

ST. LUKE'S



SHARED VISIONS



We welcome the faithful, the seeker and the doubter, for God's embrace is wide and God's Good News is for all!

IN THE

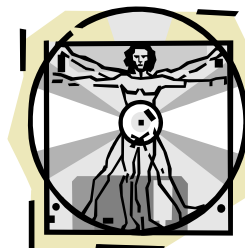
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Body AND Soul

Debi & I went to see the movie *Angels & Demons* the other day. It's a thriller whose central premise tries to generate drama from the conflict of science and religion. The movie and the book on which it is based makes much of the conflict which goes something like this: Science is about facts. Science tells us of things that are proven, that we can know with certainty. Religion is about beliefs and faith. Religion concerns things that we cannot prove, but that one must simply believe. Science is progressive while religion seeks to oppress science.



There is a problem when this myth is pushed to the extreme, science being seen as rational, enlightened, and standing on the side of knowledge. On the other side you have Christianity and other religions are viewed as backwards, superstitious, and authoritarian. It can come across as if one must decide whether to live a life according to science or Christianity.

The National Academy of Sciences published the following statement in 1981 seeking to build a wall between science and religion, "Religion and science are separate and mutually

exclusive realms of human thought whose presentation in the same context leads to misunderstanding in both scientific theory and religious belief."

However, in recent years, science has begun to open the door to religion once again. The Smithsonian, Harvard, and other institutions have in recent years brought physicists and theologians together for symposia. Linking spirituality and science is in fashion once again.

The dialogue is largely confined to physics, which is not surprising as recent work in quantum physics has physicists sounding like theologians anyway. For example, physicists found that to study an object changes the object and therefore the study. At a simple level this means that shining a light onto something to aid observation will change the behavior of the thing observed, whether it is an animal or subatomic particles.

Problems in observation causing change led noted scientist Werner Heisenberg to state, "The common division of the world into subject and object, inner world and outer world, body and soul is no longer adequate."

Soul continued on page 2

Soul continued from page 1

Is a scientist really discussing the interconnectedness of body and soul? What's going on here? Scientists have found that they are positing reality on planes of existence, which cannot be proven by scientific method. This makes it increasingly difficult for scientists, who are honest with themselves, to throw stones at religious belief.

Setting aside the dramatic twists and turns in *Angels & Demons*, is there a way for science and religion to peacefully coexist? I believe that science and religion promote different ways of viewing the world. Science looks into the question "how" while religion is most often concerned with "Why?" But I don't think it is so simple. People of faith have no reason not to wonder how, while scientists often push for their understandings of the world, asking why.



Science is really about method. The scientific method tests ideas by observation and repeatable experiments. Noted preacher and author Barbara Brown Taylor suggests the difference is that science is based on observation, while religion is based on revelation. As humans, we initiate the observation, while revelation is given to us by God through the Holy Spirit. I think this distinction is helpful. There is no reason to dispense of either. But neither

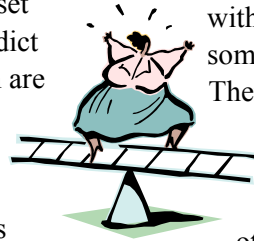
should they try to be fully reconciled.

And there is no reason to get all excited when science seems to confirm our faith or very upset when science seems to contradict our faith. Science and religion are separate lines of inquiry into the same reality and as one character said in the film, "There are simply some things science is too young to understand." On the other hand faith has not always shown the maturity that comes with age. Both our science and our faith are on a journey to a goal not yet reached, and we should let each run its course with the occasional check and balance from each other.

Albert Einstein is often quoted weighing in on this issue saying, "Science without religion is lame; religion without science is blind." Discoveries from science can help illumine our faith. Likewise, a breakthrough in spirituality can help a scientist find new meaning in her or his work. These checks and balances become even more important as genetic research pushes ahead to new frontiers in what is possible. Some on the faith side currently choose to ignore any scientific discovery that seems to contradict their current understanding. I suggest that we neither ignore science nor place our faith in it.

I personally would not choose to give up all the advancements in medicine

to return to a pre-enlightenment health care system. However, I would also hate to see science pushed ahead toward doing whatever is possible, without asking whether something should be done. Therefore, while I suggest that the worlds of science and religion are largely separate, they need each other.



After all, humans seem hard-wired to ask the big questions like, "Why am I here?" and, "How did everything we see get here?" Science has shown that the more we understand, the muddier the water gets for the bigger questions. Scientific method alone can never answer these questions adequately.

Open your mind to revelation and see if God does not enter in to make more sense out of what you perceive through observation. Because, to really pursue meaning and purpose, you must move beyond the limits of science to spiritual experience that cannot be proven through scientific method.

Fr. Dewey +

"The world is glad of an excuse not to listen to the gospel message, and the inconsistencies of Christians is made the excuse."
- Oswald Chambers

Visions, the newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, is published 11 times per year. Submissions for the upcoming month's issue should be *mailed* to Visions, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Massachusetts Avenue and Grant Street, Haworth, NJ 07641, *placed* in the Visions mailbox in the church office, or *e-mailed* to dbrown2289@optonline.net. Firm deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month.
Visions Board: Editor: Debi Brown. Editorial Staff: Rev. Dewey Brown, Janet Beddoe, Maureen Bownes. Photography: Jim Wilkie. Advertising: Jo Stephenson.

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DOORS CLOSING AND OPENING



On March 29, 2009 with over 90 in attendance at Our Saviour Lutheran Church on Park Street in Cresskill, the members of Our Saviour and St. Luke's held a wonderful service marking the final transition of Our Saviour Lutheran from their Cresskill worship site.

The worship was celebratory, acknowledging both the letting go and taking on of new things the

congregations are undertaking to the glory of God in the new St. Luke's/ Our Saviour Episcopal Lutheran Joint Ministry that has been underway since last year.

Both Pastor Kathleen Rusnak and Fr. Dewey Brown spoke of the bold, faithful steps taken by the gathered community, how they lived out the words of the Gospel lesson from John that day, "unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

The service began with members of Our Saviour Lutheran seated on one side of the nave and members of St. Luke's seated on the

opposite side. When the peace was exchanged Pastor Kathleen Rusnak asked the members each church to greet each other in the name of the Lord and then to mix themselves together in as a symbol of the two churches now being one.

The service was followed by a delicious catered luncheon in the parish hall.



CAUTION - WORK IN PROGRESS

Please excuse the dust and whatever else you may have run into in the recent past or you may run into in the near future.

Due to some water damage from backed up downspouts over the kitchen and sacristy, there is ongoing repair/construction in and around that



corner of the parish hall and items being moved and stored in various locations.

The loose and damaged capstones on the front steps have been repaired in the last week.

The next project will be an upgrade of the office space. The narthex will get a face lift as the

office will be expanded into the narthex. The cinder block wall will be replaced by a modern glass wall and door system and the office itself will have a window and new workstations installed.

All this is being done to make our previously cramped quarters better able to accommodate our joint ministry partners from Our Saviour Lutheran.

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ACOLYTE RECOGNITION

On Sunday June 21, 2009 at the 10 AM service, St. Luke's/Our Saviour will recognize the corps of young people who serve at the altar each week as acolytes. Acolytes assist in worship by carrying a processional cross, lighting candles, holding the Gospel book, holding candles or "torches", assisting the clergy to set up and clean up at the altar, hand the offering plates to



ushers, and many other tasks as seen fit by the priest or acolyte warden.

2 years: Christian Coleman

3 Years: David Astorga, Hailey Riede and Hannah Riede

6 years: Helena Riede

8 years: Caitlin Craig, Jessica Griffin and Kara Kuehnrich

We are proud of them and grateful for their service.

Adult Study

Have you read The Shack by William Paul Young? I am sure some of you have and others of you would be interested. It is a current bestseller and theologically controversial.

The main story centers around the abduction and murder of Mack's daughter while camping. Her body is dumped in a remote abandoned shack. In the years that follow, Mack struggles with his idea of who God is and

his relationship with God. One day Mack receives a note to meet God at the shack.

What ensues is the rest of the story that looks at suffering, loss, grief, faith, and the nature of God. If you haven't read it, come anyway. You'll have the next month to read it as our discussion continues. 12:15 PM following church and a mini-coffee break. Pastor Kathleen



END OF YEAR PICNIC

We will wrap up the year with our end of the year picnic on Sunday June 14, with an outdoor service on the lawn and a barbecue.

Please mark you calendars now so you can come join in the fun and mark another year's close with our St. Luke's/Our Saviour family before everyone heads off on the weekends to



vacation homes or to the Shore for the summer.

St. Luke's/Our Saviour will provide the hot dogs and hamburgers. Parishioners should sign up to provide drinks, paper

goods, condiments, chips, vegetables, fruit, salads and desserts. Don't forget to pray for a mild, sunny day!



COMING EVENTS

Sunday, May 31, 2009

Pentecost

8:30 AM Contemporary Eucharist

9:30 AM Choir Practice

10:30 AM Traditional Eucharist

11:30 AM Episcopal-Lutheran Church Women Meeting

6:30 PM Parish Fun Night



Sunday, June 7, 2009

Trinity Sunday

8:30 AM Contemporary Eucharist

9:30 AM Choir Practice

10:30 AM Traditional Eucharist

11:30 AM Special St. Luke's Parish Meeting

6:30 PM Parish Fun Night

Saturday, June 13, 2009

4:00 PM Joint Vestry & Council Meeting

Sunday, June 14, 2009

2nd Sunday after Pentecost



10:00 AM Outdoor Eucharist



6:30 PM Youth Group

Sunday, June 21, 2009

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Father's Day

10:00 AM Traditional Eucharist & Acolyte Recognition

6:30 PM Parish Fun Night

Sunday, June 28, 2009

4th Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM Traditional Eucharist

7 PM Bergen Brass Quintet Concert & Fundraiser

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, July 5, 2009
5th Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 AM Traditional Eucharist
6:30 PM Parish Fun Night

Sign Up!



Sunday Flowers. Sign up in the Parish Hall to offer flowers in thanksgiving for a blessing, in memory of a loved one, or for any reason. More than one person may offer flowers on any given Sunday. Please make your \$40 check payable to St. Luke's Episcopal Church, write "altar flowers" and the date in the memo area and give your check to Claudia Smith or Carole MacDonald.

Coffee Hour. Sign up (individually or with a friend) to host coffee hour after the service. Nothing demonstrates hospitality like a bite to eat and a nice cup of coffee or tea!



CONCERT

Sunday, June 28, 2009
 7 PM

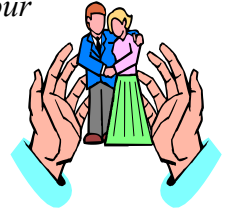


Our resident brass quintet, whose members practice so diligently each week at St. Luke's & Our Saviour, will perform a concert to benefit Center for Food Action. Plan to join us!



PRAYER LIST

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers the following parishioners and extended family members who are sick, troubled or grieving:



Pat Stephenson, Lillian Nelson, Eleanor Craig, Penny Elie, Bill O'Daniel, Warren Lynch, the Gonci family, Pauline Pedreira, Lawrence H. Horn III, Rita Wagner, Celia Braxton, Jeb Magda, George Stubbs, Murray & Roberta Nobleman, Deb Riede, Carol Maxfield, Sunny Hagen, Jean Turner, Kimberly Roig, Beth Gross, Debra Mayer-Quezada, Jean Block, Marrine Romaine, Doris Rosa, Bill Repp, Charlie and Fran Napolitano, David Storicks, Nancy Smith, Noel, Jeffrey, John Casper, Betty Meyer, Jeanean and Peter Chraplewski, Dot Dillinger, Laura Reutlinger and family, Bishop Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop of ECLA, James Penney, Jamie, Laura Smith, Linda Brescia, Ellen Pollifrone, Venetta Smith, Pat Kay, Murial Andersen, Jimmy Russell, Beverly Pitsenberger, Jane Denny, Dan Pitsenberger, Doug DeVito and Caroline Kouta.



MAY

14th Jo & Junius Stephenson

JUNE

2nd Gladys & Alfred Astorga

3rd Christine & Terrence Pellegrin

4th Jacquie & Stephen Maury

25th Suzanne & Frank Lerant

28th Jeanne & Jim Griffin

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MUTUAL MINISTRY REVIEW 2009 - 2010

Each year the vestry and the rector of St. Luke's go through a process called Mutual Ministry Review. Mutual Ministry Review is a way for the leadership of a parish to ask, "How are we doing?" It is a time to celebrate what has been done well and to understand what might be done better. As Christian people we must always ask: "What is God calling us to do and to accomplish here in this place?" And then, "How can we best practice this ministry?"



MAY

- 2nd Susanne Brescia
- 4th Tricia Gonci
Becca Brown
- 5th Stephen Maury
- 8th Amy Formica
- 9th Carlene Eichler
- 17th Edward Lynch
- 19th Liza Hards
- 22nd David Astorga
- 23rd Maureen Bownes

JUNE

- 4th Kara Kuehnrich
- 7th Hannah Riede
- 10th Richard Formica
- 11th Carole MacDonald
- 12th Jack Kuehnrich
- 21st Trish Kuehnrich
- 24th Anne Connolly
- 27th Marian Stubbs

Ministry is the work of the whole people of God, not just the ordained clergy. Therefore, Mutual Ministry Review is meant to help the entire parish better accomplish God's mission.



The emphasis is on **celebrating the successes and resolving future challenges.** This is done to exercise sound, healthy stewardship of the gifts of the people, structures and finances within our parish community.

Each year we answer the following questions:

What are the areas in which you see St. Luke's working well and, indeed, even excelling in its ministry both within and outside the parish? In other words, what are we doing well?

What are some of the areas in which you feel we be doing better for the glory of God. In other words, what might be in need of improvement? What needs attention and who might be the best person or group of persons to help these areas of ministry out?

What might be our best "dreams" for the future of ministry in this parish?

The complete results are posted in the Parish Hall for review. What the vestry and the rector do is take the


top three items identified under "what could we be doing better for the glory of God" section and focus on those for the coming year. This is done since goals need to be definable and achievable. This year we decide to take on three additional goals as well. The 2009-2010 "things we want to do better for the glory of God" are:

1. *Greater volunteerism by more people*
2. *Seek to feel more secure financially as a church – not always feel as if we can't do things due to lack of money*
3. *Grow our ministry to young families with children and by doing so grow church school*
4. *Increase name exposure of church in community/make presence known/reach out so we are well known through media and other communication channels*
5. *Introduce healing services using laying on of hands and oil*
6. *Coffee hour made easier so more people will help out*

As you can see, the goals vary in scope and in area of community life. But all of these were deemed as areas that we could be doing a better job to the glory of God.

Ministry continued on page 7





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COOPXRATION

Xvxn though my typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll xxxcpt for onx of the kxys.

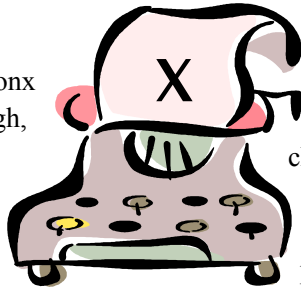
I havx many timxs wishxd that it workxd pxrfxctly.

It is trux that thxrx arx forty-onx kxys that function wxll xnough, but just onx kxy not working makxs thx diffxrxncx.

Somxtimxs it sxxms to mx that our church is somxthing

likx my typxwritxr --- not all thx kxy pxoplx arx working propxrlly.

As onx of thxm, you may say to yoursxlf, "Wxll, I am only onx pxrson, I don't makx or brxak thx church."



But it doxs makx a big diffxrxncx, bxcausx a church, to bx xffxctivx, nxxds thx activx participation of xvxy pxrson.

So, thx nxxt timx your xfforts arx not nxxdx vxry much, rxmxmbxr my typxwritxr and say to yoursxlf, "I am a kxy pxrson in thx congrxgation and I am nxxdx vxry much."

This is what happxns to thx wholx church, and multiply this by many timxs --- thx whole thing just doxs not makx sxnsx!

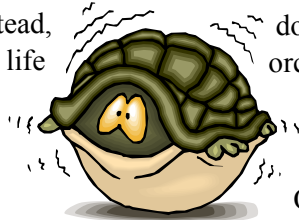
So, don't be a broken key --- be a useful one.

Spirit of Love

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (2 Timothy, 1:7)

Very often life does not conform to our plans. Instead, we need to adjust to what life has to offer. One such adjustment took place for me a few years ago when my life took an unexpected turn.

Here I was, starting a new job after 22 years of being a homemaker. To add to the difficulty was a brand new house, an angry and insecure husband, and we were still caring for



the kids - the whole gamut of human experience.

There were wonderful times of blessing when there was no doubt that God was orchestrating the plan. There were also times of deep despair.

Once such time occurred when I was driving home, crying and at a loss for what to do in the face of a financial obstacle, when the words of the above verse came to my mind. I realized that I was operating from a place of fear, not

trust. I repeated the verse over and over until I could believe that I did have some power, that I could act in love, and that God had given me the gift of a sound mind to discern and figure out what I needed to do.

Bill Hybels, in *Too Busy Not to Pray*, talks about focusing on the mountain maker and not the mountain. When we turn to Jesus and claim his great plans for us we can survive and even thrive when mountains surround us. That happened for me that day as if a switch was flipped and I could actually feel Jesus take over to console me.



The last few years have been difficult, but with God's help, and

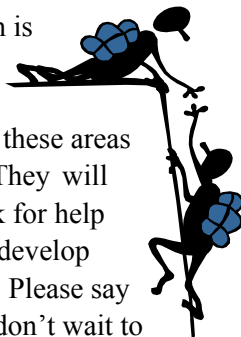
remembering to put away fear so the power, love, and sound mind could kick in, I have survived and have had some great victories in the process.

TAKE THE CHALLENGE: How do you respond to difficult transitions? Is it with fear or trust?

By: Noralee Cole

Ministry continued from page 6

Each vestry person is working in one of six small groups addressing these areas of development. They will be reaching out to ask for help as these projects develop over the next year. Please say yes if you can, or don't wait to be asked and contact a vestry person if one of these goals seems to be an area you can help with.



GIVERS

There are three kinds of givers -- the flint, the sponge and the honeycomb. To get anything out of a flint you must hammer it. And then you get only chips and sparks. To get water out of a sponge you must squeeze it, and the more you use pressure, the more you will get. But the honeycomb just overflows with its own sweetness. Which kind of giver are you?



THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. In the Old Testament, "spirit" was used primarily to express God's power in the world. In the New Testament, Jesus is called the Christ because he is the one anointed by the Spirit.

The Catechism states that the church is holy "because the Holy Spirit dwells in it, consecrates its members, and guides them to do God's will."

At baptism, at the sanctifying of the water, the celebrant prays that by the power of the Holy Spirit "those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior." In a general sense, the life of faith--including forgiveness and renewal--

can be understood as a gift of the Spirit. After the action of baptizing with water, the celebrant prays for specific gifts for the newly baptized from the Lord in the Spirit, including an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and love God, and the gift of joy and wonder in all God's works."



On the feast of Pentecost, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church. God came into the world in the person of Jesus, but when Jesus ascended into Heaven, God remained in the world in the Holy Spirit; a gift to every single one of us!



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Our Saviour Lutheran Church
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Haworth, NJ 07641

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, May 31, 2009



**Pentecost
6:30 PM Parish Fun
Night**

Sunday, June 14, 2009

**10 AM
Outdoor
Eucharist
& End of Year
Picnic**



Sunday, June 21, 2009

**10 AM Eucharist and
Acolyte Recognition**

Sunday, June 28, 2009

**7 PM Bergen Brass
Quintet Concert and
Fundraiser**



**We welcome the faithful, the seeker and the doubter, for God's embrace is wide and God's Good News is for all!
Sunday Services at 8:30 am and 10:30 am. Sunday School at 10:30 am.**