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The Steeple



Feb 28, 2024



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Beloved,

Last Sunday, just before the dismissal I shared with you one of my favorite quotes from Julian of Norwich, a mystic and theologian from the 14th century. She of course is best known for her profound statement "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well." This phrase encapsulates her belief in the ultimate goodness and love of God, even in the face of suffering and uncertainty. And at the end of the service last week, there was some uncertainty for sure.

I am happy to report that Tom is home and doing well.

Julian's message of hope, faith, and trust in divine providence continues to resonate with me and is one of the teachings I turn to when I need solace and comfort in times of trouble. Her words remind me to rely on my faith and to lean into that trust where I have confidence that everything will ultimately be resolved for the good. We need Julian's words to find a home in us today.

You know, Julian is also known for another revelation.

Her revelation of the hazelnut has also become a very powerful and symbolic understanding with which readers have come to appreciate for its insight into the nature of God and the universe. In her book "Revelations of Divine Love," Julian describes holding a hazelnut in her hand and receiving a spiritual vision. She reflects on the small size and fragility of the hazelnut, marveling at how it is sustained and protected by the divine love of God.

Julian's contemplation of the hazelnut leads her to a deeper understanding of God's omnipresence and infinite love. She sees the hazelnut as a metaphor for the entire created world, emphasizing the interconnectedness of all things and the divine presence that sustains everything in existence.

Through this simple yet profound revelation, Julian conveys the idea that God's love encompasses all of creation, from the smallest hazelnut to the vast expanse of the universe. She invites readers

to contemplate the beauty and complexity of the world around them and to recognize the divine presence that permeates every aspect of their lives.

I am grateful to witness that presence here - as it permeates this entire community. For it is in the lives of God's servants where He makes his presence most wondrously manifest – manifest in you.

Peace,

Nick+



Theologian's Corner: **Paul Cuffee**

Witness to the Faith among the Shinnecock, 1812

Born a member of the Shinnecock Tribe on March 4, 1757, Paul Cuffee was converted to Christianity in his early twenties. He was ordained in the Presbyterian Church and became a famous preacher and missionary to the native communities around the present-day Mastic Beach, at Hampton Bays, and at Montauk, all on Long Island, New York. Known as “Priest Paul,” Cuffee was instrumental in working for the survival of native tribes. He demonstrated particular gifts in bringing together a strong witness to the Christian faith in dialogue with those who held traditional native beliefs.

Paul Cuffee strengthened the permanent presence of Native Americans in the area by establishing prayer meeting grounds in several locations. These became safe havens for diplomatic talks and places where native people could practice spiritually. He was a faithful advocate for his people and their way of life. Among the fruits of his efforts was the development of many allies of European descent, thus helping to ensure that Native Americans on Long Island could retain what little land they had left. Part of Cuffee's legacy can still be seen in the ceremonial “June Meeting” for the Shinnecock tribe that includes a Christian worship service, a tradition that continues to this day. Paul Cuffee is remembered for being a “most eloquent speaker” and is mentioned in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, the influential anti-slavery novel by Harriet Beecher Stowe.

Priest Paul is buried on a tiny plot of land at Canoe Place in Hampton Bays, his historic gravesite diminished by development on the Long Island Railroad. His descendants continue mission work in the area that is a direct result of Priest Paul's

efforts. His gravestone reads, “Erected by the New York Missionary Society, in memory of the Rev. Paul Cuffee, an Indian of the Shinnecock tribe, who was employed by the Society for the last thirteen years of his life, on the eastern part of Long Island, where he labored with fidelity and success. Humble, pious and indefatigable in testifying the gospel of the grace of God, he finished his course with joy on the 7th of March, 1812, aged 55 years and 3 days.”

Together we pray: Almighty God, who dost empower evangelists and preachers: Help us to proclaim thy Word with power, like thy servant Paul Cuffee, that more might come to a deeper life in thee; in the Name of thy Son Jesus Christ, who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Please pray for: Liz Green, Michelle Sheffield, Catherine Sheffield, David King, Pris Snow, Ben Baker, Diana Farris, Joel Hahn, Steve McCraw, Josh Harris, David Swindell, Norma Perrier, Connie Finch, Dorothy Buchanan, Peggy Kauffman, Ryan Kiesel, Tony Clapper, Bruce Neiswander, Jack & Karla Stoecker, Joseph, Tim, Shania Smith, Terry Grogan, Tyler Roberson, Jerry Nezam, Jim Brooks, Tom Martin, Don Doty, Luke Karel, Miriam Petrovich, Lynette Beebe, Nancy & Joe Norton, Jack Smith, , Sarah Winn, Danny Clem, David McAtee, Molly Ferguson, Tim Curry, Peggy & Joe Duncan, Shawn, Nancy Bradford, Stephanie Gallegos, and Pat Sare.

Please add the following to your prayers this Second Week in Lent:
Church of the Redeemer, OKC St James Church & Community Center,
Montevideo, Uruguay

Concern Needs



Concern's needs for the month of February: canned green beans and peanut butter; homeless needs are single serve oatmeal and cereal.

At Luke's Place Feb 29, 2024 -Mar 6, 2024

Feb 29th Men's Breakfast, 6:30 am, Metcalf
Rector's Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV
Pub Theology, 6:30pm, Tumbleweed's

Mar 3rd Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8am, Chapel
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:30am
Godly Play, after children's sermon, upstairs
Mar 5th Primary Election, 7am-7pm, Metcalf Precinct voting
Spiritual Discovery, 10am, Library
Mar 6th Choir, 5pm, Choir Room
YD, 6pm, Rodgers
Midweek Manna Supper, 6pm, Metcalf

Birthdays and Anniversaries, Mar 3rd – Mar 9th, 2024

Birthdays



Jackie Gallery

(3/8)

Anniversaries



Jim & Becky Liehr (3/3)

If your or a loved one's name doesn't appear on the list, please email or call the office, and we will add your birthday or anniversary!

Spring Forward



March 10, 2024 • Set your clock ahead!



Pub Theology meets Thursday, Feb 29th, 6:30pm, at Tumbleweed's.



St Luke's Bookstore is celebrating St Patrick's
Day March 1st-17th .

Any item with the color "green" any where
on it will be 17% off the price.

Come and get your 'green' on!

And save some green'!

Bookstore Hours are: Tues 11:45am-1:45pm,
Thurs 10:30am-12:30pm, and
Sun 11:30am-12:30pm.

March Pack the Backpacks Item!



4 pack or individual PlayDoh



Need individuals of Bright Green,
Blue, Orange, and Green ! Sometimes you
find this item in the the Toy Dept. Let's
try to fill that basket this month!



Thank Cod it's Friday...



Since America's humble beginnings in 1776, we have only had two rulers as king. The "King of Rock n' Roll" and the King of flame broiled goodness. The latter has made a reputation as a noble man who will allow his people to "have it your way." Through many trials, tribulations, and changing of times, this king has somehow always been able to keep his kingdom somewhere in the forefront of fast food society. But, there might just be someone in the midst of the King who could dethrone him. An aquatic kind who is both traditional and fiery.

That's right, I'm talking about the Big Fish or Fiery Big Fish from Burger King. These seasonal items are nothing to scoff at. First off, the name is true for these big boys. This is probably the meatiest of sandwiches I've found this far. The fish was mild in flavor, which is refreshing for most fast food fish sandwiches. What shocked me most, was that they come with an above average, flavor packed tartar sauce. I wasn't expecting this from a chain who has a history of more misses than hits.

Now let's get down to the nitty gritty of this stop. If you like heat, the Fiery Big Fish sandwich has been hands down the best fish sandwich I've had in a long time. This sandwich comes dressed just as the regular but with a hot, almost Nashville hot style, oil. It's a light sauce that doesn't weigh down the sandwich that is already topped with tartar sauce, but compliments it nicely. To be honest, my biggest regret of the day was that I didn't get two!

All in all I'd give this sandwich an 8.5 for the regular and a 9 for the Fiery Big Fish. This unassuming choice from the beef dominated kingdom, just might dethrone the King, and I'm ok with that.

St Luke's Ladies' Prayer Partners

We are organizing an intercessory prayer group here at St. Luke's. If you are interested in participating, please call or text Sandy Whitson 903-748-9401.



Nurse's Note

A well-stocked first-aid kit helps us respond effectively to common injuries and emergencies. We have a first-aid kit in the office copier room, first upper cabinet on the right. Look for a big red sign that says First aid. The second smaller first aid kit is in the kitchen... second drawer to the right of the refrigerator. A red First Aid sign directs you to that drawer. Our AED (automated external defibrillator) is in the box on the wall outside the office door. The immediate response on Sunday by our St. Luke's family was indeed amazing GRACE!

In His love,

Susie

Midweek Manna

Dinner & Program Provided,
Donations Accepted
6:00pm on Wednesdays during
Lent, Metcalf Hall
Join us!





ST. CRISPIN'S
Summer Camp
SUMMER 2024

EACH PERSON IS A UNIQUE CREATION OF
GOD, WITH GIFTS TO BE AFFIRMED.



STCRISPINS.ORG/CAMP

Contact Fr Nick if you know a child who wants to go!

YD Food Drive

Thanks to the giving spirit of the congregation at St. Luke's we collected more than 820 pounds of canned food for the CONCERN food pantry! True to this year's campaign "Get your cans in the van," YD loaded the van with cans and then weighed and sorted them at CONCERN, which helps families with unexpected circumstances such as job loss, illness, or family conflict to provide emergency food supplies.





St. Luke's Vestry Members

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Bereavement Team 2

Laura Birk, Nancy Megee, Sandy Whitson, Margo Proctor

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