

# Song of Simeon

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*St. Luke's Simeon Charlottesville, Virginia*

*Volume 12 Issue 9 December 2011*

This is the time of year when we prepare to meet Christ the new born. The coming into the world of the gift of God's son is a familiar story to most of us. There are pleasant repeats of well-known liturgies and perhaps a few new things, a different pageant interpretation or a service at a different time. It is a time of comfort for most of us, although we should never forget that it is a time of difficulty for those who have suffered a loss during the year. Perhaps for all of us as we remember the past we recognize that the world has moved on, it is only Christ who is the same, yesterday, today, and forever. We have changed and will change.

I have been doing some reading provided to me by the Diocese that asks thought provoking questions of what are core values as members of the body of Christ. These values can be summarized as what we believe, what we are, and what we do. The first of these includes questions of dogma and authority of the bible but more directly as our identity in Christ, as adopted children of God through the coming into the world of the Son of God. Which leads into the question of what we are, people of joy, hope, and love and all the virtues that Paul expounds in his epistles. And hence into what we do, worship, prayer, bible study, outreach, and all the myriad other activities in which Christian communities engage. Each church community has its own personality that can be seen in the things that are most important to it. I learned a long time ago that if you want to figure out priorities of an organization, look to where the resources are expended. Of the long list of possibilities given by the Diocese, I would say that over the last year, liturgy, preserving our building and a focus on the needy are characteristic of St. Luke's. The first two could be surmised from the budget, we have regular services conducted by a vicar and music led by an organist. We have put on a new roof. But in addition to the prayer chain, the food donations and the outreach grants, the community efforts to raise up a Deacon assisting the broader community on mental health issues has to make our Christmas list as special this year. However Christ comes into our life anew each year, we are challenged by this not to rest on our laurels, or whatever we have on our Christmas wreath. In the

coming year the efforts on the building will wind down and be replaced by the mutual ministry review process. This will challenge us to think not only of the comfort that the presence of Christ in our lives brings but what of Christ we are going to present to the world in return.

I am convinced that St. Luke's has the capacity to move beyond mission status to become sustainable as a parish over the next few years. But in a sense the question is what sort of mission or parish are we called into being, rather than the canonical status. It used to be that communities had their own barn raising activities, and this was used for churches too. In a sense, 2012 will be a barn raising year when your input will be needed if we are going to have all the pieces that are needed.

Let's see what we have this time next year as our priorities. To paraphrase a famous speech, "Ask not what Christ can do for you but rather what you can do for Christ."

Father Phil

## Senior Warden Update

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As the end of the calendar year comes close, St. Luke's is gearing up for the celebration of our Lord Jesus Christ's Birth! What a wonderful occasion. Laura Vision George is preparing the children's pageant. Every year it is the crowning glory of our celebration. It is a reminder of how insignificant each one of us is in the big scheme of things. As one, he hears, but as a congregation, we get his full attention. I personally feel God presence at St. Luke's every time I walk through the door. The love and comfort is so strong it gives off a radiance no one can deny.

I do believe, if the weather holds, the Roof will be finished by Christmas. What a wonderful celebration that will be.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, 12/11/11, after the morning service. 3 Vestry members will retire and 3 new members will be introduced. I cannot say enough about the 3 members leaving the Vestry. Doing anything asked of them, they have silently kept our Church a constant in their lives with 3 years of dedicated service. As a longtime member of St. Luke's I thank you, Frank, Lydia and Ashby.

Last but not least, Buddy and I want to wish each and every one of you a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and thank you for loving St. Luke's like we do.

Peace and love,

Lynne  
Lynne Sprouse  
Senior Warden

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## Prayer List

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2/19/11	Ken Higgins	Upper Resp difficulties	Father Phil
2/19/11	Robin Long Ashauer	Cancer hospitalization	DJ Moore
2/19/11	Heather Miller	Leukemia	Joann Rawls
1/30/2011	Karen McAfee Murphy	Pain/RA/Lupus	Lou McAfee
1/17/11	Trey Brewster & Family	Thanksgiving & healing	Anna Ellis
1/17/11	Bill Hargett	Leukemia	Janyce Caulkins
1/17/11	Anthony Brown & Family	Strength & Healing	Judy Crosby
2/12/11	Kelly Walker	Recurring non- Hodgkins lymphoma	Marta Engdahl
2/12/11	Doug Nordstrum	Kidney Ca	Marta Engdahl

2/20	Alyssa Divers	Bone Ca	Ken Quantock
2/20	Dan Silvers	CA	Ken Quantock

Karen Sheedy

## Announcements

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The Outreach and Gifting Committee will consider in December requests for gifts to local, non-profit organizations. If you would like to present a group to be considered to receive a gift, please let Joe Gieck know.

We are still working on the updated St. Luke's Church Directory. If you were not included in last year's directory or if there have been changes in your contact information please notify Molly Hilton. You can give her changes at church or email her at <[mollyhilton@gmail.com](mailto:mollyhilton@gmail.com)> or call her at 434-295-0788.

Plan to attend the Annual Meeting which will be held this year after the Sunday service on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

The agenda is as follows:

1. Election of New Vestry Members - Note election of officers occurs at first new Vestry meeting
2. Presentation by 2011 Senior Warden of Full Vestry  
- request for committee sign-ups, thanks to volunteers, etc
3. 2011 Budget Wrap Up by Past Treasurer
4. 2012 Status of Pledges by Incoming Treasurer  
note: Budget was presented at start of stewardship campaign but further questions will be taken in preparation for budget finalization by New Vestry.
5. 2011 Junior Warden Report - Roof, etc
6. Vicar Report - Deacon Process, LEMs progress, with input from Chair of Committee/seeker
7. General Discussion

Please return your pledge cards as soon as possible if you haven't already. It is crucial for the Finance Committee to have all the information they need in order to finalize the budget for next year.

If you are interested in joining the on-line Bible study, please let Fr. Phil know.

The Bad Girls will start a new book in January. Anyone interested in joining, let one of the girls know so we can order you a book. There is a luncheon for the Bad Girls on 12/15/11 at the Red Lobster at 12:30PM.

## Important Dates

December 11, **Annual meeting** after 9:15 service, refreshments courtesy of Bonnie and Dick

December 18, **Christmas Pageant** 9:15 service, by the children and youth, led by Laura Voisin George

December 24, **5pm** Family Eucharist with music, **9pm** Quiet Midnight Mass both no refreshments

December 25, **No** Christmas day service

New Years Day, Regular 9:15 service

There will be a Christmas party after the Christmas pageant @ Wentworth Farm (home of Joe and Sally Gieck) December 18.

A reminder about the "Blue" Christmas service:

**Liturgy for the Longest Night: *My Soul Waits for the Lord***

on **Thursday, December 22** from **7:00-8:00 pm**

**St. Paul's Memorial Church, Charlottesville**

A new offering to St. Paul's, this service is especially for those who may find Christmas a difficult time of year. Many people suffer in silence at this time of

year, whether because of the remembrance of the death of a loved one, the end of a relationship, a job loss, or a profound sense of loneliness.

The service will be held on the winter solstice, the “longest night” of the year. The tone will be contemplative and quietly hopeful. All are welcome to be part of this late Advent service of Evening Prayer with music and candle lighting. Come for yourself and for others who will benefit from your prayers and presence. For more information please call The Rev. Dr. Ann Willms at 434-295-2156 or email her at [ann.willms@stpaulsmemorialchurch.org](mailto:ann.willms@stpaulsmemorialchurch.org).

*My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning,  
more than watchmen for the morning. (Psalm 130:5)*

## Anecdotal History of St. Luke's Simeon 1949-2010

Barbara Carlson has submitted an Anecdotal History of St. Luke's, derived primarily from interviews with Lynne Sprouse and Rev. Gloria Berberich. An excerpt from this history will be included here each month, beginning at the beginning. This is installment 3.

“In the 1970's and 80's, regular service every other Sunday continued. When Rev. Donovan died, there was a discussion of closing St. Luke's because, mistakenly, the congregation was considered to be “a bunch of Baptist farmers” by the Christ Church Vestry Committee. Cole Hendricks was the champion to continue support from Christ Church, “because those people are very faithful people. I vote against closing that church.” Christ Church did continue to supply priests including Rev. Charles Leavell, Rev. Amy Larkin, and Rev. Gloria Berberich. There was no formal Sunday school. During the summer months, Lynne Sprouse and her sister-in-law Christine Harris would plan and hold a Vacation Bible School for the neighborhood children every summer. One time they made Noah's Ark out of popsicle sticks

which is still in our parish hall today. During those years during the 1980's, faithful communicants included Lynne and Buddy Sprouse, Christine Harris, Ella Bishop, Doris Hudson, and Lucy Rhodes.

At that time, most of the social events took place in the church yard around the huge maple tree which stood between the back of the church and the cemetery. There was always an Easter egg hunt, and regular picnics or barbeques during the warmer months. "The Maple Tree" was the center of many wonderful times for the parish community; and when it had to be cut down, the wood was stored and has remained a constant mark of time for our church. Buddy Sprouse, a gifted woodworker, has created beautiful maple objects for our church including the cross at the altar, maple shelves, picture frames, the Bible holder, the collection bowl, the Advent calendar holder, special Holy Communion Wafer Box, and a Communion table made from that special tree. In these later years of 2008-2010, Buddy constructed all the small, wooden altar pieces used for the Benedictine Catechesis Sunday School program as well as the tiny pieces for the Liturgical Calendar which teaches the children about the events of the Episcopal Church."

Stay tuned for the next installment!