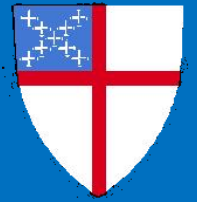




St. Luke's Episcopal Church NEW VISIONS



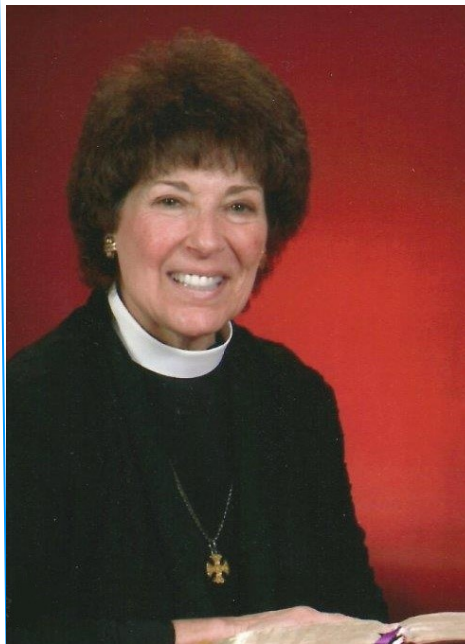
December 2017

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St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Massachusetts Avenue
At Grant Street
Haworth, NJ 07641

Reflections from the Rectory

By The Rev. Dr. Joy A. Rose, TSSF



Did You Know.... The History of Frankincense and Myrrh?

The Magi, the three wise men, famously offered the baby Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. We can still understand why they brought gold, but what Mary and Joseph were meant to do with the frankincense and myrrh – resins derived from the *Boswellia* and *Commiphora* trees – has become less obvious.

The usual explanation for the Magi's gifts is that they symbolized the trajectory of Jesus' life: gold to announce his divine origins and kingship, frankincense (which was burned in religious ceremonies) to declare

his future role as a priest, and myrrh (which was used in burials) to represent his suffering and death.

But to the ancients, the significance of frankincense and myrrh went far beyond their spiritual symbolism. Both commodities had played a central role in daily life since the dawn of civilization. The resins were introduced to Egypt in the third millennium, B. C. from the land of Punt (thought to have been somewhere between Ethiopia and Eritrea).

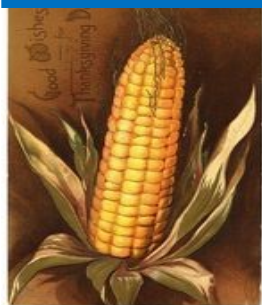
The Egyptians had multiple uses for them, from treating wounds with myrrh to adding frankincense to the ingredients in kohl eyeliner. The more popular those items became, the more the Egyptians chafed over the Punt's domination of the market.

In 1493 B.C., Egypt's first female pharaoh, Queen Hatshepsut, sent to Punt what was then the largest trading expedition in her country's history. She was successful and the Puntites agreed to allow the transportation of live myrrh trees from the Valley of the Kings near Luxor to Egypt.

Five hundred years later, the queen of Sheba and King Solomon had their famous encounter. But it wasn't just love that brought them together. It was commerce. The queen of Sheba arrived in Jerusalem with a train of

Continued on Page 5

Northern Valley Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving



*Francois, Madeleine
and Gaspard Caloz*

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The 2017 Interfaith Service was a glorious affair with prayers, song. Harp music, charitable offerings and fellowship. Thanks to all who joined us from the other houses of worship at this beloved community event!

The Church of St. Mary/Closter
Temple Beth-El of
Northern Valley/Closter
Demarest United Methodist
Church/Demarest
Our Redeemer Lutheran
Church/Dumont
St. Mary's Church/Dumont
First Congregational United Church
of Christ/Haworth
Sacred Heart Church/Haworth

New Visions, the newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, is published 10 times per year. Submissions for the upcoming month's issue should be *mailed* to *New Visions*, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Massachusetts Ave. & Grant St., Haworth, NJ 07641; or *e-mailed* to claudiasmith@msn.com **by 20th of month** Firm deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month. **New Visions Board:** Editor: Janet Beddoe, Production: Claudia Smith. **Photography:** Janet Beddoe, Claudia Smith, Dreamtimes.com. **Advertising:** Jo Stephenson.



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Shared Ministry

**Shared Ministry: "Try It!
You'll like it!"**

*From the Canon's Blog,
Out of the Ordinary
Posted by Greg Jacobs
(Oct. 31. 2017)*

We have wonderful thriving ministries in our congregations! Every week, I receive church newsletters (both paper and electronic) that testify to vibrant outreach ministries, festive social events, unique educational and spiritual activities, and lay ministry formation events. Recently, we created a [Community Calendar](#) that enables congregations to announce these events to a much wider audience. Moreover, we hope that this service might encourage collaboration among our churches, and perhaps lead to sharing of resources, information and ministries.

It is no secret that many of our congregations are facing significant financial and people resource challenges that impact our ability to do the mission and ministry to which God has called us. Apart from the reality of dwindling pledges and endowments, is the fact that we have fewer people to carry on vital ministries. Christian formation (Sunday School and adult education), youth ministry, confirmation preparation, and lay ministries training readily come to mind. But think also about financial, administrative, and maintenance needs that are a perennial struggle, particularly for our small congregations.

Perhaps now is the time to have that conversation with neighboring congregations, exploring possibilities for doing ministry together. Could it be that

in the midst of the challenges that we are all presently facing that God is providing us with an opportunity to become collectively something more than we are now? That through sharing of ministries, talents and resources, we might be enabled to do that ministry to which God is calling each of us, and perhaps to even be empowered to realize that unique ministry that may be just beyond the reach of our present capabilities?

There are already many congregations who share worship, administrative and financial personnel, and take part in joint training and education of lay ministers. [Book clubs and anti-racism dialogues](#), for instance, have proven to be vehicles for congregations to explore other ministry possibilities. Why not start by going to the [websites](#) of nearby congregations. What are they up to? What possibilities of shared ministry might we consider together?

So let's start to envision/imagine new forms of cooperative and mutually supportive ministry, and not be confined to considering only what's good for our own little corner of the world. Even if your congregation is blessed with an abundance of resources and ministries, consider how you might reach out to other churches that might benefit from shared ministry or other forms of collaboration.

Our continuing invitation is for each of us to embark on a journey of faith with one another and be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit – discerning together the opportunities for partnership in mission and ministry where God has uniquely planted and nurtured us. We as diocesan staff would like to be partners in this holy venture – offering support and guidance where, when, and how we can. For truly, we are all in this together.



Andrew Spector, DMD, FAGD, FICOI
Michael Migdal, DMD, FAGD, FICOI

Associates

Jennifer Hade, DMD, Family Dentistry
Aleksander Iofin, DMD, Endodontist
Adam Brisman, DMD, Oral Surgeon



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Thanksgiving via *The Jade Sphinx* (A Blog by James Abbott)

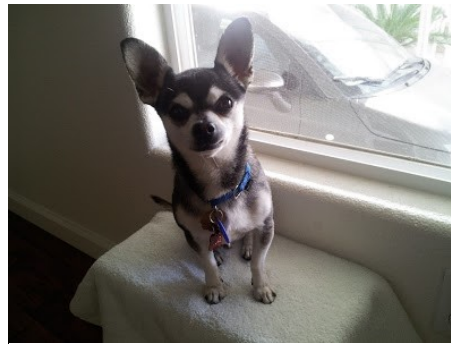
James Abbott is the pen name of my friend, Bob Madison, one of the best writers I know. His musings have been published in New Visions in the past and I'm thrilled to share his wonderful thoughts about Thanksgiving in this issue. Of course, as we enter Advent in preparation for the arrival of the Christ Child at Christmas, the advice he shares his final paragraph is still relevant. — Ed. (cs)

Thanksgiving has always been our favorite holiday. It is solely predicated on the notion of giving thanks for the manifest blessings that we find around us, and for being mindful of the still, quiet miracle of our lives. Every day, wonders settle on my shoulders like so many snowflakes, and I feel deeply in touch with some greater mystery that lies beyond me.

Though uniquely American, Thanksgiving has always been our holiday least associated with ideology or creed. The celebratory meal represents the bounty that is our lives; it is, simply, the holiday that is best shared with people we love.

I am delighted to report that as I coast through my 55th year, I am still as in love with my Better Half as I was when we first met, 27 years ago. In no time at all, we will have been together for half (and then more than half) of my life, and I wonder how we spent those early years apart.

I'm thankful for all the dear friends and family who have trekked out to Southern California to spend time with us, and to see us build a new life in a new climate.



Lucas

I'm thankful that Southern California is the paradise that I suspected it to be, and for exceeding all of my expectations.

And last, but certainly not least, I'm thankful for the new addition to our lives, our dog Lucas. He is a four-and-a-half year old rescue that we adopted from nearby Seal Beach. I have long wanted a dog, and Lucas has been everything I could've wanted, and more. We spend an obscene amount of time just *gazing* at him; he makes us laugh simply by doing things as elementary as walking across the room or drinking from his water dish. He is a gift that has enriched us beyond measure.

It is important to point out that for the past few years, Americans have spent so much time over the Thanksgiving table arguing – over politics, over values, over questions of identity – that we have forgotten what this holiday is really about.

It seems as if we are *always* on the brink of disaster and things are *always* trending to ruin. I'll be jiggered if I'm going to haul that hoo-haw out again this year, because I think pointing out the negatives in our lives doesn't do us a whole lot of

good. So, yeah, things are terrible, it seems no one is happy with our current condition, and the world as we know it is changing so fast, no one knows what to hold onto. It was much the same last year and will be much the same next year. Been there, wrote that.

But I have faith in America and Americans. Good heavens, we created this holiday, the first nation ever to create a secular day of thanks. Patriotism was never popular among most of my friends; any positive sentiments towards the country are mostly met with ironic dismissal or sneering condescension. But I think we are a great people, or, at least, we try to be. I don't know the future of our land any more than you, but I do know that Americans are capable of great things, great kindness, and unity. That last quality – unity – has been in fairly short supply in recent years, but I think it will make a remarkable resurgence in the months and years to come. We can but hope, and I wouldn't have it any other way.

This Thanksgiving, make it a point to greet your family, friends and neighbors as people, and not as units of some political philosophy. Love and nurture each other, and remember to be kind and ethical. And, finally, remember to be thankful. Thankful for the many blessings in your life, the bounty of the world around you, and for the quiet, ineffable mystery of your own existence.

Bob's online column, *The Jade Sphinx*, (<http://thejadesphinx.blogspot.com/>) champions the Fine Arts, featuring stories on such concepts as recognizable quality, artistic heritage and tradition, and techniques of the Great Masters.

Thoughts on the Mystery Sign

By Roberta Nobleman

I'm trying to articulate why I find **John 3-16** so offensive outside St. Luke's.

We are a *full* gospel church, that is it is not just John's gospel that we follow, though I love it, and the Jesus it portrays and all the stories not found in the other three gospels. However we need the other three gospels to round out the picture not just of Jesus but of God.

I need Luke and the parables about Lost Children and Good Samaritans and Shepherds, and the Walk to Emmaus. I need Matthew and the Beatitudes and the Sheep and the Goats. I need Mark and "straightway" He did this or that! To reduce the message of Jesus to **John 3-16** takes away from the fullness, the mystery, the beauty of Christ, seen in all four gospels.

I also believe the saying "do not remove the speck in your brother's eye, while failing to see your own blindness and sin." Whoever put **John 3-16** in front of St. Luke's assumes we *need* it: we're lacking in missionary zeal and he/she knows better than we do the state of our souls.

I have no problem with people putting **John 3-16** in front of *their* house as an expression of *their* faith but to assume that is the proclamation for a church you don't know, that feels like...well...presumption. I cannot bring myself to take down the sign – and what would I do with it? – but I wish whoever put it there would take it away.

Maybe being married to a Jew all those years and never feeling any need to "convert" him to Christianity, makes me sensitive to this issue. The whole encounter, at night, of Nicodemus and Christ, now that's worth pondering, but not a little boxed-in **John 3-16**!



In case you did not notice it, Roberta is referring to the small sign that has been placed near St. Luke's signage on Massachusetts Ave.

Roberta has been studying the book of John in her EFM (Education for Ministry) class. - Eds



For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

— John 3:16

Reflections from the Rectory, Cont'd. from Page 1

camels bearing gold, frankincense and myrrh. Her goal was to conclude a commercial treaty with Solomon which would share her land's products and trade routes in return for military protection and the markets King Solomon controlled.

By the time the Magi came to Bethlehem, almost a thousand years later, the Roman Empire was importing some 3,000 tons of frankincense yearly. It seems the Queen of Sheba was very successful in her venture.

Today, frankincense and myrrh are most frequently used as additives to massage oil and mouthwash. Only at Christmas do they briefly return to center stage, reminding us that these fragrant resins were once among the greatest prizes of the civilized world.

— Mother Joy+



Sign Up for Coffee Hour!

We all love our coffee. Or tea. Or whatever beverage. The fellowship is great. So sign up in the Parish Hall to host! Don't want to do it alone? Ask another parishioner to be a partner and help!



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December Outreach: In the Bleak Midwinter: YCS



Many people have trees like this one. But....

The Giving Christmas Tree

Once again this Christmas St. Luke's will be Secret Santas to young people involved in one of the programs of Youth Consultation Services, (YCS) Hackensack. If you wonder who YCS is and what they do, read the following description from their website and you'll understand how welcome our gifts will be this Christmas:

Each day YCS provides services to thousands of New Jersey families who have children, birth – adulthood, with special needs. Some of the children at our group homes are separated from their loved ones and have been affected by trauma, others are affected by intellectual and developmental disabilities that adversely affect their behavior.

Many families receive the intensive in-home and community support that enables their families to stay together. Whatever the need, the caring YCS staff is prepared to offer individualized educational, mental health and/or behavioral health programming.

We have received requests from 12 young people living in a group home in Paterson – 10 girls and two boys between the ages of 14 and 16. Each of them has listed three choices, only **ONE** of which is to be given. Several of them have requested jackets or hoodies as their first or second choice. Others have asked for makeup or perfume sets.

If any of their requests are too hard to find or seem too expensive, consider joining with another St. Luke's Mr. Mrs. or Jr. Santa to search for and make the purchase. And remember, a gift card is often the most welcome gift of all for one of the teens.

The gift requests will be hanging from the Giving Tree in the parish hall so check out that tree after Thanksgiving. YCS is targeting the week of December 12 (with a lot of leeway) for the receipt of gifts, each to be placed in an **open** gift bag with the individual's name clearly printed on it..

Please note that thanks to the generosity of St. Luke's Parishioners, **ALL** of the requests have been taken to be fulfilled. If you were unable to get one and want to help, you may always donate. Visit the website and click here:

<http://www.ycs.org/index.php/ways-to-give/>



Youth Consultation Services Secret Santa Program

December Weekend Snack Packs

The last collection of the year will be December 17th, the **third** rather than the **fourth** Sunday of the month (which would be Christmas Eve).

— Janet Beddoe

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First Snowfall of 2017 at St. Luke's

"Look, the virgin shall conceive
 and bear a son, and they shall
 name him Emmanuel," which
 means, "God is with us."
 — Matthew 1:23



4th Sunday of Advent (12/24) — Holy Eucharist 10:30 A.M.
Christmas Eve (12/24) — Festival Choral Eucharist 9:30 P.M.
The Rev. Fletcher Harper, Guest Celebrant & Preacher

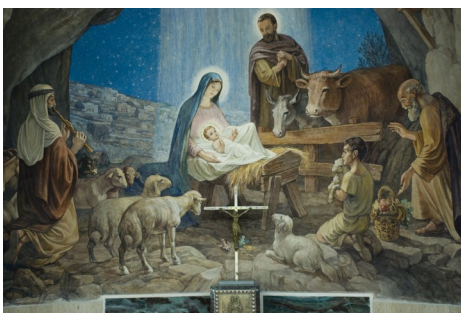
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Look for our ad in the Twin-Boro News and the Suburbanite (No. Valley Edition)

Greening of the Church After 10:30 A.M. Service on December 24

EPIPHANY PAGEANT and PARTY!

This year, the children of the parish (and relatives and friends) will present the annual Sunday School Pageant on January 7, the first Sunday after the Feast of the Epiphany, during the service at 10:30 A.M. If you have children — or know children — who might like to participate or if you might like to help with costumes, please see Tammy Lynch.



Mark your calendars now for the annual Parish Wine & Cheese Party at the Rectory. This year, we will hold it on Sun., Jan. 7 at 4 P.M.


Details to follow.

St. Luke's Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 28 with a potluck luncheon.

Committee chairs are asked to get their reports to Sue Gonci by Jan. 15.

Book Club
Wine &
Cheese Party
Jan. 31 @ Rectory
7:30 PM



An ordinary snapshot causes a mother's world to unravel in #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Harlan Coben's shocking thriller.

When Grace Lawson picks up a newly developed set of family photographs, there is a picture that doesn't belong—a photo from at least twenty years ago with a man in it who looks strikingly like her husband, Jack. And though Jack denies it's him, he disappears that night, taking the photo with him. Now, to save her family from a fierce, silent killer who will stop at nothing to get the photo, Grace must confront the dark corners of her own tragic past...

JARS FOR CHANGE COLLECTION



You who have been stocking up change in your **Jars for Change for St. Luke's** with the jars personalized by Heidi Plinio can bring them to church on **Sunday, March 4**. Proceeds go to St. Luke's Operating Expenses. Little bits of change when added up can make **BIG** changes for our parish!



Jo Stephenson and her art students visited the New York Botanical Garden to see the exhibition of works by artist Dale Chihuly.

Save the Dates

Choir Rehearsal

Sunday Warm-ups at 9:30 A.M.

Sunday School

Next: December 3, 10, 17

Sunday School will be on Sunday mornings right after our 10:30 service at church. The class is for pre-school through sixth grade.

Snack Pack Assembly

Next: Dec. 17



Bible Study

Next: Dec. 5, 19 @ 7:30 P.M.

In adult Bible Study we will be studying the Psalms, All are welcome.

Vestry Meeting

Next: Dec. 12 @ 7:30 P.M.

Book Club

NO Dec. Meeting; Next Jan. 31
See Page 7

Parish Fun Night

3rd Sundays **6 P.M.** Next: Dec. 17

Tri-Valley Restaurant Parish Fundraiser

Have breakfast, lunch or dinner at **Tri-Valley Restaurant** on Monday and Wednesday and St. Luke's will receive 10% of your bill. Tri-Valley is located on the corner of Knickerbocker Rd. and DeLong Ave. in Dumont.

Be sure to tell the cashier that you are a member of St. Luke's so we get credit for your visit!

Monthly Food Ingathering for Center for Food Action Sunday, Dec. 10

Support our monthly food drives for Center for Food Action in Englewood.

The grocery cart is filled and blessed for the CFA food pantry on the second Sunday of every month.

Help our less fortunate neighbors. To learn more about CFA, click here:

<http://cfanj.org/who-we-are/>

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For all that has been.
For all that is.
For all that is yet to be.

We give you thanks, O Lord!

— Dag Hammarskjöld

Parish Prayer List

Please keep in
your thoughts and
prayers these
members of our parish and
extended family:



Rachel Lynch, Roxanne Gabriel,
Maryellen Pais, Sue Pastore, Quinn
Rosa, Marie Romano, Linda
Stephenson, Patricia Stephenson,
Doug Lynch, The Nobleman Family,
Bill & Grace Repp, Stephanie Cash,
Angela Stabler, Deborah Holden-
Holloway, Patti Kennelly, Stephanie
Bailey, Rich Gonci Jr., Cathy
O'Donnell, Michael Snyder, The
Family of Jean Tandyak, Kenny
Calderon, The Family of Michael
Kelley, Diane Kansas

To add names to our prayer list,
please call: Sue Gonci., 201-220-3090
OR Email the Church office at
Office@StLukesHaworth.org

Our Prayer List will now be reviewed
on a monthly basis to keep it current
and manageable for those who pray
regularly. Please contact the office if
you wish to keep people on the list for
prayers. You may also write names in
the book on the Chapel Altar. Loved
ones may also be remembered in
prayer during the service of Healing,
held on the 3rd Sunday right after our
10:30 Holy Eucharist.

For unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given: and the
government shall be upon his
shoulder: and his name shall be
called Wonderful,
Counsellor, The mighty God,
The everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace.
— Isaiah 9:6

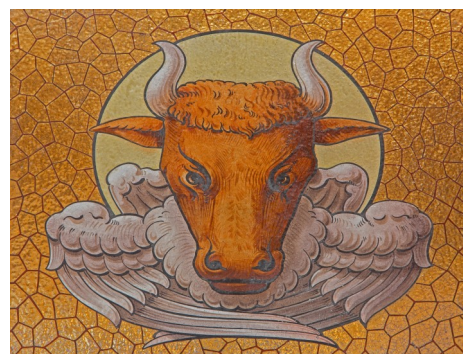
December Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Jackson Coleman
- 3 Linda & Frank Brescia
- 14 Cathy O'Donnell
- 17 Greta Pallatta
- 20 Priscilla Goldman
- 23 Shannan Coleman



If you don't see your special day in
our monthly listings, please e-mail
the editors and we'll gladly add it!

O God of heavenly powers,
by the might of your command
you drive away from our
bodies all sickness and all
infirmity: Be present in your
goodness with your servants,
that their weakness may be
banished and their strength
restored; and that, their health
being renewed, they may
bless your holy Name;
through Jesus Christ
our Lord. *Amen.*



St. Luke's symbol is the ox. This may
explain that he is his also patron of
butchers. In art, Luke is represented
by a winged ox. The ox represents
the sacrificial aspect of Jesus' minis-
try and the wings remind us that the
Gospel of Jesus Christ is to travel
throughout the world.

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Fellowship & Coffee &
Sunday School Follow
Child Care Available

Healing Service Right After
10:30 Eucharist on 3rd Sundays



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with your need.



**Check It
Out!**

Everybody's Favorite
Interfaith
Thanksgiving Service
Was a Wonderful
Event for All!

See inside,
P. 2