St. Luke's Episcopal Church - Fairport, NY

Annual parish meeting

January 31, 2010

We are an open, Christ-centered community, caring for each other, and doing God's work in the world.

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ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

January 31, 2010

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (including Rector's State of the Church Address)

8:50 a.m. Annual Meeting called to Order

Opening Prayer

Report of the Nominating Committee

Ballots opened for nominations from the floor

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (including Rector's State of the Church Address)

11:30 a.m. Annual Meeting Reconvenes

Prayer

Appointment of clerk, parliamentarian, and tellers

Review of the report of Nominating Committee: Steve Simpson

Nominees for Vestry: Betty Diehl, Karen Keegan
George Wolf

Nominee for Warden: Mary Ellen Ennis

Nominee for Diocesan Delegate: Andy Rodman

Nominations taken from the floor

Person being nominated must be present and must agree to having his/her name put forward

Motion to close nominations

Reading of Qualifications to Vote from the Canons

Passing Out and Collection of Ballots *(A light brunch will be available)*

Presentation of Minutes from the 2009 Annual Meeting

Treasurer's Report for 2009 Brian Donovan

Presentation of the 2010 Budget Brian Donovan

Senior Warden's Report Steve Simpson

Junior Warden's Report Susan Palomaki

Remembrances

Recognitions Steve Simpson & Deven Hubert

Teller's Report

Closing Prayer

Adjourn

MINUTES FOR ANNUAL MEETING—SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2009

Deven opened the meeting at the end of the early service and the meeting was reconvened in the Great Hall after the 10:00 AM Service. Booklets were passed out to all in attendance. Deven reconvened the meeting with prayer. Warren Knapp and Marti St. George volunteered to be Tellers. Richard Barbato was appointed Clerk and George Wolf was appointed Parliamentarian. A review of the qualifications to vote was reviewed from the Canons.

Wayne Shipman gave the report of the Nominating Committee. Candidates for Warden were Sue Palomaki and Cathy Thayer. Candidates for Vestry were, Dave Eng, Suzanne Roscoe and Sherry Ralston. Candidate for Diocesan Delegate was Ellen Wheeler Winter. There was a call for nominations from the floor. None were made. A motion was made to close the nominations which was seconded and passed.

Deven reviewed the Church Canons for eligibility to vote. The Tellers passed out ballots. Ballots were collected. The minutes from last year's annual meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes from last year's meeting. It was seconded and approved.

Kathy Guglielmi reviewed the Treasurer's Report for 2008 with all in attendance. Details of the $103,000 Sibley loan with Diocese were reviewed. There was a call for questions from the floor. There were none.

Brian Donovan reviewed the 2009 budget with all in attendance. There was a call for questions from the floor. There were none.

Richard Barbato gave an update report on status of the Capital Campaign. There was a call for questions from the floor. There were none.

Wayne Shipman gave the Senior Warden's Report. Steve Simpson gave the Jr. Warden's Report.

Deven led a prayerful remembrance of parishioners who have passed on in the last year, Chris Jones, Maurice Stevenson, Marianne Schrom in 2008 and Harry Luke in early 2009. A moment of silence was observed.

Deven thanked Wayne Shipman as outgoing Warden and Wayne thanked all the outgoing Vestry members for their service to St. Luke's: John Masciangelo, Mike Cortash, AmyElizabeth Munier. Cathy Franchino was thanked for her service as Diocesan Delegate and she thanked everyone for allowing her the privilege to serve. Deven thanked Kathy Guglielmi as outgoing Treasurer.

Deven made a call for any questions or announcements. Patty Simpson made a call for Sunday School Teachers. Deven announced plans for Lenten Services and called for volunteers to help with a Lenten program for children.

Minutes for annual Meeting—Sunday, January 25, 2009

The Tellers reported on the voting. Ellen Wheeler Winter was elected as Diocesan Delegate. Suzanne Roscoe, David Eng and Sherry Ralston were elected to the Vestry and Susan Palomaki was elected as Warden. All were thanked for their participation.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

Deven closed with prayer.

Rector's State of the Church

I Corinthians 13:1-13, our Epistle lesson today, is commonly known as the love passage. It is one of the lessons often chosen to be read at a wedding. It is a wonderful coincidence or God moment for me this morning that it is one of the lessons on this day that I give the State of the Church address. I Corinthians 13:13 says, "And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." St. Luke's is a place of faith and hope, but it is also very much a place of love. Love is evident and alive here –the love of God for us, the love that we have for each other and the love that embraces the community and the world beyond our doors.

We see love expressed in how we worship together. We see it in the care that the altar guild ,under the direction of Jean Keplinger and Mary Jo Hazelden, takes to prepare our worship space for all of our services. We hear it in the proclamation of the word by our lay readers guided by John Masciangelo and Heather Randell. We see it in the welcoming expressions of our greeters and ushers, coordinated by Bonnie Wasson and Richard Barbato respectively . We watch it in the smallest and oldest of our acolytes recruited by Karen Keegan. We hear it in the voices of our choir. It's wonderful to see many of these ministries growing in participation. Thanks, new people for joining!

Last February we said a tough good bye to Tom Elston after having been our director of music for 17 years. Several substitute organists and Mitzie Collins served us well during our interim period while we were in the discernment and search process. In June we welcomed Anne Lam as our new director of music. Thank you, Anne, for the many wonderful gifts that you bring to St. Luke's through your organ playing and skill at working with the choir and other musicians. You are a terrific addition to our staff!

Nearly every week our lay eucharistic visitors, Sue Veronda, Sharon Scott, and Sue Prener along with myself, take communion to homebound parishioners. The love of God and fellowship of this parish gets taken into the living rooms and nursing home rooms of those who are not able to be with us. Others also receive visits. This past year we said good bye to members, Jack Aufderheide,

Charlie Smith, Alta Hutchings, Beryl Nesbit and Harry Luke. We remember them today with love. Thank you to everyone who ministered to them or provided help with services or receptions in their memory.

Our prayer chain intercessors pray for people connected to St. Luke's on the day that they are having surgery in half hour shifts. All day they are surrounded with the love and prayers of others. Thank you to everyone who takes part in this ministry coordinated by Mary Jo Hazelden and Mavis Rossborough.

In 2009 a stained glass window was given to St. Luke's by Hunter and Bonnie Wasson in loving memory of their parents. This window, created in the colors of the Church year, reminds us that God is always with us in all the seasons of life. Thank you, Hunter and Bonnie for this wonderful addition to our worship space.

We see love expressed in the time and energy that our Sunday School teachers give to their classes. Thank you coordinators Patty Simpson and Arika Relly and all those who teach in our Seasons of the Spirit Sunday School program. Thanks to Charlotte Donovan and Richard Barbato for your work with our Rite 13 class and to Gary Roscoe and Carolyn Dailey for your work with our Journey to Adulthood group. Christian education is an area where we could really use more volunteers in 2010. We need more people willing to work with our children and youth. The more people that we have the easier it is for us to set up a rotation of teachers. Maybe you think that you could never be a teacher. You might be surprised . You might find that you have talent for this ministry that you never realized that you had.

Our thanks goes to Betsy MacKay, our nursery school attendant, for continuing to work with some of our youngest members in the nursery. Parishioner Kendra Hogg helps her regularly in the nursery. Thank you Kendra for your great volunteerism with our children.

One of Vestry goals for 2009 was to offer more in the area of adult education. Our Women in the Bible Study group continued through 2009 and is still going strong in 2010. This group is growing in numbers. Soon we will finish our study of women in the Bible and will pick another topic to focus on Wednesday mornings. Your suggestions are welcome.

We have a book study group that now meets regularly. Marlene Shaddock and Richard Barbato gave us two thought provoking sessions on Angels and Demons. Our *First Light* DVD series began in November and continues through March 7.

One of the highlights of 2009 was our Lenten Series on the Dalit community of India led by Roja Singh. Thank you, Roja, for bringing us this wonderful series! The series, of course, became the catalyst for us to begin a companion relationship with children and families connected with St. Peter's English Medium School in India. We have begun providing scholarships for children to attend the school and will be establishing pen pal relationships. A terrific Indian dinner in the Fall

was the Kick Off for this companion relationship. Thanks to all who were Indian cooking apprentices for this event and to all who attended.

This week, of course, our 4th – 7th grade class held a tasty fundraiser at Moonlight Creamery to raise more money for scholarships. On February 7, Michael Haslett, the founder of the D. DeVoe Foundation, will be with us to give an update at both services about what is happening at the school.

In the arena of outreach beyond our Church doors we also provided food for the Perinton Food Shelf, gave gifts of money and in kind to the A Meal and More and St. Stephen's Soup Supper Program. We provided Christmas baskets for families in need. Parishioners gave to Episcopal Relief and Development, UTO, Blankets of Hope, and Bethany House . We walked in the CROP Walk, volunteered for St. Sephen's Soup Supper and Safe Journey, tutored at School No. 9 and made quilts for children in the NICU at Golisano Children's Hospital at Strong. In our purchase of Equal Exchange Coffee and other goods we were able to help provide a fair wage for people involved in their production. We also gave loans to people in third world countries to help them establish businesses. I hope that we can continue to develop this ministry and have a role in economic development in third world countries. This year, we'll also learn more about Migrant Farm workers on Public Policy Sunday, February 14.

Social times such as coffee hours hosted by many St. Luke's commissions and families coordinated by Cindy Rodman, Foyer groups facilitated by Loretta and Mike Cortash, and our Church picnic coordinated by Wayne Shipman brought us together. In 2010 it would be great for us to find more opportunities to just be together. With our sound equipment purchased through a grant from the Diocese and a gift from a parishioner soon to arrive it's time to start thinking about more coffee houses, a talent show, a performance by Ned Singh, Joe Palomaki and their band. Once we get past Lent it'll be time for some rockin' around here.

Maintaining our property is a big job at St. Luke's. Something always seems to be in need of repair. Thanks goes to acting property chair Wayne Shipman , to Jim Hanss for seeing to our electrical needs and to Gary Gocek for keeping tabs on our heating/cooling system. Thanks to all others who helped us with special projects this past year. Our sexton, Mike Harty, is always looking for ways to do his job more efficiently and effectively for us. Looking ahead we still need to make decisions on some lighting issues in our building, finish work on our Narthex and hallways, provide more handicapped parking signage, and …the list goes on. If you enjoy physical hands on projects we need you!

This year Cathy Thayer created a wonderful new St. Luke's brochure for us to give to visitors and use in other ways to tell people about our parish. Thank you, Cathy. AmyElizabeth Munier continues to maintain our website. Thank you, AmyElizabeth! We need to continue to explore more ways to invite people to join us at St. Luke's!

During 2009 Roja, Ned, and Eklan Singh, Emily Cobb Henry and her daughters Ella and Annie, Thorton Wierum, T.J. and Kim Chamberlain and their son Ethan, Matt and Suzette Lontchar , Allan Fraser, and Jan Metcalf officially became a part of St. Luke's. Ava Lontchar, Michael Reilly, Cooper Short, and Nicolas Munier and Connor Cuccia, grandson of Bill and Nancy Hagerman, were baptized here. The Fischer family of Ed and Kimberly and daughters Arafel, Renee, Audrey, and Isabelle are in the process of transferring their membership from a parish in Virginia. It's wonderful to have all of you here!

Our terrific secretary of nearly 9 years, Cheryl Hixon, left us in the fall to pursue full time work. We have been fortunate to find a great new secretary, Barb Gosnell. She is learning her way through the liturgical year with efficiency, warmth, and good humor. Just when she thinks it will be an easier week, I throw something else her way, like the Annual Meeting Booklet. Drop by the Church office and meet Barb if you haven't already. You'll be glad you did.

Some people at St. Luke's see part of their calling as helping our parish to raise funds or manage funds to enable us to keep doing ministry. Thank goodness, we have people like you around!

Our thanks goes to our treasurer, Brian Donovan, and our receiving treasurer, David Pierce, and our Finance Commission chair Georgiana Prince. Thank you to our Stewardship Commission under the leadership this year of Andy Rodman . Thank you money counters. We especially need more people to sign up to be money counters since two people who are unrelated and over 21 are required to count our contributions each week. This is an important and much needed ministry.

Thanks to Edna Schuttee, Marti St. George and the many others who continue to hold our rummage sales twice a year, and to Suzanne Roscoe for organizing our Tea and Bling Event. In 2009, Tom and Susan Palomaki also enabled us to have a bake sale at Lucas Greenhouses. Under the start up leadership of Wayne Machamer with assistance from Suzanne Roscoe and David Eng, we also began a SCRIP program to enable parishioners to purchase gift cards through St. Luke's with St. Luke's earning a commission on cards sold. Thanks for taking on this new initiative. Our vestry, under the leadership of wardens Steve Simpson and Sue Palomaki, guided us well through a challenging economic year. We are grateful to have accomplished much and end the 2009 fiscal year in the black. I've appreciated retiring warden Steve Simpson for his prompt, thoughtful response to issues, kind spirit and good humor. Special thanks also goes to outgoing vestry members Charlotte Donovan, Wayne Machamer, and Jeff Berry for your great three years of service.

At the end of 2009 we and many other parishes got a great Jubliee gift from our Diocese. Around $61,000 of our combined mortgage and capital campaign loan was forgiven by the Diocese. $61,000 of our debt was wiped out. Gone. The interest rate on our remaining loan was reduced from 5% to 2.5%, and the number of years to potentially pay off the loan was extended. Brian Donovan will provide more details about the impact of this action on our 2010 budget.

For the past several years, we have presented a deficit budget at the annual meeting. We will present a deficit budget again this year but it will be less of a deficit than in the past few years. We have never ended a fiscal year in the red, and I am confident that we will not end the 2010 fiscal year in the red either.

The Jubilee gift from our Diocese has taken some of the pressure off of our budget. It has lifted it. I try not to worry too much about money in the parish. I do ultimately believe that God will provide. I've found that in my personal life and I've always found it in the parish. I have to admit though, that I breathe a little easier, and I step a little lighter with less debt and a lower interest rate for our parish moving forward. The hope of the Diocese is that their Jubilee gift to us and to other parishes will open up more possibilities for mission and ministry. That is my hope for us as well.

Moving forward in 2010, we can enhance the music that we bring to worship. We can add to our education program. We can continue to grow our companion relationship with the children and families of St. Peter's English Medium School in India. We can expand our involvement in ministries in Fairport, Rochester and in other parts of our Diocese. We can continue to grow in love which "…bears all things, believes all things, hope all things, endures all things. Love never ends."

Amen.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Thank you for allowing me to serve as warden in 2009, I am privileged to have held this position. 2009 was a year of many blessings for St. Luke's. Among the many, I'll single out a few. New people coming to hear the word of God and enjoy fellowship, new (or old as the case may be) ideas for worship and new ways to raise funds for our ministry. These point to a vital congregation. Praise be to God!

From an operating perspective, we began the year with a large deficit in our budget and, by the grace of God, ended the year with a slight surplus. The hard work and generosity of St. Luke's members is indeed a blessing.

I would like to thank Deven for her leadership and commitment to our parish, the vestry for being willing to take on new challenges with a can-do spirit and Susan for her responsiveness and decisiveness. It was a pleasure to serve with this group. I also want to thank all of those who accepted nominations for the election in 2010. This is a vital ministry in the life of St.Luke's, I ask everyone to prayerfully consider accepting if nominated next year.

Your servant in Christ, Steve Simpson

Junior Warden's report

There is a country song out now with the title *I Saw God Today*. The song suggests that we just need to look at daily events to see and feel God's presence. I would like to share with you where I have seen God at St. Luke's in 2009.

Each month members of the Vestry gather to discuss, plan and work on the Church matters. I saw God at every meeting as members brainstorm, discussed and evaluated the business at hand. There was always plenty of laughter, but more importantly prayer and support from each other. I would like to thank Steve Simpson for his leadership in 2009. We were blessed with his effective leadership and joy for the task at hand. I saw God through Steve many times throughout the year.

God's presence was definitely with us when we were able to balance the budget for 2009. I know that we have a challenge ahead in 2010 but each year the deficit is less. God certainly will be with us as we prayerfully manage the finances in 2010. In 2009, St. Luke's donated approximately $5000 to different Outreach missions. With only a $500 budget line for Outreach, I certainly saw God in the creative ways St. Luke's parishioners continue to make Outreach a priority.

God is present with the smallest acolyte, in the friendships formed through J2A, and in the loving care given to the altar by the Altar Guild. It would be difficult to list all the committees at St. Luke's where I have seen God. I urge you to look for God in all we do at St. Luke's and be thankful for God's presence with us.

Thank you to those who have served in 2009 and those who have volunteered their time and talents for 2010. I look forward to serving in 2010. I hope that we all see God through our service.

Peace,

Susan Palomaki

Commission and Committee Reports

Altar Guild

The ministry of the Altar Guild at St. Luke's is to prepare the sanctuary for all services including weddings, funerals, and baptisms. The Guild maintains and cares for the vessels, linens, and any other furnishings. The twenty or so members share the specific duties of setting up, arranging the flowers, cleaning up, and laundering the linens.

In 2009, as in other years, preparations included the construction of the Advent wreath, which this past year was modified to accommodate seven candles as part of a trial expanded Advent season; preparation of ashes for Ash Wednesday and palms for Palm Sunday; and decoration of the church for Christmas and for Easter. In addition the Guild prepared for five baptisms and five funerals.

The Guild purchased some new linens to replace aging ones, and will continue to do so.

We heartily thank our dedicated members for all their work and we would be delighted to accept new members to help in this most important ministry.

Jean Keplinger

Mary Jo Hazelden

Church School

Our Sunday school has approximately 35 children registered this year. We are continuing to use the "Spirit of the Season" curriculum. Rite 13 continues to do well with a good attendance record. We have had several new teachers join our Sunday school team this year, and they are doing a great job. We had a very successful Christmas pageant this year. It was moved to the Sunday before Christmas which allowed several children, who had not been able to participate in the past due to family travel commitments, to assume rolls this year. Our 4th - 7th graders have just completed a fundraiser for the Dalit children. We will be taking up a new outreach project with the entire Sunday school which will also be for the Dalit children. Our Sunday school program will also be making a $1000 donation to the Heffer project which was an ongoing outreach program the last two years. Thank you to all that make this ministry such a success.

Submitted by Arika Reilly and Patty Simpson

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Money Counters / Pledge Recording

2009 was my first year heading up this quiet but very important activity at St. Luke's. It has been a pleasure to serve in this capacity. As a newer member of St. Luke's I have had the opportunity to meet many wonderful people and can now almost put a face with every name. Contributions from members provide a large portion of the money St. Luke's uses for its various ministries and expenses. Receiving and accounting for these contributions each Sunday requires the time and talents of a team of dedicated volunteers. Two volunteers meet after the 10:00 service each week to record these contributions and prepare the bank deposit. Most Sundays this process takes 15 to 20 minutes. Thank you to all my dedicated and willing 2009 volunteers for making this important responsibility quite easy. From time to time, additional volunteers are needed. I encourage anyone interested in helping with money counting and pledge recording in 2010 to contact me. It takes very little time to learn the process and we would sure appreciate your assistance.

Dave Pierce

Outreach

During 2009, the Outreach Commission continued to support the following projects and organizations:

- Episcopal Relief and Development
  - We had an ingathering on the first Sunday in Lent.
- School #9 tutoring program
  - Hunter and Bonnie Wasson are the new co-ordinators.
- Meal and More
  - We donated goods at Christmas.
- Crop Walk
- Quilt group
  - Baby quilts were created and donated to the NICU at Strong Hospital.
- PLCC
  - Colleen Pierce is the new St. Luke’s rep.
  - The parish contributed funds for Blankets of Hope, provided Christmas baskets to families in need, and contributed goods to the Perinton Food Shelf.Equal
- Exchange coffee sales
- Christmas packages were sent to two people in military service.
- Guest Speakers
  - On Public Policy Sunday in March, Wade Norwood spoke about health care for minorities.
  - Deb Aufderheide spoke about her involvement with Bethany House.

We give special thanks to Roja Singh for organizing and preparing the Indian dinner in the Fall. This follow-up to the Lenten series about the Dalit community in India gave parishioners the opportunity to contribute funds for scholarships for the school at Kotha-palli-mitta, India.

Submitted by Mary Ellen McDougal

PROPERTY

The generosity and abilities of many folk help to make our building and grounds look good throughout the year. Some highlights include repainting the parking lots lines, beautification outside our entrance area, continued repairs to our lighting fixtures and kitchen maintenance.

We continue to address our property in relation to our main tenant, the Nursery School, in terms of safety, health and maintenance.

Mike Harty, our sexton, continues to provide good work and offers many suggestions on how we can improve things together.

The Vestry also took on the challenge of our trees; a number of dangerous or dead trees were removed even though the budget was stretched. We also sustained a roof problem, found during a much-needed gutter cleaning. Vestry is looking at the needs of our property and is looking to find accurate costs to better understand the budget needs.

Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped this past year, especially Jim Hanss, Mike Pepper, and Betty Harris' son NNNNN, who graciously donated the much needed gutter cleaning.

After serving as a temporary Property Chairperson, I have relinquished my role and ask that others consider Property as an outlet for their creativity, talent and mission.

Respectfully,

Wayne Shipman

STEWARDSHIP

For the last decade (or two…) St. Luke's has always taken a wholistic approach to stewardship, in that it represents our response in faith to all that has been entrusted to us. Therefore, stewardship includes our contributions of time and talent as well as treasure to further the work of the church. That said, it is also a clear fact that St. Luke's relies heavily on the faithful donations of pledges and offerings in order to meet the needs of the Parish.

The data from St. Luke's Stewardship Campaign for 2010 indicates that in the face of challenging economic times, St. Luke's parishioners faithfully responded with their gifts of treasure. Below is a summary of the pledge data for 2010 vs 2009:

	2010	2009
Total pledge $	$161,996	$162,530
Total number of pledges	80	82
Average Pledge	$2,025	$1,982
New Pledges	7	N/A
Average new pledge	$968	N/A
Lost pledges	9	N/A

I would like to also thank all of the members of the Stewardship Commission – Dave Crocker, Dave Pierce, Steve Simpson and Sherry Ralston for all of their help and wise counsel. The Stewardship Commission also appreciated the support of the vestry, wardens, and Deven and all of their assistance. I would also like to acknowledge Dave Pierce's role as pledge recorder and his diligence in keeping track of all the data.

Andy Rodman

WORSHIP

The Worship Commission meets before the start of each church season to coordinate activities of the committees that facilitate Sunday, holiday and other services. Dave Eng stepped down as Worship Commission chair in 2009 when he was elected to the vestry. Gary Gocek is the current chair.

The commission includes the Altar Guild, acolytes, ushers, greeters, lectors and musicians. Representatives from the 8 am service and 10 am service, along with the chairperson, rector and music director attend the meetings.

Most details are left to each committee. For example, the Altar Guild cleans the linens each week and there is generally no discussion. However, details such as rector or organist vacations are discussed in order to ensure smooth operations.

In 2009, an interim music director, Mitzi Collins, took over for several weeks from Tom Elson. A new choir director, Anne Lam, was hired over the summer. The hiring process involved a music related survey of the congregation and interviews. The music survey also led to a substantial change to the Christmastime scheduling of services and events, such as the pageant. We decided to subscribe to a service for licensing service music not included in the hymnal.

Submitted by Gary Gocek