



*Welcoming all to worship
the Risen Christ and live as*

January 2023

THE PARISH LIFE

The Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

309 East Baltimore Street Jackson, Tennessee 38301 731-424-0556 www.estlukes.org

WE WANT TO KNOW YOUR STORY!

As you know, we recently agreed to move forward with HolyCow! Consulting to help us plan our future. You have been selected to participate in the first step which is to conduct a congregational assessment. This assessment will provide a clear picture of who we are as a church and what directions are most important for our future. The tool we'll use is the Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT), which will provide key indicators of our congregational health along with areas of challenge and potential growth. It will help us to collect and understand the range of views that exist at insert your church name and the possibilities, willingness, capacity and energy for moving our ministry into the future.

If you have provided us with a current email address, on January 9 you will receive a unique web link to complete the assessment online. If you are not able to complete the survey online, please stop by the office for steps on how to proceed.

NOTE: If there is only one email address for all members of your household, it may be tempting to have one person take the survey on behalf of the family. However, please be sure your spouse and all young adults (high school and older) living in your home have an opportunity to complete the survey. INDIVIDUAL INPUT is key to our gaining insight into overall perceptions and experiences.

Please set aside enough time to answer all the questions. This will take about 30 minutes. All survey responses are strictly anonymous.

Thank you for your willingness to be a part of this congregational assessment and for helping to build your church name future.

If you have questions, please contact the church office at (731) 424-0556 or Father Tim at tim@estlukes.org.



Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday,
January 15th at 9:15 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

309 East Baltimore St. • Jackson, TN 38301
(731) 424-0556 • (731) 423-3688, fax

www.estlukes.org
stlukes@estlukes.org

Parish Offices Open
Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

The Rev. Tim True
Priest-in-Charge
tim@estlukes.org

Cody Blue Miller
Parish Administrator
Organist & Choirmaster
cody@estlukes.org

Vestry

Jerry Smith, *Senior Warden*
Johnathan Kendrick, *Junior Warden*
Roger Stanfield, *Treasurer*
Jacqueline Purcell, *Clerk*

Class of 2022

Johnathan Kendrick, Erin Sharp,
Jerry Smith, Gary Wake, Chris Wheeler

Class of 2023

Vickie Clement, Jason Cole,
Michele Jackson

Class of 2024

Susan Francisco, Andrea Hazlehurst,
Lindsay Wilhite

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Feast of Lights

Young Families Ministries would like everyone to join us at 6:00 pm on Friday, January 6 for the Festival of Lights. We invite all children and children at heart to join us in participating in this special event. Participants will need to be at church at 5:15 to get dressed.

The Lectionary - Year A

January 1st - The Holy Name:

Numbers 6:22-27, Psalm 8

Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:15-21

January 8th - 1st Sunday after the Epiphany:

Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29

Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17

January 15th - 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany:

Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-12

1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42

January 22nd - 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1, 5-13

1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23

January 29th - 4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Micah 6:18, Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12

2023 Vestry Nominees

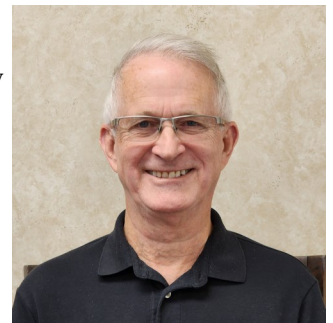


John Neblett

I was born and raised in Arkansas and have lived in Tennessee since I graduated high school. I received my M.D. degree from Vanderbilt in 1977 and completed a residency in neurosurgery there in 1983. I practiced general neurosurgery for 38 years, the last 31 in Jackson, and I have been retired from practice since June 2021. I have one son, John Phillips Neblett, who is married and lives in North Carolina. My wife, Victoria "Vikki", and I have attended Saint Luke's since around 2012. I have served on the vestry in the past and would like to serve again as our church enters a new phase of growth.

Roger Stanfield

Rebecca and I have been married to each other thirty-four years, and we have three adult children, two grandchildren, and one elderly rescue cat (Hattie Cat, age 13). I have practiced public service law beginning in 1979 as a legal aid lawyer and since 2000 as a disability lawyer/advocate. I have been at St. Luke's since 2015. Like many parishioners, I felt welcomed and at home from my first Sunday here. I am a regular choir member (base) since 2015. I served previously on the vestry from 2018-2020. I am a 10:30 service reader, and I schedule the 10:30 service readers. I have served as church treasurer since January 2022. I want to serve again on the vestry because this is an exciting time of renewal and growth as a faith community. Much work lies ahead, and the task(s) by necessity largely originate with the vestry. I believe I can make a positive contribution to that effort. And, at this point, I have served in enough areas (music, worship, finance) to understand the task(s) ahead in all facets and levels of complexity. I appreciate the opportunity to serve again.



Amy Turner

Hello, I am Amy Turner. I am married to Preston, and we have two children, Greysen (12) and Gentry (7). We live in Lexington where I have taught middle school English for 14 years. We started attending Saint Luke's in 2009 and I was confirmed in 2011. Since then I have been an active member in the church serving in several different areas. I currently serve as a reader during the 10:30 service, a member of the Adult Christian Ed committee, Young Families Ministry, and co-president of the ECW. Saint Luke's is truly apart of our family. A part of our heart is here everyday so its future is such a priority for me. My goal as a member of the vestry is to help our church flourish and be a good steward of God's work.



Settling In

The Rev. Timothy True

St. Luke's strikes me as a church eager to reboot after having its wind knocked out from the COVID pandemic and other hardships experienced over the last five-plus years. People are happy to be together again—on Sundays, serving in committees, or just to gather for fellowship. It is a special place to many people. My hope is to ride this wave of new life into 2023 and beyond.

Pastoring

My Sundays with St. Luke's have been joyful. As a congregation, we are experiencing the common cup of Communion once more, a visible reminder of our call to be the body of Christ. I am grateful for the hospitality provided by those who set out coffee and refreshments each week and for the fellowship this provides. For most of the congregation, I suspect that Sunday is the only opportunity each week to gather with those of a common faith.

I began facilitating an adult forum in December. All are welcome. We've met twice so far, gathering in the library on Sundays between the two worship services to listen, reflect upon, and discuss the morning's Gospel. And, wouldn't you know, there's a lot of wisdom around that table! As a time of teaching/education, it differs from worship and fellowship; as directed conversation—in contrast to receiving a lecture—we listen to and learn from each other, sharpening each other as iron sharpens iron. I see this methodology as our default mode, though I envision other, special forums (fora?) from time to time—a special guest, an officer's report, etc. Adult Forum is taking a break around Christmas, the New Year, and the Annual Meeting, to resume on January 22.

On the sacramental horizon are baptisms, to take place on January 8, the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord. Three children will be baptized, and a guest, the Very Reverend Becca Kello of the Diocese of Kentucky, will join us.

A special event, the St Nick Dinner, took place on Tuesday, December 6. It was a joy to see so many young families gathered around dinner, conversation, and a favorite saint. Special thanks to Ron Canter for doubling as the saint and Greysen Turner for reading Saint Nick's story. We look forward to special services on Christmas Eve (I am writing this on 12/20) and another special event, especially for the younger set, on the Epiphany, January 6, our Feast of Lights Pageant.

The parish Annual Meeting will take place between worship services on Sunday, January 15. At the Annual Meeting the congregation will elect three new vestry members and a delegation to the 2023 diocesan convention. Following the Annual Meeting, the vestry will elect new/returning officers and wardens. An annual vestry retreat is planned for Saturday, February 18 from 9am to 3pm in the church library.

Coaching

The other side of the interim Priest-in-Charge coin is leading St. Luke's through a time of transition, or more concisely, coaching. This side of the coin is currently focused on the Congregational Assessment Tool, aka CAT, a survey slated to roll out to the congregation on January 9 with the window closing on January 31. Following the taking of the survey, Holy Cow Consulting will provide congregational leaders with a report and a three-hour interpretation with a consultant via Zoom. I have scheduled this expert interpretation to coincide with the annual vestry retreat. The Transition Committee will join the vestry for the interpretation.

The Transition Committee is up and running. The members are Jennifer Trently, Dave Seltzer, Berta Garrity, and Will Shull, with me serving as Chair. This team will administer and interpret the CAT, facilitate townhall discussions during Lent, develop and publish important documents (including a Parish Profile), and, when the day comes, offer a hospitable welcome to the new rector. The team is eager to set out on this work—good mojo here.

Settling

Additionally, many of you have asked how my family and I are doing with our personal time of transition. I am appreciative of your sensitivity and flexibility here. The gist is it's not without challenges. On the one hand, I am loving the opportunity to get to know many, many more people in the body of Christ—the St. Luke's congregation, of course, but also my wonderful diocesan colleagues. But, on the other hand, we humans are designed to handle only so much change at once; and right now, with recent moves, job changes, a school change for my son, and so on, I feel like my change meter is pegged (as is Holly's and Emmett's).

Healthy boundaries help, as we all know; as does adequate sleep and exercise and eating well. I'm still establishing a routine that keeps all these factors in mind—not there yet but making progress. Typically, Saturday evening through Wednesday I spend in Jackson. The apartment is quite comfortable and less than a mile from church, allowing me the joy of walking much of the time. A typical Thursday is to drop off my son at school, attend sung Morning Prayer at Sewanee's Chapel of the Apostles (the seminary chapel), and return home to write a sermon. Thursday evenings have been consumed lately with middle school basketball games. Very entertaining. And a typical Friday is to drop off my son at school and hike with my dog Ulysses, leaving the afternoon free for chores (Saturday too). Friday evenings often include a dinner date with Holly. So, these quieter, more thoughtful days are keeping me centered. Your prayers as we continue to establish our new routine are appreciated.

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - Rite I 10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer - Rite II	2 <div>Parish Office Closed</div>	3	4	5	6 The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus 6:00 p.m. Feast of Lights Pageant	7
<div>Father Tim on Monday, December 26th -</div>	<div>Vacation Monday, January 2nd</div>	<div></div>	<div>Cody Out of Office Friday, December 30th - Thursday, January 5th</div>	<div></div>		
8 The 1st Sunday after the Epiphany 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II with Holy Baptism	9 9:00 a.m. CAT Survey rolls out via Email <div></div>	10 <div></div>	11 <div></div>	12 <div></div>	13	14
		<div>Cody Out of Office Monday, January 9th - Thursday, January 12th</div>				
15 The 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Rite I 9:15 a.m. Annual Parish Meeting 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Rite II 12:00 p.m. Vestry	16 Martin Luther King Day <div>Parish Office Closed</div>	17	18	19	20	21
22 The 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Rite I 9:00 a.m. Choir Practice 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum Resumes 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Rite II	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 The 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Rite I 9:00 a.m. Choir Practice 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Rite II	30	31 12:00 p.m. CAT Survey Window Closes		Looking Ahead... <u>Saturday, February 18th -</u> CAT Survey Interpretation 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Vestry Retreat 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	<u>Tuesday, February 21st -</u> Shrove Tuesday Gathering (details forthcoming)	<u>Tuesdays in Lent</u> <u>(February 28th,</u> <u>March 7th, 14th, 21st,</u> <u>28th)</u> Transition Townhalls (details forthcoming)

Meet Your Transition Committee



Father Tim

In November, the vestry created the Transition Committee, of which I am the chair, to guide St. Luke's through the transition from rector to rector. This team's work is comprised of three parts: 1) to administer, interpret, and assess who St. Luke's is as a congregation, 2) to write and publish important documents relevant to the future rector search, and 3) to welcome in the new rector. Please note, this is not the team that will be conducting interviews and presenting finalist(s) to the vestry; that will be the Search Committee, to be formed in perhaps a year or so. Anyway, following are photos and brief bios of each of the committee members.



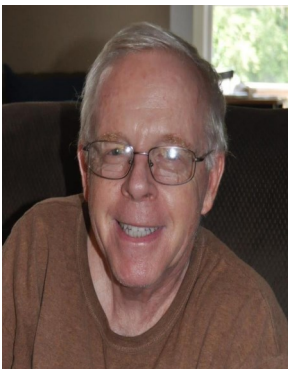
Berta Garrity

I'm Berta Garrity, a St. Luke's member for about 7 years. I'm a retired middle school teacher who keeps fairly busy with my family and a couple of volunteer organizations, as well as several creative interests. I've been an active participant with the choir and the ECW since I first came to St. Luke's, and I've served on the vestry. I joined the Transition Committee because St. Luke's is my people, my tribe, my home. I very much want to help further this renewal process: re-establishing a vibrancy and sense of purpose that will deepen our relationship to God and each other and make us a church that is inspiring and attractive to folks who are seeking a people, a tribe, a home.



Will Shull

Will Shull has been a member at St. Luke's since 2016. He lives in Henderson with his wife Allison and daughter Jubilee. He works in Advising at Jackson State Community College. He joined the committee to help the church community envision its future and navigate this transition into new beginnings. He hopes his skillset from his experience in higher education will help with collaboration, communication, and strategic planning.



Dave Seltzer

My name is Dave Seltzer. I am an honorably retired UPCUS—Presbyterian—minister who grew up in the Episcopal church. I spearheaded a survey to determine what type of skill sets a couple congregations in the Adamsville, Jacks Creek area needed to stabilize and grow. I asked to be on this team because I have been both in the pulpit and in the pew. I think the team needs to have someone on it who can articulate clergy concerns as the team helps the congregation determine its unique mission here in the city of Jackson, Tennessee and what type of skill sets this mission will require for any priest who is chosen to lead this congregation in fulfilling this mission.



Jennifer Trently

Jennifer Trently is a spiritual director and contemplative artist. She and her husband Allan have been members of St. Luke's since 2015 and live in Madison County with their two cats. Returning to St. Luke's following the pandemic lockdown with renewed energy and commitment, Jennifer's service on the transition team is fueled by her desire to share her gifts of listening and discernment with the congregation while investing in St. Luke's future.



ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 WELCOMING ALL TO WORSHIP THE RISEN CHRIST AND LIVE AS HIS DISCIPLES

Feast of St. Nicholas
 December 6th



Bishop Phoebe's
 Annual Visit & Reception
 December 18th

