

Song of Simeon

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Simeon
 P.O. Box 694
 Charlottesville, VA 22902
www.stlukessimeon.org



We are a Spirit-filled community of simple grace and acceptance.... Come As You Are!

March 12, 2020

Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event/Activity	Location	POC
Mar 15	9:15 am	Holy Eucharist (No Service)	St. Luke's	Fr. Randy Haycock
Mar 18	5:30 pm	Lenten Study (No Meeting)	Berberich Hall	Fr. Randy Haycock
Mar 22	9:15 am	Holy Eucharist (No Service)	St. Luke's	Fr. Randy Haycock
Mar 25	5:30 pm	Lenten Study (No Meeting)	Berberich Hall	Fr. Randy Haycock
Mar 29	9:15 am	Holy Eucharist	St. Luke's	Fr. Randy Haycock
Apr 1	5:30 pm	Lenten Study	Berberich Hall	Fr. Randy Haycock

Vestry Meeting
 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM

"Bad Girls of the Bible"
 Every Thursday at 12:00 in the Parish Hall

Drop-In Hours
 Wed: Cuppa Joe's from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm
 Fri: Simeon Market from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Pot Luck – 1st Sunday each Month

St. Luke's Prayer List

Jim Brookeman, Gene and Charlotte Baker, Ken Crosby, Don Cook, and the Reeves Family, Jessica, JT, Bruce, Dana Henry, Eric, Matthew, Johonna, Julia Perce, Susan, Caroline, Moss Crosby, Sidney, Susanne Taylor, Fr. Mark McIntosh, Carole, Jo Malena, Josie, Bob and Carol, Rob Lawson

Readings for March 15:

<http://www.lectionarypage.net>

[Exodus 17:1-7](#)

[Romans 5:1-11](#)

[John 4:5-42](#)

[Psalm 95](#)

COVID-19 and Worship

3/11/2020

Dear People of the Diocese of Virginia,
 As the Coronavirus spreads, we are called as people of faith to protect one another, particularly the most vulnerable among us. As a step toward doing this, Bishop Brooke-Davidson, three diocesan staff members and I met virtually with 185 of our clergy this afternoon and conveyed to them **the decision that we will not physically gather for worship in our church buildings for the next two weeks, between now and March 25.** Toward the end of the two weeks, we will assess the situation and adjust as necessary.

An early version of a Washington Post online article says that we have "closed" our churches for two weeks. That is not correct. Churches may remain open, unless told otherwise by local health officials. Church staff may come to work. We will not, however, gather physically for public worship.

Why? The Coronavirus is now a pandemic and we are responsible for one another, especially for the most vulnerable among us. Mathematical models show that the

Dear Diocesan Family,

I write to you with news that is personal and that touches on our life together as a diocesan community. I have been diagnosed with Stage 1 breast cancer. It was detected early in a routine mammogram in February. While the cancer is not aggressive, my marvelous medical team and I are responding quickly. I anticipate that I will have surgery before Easter and begin additional treatment a few weeks later. My prognosis is excellent. I am otherwise in very good health and have a strong support system. While this is not a season I ever would have chosen, I am on a remarkable, creative and holy Lenten journey.

As I take care of myself during treatment, I will be able to do the ministry to which God and this diocese have called me, although with a somewhat lightened schedule. In particular, my Monday through Friday travel will be limited for some weeks during the second phase of treatment. This reality will not require rescheduling Sunday visitations. During the time of reduced travel, I will embrace electronic meetings more fully than ever. My colleague Bishop Brooke-Davidson, our team of visiting bishops, our committed

virus is spreading exponentially. We can't stop the spread, but we can slow it, thereby saving lives and helping ensure that our health care system remains effective. Social distancing is our best means of slowing the spread. The Diocese of Washington has made the same decision as COVID-19 cases increase in the DC urban and suburban area.

This is not the first time that our churches have suspended public worship. One hundred two years ago, bishops cancelled visitations and churches closed for two to six weeks during the great flu epidemic. As it was then, these are extraordinary and unusual times. They require extraordinary and unusual measures.

While we won't gather in our churches for worship these next two Sundays, God will be worshipped and praised. By the end of the day tomorrow we will send you resources for virtual worship with a variety of options for churches of every size. We'll also include links with answers to questions that clergy of the diocese asked this afternoon during the ZOOM meetings, and other questions we receive.

Do not be afraid. God is good. God is leading us and guiding us even now. God is teaching us how to be Church in ways that might not be comfortable, but in ways that will be faithful.

God bless you and God bless us all as we care for one another, especially the most vulnerable among us.

Faithfully yours,



Bishop Suffragan and Ecclesiastical Authority

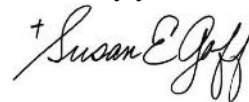
diocesan staff and our Standing Committee are working together with me to ensure that our diocesan life remains healthy during these next months. I anticipate resuming my normal round of activities before the end of June.

Diagnosis and treatment do not change my retirement plans. I will continue to serve as Bishop Suffragan and Ecclesiastical Authority through the election and consecration of our next Bishop Diocesan in 2022, and then as Bishop Suffragan until I retire in 2023.

I invite you to send any messages or words of encouragement you might offer me to healinggrace@thediocese.net. Your notes will be collected in a folder in my inbox. I will open and read them once a day during a prayerful time. In addition, I will post periodic updates, reflections, meditations and art that emerge from this healing journey. You can find the blog at www.thediocese.net/healinggrace.

I feel buoyed by prayer and covet your continued prayers for me, for my husband Tom, for our diocesan staff, and for all the people of this diocese.

Faithfully yours,



O God, the source of all health: So fill my heart with faith in your love, that with calm expectancy I may make room for your power to possess me, and gracefully accept your healing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Luke's Volunteer Sign Up Sheet (click the link below)

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/149-sfdyi1N40B77kEozF9uVCvndfsHL6qFMV8XFnok/edit?ts=5671b371#gid=0>

Date	Greeter	Reader 1	Reader 2	Acolyte	Eucharistic Minister	Teller Senior Warden	Altar Guild (Bob & Judy Bill)	Coffee Hour 1 Babs & Don Fickes	Altar Flowers Babs & Don Fickes
Mar-15		John Down	Marta Engdahl		Don Fickes	Joe Gieck	Judy & Bob Bill	Dunne's & Downs	Debbie King
Mar 22				Marta Engdahl	Judy Bill	Joe Gieck	Pat Perce	Hilary & Hortense	Nita Reigle
Mar 29	Marta Engdahl	Marta Engdahl	Debbie King	John Down	Don Fickes	Joe Gieck	Pat Perce	Rod & Janyce	Caulkins
Apr 5		Lou Lamb	Marta Engdahl				Lou Lamb	pot luck	Palms
Apr 12 Easter				Marta Engdahl	Don Fickes		Debbie King	Longowski	Easter Lilies
Apr 19	Marta Engdahl	Marta Engdahl						Rick, Hortense, Pat	
Apr 26			Marta Engdahl						
				Marta Engdahl					

Remember ...if all else fails, call or write Bob Lamb at 703-407-2365 or bob.j.lamb@gmail.com