

# Parish Life

The official newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

NOVEMBER 2023

# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

309 East Baltimore Street • Jackson, Tennessee

(731) 424 - 0556 • [stlukes@estlukes.org](mailto:stlukes@estlukes.org)

## Parish Offices Open

Monday - Friday • 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

and by appointment.

### Staff

The Rev. Timothy True

*Priest-in-Charge*

[tim@estlukes.org](mailto:tim@estlukes.org)

Joshua Bullock

*Organist-Choirmaster*

[joshua@estlukes.org](mailto:joshua@estlukes.org)

Katie King

*Parish Administrator*

[katie@estlukes.org](mailto:katie@estlukes.org)

Kevin Eberle

*Parish Bookkeeper/ Facilities*

*Manager*

[kevin@estlukes.org](mailto:kevin@estlukes.org)

### Vestry

Andrea Hazlehurst | *Senior Warden*

Susan Francisco | *Junior Warden*

Jacqueline Purcell | *Clerk*

Jim Craig | *Treasurer*

### *Class of 2023*

Vickie Clement, Jason Cole,

Michele Jackson

### *Class of 2024*

Susan Francisco, Andrea Hazlehurst,

Lindsay Wilhite

### *Class of 2025*

John Neblett, Greg Kost,

Amy Turner



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Help St. Luke's be a vital part of downtown Jackson.  
Donate today.



## *Serving with Gratitude*

As we go through this pledge drive season (which I'm sure John will have more to say about elsewhere), I want to draw your attention in a slightly different direction: service. On any given Sunday morning, Father Tim is the star of the show, and rightfully so. But there is a dedicated supporting cast that assists to make those services happen: Altar Guild, altar flowers, choir, acolytes, ushers, readers, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, even the folks that put out the treats for coffee hour after the service! Since the pandemic, St. Luke's has been live streaming its services—and someone makes sure that happens every Sunday. All of this, and that's just on Sunday morning!

Church is much like any other civic organization in that you get out of it what you put into it. The difference is, as Christians, we are called to serve: each other, our community, the world. There are a multitude of opportunities for service in all different capacities. While the paid staff is important, it is these services provided by the *members* of St. Luke's that define its character.

As you consider your pledge to St. Luke's (and please do consider it; growth is expensive!), I want to encourage you to also consider your service to St. Luke's. If you see a ministry you think you might be interested in, ask someone doing it. If you have an idea for something not being done, propose it and be willing to see it through. We all have different "gifts of the spirit"—talents, skills, and life experiences. Together, as a community serving Christ, we can see these gifts bear fruit as we work to grow St. Luke's.

In Christ,

Lee R. Sparks



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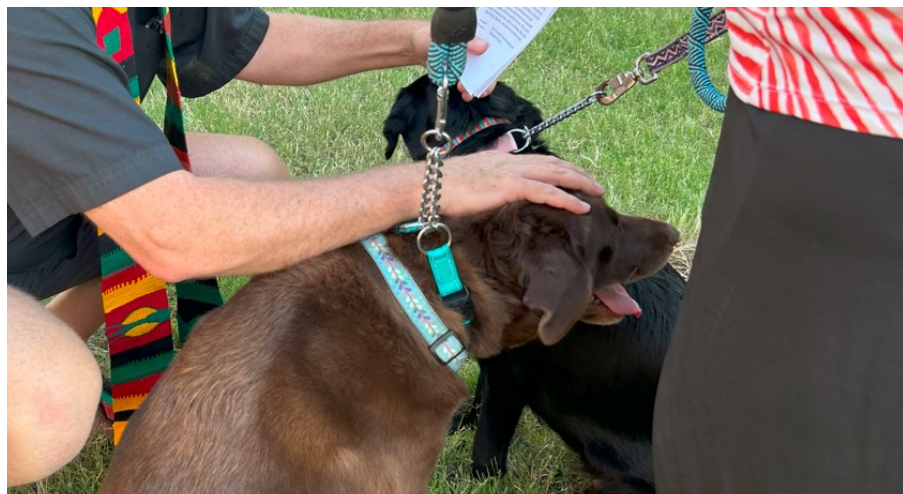
*"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "And see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." - Malachi 3:10*

The 2024 Stewardship Campaign is underway. You should have received a pledge card by now in the mail. If not, please call the church office to update your contact information. Additionally, pledge cards are available in the narthex. The Stewardship Committee is excited to plan for the future of St. Luke's. Our goal is to have an annual pledge by 80% of our households. Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to John Hughey, Lee Sparks, Greg Kost, or Jason Cole. Thank you for your support of St. Luke's.



## Blessing of the Animals

*October 1, 2023*





*"Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!"*

*Psalm 95:2*

As I survey the state of the entire music program at St. Luke's, my heart and soul rejoice with immense gratitude. Since my article for the October parish newsletter, more wonderful developments in our program further reinforce that we are living in grace and that God is truly blessing our collective handiwork. The choristers' first musical offering at The Feast of St. Luke was a great success due the dedication of our children, youth and their parents. The parents must be commended as much as the choristers for getting them to rehearsals. You may have also noticed the growth of our Parish Choir. I am thrilled with their progress as well. I am happy to report that we are assembling an ensemble with some of the finest voices Jackson, Tennessee has to offer. Please keep our music program in your prayers as we begin to turn our attention to the beautiful seasons of Advent and Christmas. Below I have included bios of some of our new musicians. I would like to express distinct appreciation to Dr. Jim Dorroh for his contribution to our program by offering his learned skill at the organ at no cost to the church. Musician bios that aren't included in the month's newsletter will be featured in the December edition.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Joshua Bullock



The St. Luke's Chorister debut at the Feast of St. Luke on October 18, directed by Joshua Bullock and accompanied by Father Tim.

**Jim Dorroh** recently moved to Jackson from Birmingham, Alabama, after serving for nearly three decades as Organist and Director of Music at Saint Luke's (!) Episcopal Church in Birmingham. He had also retired as organ professor and University Organist at Samford University in Birmingham. Jim is happy to be singing in the Parish Choir and worshipping at Saint Luke's Jackson.

**Carrie Prewitt**, soprano, is the choir and theatre teacher at Sacred Heart of Jesus High School in Jackson. Prior to teaching at Sacred Heart, she was an assistant professor of music at Lambuth University. She has also taught voice at Pensacola State College and Huntingdon College. Carrie earned a bachelor's degree in music from Huntingdon College, and a master's degree in vocal performance from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She has previously been a chorister at both St. John's Episcopal Church and Church of the Ascension in Montgomery, Alabama, and at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in High Point, North Carolina. Carrie is excited to sing with the St. Luke's choir!

**Brooke Wagster** lives in Jackson, TN (her hometown). She has a bachelor's degree in art education from UT Martin and a master's degree in art history from the University of Memphis, and she has taught art appreciation courses in the past as an adjunct professor. Brooke is currently the administrative specialist for the UT Martin Jackson Center. Growing up, she took voice lessons from the Kincaid-Gooch Voice Studio (under Deby and Gary Gooch) and private, classical voice lessons with Esther Gray. She feels honored to sing in the soprano section of St. Luke's Episcopal Church's Parish Choir.

**Rew Garner** is a Jackson, TN native, and has just excitedly returned back to his hometown last year after spending the last ten years in New York City. He is an active stage and film actor and also an optician at The Urban Eye. Rew's love for choral music started in high school at Madison Academic, and he is so thankful to be a part of this choir now, singing for the glory of the Lord.

**Adrienne Wagster** is a Speech-Language Pathologist from Jackson, TN. She received her bachelor's degree in Music (Vocal) from Union University and then her Masters Degree in Speech-Language Pathology from Murray State University. Adrienne sings in the alto section at St. Luke's but also enjoys singing soprano in the Jackson Choral Society. She has recently participated in local theater productions of Sweeney Todd and Nine to Five, and hopes to audition for more musicals in the future.

**David McCall** is the Executive Director of the Ned R. McWherter West TN Cultural Arts Center. As the former Head of Vocal Development at New York Vocal Coaching, he has worked with voice teachers, Broadway and recording artists, and cantors in prestigious synagogues across the country.

**William Burke** holds a Bachelor of Music in Theory and Composition from Union University where he was also a proud member of the University Singers and Proclamation. After college he worked professionally in the theater as an actor, singer, and technician. After a nearly 10 year break, he is very excited to sing in a choir again! He is currently the Technical Director of the Ned R. McWherter West Tennessee Cultural Arts Center.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Oct. 29 8:00a HE I 9:15a Forum 10:30a HE II	Oct. 30 8:30a MP 9:00a Staff Meeting 5:30p EP	Oct. 31 8:30a MP 9:00a Bible Study 5:30p EP	1 8:30a MP 6:00p Feast of All Saints	2 8:30a MP 5:30p EP	3 8:30a MP 5:30p EP	4 Clergy Conference
5 8:00a HE I 10:30a HE II 12:00p Commissions	6 8:30a MP 9:00a Staff Meeting 5:30p EP	7 8:30a MP 9:00a Bible Study 5:30p EP	8 8:30a MP 5:15p Choristers 5:30p EP 6:00p Program	9 8:30a MP 5:30p EP	10 Parish Office Closed Veteran’s Day	11
12 8:00a HE I 10:30a HE II 12:00p EC	13 8:30a MP 9:00a Staff Meeting 5:30p EP	14 8:30a MP 9:00a Bible Study 5:30p EP	15 8:30a MP 5:15p Choristers 5:30p EP 6:00p	16 8:30a MP 5:30p EP	17 8:30a MP 5:30p EP Diocesan Convention	18
19 8:00a HE I 9:15a Forum 10:30a HE II 12:00p Vestry	20 8:30a MP 9:00a Staff Meeting 5:30p EP	21 8:30a MP No Bible Study 5:30p EP	22 Parish Office Closed Thanksgiving	23	24	25
26 8:00a HE I 9:15a Forum 10:30a HE II	27 8:30a MP 9:00a Staff Meeting 5:30p EP	28 8:30a MP 9:00a Bible Study 5:30p EP	29 8:30a MP 5:15p Choristers 5:30p EP 6:00p	30 8:30a MP 5:30p EP	Dec. 1 8:30a MP 5:30p EP	Dec. 2 10:00a Lessons & Carols Dress Rehearsal





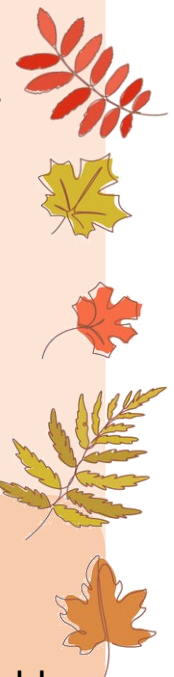
# November 2023



November 1	Holy Eucharist and Baptism, Rite II, Feast of All Saints, 6pm. Evening Program cancelled. Nursery available.
November 5	Holy Eucharist, Rite I; Forum; Holy Eucharist, Rite II. Nursery available. Commissions, 12pm.
November 10	Office closed in observance of Veteran's Day.
November 12	Holy Eucharist, Rite I; Forum; Holy Eucharist, Rite II. Nursery available. Executive Committee, 12pm.
November 17	Diocesan Convention, all day.
November 19	Holy Eucharist, Rite I; Forum; Holy Eucharist, Rite II. Nursery available. Vestry, 12pm.
November 20-24	Father Tim out of office.
November 22-24	Office closed. No programs. No Daily Office.
November 23	Happy Thanksgiving. No service.
November 26	Holy Eucharist, Rite I; Forum; Holy Eucharist, Rite II. Nursery available.

## *A look ahead...*

December 2, Saturday	Advent Lessons and Carols Dress Rehearsal, 10am.
December 3, Sunday	Advent Lessons and Carols, 4pm.
December 17, Sunday	Bishop's Visit.
December 24, Sunday	Eucharists at 9am, 4pm, and 10:30.
December 25, Monday	Holy Eucharist, 10am.
December 31, Sunday	Morning Prayer 8am and 10:30.



## November Birthdays

Nov. 12	Nancy GodBold	Nov. 24	Daniel Fey
Nov. 14	John Ross Jr.		Martha Peddy
Nov. 20	Harriet Ross	Nov. 26	Loni Harris
			Allan Trently

# October Highlights

## Calendar Party -- Amy Turner

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Women held its annual Calendar Party on October 17th and 19th. This year's theme was "Celebrate the Good Times." Ten amazing tables were decorated by several of our talented women and their outstanding friends. Thank you to everyone who designed and decorated a table. I know it takes time and commitment and as always, you all showed out. ECW would like to thank Greg and Cindy Kost and Susan Francisco for taking care of planning, prepping, and executing the meals. Each event had its own caterer and top notch crew to serve our guests outstanding meals. Thank you to Debbie Torstrick for recruiting and overseeing the serving staff. Without a doubt, the guest received a wonderful dining experience.

During set-up, friends of Emily Canter's stopped by to present a beautiful needlepoint that Emily started over a year ago. They committed to completing it and presented it to Margaret. It was an amazing tribute to a woman who gave so much of her time to the Calendar Party.

It takes so many hands to juggle such an event and we appreciate everyone helping to keep this tradition alive. Please check St. Luke's ECW Facebook page to see additional pictures of the tables.



## Feast of St. Luke

On Wednesday, October 18, the Choristers debuted at a special evening Eucharist celebrated in honor of our patron saint Luke. It was fantastic to see and hear just how far these young musicians have come in just over a month together. Plate offerings for the evening will go toward building the program through the Royal School of Church Music's new digital curriculum.

Also during this service, Gary Wake was inducted into the Society of Saint John.



# This month at St. Luke's

## Feast of All Saints and Baptism

Celebrate All Saints Day, one of the seven principal feasts of the liturgical year, this year at 6pm (Wednesday, Nov. 1) with the baptism of Molly Iris Ivy, Andrew Lloyd Weber's *Pie Jesu*, incense, and the Eucharist. This celebration will supersede the regular Wednesday evening program.

## Daily Office -- *Gary Wake*

Since the week of September 10, St. Luke's has offered prayer opportunities at the church 6 days a week. Of course, we have our normal opportunities for worship on Sunday, but we've added Morning and Evening Prayer Monday-Friday. We gather at 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. in the chapel, a newly designated space that we originally set up during the year that St. Luke's hosted the annual diocesan convention. (It's upstairs above the nursery.) On Tuesday, we also have the Bible Study on the Gospel of John following prayer (9 a.m.).

These opportunities for prayer vary in attendance. Sometimes there's just one person there, other times 5 or 10 show up. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus says "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Even when just one person shows up, we are not alone because the church is always in prayer somewhere. We realize that the two current time slots may not work for everyone, but we hope by starting this practice, we will be able to root our church in prayer that will bear more fruit as we abide in Christ's love. Come join us when you can!

## RIFA Snack Backpack -- *Berta Garrity*

So, you've heard of "an apple for the Teacher." How about: Applesauce for the Students!" For November's contributions for RIFA's Snack Backpack program, let's pack the wagon with applesauce, any flavor, in individual serving cups. (6-packs of applesauce are often a sale item at Kroger.) Please grab a pack or two and put them in the red wagon in the Narthex, and make a real difference in the life of a local student.

If you're curious about the Snack Backpack program, you can read more at [rifajackson.org/ministries/snack-backpack/](http://rifajackson.org/ministries/snack-backpack/)

*(continued on next page)*

# This month at St. Luke's

## New Facilities Manager

Our church building has been a hub of ministry and community activity for over 175 years. As this activity has been on the upswing in recent months, we've recognized the benefits of having a central point of contact to ensure the facilities are in good repair, clean, safe, and available for people to enjoy. Kevin Eberle, who has been managing the church's finances but also has an extensive background in facilities maintenance and management, will be adding this important role to his service portfolio. If you have needs or suggestions related to the use or condition of the church, please feel free to reach out to him ([kevin@estlukes.org](mailto:kevin@estlukes.org)) at any time.

## Men's Literary Guild -- *Greg Kost*

The Men's Literary Guild will have their fall get-together on Sunday, November 5, 4:30 p.m., at the home Greg Kost, 49 Elmhurst Drive. Greg will be serving up piping hot chili, as well as grilled hot dogs for coneys, ice cold adult beverages, and dessert. The cost of the meal is \$10 and \$2 a beer. All the men of St. Luke's as well as St. Thomas are invited and encouraged to attend this evening of food, fun, and fellowship! If you have any questions, Greg can be reached at 225-9265.

## Wednesday Evening's Fall Program Schedule

September 13 - December 20

5:00 - 8:00: Nursery Open

5:15 - 6:00: Chorister Rehearsal in the Choir Room

5:30 - 6:00: Evening Prayer in the Prayer Chapel

6:00 - 6:30: Casual Potluck in the Parish Hall (all)

6:30 - 7:45 in the Parish Hall:

Episcopal 102: *The Church Cracked Open*, Stephanie Spellers

Game Night: for kids and youth

6:30 - 8:00 in the Choir Room: Parish Choir Rehearsal



## Dancing with Tradition and Technology -- *The Rev. Timothy True*

On August 28 I bit the bullet and bought a new car. It's an EV (Electric Vehicle), a 2023 Hyundai Ioniq 5, and thus far it's paying for itself: my former gas and oil expenses are about the same as my new monthly payment. It's exciting to drive, quiet and technologically on the cutting edge, kind of like driving inside a computer, evocative of the first time I rode the then brand-new Disneyland rollercoaster *Space Mountain*. Still, the learning curve is high and sometimes challenging. For instance, more than one person has cut in front of me at a public DC fast charger (as I was moving my car into the charging station slot!), leaving me with the unpleasant choice of confronting a fellow human being about their inconsiderate behavior or sucking it up and adding thirty minutes or more to my wait time. Ugh! Anyway, with navigating the lagging infrastructure, not to mention still figuring out how the car works, well, it's been a bit of a wild ride, *mostly* enjoyable, over the past couple months—not unlike church life.



Which, speaking of church, on the one hand, things around here are starting to feel settled for me. The staff has now been restructured; I sense a strong team spirit—good people through and through. My Letter of Agreement has been revised: apparently you and I, along with the bishop, want to continue our work together through 10/31/2025, at least. And the fall program is rolling along like an EV, smooth and quiet.

However, on the other hand, we've encountered a few recent congregational bumps in the road toward revitalization, growing pains. All I ask is that we continue doing what we already are: demonstrating patience and flexibility as we journey toward greater stability together.

Even so, the scenery is beautiful. This is the landscape I now see:

**Facilities Manager.** Kevin Eberle, our part-time bookkeeper for the past several months, has expanded his position to full-time and now includes overseeing our facilities. You will find more information elsewhere in this newsletter.

*(continued on next page)*

**Pledge Drive.** A list of households has been compiled and letters have been sent out via US mail: our pledge drive is under way. The timeline for the drive is through November with Ingathering Sunday planned for Thanksgiving Sunday, Nov. 26.

**Conference and Convention.** I will attend a one-day clergy conference in Memphis on Saturday, Nov. 4; and the Diocesan Convention at St. John's Episcopal Church in Memphis on Friday, Nov. 17. This year's delegation includes delegates Berta Garrity, John Hughey, and Tony Jordan; and alternates Michele Jackson and Renee Jordan.

**Feast of All Saints with Holy Baptism.** This Principal Feast will be celebrated on All Saints Day, Wednesday, November 1, at 6pm. It will include the baptism of Molly Ivy, incense, a chanted Eucharist, and special music by the St. Luke's Choir. Join us for this festive occasion. Nursery will be available. A reception will follow in the Commons, graciously provided by the Ivy family. The regular Wednesday evening program will not take place.

**Lessons and Carols.** Mark your calendars too for Sunday, December 3 at 4pm for a service our Book of Occasional Services calls "Advent Festival of Lessons and Music." Scripture passages will be read by members of the greater Jackson community with special music from the St. Luke's Choir. And so you know, this event will kick off a choral Evensong agenda, musical prayer services to take place at 4pm on the last Sunday of each month beginning in January 2024.

**Christmas is coming.** Heads up. Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, meaning that the morning service will still be in the Advent season and afternoon and evening services will fall in the Christmas season. Let that settle for a moment. And . . . yeah, the nave will need to be redecorated between the morning and evening services, etc., etc. So, Merry Frenetic Christmas! But yes, you heard right: *the* morning service, as in only one. Service times on Christmas Eve (Sunday, Dec. 24) will be 9am (Rite II), 4pm, and 10:30pm. Look for details in the weeks to come.

And since I mentioned my car, is anyone interested in being a part of an ad hoc committee to explore the possibility of bringing **EV chargers** to our church parking lot? Two words: residual income. But also: reducing carbon emissions. Anyway, if so, let me know.

Looking forward to our time together Sunday!

Peace,

Father Tim





APPLICATIONS OPEN!

# DIOCESAN YOUTH COUNCIL

**DEADLINE**  
**DEC.15**  
**2023**

The Diocesan Youth Council (DYC) is a group made up of 10th-12th grade students from around the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee tasked with bringing their thoughts, perspectives, and interests to diocesan leadership, creating meaningful fellowship and service events for young people in our diocese, and providing insight to Bishop & Council, the governing board of the Diocese of West Tennessee.

The first term of the DYC will begin in Spring 2024. Members will meet once a quarter over Zoom. The anticipated time commitment will be 4 hours/ quarter. Applications for the DYC are due by December 15, 2023.

**EDWTN.org/Youth**

**QUESTIONS?**

**JEREMY DEMAREST**

**JDEMAREST@CALVARYMEMPHIS.ORG**



The church needs to be a safe space for its parishioners. If you ever sense yourself in an uncomfortable position at St. Luke's, please let Father Tim or someone you trust know or contact one or more persons on the following list, which has been provided by the Diocese.

## SAFE CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Emergency - 911

*If you witness abuse*

*If someone is injured*

Tennessee Department of Children and Family Services - 877-237-0004

*Reporting potential abuse or neglect of persons less than 18 years old*

Tennessee Adult Protective Services – 888-277-8366

*Reporting potential abuse or neglect of vulnerable persons 18 years old or older*

Diocese of West Tennessee Intake Officer – [intakeofficerwtn@gmail.com](mailto:intakeofficerwtn@gmail.com)

*Making reports about potential clergy misconduct*

Canon to the Ordinary of Diocese of West Tennessee

The Rev. Canon Sharon Alexander 901-937-4782 (o) or 901-482-6760 (cell)

[salexander@episwtn.org](mailto:salexander@episwtn.org)

*Questions about Safe Church Policy*

*Reporting potential violations of Safe Church Policy*

*Reporting potential misconduct of lay persons*

Diocese of West Tennessee Safe Church Coordinator

The Rev. Dr. Jesse Abell

[jesse.abell@gracestlukes.org](mailto:jesse.abell@gracestlukes.org)

*Questions regarding Safe Church training*