often work long hard hours in more than one job. Yet they are not able to fully participate in society. These people require not charity but justice. Justice in this situation is not something that the government or employer must do alone. Of course they must do their part, but justice requires us all to do our part. We must be willing to pay a fair amount for the goods and services we use and must be willing to pay the taxes that are the price of a just society. We must be willing to prize justice over a bargain.

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PLEASE NOTE:

The deadline for the newsletter items is the 15th of each month.

From the Rector Continued

Poverty and the justice it demands are not issues that politicians usually like. From their prospective it is a lose/lose situation. But if we are going to be faithful to God and biblical morality, we must do our part to make it part of the political discourse. This will not make us popular.

The great Archbishop of Rio De Janeiro Dom Helder Camara once wrote: "When I feed the poor they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food they call me a communist". I am sure that we were not surprised by this; after all, his master said: "A disciple is not above his master...if they call the master of the house Beelzebul (perhaps this was the ancient equivalent to communist), how much more will they malign those of his household." (Matt. 10: 24-25).

We are called to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and minister to those who are sick and in prison. We will do that with the Holiday Fair, however, we are also called to work for justice.

Yours in Christ,

Peter



Safeguarding God's Children is the Episcopal Church's Child Protection Course which must be taken every five years by:

- All Church Employees
- All key holders
- All office holders

It is an excellent course which will be useful for anyone with children or grandchildren.

The course has two parts.

- Parts 1 and 2 will be offered in one session on:
Wednesday, November 1 and Thursday, November 2 at 7:00 p.m.
- Part 1 - Sunday November 12 at 9:15 a.m.

From the Senior Warden



Hopefully by now, all of you are back to “normal” after hurricanes, torrential rains, flooding, etc. etc. Preparing for storms, living through them and putting your life back together afterwards are all very stressful. And then we see the suffering of others who had it so much worse and we are thankful for our many blessings. Because we were fortunate with minor damage compared to others, once again St. Luke's showed their generosity by contributing nearly \$2,000 to the ERD fund to help those in need.

Once again it's time for our Annual Holiday Fair in support of the Central Brevard Sharing Center. We kick off the Fair season with grounds cleanup on Saturday, October 28, followed by lunch at Kings Duck Inn – for this one day the Ladies lunch will invite the men to join us!! Then starting Sunday, October 29 you can start bringing in your items to be sold. Ingrid and her crew will be working diligently all week cleaning, sorting and pricing. Don't forget Ginny is looking for Holiday items for the Holiday Shoppe --- that's any holiday throughout the year. Malcolm and Leslie want your books and Elaine is looking for plants. So if you haven't started yet, do start cleaning out your cupboards and closets to find items to donate to any of these popular fair booths. Joyce and Gary can always use an extra hand in the kitchen for lunch also. Even if you can't work the day of the fair, we hope you will come and shop or eat lunch. Remember, ALL proceeds go to the Central Brevard Sharing Center. Since the Fair Saturday is such a long day, Fr. Peter has agreed to only one service on Sunday, November 5th. The time will be announced.

Our annual Stewardship campaign begins on Sunday, November 12 when the 2018 pledge cards and Time and Talent sheets will be distributed. I thank all of you for your generosity over the years and ask you to prayerfully consider your pledge for the coming year. This year we were very fortunate to be able to raise the money to restore the Chapel through insurance funds and outside sources. Our other facilities aren't as old as the Chapel but they also have needs, so please thoughtfully consider the amount you can give. The Time and Talent sheets are also important for letting Father Peter and the Vestry know how else you can support St. Luke's programs. Pledges and Time and Talent sheets are due on the day of our Annual meeting, which is Sunday, December 3.

Once again we will host a Thanksgiving lunch on the Sunday before the Thanksgiving holiday. Sunday, November 19 is an excellent opportunity to invite others to join us for worship and fellowship. As in the past, we will have one service at 10:30 a.m. followed immediately by a Thanksgiving spread!! The church will provide the turkey and we ask everyone to bring a side dish to share. Providing food and sharing the fellowship with others is one of the things St. Luke's does so well, so please plan to join us and ask your friends and family to come along with you.



Thanks to Joan and John for sprucing up our St. Luke's signs. They cleaned away the weeds and added a fresh coat of paint to a couple of them. We all appreciate their efforts to make it easier for people to find us.

As we begin our Fair preparations, Autumn becomes a time for thinking of others and giving of our time and talents to help those in need. It is also a time of being thankful for who we are and what we have and sharing those gifts with others. So I say Happy Autumn to all and thank you for your generosity!

Faithfully yours,

Marcia

November Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
BDG: Bible Discussion Group CFP: Christian Formation Program HE: Holy Eucharist and Sermon		PCE: Parish Choral Eucharist HS: Healing Service MP/EP: Morning/Evening Prayer				
			1 All Saints 10:00am Prayer Group 10:30am HC 7:00pm Safeguarding God's Children	2 All Souls 6:30pm HC 7:00pm Choir Safeguarding God's Children	3 Richard Hooker, Priest 1600	4 Holiday Fair
5 The Twenty-second Sunday of Pentecost (G) 9:30 am PCE Rite II-B	6 6:30pm Cub Committee 7:00pm NMIHOA	7 Willibrord, Archbishop of Utrecht 739 6:30pm BSA 7:00pm HE 7:30pm Vestry	8 Saints and Martyrs of the Anglican Communion 10:30am HE	9 6:30pm Cub Den Meeting Scout Committee HE 7:00pm HC	10 Leo the Great, Bishop of Rome 461	11 Martin, Bishop of Tours, 397
12 The Twenty-third Sunday of Pentecost (G) 8:00 am HE Rite I-II 9:15 am Safeguarding God's Children 10:30 am PCE Rite II-B	13 6:30pm Cub Den Meeting	14 Consecration of Samuel Saebury 6:30pm BSA	15 10:30am HE 6:30pm Cub Den Meeting	16 Margaret, Queen of Scotland, 1093 6:30pm Cub Den Meeting HC 7:00pm Choir	17 Hugh and Robert Grosseteste Bishops of Lincoln, 6:00pm GSA	18 Hilda, Abbess of Whitby 680
19 Thanksgiving (G) 10:30 am PCE Rite II-A	20 Edmund, King of East Anglia 870 6:30pm Cub Pack Meeting	21 William Byrd, 1623, John Merbecke, 1585, and Thomas Tallis, 1585, 6:30pm BSA	22 10:30am HE	23 Thanksgiving	24	25 James Otis Sargent Huntington, Priest and Monk 1935
26 Christ the King (W) 8:00 am HE Rite I-II 9:15am Safeguarding God's Children 10:30 am PCE Rite II-A	27 6:30pm Cub Den Meeting	28 Kamehameha and Emma of Hawaii 6:30pm BSA	29 10:30am HE 6:30pm Cub den Meeting	30 Andrew		

A Note From Your St. Luke's Quilters



Thank you, thank you, thank you for all your support this year. The response to this year's Holiday Fair Quilt, "**Cottages by the Sea**", has been most positive. We displayed the quilt this past Sunday and everyone seemed to like it a lot. For those who didn't get a chance to see the completed quilt we have attached pictures below.

We still need to sell tickets! If you would like to take 20 or more tickets please let Joan, Geri or Paula know and we will get the tickets to you and email pictures to your phone or tablet so you can show what we have to offer.

Also, people have been very generous with their time signing up to sit at tables at various venues.

One more thing, for the folks at the 8:00 coffee hour, we got so busy talking about the front of the quilt we forgot to show the other side of the REVERSIBLE quilt. The back is pretty too!



Your St. Luke's Quilters



Worship Schedule

Sundays:

Holy Eucharist	8:00 a.m.
Christian Formation Program	9:15 a.m.
Choral Eucharist (Nursery)	10:30 a.m.

Wednesdays:

Holy Eucharist & Healing Service	10:30 a.m.
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Thursdays:

Holy Eucharist & Healing Service	6:30 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.

In the 1870's the LaRoche, Porcher, and Sams families settled in Courtenay, named after a mayor of Charleston. Episcopalians from the Charleston/John's Island Area of South Carolina met in homes for worship. In 1886, the diocese of Florida established St. Luke's Mission and in 1888, the first church building was constructed on land given by Mr. Edward Porcher, with funds provided by Mrs. Lucy A. Boardman of Connecticut. This building remained the church building until a new one was dedicated on January 25, 1978, and the old building was designated the chapel. St. Luke's congregation uses the new building for most worship services and the chapel for small weddings and funerals.

St. Luke's Parish offers a full program of worship and Christian Education on Sunday mornings. We also have a mid-week program of Eucharist and Healing Service Study. In addition, dedicated adult leaders staff our Youth Group for grades 6th-12th.

St. Luke's Parish was one of the founders of the Central Brevard Sharing Center, which seeks to meet the needs of those people who cannot find help through regular service agencies. Since 1886, St. Luke's Church has sought to offer the love and worship of God through Jesus Christ by serving their neighbors and strives to make a positive contribution to the spiritual growth of Merritt Island and Central Brevard County.

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