

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!



February 25, 2021

Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event/Activity	Location	POC
February		Online	See below	Fr. Randy
March		Online	See below	Fr. Randy

We will be having a Zoom services which you can participate in live and with a weekly announcement of how to connect. Other options include:

- <http://www.thediocese.net/news-and-events/covid-19-resources/virtual-worship/sermons-from-the-bishop-s-online-chapel/>
- For those who would like to participate in the 11:15 a.m. Eucharist at the National Cathedral: <https://cathedral.org/event/online-holy-eucharist-2020-09-06-2020-12-27-2021-01-31/>
- For a program of music from St. Olaf College based on the scripture readings for this Sunday: www.stolaf.edu/singforjoy/

Vestry Meeting
2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM

Ol' Friends Friday
Every Friday from 2-2:40pm via Zoom

St. Luke's Prayer List

Jim Brookeman, Jessica, Bruce, Matthew, Caroline, Moss Crosby, Sidney, Susanne Taylor, Carole, Carol, Rob Lawson, Lizzie Wham, Brian, Babs, Tom, Bill, Michael Latsko, Nancy Quantock, Randy, Mark Mincer, Kristen, Janyce Caulkins, Patricia

Readings for February 28:
<http://www.lectionarypage.net>
[Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16](#)
[Romans 4:13-25](#)
[Mark 8:31-38](#)
[Psalm 22:22-30](#)

Dear parish ~ I know that cards and notes of love and encouragement for Janyce Caulkins (and Rod), would be much appreciated. The immense value of a caring community can't be overstated.

Janyce Caulkins, 267 Jefferson Dr. Palmyra, VA 22963



Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent

Dear Friends in Christ,

Although we cannot gather at church yet for our usual Lenten Wednesday Evening Supper and Forum, we will gather this year in a Zoom meeting to explore "Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent," a new set of resources to help us in our walk with Christ through life.

The journey through Lent into Easter is a journey with Jesus. We are baptized into his life, self-giving, and death; then, we rise in hope to life transformed. This Lent, communities are invited to walk with Jesus in his Way of Love and into the experience of transformed life. Together, we will reflect anew on the loving actions of God as recounted in the Easter Vigil readings. Together, we will walk through the depths of salvation history into the fullness of redemption.

This set of seven Adult Forums ties the Easter Vigil readings to the seven practices of the Way of Love. Drawing on the ancient practice of setting aside Lent as a period of study and preparation for living as a Christian disciple (known as the catechumenate), the forums encourage participants to reflect on salvation history; walk toward the

empty tomb; and embrace the transforming reality of love, life, and liberation. As we stand with the three women at the empty tomb, we hear his call to go and live that transformed reality.

We will meet seven times, on the remaining Wednesdays in Lent, and on the Wednesday after Easter Day. The following are the topics for each meeting.

Feb 24 - Session One / **TURN: Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ** (Romans 6:3-11) As Christians, we are continually called to repent and be renewed in faith. This session introduces the Way of Love and invites participants to reflect on themes of repentance and the new life we have in Christ through baptism. Participants consider spiritual practices of turning away from the spiritual forces of evil and sin, and turn toward Christ.

Mar 3 - Session Two / **PRAY: Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea** (Exodus 14:10-15:1) God's people prayed throughout their Exodus from slavery in Egypt: The Israelites cried out to God; Moses cried out on behalf of the people; Miriam gave thanks with tambourines and dance. This session invites participants to learn and practice varieties of prayer.

Mar 10 - Session Three / **LEARN: Learn Wisdom and Live** (Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6) As wisdom says: "My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver." This session will take a careful look at the gift of wisdom through the practice of reading Scripture. Participants will leave with a model for "holy reading."

Mar 17 - Session Four / **BLESS: A New Heart and a New Spirit** (Ezekiel 36:24-28) Blessed by God, we can bless others and bear new life in the world. This session examines the scriptural call to be freed from idols and given a new heart. Participants explore their ties to modern day "idols" (work, money, power, etc.) to see what practices can be transformed into blessings for the sake of the world.

Mar 24 - Session Five / **REST: The Valley of Dry Bones** (Ezekiel 37:1-14) True sabbath time will help to restore us – body, mind, and soul – like the dry bones into which God breathes new life. This session explores the meaning of sabbath and the variety of ways to keep it. Participants commit to their own specific sabbath practice.

Mar 31 - Session Six / **WORSHIP: The Gathering of God's People** (Zephaniah 3:12-20) This session includes a clear call to worship God and give thanks for all God's blessings. Participants try out practices designed to help them see the glory of God in all things, turning life itself into an act of worship.

Apr 7 - Session Seven / **GO: The Empty Tomb** (Luke 24:1-12) On Easter morning, we go from the tomb into the world, ready to take up Jesus' life and mission, and to share resurrection hope in our words and actions. This session invites participants to craft an action plan based on the Baptismal Covenant, and to discern how they could "GO" to join God's mission of border-crossing, transformation, and healing.

Each session will begin with a short video clip, and then we will discuss a question or two about the session's topic.

This really looks like a very good series, and I look forward to sharing it with you if you can join us on Zoom. The link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87601607252?pwd=Tm52N29WekV2MkRkZ1VJVVdRanpoQT09>

If you prefer to join by phone dial 301-715-8593 and follow the directions to enter the meeting ID and Passcode.

Meeting ID: 876 0160 7252

Passcode: 257225

And even though we can't gather for a pot-luck, feel free to bring some supper or a cup of coffee with you to the meeting.

With love and peace in Christ,

Fr. Randy

VESTRY MINUTES – February 2021

The vestry meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. Present were Randy Haycock, Ben Brewster, John Down, Rick Febey, Joe Gieck, Sally Gieck, Tom Goss, Ashby Kindler, Tom Parker, Tom Pitz, and Joann Rawls. For the meditation Ben read a poem on unity and followed with a prayer for unity by Carl Modell. The prayer exhorted us to learn to listen, and to find the wisdom to cooperate.

Joann Rawls was elected Senior Warden
Rick Febey was re-elected Junior Warden
Tom Parker was elected Registrar

At John Down's request, Randy provided an update on his health. He is switching his care from UVA, which focuses its work on research, to the Phillips Center at Martha Jefferson Hospital, where the focus is more on patient care. Randy met with his oncologist this morning and was greatly impressed. He reported that in a week or so he will go back on an aggressive program of chemotherapy.

The minutes of the January meeting were unanimously approved.

The Financial Report:

After noting that the new vestry members need to be connected with their canons, Ashby gave an update on the 2021 annual budget. As of today, the church has received 31 pledges in the amount of \$82,172 for 2021; she reports she is still waiting on one pledge. Based on guidance provided at a Diocesan Treasurer's meeting, she estimated a loose plate offering of \$5,000 to \$6,000 for the coming year. This means the parish's estimated income for 2021 to be approximately \$87,000-\$88,000, an amount that falls approximately \$11,000-\$12,000 below the parish's anticipated 2021 budget of \$99,985.

There ensued a discussion of how best to proceed in the face of this shortfall. Should the vestry approve an unbalanced budget? Should we consider cutting the church's local outreach giving? Should we reduce our diocesan giving? Should the church use income from its investments to cover the gap? Should the vestry make cuts in the budget? In the end, there was agreement that the church should not cut either local giving or diocesan giving, both of which were cited as sources of strength and pride for the parish. In terms of reducing the budget, Ashby pointed out that the \$260 line item for the annual subscription to the Virginia Episcopalian newsletter could be removed, for that publication is now delivered online, free of charge (Ashby noted that all vestry members should subscribe!). She also strongly recommended that no cuts be made in Payroll Service and Accounting Service. Rick then noted that our recent decision to establish an annual pest control contract was an expense that had not been factored into the budget; Joe Gieck added that the boxwoods have contracted a blight and are going to need treatment—another unbudgeted expense. In the end, it was agreed that the vestry should approve the budget as it stands, recognizing that we may have to make some adjustments as the year unfolds. The budget was then approved.

Old Business

Randy reported that online church services, which had been temporarily suspended because of his health, will recommence tomorrow night. There will be a regular Wednesday-evening Lenten program based on an Episcopalian publication entitled "The Way of Love." Randy also reported that he will also restart Sunday services, but in deference to his doctor's request that he limit his contact as a way to minimize COVID risks, these will be "solo performances" until his health improves.

New Business

Ashby began with the observation that because all three of the St. Luke's trustees (Joe Gieck, Don Fickes, Bob Bill) are in their 80s, we might want to give some thought to adding someone younger. There ensued a brief discussion of the purpose and duties of the trustees, but no decision was made on the matter. Importantly, though, it was raised as one meriting consideration at a future vestry meeting.

Discussion then turned to the Annual Parochial report. Ashby had completed her portion, and Randy had completed most of his, but there were two categories of questions that merited discussion.

What do we want to do with the electronic part of the church's program, post-COVID? It was noted that the church has a Facebook page, but it was Ann Wilms who set it up, and Randy says she can't remember the password. We need to take it down and set up a new one. Tom Goss then said the church should not just resurrect the Facebook page, but should expand the church's presence on social media as a way to bolster outreach to potential younger parishioners. Once they come to services at St. Luke's and meet people, he asserted, the church will sell itself. Randy reinforced Tom's point, adding that the nation now has two generations of young, many of whom have never had any church experience. Their opinions are shaped by what they're seen and heard about evangelists; he says they need to get over their preconception that all churchgoers are evangelists. The discussion then turned to the question of technology, with Randy noting that we need a system more robust than his laptop, which is what we're using right now. Joann said we need to get tech professionals to help us determine what our needs might be. Tom Goss then noted that he has a nephew in town whose profession is computers and setting up websites; he will arrange for his nephew to meet with Randy to talk about our needs.

What is St. Luke's doing regarding the issue of racial justice? It was noted that we as a parish have not identified a need, nor has anything been brought to our attention on this question. Indeed, there was some uncertainty of just what, exactly, the question was getting at. Are we supposed to be reaching out beyond our church family into the community? We noted that one of the church's outreach efforts, Bread and Roses, did specifically speak to minority needs, and others (Meals on Wheels, for example), helped minority individuals even though they were not focused on helping them specifically. Maybe some of our outreach giving could be directed toward matters of racial injustice. Tom Pitz said that if an initiative were made to attend services at one of the local black churches, he would be eager to attend. This raised the possibility of outreach with one of these churches, just as a way to get acquainted.

Rector's Report

Randy expressed his heartfelt appreciation for all the prayers, notes, and cards that he has received, and he thanked the entire parish. He also noted that this kind of support is an important way for members of the congregation to support one another.

Junior Warden's Report

Rick Febey reported good news regarding a matter of concern that Ashby, in an email, had brought to the vestry's attention: The first few heating bills following the installation of the new thermostat system had jumped alarmingly. Rick said he had met at the church with a serviceperson from Blue Ridge Services, and he had adjusted system so that the temperature can be programmed individually for each day of the week. That had not been the case. This adjustment will allow for greater, more precise control. He reported he has also left a trickle of water flowing in the sinks and toilets to protect the pipes in the recent cold spell.

Rick is also going to meet with a representative W.E. Brown to see whether they might offer a formal bid on servicing the church's heating and cooling systems. He had spoken with them earlier, and they had given a verbal estimate that was significantly below the amount that the church is currently paying to Blue Ridge Services. He will report back on this matter.

Ashby volunteered to give the devotional for the next vestry meeting.

Randy delivered the closing prayer at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Parker
Registrar