

The Evangeline

Volume 9 No. 2

“Praising ♦ Serving ♦ Sharing”

February 2008

Stewardship 2008

“The Church is Always Asking For Money”

SOMETIMES YOU HEAR people say, “The Church is always asking for money.” That statement is untrue.

It is the world which is always asking for money, not the Church. When did you last go to the grocery store and the checker failed to ask you for money? Your mortgage company asks for money with unfailing regularity. If you are like most people, each month brings a new collection of bills. Are any of them from the Church? Who withholds a percentage of every dollar you earn? Your Uncle does that. Your Father does not.

There is no free lunch—except at the Church. You can attend worship every week—there is no admission charge. If you are sick, one of the clergy will visit you in the hospital. Where else can you get free counseling when you need it? Where will your children be married? Several hundred people receive a newsletter each week. None receives a subscription notice “asking for money” as with other publications.

What do you do when your loved one dies? What will it cost? The funeral home will certainly charge for its services. Your church will not. The Church building will always be there when you need it—clean, heated and with kitchen and nursery provided. You make full use of it and never pay one dime. No one will even know whether you contribute or not.

You have to pay taxes to provide your children “free” public education, but your Church operates a Sunday School which will give quality Christian education with absolutely no cost or obligation. The Church requires no membership fee, no annual dues. It never sends its members a bill. Is there any other organization in the world that functions that way? I don’t know of any. You see, the truth is the Church “asks for money” LESS than anything else you can think of.

Consider this paradox. Compared to the government and the bill collectors, the Church almost NEVER asks for money. Yet of all the things your money could be used for, very few are more important than what the church provides.

The Church is here to share the love of Jesus Christ himself. Our money goes to serve him. We will continue to provide ministry in Jesus’ name to everyone, whether they can afford to contribute or not. Isn’t that something you would like to be a part of?

—The Epistle of St. Paul’s, St. Paul’s Church
Kansas City, Missouri

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Ash Wednesday

February 6

Imposition of Ashes & Holy Eucharist

6:30 a.m., Chapel

Noon, Church

7:00 p.m., Church

7:00 p.m., La Misa,
Chapel

February Activities

Ash Wednesday Services – 6:30 am, noon & 7:00 pm, Wednesday, Feb. 6.

Brotherhood of St. Andrew – 7:30 am, Saturday, Feb. 9 in Harman Hall.

C. S. Lewis Book Group – 6:30 pm, Monday, Feb. 18. The group will be reading *Prince Caspian*.

Evangeline Deadline – Friday, Feb. 15 for the March issue.

Greeters Fellowship – Thursday, Feb. 7 at the home of Paul & Mona Rash.

Healing Prayer Teams Are Available – 6:30-7:30 pm, Mondays, Feb. 11, 18 & 25, in the Healing Center.

Holy Days – Feb. 25, St. Matthias the Apostle.

Honduras Packing Days – Saturday, Feb. 9 & 16.

Honduras Mission – Feb. 27 - March 5. Please keep the team in your prayers.

Honduras Team Dinner – 6:00 pm, Saturday, Feb. 23.

Sandwich Ministry – 9:30 am, Thursday, Feb. 28.

St. Elizabeth's Guild – 10:00 am, Tuesday, Feb. 12 & 26.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper & Performance – 6:00-8:30 pm, Tuesday, Feb. 5.

Soaking Prayer – 6:30 pm, Monday, Feb. 4, in the Healing Center.

Vestry Meeting – 12:30 pm, Sunday, Feb. 17, in Room 205.

Weekly Events

Sundays

Christian Education for all ages – 11:20 am -12:20 pm.

St. Clare's Guild –2:00 pm in the Conference Room.

SLY (St. Luke's Youth) – 6:00-7:30 pm.

Tuesdays

Sunday Leaflet Announcements – are due by noon. E-mail to jmoore@stlukesdallas.org.

Wednesdays

Group Intercessory Prayer – 7:30-8:30 am in the Healing Center.

Wednesday Night Live – 6:00-6:30 pm for supper; 6:30-7:30 children's activities & youth & adult study. (*in recess Ash Wednesday*)

Adult Choir Rehearsal – 7:30-9:30 pm.

Thursdays

Women's Bible Study – 10:15 am in the Royal Lane church entrance.

Fridays

MSG (Men's Small Group) Bible Study – 7:15-8:15 am in the Conference Room.

Saturdays

OSL Going Deeper Class – 10:00 am in the Healing Center.

MacNutt Level III Healing Prayer Training – 1:00 pm in the Healing Center.

Youth Jr. High Retreat – Feb. 22-24 at All Saints' Camp.

Women's Bible Study – 6:30 pm, Mondays, Feb. 11 & 25.

Rector Search Update

The parish profile, consisting of two components, was completed in mid-January. A written document was compiled to highlight St. Luke's, as well as our ministries and outreach. An in-house DVD was produced featuring interviews with parishioners. The completion of the parish profile marks the end of Phase 1 in the search process.

The interviewing committee (Phase 2) has begun to actively recruit rector candidates for St. Luke's. An anticipated timeframe for this process is 3-4 months. We encourage all parishioners to be prayerful and patient during this process. This process will require a considerable amount of discernment by Search Committee members and candidates.

Once a Rector has been called to St. Luke's, the transitioning committee (Phase 3) will work to ensure a smooth transition of the Rector and the Rector's family to St. Luke's and the Dallas area.

Warm Gifts for Austin Street Shelter!

This past Thanksgiving, my family and I served sandwiches at Austin Street Shelter. Some of the ladies at St. Luke's had knitted warm scarves, some very elaborate, some simple ones. The homeless people at Austin Street Shelter on that evening appreciated the kindness St. Luke's showed them through these gifts. We handed out over 150 scarves. Our goal for this Thanksgiving is to have at least 300. If we start now, we could easily reach our goal. Most winter nights, Austin Street Shelter provides a place to rest to almost 450 guests. Everyone who would like to help with this ministry is welcome. Most of us knit at home, some of the ladies meet at church. If you are unable to knit you could purchase some warm gloves; nothing fancy; just warm and practical.

If you have any questions please contact Maria Steigenberger at (972) 458-9904.

Thank you. Maria Steigenberger

SLV Student Spotlight

The Youth of St. Luke's have a long history of serving others, locally, nationally, and internationally. The past year has been no exception. Here is a collage of pictures capturing many of those great moments and memories.



SLY News



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Variety Show – Tuesday, February 5

Youth and parents are needed for this annual event to help setup, cook pancakes, and perform in the variety show. We hope the entire parish can come out to eat pancakes and enjoy the entertainment! Look for the staff of St. Luke's to share their talent as well!

Youth Mission Trip

The youth are going to Honduras in July. The tentative dates are July 21-26. These dates will not be confirmed until we are able to make deposits, which we hope to do in March. Registration packets will be mailed early in February; registrations will be due early in March, along with a \$200 deposit.

SLY Meetings

SLY meetings start at 6 pm and last until 7:30 and include dinner. Our focus this spring will be on preparation for our mission trip to Honduras. Hope to see you there!

Servant Sunday

Servant Sunday is an opportunity to serve the community we live in through service and outreach projects. Servant Sundays are February 24th and March 16th. Meet in the church parking lot at 1 pm and be back by 5 pm. The work will change each month as we serve with different community groups.

Youth Confirmation Class

The Youth Confirmation Class has begun and meets during the Christian Education hour on Sunday mornings in room 209. The youth confirmation program has been revamped and will now operate on a two-year cycle for 6th and 7th grade youth, with students being confirmed in the fall of their 7th grade year. Doug Fletcher, Kathy Duda, and Jim Farnsworth will team up to teach the classes this spring.

SLY Christian Education

The youth meet on Sunday mornings from 11:20 – 12:20 in the upstairs Youth Lounge. We've got donuts and a lesson each week.

Here are SLY dates for January and February:

February

Sunday 3: SLY 6-7:30 pm
Tuesday 5: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
and Variety Show
Sunday 10: SLY 6-7:30 pm
Sunday 17: SLY 6-7:30 pm
Friday 22 – Sunday 24:
Jr. High Retreat at All Saints Camp
Sunday 24: SLY 6-7:30 pm

March

Sunday 2: SLY 6-7:30 pm
Sunday 9: SLY 6-7:30 pm
Sunday 16: Servant Sunday 1-5 pm
Sunday 23: No SLY – Easter Sunday
Sunday 30: SLY 6-7:30 pm

A Message from Honduran Seminarian

As many of you may know, St. Luke's has agreed to provide \$350 per month to the Episcopal Diocese of Honduras to be used by the Bishop of Honduras to provide a stipend to either an Episcopal clergy or seminarian in Honduras. This past year, the funds went to a seminary student, Jaime David Godoy, who lives and works in Santa Barbara, Honduras. There with his wife Rita and their family he is the lay pastor of an Episcopal church and works in various ministries for the community, including Cursillo, small Bible study groups, and a women's ministry.

I had the opportunity to meet Jaime David when I was in Honduras in November and he wanted me to pass along his thanks to our St. Luke's parish family. Here is the text of the message that he sent to me, and I want to share it with all of you who have been involved in the St. Luke's Honduras Mission Ministry:

I want to take this opportunity to say "hi" and wish more blessings than you have already received for your precious ministry that you realize with the love and power of God. I'm so happy to know you. It's a great pleasure to exchange ideas and dreams with you.

One more time, many thanks for the support that you and your team have given to our ministry. My family and I say, "Thank you very much." I wish you happiness on Christmas and hope that the birth of Jesus brings more happiness and expectation of good life for your family and your mission team.

The year 2008 comes full of blessings. Thanks and may God continue to bless you.

With sincere wishes,

Jaime Godoy, my wife Rita, and my children

While St. Luke's has agreed to fund the monthly stipend of \$350, through the efforts of Dr. David Fixler, we have obtained pledges from many of you to fund one month's stipend of \$350. By obtaining these funds from individual contributors, we have been able to offset the expense to St. Luke's and free up operating funds for other ministry at St. Luke's. Many of you have pledged and/or paid a month's stipend and to you I say THANK YOU from Jaime David and the Diocese of Honduras. If any of you would like to make a donation to help support Jaime David, please send your check to St. Luke's, with a notation that it is for the *Honduras Seminarian Support*. Again, thanks to all of you for your continuing interest and support of our Honduras Mission ministry and the great work that is being done in Christ's name in the Diocese of Honduras. God bless.

— John Nicholson

Home Communion During Lent

Again this year St. Luke's will offer a series of communion services in the homes of parishioners during the season of Lent. Parishioners and others who live near the host are invited to attend. This was the pattern in the early church and it is truly a blessing to have communion in your home.

The services will be on **Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m.** on the following dates:

February 14 – at the home of
John & Anna Moore

February 21 – at the home of
John & Pat Baker

February 28 – at the home of
Jim & Muffy Carlo

March 6 – in conjunction with the
Greeters Fellowship, at the home
of Marti Sewell

March 13 – open



A New Christmas Celebration

On Saturday, December 22, 2007, the first Ugandan Christmas Celebration for Ugandans and friends in the Dallas-Fort Worth area was held at St. Luke's. An organizing committee arranged for a service to be followed by dinner and entertainment. More than 30 people were at the multi-lingual Christmas communion service.

At least 100 Ugandans and friends, some of whom were St. Luke's parishioners, attended the following dinner. It was a jubilant African feast. The ladies cooked 'mountains' of food. All present ate and were merry. We had some Ugandan children presenting dances from Africa, America, and some salsa. The dance team came from "Keep a Child Informed and Inspired" (KACI&I), social organization based in the Mid-Cities. Some of the parents that run this organization hail from Africa.

During the festivities, the audience was invited to the stage to dance. The jubilation knew no bounds. All present fell in love with the occasion and are already planning for the next one. The Organizing Committee is deeply grateful to St. Luke's Church for making this a possibility.

—The Rev. Robert J. Magoola

Children's Ministry

December was a great month for the Children's Ministry, from our visit with St. Nick to the wonderful Christmas Eve family service.



Mary (Hannah Hatfield) and the Donkey



Canon Michell tells the Christmas story to the children.

For those of you who were wondering how Pumpkin, our pregnant donkey, is doing: labor was quite long as she didn't give birth until 12/26! Mom and baby are doing well.



Moses tells Pharaoh to let his people go

January started off with a BANG when we were all treated to The 10 Commandments play by members of St. Michael's. The play was not only entertaining, but it also reinforced the great lessons our children learned last Fall during Sunday School.

Moses tells the people of the Ten Commandants



Looking ahead, we'll spend January and early February covering The Beatitudes. As parents, here's what you can do to reinforce what is being taught on Sunday mornings:

1. Look up The Beatitudes (Matthew 5: 3-10) and talk through each verse, defining words that may be difficult (righteous, meek, mourn, merciful).
2. Talk about current events that demonstrate The Beatitudes. For example, discuss Iraq and peacemakers (verse 9).
3. Use history lessons from school as lessons in The Beatitudes. In Sunday School, on January 13th, we watched a wonderful movie about William Bradford's life ("Father of Thanksgiving") and discussed how the pilgrims mourned, hungered/thirsted for righteousness, were peacemakers, and were persecuted for righteousness's sake.

Children's Ministry

We bid goodbye to Jill Nowell from the staff on January 31st. Although she may be gone from the staff, she and Mike and kids will remain fully a part of St. Luke's. When Jill came on board, she committed until January 31st. She has been a Godsend. Now she needs to return to being a full-time wife and mom. She has left our children's ministry in great shape.

Volunteers will manage the Children's Ministry until we hire someone on a permanent basis. We're trying to stretch things out so the new rector can hire his own staff. I pray that the Lord returns fourfold the blessings that she has been to St. Luke's in this interim time. Give her a hug and tell her how much you appreciate all she's done when you see her.

Canon Neal+

A Note from Jill

When Carolyn Bartkus approached me regarding this job, I prayed to God and told Him "You've made a mistake. I'm not the right person to do this;" He felt otherwise and I accepted the call.

As October was ending, I began to pray again, this time about leaving, but these prayers were much different. I had come to love the people who were assisting in this ministry and found great satisfaction in working with the children. But His answer was plain: "January 31st."

In last month's Evangeline you found a list of people who staff the Children's Ministry on a weekly basis. I don't have the space or time to heap all the praise on the people who deserve it, so just know what a great contribution you make to the St. Luke's family and how blessed I've been serving in your presence. Thank you for supporting me for the last six months and for continuing the good work God has in mind for you after I leave as interim.

Most gratefully,
Jill Nowell

Healing Center



Warren and I are most pleased that over fifteen individuals throughout the diocese and beyond, including members of our own parish, have joined us for each of the Saturday classes that we began a few weeks ago in the Healing Center. The morning session, which begins at 10 AM, is based on the *Going Deeper* materials developed by the International Order of St. Luke. The focus of the series is on personal spiritual formation and development. The afternoon class, which begins at 1 PM, consists of presentation and discussion of the Level III MacNutt Healing Prayer training program. Join us for a session or two or for the remainder of either or both of the two series of classes if you can.

The Healing Center will be offering a Healing Afternoon at St. Luke's on Saturday, March 1, beginning at 12:30 and ending with a 5 PM Healing Service which will include Communion and Induction of new OSL members. OSL members, prayer ministers and all others interested in the ministry of healing are invited to come to all or part of this special time of prayer, study and worship. The Reverend Jack Sheffield, the OSL Regional Director for the south central region of the country, will be the featured speaker. Participants are encouraged to share their thoughts and ideas about establishing a network for the healing prayer ministries and ministers within our diocese. Contact the Healing Center at the telephone number or email address listed below if you would like to attend. Please indicate whether you would like to be contacted about being inducted into the OSL at the service.

We hope that you will also mark your calendars for Friday evening and Saturday, April 4th and 5th, when the Healing Center and the Saint Michaels and All Angels Prayer Ministry will be co-sponsoring a conference here at St. Luke's with the Reverend Mike Endicott, a citizen of Wales, England, and blind from birth, as our featured speaker. The conference, "In His Footsteps: Living in the Fruitfulness of the Early Church", has as its objective the "rediscovering of the effective approach of the Apostles, Deacons and the earliest disciples to the miraculous ministry of the healing of the sick and injured." Warren and I heard Reverend Endicott at the North American conference a few years ago. He is a sensitive and dynamic speaker and pastor who told us that he was ordained by Archbishop Rowan Williams specifically to serve the healing ministry. Please let us know if you are interested in helping with this event. We are pleased that Jim and Kathy Wohlgehausen have agreed to serve lunch for all conference attendees.

Other offerings at the Center for Christian Healing include Soaking Prayer on the first Monday of each month from 6:30 to 7:30 PM at the Center. On all other Monday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 PM, prayer teams are available for individual prayer without an appointment. Contact the Healing Center at (214) 368-6304, extension 22, or by email, healing@stlukesdallas.org, if you have any questions or if you would like to schedule an appointment for individual prayer.

— Carol Greene



The Evangeline

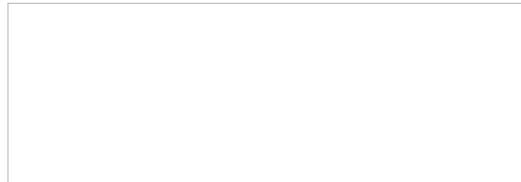
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Birthdays ñ February

(Feb 1) Maria Cook, Ross Gravenkemper *(Feb 2)* Jane Gilbert *(Feb 4)* Scotty Howell, II *(Feb 5)* Stephanie Peebles, Bob Duncan *(Feb 6)* Carolyn Geis, Dianna Hatfield *(Feb 7)* Jim Bithas, Patsy McAdam *(Feb 8)* Rodger Bramley, Christopher Kribs-Zaleta *(Feb 9)* Glenisha Tutumor, Leigh Mann, Roy Smith *(Feb 10)* Jay Young, Heda Hahn *(Feb 12)* John Moore *(Feb 13)* Marria Nakhoda, Ellie LaCroix *(Feb 14)* Tee Wilson, Mary St Claire, Monica Magoola *(Feb 15)* Sam Taylor, Sabrina Jurlina *(Feb 17)* Andrea Ryan, Mary Wiles *(Feb 18)* Kim Caslin *(Feb 21)* Cassidy Hansen, Chase Needham *(Feb 25)* Jocelyn Wheaton, Forrest Petricca, Israel Chavez, Eileen Alford, D'anne Stanton *(Feb 26)* Paula McFarland, Arwen Fletcher *(Feb 28)* Roger Smith

Anniversaries ñ February

(Feb 6) John & Pat Baker, Stan & Marion Kirsten *(Feb 7)* Bernie & Barbara Ritzert *(Feb 10)* Brian & Jean Mueller *(Feb 12)* Doug & Karen Hopkins, Fred & Patsy Manget *(Feb 13)* Frank & Mary St Claire *(Feb 14)* Warren & Carol Greene *(Feb 16)* Ricardo & Jessica Villa *(Feb 19)* Michael & Debra Decker *(Feb 23)* Jim & Gail Cole *(Feb 24)* Kevin & Elaine Wright, Jerry & Myra Sutton

Services at St. Luke's

Sunday Eucharists

7:30 a.m. Rite I in the Chapel
10:00 a.m. Rite II in the Church
10:00 a.m. Contemporary Service
in the Chapel
12:30 p.m. Spanish Language
Eucharist
in the Church
6:00 p.m. Rite II in the Chapel

Weekday Eucharists

WEDNESDAY
6:30 a.m. Rite II in the Chapel
THURSDAY
Noon Rite II with Unction
In the Chapel

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