

# Renewal and Evangelism

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## C o m m u n i q u é

Dear Friends,

I wrote this in the days leading up to October 18<sup>th</sup> when we had a glorious service to celebrate our new relationship as the Rector and People of Saint Luke's. This service included the renewal of our common ministry after almost two years together as priest and congregation. I have a great deal of excitement because we have the opportunity to present Saint Luke's the larger community of Scranton once again.

In many facets of our life here at Saint Luke's, we are experiencing this renewal and growth. For example at the Annual Meeting at the end of September, we elected five new members of the Vestry. At the first gathering of the new Vestry we, then, in turn, decided on who will be serving as officers. I am excited to be working with all nine Vestry members:

David Wegner (Class of 2010)—Senior Warden  
Howard Timms, Jr. (Class of 2009)—Junior Warden (elected at the 2008 Annual Meeting)  
Steven Arling (Class of 2010)—Treasurer (elected at the 2008 Annual Meeting)  
Carole Guzzi (Class of 2011)—Secretary (elected at the 2008 Annual Meeting)  
Robert Cudworth, Sr. (Class of 2011) (elected at the 2008 Annual Meeting)  
Deirdre Frazier (Class of 2009)  
Larry Hickernell, Jr. (Class of 2009)  
Beverly Hoeffner (Class of 2010)  
Linda Howarth (Class of 2011) (elected at the 2008 Annual Meeting)

In the Episcopal Church, the relationship between the Vestry and the Rector is a blend of a democracy and hierarchy. On the democratic side, the Rector functions in many ways as "first among equals," that is as a leader of his or her peers, fellow Christians all of whom have the common good of the congregation in mind. The responsibilities of the Rector and Vestry are complementary: the Rector oversees the program and the worship—the content of what happens in parish life, while the Vestry oversees the finances and the real estate—the money and buildings. In truth, in most congregations these areas of oversight are shared jointly between clergy and people, lay people and clergy working together in all aspects of the congregation's life.

However, we are also a hierarchical institution: we are led by bishops (in Greek *episkopos*, thus giving us the name Episcopal), with priests, deacons and laity. As a priest, I am responsible to my bishop, the vows I took at ordination and the canons (that is laws) of the Episcopal Church. However, while I am called to respond to the Vestry and other leadership of Saint Luke's, I am not responsible to them; that is, we do not have an employer-employee relationship.

This can be confusing to Episcopalians. In the secular world, the person or entity that signs someone's paycheck is the employer, and the employee is the person who is hired and fired by that entity or person. Because we blend the democratic and the hierarchical, to terminate the Rector's tenure requires a lengthy process between the Vestry, the Bishop and the Rector. This, paradoxically safeguards the congregation, the Rector and the Bishop against hasty and retaliatory actions.

In addition, this hierarchical system puts into place some other rules. For example, because of the unique American historical situation, the canons (laws) of the Episcopal Church gives control of the use of the parish's buildings to the Rector. In many situations, the Rector might consult with the parish's leadership before making major changes, for example, in using part of the building for a school or other major tenant.

This blend of hierarchy and democracy is based on relationship rather than exclusively on a contractual understanding. Each party—clergy and congregation—must trust the other in order for parish life to prosper. This takes careful cultivation, in which discussion, prayer and “face time” all play an important part. Whenever dissension occurs, both parties have the responsibility to heal the breach before lasting damage occurs.

In all this, Episcopalians differ from other denominations. In some Protestant denominations such as the Presbyterian Church, members of the clergy are seen as church employees. In others, like the Methodists, ministers are seen as appointed by the denominational authorities. As I have said, we lend these two approaches in a unique way. This system presents opportunities and challenges for clergy and congregations alike. In the end however it comes down to trust in each other, and a clear sense of common calling: that all parties are to embody the gospel in word, action and attitude. This is what we celebrated on October 18<sup>th</sup>, and will continue to live into as the years unfold.

In Christ,  
The Reverend Peter D. D'Angio, Rector

### **Senior Warden's Message**

In October, the vestry had its organizational meeting following the election of new vestry members at the Annual Meeting in September. First, I want to thank the outgoing members of the vestry including Jim Butler, Edna Cudworth, Kingsley Gnanendran, Bob Thompson and Helen Weinschenk. Thank you all for your service. Secondly, I'd like to welcome new members of the vestry including Steve Arling, Carol Guzzi, Howard Timms and returning vestry person Bob Cudworth. In our organizational meeting, we elected a new Junior Warden - Howard Timms, new Treasurer - Steve Arling and new Secretary - Carol Guzzi. I look forward to working with all of you. Also, I want to thank outgoing officers Kingsley (Secretary), Bob Cudworth (Junior Warden) and Deirdre Frazier (Treasurer). Finally, I'd like to say a special thank you to all who made the Reverend Peter D'Angio's installation on October 18 a success, especially Tammie Fitz-Arling who was responsible for the most of the planning and coordinating. As always, our Church Secretary, Bonita Ferguson did an incredible job keeping everyone in line.

### **R&E**

The Renewal & Evangelism Committee is sponsoring a collection for Safety Net for Christmas. Will you donate an item for Safety Net. Please wrap the gift and identify what is inside. ( example— Girls shirt, size 4, or Girls toy, for age 5) You can list more information if you desire. As long as they can identify the appropriate person to receive your gift. Please have items deposited in the decorated box by December 14.

## Birthdays

### December 2008

- 02 Jason Pietreface  
Barbara Tomaine
- 04 Kelly O'Malley
- 06 Diana Dunkley  
Esther Rosengrant
- 07 David Gaus
- 08 Cassandra Schaffer
- 11 David Wegner
- 16 Arjunan Gnanendran
- 17 Roger Rogalewicz
- 18 Robert Eckersley
- 20 Salvatore Ingiaimo
- 21 Donna Moser
- 22 Jean Cibik
- 23 Diane Lewis  
Robert Lewis Sr.  
Carolyn Stringfellow  
Kathy Zlotucha
- 24 Virginia Haskett  
Beverly Hoeffner
- 25 Jordon O'Malley
- 27 Jillian Doran
- 28 Dorothy Smith
- 29 Kimberly Evans
- 31 Marie Huester

**Belated Birthday** to Nick & Louise Serpico who were not listed in our Birthday List. Nick's birthday was on September 13 and Louise's was on October 15.



## First Friday

Come and enjoy the many exhibitors in downtown Scranton on the first Friday of the month. This month it is on November 7th. Hours are from 6-9 pm.

At St. Luke's, the exhibitors include Duffy's Accessories, Your 'Pixel' Perfect Photography, The Lackawanna Humane Society with pets for adoption, and Meredith Bissland and Joyce Benton with Natural Art—Jewelry, Mask & Baby Dolls. Also, music will be provided by Jack Woodbridge. Jack is a Scranton native and comes to us from New York. He will perform on the piano and have available his CD "Picture This" and his new CD 'Jack of Hearts' to be released in 2009.

## Christmas Luncheon

Mark Saturday, December 6 on your calendar and join St. Luke's Family for our annual Holiday luncheon. Cooper's will once again cater our luncheon and entertainment promises to be very enjoyable. Reservations will be taken after the 15th at 3442625 or fill out a form and return with a check to Edna Cudworth.

The Youth Center will be open for the Luncheon and the children of attendees will have a pizza party. Please indicate the number of children attending the pizza party.

Area churches are invited to join us for the Christmas Luncheon. Reserve your seat early. Last year all tables were filled.

## Alma Nancarrow

A Memorial Service was held on October 10 for Alma Nancarrow who died on June 26.

Bethel A.M.E. Church will have a Chicken Wing Dinner on December 6 from 12-5 pm.

## Altar Flowers Schedule

Donor	In Memory Of	Donor	In Memory Of
<b>November</b>		<b>December</b>	
09 Mamie Hamm	Hubert Hamm	07 Shirley Sexton	John Henry Bingham
16 Tim Davies	Lois Davies	Open for 1	
23 OPEN for 2		14 Robert & Edna Cudworth	Elmer & Nettie Cudworth
27 & 30 Jim Butler	Mildred Butler	21 Memorial Flowers for Christmas	
		28 Memorial Flowers	

# The Communiqué

St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
232 Wyoming Avenue  
Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503-1464

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ORGANIZATION  
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## RENEWAL AND EVANGELISM COMMUNIQUE



[www.StLukesScranton.org](http://www.StLukesScranton.org)

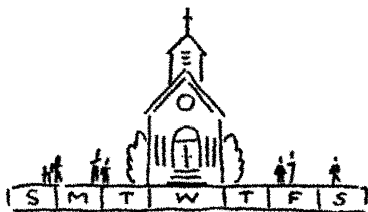
**Welsh Cookies**  
**November 15**

**Editor Needed**



**Consecration Sunday**  
**November 23**

**Thanksgiving**  
**November 27**



**Mid-Week Worship**

12:10 p.m.

A newsletter by the R & E committee of St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

Edna Cudworth, *Editor*

Marion Gavern  
Frank Hoeffner

Beverly Hoeffner  
Bob Cudworth

