Grace-St. Luke’s Troop 34 Turned 100 Years Old November 16, 2020

Winter-Spring 2021 Program Guide
Lent, Holy Week, Easter Offerings

Social Justice & MICAH

Gwynne Lockwood, 1920-21
Fredrick Morrison, 1922-30
Perry Pipkin, 1931-32
Frank N. Ryan, 1933-34
Alvan Tate, Jr., 1935-48
Richard V. Daggett, 1985-1986
F. Hammond Cole, 1987-90
Daniel E. Conaway, 1993-94
Robert N. Adrian, 2003-05
James Andrew Martin, 2014-

Scoutsmasters 1920 - present

William C. Jennings, Jr., 1977-80
George P. Phillips, 1950-54
Howard Fullenwider, 1961
James L. Seale, 1962-63
Thomas H. Todd, Jr., 1964, 1966
William N. Wilkinson, Jr., 1965
Otis S. Warr, Ill, 1965
Phillip B. White, 1974-76
John Hudson, 1976-77

TROOP 34 EST. 1920
Pastoral Care
Sharing and Responding to Concerns.
To alert the clergy of a pastoral matter concerning yourself or a member, including any medical procedures, contact the clergy confidentially via 901-252-6320 or pastoralcare@gracestlukes.org.
For hospitalizations or emergencies concerning a member, contact the 24/7 Clergy-on-Call phone line at 901-252-6334. This is the best way to communicate pastoral needs and ensure a prompt response from a member of the clergy or pastoral care team.
Reflecting on past decades and endless opportunities in 2021 to respond to God’s call for the human family to make this world better, I am inspired both by the Christian faith and baptismal vows to be bold followers of Jesus. This means that change, individual and collective, will be essential if we want to see glimpses of the kingdom of God, here and now. If we want to experience, celebrate, and pass to future generations a nation and a world that are so radically loving that hate cannot even appear to win, people of faith must practice courage and be willing to act in new ways. Why? We have come far, but we have even farther to go.

In 2012, United States Congressman and Civil Rights Leader John Lewis (1940-2020) offered a book of wisdom, encouragement, and hope for today. Throughout Across That Bridge: A Vision for Change and the Future of America, our brother John provides line-by-line honesty and invitation. I hope that you join me in being inspired by faith and baptismal vow as you reflect on the following excerpts offered by a fellow pilgrim on the Christian journey.

“We have come a great distance as a society, but we still have a great distance to go. The progress we take for granted today brought on by the successes of the modern-day Civil Rights Movement is just one more step down a very long road toward the realization of our spiritual destiny as a nation of “freedom and justice for all.” There is still much more work to do. One movement will never offer all the growth humanity needs to experience. To expect so is to build your hopes on a puff of smoke, on a whispered breath; it is to anticipate an illusion…Even I, who has looked down the barrel of a gun with only my faith to defend me, would say there is a unique hostility in these times that almost seems worse to me than what we experienced in the 1960s. It is true, we were confronted with state-sponsored brutality, and people died because of the complicity of local government with fearmongering and terror. Yet, in those days, we could look to federal authority as a sympathetic referee in the struggle for civil rights and as an advocate for the need to challenge injustice.”

Lewis goes on, “I have seen this restlessness among the people before. It was in another millennium, another decade, and at another time in our history, but it pushed through America like a storm…During the Civil Rights Movement, our struggle was not about politics. It was about seeing a philosophy made manifest in our society that recognized the inextricable connection we have to each other. Those ideals represent what is eternally real and they are still true today, though they have receded from the forefront of American imagination…It is my hope the leaders of today will heed the warning the people have so patiently tendered and shake off the shackles of inertia. Let us remove the false burdens of partisanship, personal ambition, and greed, and begin to do the work we were all appointed to do to move this country forward. Let us appeal to our similarities, to the higher standards of integrity, decency, and the common good, rather than to our differences, be they age, gender, sexual preference, class, or color. If not, the people will put aside the business of their lives and turn their attention to the change they are determined to see.”

Finally, Lewis asks that we consider. “What is the purpose of a nation if not to empower human beings to live better together than they could individually?…Each of us has something significant to contribute to society be it physical, material, intellectual, emotional, or spiritual. Each of us is born for a reason, to serve a divine purpose. If the structures of our lives do not contribute to that purpose or if they complicate our ability to live, to be free and to be happy, or even worse, if they lead to the confines of oppression, then we seek change, sometimes radical change, even revolution, to satisfy the yearning of our souls…I understand the sense of helplessness and hopelessness that can surround a people who feel thwarted at every turn…We made a way out of no way to free ourselves from oppression and bring an American society one step closer to realizing its pledge: “one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

Faithfully and blessings as we try,

Ollie+
The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Rector
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Grace-St. Luke’s Episcopal Church Vision Statement
Our Vision is to be a thriving community of hope, belonging, and healing through worship, parish life, and service, and who rejoices in the love of Jesus to transform the world.
I've been thinking a lot about dignity lately. Dignity is the right of every person to be valued and respected. We all deserve it, no matter what our age, background, culture, history, race, class, or gender. It is certainly a part of our baptismal covenant as we promise with God’s help to respect the dignity of every human being (BCP, 305). It’s a wise person who recognizes that we do not give dignity to another; rather, each of us affirms the dignity of another. Every human being is beautifully imbued with dignity by virtue of being created in the image of God and as one of God’s beloved. I believe God weaves it into our very being.

These days we have many opportunities and invitations to affirm dignity. I would even say that for many of us, myself included, there is necessary acknowledgment in seeing where we have fallen short of affirming dignity. There is important and good work to be done. I am so very inspired and excited for what has been building and growing here at GSL. Turn the page and get inspired about the Social Justice Ministry; learn about its vision and focus areas. Then read on about how the newly formed MICAH GSL Core Team has exploded with energy and readiness in amplifying voices to bring community change in education and economic equity, as well as with race and class equity in the justice system.

I think about Dr. Bell Hooks, author, activist, and professor at Yale and Berea College, who said, “Beloved community is formed not by the eradication of difference but by its affirmation, by each of us claiming the identities and cultural legacies that shape who we are and how we live in the world.” Every day we are called to beloved community - with ourselves and neighbors in deepening and varied ways. It is an honor to live into affirming dignity and becoming beloved community with you. The Holy Spirit is moving and grooving so brilliantly; I cannot wait to see what more she has in store!

Laura+

The Rev. Laura F. Gettys, Associate Rector
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The Vestry: Our Elected Spiritual Lay Ministers

Let us give thanks and offer prayers for the Vestry Classes 2021-2023 and the leadership ministry to which they were commissioned during the January Vestry Retreat via Zoom.

2021: Grant Adams (Congregational Development), Wight Boggs (Social Justice), Patrick Burnett (Youth Formation), Charlie Pazar (Senior Warden, Administration), Tom Stephenson (Stewardship)
2022: Ben Cowan (Children’s Formation), Mike Davis (Outreach), Sandra Ireland (Adult Formation), Jonathan Large (Outreach), Anna Robbins (Junior Warden)
2023: George Johnson (Stewardship), Andy Nix (Stewardship), Johnny Norris (Social Justice), Paula Sappington (Clerk, Congregational Development), Taylor Taylor (Congregational Development)
A Century of Campfires, Warming a Century of Leadership

Dan Conaway

Grace-St. Luke’s Troop 34 is 100 years old.

Several thousand campfires ago, Troop 34 was chartered at “Calvary Protestant Episcopal Church” on November 16, 1920. After a few years there and a short one-year stint at Bellevue Baptist Church, the troop pitched its tent at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, now Grace-St. Luke’s, on the corner of Peabody and Lemaster in 1933 and has been here ever since—the longest continually chartered and operating troop in the Chickasaw Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

The first scoutmaster at Calvary was Gwynne Lockwood. The current scoutmaster at Grace-St. Luke’s—in his eighth rock-solid year in that role—is Jim Martin. There have been 22 scoutmasters. Some served briefly as interims in time of transition, some were legendary.

Alvan Tate served for 13 years. George Clarke, Sr., served three times for a total of 12 years. His son, George Clarke, Jr., served twice for a total of six years. I followed George after he asked me to join him for a beer. “Guess who the next scoutmaster is,” he said. Dan Eason followed me. I only had the job for two years. Dan had it for seven years—the first time—and another seven years the second time.

All of them, from interim to legend, would tell you the same two things: One, as tough as the job is there is none more rewarding. Two, the job has nothing to do with your leadership and everything to do with growing leadership.

Scouts lead. Adults point the way, and get out of their way.

As a scout, it’s up to you.

If the food you make is inedible, you and your fellow scouts don’t eat. If you pitch your tent in the wrong place, you and your tentmate are going to get wet. When you do those things, you don’t do them again.

If you don’t pull together and with purpose, canoes—and patrols, and troops—don’t get where they’re supposed to go. If you don’t reach down to help, no one else climbs up.

From those things and a thousand others you learn to do, you learn to work together, and you learn to lead.

That principle and the application of it in principle has earned Troop 34 the nickname of Eagles Nest, in recognition of the hundreds of Eagle Scouts who wore 34 on their sleeves—my son Gaines being one, just about everyone in his patrol being several more.

There is no better example of what Troop 34 has meant than a memorial article in The Daily Memphian by my colleague Tom Bailey about Bill Deupree who died just before Christmas. Bill was on the founding team of Morgan Keegan, a nationally known and respected financial mind, and a generous Memphis philanthropist.

When asked about Bill, his lifelong friend Henry Turley—who has led the way in shaping and changing Downtown Memphis into what we see today—cited their time together in Troop 34 and the Flying Eagles Patrol. He remembered Bill’s fierce performance in the patrol’s water boiling competition against other troops. He said the dedication and innovation he saw in Bill then was indicative of what he would become and inspire.

Just another couple of Troop 34 scouts building a fire, just like they have for 100 years.

Just like boys and girls will use that light to build the next 100 years.

The Scout Lodge on Peabody is a living, working museum of Troop 34 past and present. If you don’t know where it is or you’d like to know what you can do to help them in what they do, just ask a 34 scout. They’ll lead the way.

For links to the 1920 charter, a 1934 enrollment, 1944 WWII certificate from the US treasury, and more, visit www.gracestlukes.org/news/troop-34-is-100-years-old.
From the Pew to the Public Square: Notes from the Social Justice Committee

In the past few months, we have been building a new ministry from the ground up. None of us had any experience with such an endeavor for GSL, but with the thoughtful guidance of the Reverend Laura E. Gettys we carefully constructed our vision and intentions.

**Vision Statement:** Inspiring our faith community to live out our Baptismal Covenant, “to strive for justice and peace among all people” by practicing self-reflection, and direct action.

**Our Values:**
- **INCLUSIVE:** all are invited to be a part of our mission
- **SEEKING:** to gain understanding of other’s perspectives and perceptions; to find our common humanity
- **POLITICAL, NOT PARTISAN:** in the sense of seeking power in the public arena, not in support of any political party
- **RESPECTFUL:** to be considerate of other’s opinions and feelings
- **INTEGRITY:** to be open and forthright in all that we undertake

**Our Focus Areas:**
- Presence in the Public Square
- Educating the Conscience
- Finding Joy and Hope in Our Shared Story and Journey

**Social Justice, Outreach, and MICAH—what are the differences and similarities?**

Along with the Social Justice Ministry, Grace-St. Luke’s has two other similar yet different ministries working toward a more just and equitable Memphis. We join with GSL Outreach in supporting areas of need. That said, Outreach is the grants agency of GSL (year-long grants), and Outreach gives immediate assistance to individuals and groups such as school supplies and meals, and facilitates fundraisers. Unlike Outreach, Social Justice focuses on making long-term, systemic change by educating the conscience through study groups, faith formation hour, and hearing one another’s stories. We also see our presence in the public square to influence necessary change—or good trouble, by direct action.

Likewise, Social Justice offers similar objectives as it works in partnership with MICAH (Memphis Interfaith Coalition for Action and Hope) and its Core Team to amplify the three pillars of community focus: Education Equity, Race and Class Equity, and Economic Equity in Memphis and Shelby County. MICAH is community justice work we are doing as we partner with our neighbors for greater systemic change. We are encouraged and called through our Baptismal Covenant: “to seek and serve Christ in all persons, to love our neighbors as ourselves, to strive for justice and peace among all people, and to respect the dignity of every human being.” And as the Presiding Bishop Michael Curry says: “Reconciliation is the spiritual practice of seeking loving, liberating and life-giving relationships with God and one another and striving to heal and transform injustice and brokenness in ourselves, our communities, institutions, and society.”

Thank you to all who have expressed interest in working with Social Justice. Join us on **Wednesdays, February 24 and March 24, at 6 p.m.** for our next meetings via Zoom. Please bring your ideas, experience, expertise, and questions, or if you simply want more information, we would love to see you in one of those little Zoom boxes! There is much good work to do.

For information on the Social Justice Ministry, its Vision and Focus Areas:
www.gracestlukes.org/social-justice

For Resources such as events, podcasts, books, and other information:
www.gracestlukes.org/connect/social-justice/resources

Contact any Co-Chair
- Jennie VanDeveer (Contact through Realm Connect: www.gracestlukes.org/realm)
- Nicki Soule’ (Contact through Realm Connect: www.gracestlukes.org/realm)
- Paula Barnes (Contact through Realm Connect: www.gracestlukes.org/realm)
- The Reverend Laura Gettys (901-252-6329 or lgettys@gracestlukes.org)
Social Justice
www.gracестlukes.org/social-justice

Or visit episcopalchurch.org to learn about The Episcopal Church: Loving, Liberating and Life-giving

Explore Becoming Beloved Community (episcopalchurch.org/beloved-community)

Explore episcopalchurch.org/responding-to-racist-violence for a host of resources including some of the following—

Racial Reconciliation and Healing Initiative Dialogue Definitions November 2016 (PDF), Regarding Race and Racial Equity with Quotes (PDF), Report On Racial Stories, Injustice And Healing (tinyurl.com/RacialReconciliationHealing)

Covenant for Reckoning With White Supremacy as a House Of Bishops and as a Church (tinyurl.com/ReckoningWWhiteSupremacy)

Statement from Clergy of the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee July 15, 2020 (PDF) (tinyurl.com/WTNClergyStatement)

www.gracестlukes.org/connect/social-justice/resources/ (GSL Social Justice resources)

MICAH: micahmemphis.org

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MICAH—Expanding Grace St. Luke’s Commitment to Equity

If you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice, say that I was a drum major for peace. I was a drum major for righteousness. And all of the other shallow things will not matter.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
February 1968

Are you troubled by the divisive inequities that afflict our nation, our city, our community? If so, while there are any number of ways to make a difference, supporting Grace-St. Luke’s participation in the Memphis Interfaith Coalition for Action and Hope, or MICAH, will promote the healing so necessary in this broken world. This partnership of community and faith-based organizations joined together to address issues of social justice in the greater Memphis area. MICAH’s platform concentrates on three pillar issues: economic equity, education equity, and race & class equity in the justice system. GSL has formed a “Core Team” of parishioners to discern an appropriate role for GSL to play in MICAH.

The GSL MICAH Core Team first met on Wednesday, January 13, via Zoom and heard an inspiring presentation by Meggan Kiel of the MICAH staff. We learned that MICAH seeks to “organize organizations” to empower our community to address systemic inequities, always seeking to “do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.” The purpose of MICAH is not to replace each congregation or community organization’s efforts to ameliorate poverty and injustice, but instead to amplify the voice and the impact by working together interdependently.

MICAH follows the community organizing methodology of the Gamaliel Foundation. This methodology stresses the importance of “one on one” conversation to develop the relationships critical for taking concerted actions. Gamaliel has worked successfully with communities across the country, including Nashville, where NOAH (Nashville Organized for Action and Hope) has become a force for change and an influencer of community policy on affordable housing, criminal justice, and economic equity.

The next GSL MICAH Core Team meetings will be via Zoom on Wednesday, February 10, at 6 p.m. and Wednesday, March 17, at 6 p.m. We intend to roll up our sleeves and begin to intentionally imagine the appropriate role for GSL in MICAH. All are welcome to participate in these discussions. You can contact Jim Drummond and he will add you to the GSL MICAH Core Team email list. GSL’s other representatives to MICAH are Paula Barnes and Becky Mercer. You may contact Jim, Paula, and Becky through Realm Connect (gracестlukes.org/realm) if you have questions about MICAH.
As a mother of four, and as a minister to children in our church, seeing things through the eyes of children is a skill I get to practice often. I was recently reacquainted with a family heirloom, one I loved as a child, and it sparked not only a deep dive into our family history, but also the realization that the fabric I'm made of today has threads that were sewn in long before I ever realized.

Like many of us, I suspect, my grandparents’ home was my favorite place to be growing up. They lived in Berwyn, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, and we'd make the 2 ½ hour trip north to visit them every few months. There were countless treasures in that house on Maple Avenue, but as a young child, I was drawn to one in particular. On an antique game table in the front room, my Grandmother displayed a collection of small, framed family photographs. Most of these were old photographs — old as in older than black and white. These photos were brown and white, made in a time when smiling for portraits was not a thing. The photos themselves were fascinating, kind of eerie, to be honest, but it was a leather-bound, pocket-sized book on the table with those photos that I spent the most time with. Starting out, I was too young to read it, but its miniature size appealed to me, and even as a small child, I understood its worn covers and tissue-thin pages were giving me a glimpse into another time. As I grew, and learned to read, I realized the book was about God. It was a tiny Bible (so I thought), and a faded pencil inscription inside the front cover told me it had been a Christmas gift, given to “A. Morsman from Mother, December 25, 1872.”

When I was in 2nd grade, “The Little Brown Bible,” as I would call it, moved with my grandparents from Berwyn to our town, where they settled into a smaller house just a few blocks from ours. The book was returned to its proper place on the old game table with the old family photos, in a new front room, and every so often throughout my elementary school days, I’d sit with it to turn its pages and try to read the nearly microscopic print, just like I’d done so often as a small child. Having seen the Bible regularly by that age, growing up in a Lutheran church and school, I can remember thinking the little brown one was different than the one I knew.

In 2006, my grandmother passed away. When it was time to pack up her house, my brother Ted and I chose the things we wanted to have. He wanted the game table, and since I had a pair of rambunctious (and occasionally destructive) 3-year-old boys at home, his house was a safer choice for antiques.

I always thought the Little Brown Bible went with the game table, and Ted just had it put away for preservation, but this past fall, 14 years later, I learned it hadn't gone to Ted's. My mother had kept it, and after their own move to a smaller house, she came across it looking through boxes. For the first time in many years, she opened it, read it more closely, and realized I should be the one to have it now.

Indeed, the Little Brown Bible was actually the Book of Common Prayer. This edition was approved in Philadelphia on March 14, 1864, by Alonzo Potter, Bishop of Pennsylvania, and on that Christmas Day in 1872, it was given to Albert Morsman, my great-great-grandfather, by Mary Margaret Hubbard, my great-great-great-grandmother. This relic that so enchanted me as a child has a new spot, and new meaning, next to my own BCP that I received at my Episcopal confirmation in 2014, here at Grace-St. Luke's.
WORSHIP | www.gracestlukes.org/worship

SUNDAY
9:15–9:45 a.m. Adult Formation Virtual Speakers & Programs
Youth & Children Formation: www.gracestlukes.org/discover
10:30–11:15 a.m. Worship, Virtual and In Person
5:30–6 p.m. Contemplative Worship & Music Events, Virtual

TUESDAY
8–8:15 p.m. Compline (Night Prayers) via Facebook Live

WEDNESDAY
6–7 p.m. Adult Formation Virtual Events as scheduled

THURSDAY
8–8:15 p.m. Compline (Night Prayers) via Facebook Live

Sunday 5:30 p.m. Schedule for Contemplative Worship & Music Events
Virtual meditative worship services are officiated by the clergy in a more contemplative setting, enhanced by candles, icons, intentional moments for silence, instrumental music, and spoken word (poem, hymn text, scripture passage). Offerings also include recitals, concerts and choral services. Events occasionally might be available for in-person attendance, if indicated below.

January 10      Contemplative Prerecorded Worship
January 17      Evening Prayer
January 24      Contemplative Prerecorded Worship
January 31      Candlemas Choral Concert
February 7      Contemplative Prerecorded Worship
February 14     Epiphany Organ Recital
February 21     Contemplative Worship
February 28     Evening Prayer
March 7         Contemplative Worship
March 14        Lenten Service of Choral Evensong
March 21        Contemplative Worship
March 28        “Light in Deepest Night” for Choir and Organ
April 4         No Evening Service; resumes April 11
April 11        Easter Concert of Trumpet and Organ
April 18        Contemplative Worship
April 25        to be announced
May 2           to be announced
May 9           to be announced
May 16          to be announced
May 23          to be announced
May 30          to be announced
June 6          to be announced

ACCESSING GSL WINTER-SPRING 2021 WORSHIP, FORMATION & MUSIC EVENTS: During the COVID-19 pandemic, Grace-St. Luke’s Church is adhering to safety guidelines and restrictions according to the policies of the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee. For Winter-Spring 2021, we will operate in virtual ways for worship, formation, service, and fellowship, and when possible offer in-person indoor and outdoor events for groups to gather in physically distanced ways. Unless otherwise noted, most events will be available as indicated via Facebook Live (facebook.com/gracestlukes/live), YouTube (youtube.com/gracestlukes), GSL Website (gracestlukes.org/live), and Zoom.
January 10, First Sunday after the Epiphany

Conversation about Social Justice at GSL facilitated by the Rev. Laura F. Gettys with Paula Barnes, Nicki Soule, and Jennie VanDeveer via Facebook Live Premiere, YouTube, and the GSL Website. Tune in for an important discussion about our social justice vision, values, and focus areas including our new partnership with MICAH (Memphis Interfaith Coalition for Action and Hope).

January 17, Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Conversation with the Rt. Rev. Phoebe A. Roaf, Bishop, via Facebook Live and the GSL Website. On the day of the Bishop’s 10:30 a.m. Visitation to GSL, the Rev. Ollie V. Rencher will engage Bishop Phoebe in a 30-minute conversation about the state of the Church, the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee, current affairs, and more.

January 24, Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Exploring Poetry for Epiphany with the Rev. Katherine M. Bush via Facebook Live and the GSL website live. Katherine will share a few poems highlighting some timely themes, namely embracing transition and change as we move into a new year with great hope while still carrying some of the ‘old year’ with us.

January 31, Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Unpacking How To Be Christian In A Pandemic via Facebook Live and the GSL website live. Conversation facilitated by the Reverends Ollie V. Rencher and Laura F. Gettys, members of the GSL Adult Formation Advisory Committee and other parishioners. How are we and other Christians practicing and navigating our faith in this long season of being unable to gather in groups, inside buildings, without weekly communion, and more that has been our cultural norm for decades? Join this important conversation that also will include the clergy sharing about their personal experiences with COVID-19.

February 7, Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

A Window into Preparing Music for Worship with Dr. Patrick A. Scott via Facebook Live and the GSL website live. Tune in for an interview by the Rev. Ollie V. Rencher with GSL Director of Music and Organist Patrick Scott about the process of and many resources used to arrange the music used to enrich the worship offerings of Sunday and seasonal occasions.
February 14, Last Sunday after the Epiphany: Transfiguration Sunday

The Beauty of What Follows The Pandemic with Rabbi Micah Greenstein and the Rev. Ollie V. Rencher via Facebook Live and the GSL website live. Beloved children of God and people of faith cannot separate spiritual journeys from the COVID-19 pandemic. Rabbi Micah of Temple Israel will reflect with Father Ollie Rencher on opportunities for spiritual journeys after the vaccine, an awaited season that will be different with new norms. Religious institutions are learning new ways of being, reimagining the future, and the faithful are looking for the beauty.

February 21, First Sunday in Lent

The Beauty of What Remains: How Our Greatest Fear Becomes Our Greatest Gift with Rabbi Micah Greenstein via Facebook Live and the GSL website live. Based on a book by friend and fellow Rabbi Steve Leder, Rabbi Micah will join Father Ollie Rencher for a conversation about the power of fear and the gifts that can come from it. In the aftermath of the death of loved ones, an everchanging world, and many forms of loss and grief, our greatest fears also are occasions to identify blessings that can lead to peace and a new hope-filled way forward.

February 28, Second Sunday in Lent

Closing the Divide: Navigating a Culture Divided with Dean Randy Hollerith of Washington National Cathedral via Facebook Live and the GSL website live. The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher will welcome the Very Rev. Randolph “Randy” Marshall Hollerith for an important conversation about and best practices regarding how Christians might better navigate a culture divided by alienation, judgment, and extremism.

March 7, Third Sunday in Lent

Jesus, Politics, and Faith Journeys with Memphis Journalist Otis Sanford and the Rev. Ollie V. Rencher via Facebook Live and the GSL website live. The Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury and the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church often remind Christians and the world that the Church gets involved in politics solely because that’s what Jesus did before and after his death. In light of the dilemma that this reality causes for many followers of Jesus today, tune in for a timely conversation between political columnist Otis Sanford and Father Ollie Rencher.

March 14, Fourth Sunday in Lent

Conversation about In A Colorful Place: Seasoned Opinion About Memphis, About Home, About Life with authors Dan Conaway and Otis Sanford via Facebook Live and the GSL website live. Released in 2020, this rich and diverse collection of columns by Memphis friends of different racial backgrounds draws from a lifetime of experience, a practiced eye, a talent for storytelling, and the deep well of a city and a region brimming with those stories. Don’t miss a lively conversation about this collaborative work.

March 21, Fifth Sunday in Lent

The Church Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow with the Rev. Renee Miller via Facebook Live and the GSL website live. In January, author, poet, and Episcopal priest Renee Miller of Monterey, California, spent virtual retreat time with Grace-St. Luke’s Vestry and Clergy-Staff Team members reflecting on the current landscape of the Church. As Christians observe and experience pandemic shifts and challenges, unchartered territory, and commit to the Church’s survival, this reflection offering seeks to provide some wisdom about how the Church has thrived in difficult situations throughout the centuries.
March 28, Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

Jesus the Radical: Reflections by the Rev. Ollie V. Rencher via Facebook Live and the GSL website live. The “holiest of weeks” is a perfect time to reprioritize our days and journey with Christ through the monumental events and last days of his earthly life. Holy scripture reveals the fact that it was Jesus’ radical commitments to love, justice, transformation, opposing powers and principalities, equity, and reconciliation that led to his death on the cross. Tune in to hear from Father Ollie Rencher about Jesus the Radical and an invitation for his followers to take up the mantle of being radical in the name of Love.

April 4, The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day

Practice Resurrection: A Memoir of Work, Doubt, Discernment, and Moments of Grace via Zoom. Based on a book by Nora Gallagher, Father Ollie Rencher will host a “live” Easter Day Zoom dialogue with parishioners about what it means to be an “Easter people” who believe that resurrection is possible through God. After the death of her brother, Nora Gallagher spends intentional time exploring what it means to live with meaning. Carpe diem! Followers of Jesus are called to practice resurrection and to trust that God will make all things new.

April 11, Second Sunday of Easter

Measuring the Justice of a Society in the Bodies of its People: An Introduction to Health Disparities, Part I with Dr. Kendra Hotz via Facebook Live and the GSL website live. Join our guest Dr. Hotz of Rhodes College and members of the Social Justice Committee for a two-part conversation series about how society and this region are doing with the healthcare of its people and opportunities to close the gap of disparities and foster more equity among all.

April 18, Third Sunday of Easter

Measuring the Justice of a Society in the Bodies of its People: An Introduction to Health Disparities, Part II with Dr. Kendra Hotz via Facebook Live and the GSL website live. Join our guest Dr. Hotz of Rhodes College and members of the Social Justice Committee for a two-part conversation series about how society and this region are doing with the healthcare of its people and opportunities to close the gap of disparities and foster more equity among all.

April 25, Fourth Sunday of Easter

Being the Church in a Season of Change and Loss with the Rev. Dr. Lauren F. Winner via Facebook Live and the GSL website live. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the GSL clergy and parishioners have had to learn how to operate in new ways. Episcopal priest, Duke Divinity School professor, and author Lauren Winner returns to GSL (virtually) to reflect on what she is learning about being the Church amid constant and unforeseeable change. Drawing on past seasons in the history of the Church including the Great Depression, Dr. Winner will have much to share through a conversation hosted by the Rev. Ollie V. Rencher.

May 2, Fifth Sunday of Easter

Outreach at GSL: Servant Ministry Partners via Facebook Live and the GSL website live. Join members of the Outreach Committee to learn about the local ministries and communities with which GSL partners to serve others and further engage the Memphis region. At the end of 2020, GSL awarded 19 Community Outreach Grants totaling $64,500 and has GSL liaisons between the parish and each organization to offer support and identify volunteer opportunities. Explore www.gracestlukes.org/outreach.
May 9, Sixth Sunday of Easter

**Insights from Life at Grace-St. Luke’s School During a Pandemic.** Join GSL Head of School Thor Kvande and Heads of Middle, Lower, and Preschool, respectively, Ellen Hendry, Marti McCloud, and Cynthia Burnett for an interview with the Rev. Ollie V. Rencher about how our parish school has navigated remote and in-person learning and supports its families. Established in 1947, GSL School prepares preschool to 8th grade boys and girls to become creative problem solvers, confident lifelong learners, and responsible citizens in their communities and the world.

May 16, Seventh Sunday of Easter

**Special Offering.** Stay tuned to the eNews, Sunday Leaflet, and Facebook for an update!

May 23, Day of Pentecost: Whitsunday

**Celebrating Pentecost with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry** via Facebook Live and the GSL website live. In celebration of Pentecost, the birthday of God’s Church, the Most Rev. Michael B. Curry will engage a virtual conversation with the Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Rector, about the state of Christianity, the Episcopal Church Way of Love, and the baptismal call to follow Jesus today.

May 30, First Sunday after Pentecost: Trinity Sunday

**The Dance Of God: Exploring Jazz and Dance** via Facebook Live and the GSL website live. The relationship between the inseparable three persons of God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit; Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer) is a mysterious concept that has baffled the world for centuries. Common threads weave us together and yet honor our individuality through expressions such as dance and jazz. Tune in for a “live” Zoom dialogue with and special presentation by the Reverends Laura F. Gettys and Ollie V. Rencher.

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**Save-the-Date/Looking Ahead: June, July and August Formation at GSL.** Throughout the summer months, we’ll take a more informal and relaxed approach to occasional offerings and special guests to be announced.

**Adult Inquirers & Confirmation Class “Becoming Episcopalian”**

Becoming Episcopalian: What does it mean to live as a Christian in the Episcopal tradition in today’s world? Why is the Eucharist so crucial to our faith? Why do Episcopalians have such peculiar terminology (e.g. narthex, curate, vestry, etc.)? These and many other questions will be addressed and discussed during our Inquirers series entitled, “Becoming Episcopalian.” This class is for both members and non-members who wish to learn more about, have a refresher, or reaffirm their faith as Episcopalians; who are not confirmed Episcopalians; or who wish to be received into the Episcopal Church from another Christian tradition. At the end of the class, those who wish to be confirmed, reaffirmed, or received will be invited to take part in a service during Bishop Phoebe’s return to GSL after March 14. (Details and Registration: www.gracesflukes.org/inquirers-classes)

Sundays, February 7 to March 14 (six-week class)
Time: Noon–1 p.m. | Location: Virtual via Zoom
GSL READING TOGETHER is one way to connect with others around a common subject and foster community. Order your book through a local bookseller or online, start reading, encourage others to the same, and consider signing up for Zoom discussions.

The Art of Forgiveness, Lovingkindness, and Peace by Jack Kornfield
This four-week series begins with a conversation about the common misunderstandings and difference between forgiveness and reconciliation and is followed by an exploration of each chapter: forgiveness, lovingkindness, peace. The book is described as an invitation both to remember the transforming power of forgiveness and lovingkindness and that no matter where you are and what you face, within your heart peace is possible.

Zoom Discussions: Wednesdays, February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 6–7 p.m.
Facilitators: Anne Ayres, The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher

BIBLE STUDY: Spiritual Encouragement through Philippians.

When Paul wrote his letter to the church in Philippi, he was in prison. Rather than seeing his current circumstances as a hindrance, he transformed his understanding to finding God’s grace and the benefits to the community in chapters 1 and 2. How does Paul help us in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic to live toward our sanctification and our mission to share the good news through word and deed?

March 31: Living into New Traditions: Finding Unity Within the Community in Philippi and Memphis
In chapters 3 and 4 of his letter to the church in Philippi, Paul reflects on his own identity and assigns new values to his place within the Jesus Community. He also shows how important it is for that community to be united in love and purpose. How do his reflections on tradition and community help us in understanding our own place and time?

Zoom Discussions: Wednesdays, March 24 and 31, 6–7 p.m.
Facilitator: Dr. Dan Pigg

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter 2021 at GSL
“Light in Deepest Night”

Meditation and Prayer to Observe a Holy Lent and Prepare for Easter: In addition to worship and formation offerings on Sundays and Wednesdays and special events for Holy Week through Easter Day, this year Grace-St. Luke's provides Lenten meditation booklets “Steadfast Love: Inspiration from Henri J. M. Nouwen” to be received by households in various ways. We also recommend to enrich journeys offerings such as the weekly virtual series “Come, Pray” of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist (ssje.org) and/or subscription to the Lenten Meditations from Episcopal Relief & Development (www.episcopalrelief.org/church-in-action/lent).
Ash Wednesday: The Start of Lent, February 17
7–7:30 a.m. Solemn Liturgy of Prayers and the Blessing of Ashes
Virtual-only offering; individual containers of ashes made available after the service for collection from GSL at designated times and delivery to homebound parishioners
9–10 a.m. Grace-St. Luke’s Church Take-away Ashes (Circle Parking Lot Drive-Thru)
Distributed (small packets) by clergy and staff for at-home imposition
Noon–12:45 p.m., Service of Prayers and Blessing of Ashes with Music for Organ
Virtual and In Person; individual containers of ashes made available for take-away, at-home imposition, and delivery to fellow parishioners
1–2 p.m. Grace-St. Luke’s Church Take-away Ashes (Circle Parking Lot Drive-Thru)
Distributed (small packets) by clergy and staff for at-home imposition
6–6:45 p.m., Service of Prayers and Blessing of Ashes with Music for Choir and Organ
Virtual and In Person; individual containers of ashes made available for take-away, at-home imposition, and delivery to fellow parishioners; hymns and anthem offered by staff singers

“Light In Deepest Night” Lenten Preaching Series - Sundays
Sermons by GSL Parish Clergy and Guests
First Sunday in Lent, February 21
10:30 a.m. The Rev. Laura F. Gettys
Second Sunday in Lent, February 28
10:30 a.m. The Rev. Dr. Stuart Hoke
Third Sunday in Lent, March 7
10:30 a.m. The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher
Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 14
10:30 a.m. The Rev. Anne S. Carriere
Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 21
10:30 a.m. The Rev. Buddy Stallings

Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday, March 28
10:30 a.m. Liturgy of Blessing of The Palms and Procession with Music
5:30–6:15 p.m. Contemplative Music Event: “Light in Deepest Night” based on the writings of Julian of Norwich, set to music by Aaron David Miller

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in Holy Week, March 29-31
Noon-12:30 p.m., Noonday Prayer with Meditation from “Steadfast Love: Inspiration from Henri J. M. Nouwen”

Maundy Thursday, April 1
6–6:45 p.m. Solemn Liturgy and the Stripping, Washing, and Anointing of the Altar with Music followed by In-Home Overnight Prayer Vigil
Parishioners are encouraged to set aside one hour at home and light a candle to commemorate the invitation from Jesus for followers to “watch and pray” with him on the night before his crucifixion. The Reserved Sacrament will be encircled on the GSL Chapel Altar by greenery to signify a garden; a priest will end the vigil at 7:30 a.m. with Virtual Prayers for Good Friday via Facebook Live.

Good Friday, April 2
7:30–8 a.m. Virtual Prayers for Good Friday via Facebook Live
Noon–12:45 p.m. Solemn Liturgy with Meditations & Music
1–1:30 p.m. Virtual Walking the Stations of the Cross led by the clergy via Facebook Live
6–6:45 p.m. Virtual Music: “Light in Deepest Night” for Choir and Organ via Facebook Live

Holy Saturday, April 3
7 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter

The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day, April 4
10:30 a.m. Festival Worship with Music
5:30 p.m. No service offered; resumes April 11

Second Sunday of Easter, April 11
10:30 a.m. Worship with Music
5:30 p.m. Easter Tide Concert of Trumpet and Organ
Episcopal Youth Community (EYC): An opportunity for fellowship, relaxing, and fun! EYC offers a more laidback atmosphere for youth to build meaningful and lasting friendships. This time is less focused on structured learning and more devoted to community building, self-expression, impactful service, and seeking to understand the ever-changing and messy world around us. Please note that locations and times may change depending on the nature of our activities. Look out for monthly emails from awilliams@gracestlukes.org to keep updated on all things EYC. In addition, the what and where of EYC is subject to change concerning conditions of COVID-19, but know we always plan to have something offered at this time for you and your family!

Youth Formation at GSL may look at little different this year, but make no mistake, we are working hard to make it one for the books. Watch for emails containing where we will be meeting, whether that be Zoom or a socially distanced outdoor activity! To stay connected on where and what the EYCs will be, contact awilliams@gracestlukes.org.

Local teacher and GSL parishioner, Jess Steenbergen, serves as our volunteer Youth Formation associate. Jess has had a very active role with Youth Formation the past two years, and we are thrilled to have her with us once again.

Lent: This Lent we are excited to offer two exciting opportunities for youth. Wednesday nights we will gather with Calvary and Holy Communion for a Youth Lenten Series featuring a different leader from our community each week. On Sundays, we are excited to offer “Pocket Lent,” a group that will meet each week during Lent to serve the community, explore new skills and hobbies, and learn effective ways to better ourselves. For more information or questions regarding anything youth formation, please contact awilliams@gracestlukes.org.

Nursery and in-person classes for children will resume at a date TBD.

Winter-Spring 2021 At-Home and Virtual Offerings for Children

For more information about programs for children, please contact Sharon Campbell, Director of Children’s Formation (scampbell@gracestlukes.org).

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Montessori-based approach to the faith formation of children that takes place in a specially prepared classroom called an Atrium. Some elements of the Atrium experience lend themselves quite well to at-home use. Our starting points are outlined here:

Traveling Model Altar: At this child-sized altar, children learn the nomenclature for articles of the mass by preparing the altar themselves. The Model Altar is one of the more beloved work choices in the Atrium, so during this time of physical distance, your child can enjoy this experience at home! Instructions and all materials will be provided. Sign up online or contact Sharon Campbell for more information.

Prayer Table Kit: Above all else, the Atrium is a place of prayer, contemplation, and community for children. To help you and your child create a similar space in your home, Prayer Table kits are available by request. Please email Sharon. Child/ren are encouraged to use their Prayer Table any time they feel drawn to it. If desired, children may also join our virtual Sunday Prayer Table each week to help stay connected to their Atrium community.

Sunday Prayer Table (via Zoom): A focal point of the Atrium is the Prayer Table, where children and catechists gather together to sing, pray, and share what’s on our hearts. Each Sunday, following the 10:30 service, all children are invited to join a 15-minute (approx. 11:45-12) virtual Prayer Table led by Sharon Campbell via Zoom (link sent to all families on Saturdays).

Children's Activity Bags: Each month, families are invited to pick up a Children's Activity Bag. These bags will offer Bible stories, Scripture readings, moments for reflection, coloring pages, supplies for crafts, and seasonal activities. Children's Activity Bags will be available on January 31, February 28, and March 28.

Outdoor, In-Person Gatherings for Families: To meet the needs of families and children to be together in a safe way, we hope to offer some outdoor, in-person, socially distanced gatherings for families. (Subject to CDC guidelines and local health directives, dates TBD.)
Thank you, Grace-St. Luke’s
Chapman Morrow, Stewardship Associate

Thank you, Grace-St. Luke’s! The dedication so many of you have shown to the mission of our church over the last long months has been nothing short of remarkable. The support you’ve given to our community has been awe-inspiring, and we’re so grateful for all of you.

Despite 2020’s challenges, the parish’s work has continued. Dedicated lay people, staff, and clergy have worked creatively to bring worship into our homes week after week. Who would’ve thought that Ollie+, Laura+, and Anne+ would become televangelists?! Our AV team adapted our 1912 nave for 21st century technology. Thanks to our musicians, led by Patrick Scott and Debbie Smith, we’ve been treated to outstanding special performances in addition to the gorgeous music we’ve come to expect on Sunday mornings. Even though they all make it look easy, services, formation, and special events take hours of preparation and skill to create. We’re so blessed by their talents.

So many have helped keep our community connected. Lucy Owens has worked tirelessly making sure that our website, eNews, announcements, and social media posts keep us up to date with the latest happenings in the parish. Abby Huber answered countless technical questions and made weekly online signups run smoothly. Sharon Campbell and Amzie Williams found imaginative ways to support our children’s and youth ministries through virtual prayer table, EYC movie nights, take home activities, and our first-ever virtual Christmas pageant.

Christi Authement adapted our athletic programs to a COVID-19 world and found ways for folks to keep moving through outdoor walking and virtual fitness groups.

Even though the buildings closed, Linda Stine made sure daily operations ran seamlessly. D Thomas, Ashley Kendrick, and Bruce Williams kept our facilities in top condition, even when faced with an urgent HVAC replacement. Bev Trojan picked quite a year to finish her term as treasurer! She, along with Senior Warden Simon Wadsworth and our vestry, kept church finances in order. Ministry leaders made sure that More Than A Meal continued each week, pastoral care needs were met, outreach grants were given, and new programs continued to develop. Our commitments never ceased.

None of this would be possible without our parish community. Your prayers, your presence, your talents, and your financial gifts support all that we do. More than 200 of you have made pledges of financial support to Grace-St. Luke’s for 2021, and we’re beyond grateful for your generosity. We’d love to see that generosity spread (rather than Covid!) to our all our 500 households who call GSL their spiritual home. Please visit www.gracestlukes.org/pledge to make your 2021 pledge today.

As always, we’re in this together. Let’s continue to give joyfully so that God’s mission can move forward through the work of our parish in 2021 and beyond.

Chapman Morrow
Stewardship Associate
901-252-6328 | cmorrow@gracestlukes.org
It’s hard to believe that with this edition of *The Messenger* we will pass the one-year mark since we had to turn to a mostly virtual format for our liturgies, concerts, and other offerings. For the end of the Epiphany season, Lent, Holy Week, and Easter we will continue to offer all of our usual liturgies with some exciting additional services listed below:

On January 31 at 5:30 p.m., we offered a service in observance of Candlemas, the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Candlemas is a service traditionally used to bless candles that would be used throughout the year symbolizing Jesus who referred to himself as the “light of the world.” The service opens with the *Nunc Dimittis* (The Song of Simeon) who had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. He spoke the words of the *Nunc Dimittis* while holding Jesus at the presentation in the Temple of Jerusalem. The service is available at gracestlukes.org/virtual-offerings/worship-music.

On February 14 at 5:30 p.m., we’ll end Epiphany with a concert of organ works based on Epiphany themes, including a new work from Los Angeles composer Tom Mueller which are a set of variations on the hymn, “How bright appears the Morning Star.” The program will end with a Toccata on “March of the Kings” by Pierre Cochereau who was the organist at the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris for many years.

March 14 at 5:30 p.m. will be a Lenten Evensong with more reflective and meditative music for the season of lent, including the *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis* of Thomas Tallis.

On the afternoon of Palm Sunday, March 28, at 5:30 p.m., the GSL musicians and clergy will provide a Lenten Meditation based on the writings of Julian of Norwich. Aaron David Miller has compiled her readings and set them to music and included some as spoken meditations in a work titled, “Light in Deepest Night.”

Dr. Patrick A. Scott
Director of Music and Organist
901-252-6323 | pscott@gracestlukes.org

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**Bishop Phoebe’s Annual Visit**

On January 17, the Rt. Rev. Phoebe A. Roaf celebrated and preached on the occasion of her annual visit to GSL. It was a glorious day, and we are very thankful she was able to worship with us via our livestream service. Photo below is courtesy of Jeff White. Additional photos can be found at www.flickr.com/gracestlukes.
What is It?
Bill Pichette, Outreach Team Leader

What will you do when “it” is all over? What is “it” anyway? For some, “it” is the pandemic. Not mutually exclusive, but for others “it” is the current news cycle. For many “it” is retirement, a move to another city/state/country, or a new year. What is “it” for you? Is “it” a moving target? I will typically not talk about politics, but for our country (and our friends, allies, adversaries, and those who look to us around the world) “it” is the now completed 2020 election cycle. We have a new President, Vice President, and some new representatives in Washington, D.C., and around the country. Notwithstanding the legal challenges and the lunacy, we’ve done “it” again. “It” may not solve all of our community’s problems, but I believe “it” is up for the challenge. Maybe hard to fathom right now, but “it” makes government administrations irrelevant, and we don’t have to wait for “it.” This “it” I speak of is, of course, God’s love. Throughout mankind’s history of trials and tragedies, it has been with us—and not always easy to see or believe. Moses saw it and believed. Mary did too. Our challenge, then, is to peer through the fog of our own trials and see it, without a direct message or visit from a heaven-sent messenger. But wait, if we believe, then we have exactly that. The embodiment of the direct message, the baby who Mary bore and raised, left us a message.

Love your neighbor, he said. He even showed us how. He certainly did it in challenging times, in an occupied country where people died daily of violence and what are now eradicated or curable diseases. But we’re not Jesus, you say? Did I hear “we’re not capable of miracles?” Okay, maybe that was me, in my hours and days and years of doubt. No time? No resources? I can’t impact/change anything? Maybe next year? When I’m retired?

Full disclosure—I waited. I waited 25 years before returning to active worship. I waited until I left a career that was my life; my entire being. Except for minimal donations and rare involvement, I waited until I moved to Memphis. I couldn’t see how one person could make a measurable difference. I see now how much time I wasted. I know now that sharing the message of God’s love happens one interaction at a time. We even get to choose that interaction. It may include a prayerful commitment to pledging support to our church. It may be simply showing up for an hour or so to pack school supplies for children in need. Or maybe it’s a phone call to a senior citizen isolated by lack of family, economic need, or a pandemic.

Any of these, and there are opportunities available to fit whatever time or resource we have, give us a chance to make a difference; a way to spread Jesus’ message of love; a path to performing our own miracle. Our parish as a whole and teams of committed individuals have helped feed, clothe, and shelter the needy. We welcome strangers and at least contribute to healing the sick. We have enabled children and families to overcome disparities, and we recognize and respect diversity. We all know there is a limit to what each person can do, and our resources are not limitless. We know that we cannot solve the community’s problems in a short time period. We certainly know or recognize that we do not control the behavior of others. However, we can all play a small part. Instead of being overwhelmed by the enormity of need, we can each focus on one person. One that comes to mind is a man whom we helped recover from cancer with our More Than A Meal ministry. I watched him look better and healthier each month, one nutritious meal at a time. We enabled and witnessed a miracle.

Please don’t wait for some future “it” to recognize that we can make a difference now. Within our parish ministries and our Servant Ministry Partners’ missions, there are opportunities for whatever time or talent or resource you have. Please consider taking just a moment out of your day to think and pray about what you can do. Talk to our clergy, staff, vestry, or Outreach Committee (outreach@gracestlukes.org) about existing opportunities—or as we did just yesterday, suggest/discuss new opportunities. Share that message! Make “it” happen! Perform that miracle!
Just over a year ago, on January 18, 2020, nearly 40 Grace-St. Luke’s youth filed onto two charter buses and eagerly departed for the yearly St. Columba ski trip. Looking back, it almost makes me cringe to picture that many individuals seated so tightly together with no mask or GermX in sight. This year has changed so many aspects of how we participate in society and forced us to rethink aspects of our lives that were once the ingrained tradition.

In an effort to remain positive, I have attempted to pay special appreciation and gratitude for the “silver linings,” or holy moments amidst a global pandemic. Moments that might have once been mundane or routine. Perhaps one of the best I’ve encountered was the opportunity to gather with our 2020 Confirmation Class safely on the grassy knoll next to Miss Lee’s. Here, thirteen youth met for over two months to examine, share, and expand their roles in the Episcopal Church. Though masked, six feet apart, and at the mercy of the weather, I cannot commend this group enough for their dedication to coming prepared and ready to share about their faith. This group’s insight and compassion for the Memphis community gives me great hope for the future of the 901. Here’s to the GSL Confirmation Class of 2020!

While the youth were unable to be confirmed during Bishop Phoebe’s annual visit on January 17, they and our adult candidates will be confirmed at some point in Spring 2021.

Avery Arkle, Rebecca Burnett, Ron Byrnes, Khaki Callan, Samuel Callan, Grace Ciaramitaro, Henry Duncan, Caroline Holtzclaw, Hays Prather, Charles Rowland, Bronwyn Saatkamp, Jackson Saatkamp

Children’s Formation continues to be offered through our Virtual Prayer Table on Sunday mornings, along with at-home materials like the Traveling Model Altar and Children’s Activity Bags. Our February bag has just been delivered, filled with lessons and activities for Saint Valentine, Valentine’s Day, and the beginning of Lent. To reserve March and April bags for your child/ren, please sign up here: tinyurl.com/ChildrensActivityBags2.

During the month of February, watch the GSL Children’s Formation Facebook page for Story Time videos featuring children’s books about Saint Valentine and Valentine’s Day. Video links will also be sent via email. (www.facebook.com/GSLChildrensFormation)

To be added to the Children’s Formation email list, please contact Sharon Campbell, Director of Children’s Formation. Updates are also shared on the GSL Children’s Formation Facebook page. Details about Children’s Formation virtual offerings can always be found on the GSL website as well. (www.gracestlukes.org/childrens-formation)

Sharon Campbell, Director of Children’s Formation
901-252-6321 | scampbell@gracestlukes.org
Recreation & Wellness
www.gracestlukes.org/athletics

YOGA WITH SHANTI

Roll out your mats and STRETCH your way into better health. Experience yoga and its many health benefits. Among them are stress reduction, physical balance and strength, improved energy, flexibility and relaxation. Shantih’s class is distinguished by the knowledge, experience and practice that only 19 years of teaching can provide. Her calm, down-to-earth demeanor endears her to students. Her teaching is grounded in her ongoing study of anatomy and inspired by her love of movement. The ability to clearly relay fundamentals of the asana practice and to maintain a compassionate and supportive environment result in students that are among the most loyal.

Classes will focus on proper body alignment while practicing the traditional yoga postures.

Options will be offered to make the poses more or less demanding depending on one’s personal interest/ability level.

Classes are Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

For more information, please contact Shanti Smythe at shantihsmythe901@gmail.com.

• Students will need a mat, a firm blanket (or a towel), a belt or tie from a robe, & a chair.

FAB 50 Basketball Outdoor Sessions Re-Cap

A BIG thank you to the FAB 50 instructors, Phil Richmond and Curtis Phillips, for their amazing leadership and enthusiasm during these sessions. They provided participants with tons of FUN while incorporating basketball fundamentals!

This program was offered as an interim program until we could provide our 2021 8-week basketball season. I’m happy to announce that Phil and Curtis will also be the instructors for our 2021 season, which is planned for January–March. For more information, please refer to our website at www.gracestlukes.org/youthbasketball.

Lastly, a BIG thank you to the participants and parents for making the FAB 50 possible.

Christi Authement, Recreation & Wellness Director
901-252-6325 | cauthement@gracestlukes.org

Christian Service at GSL

Jocelyn Busby, Lay Pastoral Care Coordinator

The act of Christian service is at the root of our faith. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus urges his disciples to be of help to others. In his Epistle to the Galatians, the apostle Paul says, “Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2) At Grace-St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, our Lay Pastoral Care Team has the opportunity to support fellow parishioners as they navigate life’s transitions. Whether recovering from surgery, grieving the loss of a loved one, celebrating the birth of a child, or embarking on a new phase of life, members of our extended church family hear from us regularly. We send cards, make calls, deliver meals, and pray for those on our pastoral care list. If you feel called to participate in this important ministry, please contact the parish office or Lay Pastoral Care Coordinator, Jocelyn Busby, via Realm Connect (www.gracestlukes.org/realm).
News from GSL School
By Thor Kvande, Head of School

We started back to school as planned on January 4, and our incredible teachers continue to forge ahead at GSL, remaining mindful as ever of safety precautions for our community. We are all looking forward to a successful vaccine rollout in Shelby County as the weeks progress! Below are some photos from church and classroom activities around campus.

This year we continue our diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) work, an important strategic initiative at GSL. The school’s DEI committee is meeting regularly with a trainer, Sedgwick VP for Engagement, Inclusion and Social Responsibility Ericka DeBruce, and leading monthly small-group discussions on diversity issues based on DeBruce’s training curriculum. In January, we worked thoughtfully and intentionally on celebrating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as we prepared to celebrate MLK Day. Middle School Head Ellen Hendry and Performing Arts Teacher Leslie Reddick met virtually with Middle Schoolers to talk about Dr. King’s work and the day he was assassinated.

Finally, a reminder that we are in the midst of admissions season, and we are currently accepting applications for the 2021-22 school year. Come take a tour or refer GSL to a prospective family! To learn more, call Director of Enrollment Shelly McGuire at 901-278-0200.

Upcoming Calendar Events
Presidents’ Day (School Closed): Monday, February 15
Spring Break (School Closed): March 8-12
8th Grade Italian Dinner Drive-Thru/To Go Event: Thursday, March 18; info to come

Join Us on Social
Please help us spread the word about GSL during this important admissions season! How, you ask? Like or follow us today on any of our social media channels!

GSL Instagram Feed: www.instagram.com/gslschool/?hl=en
GSL Twitter Feed: twitter.com/GSLSchoolMem
GSL Facebook School Page: www.facebook.com/gslschool
GSL Facebook Alumni Page: www.facebook.com/GSLAlumni
GSL LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/2254618/admin

Father Ollie talked about life during the pandemic, Mary, and waiting, in a beautiful Advent Chapel homily that was livestreamed to the school.

The Rev. Laura Gettys got some assistance from Music Director Patrick Scott and GSL Technology Director Jeff White to set up the Advent Wreath for All-School Chapel.

Eighth grader (and parishioner) Henry Bush is pictured here in front of the livestream set-up during the Homecoming presentation for the Class of 2021 in January.

GSL’s Leslie Reddick and Ellen Hendry share their memories of the day Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated during an online advisory session with Middle School students in January.
**Memorials & Honoraria**

**Memorials**
- Wesley Emerson from Carr Family Charitable Trust, Jeannie Mercer & Breen Bland, Nancy & Sonny Golden
- Billie Capozzi from Patti Newsom
- The Rev. John Moloney from Carol Moloney
- Francis Chapman Sellers from Chapman Morrow
- Stella Bain from Betsy & Jet Tate
- Minery Apperson from Betsy & Jet Tate
- Shep Tate from Betsy & Jet Tate
- Ann Kendall Ray from Nancy & Sonny Golden
- Gladys Jane Caughlin Campbell from Nancy & Sonny Golden
- Varner Rencher from Nancy & Sonny Golden
- Mary Ann Marks from Nancy & Sonny Golden

**Honoraria**
- Sidney Hickey from Kacey & Brian Davies
- Sidney & David Hickey from Kacey & Brian Davies
- Grant Adams from Jason Derrick, KB Melear
- Jennifer Balink from Mackie & Jane Gober
- Edith & Bob Heller from Elizabeth & Andy Hyde, Betsy & Jet Tate
- Dylan Shockey & Susie Ogden from Paul & Julia Ogden
- Ruthie Lenz from Edith Heller, Betsy & Preston Wilson, Lin Team
- Earle Donelson from Ruthie Lenz, Edith Heller, Lin Team
- Ruthie Lenz & Earle Donelson from Jonathan Large, Tom & Julie Gattas
- Murray & Dana McKay from Ruthie Lenz, Jonathan Large
- Murray McKay from Edith Heller
- Mike Davis from Ruthie Lenz, Edith Heller
- Jonathan Large from Ruthie Lenz, Edith Heller
- Edith Heller from Ruthie Lenz, Jonathan Large
- Betty Peyton from Ruthie Lenz, Edith Heller, Jonathan Large
- Karen Harper from Edith Heller, Jonathan Large
- Arthur Nave from Edith Heller
- Jerry & Donna Sanders from Edith Heller
- Suzanne & Larry Busby from Betsy & Preston Wilson
- Sidney & David Hickey from Betsy & Preston Wilson
- Kacey & Brian Davies from Betsy & Preston Wilson
- Sandra Ireland from Betsy & Preston Wilson
- Bev & Terry Trojan from Betsy & Preston Wilson
- Frank Langford from Betsy & Preston Wilson
- Carolyn Gardiner from Betsy & Preston Wilson
- Charlotte Jones from Betsy & Preston Wilson
- Nancy & Martin Edwards from Betsy & Preston Wilson
- Bond & Jim Moore from Betsy & Preston Wilson
- Ellen & Jere Fones from Betsy & Preston Wilson
- Mc Kee Whittemore from Jonathan Large
- Duncan McLean from Jonathan Large
- Bob & Corinne Adrian from Jim & Harriet Adrian
- Tiger from Jonathan Large
- Barb Boucher from Jonathan Large
- Spencer Gooch from Jonathan Large
- Virginia Darlington from Betsy & Jet Tate
- Margaret Markham from Betsy & Jet Tate
- Carolyn Gardiner from Betsy & Jet Tate
- Lucy Owens from Betsy & Jet Tate
- Mimi & Jim Taylor from Girls’ Christmas Group
- Betsy & Preston Wilson from Claudia & Joe Porter
- Mike Manetz from Julian Prewitt
- Isabel Wittman from Mackie & Jane Gober
- Buddy Adams from Mackie & Jane Gober
- The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher from Peria & Barton Williams
- Betsy Black from Ann Sandberg
- More Than A Meal Volunteers from Juan Fuentes & Robert Thompson, Chapman Morrow

**Membership News**

**Holy Baptism**
- Ruby Catheryne Ward, baptized on December 23, 2020

**Death**
- Kellie Denise Eddings Kellett, January 1, 2021

**Looking Towards Sunday**

**Revised Common Lectionary ✌ Year B**

Feb 7 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
- Isaiah 40:21-31 • Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
- 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 • Mark 1:29-39

Feb 14 Transfiguration Sunday
- 2 Kings 2:1-12 • Psalm 50:1-6
- 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 • Mark 9:2-9

Feb 17 Ash Wednesday
- Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12
- Psalm 51:1-17 • 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 • Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Feb 21 First Sunday in Lent
- Genesis 9:8-17 • Psalm 25:1-10
- 1 Peter 3:18-22 • Mark 1:9-15

Feb 28 Second Sunday in Lent
- Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 • Psalm 22:23-31
- Romans 4:13-25 • Mark 8:31-38
- or Mark 9:2-9

Mar 7 Third Sunday in Lent
- Exodus 20:1-17 • Psalm 19
- 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 • John 2:13-22

Mar 14 Fourth Sunday in Lent
- Numbers 21:4-9 • Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
- Ephesians 2:1-10 • John 3:14-21

Mar 21 Fifth Sunday in Lent
- Jeremiah 31:31-34
- Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16
- Hebrews 5:5-10 • John 12:20-33

Mar 28 Palm Sunday
- Liturgy of the Palms
- Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 • Mark 11:1-11
- or John 12:12-16
- Liturgy of the Passion
- Isaiah 50:4-9a • Psalm 31:9-16
- Philippians 2:5-11 • Mark 14:1-15:47
- or Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)

This link (www.gracesstlukes.org/discover/this-sundays-texts) is access to Sunday lectionary readings online where you may reflect and pray with them at any time. Also offered are an overview, scripture backgrounds, a reflection, and prayer starters to enhance your worship experience.
GSL Daytime Book Group

The GSL Daytime Book Group continues to meet on Zoom the first Thursday evening at 7 p.m. for the time being. We'll meet February 4 to discuss *The Secret Chord* and March 4 to discuss *Night Boat to Tangier*. If you'd like to be added to the mailing list or receive a book schedule, please connect with Janie Morris through Realm Connect (www.gracestlukes.org/realm). We are hoping to be able to meet in person soon!

Realm Connect for GSL

A MEMBER MINISTRY TOOL FOR EVERYONE!

Want an easy way to stay connected with church staff and fellow parishioners as well as stay informed about offerings at Grace-St. Luke's? Join us on Realm! Realm is the church's ministry platform through which you can update your own profile, keep in touch with others, learn about upcoming events, stay involved in groups, and more. For questions or more information, visit gracetlukes.org/Realm.