

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Simeon

P.O. Box 694
 Charlottesville, VA 22902
www.stlukessimeon.org

Annual Report - 2020



This Annual Report documents our walk in Christ, celebrates our communion and shared lives at St. Luke's, and records the events of our congregation and church for 2020.

This year has been challenging for all, brought on by the ongoing pandemic. St. Luke's has been touched by the pandemic with several parishioners testing positive and enduring the disease and others having lost friends and family members. Early on the Diocese of Virginia directed the suspension of "in-person" services challenging us to remain in communion with one another and our Lord. In response we pursued a number of ways to stay connected. We held "Zoom" services, coffee hours, and bible studies. We watched services through the National Cathedral. We met outside, at Pleasant Grove and St. Luke's, masked and socially distanced, and as the cold weather arrived, we turned to online services through our new "YouTube channel."



With the conclusion of 2020 and the expedited approval of several vaccines, we look forward to 2021 with renewed hope that we will be able to once again, gather together.

Congregation and Leadership

With the conclusion of 2020, Joe Gieck will step down as our Senior Warden, Lou Lamb as Register, and Lynne Sprouse as a member of our Vestry. Thank you both for your service. Supporting Fr. Randy are our Vestry, Trustees, and others serving St. Luke's in key leadership roles.

Member		Other leadership	Trustees
Joe Gieck	(2020) Senior Warden	Ashby Kindler, Treasurer	Robert E. Bill
Lou Lamb	(2020) Register	Babs Fickes, Minister of Music	Joe H. Gieck
Lynne Sprouse	(2020)		E. Donald Fickes
Rick Febey	(2021) Junior Warden		
Tom Parker	(2021)		
Joann Rawls	(2021)		
Ben Brewster	(2022)		
John Down	(2022)		
Pending election:			
Sally Gieck	(2023)		
Tom Pitz	(2023)		
Tom Goss	(2023)		
		Committees	
		Outreach Gifting (Joe Gieck)	Stewardship (John Down)
		Cemetery (Tom Parker)	Budget Committees (Bob Lamb)
		Audit Committee (Ashby Kindler)	

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St. Luke's, Simeon – We are a Spirit-filled community of simple grace and acceptance, where all are embraced as children of God. We proclaim Christ's love for the world in Word and Sacrament, food and fellowship, sharing and service. Come As You Are!

Administration

The Vestry supervised the execution of the following church activities during 2020

- Parochial report was completed and forwarded to the Diocese
- Church financial audit was completed and forwarded to the Diocese
- 2021 Stewardship campaign led by John Down
- Annual Gifting Campaign exercised twice annually, led by Joe Gieck with Ashby Kindler, and Alicia Lenahan
- 2021 Budget Committee led by Bob Lamb with Tom Parker and Ashby Kindler
- 226th Annual Convention attended by Fr. Randy and Joann Rawls represented on November 12-14. For the first time in 226 years, the Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia gathered not in person, but online. More than 450 delegates attended the November 14 Convention via Zoom. The Convention was also broadcast simultaneously in Spanish and Korean allowing our Spanish- and Korean-speaking delegates to participate more fully. Delegates to Convention have several responsibilities including the election of leaders to governing bodies, passing a budget for the upcoming year, and voting on any resolutions that come before the Convention. The Convention voted to begin the process of electing and consecrating a Diocesan Bishop in 2022. The importance of youth ministry, especially among college students, was also discussed at some length.

Congregation and Parishioners

St. Luke's has 104 Active Baptized Members and 92 communicants. Our average Sunday attendance was 38, which included virtual attendance for 5 Sundays (43 if virtual services are not included). Our YouTube Channel is averaging 24 views each week and currently has 11 subscribers.

Baptisms	None
Marriages	1
Burials and Funerals	2

Worship Leadership and Support

Prior to suspension of our weekly services, our “behind the scenes” ministries continue to ensure, prepare for, and reverently execute our worship services on Sunday morning and other times. We look forward with anticipation to begin fulfilling these duties once again.

Ministries	Volunteers
Acolytes and Servers	Bob and Judy Bill, Marta Engdahl, Barbara Febey, Tom Parker, John Down
Altar Guild	Bob and Judy Bill, Sally Gieck, Debbie King, Lou Lamb, Ruby Parrish, Pat Perce
Flowers	Babs Fickes, Don Fickes
Bulletins (“pew sheets”)	Don Fickes
Eucharistic Ministers	Bob and Judy Bill, Marta Engdahl, Don Fickes, Rick Miller, John Down
Eucharistic Visitors	Marta Engdahl
Lectors, Greeters and Ushers	Stan Dunne, Marta Engdahl, Joe and Sally Gieck, Ashby Kindler, Lou Lamb, Lynne Sprouse, Tom Torrance, Jo-Anne Brust, Debbie King, Tom Goss, Janyce Caulkin, John Down, Tom Goss
Music	Babs Fickes
Sunday Fellowship Hour	Babs Fickes (coordinator), Don Fickes, Sally Gieck
Name Tag	Jo-Anne Brust

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Financial and Stewardship

This section of our report has three parts; our 2020 Budget Execution, which details how well we executed our budget, our 2021 Stewardship and Budget Planning with the accompanying details of our budget providing our plan for the coming year. You will note several shortfalls the pandemic has contributed to, but know that we are financially sound and monitoring our finances as we move forward into 2021.

2020 Budget Execution. Our 2020 budget was programmed for \$102,450. Unfortunately, our income for 2020 fell short of that with \$98,556.15 and our total expenses actually exceeded our income at \$99,253.62. *We spent less than we planned, but more than we collected.* Our income was less

than 2019 by approximately \$10,000 which may be attributed to the pandemic. The expenses, while less than programmed (i.e., \$102,450) was nevertheless more than we collected. The repaving, of the church parking lot approved at last year's Annual Meeting contributed to this disparity. We used approximately \$10,000 of interest from our investments to cover the costs. We did however, fulfill all of our outreach and gifting commitments which were in excess of 30% of our income. Know that the Vestry and Treasurer closely monitored the budget execution throughout the year.

2021 Stewardship and Budget Planning. The Vestry formed separate committees Stewardship, led by John Down and Budget led by Bob Lamb with Ashby Kindler, and Tom Parker and charged them with developing our 2021 stewardship goals and budget. Our budget for 2021 is \$99,985 is approximately \$2,465 lower than 2020. The savings were realized through miscellaneous reductions across several budget categories. To date, we've received 26 pledges, totaling \$74,072. For perspective, see the following table:

Year	# of Pledges	Amount of Pledges	Planned Budget
2019	31	\$96,040	\$120,114
2020	29	\$77,900	\$102,450
2021	26	\$74,072	\$99,985

The potential impact of the decreased pledges and plate collections will be monitored by the Vestry. We are blessed to have a sizable investment that generates income and will help diminish the impact of these financial challenges. The accompanying details of those investments and our four expense categories and plans are detailed below.

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- Our Expenses are aligned to 4 major categories.
 1. *Building and Grounds*. This budget category includes both keeping the lights and heat on, mowing the grass, as well as any major projects requiring a budget commitment. This past year we resurfaced the parking lot and entrance ramp and absorbed the expense through our annual costs with some supplement from special gifts from congregants. We've programmed \$9,200 for Building and Grounds which is 9% of our total budget.



2. *Outreach and Gifting*. For 2021, we've budgeted \$28,950, which is 29% of our overall budget. This includes our Diocesan pledge of \$8,000 and \$14,000 for gifting to local charities. The Diocesan pledge is within Diocesan guidelines of pledging 8-10% for churches with budgets of \$100K. As in years past, if our budget execution is less than programmed, we will execute a subsequent gifting period.
3. *Parish Operations*. This category incorporates the "day-to-day" expenses for our church operations including office supplies, communications expenses, and insurance. The budgeted \$9,435 represents approximately 9% of our overall budget."
4. *Salaries and Expenses*. Includes our clergy, organist, as well as supply clergy, accounting and payroll services as well. We've budgeted approximately \$52,400 to Salaries and Expenses, which represents approximately 52% of our overall budget and includes a cost of living increase for our organist.

Invested Funds: The final component of our financial health is the investments. As of December 31, 2020, we have \$46,968 in checking and savings, and \$477,439 across three investment funds; one with Ameritrade (which replaced Charlottesville Area Community Foundation (CACF)) and two with the Trustees of the Fund (TOTF)¹ (Diocese of Virginia). Our Diocese of VA investment fund and Julia Mason Fund are managed by the TOTF. Historically, we've made the decision to reinvest these funds and will continue to do so for the coming year or as necessary.

Christian Formation

- **Bad Girls of the Bible** – Led by parishioner Lynne Sprouse, the “Bad Girls” meet on Thursdays for discussion of spiritual Scripture-based books such as the Women of Faith series.
- **Lenten Bible Study** – Each Wednesday of Lent, Fr. Randy led a study of *Soul Feast* by Marjorie Thompson. Prior to the pandemic, soup and salad were provided pivoting to virtual meetings.



¹ Chartered in 1892, The Trustees of the Funds is an independent, related organization of the Diocese of Virginia. It was founded to support, strengthen and enhance the communities served by the Protestant Episcopal Church in Virginia. Through accessible investment services and planned giving education, The Trustees of the Funds seeks to provide the economic engine for the Episcopal Church in all of Virginia in helping others discover, refine and use their spiritual gifts.

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- **Virtual Bible Study** – Beginning in June a weekly virtual Bible Study led by Fr. Randy focused on the weekly Gospel readings using the *African or Lambeth Bible Study* method.
- **Inquirer's Class and Episcopal Refresher Course** – All of the course material from our Inquirer's Class and Refresher Course, developed by the Rev. Carroll Mallin has been posted to our website.
- **Lending Library** – We maintain our Lending Library in Berberich Hall that includes:
 - 5 part Lenten series of DVDs by Marcus Borg
 - Inquirer's Course/Refresher Course of the Episcopal Church - History, Structure and Core Beliefs
 - Comprehensive 8 part distance-learning, print
 - William Barclay's *The New Daily Study Bible*.

Outreach and Giving

There are an extraordinary number of ways St. Luke's reaches out and gives, from our financial gifting (over 25% of our budget), to our time and talents (including "Luv Mitts") to answering the call for others.

- **Financial Gifting** – In 2020 we fully executed our outreach and gifting plan. In addition to Diocesan gifting (\$7950), Region XV dues (\$850), Restricted gifting (\$1200), and Seminary Contributions (\$600), we distributed \$14,400 across the following organizations.

June Gifting	December Gifting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Legal Aid Justice Center</i> ... partners with communities to achieve justice by dismantling systems that create and perpetuate poverty • <i>Free Clinic</i> – provides free medical and dental care and free prescriptions for working uninsured and under-insured adults in the greater Charlottesville community. • <i>CACF COVID 19 Fund</i> ... works with local residents, nonprofits, as well as public and private organizations to facilitate philanthropy and improve the quality of life in our area. • <i>Haven – rapid rehousing</i> ... endeavors to end homelessness in the greater Charlottesville community. • <i>Lake Monticello Fire Department</i> ... provides emergency services to the Lake Monticello area and Fluvanna County • <i>Yellow Door Foundation</i> ... provides housing and support for families with children being treated at UVA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fluvanna Country Meals on Wheels</i> ... through volunteers, provides and delivers balanced, hot nutritious meals to the elderly, disabled and home-bound who have no reliable means of obtaining their daily food requirements. • <i>Charlottesville Salvation Army</i> ... mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination. • <i>The Center Scholarship Match</i>...a community Center open to all with focus on adults 50 and over. • <i>City of Promise</i> ... a learning center in Charlottesville from cradle, to college, to career. • <i>Shoes That Fit</i> ... Rack Room Shoes partners with Shoes That Fit, a national non-profit organization that provides shoes to disadvantaged children, to help them focus on their studies.

St. Luke's broader outreach has historically been broad and diverse. Some have been impacted by the pandemic but we look forward to re-energizing our engagement going forward and are documented below.

- **Veterans and Active Military Ministry** – Another impact of the pandemic was the suspension of races we have routinely participated in to raise money. We look forward to resuming our support to these worthy organizations as well as the *Blue Star Families of Central Virginia* contributing everyday items that are boxed and shipped to our troops deployed overseas.
- **Luv Mitts Ministry** – Created by parishioner Lydia Kessler, Luv Mitts are cozy fingerless mittens made from repurposed sweaters and embellished with beautiful stitches and buttons. Each stitch and button, has meaning, and each pair is unique. They are given in love to provide comfort and

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express caring for the recipient. Sometimes recipients are given two pairs, with the instruction to “keep one and pass one on.” To date, Lydia has crafted over 5500 pair and is now teaching others how to make them in church member workshops! Luv Mitts continue to be shared with people all over the world.

- **Food Bank** – Periodically through the year, under the leadership of Ashby Kindler for the Emergency Food Bank and Babs and Don Fickes for the **Monticello Area Community Action Agency (MACAA)**, St. Luke's brought non-perishable and semi-perishable food for our neighbors in need.
- **Annual Yard Sale** – We were not able to have a yard sale in 2020 but Ashby Kindler is planning to do so in 2021. Start collecting items you may wish to contribute.
- **Diaper Ministry** – We have discontinued our diaper ministry due to lack of identified families. All our remaining diapers were donated to a local refugee organization.
- **St. Nicholas Toy Sale** – Although suspended this year, in previous years, St. Luke's participated in *The Schoolhouse Thrift Shop's Toy Sale* by donating toys which are sold at 50% off retail to assist low-income families in buying toys for their children at Christmas. This benefits low-income families and community outreach programs and is supported by the churches of Region XV of the Episcopal church, with proceeds benefiting local charities. It is our continued hope to be able to do so going forward.
- **The United Thank Offering (UTO)** – The pandemic precluded participating in UTO this past year but hope to do so in 2021.

Church and Grounds – Weekly cleaning of Church and Parish Hall: Ruby Parrish and Sally Gieck. Our Spring and Fall Cleanups clean-ups continue under the leadership Rick Febey as Junior Warden. We had two unanticipated projects this past year; installation of a programmable thermostat for heating and cooling, and an exterminator was brought in to address the ladybugs and installation of screens strategically around the foundation to preclude the entrance of rodents. Rick has been working diligently caring for our “little white church with the red roof” during this extended period when we aren't routinely occupying

Communications – At the outset of the pandemic, the Vestry developed a rotational call list that provided for engaging with parishioners and to help us stay connected.

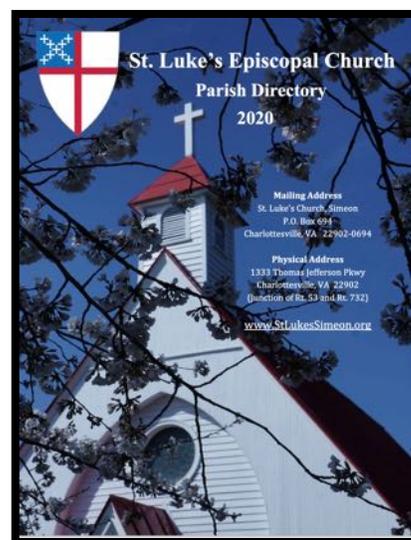
The *Song of Simeon*, our weekly e-newsletter continued to serve the congregation well with news and events. Our “Google Group” that facilitates distribution of the song has approximately 87 members. The automated service has proven an effective means for the congregation informed.

Our website (www.stlukessimeon.org) continues to provide an internet presence, a welcoming “signpost” for finding and learning about St. Luke's and a source of information about our Parish Life and Worship. And, as noted at the outset, the impact of the ongoing pandemic, we have created our own St. Luke's “YouTube” channel to share weekly services.

This year we updated the church *Directory* and successfully experimented with a self-printed effort that has proven both cost effective and responsive to our needs.

Special Events and Activities

While many of our Recurring Activities and Special Events were cancelled this past year, we are recording them here in preparation for reengaging in 2021 and beyond.



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Recurring Activities	Special Events
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Fr. Randy provides “Drop In Hours” at Cuppa Joe’s (Wednesday) and Cville Coffee (Fridays) • Monthly Pot Luck Fellowship. Our tradition of celebrating in fellowship with a Pot Luck the first Sunday of each month continued. • Our St. Luke’s “Bad Girls” meeting each Thursday in their continuing journey of faith • Ol’ Friends Friday started by Joanne Brust was a weekly gathering via Zoom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January – St. Luke’s, Simeon Annual Meeting • January – Annual Diocesan Convention • March – Lenten Bible Study • June – Annual Yard Sale led by Ashby Kindler • July – Summer Outreach/Gifting • September – Annual Picnic • October - Fall Camp at Shrine Mont • October – Blessing of the Animals • November – Annual Diocesan Convention in Richmond attended by Fr. Randy and Tom Parker • December – Winter Outreach/Gifting • December – Annual Christmas Party at Wentworth Farm hosted by Sally and Joe Gieck

Conclusion

In preparing this report, the deeper impact of the pandemic on St. Luke’s was driven home. We were constrained in our ability to gather, to engage with one another, and with our community. Yet, with each passing month we looked for and tested different ways to overcome the challenges brought by this pandemic. Whether gathering outdoors, seeing one another via Zoom calls, taping services, broadening our online presence, or reaching out individually with one another we remained focused and committed to our mission as ...

*... a Spirit-filled community of simple grace and acceptance...
Come as you are.*

