



ST. LUKE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



410 N. Main St. – Jamestown, NY 14701 + (716) 483-6405

www.stlukesjamestown.org



RECTOR'S REPORT

2024 was a Success!

- Jessica Frederick was ordained a Priest
- 11 Pilgrims traveled to the Vatican, 2 baptized and 5 confirmed
- The number of new pledgers continues to grow
- The Jamestown Farmers Market receives \$250,000 USDA Grant to expand beyond the summer
- Awarded a 2nd \$500,000 NYS Preservation Grant



White Water Rafting in Zoar Valley

Patricia Fagnoli, "Winter Grace"

And if you have gone out in the snow
for only the pleasure
of walking barely protected
from the galaxies,
the flakes settling on your parka
like the dust from just-born stars,
the cold waking you
as if from long sleeping,
then you can understand
how, more often than not,
truth is found in silence,
how the natural world comes to you

if you go out to meet it,
its icy ditches filled with dead weeds,
its vacant birdhouses, and dens
full of the sleeping.
But this is the slowed-down season
held fast by darkness
and if no one comes to keep you company
then keep watch over your own solitude.
In that stillness, you will learn
with your whole body
the significance of cold
and the night,
which is otherwise always eluding you.

As I stood in the crepuscular light of the morning, shoveling last evening's snowfall, I looked back over my shoulder at the clear path and snow piled on either side. And then I looked ahead, and I discovered a different unshoveled path that the deer had made. The metaphor jumped out to me. January is a season—of Annual Meetings and Annual Reports—where we look back to admire all of the work that we have done and peer into the future and notice new paths emerging. Like the deer, the Spirit pioneers the way.

Reflecting on the year, there is much that demonstrates and celebrates the vitality of our parish. In this report, you will read about these accomplishments from a variety of perspectives across the entirety of our work. This includes not only the ministry of our church, but also the two community-based programs that we support: The New Neighbors Coalition, and the Jamestown Farmers Market (formerly Grow Jamestown). Each of the reports in this guide speaks to the challenges and opportunities that we encountered this last year and perhaps looks ahead to the year coming.

In 2024, we welcomed new ministries like Church of the Wild, Iglesia de San Lucas, and the pastoral care committee and retired others like Father Bernard's Blessing Biscuits due to lack of capacity with one of our implementing partners. In my Rector's report, I want to draw your attention to some global trends that I have witnessed across the institution.

- 1) Scaling up the size of operations is challenging. St. Luke's has the reach of a corporate-size church, but sometimes functions with a smaller pastoral-size mindset. As one consultant colorfully described us, "St. Luke's punches way outside of its weight class." In 2024, we made a concerted effort to adjust our systems to allow us to operate at a larger scale. Across the institution, the past year has been filled with capacity building. As Duane Richetti's Warden's Report reveals, the Vestry has been doing some self-examination and investigating ways to commit to better board governance to enhance its oversight of the work. At our upcoming February retreat, we will set several strategic aims with measurable goals to guide our work over the next few years. Our two community-based programs both received grants for

RECTOR'S REPORT

their ongoing work happening in 2025. New Neighbors received a \$20,000 grant from the Sheldon Foundation to create a Memo of Understanding (MOU) with Journey's End Refugee Services. The Jamestown Farmers Market was awarded an iCap Core grant from the Western New York Foundation to promote capacity building.

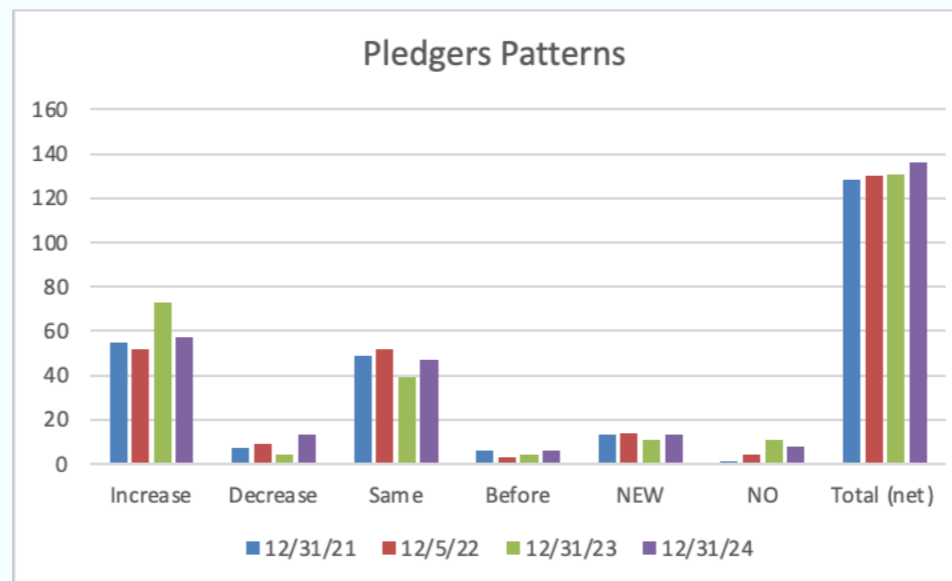
2) Things happen according to their own timing—often related to our effort. Since things do take time to develop, patience is required and usually rewarded. St. Luke's first was nominated for the Medina Sandstone Hall of Fame in 2014, and each year we watched as other Jamestown buildings—like the James Prendergast Library and First Lutheran Church—were admitted. The Hall of Fame did write letters of support for our NYS Preservation Funding that helped strengthen our ultimately successful applications. And, as we completed our Bell Tower Project, St. Luke's was inducted in October. We also have seen re-engagement in long dormant ministry areas—specifically, the Columbarium Board, the Worship Committee, and the beginnings of the relaunch of the George O' Pray Planned Giving Society.

3) Having two priests on staff provides more opportunities to expand our offerings (e.g., Iglesia de San Lucas) and spreads the workload. We are better able to meet pastoral needs and to schedule pastoral services (weddings, funerals, etc.).

Numbers tell many stories. For instance, our Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) dipped slightly from 2023's **152.25** to **148.2** in 2024. However, due to the 2023 calendar on which Christmas Eve fell on a Sunday, the extra 500 people who attended those services were included in Sunday's attendance numbers, thereby skewing the data to the good. If you remove that data point, 2023's adjusted ASA was **142.1**, which means that 2024 actually demonstrated growth in Sunday attendance.

As always, finances are indicative of St. Luke's vitality. The Stewardship and Treasurer's Reports provide more details, but let me say that our annual stewardship remains strong. The need to finance the bell tower increased 2023 community support significantly. The graphs below reflect that and demonstrate a slight backing off to "normal" patterns in 2024. The number of pledge units continued to grow—from **131** in 2023 to **136** in 2024. Thank you for your support of St. Luke's and our mission to serve the community.

Pledger	12/31/21	12/31/22	12/31/23	12/31/24
Increase	55	52	73	57
Decrease	7	9	4	13
Same	49	52	39	47
Before	6	3	4	6
NEW	13	14	11	<u>13</u>
NO	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	11	8
	128	130	131	136
	\$318,776	\$329,887	\$359,773	\$357,318



Pilgrims Leaving for Italy



At the Parish Picnic



Medina Sandstone Hall of Fame



"Peace in Gaza" Walk

ST. LUKE'S LEADERSHIP TEAM

VESTRY

Class of 2026

Jay Yaggie
Tiffany MacCallum
John Pickett

Class of 2027

Steven Cobb
Norma DeJoy
Ruth Wahl

Class of 2028

Tom Nelson
Melissa Uber
Brian Kearney

Officers

Luke Fodor, Rector
Duane Richetti, Warden for Program
Kris Morrison, Warden for Admin.
Janet Card, Treasurer
Alan Atcheson, Assistant Treasurer
Darcy Kell, Clerk of the Vestry

Linda Dawson, Warden Emeritus

Lisa Yaggie, Warden Emeritus

Patrick Monaghan, Warden Emeritus

STAFF

Clergy

Luke Fodor, Rector
Jessica Frederick, Curate
Cathy Smith, Deacon

Lay Ministers

Janet Card, Treasurer
Karen Hewes Suber, Director of Music & Community Arts
Nicole Gustafson, Parish Administrator
Frank Fodor, Sexton
Paul R. Johnson, Verger & Lay Ministry
Paul D. Johnson, Property Manager

Programmatic Staff

Momina Di Blasio, New Neighbors Coalition Manager
Nick Weith, Farmer's Market Food Access Manager
Sei Paulson, Farmer's Market Manager



February Vestry Retreat at LCLC



Vestry Planning



Delegates & Clergy at Convention

PARISH STATISTICS - 2024

Average Sunday Attendance: 148.77

Number of Services

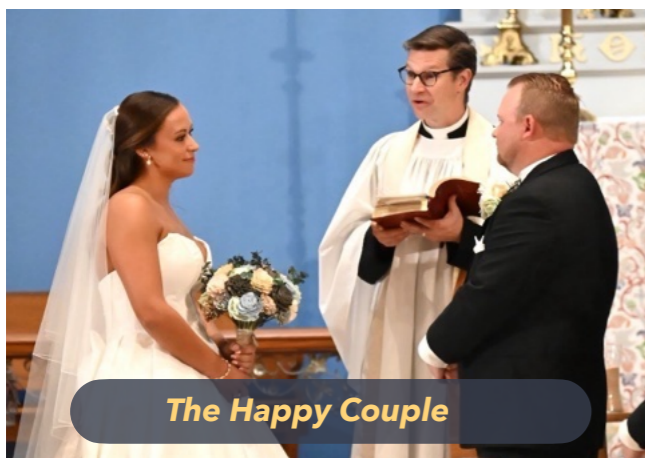
Holy Eucharist	Sundays	208
	Weekdays	76
	Private	39
Daily Office	Weekdays	147
	Sundays	1

Marriages 7 Mariela Rodriguez Hernandez & Benjamin Jewell
 Elizabeth Litton & Jeremy Simmons
 Krista Dalton & Thomas J. Milone
 Larissa & Ana Hernandez
 Kaitlynn Lee Richardson & Tyler J. Uber
 Erica Grohol & Charley Oddo
 Kirstie Lind Hanson & Wilson Palmer Lockwood

Baptisms 13 Erik Alan Gustafson Todd Kent Ciera Mullen
 James Nowling Duke Lee Early
 Jazmyn Rollinger-Norrod Raymond Ross, Jr.
 Akeyia Elease Thagard Lydia Peters
 Casey Graham Tyler Graham
 Maria Victoria Rivera Zamora Lilly Graham

Confirmations 8 Gavin Anderson Duane Richetti
 Aidan Fodor James Nowling
 Allison MacCallum Brian Kearney
 Myrick Mathews, Jr.
 Jazmyn Rollinger-Norrod

Deaths/Burials 16
 Joseph Clayton Johnson
 Samuel L. Holmes
 Carole Sellstrom
 Beverly H. Tota
 Ruth C. Stapleton
 Susan E. Harris
 Barbara Slumsky
 William S. "Pete" Steen
 Jonathan F. Demarest
 Anne Nickerson
 Jane Fancher Lawton
 Charlotte V. Crittenden
 William John Eckert
 Ruben D. Mascitti
 Sharon Stapleton
 Tim Pickett



The Happy Couple



Baptism



Confirmation



Blue Bag Ministry Delivery

WARDEN'S REPORT

Beginning last January and extending through our annual retreat in February, St. Luke's vestry set several goals for the year. We began with the overarching goal of congregational development as it relates to vestry—its role, responsibility, and interaction with both congregation and clergy. This single goal helped to focus our discernment in far-reaching, and sometimes, challenging ways. Vestry's work in 2024 can be summarized by a few, action verbs: improve, nurture, strive, promote, identify, extend, and govern.

In setting out to raise awareness of vestry's role in the church, three committees were formed. These committees are communications, awareness, and shepherding. The goals of the communications committee are to establish dialogue within vestry and with the congregation and to strive for transparency in sharing our vision. In this outreach, you might have noticed several articles printed in *The Voice*. The awareness committee seeks to call attention to and to share with the congregation what vestry is and what it does. To those ends, vestry members worked to deliver announcements at services and to be present at parish events. For example, vestry members actively worked at a Monday Night Cafe/community dinner. The shepherding committee nurtures new vestry members and new parishioners through active engagement and the sharing of faith. We look forward to continuing and expanding these practices in 2025.

Among other topics at our monthly meetings, vestry has discussed extending hospitality to those who might be unfamiliar with church practices, creating a safe and inclusive space for everyone while maintaining the sanctity of our sacred places. We also have examined and evaluated a congregational vitality assessment which was completed by about forty congregants, and we are in the process of acting on several areas identified as in need of improvement. For example, ensuring that the congregation has input into changes at St. Luke's, developing worship and spiritual life committees, and practicing stewardship year-round.

Additionally, the Vestry has reviewed documents relating to effective board governance and has identified several best practices for both vestry and individual vestry members. Following extended small group work sessions, we identified the need for clear fiduciary roles and financial reporting, stewardship and stewardship engagement, missions and committing to our missions through leading, designing, and implementing clear strategies, and



2024 Vestry Retreat



Mother's Day Brunch



Confirmation 2024



Soup or Chili Cook-Off



Monday Night Cafe Cooking



Kayak Mass



Furniture Moving



Monday Night Cafe

creating a culture of inclusiveness. Other good governance includes building a strong core of leadership involving clergy, vestry, and staff. We are working to raise our visibility through attendance and interaction at church meetings, activities, and events, as well as being spiritually responsible, transparent, and knowledgeable about St. Luke's history and church business. Lastly, we have discussed the need to know, follow, and act upon duties as outlined in St. Luke's handbook. And, all the while we seek God's guidance in our decision-making.

I feel that 2024 has been a pivotal year for vestry as we seek to raise our profile, to act thoughtfully, and to engage prayerfully with all of our church family. It is through planning and discerning that we have achieved several of these goals while, in truth, aspiring to reach others. Monthly vestry meetings begin with worship led by one of our members which then leads to the discovery section of the meeting. One topic, as determined by the leadership team, is presented and discussed by clergy, wardens, and vestry members. And let me share that in our meetings these topics are thoughtfully presented, discussed, at times deliberated, and brought to a vote. The process is always an exercise in critical thinking and in faith. This is my way of telling you that St. Luke's leadership team and vestry engage in careful and thought-provoking ways that reflect best practices in governance with the goal of balancing St. Luke's philosophy to connect, discover, serve, and grow. With all these ideas in mind, it is timely to focus on the evolving role of vestry over the past year and into the future. You might have noticed the lapel pins worn by vestry members these past months. These pins do not merely identify us; they are invitations to everyone, to all whose hearts are committed to St. Luke's, to engage your vestry with questions, to call attention to new ideas, to share any concerns you might have. You are invited to join this dialogue.

Duane Richetti, Warden for Program



Youth White Water Rafting



Lisa's Last Sunday as Warden



Overdose Awareness Walk



Career Fair

TREASURER'S REPORT



The Treasurer's Report 2024

This year was financially successful despite all our worries. Even though the budget was balanced and on paper income covered expenses, we were worried about cash flow. We have a large loan payment due each month, and the New York State reimbursement of New Neighbors expenses lags a quarter, but income from pledges, donations, and grants enabled us to make our payments on time.

We received two large bequests this year totaling \$168,000 that we used to pay on the Bell Tower loan. We also receive an annual bequest from the Stanley Weeks Memorial Fund. A portion of this bequest is earmarked for Altar Flowers. The rest, which averages \$15,000 per year, we use for Parish expenses—cash flow!

As you recall, we took out a loan from the Episcopal Church Building Fund for \$1,000,000. We used \$700,000 for Bell Tower expenses and the remaining \$300,000 is designated for the Phase 2 Porches project. This Phase 2 money is currently invested in a short-term CD to make up some of the interest we are paying on the loan.

This year we made great progress in getting our community projects more financially viable. These projects are totally self-funded and actually contribute financially to St. Luke's Parish. We worked closely with Nick Weith from Grow Jamestown, Momina DiBlasio from New Neighbors, and Barb Kiddoo from the Thrift Shop to understand their budgets and better report income and expense.

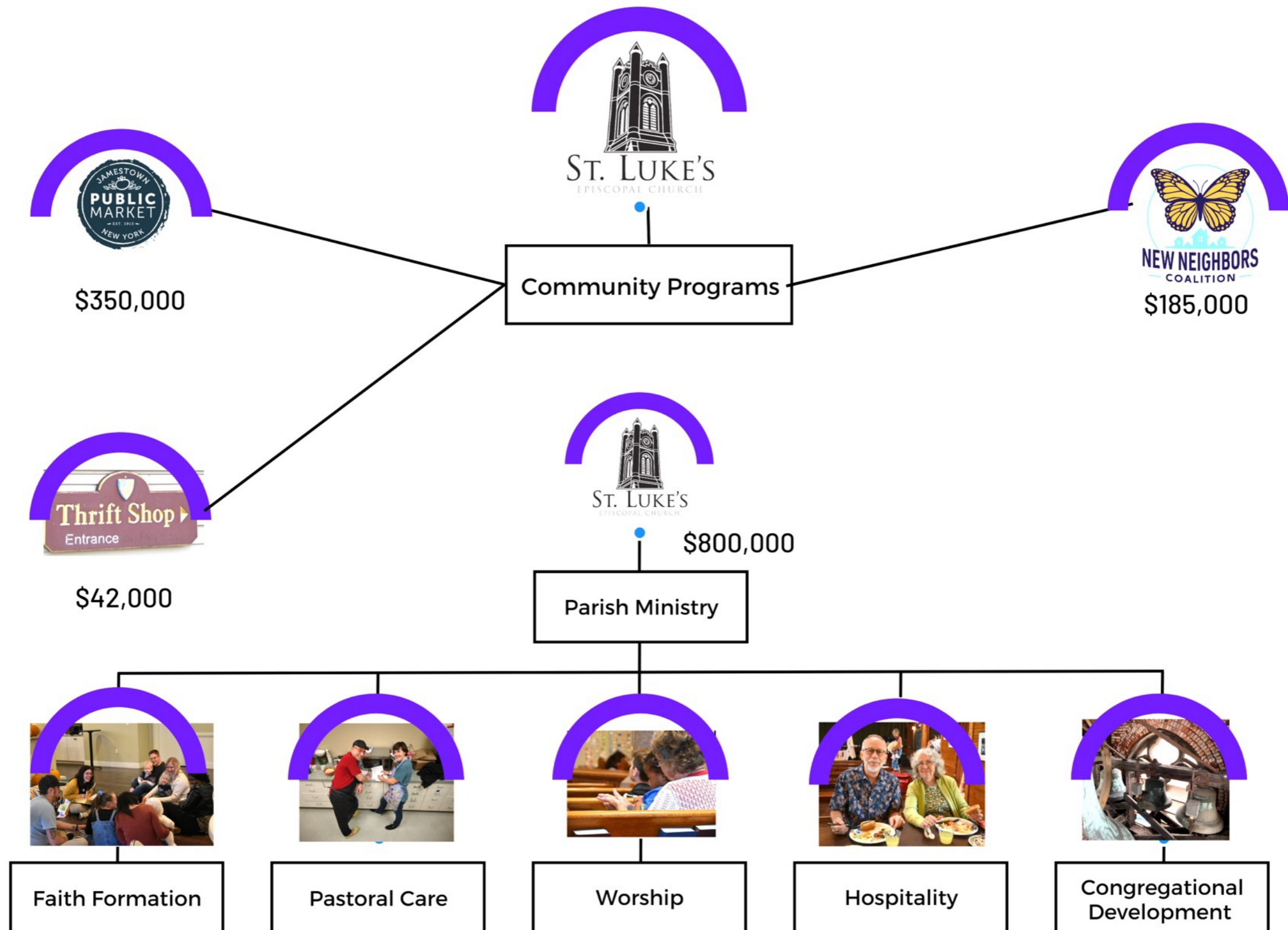
We enter 2025 in good shape financially, carrying a surplus from 2024 into the new year. Next year's Parish budget is not quite balanced. We forecast approximately \$4,000 more expenses than income. We are not worried since we budget conservatively. Usually, we are under on actual expenses and over on actual income. On an interesting note, the average age of pledgers went down for 2025. Last year the number of givers in their 30's, 20's, and under 20 was 4, which was 3.17 % of all the givers. In 2025 the number of givers in the same category is 8, which is 5.84% of all givers. Although the younger folks cannot give as much money, this trend is a good sign for the future of St. Luke's. On the whole, St. Luke's and its Community Projects look forward to a successful financial future in 2025.

Janet Card, Treasurer

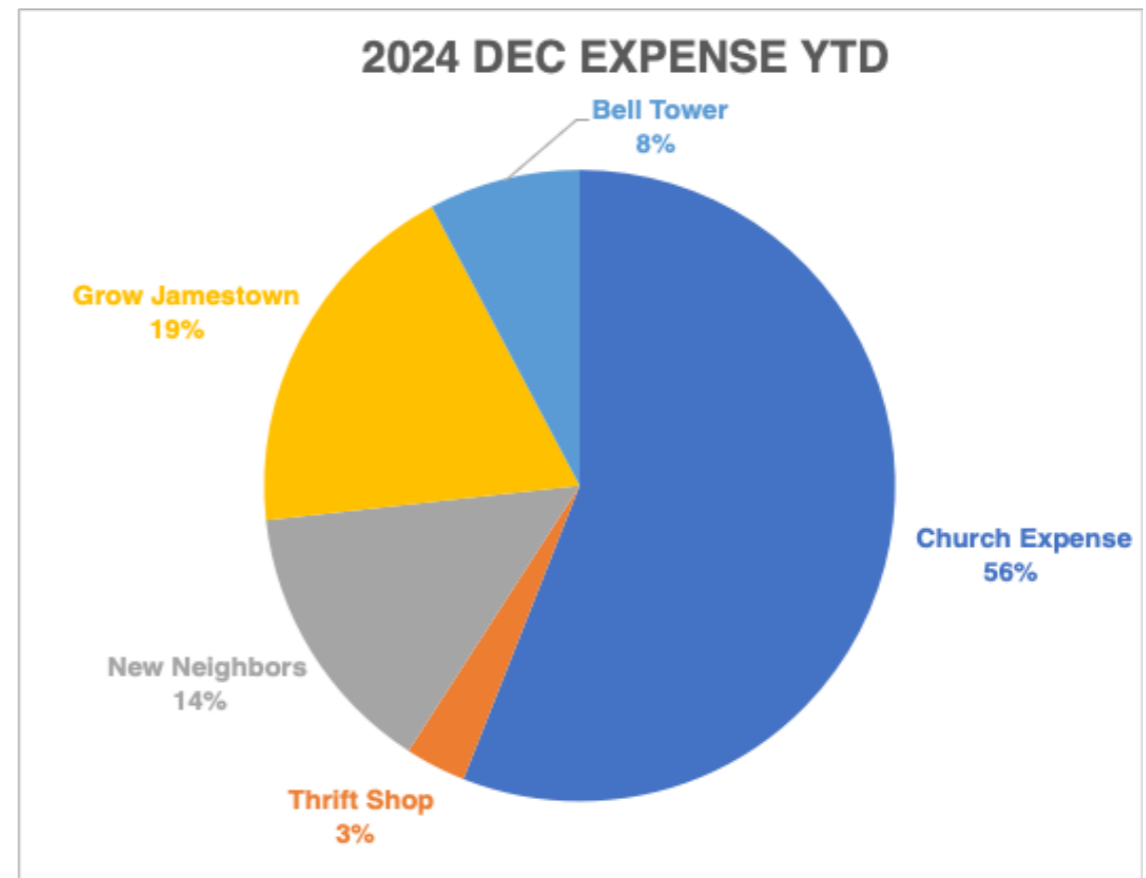
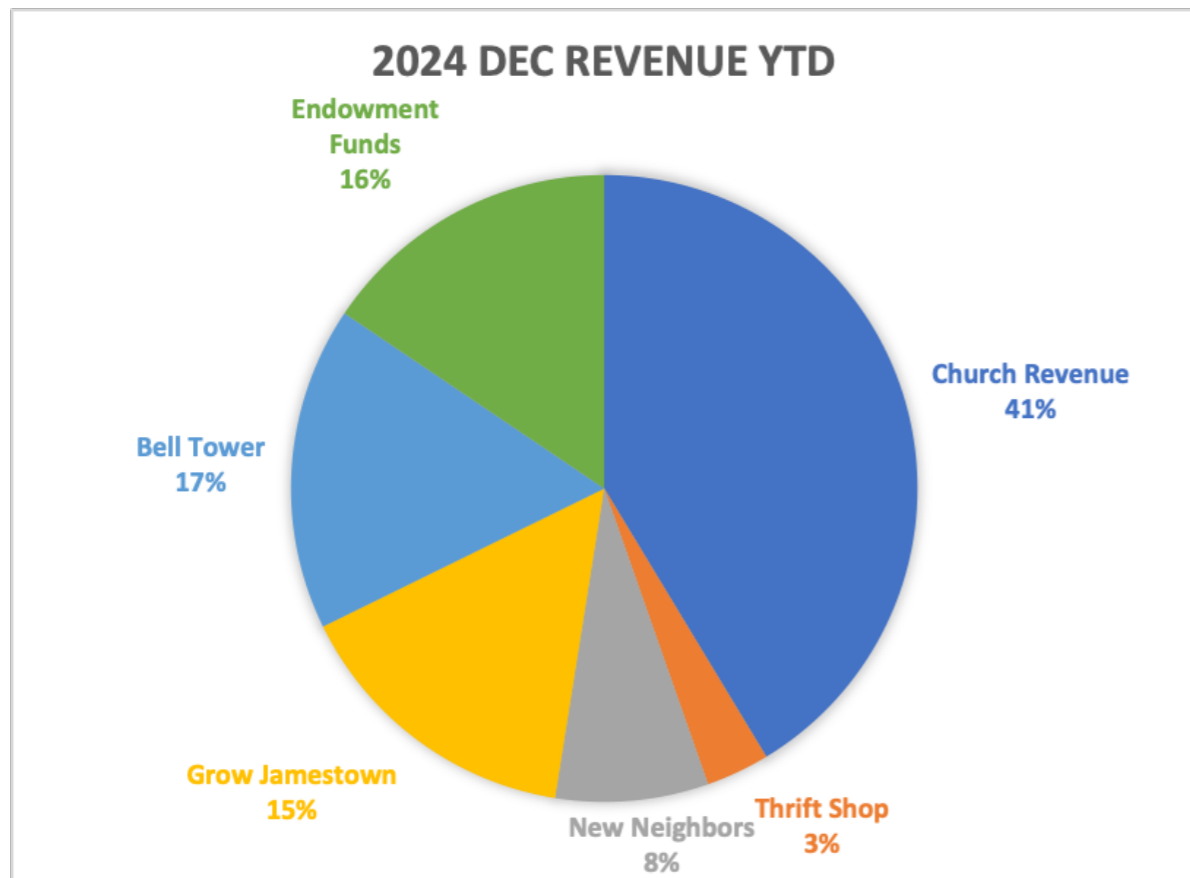


Janet Card Serves with a Smile

Organizational Relationships



Summary of Revenue and Expenses Including 2025 Budget							
	2023	2024	2025		2023	2024	2025
	Revenue - Actual	Revenue - Actual	Revenue - Budget		Expense - Actual	Expense - Actual	Expense - Budget
Parish	\$480,625	\$619,519	\$550,063	Parish	\$577,082	\$642,380	\$697,949
Thrift Shop	\$44,374	\$49,176	\$42,000	Thrift Shop	\$28,572	\$35,835	\$36,175
New Neighbors	\$121,908	\$118,138	\$182,500	New Neighbors	\$125,908	\$161,921	\$182,500
Grow Jamestown	\$198,303	\$228,210	\$350,753	Grow Jamestown	\$258,071	\$217,776	\$353,800
Bell Tower	\$772,548	\$250,267	\$20,000	Bell Tower	\$1,695,491	\$89,057	\$104,000
Endowment Funds	\$337,481	\$233,142	\$227,967	Endowment Funds	-	-	-
Other	\$37,753	-	-	Other	\$26,426	-	-
Total Revenue	\$1,992,992	\$1,498,452	\$1,373,283	Total Expense	\$2,711,550	\$1,146,969	\$1,374,424



2025 BUDGET YEAR

<u>PARISH BUDGET</u>		
PARISH INCOME		
	TOTAL PLEDGE INCOME	\$366,500
	TOTAL OTHER GIVING	\$23,500
	TOTAL GIFTS	\$23,500
	TOTAL INVESTMENT INCOME	\$227,967
	TOTAL INCOME FROM GRANTS	\$109,327
	TOTAL OTHER REV.	\$47,736
	TOTAL PARISH INCOME	\$798,030
PARISH EXPENSES		
	TOTAL SALARIES	\$285,870
	TOTAL EMP. BENEFITS	\$133,381
	TOTAL CLERGY MISC.	\$9,500
	TOTAL BUILDINGS	\$220,478
	TOTAL OFFICE EXPENSE	\$30,300
	TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$27,900
	TOTAL OTHER EXPENSE	\$6,570
	TOTAL LOCAL OUTREACH	\$13,350
	TOTAL WIDER CHURCH OUTREACH	\$74,600
	TOTAL PARISH EXPENSE	\$801,949

<u>GROW JAMESTOWN BUDGET</u>		
GROW JAMESTOWN INCOME		
	TOTAL GRANTS	\$233,333
	TOTAL CONTRACTED	\$34,600
	TOTAL EVENT FUNDRAISING	\$15,000
	TOTAL DONOR FUNDRAISING	\$4,000
	TOTAL SALES	\$53,250
	TOTAL FEES	\$5,570
	TOTAL SPONSORSHIPS	\$5,000
	TOTAL GROW JAMESTOWN INCOME	\$350,753
GROW JAMESTOWN EXPENSES		
	TOTAL SALARIES	\$119,000
	TOTAL EMP. BENEFITS	\$47,500
	CONTRACTED SERVICES	\$68,000
	TOTAL PRODUCE	\$59,800
	TOTAL VEHICLE	\$19,800
	TOTAL SUPPLIES	\$5,700
	TOTAL STAFF DEVELOPMENT	\$3,500
	TOTAL MISC.	\$30,500
	TOTAL GROW JAMESTOWN EXPENSE	\$353,800

2025 BUDGET YEAR

<u>NEW NEIGHBORS BUDGET</u>		
NEW NEIGHBORS INCOME		
	TOTAL GRANT INCOME	\$150,000
	TOTAL PROGRAM INCOME	\$32,500
	TOTAL NEW NEIGHBORS INCOME	\$182,500
NEW NEIGHBORS EXPENSES		
	Personnel Services	\$122,437
	Non-Personnel Services	\$15,147
	Administrative Cost	\$12,416
	TOTAL GRANT REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES	\$150,000
	TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$32,500
	TOTAL NEW NEIGHBORS EXPENSES	\$182,500

<u>THRIFT SHOP BUDGET</u>		
THRIFT SHOP INCOME		
	TOTAL THRIFT SHOP INCOME	\$42,000
THRIFT SHOP EXPENSES		
	THRIFT SHOP EXPENSES	\$6,175
	CHARITABLE ALLOCATIONS	\$30,000
	TOTAL THRIFT SHOP EXPENSES	\$36,175
	Reserved for New Roof	\$40,000

<u>ST. LUKE'S TOTALS</u>		
	TOTAL INCOME	\$1,373,283
	TOTAL EXPENSE	\$1,374,424
	DIFFERENCE	-\$1,141

Endowment History	2022	2023	2024
Ashwell Fund A	\$2,165,846	\$2,310,769	\$2,435,499
Ashwell Fund B	\$549,334	\$600,059	\$635,484
General Endowment	\$871,712	\$949,375	\$998,830
NBT Ashwell Fund	\$178,035	\$183,390	\$196,057
Total Endowment Funds	\$3,764,927	\$4,043,593	\$4,265,870

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

As has been customary, the Stewardship Committee in 2024 met periodically to discern and to discuss how best to inspire each St. Luke's parishioner to share their time, talents, and treasure in support of St. Luke's collective ministry to shine ever brighter as a beacon of God's love in Jamestown and beyond, and to be that special church where blessings and the love of Christ abound in so many wonderful ways.

The Committee convened in the first half of 2024 to "debrief" and to evaluate the 2023 Annual Giving Campaign and to begin planning for the Fall 2024 Campaign. Thanks to the faithfulness and generosity of St. Luke's parishioners, the 2023 Annual Giving Campaign succeeded in reaching its pledged-amount goal and, by the Grace of God, netted 11 new pledging units for 2024.

At subsequent meetings in the summer and in August and September, the Committee planned the 2024 Annual Giving Campaign strategy, timeline, and task checklist. In a departure from Stewardship "check-in" calls to parishioners in past years, and for the second year in a row, the Committee decided instead to host a special gathering for all St. Luke's parishioners and friends.

Held on Sunday, September 29, in the Undercroft following the 10:00 AM service, and featuring a delicious meal catered by Sharon Drennen and her adept team of parishioners, the Loyalty luncheon culminated in a detailed presentation about St. Luke's finances and how they support a wide array of ministries, programs, and community outreach initiatives. Many excellent questions at the presentation's conclusion elicited additional information and generated spirited discussion.

Special thanks are in order for Sharon and her team of volunteer caterers, Stewardship Committee members, Kris Morrison, Barb Kiddoo, and Tiffany MacCallum, as well as for everyone else who spent considerable time, effort, and hard work to ensure the event's success.

As of the writing of this report, with the results of the 2024 Annual Giving Campaign almost (but not quite) complete, it appears that the Campaign will come close to, if not each, its pledged-amount goal. And, by the Grace of God, the Campaign for 2025 netted 13 additional new pledging units, 57 pledged-amount increases, and a lowered, average pledger-age-a trend that bodes well for St. Luke's long-term financial viability. THANK YOU to everyone for your generosity, and for all that you do at St. Luke's in God's service! **Paul R. Johnson, Stewardship Committee Chair**



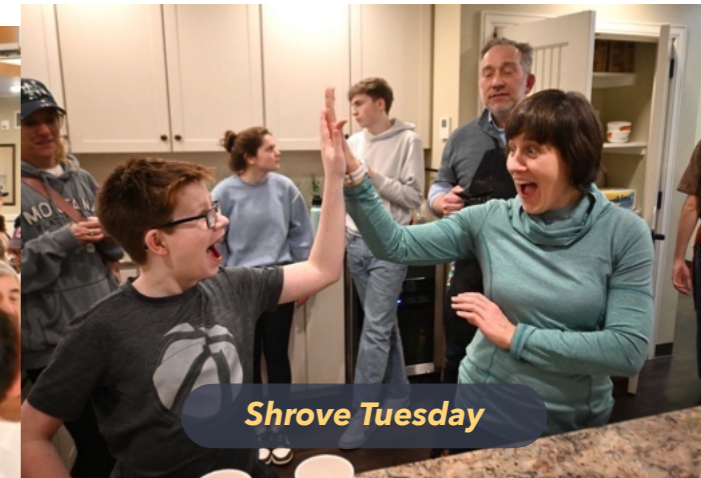
Empty Bowls



Fresh Produce Shared



Monday Night Cafe



Shrove Tuesday

VERGER'S REPORT



Confirmation Service



Leading the Acolytes



Fix the Bricks Fundraiser

As I reflect upon the past year of 2024 and look forward to the unfolding promise of a new year, it is with gratitude and thanksgiving for the many ways God has enabled all of us at St. Luke's to discern needs within our parish and in our community, and inspired us to devise new and innovative ways to meet those needs and to remain a presence and support not only to each other, but more importantly, to those beyond our walls.

Throughout 2024 I fulfilled my most public duty of escorting worship processions, primarily at the Sunday 10:00 AM service, as well as at special services, including parishioner and community-member funerals. Other responsibilities included setting up for the weekly, Saturday 5:00 PM contemplative "Transcend" services and afterwards re-setting the chapel for the Sunday 8:00 AM services.

Of special joy to me has been my role to provide, along with Curate Jessica Frederick and Acolytes Karl Costello and Myrick Mathews, ongoing guidance and training to new and veteran acolytes. St. Luke's continues to be blessed with a growing cadre of acolytes who play such an important role in our worship. I am thankful for each and every one of our acolytes and for their enthusiasm, dedication, and faithful ministry. I look forward to sharing in their ministry in 2025.

St. Luke's was blessed to welcome Bishop Sean Rowe, along with diocesan staff and clergy, on March 26 for the third annual Diocesan Partnership Chrism Liturgy and Renewal of Clergy Vows to be hosted at St. Luke's. It was a privilege to serve as Verger at the Chrism Mass and to advise and assist Bishop Sean and diocesan staff as needed, and to welcome diocesan clergy to St. Luke's. What an inspiration it was to join in song with a congregation full of clergy singing enthusiastically and in harmony!

My behind-the-scenes service as Verger in an advisory role and as a member of the St. Luke's Parish Leadership Team continued throughout 2024. It is with humility and joy that I serve in this capacity with such a talented and dedicated team of St. Luke's clergy and fellow parishioners.

Having retired from the workforce at the end of 2024, my role as Verger in 2025 will expand to include lay ministry coordination, eucharistic visits to homebound parishioners, and planning spiritual retreat opportunities for parishioners and community members. I will continue to provide help and support to our St. Luke's clergy and staff for whom I daily thank God for their inspired ministry and dedicated work, not only to share the Gospel, but to live it.

As 2025 begins to unfold, I thank God for another year and pray that, with God's help, St. Luke's shines ever brighter as a beacon of God's love in Jamestown and beyond, and that we continue to be that special church where blessings and the love of Christ abound in so many wonderful ways! I look forward to evolving my Verger role and ministry as the Holy Spirit leads in the year ahead.

Paul R. Johnson, Verger

PROPERTY REPORT

With the completion of the Bell Tower project in 2023, 2024 has been a quieter year as we prepare for the Phase II project: repairing the Chapel & Church Narthex Porches, resetting the stairs and the leaning wall on Main Street. We were awarded \$30,000 from the NY Landmark Conservancy and \$500,000 from NYS Parks and Preservation. This project will commence in 2026. The biggest project of the year was the renovation of the music room: Many thanks to Brian Kearney, Patrick Monaghan, Myrick Matthews and our Sexton, Frank Fodor.

In the 4th quarter, we hired "Property" Paul Johnson part-time. Since his start he has focused primarily on preventative maintenance (PM's) and reducing purchased maintenance (i.e., Service Calls), both goals that I have a long history addressing in my previous line of work.

Regarding PM's, we have started an organized plan for addressing all air handler filters, equipment descaling, and managing boiler water chemistry. These will help to reduce both future breakdowns and associated downtime, and allow us to focus eyes on the equipment in order to identify problems before they occur.

We have been able to reduce purchased maintenance substantially. I have been able to perform much of the work on our HVAC and Plumbing systems internally rather than using contractors. As of 12/31/24, we have been able to complete the following repairs in house:

- Replace failed heat reclamation damper motor
- Replace leaking boiler sight glass and packing
- Replace failed radiator vent valves in the parish house (2 separate calls)
- Replace failed hot water loop steam valve actuator
- Repair thrift shop furnace no heat call
- Repair several plumbing issues (leaking toilet valves, sinks, etc.)

We have been able to complete all of the above repairs for only the cost of parts. We have also been able to continue replacing older high wattage incandescent lights in the church with modern LED's that have much lower electrical usage as well as a more pleasing color palette. In 2025, we turn our attention to the installation of additional equipment to manage boiler water chemistry, additional LED retrofits, and bringing our water system up to code.

Paul D. Johnson, Property Manager



Preparing to Fix the Bricks



Music Room Renovation



Paul Johnson Joins as Property Manager

THE DEACON'S REPORT

In January of 2024 I went back to work for Hospice—First as a part time chaplain, then in August I was asked to be full time, and I said, “No Thank You.” But I did agree to take on some volunteer coordination responsibilities. I feel like I have come home and feel truly blessed to be part of an amazing team of caring people.

I took a sabbatical July - September. The sabbatical was from St. Luke's and not my job at Hospice. I did have four wonderful opportunities to spend time by the water—First, last April, Matt and I went on a Mediterranean Cruise with friends. In July we went to North Carolina Beach (compliments of some very generous parishioners). In August we went to Lake George. In September we went with my sister's family to Virginia Beach. Water is life, and I feel like it brought me back to life. Through time spent renewing myself, I found what brings me life other than water. So, I am focusing on three ministries in the months ahead.

1. Through many conversations with members of the board of The Lucille Ball Little Theatre, we have much support from them to resurrect the St. Luke's Winged Ox Players. In May we will be producing a play called *Visiting Mr. Green*. Stay tuned for more details.
2. Pastoral Care Team. We have a team of members developing a Pastoral Care Team focused on journeying with folks through life events.
3. I hope to begin training in May to become a facilitator for a six-part curriculum on the spirituality of aging designed for small groups called The Path Ahead: Spirituality & Purpose in Later Life. Stay tuned for more details.

I continue to serve as the parish deacon liturgically. I also continue to serve on the Commission on Ministry which is currently a joint committee with the Diocese of Northwestern PA (a bi-product of the Partnership with them). The Commission on Ministry is a group of laity and clergy who help people who feel called to ordination to discern God's will for their ministry. **The Rev. Cathy Smith, Deacon**



Gospel Reading at Confirmation



Fix the Bricks Fundraiser



Youth Sunday

CURATE'S REPORT

“IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A PRIEST – AND WE DID IT!”

The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe ordained me a priest in the Episcopal Church on Saturday, February 10th at 10 am at St. Luke's. Since then, I have presided over weddings, baptisms, a funeral, Sunday Eucharists (twice a month), healing services, and Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, and Christmas Eve services. I learned how to chant the Eucharistic prayer during Advent. It has been such a privilege to have this rich array of experiences in the first months of my ministry as a priest.

This has been the most remarkable thing about 2024—I cannot believe I have been a priest for less than a year. I wonder how that could possibly be—I feel as though I have been a priest for much longer. Here's what I realized: I have been able to practice a priestly ministry, long before I was ordained one. While in February, I began to offer blessings and preside at the Eucharist (two things only priests are allowed to do in the Episcopal Church), my vocation as a priest has been seen and affirmed for much longer at St. Luke's.

I have a suspicion that my experience here is not fully unique. It is what the congregation of St. Luke's does, at its best: Seeing and affirming people as their best selves—with a beautiful, frank assessment of their gifts and limitations. Currently, the Altar Guild is all too familiar with the limitations of my gross motor skills—I have a knack for spilling wine at the altar! I am thankful for their mercy and graciousness as they've cleaned wine off the white linens, week after week. Recently, I've been working on Sundays to exert extra attention, slowing down and reminding myself my hands are *here* and the chalice is *there*.

I share this, because it is a quintessential quality of St. Luke's: A community of mistakes and mercy; where gifts are seen, empowered, and celebrated; a place of practice, learning, and growth. It takes a village to raise a priest—and we did it! It also takes a community to raise and empower people to embrace their full humanity and follow Jesus. And that is what we strive to do.

The Rev. Jessica Frederick, Curate for Children, Youth, and Families



Youth Group Axe Throwing



St. Nicholas Day



“Mother” Jessica

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES REPORT

St. Luke's Children, Youth, and Family Ministries began the year with an adventure: Three adult chaperones (the Rector, the Curate, and the Junior Warden) led eight young people in grades 10-12 (current and past confirmation class students) on a pilgrimage, along the Via Francigena—an ancient route pilgrims used to walk from Canterbury to Rome, dating back to medieval times. St. Luke's pilgrims walked for a total of 75 miles over the course of five days, from the ancient city of Viterbo to Rome. On the way, we experienced all kinds of adventures: Cooled our aching feet in an Etruscan well; celebrated two impromptu baptisms; played in a waterfall; met a friendly donkey; enjoyed Italian cuisine; and visited the Vatican, the Colosseum, catacombs, and more. Most importantly, we noticed "God moments" in joy and sorrow, encountered Jesus in the stranger willing to give us directions, discovered doing hard things are the most worthwhile, and celebrated what we each can accomplish by supporting one another. After their return, the youth pilgrims hosted an Italian dinner fundraiser for the congregation and community—reporting on all these learnings (and more!) and "paying it forward" by beginning to raise money for the next youth pilgrimage, scheduled for 2026.

From the "big kids" in high school to the littlest parishioners, the church is committed to faith formation of all ages: St. Luke's monthly service for children and families, Rhythms of Grace, celebrated one year of ministry in September. Rhythms of Grace is a laid-back, interactive church service designed to spark imagination in children, no matter where they are in their emotional or spiritual development: Children from as young as six months to as old as 6th grade, from neurotypical to neurodivergent, come to enjoy the service and the community. In 2024, the average attendance at this service was 10-15 children and adults, connecting with eight distinct families over the course of the year.

Finally, the 2024 Christmas Pageant deserves special note. St. Luke's invites the children of the church to re-enact that first Nativity, in part, because it's what "we've always done." Parents, grandparents, priests, and children's ministers alike pass the tradition on from one generation of children to the next in reenactment of Christmases Past. This year, however, provided a special glimpse into a Christmas Present—and Future. Pageant participants hailed from six countries, including Venezuela, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Japan, Nicaragua, and the United States. It was a reminder that Jesus, the Word, came for the whole world, speaking all the languages of the world. It was also a reminder of the way St. Luke's is all about creating a home for people from all nations, who are making a new home here in Jamestown.

The Rev. Jessica Frederick, Curate for Children, Youth, and Families



Parish Picnic



Christmas Pageant



Italy Pilgrimage



Sunday School Arts Project

MUSIC MINISTRY

Five full months have passed since I began as Director of Music & Community Arts Integration! In 2017, I would have never believed that my first meeting with Luke about renting space for my music and movement business would lead me here. This past Summer, I began providing music for the Saturday Transcend service and felt deeply called to serve the church which has led me to where I am today. My heart can barely contain all the gratitude I have.

Knowing that my job came with choir responsibilities, I had no idea my choir would become like a second family to me. We began with 8 dedicated members in September, and our numbers have grown to 16 regular choir members who volunteer between 2.5 to 4 hours a week to prepare and perform music in our Sunday services. Our choir also includes three Ron McEntire Choral Scholars this year, now also known as the McEntire Young Musicians Apprentices. We are proud to have as our apprentices McKenzie Pickett, Zachary Pickett, and Nadia Kennelly, who will be learning to sing and lead liturgical music, receiving weekly voice lessons, and performing in services and in a final recital at the end of the year!

The historic Aeolian Skinner organ has also become a sort of family member to me. Like all family, we have our good days and bad! It has been an exciting challenge for me to learn the organ, and I began providing all the organ music for services in late November. It feels satisfying to be able to provide such a wide range of music styles in services including traditional hymns on the Aeolian Skinner organ, accompanying music on our lovely Steinway Model B, and using guitar and vocals to lead songs. I also look forward to continued growth at the organ with Donna Gatz's tutelage.

Recapping music services and community music events in the last five months, St. Luke's hosted an Evensong service in September, Jacob Swanson's classical saxophone recital in November, and Sacred Songs for Solstice (and the Pub Crawl and Carol!) in December. The Chadakoin Chamber Ensemble was set to perform in December after a hiatus but cancelled due to weather. We also have had eleven guest musicians perform during services in the past five months, including parishioners and community members who devoted their music in service, as well as the Mecham Duo, Victoria McIlvain, and Gavin Card for Christmas Eve. Thank you to those of you who sing and play in worship, elevating the spirit of the experience for all! The unexpected may be the best part about our faith journeys. If we could choose our paths and control our lives, I believe our experiences would be less in every way. Music has the ability to unite people and foster spiritual growth, and I'm blessed and honored to be called to the work here at St. Luke's. I'm looking forward to continued service in 2025 in the beauty of our church community. **Karen Hewes Suber, Director of Music**



Christmas Eve Children's Choir



Connecting with Music: Soulful Preludes



Karen and Mecham Duo

BUILDING USAGE

Managing property in Jamestown is a fraught and often money-losing prospect (unless one uses anti-social and extractive behavior). Of course, we completed the Undercroft renovation not to make money, but to serve the community. And boy, do we ever!

The building is in constant use, and we do keep track of the amount of the value that the building offers back to our bottom line and to the community.

In 2024, we received just over **\$5,700** in donations for building use from private events and those that can afford to offer some financial support to cover cleaning costs, electricity, replacement costs of furniture, sidewalk salt, etc. But the truth is that most groups can't afford the market value of booking the space. As such, the Church bears the cost burden.

In 2024, we "gave away" over **\$66,500** in donated space to the likes of Chautauqua Striders, Creche, MHA, NA, Girl Scouts, Jamestown Community Learning Council, our friends at St. Peter & St. Paul's, Jamestown Renaissance Corp, and the Jamestown Jackals, amongst many others. Thank you for your support!

The Rev. Luke Fodor, Rector



The Creche Rummage Sale

JAMESTOWN PRIDE

St. Luke's has been a longstanding partner with Jamestown Pride. Beginning with Jamestown Pride's collaboration with the Jamestown Farmers Market, the Jamestown Pride celebration occurs in conjunction with the opening day of the farmers market (a community program of St. Luke's).

When the first Jamestown Pride celebration launched in 2021 with the farmers market, St. Luke's organized volunteers to be a supportive presence to respond in case any protesters came to the event. St. Luke's hosts a Pride Sunday service during Jamestown Pride weekend, and the youth group supports Jamestown Pride by hosting a tent annually.

In 2024, Jessica Frederick agreed to serve as Jamestown Pride's Coordinator. Caring for young people in the LGBTQ+ community, Jessica is passionate about the essential work of Jamestown Pride. To extend the work of the Jamestown Farmers Market and enhance the work of the Pride Celebration, we received a \$15,000 grant for supportive services.

The Rev. Jessica Frederick, Curate



Jamestown Pride 2024

WINGED OX PRODUCTIONS & GAZA WALK

With Gaza, Israel, and Palestine on heavy rotation in the 2024 news cycle, St. Luke's theatre group, the Winged Ox Players, explored the hope and heartbreak of individuals living under Israel's military occupation of Gaza.

On March 15th and 16th, Jessica Frederick performed "My Name is Rachel Corrie," a one-woman play about Rachel Corrie, an American diarist, activist, and human rights advocate who traveled to Gaza in 2003. The show is rooted in the fundamental humanity of Rachel and the people she encounters. The script is composed of excerpts from Rachel's diaries and emails and edited by actor Alan Rickman and journalist Katharine Viner.

Jessica brought personal experience to this performance: She lived in the Occupied Palestinian Territories from 2007 to 2010, doing human rights documentation and advocacy work with Community Peacemaker Teams. In the city of Hebron and the village of At-Tuwani, Jessica supported the work of Palestinian practitioners of nonviolent resistance and collaborated with Israeli peacemakers and lawyers to advocate for Palestinian human rights under Israeli law.

As Winged Ox productions are committed to inviting the community to engage in action for social change, St. Luke's organized a solidarity walk calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. A group of 20 people walked from Lakeside Park in Mayville to St. Luke's in Jamestown. The 22-mile walk along Chautauqua Lake approximated the nearly equivalent geographic length of Gaza to raise awareness of the people displaced by the war. The event concluded with an interfaith prayer service. Through these efforts, St. Luke's raised **\$2,340** for the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, to go toward Gaza humanitarian aid and relief. **The Rev. Jessica Frederick, Curate**



My Name is Rachel Corrie



My Name is Rachel Corrie



Gaza Walk: At Palestine Park

BLUE BAG MINISTRY

The Blue Bag Ministry continued its mission to care for the community throughout 2024 by fulfilling requests for donations from organizations in Jamestown. In 2024, we supported the Mental Health Association, The Safe House, St. Susan's, Striders, the Jamestown High School We Care Closet, and UCAN. These organizations are so appreciative of our support.

At the beginning of our program year, organizations send us a wish list for items they need. On the second Sunday of each month, that wish list is communicated to the congregation. Then, parishioners shop for items on the wish list and return the filled Blue Bag the following week when the bags are presented as part of the offertory. It's always a thrill to see the altar adorned by our abundant gifts. Our combined efforts accomplish so much good. Your support of this program makes it possible to bring physical tokens of God's love to individuals and families in need. Thank you for your continued support in helping all of God's children. **Norma DeJoy, Chair**



USHERS

In February 2024 we welcomed new and present ushers to a informational meeting to discuss updating our Usher's Manual. With input from everyone we were able to make some changes to increase our availability to meet, greet and serve the congregation while assisting our clergy.

We increased the number of ushers from a core of **12** to more than **21**. We continue to look for others who have a calling to volunteer to such a warmhearted stewardship. Two major changes to our manual were, adding families to usher on the fifth Sunday of a month and increasing our vigilance and safety strategies within the church.

We welcome individuals from all walks of life and we have developed a coordinated plan to keep everyone safe while they are on the premises. If you would like to know more about ushering please contact John Panebianco, Sharon Drennen, or Kris Morrison using our church directory. **John Panebianco, Chair**



CHURCH OF THE WILD



Worship Along the Lake Erie Shore



Communion in and with the Trees



A Church on the Move

While not secret, it is a scarcely appreciated fact: Our entire liturgical cycle is predicated on the agricultural way of life. Christians inherited from their Hebrew ancestors many celebrations that are tied to the growing cycle (like Sukkot which became Pentecost) in addition to their development of liturgical practices linked to the growing seasons, such as the penitential fasting associated with the season of Lent that happens to occur in the historically lean, fallow time of winter when stores of provisions were running low.

As American alienation from the seasonal cycle of growth and the natural world continues, our prayers and liturgies, which look to the natural world to gain their saliency, grow stale and inconsequential. Liturgies crafted to bless a growing season make little sense to those who neither sow nor reap, and prayers to protect us from the dangers of a dark night are pointless as we keep darkness at bay with the perpetual light of our many flickering screens.

The Farmers Market is helping us reconnect with our agricultural roots, but we hear a call to a deeper relationship with the world. In 2024, we took our faith outside and into the wild. Starting in June, members of St. Luke's and the wider community (averaging **14 people** per service) have been gathering monthly for outdoor worship that seeks to reground our spiritual life in the natural world. The services are all about re-wilding our religious imaginations and creating connection with more than the human community. As such, the services are part nature encounter, part mindful contemplation, and completely about forging community with each other and Mother Earth.

The services are held rain, snow, or shine and generally last one hour to 90 minutes. That said, these services live outside the anxiety of our timekeeping as they allow us to enter into "deep" time—where moments stretch and we move at the speed of relationship with each other and the natural environment. We will continue to gather monthly in 2025, and we hope to see you out there.

The Rev. Luke Fodor, Rector

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY REPORT

St. Luke's Education for Ministry group (EfM) is part of an international program founded in 1975 by the School of Theology in Sewanee, Tennessee and will be celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. St. Luke's group is growing. The Thursday group currently has a full class of twelve participants with space for three new participants in September to fill spaces opened by three graduates this coming May. Most likely, an additional class will begin on Tuesday nights in September. Exploring faith, increasing personal understanding, and expanding knowledge through exposure to many interpretations are objectives of EfM study. Participation helps discern, develop, and carry out ministries transforming participants. Faithful people encounter the breadth and depth of Christian tradition through conversation, sharing of experiences, study, worship, and engaging theological reflection. We welcome participants of any faith background or even no background who desire to learn more.

The current Education for Ministry program will be rebranded this spring as EfM Classic, a four-year program emphasizing a different area of knowledge each year. Participants from each of the four years meet as a group with study coordinated to have commonality despite different weekly assignments. Year 1 focuses on the Hebrew Bible, year 2 on the New Testament, year 3 on church history, and year 4 on theology, ethics, and interfaith encounters. Participants, however, commit to only one year of study at a time. In September, a stand-alone year of study will be introduced called EfM Wide Angle to be taken alone as an introduction to EfM or as a fifth year of study. This year of study will participate in the EfM Classic sessions with a focus on a more generalized curriculum. There also will be additional new EfM programs introduced in the spring with shorter durations and different focuses. St. Luke's current EfM group meets weekly on Zoom at 6:00 PM each Thursday, from September to May (36 Sessions), and plans three in-person gatherings throughout the course year. Led by a Sewanee Certified Mentor, our group is a supportive community searching for a new understanding. The Tuesday group (if it comes to pass) also will meet on Zoom at 6:00 PM and cover the same curriculum as the Thursday group. This has been an exciting year for EfM with a full class of participants, participants in every year of study, and occasional visits from graduates to lead theological reflections. We invite interested people to visit a session as a guest and welcome all. It's not too early to reserve a spot for a September session. For more information, please contact Certified Mentor, **Karl Costello** (kbc362000@hotmail.com).



CHAPEL OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Since the Rector's appointment as Vicar of the Chapel of the Good Shepherd at Chautauqua Institution in 2022, St. Luke's, along with the Chapel Board, have offered significant organizational support to its operation. We recently realized the oversight in not including it in the annual report as it does impact the life of our congregation. Because it is not an official congregation, pastoral rites such as marriage, baptism and burial are all recorded in our books.

As you may be hearing about this for the first time, it might be helpful to tell you what it is. Chautauqua institution has many self-organized religious communities that offer accommodation and programming during the nine-week program year. Chapel of the Good Shepherd is one of two free-standing church buildings on the Grounds. The Vicar arranges chaplains to cover both Sunday and daily Eucharist services for one full week for each of the nine weeks of the season.

St Luke's does not receive remuneration for this service, but it does find value through relationship. For instance, recently deceased Chapel Board member, Paul Cawein, contributed \$100,000 to the St. Luke's Bell Tower Project. **The Rev. Luke Fodor, Rector**



Chapel of the Good Shepherd

ALTAR GUILD

Another year in review for the Altar Guild. We have certainly been busy taking care of all your Sacramental worship needs. Baptisms, weddings, funerals, confirmation, worship services, not to mention diocesan events like the Chrism Mass during Lent.

We even had an ordination this year. What fun that was. It has been many years since we needed to acquire new Vestments. We spent hours pouring over fabric samples and various trims, picking out what we thought would be perfect for Jessica, our new priest. With the help of contributions from the congregation, we were able to purchase stoles and chasubles in green, white, and purple. Perhaps one day we will be able to add red to make a full set.

We saw a large increase in the cost of weekly Altar Flowers and were worried that we would have Sundays without flowers. However, the congregation stepped up and is still covering the cost of almost \$100 per week. St. Luke's is truly a fulfilling place to serve.

Janet Card, Sacristan



New Vestments for a new a Priest

DISMANTLING RACISM

Throughout the year, the Dismantling Racism and Discrimination Committee at St. Luke's organized a series of events aimed at fostering education and dialogue on race and justice, including:

Absalom Jones Prayer Stations: During the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, the Committee offered interactive prayer stations in recognition of the Feast of The Rev. Absalom Jones. The stations invited attendees to engage and reflect on the legacy of Absalom Jones, an African-American abolitionist and America's first black priest, who rose to prominence in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Faith & Democracy Webinar: In September, the Committee hosted an educational webinar exploring a Christianity unfettered from racial injustice and White Christian nationalism. The discussion centered on how Christians can live into a nonviolent, justice-driven legacy, particularly as the nation approached its next election cycle.

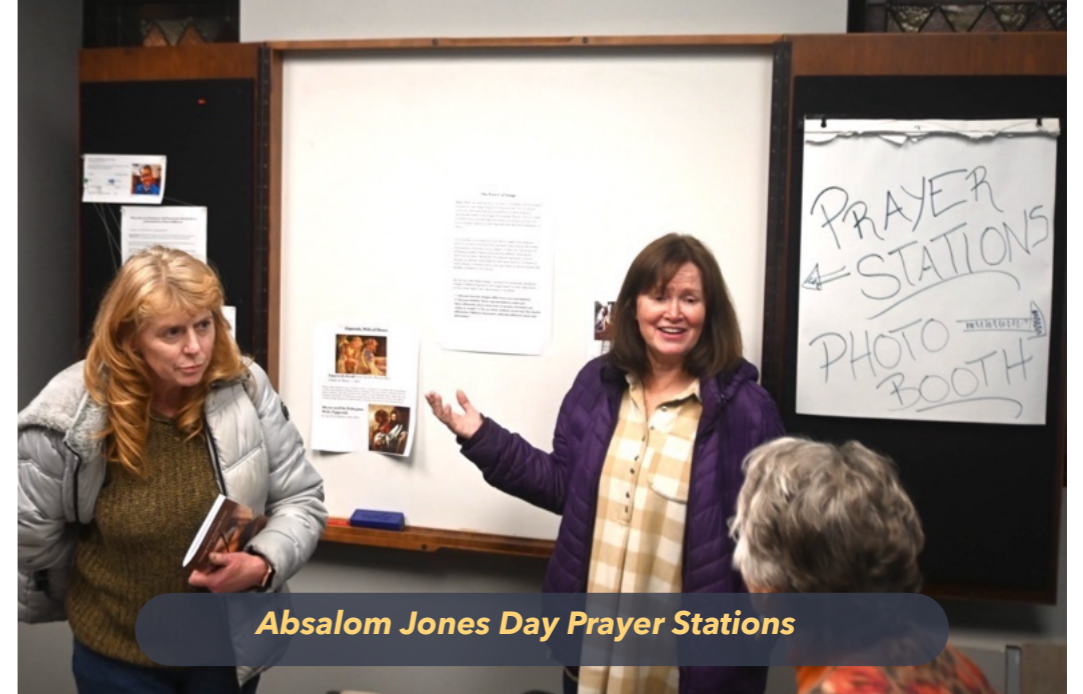
Film Screening of *My Name is Pauli Murray*: On October 11, the Committee partnered with Jamestown Pride to present a dinner-and-movie event in honor of National Coming Out Day. The screening of *My Name is Pauli Murray*, a documentary about the Black, non-binary Episcopal priest and attorney, highlighted Murray's trailblazing impact on civil rights and gender equality, particularly in shaping key legal arguments for figures like Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Thurgood Marshall.

WNY Refugee Film Festival Screening: In collaboration with the New Neighbors Coalition, the Committee hosted a screening on December 5 of two documentaries, *Come From Away* and *Nos Vemos Pronto*, as part of the Western New York Refugee Film Festival. The films highlighted the experiences of refugees and immigrants, offering a poignant reflection on the human side of the global refugee crisis.

Through the Jamestown Farmers Market we launched a special program with the historically black churches in town, called **Faithful Eating**. Funded by a grant, this program empowered these congregations to promote greater food access to their congregations and the wider community.

These events were designed to educate and inspire action toward dismantling the systemic racism and discrimination that persist in society. The Dismantling Racism and Discrimination Committee continues to provide spaces for reflection, learning, and engagement in the ongoing work of justice and reconciliation.

The Rev. Jessica Frederick, Curate



Absalom Jones Day Prayer Stations



Faithful Eating at Blackwell Chapel



Filmscreening

ACOLYTE MINISTRY

The COVID pandemic took a toll on children and youth participation and engagement with St. Luke's Acolyte Ministry. In the fall of this year, however, the Curate has made a significant effort to revitalize this crucial ministry, empowering the young people of St. Luke's to take a role in leadership during our worship services.

Since September, St. Luke's has had 15 children and youth acolytes on the schedule, more than half of them new this year. The Rector, Curate, Verger, and lead adult acolytes (Karl Costello and Myrick Mathews) helped lead two acolyte trainings this fall, using "The Sacred Order of Acolytes" curriculum. "The Sacred Order of Acolytes" engages young people's inherent sense of the sacred and gamifies the *why* we do what we do in worship. St. Luke's youth acolytes also celebrated the holiday season with a St. Nicholas Day Party (with pizza and a scavenger hunt) to build community and give youth a chance to explore the church and liturgy on their terms.

The Rev. Jessica Frederick, Curate



Training in Progress

BISHOP OVERS GUILD

Bishop Overs Guild, affectionately known as BOG, is a social group of St. Luke's parishioners who meet monthly to discuss ways we can foster our mission: to feed people. Bishop Overs members provide refreshments for funeral receptions (with silver service if requested), and provide refreshments for various events held at St. Luke's such as confirmations and other gatherings.

2024 was a special year for BOG, which sponsored the Fix the Bricks fundraiser to raise money for repairs to the front porch. Kay Stahlman coined the memorable moniker, and the event, chaired by Catherine Johnner, raised nearly **\$16,000** by auctioning unique experiences such as a picnic in the church tower, high tea on the front porch, dessert of the month, a vacation trip to North Carolina, a chef experience, and so much more. So many individuals worked to create a fabulous night of food, fun, and competitive bidding. In addition to supporting church repairs, Bishop Overs Guild also donated **\$500** to Meals on Wheels.

New members are always welcome. We cordially invite you to take a more active role and consider joining Bishop Overs so that we are sure to work with the spirit of fresh new ideas. We meet in the undercroft on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck supper. We welcome you to our table! **Norma DeJoy, Chair**



Fix the Bricks Fundraiser

THE COLUMBARIUM BOARD

“A SACRED AND SOLEMN RESPONSIBILITY”

The year, 2024, witnessed the re-launch of the long defunct Columbarium Board and appointment of new board members to provide oversight and management of the St. Luke’s Columbarium located in the chapel.

Acting in accordance with the original Columbarium Board Bylaws, Luke, as Rector, appointed St. Luke’s Treasurer (Janet Card) and Parish Administrator (Nicole Gustafson), as well as a Vestry member (Tiffany MacCallum) and one other parishioner (Paul Johnson) as Board members, which appointments the Vestry subsequently approved.

The Board met numerous times throughout the year to review, assess, and revise (as needed) all Columbarium documentation, informational literature, and procedures and protocols, most of which had not been reviewed or updated since the Columbarium’s establishment in 1985.

Most importantly, the Board’s review made clear the need to revise the Columbarium Bylaws that had not been updated since first established at a regular meeting of the Vestry on September 9, 1985. At its regular meeting held on June 19, 2024, the Vestry reviewed and approved the Board’s proposed Bylaws revisions.

Documents reviewed and revised by the Board include: an informational letter to prospective Columbarium niche purchasers; an invoice to be provided to niche purchasers in receipt of payment(s); a grant (or deed) of niche ownership; St. Luke’s standard operating procedure (SOP) for Columbarium sales; and Columbarium Map.

The Board identified a need, given the sacred and solemn responsibility the Columbarium entails, to build and maintain a St. Luke’s connection with Columbarium living niche owners and families of inurned individuals. The first step has been to draft a letter to be sent out to owners and families in the early Fall (prior to all Souls Day in November) each year. The letter provides information on how to honor loved ones with Sunday altar-flower tributes, as well as requests biographical information about inurned loved ones to assist St. Luke’s in compiling and maintaining a remembrance book about everyone in the Columbarium. The remembrance book will be made available somewhere in the chapel for ready reference by Columbarium visitors.

The Board looks forward to developing and implementing in 2025 other ideas presently under consideration to honor the memories of those whose cremains have been entrusted to St. Luke’s.

**--Janet Card, Luke Fodor, Nicole Gustafson, Paul Johnson, and Tiffany MacCallum,
Board Members**



THRIFT SHOP



The Thrift Shop Is About Friendships



Thrift Shop Sorting



Thrift Shop Christmas Luncheon

The Thrift Shop has had a very good 2024. The shop has been in business since 1982 with a volunteer staff of 36 dedicated men and women who give of their time to take in donations of clothing and houseware items to sort, price, clean, and display to appeal to our customers. Each individual volunteer accumulates their in-store hours by their availability and store schedule, but a yearly total number is 2,000 - 3,000 hours. Not included in this number are the extra hours that board members volunteer of their own time working on weekends and at home. All this hard work has paid off. A total of **\$43,000** in sales was achieved.

We are committed to giving back to the community twice a year the profits of our sales. This year our total giving was **\$36,000**. Our many recipients include St. Susan's, UCAN, New Neighbors, Meals on Wheels, Boys and Girls Club, The Salvation Army Anew Center, MHA, and JCC Food Pantry. In-kind donations of clothing were also given to those in need through our Voucher system, Salvation Army, area schools for their clothing closets, UCAN Shelter, Sheriff's Department (as part of their release program), JourneysEnd, and New Neighbors.

The Thrift Shop building is also a recipient, as we have been putting aside money each year for building maintenance. Our facility is old and will soon be in need of some large expenditures like a new roof and windows that are in need of replacement. We are driven to be self sustaining and a church asset, not a burden. We invite all curious and interested parishioners who would like to see the workings of the thrift shop to stop in and see exactly what we do. The shop is open for sales on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and the first Saturday of each month. I would like to thank all of our hard-working volunteers and Board Members for making 2024 awesome.

Board Members: Sandi Gustafson, Secretary; Wilma Twinam, Scheduling. Members At Large: Nancy Ferguson; Sue Priester; Cathy Smith; Fran Morgan; and Janet Card (for financial information). **Barbara Kiddoo, President**

NEW NEIGHBORS REPORT

2024 focused on programming and determining a long-term plan for supporting new neighbors in the community. We repeated previously well-attended events for new neighbors such as attending a Jamestown Tarp Skunks game, a trip to Midway State Park, the annual bike giveaway, and a surviving-winter information session, while also creating more opportunities for new neighbors to connect with each other and the wider community. We started a monthly coffee hour for volunteers and new arrivals to engage in some informal English practice, play games, and enjoy craft time with kiddos. We introduced a monthly Community Connections series for which we partnered with local organizations such as the Safety Village and the Jamestown Community Learning Council to host presentations that were linguistically accessible and culturally responsive. New Neighbors Coalition also organized workforce related opportunities like a resume writing workshop and an employment event in partnership with Heritage Ministries.

New Neighbors Coalition also organized wider community-facing events focused on uplifting diverse perspectives and the joy they bring to our spaces. 2024 marked the first World Refugee Day Festival in Jamestown—an exciting feat! We partnered with Sukanya Burman Dance for incredible performances, shared cultural food, hired a mehndi artist, and more! NNC also created opportunities for engaging with our work through literature by local authors like Bill Burk and John Rappole, and film via a local screening of a WNY Refugee Film Festival movie.

Early in 2024, Jamestown Public Schools began providing English classes to new neighbors, using the undercroft as a teaching space. Due to staff changes, the school district could no longer provide the classes after summer 2024. New Neighbors Coalition identified a need for these to continue, and with the help of very dedicated volunteers, hosted a stopgap fall semester, while trying to ascertain what the future of English classes in Jamestown would look like. Ultimately, Jamestown Public Schools received additional funding and asked NNC to continue providing the service under contract with the school district.

In addition to the \$95,643 in grant funding secured this year, St. Luke's and the New Neighbors Coalition program fundraised an additional \$15,295 thanks to the overwhelming generosity of parishioners and the wider community. With their support we were able to allocate the entirety of these donations to supporting new arrivals. **Momina De Blasio, New Neighbors Coalition Manager**





ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

A 2024 SPENT IN COMMUNITY



IMPACT

MEMORIES

WELCOMING NEW NEIGHBORS

Because of you we were able to support to immigrants in the region in the following ways:

130+ volunteer hours spent hosting Thanksgiving dinner

125+ resource & service referrals made by volunteers & staff

45+ families served

1 Jamestown's first World Refugee Day Festival

FUNDING SUMMARY

\$15,295 Donations
\$95,643 Grants

30+ bikes (and helmets) gifted

18 events in support of new neighbors

7 community engagement events

6 Books highlighting immigrant stories read

1 English class

Matt Camby from Pearl City Cycle donated countless hours of time to repair donated bikes for new neighbors dealing with the area's transportation scarcity. Mark Wilson from Wilson Endurance Sports spoke on road safety.

New neighbors received warm welcomes by local organizations when going to a Jamestown Tarp Skunks game, spending an afternoon at Midway State Park, connecting with other local organizations, engaging with volunteers at monthly coffee hours, and much more.

This year we engaged with the wider community through events and conversations showcasing diverse traditions, stories, and perspectives. We highlighted different art forms, celebrations, and narratives to help educate and spread awareness regarding new neighbors in the community.

In 2024 the New Neighbors Coalition introduced the Global Perspectives Book Club, dedicated to reading books about or by immigrants. The group meets every other month to learn more about diverse perspectives through the art of storytelling.

In 2024 the New Neighbors Coalition started establishing the groundwork for a beginner English class to support new neighbors on their journey to learning the language.



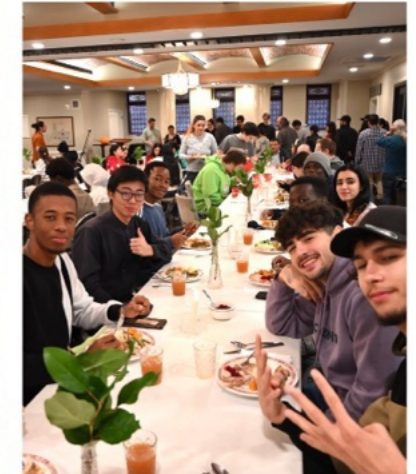
MAKING MAANDAZI

In preparation for Jamestown's first annual World Refugee Day Festival, new neighbors taught volunteers how to make Maandazi, a traditional Congolese treat with similarities to a donut or a beignet. There was a lot of flour, gallons of oil, and many belly laughs.



COMMUNITY PICNIC

We hosted the first NNC community picnic in August as a goodbye to summer. Families enjoyed hotdogs, cooled off in the splash pad, and challenged each other to some very competitive international soccer matches.



THANKSGIVING

Our second annual New Neighbors Coalition Thanksgiving grew exponentially this year. We had over 105 new neighbors, volunteers, and their families join us for dinner. It took over 130 hours of work by 35 dedicated volunteers, 3 days of cooking, and quite a few pies to pull it off!

Jamestown Public Market

2024 Impact Report

In 2024, the market welcomed two new staff members.

Nick Weith, Food Access Manager, oversees all local food programs at St. Luke's and is working to grow the local food system in our post-COVID world.

Sei Paulson, Market Coordinator, is the market's boots on the ground doer of all things that make the Mobile Market, Public Market, CSA, Local Roots, and Faithful Eating programs happen!

Together, they have worked to make this year one of learning, positive change, and building confidence with our vendors through increased participation, the introduction of new programs, and extended market seasons!



Jamestown Public Market

The Saturday market serves as a beacon of what connecting community through food has the potential to be. Providing farmers with direct sales to their friends and neighbors and incentivizing people utilizing SNAP, families, seniors, and more to shop local.

- 45 vendors throughout the seasons with 23 able to accept SNAP
- \$31,000 in SNAP and expansion program sales!
- 9% increase in SNAP transactions!
- Over \$100,000 in economic impact through total vendor sales
- **Launch of our first Winter Farmers Market in December 2024!**



Jamestown Mobile Market

In 2024, a new site was added to the roster: CODE Housing. In partnership with the New Neighbors Coalition, this development was identified as an area where several immigrant and refugee families were living and could use better access to fresh food. Other stops included Silvertree Senior Housing, Bush Elementary, The Resource Center, The Prendergast Library, and The Chautauqua Center.

- 100 weekly customers



- Over \$11,000 in sales
- 37% of sales used food assistance (SNAP, FMNP, DUFB, and FreshConnect)



Eat Fresh Do Good CSA

Our unique CSA model supports farmers at the market, allowing them to provide produce to folks who may not normally shop on Saturdays.

- 63 Summer CSA members
- New add-on options: fresh sourdough bread, eggs, and local pork, beef, and chicken!
- New Fall CSA Season launched with 39 members!
- \$28,000 in revenue to local farmers!

Monday Night Cafe

Using local food as much as possible, volunteers worked to prepare and serve filling and flavorful dishes to the community. Comfort foods like Swedish meatballs and homemade lasagna to exciting new flavors like Indian butter chicken and Mexican tamales were featured at free monthly dinners.





Local Roots

A program of the Chautauqua County Office of the Aging Services, we work to deliver organic food bags to seniors across the county.

- 450 weekly bags delivered
- 12 locations in Jamestown, Dunkirk, Mayville, Clymer, Lakewood, and Frewsburg
- Approximately \$80,000 in produce distributed

Volunteer Shout Out

All of the market programs wouldn't be possible without the tireless work of our volunteers!

- 98 volunteers in 2024
- 1,158 combined hours volunteered in 2024
- Our top two volunteers: Heidi Bird and Brian Kearney (244 hrs total)
- Volunteer Recognition Night with New Neighbors Coalition honored both programs' hard working volunteers!



Lakeview Community Gardens

In 2024, St. Luke's was able to purchase the land at 6th & Lakeview, forever making this plot of land a space for the community to gather and grow.

- 19 garden beds utilized
- 1 truckload of compost and soil donated by Clearwater Compost
- Support from the Lakview Avenue residents to keep the gardens beautiful!



Season Highlights

1 Empty Bowls Fundraiser worked with Chautauqua Area Potters and 4 volunteer classes to create unique pottery and raised over \$10,000 for the Jamestown Public Market and St. Susan's. A huge thank you to Ron Nasca and Mary Beth Southwick!

2 The Farm to Table Dinner was a celebration of the season and honored the vendors, farmers, and volunteers that made the year happen. Local food was purchased and used to prepare the meal, catered by Elegant Edibles.

3 Working with Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Mobile Market served as distribution sites for 200 local food boxes that were available to residents completely for free. An estimated 38,000 pounds of product were distributed over 19 weeks.

4 A new program launched in 2024 was Faithful Eating. This program works with three historically black churches and one mosque in Jamestown to provide their parishoners with fresh and healthy produce at no cost to them. As an underrepresented part of the market, this outreach is crucial to reaching the entire community. Faithful Eating is funded by Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield.



A Special Thank You to our Funders and Donors

NYS Department of Agriculture
 Cummins Engine Inc.
 Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield
 Chautauqua Region Community Foundation
 Sheldon Foundation
 Lenna Foundation
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2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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