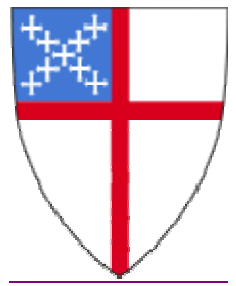


St. Luke's Episcopal Church

"Heaven in the Hills"

Newsletter—July 2009



From Father Bye... "Spirituality"

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The term "spirituality" is commonly heard in conversations these days, sometimes as an alternative to "religion." Actually, the concept has always been there. Old Testament terms such as "the spirit of God was upon him," confirms that Spirituality has been with us from earliest biblical times. St. Paul, in his first letter to the Thessalonians, makes the three distinctions in humans as body, soul, and spirit. This is certainly a trinitarian description of our make up and without question would be a reflection of God's own self.

(continued on page 2)

St. Luke's Stained Glass Windows

For most of us, our hearts are warmed upon entering the Church and seeing the sunlight's effect on the stained glass windows. The vibrant light helps set the tone for a wonderful worship experience. The windows are often the first thing that visitors notice and remember about St. Luke's.

But there is so much more to enjoy knowing about our beautiful windows. They were designed by Becky Crouch Patterson from the Fredericksburg area. Joe Juarez of San Antonio crafted the windows.

(Continued on Page 7)

Bishop's Committee Meeting - July 20th, 6 PM

The Bishop's Committee will meet on July 20th at 6 PM in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend.

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From page 1, Father Bye...

There are some who see the spirit as informing the soul. The soul being informed by the spirit responds hopefully by loving. Such love will eventually show forth by actions taken by the body which is directed by the soul. Whereas God created us for each of these three to be in harmony, we in our fallenness often find the body and the soul in conflict, especially in relation to that which is or is not received from the spirit. It follows then, that in order to be in harmony with the world around us, or in internal harmony, we are dependent on the spirit.

People are unconsciously aware of this dynamic as they perceive a conflict between "spirituality" and "religion." When religion is seen only as issues of right and wrong answers, it may be understood but does not really "work." Consequently we hear the common question raised, "what does this mean to my life right now?" If there is no connection made between a true statement and its immediate effect on our lives, then it may appear as though it does not work.

Speculative religion then can give certain satisfaction in one attaining the correct answers, yet it can be seen as not enough. Obviously not, when we are created trinitarian and must be satisfied in body, soul and spirit. One would then turn perhaps to more affective religion only to eventually discover that this also will eventually lead to a void. Spirituality then appears to people to hold the answer since religion might be seen as a process for knowing about God, while the spirit was created for the purpose of helping us to know God.

For Anglicans, Martin Thornton offers a solution in his Book, ENGLISH SPIRITUALITY. Thornton's book speaks to a "system" for spiritual growth that has developed over time under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. That system, first of all, is Christian, overshadowed by Benedictine order, which includes consideration and practice of the use of Spiritual Direction. I sometimes believe that it is not so much the information imparted by the spiritual director as it is what happens to the individual who willingly submits to the process. That process affords us the opportunity to gain a degree of humility that otherwise might not be available.

Most of us do not like to admit that we cannot do it all ourselves. This condition is a reflection of our relationship with God and, thereby, hinders our ability to know Him to the depth that He has created us to. To give one's self over to spiritual direction is a small step in the process of giving one's self over to God. It is also part of a system for spiritual growth rather than a piece-meal approach that can easily overlook some of the best pieces. I hope you will avail yourself of your parish priest or a qualified lay director.

-Father Bye+

Why I Love Worshipping at St. Luke's...

Send an email with your thoughts on "Why I Love Worshipping at St. Luke's" to Don Gray at donaldkgray@gmail.com. Emails will be included in future monthly newsletters.

St. Luke's Website - A Wealth of Good Info...

The Church website can be found at <http://www.stlukes-cm.org/>. At the website you will find Daily Devotionals, this month's Church newsletter, archived newsletters, minutes from Bishop's Committee meetings, and much, much more. Check it often...

Greeter Schedule for Upcoming Weeks

Dates	Service	Greeter	Phone	Email address
7/26 & 9/13	10:15	Pat Burleson	830-825-0211-	sandiburleson@hotmail.com
9/20	10:15	Jorn Budde	512-264-9685	jibudde@aol.com
8/2	10:15	Don Gray	512-496-3583	donaldkgray@gmail.com
& 8/9	10:15	Rick Shroeter	830-825-2102	cypress@star.net
8/16	10:15	Ann Bond	830-825-3003	bond@star.net
7/5 & 8/23	10:15	Joe McShane	512-261-6780	Mmcs56309@aol.com
7/12 & 8/30	10:15	David Greene	830-832-5848	Dwgreene1@copper.net
7/19 & 9/6	10:15	Ladd Smith	262-844-6171	hupandkatie@sbcglobal.net
Substitute		Mike Kelley	830-825-3490	Mkelley5354@netzero.net
All dates		Fielding Reiner	830-285-3335	reiner@moment.net

“More” Reasons to be an Episcopalian...

(Taken from “101 Reasons to be Episcopalian”, compiled by Louie Crew and published by Morehouse Publishing)

We honor tradition, but do not fossilize it.

- L. Canipe, Diocese of Virginia

Where faith is God’s gift to us, not our gift to God.

L. Crew, Diocese of Newark

It’s a church where you can come in without leaving your brain at the door and then have the opportunity to love all of those who managed to come in with their “wrong” ideas.

- L. Frade, Diocese of Southeast Florida

At our best, Episcopalians can respectfully disagree about a great many things – and still break bread together.

B. Ross, Diocese of Oregon

When Anglicanism is at its best, its liturgy, its poetry, its music, and its life can create a world of wonder in which it is very easy to fall in love with God.

U. Holmes



Photo: "Indian Blankets".
Stained glass window,
designed by Becky Crouch
Patterson.

Located along the north
wall of the Church. See
related
article.

Worship Services

Wednesday –Morning
Prayer at 9 AM, Holy
Eucharist at 11 AM

Sundays - Holy Eucha-
rist (no music) at 8 AM,
Eucharist w/music at
10:15 AM

Keeping in Prayer...

The success of Bob, Frana and friends in Zambia
and for those they minister to and for those in
support roles; plus Irene, Mae, Cynthia, Carolyn,
Trevor, John A., Juanita, Chrissie, Sue, Lori,
Norma, Mary Nell, Peggy, Terry, Lucy, Barbara, Susan, Hupp,
Lee, Allan, Jim, Jackie, Cindy, Daryll.



Important Contacts...

Vicar - Tommy Bye 817-308-5850 ; Email: byetommy@yahoo.com

Bishop's Warden - Liz Manning 512-264-8847; Email: lman-
ning@austin.rr.com

Church Office - 830-825-8001

Bob and Frana's Mission to Zambia

June 20, 2009

Dear Friends at St. Luke's:

Our mission to the people of Zambia is not about "us"; it's focus is Jesus and others. Ours is a church-planting mission enriched by a medical team which will visit each of the sites where the group seeks to form a Christian congregation. The physicians, dentist, nurses and pharmacist render highly professional service, convey the message of Christ in a persuasive manner and also serve as a draw---lending credence to our message that God loves us all.

Drawing on our experiences of short-term mission trips since 1990 to Honduras and Mexico, we are departing for our second trip to Zambia on June 25. We depart Austin through Houston, London and Nairobi to Lusaka, Zambia, the national capital. The four couples will split from each other, two couples going to Northwest Zambia and two of us will catch a bus to Monze, the site of last year's mission. We arrive in Monze 36 hours after departing Austin.

The next several days we will spend talking to and leading bible study with our friends in the Reformed Church of Zambia and the newly-established church in Gaali. We will also attend three other new congregations which were formed with the help of others of our team in 2008. On Friday we have an 8 hour bus ride to Livingstone in the southwest of Zambia. This is on the Zambezi River, above famed Victoria Falls. It is very near a point where four countries join--- Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia and Zambia. Apart from hunger and AIDS, malaria and cholera are the current scourges.

Ours is a mission to a churchless community selected by our friend, the Rev. Joseph Phiri. It is down river from the ferry into Botswana. He has asked us to focus our teachings on prayer, and especially John 15:8---. We ask members of St. Luke's to join with us in this teaching. Our team is largely from Covenant Presbyterian Church, Austin, although several of us are outliers. Our umbrella organization is "e3 Partners Ministry". This name derives from our mission to "equip, evangelize and establish". Based in Plano, Texas, it serves around the world.

One of the real benefits we've enjoyed from these efforts is the fond relationships we have formed; real friendships which have endured, some for as long as 19 years. That is true in Siguatepeche, Honduras, Xalapa, Mexico, and now with the Rev. and Mrs. Phiri in Monze, Zambia with whom we've been in contact throughout this past year.

After Livingstone, we depart for Barcelona, Spain where Bob is beginning his first of four brief residences in graduate school directed to a Master of Fine Arts degree. I will master tapas, paella, the museums of Picasso, Miro and Gaudi and take lessons in mosaic tiling. The Lord willing, we will return on July 24.

Your loving friend, Frana

Update: Bob and Frana landed safely in Africa and are busy introducing Zambians to the love of Christ.



Burger Chefs Rick, Mike & David at the Cookout in June. A great time!

Dave Green takes over as Junior Warden

Dave Green is now serving as St. Luke's Junior Warden, taking over the role from Don Gray. As Junior Warden, David handles St. Luke's buildings and grounds. Don Gray says he enjoyed his tenure and plans to continue helping Dave, they same way that Dave helped Don so much. Don adds that the offer to produce the monthly newsletter while in air conditioned comfort was the dealmaker.

New Lawn Tractor and Storage Shed

St. Luke's recently purchased a Husqvarna lawn tractor for the grounds (and got a great deal on it). Junior Warden Dave Green is offering free rides on it, provided you actually mow while riding it! If you are interested in taking it out for a spin, contact Dave as mowing help is always needed during the rainy season. (Did we miss it???)

A storage shed will be built soon to garage the mower. Plans are to construct cedar lumbered walls and lockable double doors to enclose the shed roof that extends from the "rock" building on the west side of the Church grounds. The shed will be used to store grounds equipment like the mower, a weed-eater, fuels, herbicides and other grounds equipment. The floor will be crushed granite gravel. Dave Green is seeking volunteers to construct the storage shed. (See related story). Volunteers David manning, Wes and Dave Green, Pat Burlison and Father Tommy Bye devoted time on July 4th to pour the concrete runners that will serve as the base of the walls.

(Continued “Stained Glass Windows”—from Page 1)

The windows were installed in 1995, almost 40 years after the church was built.

The first four windows on the south wall represent the six seasons of the church year. —from the rear of the church to the front, window 1 as Advent, window 2 as a combination of Christmas, Epiphany, and Lent, window 3 as Easter & and window 4 as Pentecost. The Window on the south wall nearest the Communion rail represents Communion.

The large window above the front door to the Church represents Psalm 121, verses 1 and 2 (“I will lift my eyes to the hills, from where is my help to come? My help comes from the Lord”).

The six windows along the north wall represent samples of local wildflowers. These include Indian Blanket, Texas Bluebell, Thistle, Mexican Hat, Agarita, and Indian Paintbrush.

Future editions of this monthly newsletter will provide even more details about the religious symbolism and inspiration found in the windows that represent the seasons of the Church year.

Alter Guild Schedule

July 12 - Paula Sumners & Sandi Burleson
July 19 - Sandy Hodges & Sue Peterson
July 26 - Rita Reiner & Connie Bye
August 2—Gail Moreman & Sally Smith
August 9—Paula Sumners & Sandi Burleson
August 16— Sandy Hodges & Sue Peterson
August 23—Rita Reiner & Connie Bye
August 30—Gail Moreman



Lay Reader/Acolyte Schedule

	Lay Reader 8 AM	Lay Reader 10:15 AM	Acolyte 10:15 AM
July 12	David G.	Lonnie R.	Joseph S.
July 19	John S.	Mike K.	Christie S.
July 26	Liz M.	Pat B.	David M.
August 2	John S.	Thomas S.	None required
August 9	David G.	Monique R.	Joseph S.
August 16	Frana K.	Marie M.	Thomas S.
August 23	Liz M.	Pat B.	David M.
August 30	John S.	Frana K.	Joseph S.

Julys Birthdays & Anniversaries

My apologies, but I've temporarily (hopefully) misplaced the record book which contains the listing of birthdays and anniversaries! If I don't find it soon, I'll need to contact everyone for new data. Sorry!
-Don Gray

- **Please notify Don Gray of any omissions from the birthday/anniversary lists.**
- **Submit newsletter articles or ideas to Don Gray via email to donaldkgray@gmail.com by the 25th of each month (512-496-3583)**



John & Liz, caught while “cutting up!”

“Wall Building” Workday- Saturday, July 11, 6:30 AM

Junior Warden Dave Green and volunteer helpers will construct the walls of the Church's new equipment shed on Saturday, July 11. Volunteers are needed to share the load among many. The project begins at 6:30 AM to avoid the worst of the heat, but volunteers came arrive anytime in the AM.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
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