

January 2024



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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December Events

The Baptism of Malani Amira Goines

Daughter of Desmond
Goines & Chenelle. "Nelle"
William and granddaughter
of Cynthia Goines
Sponsors: Janae Brunswick,
William Weeks, Jr., and
Corliss Wise



From the Rector's Desk

And we're off! Many of us associate this phrase with the horse races, or at least I did as a youth. It is an appropriate phrase to use as we begin our new calendar year and the second month of the Christian year.

Yes indeed, the race has begun. We accomplished many goals in 2023 as a parish family. Many firsts materialized, and things that were once wishes and dreams came to fruition. As we close out the Christmas season this week and enter the season of Epiphany (January 6th), we continue to march toward the light that is Christ. Christ in this upcoming Epiphany season calls us to look beyond the familiar, to look beyond ourselves and our comfort zones, and to look beyond the horizon for that which we seek.

Whether we seek peace, harmony, and love, or whether we seek growth, expansion, and financial stability, it all begins with acknowledging the savior of the world and the light which is Christ the Lord. This same concept also applies in our own personal lives. Signs of endings and new beginnings are all around us. Does not this remind you of the spring season? It is a season of new life and new birth; a time for shedding that which weighs us down and a sign to put on a new inner and outer armor of light which will guide us throughout the year. The season is almost upon us. We still have time to prepare for its arrival.

This concept also reminds me of a verse in a gospel anthem that we heard on Christmas Eve night, "Jesus, What a Wonderful Child." The lyricist wrote, "New life, new hope, to all he brings won't you listen to the angels sing ..." As we journey throughout this year, will not you listen not only to the angels but even to the birds when they sing? Birds, like angels, soar beyond our realm and our sense of reality; they soar to heights unknown.

We at St. Luke's can take note of what the birds already know. They know that to soar beyond their wildest hopes and dreams, you must have faith. It's an innate survival instinct. We must think and behave like eagles! Eagles soar to heights unknown. They do not dabble with the simple and mundane. Eagles are leaders! When threatened, irritated, or driven with a purpose, eagles soar higher and higher until the threat and irritant can no longer weigh it down. Eagles soar until their purpose is accomplished.

When you begin to soar like an eagle, you do not look back or down; you only look forward and upward. As the hymnwriter wrote, "New heights I'm gaining every day...Lord plant my feet on higher ground." St. Luke's has been aiming for and gaining higher ground since Sunday, May 21, 1871. A few families (eagles) initially gathered in their homes to worship God and to aim for higher ground. Much ground has been gained, but God has much more in store for us if we (the beneficiaries of those first eagles) will just open our eyes and hearts to him and look forward with faith and thanksgiving.

Today, we are standing on that ground with a vision and a purpose. We are standing on the hopes, dreams, and accomplishments of those who first took off to the races. The baton has now been passed to us. What we do with it or not do with it will not only reflect on us; but, will also be a reflection of us to our youth, our community, and to those who come after us of our faith and trust or lack thereof in God through his son, Jesus Christ.

As your Rector and Priest, I am overjoyed and thankful for that which we have accomplished together with God's help. Let us continue to keep our eyes, hearts, and minds open to that which God is calling us to do, to be, and to become. We are now officially in the race and have our eagle wings. Let us begin to soar to heights unknown!

Happy New Year!

Fr, Raphiell+
January 1, 2024

*Our Mission - Spread the Word and
share the love of God with all.*

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St. Luke's Youth in Action

The acolytes need your help!

The Youth Commission is conducting a fundraiser to raise money for the acolytes to attend the Acolyte Festival in Washington D.C at the National Cathedral on Saturday October 12, 2024.

Two poster-size calendars have been placed in the Narthex. Please chose a date. The date indicates the amount of money that you will contribute toward the fundraiser. You can sign on one or multiple dates, and more than one person can select a date. The fundraiser will run until March 31st (Easter Day).

Youth Sunday



Christina Caldwell served as the Old Testament Lector



Kennedy Johnson served as the Epistoler and the Gospel Book Bearer



Cory James, serving as Intercessor, reading Prayers of the People



Gravatt Camp and Conference Center

Jaylen Caldwell participates in Camp Gravatt New Year's Eve camp.



Christmas Eve Mass - Children's play participants

Front Row: Isabella Bracy, Casey Evans, Tristian Moore, Aaliyah Moore. **Back row:** Jaylen Caldwell, Levi Johnson, Jr., Landon Moore, Timothy Kirby, Trinessa Dubas and Kennedy Johnson

Servants for the Lord**January 6 - Saturday: An Order of Service for Noonday (Location TBD)****Old Testament Lesson:** N/A**Epistle:** N/A**Prayers of the People:** Father Raphiell+**Chalice:** N/A**Ushers:** N/A**Oblation Bearers:** N/A**Acolytes:** N/A**January 7 - The First Sunday after the Epiphany****Old Testament Lesson:** Lorin Palmer**Epistle:** Karen Castelli**Prayers of the People:** DeNell Hickman**Chalice:** Corliss Wise**Ushers:** James & Annie Kelley, Pat Cokley, Cassandra Sims**Oblation Bearers:** Shauna Hicks, Judy Battiste**Acolytes:** Christina & Jaylen Caldwell, DeNell Hickman, Cory James**January 14 - The Second Sunday after the Epiphany****Old Testament Lesson:** Cynthia Parker Reed**Epistle:** John Bowden, III**Prayers of the People:** Joni James**Chalice:** Shauna Hicks**Ushers:** Loretta Johnson, Gloria Eaddy, Ja'Vell Bynoe**Oblation Bearers:** Herman Hickman, Paul Yarborough**Acolytes:** Christina & Jaylen Caldwell, DeNell Hickman, Cory James, Vari & Kennedy Johnson, Kingston Tucker**January 21 - The Third Sunday after the Epiphany****Old Testament Lesson:** Dell Goodrich**Epistle:** Sheryl Belcher**Prayers of the People:** TBD**Chalice:** Sheryl Belcher**Ushers:** Rudolph Wise, Darnell Holmes, Judy Battiste**Oblation Bearers:** Beverly Ray, Corliss Wise**Acolytes:** Christina & Jaylen Caldwell**January 28-- The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany****Old Testament Lesson:** Corliss Wise**Epistle:** Steven Baldwin**Prayers of the People:** Cassandra Sims**Chalice:** Desmond Goines**Ushers:** Joseph & Beverly Ray, Daryl Hammonds**Oblation Bearers:** Gwendolyn Spann, Gloria Johnson**Acolytes:** Christina & Jaylen Caldwell, DeNell Hickman, Cory James, Kingston Tucker, and Vari & Kennedy Johnson, Desmon Goines**Rector's Appointments for 2024****Treasurer** - Shauna Hicks (begins 3/1/24)**Assistant Treasurer** - Darnell Holmes (term begins 3/1/24)**Associate Treasurer** - Sheryl Belcher (term begins 3/1/24)**Clerk of the Vestry** - Patricia Ancrum (term begins 1/1/24)**Senior Warden** - Shauna Hicks (appointed to a 2nd term on 12/19/23)**Junior Warden** - Judy Battiste (elected to a 2nd term on 12/19/23)**New Vestry Members (Class of 2026)**

Elected for a 3-year term.

- Yvonne Hall
- Daryl Hammonds
- Joni James
- Errol Porter

Delegates to 102nd Diocesan Convention

elected for a 1-year term with the exception of the Priest & Senior Warden.

- Fr. Raphiell+
- Herman Hickman
- Shauna Hicks
- Cynallyhia Indriago
- Cynthia Parker Reed

Alternates to 102nd Diocesan Convention

- Trinessa Dubas
- Yvonne Hall

***A special Thank You to Patrica Cokley, William Smith, Jr., and Ja'Vell Bynoe for their years of service in their previously appointed positions of Treasurer, Asst. Treasurer, and Clerk of the Vestry.**

**Pat & Stu will onboard Shauna weekly during the months of January and February. The new Treasurer will assign duties to the Assistant Treasurers based upon their strengths & skill sets.*

"The Episcopal Church is a secret too well kept. Many are starved for what we experience daily and too easily take for granted. Invite others to come to your parish to experience this joy."

Louie Crew, author of 101 Reasons to be Episcopalian

1st Mon	New Year's Day - Parish Office Closed	
2nd Tues	Rectors-Warden-Treasurer Meeting	4:30 pm
3rd Wed	Rector-Wardens Meeting	5:30 pm
4th Thur	- Fresh Start - Black History Committee Meeting	9:00 am 5:30 pm
6th Sat	- The Feast of the Epiphany - Daily Office: An Order of Service for Noonday (with the meaning of Epiphany, the season, and the gifts from the Magi - The Blessing of the Chalk & the Chalking of the Doors - Youth Meeting 1. -The removal of the Christmas Tree and Ornaments (Youth) 2. -The Burning of the Greens - Parking Lot	12:00 noon 12:30 pm 1:00 pm 1:30 pm 1:30 pm
7th Sun	-Choir Rehearsal -Sunday School (Youth) -The First Sunday after the Epiphany. The Baptism of Our Lord. The Holy Eucharist Rite II -Confirmation Class	8:00 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 4:00 pm
9th Tues	Archives Committee Finance Committee Altar Guild	10:30 pm 5:00 pm 5:00 pm
11th Thurs	Fresh Start ECW Meeting	9:00 am 5:00 p,m
13th Sat	2nd Saturday Feeding	12:00 noon
14th Sun	-Choir Rehearsal -Sunday School (Youth) -The Second Sunday after the Epiphany. The Holy Eucharist: Rite II	8:00 am 9:00 am 10:00 am
15th Mon	MLK Day Observed - Parish Office Closed	
16th Tues	Vestry Meeting	6:00 pm
17th Wed	Quilters & Crafters	10:30 am
18th Thurs	Fresh Start Black History Committee	9:00 am 5:30 pm
19th Fri	Vestry Retreat. Trinity Cathedral, Diocesan Conference Room	6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
20th Sat	Vestry Retreat. Trinity Cathedral, Diocesan Conference Room	9:00 am - 12 noon
21st Sun	-Choir Rehearsal -Sunday school (Youth) -The Third Sunday after the Epiphany. The Holy Eucharist Rite II -Daughters of the King -Memorial Gardens Committee -Men's Club	8:00 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 12 noon 12 noon 12 noon
23rd Tues	Buildings & Grounds Committee	5:30 pm
25th Thur	-Fresh Start -Black History Committee	9:00 am 5:30 pm
27th Sat	Fourth Saturday Feeding	12 noon
28th Sun	-Choir Rehearsal -Sunday school (Youth) -The Fourth Sunday After Epiphany. The Holy Eucharist Rite II	8:00 am 9:00 am 10:00 am

**MP w/HE II & Adult Formation will resume on Wednesday, February 7th

**Seniors Luncheon Date: TBD