

# St. Luke's Episcopal Church



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The Rev. Dr. Susan H. Lee, *Rector* • Sheila Singleton-Charron, *Pastoral Associate*  
Arthur Benjamin, *Co-Warden* • Janet Buckley-Smith, *Co-Warden*  
Martha Fournier, *Choir Director, Organist* • Eli Bigelow, *Organist*  
The Rev. James H. Hornsby, *Rector Emeritus*

## N E W S L E T T E R

Vol. 2, No. 3      December, 2006

### What's happening at St. Luke's Church . . .

**Baptisms:** Halaighna Pamela Souza, November 5th, Parents: Kerine A. Dias and Eric R. Souza, Jr.

**Confirmations:** Alex Racquer, September 16th, 2006

**Commissioned to the Ministry of Lay Readers:** Mrs. Mae Holt, September 16th, 2006

*In Loving Memory of Helene Waite Hicks, August 28th, 2006*

### A Message from The Rev. Susan Lee



#### PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

Will God have to knock us down to get our attention? The first weeks of December are often dominated by decorating and feverish shopping in observance of "commercial Christmas" lasting from Thanksgiving to December 25. Then, in the mall, the "post-Christmas" rush begins. Where is there room for God in this secular Christmas?

What does God have to do to get our attention?

The four weeks before Christmas are observed as the season of Advent in the church, the time when Christians prepare - not for gift-giving - but for receiving the great gift of God, the gift of Jesus. We prepare for this gift by opening our hearts to God's spirit and presence with us and removing barriers to God. What distracts us from listening to God? What hard spots are there in our heart that say "no" to God? What relationships need mending? What old hurts need healing? God wants us to come to the Christmas altar at peace with our neighbor and open to God. Then the real Christmas begins, the celebration of peace and goodwill for all.

### Sunday, December 17th Christmas Pageant



#### The Light of the World

was not the *Star* but the *Special Baby* born in a stable. This is the pageant the Sunday School students will be performing on Sunday, December 17, 2006. This will be our second year doing this one. I think this year the students will do a wonderful job, just as in the past year. The children have put a lot of effort into their rehearsals . . . we hope you enjoy the pageant.



*Merry Christmas! Jen Mathias*

### Easter Memorial Flowers 2007

Lance Almeida  
Ralph & Evelyn Anderson  
Franklin & Barbara Arnold  
Janice Berard  
Gilbert Black  
Harold Black  
Family of William  
& Sarah Black  
Evan Chun  
Mr. & Mrs. Conroy  
Daniel Crowley  
Edith Cutler  
Helena DeLuca  
Ted & Eleanor Dugdale

Phyllis Dyson  
Alton Ferris  
Ferris Family  
Dorothy Friar  
Friar Family  
Mary Furtak  
Marge & Fred Gomes  
Roy W. Holt  
Walter & Ethel Holt  
Robert & Thelma Hornsby  
The Rev. Beverly B. Karsden  
Richard D. Lee  
Emily Manica  
Abigail Lynn Mathias

Vorn Meas  
Mr. & Mrs. Mercier  
Michaels Family  
E. Avis Michaels  
Henry Michaels  
John Michaels, Sr.  
Alexandrina Moniz  
Antonio Moniz  
Antonio Botelho Moniz  
Beatrice Moniz  
John Moniz, Sr.  
Amelia Nash  
The Rev. Patrick O'Neile  
Alice Paradise

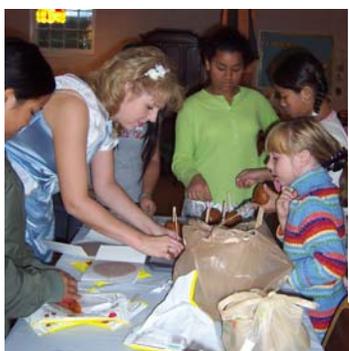
J. R. Paradise  
Gertrude Parr  
Mr. & Mrs. Plant  
Annie Priestner  
Arthur & Bertha Ranger  
Gladys & Steadman Rice  
Anne & John Rigney  
James & Jennie Spencer  
Spencer Family  
August, Catherine, John,  
Julius, & William Tefts  
Anna Thelen  
Mary & Rudy Tomes  
Mary Westell

# Halloween Party at St. Luke's

In October, we had our annual Halloween Party. It was also *Invite a friend to church day*. The kids got to wear their Halloween costumes and even the Sunday school teachers dressed up. What a turn out we had, there were about 25 kids. We decorated pumpkins, we baked caramel apples, we did face painting and a nice religious craft for Halloween. Amanda won a ten dollar gift card to Wal-mart for bringing the most friends. She brought five friends with her to church that day. Way to go Amanda! We all had a great time !!!



Beth Soares



## Church Bell Rings Once Again!

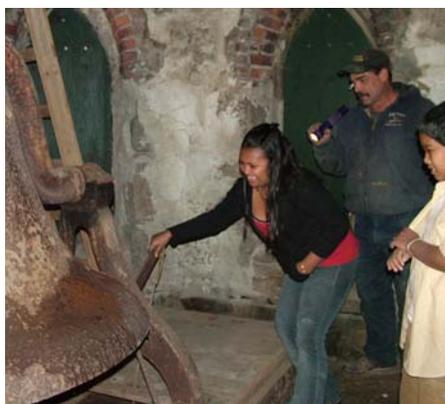
In November, a group of us climbed to the top of our church bell tower at the request of one of our junior choir members, Mony Thach. Mony thought it would be a "cool" thing to climb up to the bell tower so we could see what this area of the church looked like. She asked Sheila if this could be arranged on one of the Friday afternoons the choir members gathered to practice.

**Low and behold** – Sheila set this field trip in motion and on two occasions, several youth (Mony Thach, Chandavy Heng, Angela Has and Jordon Nim) and adults (Ernie Baptista and Sheila Charron) actually climbed 3 flights of stairs to reach the outside roof of the tower. The joy and excitement by all participants was such a wonderful sight to see! All were amazed once they reached the very top of the tower as they looked out to get a broad view of our city, as well as to see clear across to the other side of the Watuppa Pond. A history lesson of our church, the 1897 bell and questions of how this bell was lifted up to where it is today were entertained.

The best part of this pilgrimage occurred at the 2nd landing when each one of us had the chance to ring this very large and rusted

late 19th century church bell. The youth and adults alike had so much fun that we would like to do this again – perhaps we could ring in the **Season of Spring Time in 2007!**

Keep a watch for our next adventure to ring our church bell – We look forward to having you join us!



## Diocesan Convention

This year I attended the Diocesan Convention on October 27th and 28th as a part of the Diocesan Youth Council. This was my second time attending the convention. This year certain matters being voted on at the convention had a direct effect on the NYC. The Diocesan budget for this year was cut and because of this; would exclude the position of one of our Youth Ministries leaders. This meant our leader and friend Suzy Spresser's job was being eliminated. Rob Bacon, Director of Youth Ministries

would take over her duties, as well as, his own. Since Suzy played a huge role in the NYC, and her job was the only full time position cut from the budget, we felt it was unjust and unfair. We also were given little explanation for her departure, only that it was not only a budget matter. So, during the budget portion of the convention, we had three of our members step up to the microphone and speak about how much the position meant to us and how we felt about the budget cut. The next day we voted on the budget, and in a symbolic statement,

every NYC representative voted against the budget, which we knew would probably pass by a large margin. We felt that though we know we could not bring her position back, we could make our point and show our disapproval for how the Youth Ministry was being treated. We also hoped that our solidarity would show our support for Suzy. Even though the vote didn't go the way we wanted, I for one, am still grateful for the democratic process that our Episcopal faith follows in these matters.

Sam Holt

## Lights, Camera, Action!

On November 17th to the 19th, the NYC held a Jr. High retreat at the Barbara C. Harris Camp. We had a large group of Jr. High students attend who were eager to learn about God and have fun. We had many planned activities for them, including skits, lectures, games, and small group talks, in addition to worship. The kids were very involved and had a blast. This was probably the best retreat I've been to for enthusiasm

among the kids that I have seen since joining the NYC. Our theme was: **Lights, Camera, Action!** We discussed how God shows us the light of the world, and then gets us to focus on our lives and take action on them in his name. It was a great theme and provided some great lectures and discussion. I believe the kids went home learning a lot and heard many of them say they wanted to come back next year. We will also be having a **Sr. High Retreat on**

**February 9th to the 11th.** I am looking forward to it and wish to invite anyone, who wishes to learn about God and have fun at the same time, to join us. Anyone interested in attending should speak to one of the clergy or myself. I know you will not be disappointed if you attend.

Sam Holt



## Bishop Gayle Harris Visits St. Luke's

On Saturday, September 16th, Bishop Gayle came to St. Luke's for the yearly Bishop's visitation. After well over a year of studying and preparing for this day, Alex Racquer received the Sacrament of Confirmation.



In addition, the Bishop Commissioned Mae Holt into the Ministry of Lay Reader, as well as blessed sterling silver neck crosses for all our Lay Readers. Once

the crosses were blessed, Bishop Gayle presented them to each of the following liturgical lay readers: Connie Black, Carol Friar and Mae Holt.



As tradition would have it, we had a wonderful luncheon spread of Asian and American cuisine. During our lunch, the Bishop led a discussion updating us on Diocesan news, and affording us time to share stories about our own parish history. Bishop Gayle wrapped up her visit with sitting down with the Vestry members of our parish. She posed the following challenging questions to the Vestry: The 1st question was: **In 2 sentences state how it is that you know the spirit of God resides in this holy place of St. Luke's.** In their comments, the Vestry members needed to use the words: God, Jesus, and/or Holy Spirit at **least** once. The 2nd challenging question was: **What ministry would Vestry members like to see the**



**clergy leaders of our parish focus on in the up coming months?** Each Vestry

member made some interesting and exciting comments for future consideration.

Reflecting on Bishop Gayle's visit – much fun was had by all. Each of us came away with a new energy and a renewed spirit of hope that together, as a community of faith we can build upon and spiritually grow in the love and knowledge that the God of our faith, in Jesus Christ, is indeed with us and in us. **Alleluia – Alleluia!**



If you would like to be on St. Luke's e-mailing list and receive this and other publications submit your e-mail address to either Susan, Sheila, Ernie or Muriel.

St. Luke's  
Episcopal Church  
NEWSLETTER

If you have a story for the newsletter contact either Ernie or Muriel Baptista at 508-678-4091 or e-mail us at [www.ebmb2etc@wmconnect.com](mailto:www.ebmb2etc@wmconnect.com) or you can also contact either Sheila Charron or The Rev. Susan Lee

Join us for coffee hour following Sunday Service!

## St. Luke's observes Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day

Sunday, October 15th, 2006

*This is an excerpt from Jennifer Mathias' message to the congregation on Sunday, October 15th*

"I lost a child. I like many others are parents who had to do something, that no parent should do, I outlived my child. I buried my child. I visit her grave site regularly. I only have her birth/death date to celebrate and Yes I do celebrate my baby Abigail. I do thank God for her. She changed me in ways I didn't think would happen. I pray that I am a better person because of her. She lived such a short time but she touched so many lives."



## Chandavy Leads Hip-Hop Dance Group!

The Fall River Talbot Middle School is putting on a talent show and Chandavy Heng has been selected to be "in charge" of coordinating a Hip-Hop Dance Group. As Chandavy noted: "Before my friends and I can be in the show ~ we first have to practice for an audition. In order to be selected as contestants, we have to audition for it in front of the student council to see if we are good enough for the competition ahead of us."

Chandavy is featured along with some of her friends in the snapshot to the right practicing hard for their performance after Sunday morning worship at St. Luke's. The dancers besides Chandavy include: Sally and Sarinna Muth, Sotheavry and Sotheavorn Tor and Lisa Bodwell.



Come Celebrate Christmas  
with Us



## Sunday School Pageant & Parish Buffet



Sunday, December 17, 2006  
Worship Service at 9:30 a.m.

*You may bring a dish to share if you wish.*

*— Please bring it to the kitchen before the service. —*

### Collaborative Worship Services for 2007

January 21st

**St. Mark's Church**

9:30 Worship • Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

February 18th

**St. Luke's Church**

9:30 Worship • Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

March 18th

**St. John's/St. Stephen's Church**

9:00 Worship • Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

April 22nd

**Church of the Ascension**

10:00 Worship • Sunday School 10:15 a.m.