

169th Annual Meeting & Report
January 29, 2023



Saint Luke's Episcopal Church
232 Wyoming Avenue
Scranton, PA 18503

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RECTOR'S REPORT
on the Occasion of the Annual Parish Meeting
The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, 29 January 2023

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This past November, I began my seventh year here at St. Luke's, and my second year as your Rector. The past year has been one of the most eventful years we have shared together. After two years of challenges from the Covid-19 pandemic, this year we saw evidence of starting to return to more "normal" times. Of course, while true, it is probably more accurate to say that we have entered into a new normal. Things that we would not have imaged just a couple years ago are now commonplace, such as regular live-streaming, hybrid meetings, and more. We continue to live with the realities of Covid and the unique challenges, and heartaches, it has presented. I am grateful for the seriousness with which we handled the pandemic and the measures you have taken to ensure the safety of yourselves and our community.

While we have not seen a return in our in-person attendance to pre-pandemic levels, there has been an increase in so many forms of ministry, worship and community here at St. Luke's.

Over the past year, in addition to utilizing technology to allow our liturgies at St. Luke's to be available to a wide audience, we have been keeping our website current, often updating it daily, and have started sending out a weekly e-blast with announcements and a hyper-linked calendar of weekly events and services. We have updated our database to a cloud-based system and will be introducing more features on that system in the coming year to greater connect us as a community.

Annually, I try to give you a thorough overview of the work and ministry of our parish church and a better picture of our common life over the past calendar year, as well as our continued witness to the presence of the Gospel, and of God in Christ, here in the city of Scranton.

Worship and Liturgy: Since March of 2020 we have been live-streaming the praying of the Daily Office at St. Luke's. The Daily Office is one of the regular forms of worship in our Prayer Book, and we remain committed to this ministry. It is an important spiritual offering which touches the lives of many in our parish, especially those who are homebound, and keeps us united in daily prayer. By and large, Morning and Evening Prayer are livestreamed from our parish six days a week, however, this year, my own bout with Covid, vacation time, and my pilgrimage to the Holy Land did impact this daily offering. We also continue to live-stream the Saturday and Sunday Eucharist, and other services such as Stations of the Cross and Compline in Lent, as well as some of the pastoral offices (i.e weddings, funerals), as requested by families. Since the start of the pandemic, the Episcopal Church has requested information on streamed services, as well as in-person. As such, we track that information to the best of our ability. For a

year and a half (since May 2021) we have been together both in in-person worship and gathering, as well as virtual. Our in-person, as previously noted, has not returned to pre-pandemic rates, but our attendance overall is strengthening. Moreover, the virus may have pushed the church into the virtual world out of necessity, but it is here to stay. To that end, we have a number of members who now consider themselves part of our “remote community.” As we will continue streaming, it is my hope that in the coming year, we can upgrade our equipment and streaming service. The obvious issue we face with streaming is of course, the administration of the sacrament to those who are communicants who join us virtually. Upon completion of diocesan training and Eucharistic Visitor licensing this coming spring, it is our goal to resume and expand our pastoral care program to better meet the needs of those members who are homebound and those living in congregate care facilities. Moreover, it is my prayer that we will return to the common cup by Easter. In anticipation of that, several members of the parish underwent Eucharistic Minister training in December and have been licensed by the Diocese for service in this ministry.

In addition to the Daily Office and Saturday /Sunday and mid-week celebrations Holy Eucharist, this year we offered all of our usual Holy Week and Easter services and during the Fridays in Lent prayed the Stations of the Cross and Compline. We celebrated our full traditional schedule of Christmas services, as well as the Longest Night/Blue Christmas service at which Sheri Melcher of CaPPA served as guest pianist.

This year, our hiking group officially joined Holy Hikes®, a California-based Episcopal organization, and formally launched Holy Hikes Northeast Pennsylvania, the first Holy Hikes chapter in the Commonwealth. As part of this affiliation, we do not just hike, but enjoy the beauty of God's creation and being in communion together as we celebrate the Eucharist along the trail. In Epiphany, we offered the opportunity for House Blessings again this year. In October, we held our Annual First Friday service of the Blessing of the Animals, and welcomed friends from St. Cats and Dogs and more. On Thanksgiving, as is tradition at St. Luke's, we held a 10am Thanksgiving morning service. This year, we also opened our doors to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Sandy Hook shootings in a vigil led by Mom's Demand Action.

As an ecumenical partner we participated in the annual Ecumenical Celebration of the Word of God service as part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and were part of a program offered through the Scranton Area Ministerium entitled, *People of Faith Coming Together*. This year, it has also been my privilege, as your priest, to represent St. Luke's at the Scranton Pride Flag raising, at the local March for our Lives following the shootings in Uvalde, TX; at the Greater Scranton MLK Interfaith Service and the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Temple Hesed. Additionally, it has been my honor to continue to serve locally as the President of the Scranton Area Ministerium, as a Commissioner on the City of Scranton Human Relations Commission, and in the Diocese of Bethlehem to continue to serve on the Diocesan Commission for Ministry, the Taskforce for Antiracism and Reconciliation, and at this year's Convention to be elected as a clergy deputy to the 2024 General Convention of the Episcopal Church which will be held in Louisville, KY.

Each March, the Parochial Report must be submitted to the national offices of the Episcopal Church. This requires us to cull together a lot of statistics, and while these numbers give a partial picture of our parish, they can in no way depict the tremendous life and vibrancy of this parish community. As I do each year in my report I will share with you some figures which help to give a greater overview of our common life together here at St. Luke's.

General statistics: In 2022 our membership remained consistent and is growing. We had twelve new persons added to the parish roster by baptism, request, or letter of transfer. This year, the Parochial report will be asking for statistical information that it has not required in previous years, such as racial demographics. We have never tracked this data, so I mention this so that you can notify me if you wish to be known as being of a specific race, culture, gender, or other demographic identity.

As churches continue to be offering more hybrid and online services, the way in which we calculate attendance also continues to evolve. This year we will be asked to track weekly attendance in addition to the long time standard of Sunday attendance. As a result of Covid, forms of worship and in-person attendance has dramatically changed. Our Sunday average in-person attendance has dropped, but our weekly numbers are steadily increasing, and our online viewing often exceeds our in-person attendance. Our average Sunday in-person attendance for 2022 was 48. This year we offered in-person and virtual worship for all of our usual Saturday and Sunday services. While the attendance varies weekly, in-person attendance for the Saturday Easter Vigil Service was 28 (19 in 2021), with 113 streaming views (64 in 2021) both doubling; Easter Sunday we had 68 (45 in 2021) in-person with 63 (79 in 2021) streaming views; total attendance 96 in-person/176 streaming. On Christmas, we had 71 and 66 streaming at 4pm; 34 with 58 streaming at 11pm, and 21 with 53 streaming on Christmas Day; total 126 in- person, 177 streaming.

Specifically, in 2022, we celebrated Eucharist 156 times – 98 Saturday/Sunday Eucharists, 58 weekday or Holy Day Eucharists. The Daily Office (Morning/Evening Prayer, Compline) was prayed 428 times: 360 times on weekdays, and 68 times on Sundays. There were 8 baptisms; 0 confirmations/receptions/reaffirmations; 1 wedding; and 3 funeral/burial services from the parish.

Faithful Departed 2022: This year we commended into the hands of our merciful Savior, Robert Diamonds who died in 2021; and Sharon Garvey and Mary Ann Johnson who died this year. May these, and all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Christian Education and Formation: Christian formation is the lifelong process of growing in relationship with God, self, others and all creation. In this process, we are transformed into the people God wants us to be. St. Luke's is committed to offering rich programing in Christian Education and Formation for all ages. Each Thursday, our ongoing Centering Prayer group

gathers for prayer, reflection and learning. This gathering is held in-person in the Chapel and via our Zoom Chapel.

This past year was rich with varied educational offerings. In the beginning of the year we concluded a program of *Episcopal 101* which began the previous fall. In the spring, I partnered with Rabbi Daniel Swartz of Temple Hesed to teach a class on the Ten Commandments. The course was offered with five classes being taught at Temple Hesed and five here at St. Luke's; the entire program was offered as a hybrid, as well. In Lent, we offered a program we called *Lenten Loaves and Lessons* which was lay led and offered reflections on meditations from Episcopal Relief and Development along with a simple meal. In solidarity with the Ukraine and the horrors of the war that is still underway, we offered a workshop entitled *Prayer and Pysanky*. Local instructor, Tammy Budnovitch, a member of St. Cyril and Methodius, Olyphant, led the class as we learned the elaborate art of Ukrainian Easter egg decoration. In Eastertide, we learned more about Mary Magdalene during a half-day retreat with biblical scholar and professor, Dr. Deirdre Good who joined us from Maine via Zoom.

This fall, in collaboration with other houses of worship, a number of our fellow St. Lukan's participated in *People of Faith Coming Together*, a program offered by the Scranton Area Ministerium. The series provided an opportunity to see how others worship and learn about our varied religious traditions. As a preparation for the coming of Christ, this Advent season, we joined together to undertake a Bible study using the Episcopal Church's *Way of Love* materials. The series explored Advent lessons contained in the Gospel of Luke. As an outgrowth of this study, we now offer a weekly Bible study each Wednesday following the Healing Eucharist.

As an additional offering to the parish, Mother Liz and I presented a program on our pilgrimage to the Holy Land, which we undertook as continuing education. The program was an extraordinary opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and to connect the Biblical narratives with the landscapes of Israel/Palestine. It is hoped that in the future, we may be able to organize a group trip from St. Luke's for those who may wish to undertake a similar course at St. George's, Jerusalem.

Children's Christian Education is offered at St. Luke's through our Sunday School program which is under the dedicated leadership of Rick Ammenhauser, and Ken Wrazien. We use "Godly Play," a Montessori-based curriculum for our lessons and weekly teaching. Sunday School meets at 9:30 each Sunday, except on the first Sunday of the month when we have our "Family Eucharist" in which the children serve in varied ways such as ushering, reading, or as acolytes. We kicked off Sunday School year this fall with a special Eucharistic training for our youngest members who received their first Holy Communion on our patronal feast day of St. Luke in October. This year we had two new children join the Sunday School program.

In an effort to better serve our teens and youth, we launched a new confirmation program with five youth. The program is using *My Faith, My Life, A Teen's Guide to the Episcopal Church*

and will run for nine months. In June, Bishop Kevin will join us to confirm youth and adults, as well as receive individuals into the Episcopal Church. In the coming years, we plan to use *J2A - The Journey to Adulthood* as an educational curriculum for our youth. Journey to Adulthood is an online, downloadable youth ministry program of spiritual formation for 6th-12th grades. Recently fully revised and updated, it is centered on inclusive, relational ministry and uses Bible study, prayer, rites of passage, and service projects. In addition to the youth confirmation program, this past summer we also initiated in a joint youth event with Church of the Epiphany, and look forward to additional ways to connect with other parishes in our convocation and the Diocese.

Parish Staffing and Lay Leadership: In 2022, St. Luke's ran on a reduced staff. In December 2021 we hired Paul Bransfield, our part-time sexton. Paul works for us 19 hours per week, and I am happy to share that we were able to help him find additional employment with our neighbors at the Ritz Theater. Once we resumed in person worship in 2021, we re-engaged our singers, but had only a trio, as opposed to the vocal quartet that was standard for years. This past year has been challenging with regards to obtaining the forces needed for a quartet, which you will hear more about in the music report, but I am happy to report that we are moving towards having a full complement in the coming weeks. Our organist, Maria Zengion, and our bookkeeper, Diana Castellano have both remained in our employ part-time throughout this year.

In 2021, we began working with the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) as a host site and had a program participant who was providing part-time office help. Unfortunately, this did not meet our needs, as hoped. Over the past few months, members of our Vestry and Finance Committee have been assisting in the parish office. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Carol McMullen for assuring that our bills have been paid in a timely fashion and serving as a financial secretary, and Sharon Sollami and Amanda Wrazien for covering the office with great regularity.

I would like express my sincerest gratitude to Maria Zengion for her contribution to our services with her musical talents and gifts, and to Max Roche and Francis McMullen who enrich our worship with song and psalmody. Your combined music talents and gifts allow us all to engage more deeply in the beauty of our Anglican worship and enable us to maintain our liturgical and musical standards. I would also like to express a heartfelt "Thank you" to all who serve regularly as lectors and intercessors, altar guild, and ushers for our liturgies, and all who have hosted coffee hour and provided hospitality. My sincere thanks to our Senior Warden, Mickey Baccoli, and our Junior Warden, Rick Ammenhauser, to all the members of the Vestry and those who serve on the Finance Committee for your commitment and work in maintaining and preserving our buildings and wonderful liturgical treasures, and the keeping our books, records, and newsletter. Thank you, to all of you, for looking in on each other and staying connected as a parish family. As we are hopefully reaching the end of this pandemic we look forward to a new and inspiring ways of being St. Luke's and serving Christ here in the heart of things in downtown Scranton. It takes many faithful people to insure that St. Luke's is able to execute and

fulfill its ministry and mission, from those who serve in formal capacities in elected parish leadership, those who serve on various committees, and those who lovingly and selflessly volunteer, often unknown and behind the scenes.

I wish particularly to offer the gratitude of the entire parish to all who serve in elected leadership, as Vestry members, and Delegates to Convention. This year I wish to especially acknowledge Jeremy Rich (who needed to step down from the Vestry); Amanda Wrazien, who fulfilled a partial term and is completing a first full term; and Jane Merolla who is completing a six year term of service. Jane needed to step back from her position as Treasurer, and I am grateful to Thomas Zurla for assuming the position of Treasurer this past fall. I wish to thank Sharon Sollomi who has served a full term on Vestry and graciously agreed to stand for re-election to a second (three-year) term, and to Tom who has agreed to stand for election for a first (three-year) term.

In closing, I would like to say something about our common life. This past year has seen tremendous growth in our parish. In many ways, we offer more opportunities and forms of ministry than a parish double our size. We are vibrant and this is an exciting place in which to serve, grow in the knowledge and love of God and worship together. We are a warm and welcoming community, always striving to be there for the next person who comes through our door, be it a seeker or someone in need of a helping hand. St. Benedict said in his famous Rule, "that all who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ." I see us living into that spiritual goal more and more. From a spiritual, missional, ministerial perspective, we are strong.

From a financial standpoint, we are facing serious challenges. You will hear more about this from our Treasurer, Tom Zurla, to whom I am exceedingly grateful for having taken up the mantle of this office and providing us with guidance, leadership and creativity. Our fixed costs like insurance, salaries, Diocesan assessment, professional fees and the like keep rising; and our aging, historic buildings are a challenge to maintain. While we have no debt, we have been running on a deficit budget for years. We have offset the deficit by drawing down on our investment funds by approximately \$180,000 annually. This year, with a volatile market, we also suffered a severe loss, as did most everyone. We have been working to trim our expenses by reducing our heat and air conditioning, and not filling the position of a parish secretary. We run on a frugal budget, and to be clear, we do not have a spending problem, rather, we have an income deficiency. To address problems from a long term prospective, we will need to find new solutions. We no longer can operate as we have for so many years. For 172 years, St. Luke's has survived thanks to the sacrifice of generations who preceded us. As responsible stewards of our legacy, we will need to make some changes. What those are remains to be seen, but we will need to think outside the box and ask God's guidance as we discern solutions and directions for the future and ways to take action. Your participation in this effort will be critical, coupled with robust annual stewardship and fundraising.

Our challenges are tremendous. In the coming year, we are going to need to be courageous people, not fretting or worrying about next steps, but trusting in God who sustains us, strengthens us, and gives us life. Today in the Epistle, we heard Paul's encouragement to the church in Corinth. These words are encouragement for us too, "God is the source of your life in Christ Jesus."

We are we are capable of great things and though we have to dig deep at this moment, and apply creative strategies and solutions, we have it within us to thrive and flourish for years to come.

For it is indeed in Him that we live and move and have our being. May God our God be with us and in all we do, may he be praised and may we walk forever humbly with our God.

Faithfully yours,
Rebecca A. Barnes✠
Rector

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

I would like to take this time to thank all the members of the vestry for their hard work in 2022. I especially want to commend the Junior Warden, Rick Ammenhauser for his work on building repairs including the new locks on the front door and the repair of the exhaust fan in the kitchen. I want to thank Kathy Selemba for her work in completing the minutes of the Vestry. Also thanks to Vestry member, Sharon Sollami, for her work on our food pantry with Friends of the Poor. There are so many people who contribute in so many ways, I cannot name them all here. Please know that our community would not be as strong without your involvement and that your efforts are very much appreciated. Lastly, I'd like to thank Mother Barnes for providing spiritual guidance through these difficult times.

Thank you,
Mickey Baccoli,
Senior Warden

2021 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

At the time of the 2022 Annual Meeting, the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes were not received and approval of the minutes was tabled till the Annual Meeting in January 2023. We have still not received the minutes from the previous clerk. I would therefore like to make a motion that members of the Vestry who were present at the 2021 Annual Meeting document key points and affirm by signing, so that things like elections, approval of the year before minutes etc. are documented as having happened in good order, even if no one is sure who moved and seconded.

2022 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SCRANTON, PA****SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2022****ANNUAL MEETING
MINUTES****Meeting called to order at 11:30 a.m. by The Reverend Rebecca A. Barnes**

Attended by:

Rick Ammenhauser	Albert Cetta	Michael Baccoli
Rebecca Beal	Robert Cudworth	Laura Cushing
Sharon Hoffman	Colleen Griffiths	Francis McMullen
Carol McMullen	Jane Merolla	Robin O'Hearn
Bernie Ott	Lucetta Savinelli	Kathryn Selemba
Richard Selemba	Sharon Sollami	Elaine Strong
David Wegner	Amanda Wrazien	Ken Wrazien
Maria Zengion	Thomas Zuria	

Appointment of a clerk-protem (in the absence of the Vestry Clerk) - Not Applicable**Review and Approval of Agenda**

After review of the Agenda, Mother Barnes made a Motion to approve;
seconded by Carol McMullen and approved by all.

Refer to 168th Annual Meeting & Report dated January 30, 2022, attached**Rector's Report**

Mother Barnes read her report expressing what an honor it is to be presenting the report for the first time as our Rector, having reported previously as Priest-in-Charge. She expressed her thanks to our Sr. Warden, Dr. Mickey Baccoli, and our Jr. Warden, Rick Ammenhauser.

She explained how she and we, as a parish, have had to adapt to the restrictions placed upon us by the Coronavirus pandemic and how thankful she is that, although challenging, we have been able to deal with it. This included how we were required to close for a time due to the pandemic and after re-opening for a period, we had to close again until finally reopening for our Sunday service on May 22, 2021.

She reported on the following topics:

- Worship and Liturgy
- General Statistics
- Faithful Departed 2021
- Christian Education and Formation
- Parish Staffing and Lay Leadership

Senior Warden's Report

Mickey Baccoli read his report which included that we were live-streaming our services when we were closed due to the pandemic and that we continue to do so for those who feel more comfortable avoiding gathering in person. He also spoke about how he had the pleasure of announcing the call of Mother Barnes to be the 15th Rector and first female Rector of St. Luke's and thanked her for her dedication and leadership during 2021, especially with the hardships placed upon us due to the Covid-19 pandemic. He also thanked our Junior Warden, Rick Ammenhauser, members of the Building Committee and Fran McMullen and Mother Barnes for their efforts with regard to repairs and issues that have arisen with our building, as well as volunteers, participants and contributors who make St. Luke's a welcoming place to worship.

Review and Approval of the Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting

Mother Barnes reported that the Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting have not yet been received and, therefore, the approval of same has been tabled until the 2023 Annual Meeting.

Committee Reports were given as follows:

Music – Maria Zengion, Organist and Choirmaster

Pastoral Care Committee – The Reverend Rebecca A. Barnes, Rector

Women of St. Luke's – Kathryn Selemba, President

Community Outreach Ministry – Sharon Sollami

Food Giveaway at St. Luke's
Annual First Friday Blessing of the Animals
Narcotics Anonymous
Safety Net
Bless Annual Appeal
Little Free Library
Toys for Tots

Lackawanna Neighbors – David Wegner, Board Member

Cypress House at St. Luke's – The Reverend Rebecca A. Barnes, President
and Mr. David Wegner, Board Chair

Building Committee – Rick Ammenhauser, Junior Warden

National Register of Historic Places – The National Register Committee

Mother Barnes introduced Ella Rayburn, Jayashree Shamanna and Cherie Shepherd who are working diligently, pro bono, along with Patricia Pomrantz, in an attempt to get St. Luke's placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Parishioner, Fran McMullen, is our liaison with the committee.

The committee members spoke to the parish about our building and the various issues involved in an effort to maintain it. It was explained that the main cause of the damage we are starting to see is from water. They said there is specific damage that we, as parishioners, don't see as it is on the upper floors.

Rick Ammenhauser asked if the roof is the main cause of the water damage. Cherie Shepherd responded that she believes the roof is definitely the main cause of the water damage, but that we need to look also at the windows.

Jayashree Shamanna explained the process with having a building placed on the National Register of Historic Places and said the first thing we need is to have a determination of eligibility, which is what we are going through currently. She said the committee meets three times and that her hope is to have a determination by the end of the month at which time we will receive notification. We will then need to submit a much more detailed report which will be reviewed by the Board for a final determination. If successful, we will then be eligible for state grants. Once we get state grants, we are then eligible for federal level grants.

Maria Zengion thanked the panel and expressed how grateful she is for their work because without it, our building would be lost and there would be no congregation. Members of the panel said they are honored to be part of it. Mother Barnes said our church is magnificent and needs to be preserved.

Bernie Ott asked how urgent the need is for the repairs to be made and whether there is a timeline. Cherie Shepherd said that the cracks in the building have been there for a while, but that we are okay for now. She said the first thing they are going to do is to begin monitoring the cracks. She also said the water damage has been going on for a long time and that the cost of repairs will be quite large. The windows, she said, are not of immediate concern as they actually look worse than they are.

Ella Rayburn has been going through the historical records of St. Luke's and found that some are missing. Mother Barnes called upon long-time members of the parish that if they have any information, to bring it forth. She said state grants require matching funds. For example, if we apply for and are awarded a \$25,000 grant, then we need to raise \$25,000. She said it will take all of us pulling together. She thanked the panel, along with Patricia Pomrantz, expressing how grateful she is to be working with them and that they are a Godsend to us.

Warren Memorial Garden Committee – David Wegner, Committee Chair

Communications – Sharon Sollami

Stewardship Committee – The Reverend Rebecca A. Barnes

Finance Committee – Jane Merolla (Finance Committee)

Treasurer's Report – Jane Shorten-Merolla, Treasurer

2022 Vestry Approved Budget

Jane Shorten-Merolla, Treasurer, reviewed the 2022 Budget which has been approved by the Vestry.

Election of New Members of the Vestry and Delegates

Mother Barnes announced that three current members of the Vestry with expired terms, being Mickey Baccioli, Bernie Ott and Kathy Selemba, have agreed to stand for re-election.

The Lay Delegates to Diocesan Convention being Sharon Sollami and Mickey Baccioli, and the Alternate Lay Delegates, being Rick Ammenhauser and Jeremy Rich, were presented.

A vote was taken and all nominees were elected to serve.

Commissioning of New Parish Leaders

The elected members of the Vestry and the Lay Delegates and Alternate Lay Delegates to Diocesan Convention were then commissioned by Mother Barnes.

After prayer, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Selemba
Vestry Clerk

*The minutes were accepted as written with a correction to the name Patricia Pomrantz, which should read Patricia Pongracz.

MUSIC AT ST. LUKE'S

The Anglican priest, Charles Kingsley famously wrote, "Music is a sacred, a divine, a God-like thing, and was given to man by Christ to lift our hearts up to God, and make us feel something of the glory and beauty of God, and of all which God has made."

At St. Luke's, we take this sentiment to heart and strive to glorify God in hymns, psalmody, polyphonic choral works, and instrumental music. Music is integral to our liturgy and something for which we have long been renowned.

Following the limitations we endured due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we are now offering music each Sunday and are happy to have our professional singers back. For much of 2021, we only had a trio, and then throughout the fall, our services primarily were limited to the voices of our tenor, Max Roche, and baritone, Francis McMullen. In light of this, the liturgical music program was scaled back to include primarily the singing of hymns and service music, and new mass settings and choral anthems that were arranged for small or unison choirs. This year, we were fortunate to procure the musical services of Madison Zahorsky, Meredith Huveneers, and Gabriella Tolerico for Christmas and other occasional services, as well as soloists and substitutes from the Lyric Consort. For 2023, we hope to return to having a full quartet beginning in Lent.

In the past year, St. Luke's was the host venue for a number of concerts and recitals. In March, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic Chamber series held a *Belated Beethoven's Birthday Bash* to celebrate Beethoven's 250th birthday and the 150th Anniversary of our current church building. The program featured Beethoven's soul-stirring G Major String Trio. In April, the Williams-Zinsky Duo performed a concert of Mozart, Debussy, Brahms, and Fauré on our recently acquired Steinway B grand piano. In July, soprano Madison Zahorsky presented a vocal recital, *Nine Greek Definitions of Love*, which provided insight on the varied shadings of love that have been experienced throughout humanity for millennia. In December, the Arcadia Chorale and the Lyric Consort. Arcadia performed a *Kolida Christmas from Eastern Europe*, which featured music from Eastern Europe, with a special focus on Ukrainian carols.

This year, we were also happy to welcome back our dear friends, The Lyric Consort, who performed in the spring and again at Christmas. The May concert, *Make it a Double! Great Pairings*, included works by Debussy, Chansons, Love Songs, Jazz Standards, settings of Shakespeare, Marian motets, some novelty songs about the Sea, and a second performance of "Our Voices Linger," which was commissioned in memory of Dr. Steven Thomas. The Christmas concert included music offering scenes from the Bethlehem story, favorite carol arrangements and art music, including works of Arvo Pärt, Hugo Distler, Francis Poulenc, Herbert Howells, John Rutter and more. The Lyric Consort also performed at the Great Vigil of Easter and for our Ascension service. Additionally, they provided caroling for Cypress Houses' First Friday Gala in December.

Our new Music at St. Luke's brochure highlights the many offerings that we are hosting in addition to our liturgical music program. We are grateful to Diane Kraus for her artistry in designing the brochure for last year, and again this year. I hope you will pick up a copy from the back table and join us for the upcoming concerts this year, including our Gershwin fundraiser that we are partnering in with CaPPA Theater, which has been rescheduled from last September. The concert will feature Sheri Melcher and Ronald Land playing a duo piano version of Rhapsody in Blue, along with other selections. Proceeds will be evenly divided between St. Luke's and Creative and Performing Arts Academy.

Most recently, Mother Barnes and I have added a section to the Sunday service leaflet featuring information on select repertoire being performed in the service. We hope that it will serve to inform more about the compositions and the composers and arrangers and enrich your appreciation of the range of sacred music in our weekly Eucharist.

This year, our organ, which was upgraded in 2017, continues to be maintained and periodically tuned by Brunner and Associates of Silver Springs, PA. Our pianos remain under the care and maintenance of Joe D'Alessandro.

On behalf of all the St. Luke's Musicians I would like to thank you for your support of our ministry. We look forward to the year ahead and to increasing our musical programs and liturgical offerings.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Zengion, Organist and Choirmaster

PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Care Committee is a vital ministry of St. Luke's. Traditionally, members are trained and licensed by the Diocese to visit and bring Holy Communion to our homebound-nursing home parishioners. Visits are generally made on a monthly basis; more frequent visitations are provided, upon request. Those who are hospitalized are ministered to when requested.

Upon request from an individual or family member, Eucharistic Visitors will visit and administer Home Communion to patients in the hospital, infirmed at home, and those in facilities. In addition to regular visits, the pastoral care team assists with arrangements to bring the homebound to St. Luke's, as able. Members of our team have also provided pastoral ministry to parishioners with ongoing needs and special conditions. In keeping with HIPPA laws, the names of patients are not announced at church services unless authorized by the patient and/or family member. If requested, the name will be added to the parish prayer list.

This past year, we were once again limited in our ability to provide in-person visits to those on the pastoral care list. As Covid-19 numbers fluctuated, many nursing facilities and hospitals restricted visitations even from clergy. We are currently not having lay ministers making visits until those members of the parish who will serve in this capacity undergo required Diocesan training and licensing this spring. It is my hope that upon completion of this requirement, we will be able to fully resume the ministries of our Pastoral Care Committee later this year. Members of our team have been creative in provided pastoral ministry even when in person visits were not possible. We extended our outreach to those who were having birthdays and anniversaries, and have delivered groceries, care packages, helped facilitate face time conversations with out-of-town families. The pastoral care team members also assisted those who were experiencing personal or family crisis.

Service leaflets, the parish newsletter and large print copies of the daily devotional, *Forward Day by Day* are made available to those on the pastoral care list. As an extension of this ministry, our Sunday School students regularly make handmade cards and artwork which are distributed to those on the care list.

This fall, we have had requests to provide a monthly Eucharist at two of the local congregate care facilities in town where we have parishioners who are residents. We will soon begin offering this ministry at The Gardens and the Jewish Home of NEPA.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev'd Rebecca A. Barnes, Rector

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

2022 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
ST. ELIZABETH CHAPTER – DAUGHTERS OF THE KING
January 29, 2023



WHO WE ARE: The Order of the Daughters of the King® (DOK) is a spiritual sisterhood of women dedicated to a life of Prayer, Service and Evangelism. We have made a commitment to Jesus as our Savior, and we follow Him as Lord of our lives. We are an Order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, churches in communion with it, or churches in the Historic Episcopate. Today our membership includes women in the Anglican, Episcopal, Lutheran (ELCA) and Roman Catholic churches.

The Order of the Daughters of the King® was founded in 1885 by Margaret J. Franklin at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in New York City. Members of the Order undertake a Rule of Life, incorporating the Rule of Prayer and Service. By reaffirmation of the promises made at Baptism and Confirmation, a Daughter pledges herself to a life-long program of prayer, service and evangelism, dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of her parish. We don't just enroll as members and attend meetings; we take life-long vows to follow the Rule of Prayer and Rule of Service.

As part of our ministry, the DOK offers prayer for our parishioners and friends and has shared prayer requests with Daughters across our Diocese.

Carole Guzzi, Carol McMullen attended the DOK picnic at Gouldsboro State Park this summer, and Mother Liz Grohowski served as celebrant at the Eucharist. In the fall, Carole Guzzi, Carol McMullen, and Colleen Griffiths attended the DOK Fall Assembly. Carole Guzzi also represents our Chapter in all conference calls of the board and executive officers during the year.

This fall, following a program of study and discernment, eight new Daughters were admitted into the St. Luke's Elizabeth of Hungary DOK chapter: Rebecca Beal, Donna Durland, Colleen Griffiths, Diane Kraus, Sharon Sollami, Carol Winn, Mother Elizabeth Grohowski, and Mother Rebecca Barnes; Maria Zengion was reinstated. The initiation was held the 5PM Eucharist on November 19, the feast day of the patroness of the chapter. The Rev. Susan Treanor was guest clergy for the occasion.

You may submit prayer requests to any of the Daughters in person, or by completing a blue Prayer Request card located on the table in the back of the Sanctuary. Prayer requests are held in strict confidence.

The Daughters of the St. Elizabeth, Princess of Hungary Chapter welcome your prayer requests and thank the congregation, Senior Warden and Vestry for their support of our work.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol McMullen, Secretary
The Rev'd Rebecca Barnes

WOMEN OF ST. LUKE'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Women of St. Luke's, after a two-year hiatus due to Covid, were finally able to get back to business.

Welsh cooking baking resumed on September 24 and we filled orders for 130 dozen with help not only from most of our usual volunteers, but also from some new, enthusiastic ones. We attempted to bake again in October, but were unable to do so as the exhaust hood for the kitchen

on the outside of the building was hit and damaged. The Women of St. Luke's contributed toward the cost of having it replaced with a new, more efficient one. This enabled us to bake again in early December.

We planned for and held our Christmas Gala luncheon on Saturday, December 10th in Kreitler Hall. Thirty-four attendees, men and women, enjoyed a delicious meal catered by Cooper's along with a cocktail hour, door prizes and a cookie table. We were forced to increase the per person charge this year to \$25.00 due to rising costs. This luncheon, which has been a tradition here at St. Luke's for so many years, is not a fundraiser and we do not profit monetarily from this. We actually offset the cost with proceeds from the cookie sales. After being sidelined during 2020 and 2021, it was great to be able to gather once again and enjoy a festive holiday event.

We have no plans formulated at this point for anything other than monthly cookie baking. It is our intent, however, to schedule a meeting in the hopes of getting some new members on board and looking at ways to extend ministry.

Kathryn J. Selemba, President

COMMUNITY OUTREACH REPORT

St. Luke's Community Outreach team strives to look within and beyond our parish to those with whom we can share the love of God as we serve and connect with others. Romans 12:13 tells us that we *are called to contribute to the needs of the saints; to extend hospitality to strangers*. I have the pleasure of summarizing for you the many ways in which our parish has responded to that call.

Throughout 2022, St. Luke's continued its partnership with **Friends of the Poor** (FOTP) in opening its doors each month as a **satellite food pantry** location.

Most recently, we altered the way in which food is distributed. What was once a "grab and go" style giveaway where guests received a pre-packed bag of staples with little to no options, is now a shopper's choice setting. Upon arrival, guests are greeted and escorted through Kreitler Hall to an array of grocery staples, fresh produce, bakery items, frozen meals, meats, personal hygiene, and household items from which to shop. In addition, registration has been stream-lined to an online system. Guests register with their demographic details once a year, and then need only sign in for any future visits.

In 2023, we anticipate more positive changes for our pantry.

- We will no longer need to shop at the FOTP warehouse, but instead the items we want to give to our clients will be delivered to us each month; lessening the physical burden on our volunteers and requiring less storage space here at St. Luke's, and...

- A grant application for a commercial refrigerator is pending. If approved, we would have a refrigerator specifically for pantry items which would free up space in St. Luke's two household refrigerators, and allow us to keep perishable items on hand for those who come in need between our scheduled monthly pantries.

In June of 2022, FOTP moved to an online registration process and with that came the opportunity to collect data about those who are served in our pantry. In 2022, we served just over 1,000 people from our pantry. St. Luke's and its parishioners served that number of people - 1,000 seniors, adults, and children. To everyone who volunteers their time; to those who donated food; and to those who hold the ministry and its clients in prayer - thank you!

The satellite pantry at St. Luke's originated when St. Luke's was no longer able to welcome guests for Senior Space in the height of Covid. In 2023, we will continue to evaluate options so that we might return to the in-person time of fellowship with our downtown neighbors while we continue to serve them through our pantry.

St. Luke's continues to offer space and hospitality to a **Narcotics Anonymous** group that meets daily; Tuesday through Friday from 12-1PM. We also provide space for the group's leadership to hold business and planning meetings on a monthly basis. In addition, we open our doors twice a month to **Peer to Peer**, a mentor-based support group that couples formerly incarcerated people with community advisors; advisors who serve to offer support and guidance to ex-offenders facing a multiple of challenges as they re-entry society.

In our Memorial Garden is another asset to our community - **Our Free Little Library**. Book donations remain steady from parishioners and the community. The library was closed for a short time early in the year when it required repairs to its roof and door. Many thanks to the library's builder, Fred Besser for making the repairs and to Sandie Lamanna for underwriting the repair costs.

In June, we opened our doors to welcome representatives from more than nine area agencies, including the Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging, the City of Scranton, and The Scranton Public Library when we hosted the **Older Adult Community Conversation** program. Agencies gathered to survey seniors who live in the downtown to ascertain their specialized needs and desires as residents of a downtown community; with the goal of creating solutions to those needs.

In mid July, on days when temperatures soared and otherwise available facilities were closed because it was a weekend, St. Luke's opened its doors as a **Cooling Station** to the many for whom the temperatures posed a health risk. Visitors spent their respite from the heat in the

comfort of Kreitler Hall where Lackawanna County's Area Agency on Aging provided nutritious snacks and drinks.

In October, the parish partnered with our neighbors at CaPAA for their annual **Trunk or Treat event**. St. Luke's parishioners decorated a vehicle as "St. Luke's Enchanted Pumpkin Patch" and with the generosity and donations of parishioners, St. Luke's helped to treat more than 2,500 children to candy and snacks. Families had the opportunity to learn more about St. Luke's and the many ministries of the parish.

In December, St. Luke's played a pivotal role in continuing the legacy of Anna Young and the Anna Young project. For over 20 years Ms. Young led worship and Bible study in the Lackawanna County prison. She also gathered donations from area groups to fill bags with candy and personal care items for incarcerated persons each December. Our Lay leaders and confirmands partnered with folks from Peer to Peer, the Scranton Area Ministerium, Exodus Ministries, Cypress House at St. Luke's, and others, to collect snacks and financial contributions and then coordinated the packing and delivery of more than one-thousand treat bags to the Lackawanna Co. prison for both incarcerated people and staff members at the facility. The generosity of so many meant that extra bags were available and those bags were donated to clients of the Community Intervention Center, an agency that offers informational and situational referral services to individuals.

Last fall, St. Luke's collected a **special offering to benefit St. Raphael's Episcopal Church** in Fort Myers Beach, Florida; that parish sustained significant damage when Hurricane Ian slammed the beach area.

The term community outreach conjures up visions of the ways we, as a parish, go out into our community to serve. Outreach, however, also has to do with how we are prepared to help those who come into St. Luke's for assistance. Through her discretionary fund, Mother Barnes has been able to meet the emergent/short term needs of many who find themselves facing financial hardships. Not everyone who comes to our doors is looking for financial help, but instead are looking for guidance. It is St. Luke's cultivated partnerships with a multitude of area agencies such as Safety Net, United Neighborhood Center, the McAuley Center, and more, that have allowed us to be able to offer referral services to those in need of long term assistance. As we move through 2023, St. Luke's Community Outreach team will strive to identify the needs of our neighbors and expand the ways in which we can share God's love; as always, parishioners are invited to bring community outreach project ideas to Mother Barnes' attention.

Submitted by Sharon Sollami

SAFETY NET

Safety net is a nonprofit social service agency. Safety Net was founded by Covenant Presbyterian Church, Hickory Street United Presbyterian Church, Elm Park United Methodist Church, St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church and St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Safety Net is located at Covenant Presbyterian Church.

In 2022 Safety Net has helped more than 2,260 individuals and families and their 1,850 young children with food and shelter and other needs.

Safety Net has many generous donors and would not be able to do all they do without their generous donations. The Women of St. Luke's and the choral group Voci Angeli are among the donors.

One of Safety Nets fund raisers is the pew bag collections that each founding church participates in every year. Watch for St Luke's pew bags in the months of June, July and. August.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin O'Hearn

LACKAWANNA NEIGHBORS

Lackawanna Neighbors has a 50 year history of providing rentals and housing to Scranton area residents. It was originally founded 1968 under the name Scranton Neighbors as a cooperative interfaith project of the Scranton Lackawanna Jewish Council, Covenant Presbyterian, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Scranton, to provide public housing in Scranton. As a founding member, St. Luke's still holds a seat on the board.

The Lackawanna Neighbors Board met in June and November of 2022. The board oversees operations at the Midtown and Florence apartments including approval of annual budgets, personnel compensation, upgrades to the properties, and disbursement of scholarship funds. The Midtown Apartments successfully appealed their tax assessment which determined they were a charitable organization. The planned 50-year celebration for Midtown Apartments was canceled due to the pandemic.

David Wegner
Lackawanna Neighbors Board Member

CYPRESS HOUSE AT ST. LUKE'S



Cypress House at St. Luke's is an affiliated 501(c)(3) non-profit organization of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Scranton.

We have been actively working to raise needed capital to launch our re-entry bakery program. This year has been a banner year in our efforts to raise the capital needed to open the Cypress House Bakery. Though we have still not reached our goal, we have raised a record number of dollars this year. We are optimistic that our long hoped for reentry program will open in 2023. In anticipation of that, and to start looking at how we will negotiate space between the parish and this ministry, the Vestry and the Executive Board will be meeting together next month at the regularly scheduled Vestry meeting. Once operational, we will commence working towards the next phase of building a commercial grade non-profit bakery and affiliated café in the lower lever of the Throop Memorial Building of St. Luke's Church. While we have faced setbacks due to the pandemic and the rise of costs associated with opening, we have stayed the course and have continued to work together toward launching this important mission.

We have adjusted and streamlined our Board Meeting schedule so that the Executive Board and the full board meet in alternating months. All meetings of the Board are currently on the third Tuesday of the month. The Executive Board includes elected and appointed officers. David Wegner is Chair, Carol McMullen is Treasurer and Dr. Helen Wolf is Secretary. Mother Barnes, as the Rector of St. Luke's serves as the President as established in the by-laws. This year, we interviewed several people from various community organizations and non-profits as potential board members and with the approval of the board and the Vestry of St. Luke's welcomed Ms. Valerie Lower and Ms. Eileen Occhipinti as new board members

Upon the recommendation of two culinary consultants, the Cypress House board voted to change the focus of the apprenticeship program from preparing sandwiches to baking pastries and quick breads. It is our intention that being in close proximity to the county and federal courts, we will be a prime reentry program partner working with CARE (Court Assisted Re-Entry) Program and STRIVE (State Transition Re-entry Incentive Validating Endeavors), a state program from the PA Probation and Parole Department, which is based on the federal CARE Program.

This year, we were once again committed to professional and non-profit leadership development. We had a coach through a grant received from the Scranton Area Community Foundation who guided us on the ins and outs of non-profit fundraising, and subscribed to *Intrumentl*, a development platform that uses a matching algorithm to curate good fit active grant opportunities for a nonprofit's specific projects. We also developed and built our Network for Good platform to better help us track donations and fundraise and further developed our website. This year, we also enhanced our social media presence and created numerous fundraising videos to further the

word about Cypress House. We also developed a strategic plan, a case for support document, and a “two-pager” to give a quick overview of our organization.

We held a First Friday Open House Gala in December that featured conversations with members of Peer-to-Peer which meets at St. Luke's. Artwork by people who are incarcerated in the Lackawanna County Prison as loaned to us from the Recovery Bank, and Mark Loughney donated five original paintings, valued at \$500 each as a fundraiser. Tours were given of the kitchen, and Lyric Consort offered a selection of Christmas carols. A delicious variety of baked goods were available for all who joined us.

Later in the month, joining forces with St. Luke's, the Scranton Area Ministerium, and others, Cypress House helped sponsor the Anna Young Project to distribute bags of snacks to the prisoners and staff of the Lackawanna Prison at Christmas time.

As capital is critical to our mission, we have primarily focused on fundraising and grant writing. Cypress House participated in the Scranton Community Area Foundation Day of Giving in June and an End of Year Fundraising Campaign. This year we received several major grants from individual donors, two matching grants from the William Penn Foundation, and a 50,000 grant from the Victory Noll Sisters. We have continued to receive smaller individual contributions, as well, and are grateful to all who are helping to make this ministry a reality. As of the end of 2021, there was a balance of \$101, 658.76 in the Cypress House account. At the end of 2022, we had a balance of \$237,357.00

The Cypress House Board is a “working board” and each person contributes in special and unique ways. Grant proposals are reviewed and approved by the Grant Committee, and our sincere thanks go out to Helen Wolf who has worked tirelessly this year as our chief grant writer. In 2021, we said goodbye to several board members, Atty Al Murry and Jane Merolla who for varying reasons needed to step down.

In closing, we would just like to offer some words about why this mission is so important.

Our community in Lackawanna County is experiencing extreme racial and societal biases against those reentering the community post-incarceration, exacerbated by the reentry population being largely shut out of the labor market.

Cypress House's mission is to offer employment, vocational training, and educational opportunities in St. Luke's parish house to previously incarcerated women and men, with a special concern to hire individuals who identify as black, Latino/a, indigenous, or of another marginalized identity. Cypress House aspires to be a catalyst for change in northeastern Pennsylvania, addressing the racial and social injustices to which we bear witness. We seek to

stand with those previously incarcerated, invest in their futures, and foster inclusion and compassionate acceptance – obliterating once and for all the illusion that we are separate.

This past year was a busy one for us. Our efforts have brought us to the cusp of realizing our ultimate goal. We thank you for your support, and hope you will continue to stand with us in 2023. We hope you will join us as we strive to build the Beloved Community.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Rebecca A. Barnes, President & CEO
Mr. David Wegner, Board Chair

BUILDING COMMITTEE

It's been another busy year at Saint Luke's with what I consider to be some major steps forward regarding some of the structural issues facing our beloved buildings.

In January we signed a new service contract with Rite Temp Mechanical to do repairs and maintenance on our heating and air conditioning units. Rite Temp agreed to match the amount we were paying our old contractor (Penn State Mechanical) while giving us a bit more comprehensive coverage.

In August we needed to address some security issues involving access to the church. It was determined that multiple keys that had been passed out to different individuals who are no longer actively involved with the church were still outstanding and unable to be returned. We decided that seeing as we needed some repair work done on the lock on the main entrance door to the church it was the perfect time to have all three doors (the 232 door, the main entrance and the ramp door) rekeyed. This has given us a 100 percent accurate list of who has access to the church. Also in August, we signed an agreement with Dunmore Roofing to do what would be our biggest repair job of last year. We had all major damages repaired on the roofs of both buildings. This improvement came with a hefty \$12,000 price tag but, considering that it has stopped the damage being caused by multiple leaks, some of which we were not even aware of, I believe it was a step desperately needed for the preservation of our buildings.

In October we decided to move ahead with an improvement that I'm sure will make everyone involved with cookie baking very happy. After multiple accidents involving trucks driving in the alley and hitting the kitchen exhaust fan that extends off the building in the alleyway behind the church, we voted to have the fan relocated to a safer place. Ironically after we decided to make the repair but before the contractor could come to work on it, the fan was hit again by another truck leaving the fan unusable and causing us to cancel cookie baking for that month. On the bright side, we were able to get some insurance information off of the driver of the truck (which was not the norm) that helped us pay for a new smaller fan that sits safely up against the

building. I would like to mention and say thank you to the women of Saint Luke's for donating the money needed for that repair not covered by the insurance payment we received.

In closing I would like to mention some contractors we remain in relationship with Tommy Noll snow removal for our parking lot and Cunningham snow removal for the steps and sidewalks. Keating plumbers for handling our back flow system. Cintas for our fire emergency needs and Newberry Services for our security system.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Ammenhauser

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

St. Luke's archival management and preparation of submission of the Determination of Eligibility (DOE) Harrisburg continues.

The committee had a setback this year when Jayashree Shamanna, AIA, moved to Washington, D.C. having accepted a position as an architect with the Office of the Architect of Capitol of the United States. We are filling in Jayashree's knowledge. She knew how to assemble and electronically submit the myriad of documents and photographs to the Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission in Harrisburg. PHMC via the State Historic Preservation Officer issues the DOE. The DOE approval opens the way for St. Luke's to apply for important grants from the state and other sources.

Last year, two fifth year students from Marywood's Architecture program, Brianna Hughes and Martyne Miller, completed work on a plan view scaled drawings of the church, Throop Memorial Parish House, and the boundaries of the Warren Memorial Garden and the parking lot. For the church itself, these are now the only existing drawings; no original building drawings exist, nor any from several alterations. The drawings show the entries and the nave as it is today. Throop Memorial Parish House drawings show the first floor and the exterior drawings will capture the Memorial Garden and the parking lot included within the boundary. The students were each given an honorarium of \$500 for this extensive project. Half the funds were donated by St. Luke's and the other half by two anonymous donors.

A corollary project is the archival management of St. Luke's records. The archives are an assemblage beginning in the early 20th century of vestry minutes, organizational minutes, newspaper clippings, photographs, and architectural drawings and plans. The documents are placed in labelled museum quality storage boxes. The boxes and shelving were purchased just as Covid set-in with a grant from Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority and the required match from the Women of St. Luke's. An object level finding is underway.

With regard to necessary work that the committee reported on last year, the first step has been taken in repairing the roofs of the Church and the Parish House which was severely leaking. This work was completed by Dunmore Roofing over the summer.

Respectfully submitted,
Ella Rayburn and The National Register Committee

WARREN MEMORIAL GARDEN

The Warren Memorial Garden Committee meets from 10 a.m. to noon on the second or third Saturday of each month from April to November, weather permitting. I would like to thank Mickey Baccoli, Amanda Wrazien, Diane Kraus, Bernie Ott, Carol Winn, Robin O'Hearn, Jay O'Hearn, Albert Guthrie and Ella Rayburn and for their help.

David Wegner
Warren Memorial Garden Committee Chair

ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELEGATE'S REPORT

The Diocese of Bethlehem Convention was held virtually on Saturday, October 1, 2022. St. Luke's was represented by elected delegates, Mickey Baccoli, Sharon Sollami and, of course, our Rector Mother Barnes.

With more than 117 in attendance, Bishop Kevin led the opening worship service focusing on 1 Peter 2:5, *Like living stones let yourselves be built into spiritual houses*. Bishop Kevin focused his address on how as those living stones we are called to Build the Beloved Community.

Following worship, the attention shifted to diocesan business and the consideration of key resolutions; including the 2023 Clergy Salary Schedule which after discussion, motions, and votes resulted in an 8.25% salary increase for clergy and laity based on the Consumer Price Index. The 2023 budget of the Diocese of Bethlehem was also presented and approved.

A significant resolution was adopted to seek a study of a potential reunification of the Diocese of Central PA and the Diocese of Bethlehem. The Diocese has agreed to enter into a period of intentional exploration with the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania on their future reunification as one diocese. This exploration will be conducted by the bishops of both dioceses along with a

discernment committee of 10 people. Bishop Kevin announced the appointees to that committee which met to begin this consideration on January 26, 2023.

Elections to several diocesan committees and councils were held at convention; a summary of those results is available on the diocesan website.

Among those elections and of significance to St. Luke's was that Mother Barnes was nominated and elected to serve a three-year term as a General Convention Clergy Deputy. As a deputy, she will serve in the House of Deputies of the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church in July, 2024 in Louisville, KY. Mother Barnes and other members of the House of Deputies will consider amendments to the church's constitution and canons, review resolutions on ecclesiastical matters and social issues, adopt a budget for the ministry of the Episcopal Church, and elect people to various national church offices. At the convention, Mother Barnes will cast a vote to elect the next Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church as Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's nine year tenure comes to an end.

Gather 2023, the Diocese of Bethlehem's annual formation event, will be held on Saturday, May 20, 2023 at Split Rock in Lake Harmony and the 2023 Diocesan Convention will be held in person on Friday, October 13 and Saturday, October 14, 2023 in Center Valley, PA.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

On Sunday, September 11, 2022, we launched our Annual Stewardship Campaign using a program offered through The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS), entitled *More Than Enough* and on Sunday, November 20, 2022 we had the ingathering of pledges.

Our campaign theme for 2022 was *More Than Enough*, coming from Luke's version of the feeding of the 5,000. "Responding to Jesus' call, the multitude turns their pockets inside out, shakes out their blankets, rummages through their bags to find enough to take care of the needs of the community. And what do they realize? That by the miracle of faith and the action of sacrificial love, there was more than enough—an abundance!"

The 2022 Stewardship Committee included Mickey Baccoli, Senior Warden; Kathy Selemba, Clerk of the Vestry; Thomas Zurla, Treasurer, and Sharon Sollami. Under their leadership, we continue to strive toward adopting a comprehensive year-long stewardship program. In the spring of 2020, we set up an account with Tithe-ly, an online church-based giving platform recommended by the Diocese of Bethlehem. An increasing number of families and individuals are contributing with electronic giving and some are setting up regular automatic donations. Tithe-ly may be accessed on the church website.

Our stewardship (those funds contributed by pledge) received to date number 50 pledges; up from 41 pledges last year. The total pledged amount for this year is \$74,858; up 28.8% over last year!!! The average pledged amount is \$1,497.

The table below gives a comparison of the 2017 through 2023 pledges:

Year	Pledging Units	Average Pledge	Median Pledge	Total
2017	55	\$1,010.00	\$520.00	\$55,576.00
2018	49	\$1,144.00	\$780.00	\$56,053.00
2019	54	\$1,154.00	\$780.00	\$62,309.00
2020	50	\$1,194.00	\$780.00	\$59,677.00
2021	29	\$1,421.00	\$1040.00	\$41,218.00
2022	41	\$1,420.00	\$1040.00	\$58,084.00
2023	50	\$1,497.00	\$1,144.00	\$74,858.00

We wish to keep our records up-to-date. If you have moved recently, or you think we may not have your correct information, please contact the parish office. Moreover, with the conversion of many landlines to cell service, it is often difficult to obtain current numbers. Please be sure that the office has your preferred phone number(s) and email.

Annual giving letters will be mailed in the coming week to all contributors for contributions made in 2022. If you have not been able to make a pledge, as yet, for the 2023 fiscal year, please know that pledges may be submitted at any time and are always greatly appreciated

We wish to thank each and every one of you who contribute to the mission and ministry of St. Luke's through your talent, time, and treasure. We especially wish to thank those who made a financial commitment via a pledge. A pledge is firstly a sacred commitment between you and God, who asks that we give the first fruits of the harvest. It also assures that you have been counted amongst those who are givers of record to St. Luke's and helps the Finance Committee and Vestry prepare the yearly budget and allows us to plan for the year ahead. May God bless our giving and pour out his Spirit upon us that we may be faith-filled in generosity.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev'd Rebecca A. Barnes

FINANCE COMMITTEE
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Annual Report to the Congregation Fiscal Year End 2022

The Finance Committee meets on the first or second Tuesday of each month. The members include: Tom Zurla (Treasurer), David Wegner, Carol McMullen, Diana Castellano (Bookkeeper) and Mother Rebecca Barnes (Rector).

The Committee's Membership is involved in the financial activities of St. Luke's, including:

- Compilation of Congregational financial data for the annual parish report.
- Review of endowment accounts.
- Providing recommendations to the Vestry on fiscal matters.
- Ensuring operational checks and balances are in place.

The 2022 pledge receipts were \$79,631.10, plate offerings were \$5,623.77 and there was \$2,335 in special gifts, \$2,083 in Easter and Christmas offering, \$108 for Initial Offering, and \$1,535 for the All Saints Memorial Fund; Event Income was \$1,803 and the Building Fund had contributions of \$9,290 (due to an appeal for the roof repairs). That is a total of \$103,038.87.

St. Luke's Endowment accounts had an end of year combined total market value of \$442,780.43 and there was a balance of \$13,459.91 in the Diocesan fund for a total of \$456,240.34 in investments.

Our total expenses for the year were \$302,660.

David Wegner
Finance Committee Member

TREASURER'S REPORT

Since our last Annual Meeting, St. Luke's has continued to use its resources to engage and minister to the people of Scranton and the surrounding community. Whether it is opening our doors for coffee during the harsh winter or acting as a place to cool off during the hot summer sun, we have never wavered from our mission and "being in the heart of things".

The resources that we, the members of St Luke's, so generously pledge and plate offerings have reached an all-time high this past year at \$85,254.87. Out of these funds, we have been able to minister to members of our community, continue the Religious Education, both youth-based and adult-based for many within and outside our walls, and offer a space dedicated to the enrichment of everyone who enters those sacred red doors. It also must be said that a substantial portion of our operating income goes to our Diocese in the form of our Annual Assessment (\$35,753.64) and Acceptance (\$2400.00). We do so much, with so little.

It is also important to note that, while we do show a small “income” against the budget that was approved, this total is not a true reflection of the overall financial picture of the parish. We must consider that more than half our budget is covered by drawing down our endowment which we have seen drastically lessened by these uncertain economic times and will only lessen more as the years go by.

While we will be forever grateful to the legacy families of St. Luke's, we are coming to a crossroads financially. At the rate we are drawing off our funds, our endowment will cease to serve us in approximately 2-3 years.

I share this not to frighten anyone, but to give you an honest picture of the finances of St. Luke's. A church that continues to do so much good within the community and for many communities needs your help. We must look for new and exciting ideas to ensure our survival. We must find ways to increase our pledges and bring more people into the community we hold so dear here at St. Luke's. We must prayerfully consider what it means to be “church” and why it is so important that we continue to be “in the heart of things”

I submit this report, respectfully yours,

Tom Zurla

Treasurer of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - 2023 BUDGET

		2023
		BUDGET
REVENUE		
4001-00	Pledges	\$79,000.00
	Non-pledge Contributions	
4002-00	Plate Offering	\$6,000.00
4003-00	Special Gifts	\$3,000.00
4003-05	Rental Income	\$1,000.00
4006-00	Easter Offering	\$800.00
4007-00	Christmas Offering	\$1,300.00
4008-00	Initial Offering	\$50.00
4009-00	Offering – Decorations	\$3,000.00
4011-00	Miscellaneous Income	\$1,000.00
4012-00	Interest Income	\$5.00

4013-00	Housing Endowment Income	\$500.00
4200-01	Endowment Regular Income	\$180,000.00
4510-18	ASMF Designated Account	\$1,500.00
4530-00	SPECIAL OFFERINGS	
4539-19	Event Income	\$3,000.00
4600-00	Building Fund Contributions	\$1,500.00
Total Revenue		\$281,655.00

EXPENSES

5000-00	RECTOR		
5010-20	Rector Continuing Ed		\$ 600.00
5010-19	Rector Pension	18%	\$ 14,314.21
5010-18	Rector Life Insurance	\$16	\$ 192.00
5010-17	Rector Dental Insurance	\$57	\$ 684.00
5010-16	Rector Health Insurance	\$1,306	\$ 15,672.00
5010-15	Rector SECA	7.65%	\$ 5,651.22
5010-14	Rector Salary	8.50%	\$ 45,235.10
5010-13	Rector Housing	8.50%	\$ 28,637.00
5010-12	Rector Phone/Car		\$ 1,400.00
5010-10	Supply Priest		\$ 1,200.00
Total 5000-00	RECTOR		\$ 113,585.53
5100-00	SECRETARY *		\$ 0.00
5100-03	SS Medicare & Taxes	7.65%	\$ 0.00
5100-01	Secretary's Salary	\$15	\$ 0.00
Total 5100-00	SECRETARY		
5200-00	MAINTENANCE		
5200-08	SS, Medicare & Taxes	7.65%	\$ 1,312.10
5200-01	Salaries		\$ 17,151.68
Total 5200-00	MAINTENANCE		\$ 18,463.78
5300-00	MUSIC Organist & Quartet		
	SS, Medicare &		
5300-09	Taxes	8.5%	\$ 1,700.09
5300-08	Salaries		\$ 22,233.88
Total 5300-00	MUSIC		\$ 23,933.97

5500-00	FINANCE Bookkeeper	
	SS, Medicare &	
5500-09	Taxes	\$ 91.80
5300-08	Salaries	\$ 1,200.00
Total 5500-00	FINANCE	\$ 1,291.80
5600-00	DIOCESAN	
	Diocesan	
5600-02	Assessment	\$ 31,695.72
	Diocesan	
5600-01	Acceptance	\$ 1,200.00
Total 5600-00	Total Diocesan	\$ 32,895.72
5700-00	BUILDING	
5700-07	Organ Maintenance	\$ 2,500.00
5700-05	Utilities (Water, Sewer, Electric)	\$ 20,000.00
5700-04	Service Contracts	\$ 7,500.00
5700-03	Maintenance - Supplies & Repairs	\$ 10,000.00
	Maintenance - Snow Removal	\$ 1,000.00
5700-02	Insurance (Wcomp & Liability)	\$ 23,000.00
5700-01	Heat	\$ 20,000.00
Total 5700-00	BUILDING	\$ 84,000.00
5800-00	OFFICE	
5800-07	Office Supplies	\$ 3,000.00
5800-05	Office Automation/Phone	\$ 8,000.00
5800-04	Personnel Clearances	\$ 100.00
5800-02	Postage	\$ 600.00
5800-01	Office Service Contracts	\$ 3,000.00
Total 5800-00	OFFICE	\$ 14,700.00
5900-00	ALTAR	
5900-04	Altar Music Program	
5900-03	Altar Supplies	\$ 750.00
5900-02	Altar Flowers & Decorations	\$ 2,000.00
Total 5900-00	ALTAR	\$ 2,750.00
6000-00	OUTREACH	
6000-05	Hospitality	\$ 750.00
6000-08	Youth	\$ 500.00

6000-06	Outreach Evangelism	\$ 1,250.00
6000-04	Outreach Events	\$ 1,000.00
6000-02	Education, Conf., Meet.	\$ 500.00
6000-01	DOK	\$ 250.00
Total 6000-00	OUTREACH	\$ 4,250.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 296,548.64
NET REVENUE OR (LOSS)		(\$ 14,893.64)

RESOLUTION TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PERSONS SERVING ON THE VESTRY

Per the Canons and at upon the recommendation of the Vestry a vote is being placed before the parish to adopt the following resolution.

Resolution to Reduce the Number of Persons Serving on the Vestry

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Scranton PA

Upon the recommendation of the Vestry, the following resolution was duly adopted by the parish of *St. Luke's, Scranton* at a regularly scheduled Annual Meeting of the parish held on January 29, 2023, a quorum being present:

Whereas, Canon 3 *Of the Governance of Parishes*, Section 1. A. 6, of the Canons of the Diocese of Bethlehem stipulate that each Parish shall have a Vestry consisting of not fewer than five nor more than twelve Lay Members at least 18 years of age in good standing elected at the annual Parish Meeting.

Whereas, the number of persons to serve on the Vestry of the Parish shall be set by resolution of the Annual Parish Meeting.

Whereas a change in number may be effected by the same procedure.

Whereas, The Vestry of St. Luke's at its regularly scheduled meeting in August 2022, approved a reduction in the number of the Vestry of *St. Luke's, Scranton*

Whereas, an affirmative vote was passed by the parish of *St. Luke's Scranton*, at the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Parish, it is hereby

Resolved, that the total number of the parish Vestry shall be reduced from nine to seven Lay Members at least 18 years of age in good standing and elected at the annual Parish meeting.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY AND DELEGATES

The final order of business today is to elect new members of the vestry. There are two open positions on the Vestry. The following members of St. Luke's have agreed to stand for election to the Vestry: Sharon Sollami for a second term of three years, Thomas Zurla, for a first term of three years; and for Lay Delegates to Diocesan Convention, Sharon Sollami and David Wegner; and as Alternate Lay Delegates to Diocesan Convention, Michael Baccoli (1st alternate) and Amanda Wrazien (2nd alternate).

Per the 2016 Bylaws of all Parishes in the Diocese, "each Annual Parish Meeting shall elect persons to serve on the Vestry replacing those members whose term in office has ended. The length of one term of office for members of the Vestry shall be three years with one third of the members, or as near as may be, elected each year at the Annual Parish Meeting. A vestry member shall not be eligible for re-election until after one year after his or her second term has ended." In accordance with the Diocesan Bylaws, "The Vestry shall fill any mid-term vacancies in their number or among the officers of the Parish by majority vote."

The Bylaws further stipulate that The Senior Warden shall be elected annually by the Vestry, upon nomination by the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, from among the members of the Vestry. In the coming weeks, I will be nominating one of the Vestry members to serve as Senior Warden, to be voted upon at the next meeting of the Vestry on February 8, 2023. Additionally, The Junior Warden shall either be elected annually from among their number by the Vestry or shall be appointed by the Rector. The appointment and /or election of the Junior Warden will occur at the next Vestry meeting. Finally, per the Diocesan Bylaws, the Clerk and Treasurer shall be elected annual by the Vestry. These elections will also be held at the February 8, 2023 Vestry meeting.

I will now accept nominations from the floor.

If there are no other nominations from the floor, I ask for a report from the tellers regarding the tally of votes from the parish election. Once the report of the election is given, we will conclude today's meeting with the commissioning of new officers.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev'd Rebecca A. Barnes
Rector

COMMISSIONING OF NEW PARISH LEADERS

The newly elected and appointed leaders gather at the front of the altar.

Senior warden: On behalf of the congregation of St. Luke's, I present:

_____ for Member of the Vestry

_____ for Member of the Vestry

_____ for Lay Delegate to Diocesan Convention

_____ for Lay Delegate to Diocesan Convention

_____ for First Alternate Lay Delegate to Diocesan Convention

_____ for Second Lay Delegate to Diocesan Convention

Celebrant: Have these leaders been elected by the congregation or appointed by the vestry in accordance with the bylaws of our congregation?

Senior warden: They have.

Celebrant: *(to the new leaders)* Do you commit yourselves to carry out the responsibilities of the office to which you have been appointed?

Leaders: I do.

Celebrant: Do you reaffirm your commitment to follow Christ and to serve this congregation in his name?

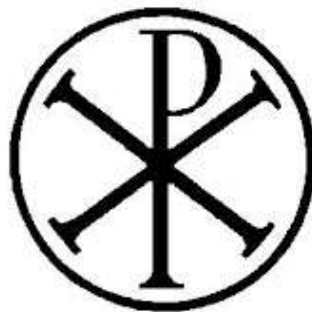
Leaders: I do.

Celebrant: *(to the congregation)* Will you do all in your power to support these leaders with your prayers, your honest yet gracious communication with them, and your willingness to help them carry out Christ's ministry in this church?

Congregation: We will.

Celebrant: In the name of this congregation I commission you for this work, and pledge you our prayers, encouragement, and support. May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you, that in this, and in all things, you may do God's will in the service of the kingdom of Christ. *Amen.*

Let us pray. Almighty God, look with favor upon these persons who have now reaffirmed their commitment to follow Christ and to serve in his name. Give them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world, and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



The Rev. Linda Grenz is the publisher, CEO and founder of LeaderResources.

NOTES



ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

"In the heart of things"

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The Rev'd Rebecca A. Barnes, Rector

The Vestry

Class of 2023

Jane Merolla

Sharon Sollami

Amanda Wrazien

Class of 2024

Rick Ammenhauser, *Junior Warden*

Francis McMullen

Vacancy

Class of 2025

Mickey Baccoli, *Senior Warden*

Bernard Ott

Kathy Selemba, *Clerk of the Vestry*

Thomas Zurla, Treasurer

Musicians of St. Luke's

Maria Zengion, Organist and Choirmaster

Max Roche, Francis McMullen

