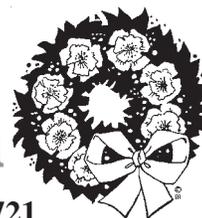




St. Luke's Episcopal Church



315 Warren Street • Fall River, Massachusetts 02721
Telephone (508) 678-5118

The Rev. Dr. Susan H. Lee, *Rector* • Sheila Charron, *Pastoral Associate*
Arthur Benjamin, *Co-Warden* • Janet Buckley-Smith, *Co-Warden*
Craig Oliveira, *Organist*
The Rev. James H. Hornsby, *Rector Emeritus*

Vol. 1, No. 2 December, 2005

N E W S L E T T E R

What's happening at St. Luke's Church

Baptisms: Sipho Pao, Vanna Chourb,
Jordan Nim and Frankie Yam

Confirmation: Mary Rin Buth

Wedding: Jessica Branco and Greg Colati

A Message from The Rev. Susan Lee

"Mary said, 'Here I am, the servant of the Lord. Let it be with me according to your word'" (Luke 1:38).



In youthful trust, Mary agreed to the extraordinary task God gave her, to become the mother of God's child of

destiny. She agreed voluntarily, out of goodness and love of God. God respected her human dignity and did not force her to obey. Because of her obedient service, the world changed forever.

God does not force us to obey either. God gives us choices. We can choose to worship God. Or we can just ignore God and try to get by on our own. When we choose to follow God, we choose the way of life and holiness. We become like a tree planted in fertile soil, growing straight and strong, offering shade and fruit in God's service.

Sunday, December 18th Christmas Pageant



The Light of the World

That's the name of the new exciting pageant we are going to perform for the Christmas holiday. Join us December 18th in celebrating Christ's birthday with this pageant. This will be different from the pageants we have performed in the past. The cast will be from the preschool and intermediate Sunday school classes. The narrators will be from the Bible study group. We still want the congregation involved by singing with us.

So please come and join us as our children are trying something entirely new this year.

Jen Mathias



Youth Leadership Academy retreat at St. Luke's

On September 30th of this year, the Youth Leadership academy, of which I am a part of, came to St. Luke's for an overnight retreat. It was our first time seeing each other since the week we spent at the Barbara C. Harris Camp session we had in early July. We were all excited to see each other and I was even more excited since it was my church sponsoring the weekend. Everyone who attended told me the church had a homey, traditional feel, as it does for me each Sunday. I believe that our church feels very welcoming every time you see it and step foot in it. The boys slept in the sanctuary and the girls slept downstairs in the Sunday School room. It was an odd feeling to actually sleep in my church, but nonetheless it was a fun time. When the next day rolled around, we had a nice breakfast and talked about our summer mission to El Salvador and how to become better at active listening, which is giving your complete attention to the person talking to you and giving helpful suggestions and advice. After lunch, we had a short service outside on the front lawn, and then everybody said their goodbyes and went on their way. But it was still a great time, and it will be a day I won't soon forget.



I have just returned from another overnight at All Saints Church in Belmont. We will have two more overnights and one full weekend retreat at the Barbara C. Harris Camp left before our mission trip.

Sam Holt

Diocesan Convention

On November 4th and 5th, I attended the Diocesan Convention. I went to the Convention as a member of the Diocesan Youth Council. Because I turned 16 on the Thursday before the Convention, I was able to vote as a delegate for St. Luke's. There were interesting speakers and a heart-warming presentation about a 9 year old who raised \$2,000 for the Jubilee Ministry in Africa. There was also a presentation by a

minister who had his church destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. On Saturday we passed an amendment for dealing with Anti-Semitism and an amendment for a resolution to the Windsor Report. This was a great experience for me and I hope to go back next year.

Sam Holt

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Tree Planting at Pulaski Park Sat., May 14th

In May we planted trees at Pulaski Park. In addition to folks from St. Luke's we were joined by parishioners from St. Pete's, members of Green Futures, of the Garden Club, of the Fall River Street Tree Planting Program. Two planters even came all the way from western Massachusetts, where they were volunteering for the Heifer Program. Among our volunteers were Jennifer Heald, Skylar, Beth, Debbie Baker, Bob Mercier, Ernie, Michael Gosselin, Sam Phin and others. Rev. Hornsby organized

the event writing a grant to the RELeaf Ministry of the United Congregational Church. The ministry, which is administered by the Commonwealth Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, gave us about \$4,000 to buy trees. We put in 20 trees starting at 8:30 a.m. and finishing at 11 a.m. The City of Fall River dug holes with a backhoe and supplied stakes and materials. At noontime the group had a ceremony to pray for the environment and bless the trees. Rev. Jim and Fr. Steve Salvador led the procession, and everyone had the chance to splash holy water over the saplings. During the hot summer watering was a real chore, and very much needed. Ten gallons of water weekly except when it rained (not often enough) allowed most of the trees to survive. We had some casualties, we think,

mainly because we mistakenly chose some which die in drought conditions. Now the youth group will continue to take out the stakes, store them in the basement and get ready for the next planting. And, oh yes, water some more next summer.

The Reverend James H. Hornsby



Sunday, September 11th, 2005



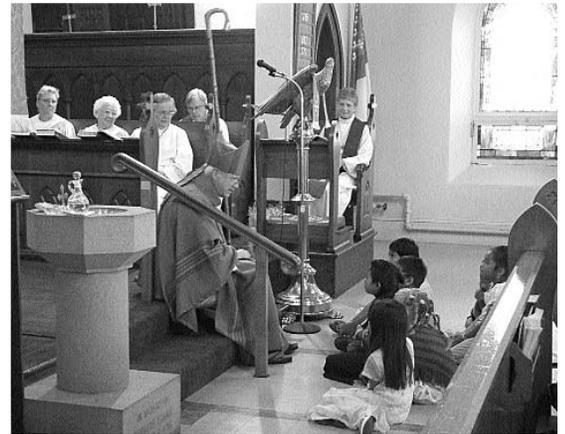
Bishop's Annual Parish Visitation

On September 11th Bishop Bud Cederholm visited St. Luke's. During our worship service, four individuals were baptized and one candidate received the Sacrament of Confirmation. The newly baptized included 2 Cambodian women, Siphon Pao and Vanna Chourb and 2 Cambodian youth, Jordan Nim and Frankie Yam. The candidate for confirmation was Mary Rin Buth, a Cambodian woman who has been worshipping with us for many years.

The bishop's message to the children was simple yet very informative. The children had the opportunity to gather around the bishop during his talk with them. Bishop Bud sat on the steps leading to the chancel area of the sanctuary and played his guitar. He educated the children, as well as the congregation, about the symbolic meanings of the bishop's miter and crosier. Before we closed, Bishop

Bud offered a blessing for the recent renovations we have done in our sanctuary and for the new senior choir robes purchased this past spring.

After the service, the bishop met with the youth of our community. This visit generated new ideas and possibilities for the leadership among our congregation's youth. St. Luke's, as usual, put on a wonderful buffet lunch with all the fixings – American food, as well as Cambodian cuisine. The bishop commented on how much he loves to come to St. Luke's because he knows that the various ethnic foods we serve are outstanding. As customary during bishop visitations, Bishop Bud met with the Vestry after lunch. During their time together, the Vestry had opportunity to share the joys, thanksgivings, and concerns our parish experience as we continue to share in the various ministries we offer – both within the parish itself, as well as the community outreach ministry that is indeed a big part of St. Luke's mission. Bishop Bud offered resourceful ways in which we as a community of



faith might want to explore for building community and increasing parish growth.

The bishop's visitation came to a close around 3:00 p.m. It was a celebration that included not only good food and conversation, but it was also a joyous occasion to "officially" welcome five new brothers and sisters in Christ into our parish family.

Sheila Charron



**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.mbetceb2@wmconnect.com or you can also contact either Sheila Charron or The Rev. Susan Lee

Join us for coffee hour following Sunday Service!