A Publication of St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills Anglican Church

The Hillside Messenger

A Message from the Rector: Making Good Use of the Pre-Lenten Season

eptuagesima Sunday falls on February 16th this year. Septuagesima marks the beginning of the Pre-Lenten season of the ecclesiastical year. as we observe it in the 1928 Praver Book. The three Pre-Lenten Sundays-Septuagesima,

Sexagesima, and Quinquagesimawere instituted in the Roman rite, soon after the Lombards invaded Italy in AD 568 (page 118, Massey

Hamilton Shepherd, Jr.: The Oxford American Prayer Book Commentary. New York: Oxford University Press, 1950. 5th Printing, 1955). The names for these Sundays are the Latin words for seventieth, sixtieth, and fiftieth respectively, referring to approximately the seventieth, the sixtieth,

and the fiftieth day before Easter Day. The propers (collects and readings) for these days in the Roman Missal bear a somber tone on account of the barbarians' invasion as well as the plagues, famine, and earthquakes that characterized that period. Other factors might have played a role in Rome's adoption of the Preseason in their ecclesiastical year, one might ask what the purpose is of continuing its observation. There are a number of possible answers to this question.

Firstly, we observe Pre-Lent because we need it. Have we progressed so far beyond the miserable historical conditions in Italy in the late



Lenten season, such as the influence of many Eastern Orthodox Christians in Italy, who kept an eight-week rather than a six-week Lenten fast (page 118, Massey Hamilton Shepherd, Jr.: op. cit.).

Since modern Anglican prayer books no longer include the Pre-Lenten

evant today? Surely not! Technologically and scientifically, society has made amazing progress, but many moral problems have remained and human behavior in general has worsened. There is still a pressing need for persevering intercession

for the salvation of many

lost souls and for spiritual

self-examination in view

of deteriorating morality

and respect for the Chris-

tian religion.

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Making Good Use of the Pre-Lenten Season

Secondly, the Bible does not prophesy a steady improvement of society and life on earth, but instead growing sin and evil before the Lord comes again. One has only to read *St. Matthew* 24, *St. Mark 13*, and *St. Luke 21* to realize that there will be more wars, more civil conflict, more earthquakes, more famines, more plagues, and

widespread persecution of Christians. In all these passages, the Lord exhorts His disciples to be vigilant and selfdisciplined (see, for example, *St. Luke 21:34-36*).

Thirdly, the Pre-Lenten season prompts us to remember God's call to "redeem the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:16, KJV). This means we must use our time wisely since we live in an evil age. For example, if a student at a school kills another stu-

dent and wounds a third before turning his gun on himself, we must realize that schools can be unsafe for students. This is because some have lost respect for the sacredness of human life and their fear of God, who gave us the commandment "Thou shalt not kill" (*Exodus* 20:13; *Deuteronomy* 5:17, KJV). But com-

pounded with these are other problems. For example, there is so much emphasis on the individual and individual freedom that many times people do not know what evil thoughts may be hidden deep down in their classmates, friends, and those whom they think they know. Often the gunman has given the impression to neighbors and friends that he is a decent fellow whom they would not think capable of violence. But there is yet another phenomenon here that demands our attention: There is often a huge divide between younger people and older people to the extent that each misunderstands the culture of the other or that there is little real communication between parents and children, or between children and their teachers. The prophet Malachi referred to this when he wrote:

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

> *Malachi* 4:5-6, KJV

In this passage, there is a prophecy that Elijah the prophet will return to bring reconciliation between parents and their children. We believe that St. John the Baptist was the prophet Elijah who was to come. The repentance he proclaimed as well as the baptism that he preached ushered in the way of Christ, the way of the Gospel. For all who believe in Jesus Christ, there is forgiveness of sins, reconciliation and peace with God, and the possibility of Christians living at peace with one another.

In what I have written above. I might have given the impression that the Pre-Lenten season gives us another opportunity to be critical of society around us. What I have really intended to convey is that our observation of evil realities around us is sufficient for us to increase our spiritual vigilance and use this Pre-Lenten season to examine our consciences and to see whether we are redeeming the time to such effect that those around us who need eternal salvation are drawn to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Neither Pre-Lent nor Lent is about selfabasement for its own sake or about unproductive sorrow over one's own sin. The goal of our self-discipline, whether it be abstinence or consolidation of new spiritual habits (see the suggested list at left), must be to obey God's will in every aspect of our lives and to deepen our relationship with Him.

A Few Suggested Spiritual Practices

more intensive prayer reading the Bible reading devotional books

reading books about the lives of the saints

engaging in more reflection on the wonderful truths of the Christian faith

Making Good Use of the Pre-Lenten Season

Just as *Ecclesiastes* 3:1-12 reminds us that there are different seasons and times in life and that God "hath made everything beautiful in his [its] time" (*Ecclesiastes* 3:11a, KJV), so there are ecclesiastical seasons in our corporate life as a church in the Anglican tradition. These seasons not only present us with annual reminders of the truths of our salvation. but also remind us to persevere in those devotional practices, prayers, and studies that will strengthen us in our daily spiritual warfare and enable us "to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Ephesians 6:13b, KJV). In this respect, let us pay attention to hymn writer George Heath's warning:

> Ne'er think the victory won, Nor lay thine armor down: Thy arduous work will not be done Till thou obtain thy crown. **1940 Hymnal**, Hymn 555, Stanza 3

In society, we see a war being waged against Christian values and principles, against the Church, ultimately against the Lord Jesus Christ. Now is not the time to think that somehow we can lay down our armor and think we no longer need to fight! It happens so easily that a Christian is tempted to compromise here a little, there a little, not so much Bible study, not so much praver, not so much church attendance. It may be a gradual process, but our example of increasing spiritual laziness may well influence others who choose to follow our example, and that may well lead to empty churches. Instead, we must remain convinced of the truths of our faith, fervent in zeal, aglow with the love of the Lord and of neighbor, resolved to set a good example of Christian discipleship! May God grant us all to use the Pre-Lenten season and Lent itself to find out from the Holy Spirit where we all fall short in Christian discipleship and to implement the spiritual disciplines that will strengthen us in our spiritual battles against the hosts of evil.

> – The Reverend Chris Parrish



Great Commission Campaign

e are now in month three of our Great Commission Campaign. We began by praying to God for guidance as to how each of us can fulfill what He asks of us as His children. Then, while continuing to pray. we followed through by making a commitment to God. All God asks of us is to let Him into our heart. Make a commitment to follow Him, to make disciples, and to spread the Gospel.

Now comes Step Three: COME TO CHURCH. Yes, it is a very simple act. God is inviting all of us to come join with other worshipers to praise and celebrate Him.

Now, you may ask yourself why you need to come to church. I remember one of my friends asked me once why I went to church every Sunday. They also added that they felt they did not need to attend church because God is everywhere. I responded that this is true, God *is* everywhere. God likes to be invited to your house, but sometimes God likes it when you come to His House. It is important that you come to Him. It is a demonstration of your commitment to Him. It is the opportunity to give thanks and praise to our Lord God. He is always with you, but you need to

come to Him. It reaffirms your commitment to your faith and your love for God.

It is important to strengthen our faith constantly. Being an active part of a community of believers is a necessary part of that ongoing work. Being present to share how God is blessing us, testing us, pulling us to grow closer to Him strengthens us as Christians. Part of that strength lies in coming together to celebrate our joys and support each other in our sorrows. There is strength in numbers. We all should come together to support and refresh one another. It is important that all of us join one another as God's Community.

Do I hear you making excuses about how complicated and busy your life is? Church is the way to recenter our lives. Sunday is our Sabbath, our day of rest. It is an opportunity to rejuvenate and renew our Faith. God asks us to stay in faith. Coming to church allows us to do this. It gives us a chance to listen to and speak God's Word so that we can absorb it and put it into practice in our lives.

God's House is one of the best places to rest and refresh our minds, bodies and spirits. Our world is full of distractions. We need to take time for ourselves to renew and refresh. This allows us to be better people not just to others but to ourselves as well.

So here is what I'm asking of you: Commit yourself to attend and participate in church regularly. Church should be something that we just do. If we keep coming to church, it will become a habit. If we are willing to make this commitment, then it is important to not do it half-way. It is important to attend church and worship regularly. Making a commitment means being consistent, not being casual and nonchalant about the whole thing. Each of us needs to be disciplined and consistent in our faith and attendance. Coming on time and participating in worship demonstrates true commitment to God.

A few weeks ago, I heard this from a pastor: Church is where sinners come to heal. Wow! How true that is! We are all sinners. We all need God's healing. The only way to receive it is to be in faith and join other like -minded people to share God's Word, pray, and give thanks. We need to honor God as our Father, Lord, and Savior every day, but we really do all worship better when we worship together.

So, to recap: Step One is PRAY. So let's do that now. Holy Spirit, overshadow our church with Your presence. Let Your glory be felt, drawing hearts in-



Great Commission Campaign

to deeper relationship with You (*Exodus 33:14*).

I ask everyone to take a few moments in their day to pray. You can even call a friend and pray together over the phone or when you meet for coffee. If you have a particular prayer that is special to you, you are welcome to include that in your daily prayers.

Step Two is COMMIT-MENT.

I am also asking you to make the decision with me to commit to the Lord Jesus Christ. As we are reminded every Sunday in our bulletin, *Our service begins when we leave the Chapel*. Let us all support one another and come together to make a commitment to God.

And now Step Three: ATTEND CHURCH. Come worship and fellowship with your Chapel Family so that we may all grow in our Faith. Let's keep it strong as we worship, praise, and give thanks to God for all that He has blessed for our use. Let us grow closer to Him so that we love Him more every day and cheerfully devote ourselves to His service.

Again, I invite each of you to participate in this yearlong project to grow our church through obedience to Christ's command. I am hoping we can start a ReVive program to enhance our work in church growth. Please contact me if you would like to be part of the ReVive program. – Julia McNeely



Vestry Matters



ers,

Welcome to the latest edition of Vestry Matters. It's good to be back with you again, and I hope you enjoyed the previous article and that you'll enjoy the current and future editions.

Important Reminder

We currently have two open slots on the Vestry and would welcome any volunteers who would like to serve. No prior experience is needed, and any current member of the Parish is welcome to apply. If interested, please contact either me or Father Parrish.

Here's the latest article for your reading delight and edification.

November 10th Vestry Meeting Summary

Those in attendance: Jana Baldwin, Ray Boreham, Brandy Falcon, Elodia Fernandez, Julia McNeely, Bridgitte Parrish, Father Chris Parrish, Clark Patteson, and Deacon Peter Vogel.

Bookkeeper's Report (Deacon Vogel):

• The Chapel realized a Net Income of \$8,210.50 as of November 10th.

Treasurer's Report (Elodia Fernandez):

- The Chapel air conditioning had been repaired, and the amount of \$465.00 listed for October Repair and Maintenance reflects the cost.
- The water bill was slightly less in October than in September; Clark Patteson mentioned that he had reduced the irrigation for the rainy season.
- Budget items:
 - General Collections were on track with the budget.
 - * Loose Plate was ahead of budget.



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- * Maintenance Reserve was ahead of budget.
- Checking Account Balance had increased by the end of October.
- The Investment Account Balance decreased at the end of October but had recovered in November. The cash portion of the account is \$6,475.10.

Junior Warden's Report

(Clark Patteson)

- Clark was pursuing the cleanup of the church grounds.
- The exterminator company (Got Gophers?) had re-baited rat traps. In answer to a question from Julia McNeely about how often the traps are rebaited, Clark replied that it was once or twice a month. He also mentioned Got Gophers? had not billed us for five months. The video camera in the attic had recorded rat activity. Clark put a rat trap under the floor of the Robing Room and blocked up the hole by which rats gain access to the space under the Robing Room.
- Brandy Falcon was helping with yard work on the Chapel grounds as well as sharing photos of the congregation on our Facebook page. She

had also announced the Festival of Christ the King on that page. She had found more people were visiting our FaceBook page. Brandy also has ideas about brightening the appearance of the chapel grounds with flowers. Brandy was thanked for her work, and Ray Boreham suggested that she submit receipts for her purchases for in-kind donations or financial reimbursements.

Altar Guild Report

(Elodia Fernandez):

• Elodia announced that Brandy Falcon's training was complete and her name was now on the regular rota of Altar Guild assignments.

Rector's Report

(Father Parrish):

- Average Service Attendance as of Sunday, October 27, 2024, was 17.
- Pablo, a technician from JW Heating and Air, repaired our Chapel air conditioning. A rodent had chewed through the insulation of the wire leading from the thermostat to the outside air conditioner unit. The wire had to be repaired its insulation replaced, and a new capacitor installed. The total cost of this work was \$465.00 (as noted in the Treasurer's Report).

- Father Darryl Fitzwater will be installed as Bishop Ordinary of the Missionary Diocese of All Saints at the Church of the Ascension on March 21, 2025, at 6:00 PM.
- Clericus and Anglican Convocation of the West Synod will convene at Holy **Cross Retreat Center** in Mesilla. New Mexico, April 22-25, 2025. This event was announced by Vicar-General Penfield and appears in the Convocation newsletter "The Line". Both Bishop Lipka and **Bishop Fitzwater** plan to be there. There will also be a Clergy Wives' Retreat at the same time as the Clericus. Our Vicar-General was encouraging all clergy and lay delegates of each congregation to attend. It is likely that one can attend the Synod portion of the event via Zoom. Our 2025 Budget should make provision for this event
- Father Parrish plans to start a new Confirmation class in January. So far, Brandy Falcon, Tim Slattery, Mark Benjamin, and Rachel Jebaraj had indicated their willingness to attend this class. The Bishop will be able to start parish visits after Easter 2025. The Di-



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ocese would cover the cost of the Bishop's flights and hotel accommodation.

• Father Parrish visited Mark Quinn at the Mountain View Healthcare Center on Monday, November 4th.

Old Business:

- Julia McNeely continues to work on the signage.
- Brandy Falcon has joined Lee Ann Vojvoda in maintaining our FaceBook fan page.
- The Vestry is constantly looking for new ideas to help grow our church. If anybody reading this has any other ideas or would like to help in this very important mission, please contact Father Parrish or any Vestry member. Even better, join us at an upcoming meeting to offer your ideas and suggestions in person. The more help and input we can get, the better. Thank you in advance.

New Business:

- On a proposal by Ray Boreham seconded by Clark Patteson, the Vestry unanimously set the date of the 2025 Annual Parish Meeting as February 9th.
- The Vestry unanimously voted in favor of paying \$300 for a 3-inch by 4-inch ad-

vertisement of our Christmas service to run in the "Los Altos Town Crier" for two weeks. Clark Patteson proposed the motion, and Jana Baldwin seconded it.

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Thank you for your time in reading this article. Please remember, this is **vour** Vestry and this is your Parish, and, whether you're able to attend church services regularly or not, your input on any matter concerning the Church, its operation and its overall Mission and Purpose is essential and welcome. If there's anything you feel needs to be addressed in future meetings or even in between meetings or if you have any questions or concerns, please do reach out and contact Father Parrish and/or any member of the Vestry. We'll be sure to address whatever you feel needs our attention as soon as practically possible.

Donations

If you're unable to join us in person but would like to make an offering to our Lord, please visit our website at

https:// StLukesChapel.org and click on the DO-NATE button. Thank you in advance for helping keep this beautiful sanctu-

ary we call our spiritual

home alive. All offerings

are tax-deductible and are gratefully received.

We look forward to seeing you at a future service and/or meeting and I'll be back with you next month. Vestry meetings are usually held on the second Sunday of every month following the service, except for December, when no meeting is held, and February, when a short procedural meeting is held following the Annual Meeting.

I'd like to personally thank the Vestry members for all their continued hard work behind the scenes to keep our church functioning and available to all for all their spiritual needs. This is a vital, if unglamorous, ministry and we invite any and all interested parties to consider serving, so please contact me or Father Parrish if at all interested. Interest does not imply obligation, and we will provide any and all information needed to allow prospective candidates to make a full and complete evaluation of the duties and possible time commitment involved prior to making any formal commitment.

> - Ray Boreham, Senior Warden



Our Chapel Family Prayer List

This prayer list was current as of January 25th, and the people of St. Luke's will pray for each need until we are notified that it has been met. Please contact Father Parrish to add or remove names. Thank you!

God. the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech Thee for all sorts and conditions of men; that Thou wouldest be pleased to make Thy ways known unto them, Thy saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for Thy holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by Thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to Thy fatherly goodness: Archbishop Steve Wood, our Primate; Bishop Richard Lipka, our Bishop Ordinary; Bishop Darryl Fitzwater, our Bishop Co-adjutor; Canon Michael Penfield. our Vicar-General; Father Chris Parrish, our Rector; Deacon Peter Vogel; and Deacon Linda Bracken; also all those who serve as Thy ministers in governing our nation and state, particularly: President Donald Trump; and Governor Gavin Newsom: as well as all those who are any ways afflicted, or

distressed, in mind, body, or estate; especially those for whom our prayers are desired:

the soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, guardians, border patrol, coasties, police officers, firefighters, and pilots who protect us every day; our persecuted Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world; all refugees; the leaders and people of Ukraine; the Iranian people; all those affected by wildfires in Southern California; Jim and Edna Davis; Debbie: Scott; Brittany; Tanya Theiler; Mark Quinn; Lisa: Ben: Marian: Flo; Max; Dan and Kendra Pack; the Stanko family; Yoshihiko Ikegami; Mary Frances Reaves; Mrs. Kitt; Jon Carter; Linda Capone; Rose Handwerker; Ann and Frank MacVoy; Bishop Ilgenfritz; Moe Martinez; Victoria Grace;

Christina; John and Heidi Donnelly; Carl: Judith Boreham; Heather: Susan: Helen Vanderberg; Farshad; Deacon Herman and Betty Roark; Patrick Slattery; Julie Sine; the Slattery family; James Kitchin; Father Jonah and Rachel Kelman: Bob Willis; Grace Driver; Robbie Tavey; Charlotte: the Bouchard family; Sara and Hesam; Molly Ferguson; and Catherine and her students; that it may please Thee to comfort and relieve them, according to their several necessities; giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue

out of all their afflictions.

And this we beg for Jesus

Christ's sake. Amen.

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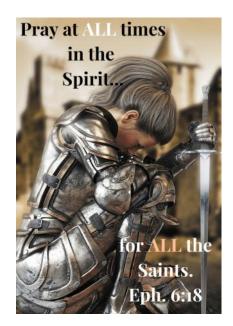
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A Prayer for the Middle East

od of all comfort and hope, Who in Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, proclaimed good news to the poor, bound up the broken-hearted, and set the captives free: We remember before You this day all who are affected by the violence of October 7, 2023, and we ask You to heal the wounded, comfort those who mourn, and bring justice and peace to the land of Israel. Look with mercy upon the peoples of the Middle East, that, in Your great compassion, the light of Christ may shine in the darkness and bring hope to every nation. As Simeon rejoiced to see Your salvation, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel, so we pray that Jesus, the Messiah, would be known as the true hope for all the earth. May Your Kingdom come, and may Your peace reign in every heart, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*.

A Prayer for Our Congregation

GOD, Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful, visit, we pray Thee, the Congregation of St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills with Thy love and favour; enlighten our minds more and more with the light of the everlasting Gospel; graft in our hearts a love of the truth; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and of Thy great mercy keep us in the same, O blessed Spirit, whom, with the Father and the Son together, we worship and glorify as one God, world without end. Amen.



ARDF Response to California Wildfires

he Anglican Relief and Development Fund is reaching out to Anglican Church in North America parishes in wildfire-affected California communities to see how they are and to learn their current needs. Our prayers are with congregations especially in the Diocese of Churches for the Sake of Others as they have been directly affected. Other parishes in the Diocese of Western Anglicans are facing power outages and evacuations. Wildfires continue to arise in Southern California. Please keep them all in your prayers as entire communities have been and are being destroyed and thousands of people displaced.

To donate to ARDF relief efforts and learn more about their response, please visit https://ARDF.org.



Parish Postings

St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills will have its Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, February 9th, following the worship service. A finger-food potluck will offer snacks with minimal clean-up. The Annual Meeting is an opportunity to hear reports from our clergy, parish officers, and ministerial leaders; to review and approve an Operating Budget for 2025; and to elect Vestry members. It is very important that we all make every effort to attend this meeting, so please join us! The Vestry will meet briefly afterward.



Joanna's Prayer Circle will meet on Sunday, February 23rd, after fellowship. All are welcome to join this informal prayer group!



The Right Reverend Darryl Fitzwater will be installed as Bishop Ordinary of the Missionary Diocese of All Saints on March 21st at 6:00 PM. The installation ceremony will take place at Church of the Ascension in Charles Town, West Virginia. Everyone is invited to attend. Please see Father Parrish for details.



The Anglican Convocation of the West will have its Clericus and Synod April 22nd-25th. A Women's Retreat will meet during the Clericus. We will meet in Mesilla, New Mexico. If you would like to attend, please see Kim Vogel for details.



*I*f anyone wants to join the Confirmation Class, please contact Father Parrish as soon as possible. Confirmation Class is held on Zoom every Friday, from 7:30-8:00 PM.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 2nd

The Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple The Third Sunday after Epiphany Holy Communion with Holy Unction 10:00 AM

Sunday, February 9th

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Office of Morning Prayer

10:00 AM

Annual Parish Meeting and Finger-food Potluck following the worship service

Vestry Meeting following the Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, February 16th

Septuagesima

Holy Communion 10:00 AM

Sunday, February 23rd Sexagesima

Office of Morning Prayer 10:00 AM

Joanna's Prayer Circle Meeting following fellowship

Sunday, March 2nd

Quinquagesima Holy Communion with Holy Unction

10:00 AM

Annual Pancake Lunch following the worship service





A PUBLICATION OF ST. LUKE'S CHAPEL IN THE HILLS ANGLICAN CHURCH

A Parish of the Convocation of the West, part of the Missionary Diocese of All Saints in The Anglican Church in North America

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«AddressBlock»

Worship Schedule

St.

Luke's Chapel in the Hills is a traditional Anglican parish which uses the 1928 edition *Book of Common Prayer*. We invite you to join us for worship and fellowship soon!

First, third, and fifth Sundays of each month Holy Communion (with Healing Service on First Sundays) 10:00 AM

Second and fourth Sundays each month Office of Daily Morning Prayer 10:00 AM

Please note that Holy Communion will be celebrated on Feast Days occurring on second and fourth Sundays.

If you cannot join us physically in the Chapel, please contact Father Parrish to be added to each service's Zoom invitation.

"A place where the Bible is taught."



Biblical in teaching. Liturgical in worship. Loving in practice.