

- A GRAIN OF MUSTARDSEED -

Dear Friends in Christ:

October 2023

We keep the feast of St. Luke the Evangelist on Wednesday, October 18th. A close companion of St. Paul on his later missionary journeys, we know from Paul's description of Luke that he was a physician and as such, had an abiding concern for the health of his fellow man. In fact this notion is readily supported by a quick read of his great two-part treatise: *The Gospel according to St. Luke*, and *The Acts of the Apostles*. While Luke was concerned for the well-being of the whole man, he seems particularly concerned for the spiritual health of mankind and the Body of Christ (the Church) in particular. Much could be said of Luke's recommendations for a healthy Christian Fellowship, but surely his best prescription is his own life and, for that matter, the lives of the other Evangelists and Apostles such as Saints Simon and Jude whose Feast we keep on Saturday the 28th. *Faithfulness* is the key to success in all our Christian endeavors (not the other way around!). And the only way I know to increase faithfulness is to increase knowledge (as faith is a type of knowing) while increasing charity (love) which will in turn increase hope (our desire for the things of God). So, I reckon I would be in the company of Luke, Simon, Jude and the rest of those holy men and women of old if I commend to you the simple virtues of daily prayer and Bible reading, regular (at least weekly) fellowship in the Church and a seizing upon every opportunity you conveniently have to deepen your Christian faith. Notice is made of many in this letter, so please consider taking advantage of them.

In Christ, Edward L. Rix

ADULT EDUCATION - FALL SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Sunday Adult forum this is a study of the principal figures of the English Reformation as represented in their reprinted works in the Parker Society publications of the mid-nineteenth century. These include such figures of our reformed, Catholic tradition as Thomas Cranmer, Nicholas Ridley, Hugh Latimer, and John Jewel. These talks are complimented by this month's Fall School of Religion wherein our resident parish Historian, James Altena, will be giving four lectures on the History of the English Reformation (see the flyer in this mailing). Tuesday Morning Study Group (meeting from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.) is currently finishing the *Book of Judges* and will soon move on to a text of Christian theology or spirituality. The Thursday Bible Study is continuing a long-standing study on the theme of covenant faithfulness in the Law and the Prophets, currently with the *First Book of Kings*.

CHOIR FUNDRAISER CONCERT

Our annual Choral Concert "*For All the Saints*" is offered this year on Sunday, October 29th at 4:00 p.m, in anticipation of All Saints' Day later that week on Wednesday, November 1st (Holy Communion at 10:00 am in the Lady Chapel) and our Feast of Title in the Octave of All Saints' on Sunday, November 5th. This concert is annually a big hit and is our principal public fundraising event for our music ministry so we encourage you to come out, bring friends, make a donation and distribute the enclosed flyer in your building or neighborhood.

PROPERTY AND GROUNDS UPDATE

In the late spring and early summer a great deal of work was completed on our second Rectory at 515 Manor Road, used for many years as a rental property. New asphalt roofing shingles were installed to replace the brittle and crumbling one hundred year old slates which were in very bad repair. Though it was anticipated that the sub-roofing material would need replacing, this was found to be in perfect condition and so considerable cost savings were realized. At the same time the equally aged gutters were replaced. The entire project came in well under budget. Interior painting was also completed between the departure of a long-time tenant and a new renter who arrived in July. It is anticipated that exterior painting will have to be done in the next year. Notwithstanding these costs and annual taxes on the property, the rental income from 515 Manor Road continues to be an important source of regular income for the parish. In the Parish House work is underway to replace the carpeting in the upper hallways, some of which is rather badly frayed and all of which well over 40 years old. Sierra Rix and Christine Jackson have been hard at work making new draperies for the parlor, a major project require hours of work, much appreciated by their fellow parishioners. And it goes without saying (but let's say it anyway) that our new Sexton and Verger, Timothy Broussard, is doing a very fine job both inside our buildings and outside on our grounds and in assisting at public worship. All of this work has benefitted from the careful eye and faithful attention of Margarete Marvin, Chairman of our Property and Grounds Committee. We thank her and the above-mentioned volunteers and staff.



"The kingdom of God...is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it." *St. Luke 13:18-19*