



# THE TOWER



BY AND FOR THE PEOPLE OF ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, EAST HAMPTON, NY | Mar 2023

## MISSION STATEMENT

God calls us, the people of St. Luke's  
To open wide our doors in the name  
of Christ:

To all who are young or old and need  
counsel:

To all who are strong and want a task;  
To all who are lonely, weak or mourn,  
or need comfort.

To all who are sinful and need a  
Savior.

To all who are weary and need rest.

To all who are left out and need  
acceptance;

To all who are grateful and need a  
place to give thanks.

To all in Christ's name we say  
"WELCOME."



## LETTER FROM FATHER BEN

by Reverend Ben Shambaugh

This letter comes during a March snowstorm in Maine on a day that I purchased ferry tickets for my move to East Hampton, and during a time when more and more of my heart is focused on coming to St. Luke's.

I was asked to write a piece about my plans for the future of St. Luke's. This is a challenge as I have just barely begun to get to know you, your stories, your dreams, and how God and the church fit into it all. One of the great lessons of Covid was that the church isn't a building but a people. For me, Christianity isn't a religion as much as it is a relationship between people and one another, and people and God. With that in mind, my first priority will be to get to know the members of the congregation and the wider community, to listen and to learn about East Hampton and the wonderful people of St. Luke's. Thank you for joining me in this task. I look forward to connecting with those who are active and those who slipped away during Covid. The beauty of coming during the Easter Season is that it is a time of resurrection and new life!

A faith that is real is a faith that is lived. For many people, that happens in worship or music. For some, it is made real in personal spiritual practices, or classes, or conversations,

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or in groups. For others, it comes in fellowship with and care for others – both those in the congregation and those in need beyond our doors.

The reality is that for many people in our culture, going to or becoming part of a church is the last thing on their minds. Filled with pre-suppositions or stereotypes, they have no idea that if they came into St. Luke's they would discover an opportunity for communion with God and with others in a community that embraces ancient worship and modern thought, respects reason and science, celebrates diversity and truly welcomes all people. I am not sure what it would look like, but I know that the more the church becomes a gathering place for the local community, the more it is a center for music and the arts, and a partner with other faith communities as well as with groups and organizations around town, the more people will know who and what we are. The more they do that, the more they will want to become a part of the family called St. Luke's. I know this can work because it worked with me!

Thank you for your patience and faith and prayers during the time of transition and to everyone who has done so much to prepare for this time of new beginnings. May God bless us all as we continue to walk through this season of Lent and bring us joyfully to Easter and beyond.

With thanks for you,  
Father Ben



**Ben, Shari, Scott and Katherine**





## GETTING TO KNOW FATHER BEN

**Sermon Preached by the Rev. Benjamin Shambaugh, St. Luke's Cathedral, Portland, Maine, January 12, 2023**

**Epiphany 1A: Isaiah 42:1-9, Acts 10:34-43 , Matthew 3:13-17**

My parents did not know I existed until I was born. It was long before ultrasound. I was only two pounds and my twin brother was twice my size, so I was, you might say, a surprise. Being so small and more than a month early, I was also an incubator baby who didn't come home from the hospital for several months. (That led to some attachment and coordination issues, but that is a story for another time.) Perhaps because of our preemie status, my brother and I were baptized relatively quickly. My family was living close to Washington DC at the time and the ceremony took place in the children's chapel in the then unfinished National Cathedral.



**National Cathedral, Washington, DC**

In the ten years I served in Maryland, I regularly volunteered as a chaplain at the National Cathedral and would often go back to that chapel. One day I got permission from the vergers to dig into the National Cathedral's hand written registers to find my baptismal date. I wrote it on a piece of paper and taped it to the back of the certificate of my ordination to the priesthood which hangs above my desk today. It's a reminder that baptism – not ordination – was where it all began.

Since the publication of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, the Episcopal Church has gone through what a friend of mine has called a “Baptismal revolution.” Through the Baptismal Revolution, baptism has become the primary source of identity and vocation for the people of God and the Baptismal Covenant has become the de-facto mission statement for the Episcopal Church. The public celebration of baptism and the repeated use of the baptismal covenant declare that baptism is the beginning and the foundation of ministry. Since my baptism, I have had lots of training and had many roles and titles.

In 34 years of ordained ministry and the years leading up to it, I have lived overseas twice, served two cathedrals and two parishes, helped build schools in the US, Africa, and Haiti, led two trips to the Holy Land, done weddings in different countries and different languages, worked with a princess and worked with the poor, and served as a chaplain for a school, the National Parks, for a hospital, and for the Coast Guard... all culminating in 18 incredible years right here. It has been an amazing adventure. Ordination, of course, was simply building on what was already there. Baptism was the start of it all.

That same was true for Jesus. As we heard in this morning's gospel, Jesus wasn't baptized until he was about 30 years old. We don't really know much of what happened those intervening years. There is mention of his being raised in Nazareth and his parents taking him to the temple in Jerusalem as a boy. As he grew up, is likely that he followed the example of Joseph and became a builder – probably a stonemason rather than a carpenter – who work on the nearby Roman City of Sepphoris. Sometime along the way, he realized that Joseph was not his father and things were no longer so clear.

Given his reputation as a glutton and winebibber and his choosing of disciples from the docks, the young adult Jesus hung out with a rather rough crowd. Given his spirituality, it is likely that he went on a quest, perhaps even spending time with the Essenes, a kind of hippie community on the shores of the Dead Sea in Qumran. **(cont'd)**

Think of being a parent to a kid like that. With all this in mind, it isn't too farfetched to think that the "sword that pierced Mary's heart" was from her dealing with the angst of adolescence as well as the nails of the cross!

We don't know everything that happened with Jesus in those 30 years. What we do know is that he ended up with John the Baptist, that he was baptized, and that with his baptism everything changed. Though the pious side of our brain might argue that Jesus was sinless and didn't need to be baptized, the practical side can imagine that Jesus came carrying all of those doubts and insecurities, regrets and remorse, frustrations and feelings, questions of meaning and purpose and wondering who we are supposed to be when we grow up, that young adults – indeed of people of any age – wrestle with.

Could it be that while Jesus might not have needed baptism in God's eyes, he very much needed it in his own? Could it be that he needed something, someone, to remind him who he was and what he was called to do? John's baptism gave Jesus what he was looking for. From his baptism, he learned who his father was and that his father was pleased with him. From his baptism, Jesus learned his identity and vocation. It is from his baptism that Jesus' ministry began.

As you know from the Epistle or have seen in the letter available at the entrances of the cathedral, I have accepted a new call which begins in May. Because of sabbatical – now referred to as transition -- time, my last Sunday at St. Luke's will be January 29. As already planned, the Rev. Paul St. Germain will be here February 1 through May 1. He will be assisted by the Rev. Suzanne Roberts, the Rev. Christopher Worthley, and the Rev. Anne Fowler. This list of ministers, however, misses the point that baptism is where ministry begins, that through baptism all of us are ministers of the gospel, and through baptism all of us have a responsibility for living out the mission of the church, for "doing" church and "being" church at the same time.

Covid taught us that the church isn't a building but a people. Baptism teaches us that the church isn't about a minister, but about ministers, about each and every one of us. There's an old custom that Bishops take the name of the diocese as their name. Priests don't do that because priests know that the congregation isn't about them, but about the congregation itself. One of the things that has bubbled up here in the past couple years is people referring to themselves as "St. Lukans."

That's a wonderful reminder that St. Luke's is not about

me, it's about you. It's about us together. A priest's role isn't supposed to be as much about doing ministry as it is about equipping, inspiring, and otherwise helping people claim a ministry that is their own. I know that many of us have some insecurity when it comes to articulating spiritual things or using spiritual language. Many of us are a little shy when it comes to talking the talk or walking the walk of faith. Hear these words: You may be shy but God is not shy about you. God made you and God does not make mistakes. The God who created light wants that light to shine in and through you.

Now I know that none of us are perfect. We don't have to be. That's up to God. We cannot do it on our own. I also know that together, with God's help, we can. With God's help, we have done, and will do, the most amazing of things.

Today is the first Sunday after the Epiphany. The word Epiphany comes from the Greek word meaning "manifestation" or "showing." Epiphany is a time when our readings show the world who Jesus is, who we are, what we are called to be. Epiphany is a time when we the baptized are given the task of telling people around us that God shows no partiality, that all are acceptable to him, when we show the world who Jesus is by not just saying what we believe but by living it out. You are a children of God. God is well pleased with you. God loves you and so do I. God has a ministry for each of us, for you and for me. In this next stage it will be different, but it will also be the same. It will be OK, in fact, more than OK. We will be OK, in fact, more than OK. In the words of Julian of Norwich, "All shall be well." To find out what that means, we, like Jesus, need to go back to our baptisms, where it all began.



**Mother Julian  
of Norwich,  
Theologian and  
Mystic,  
1343- 1416**

## FROM TREATING BODIES TO TREATING SOULS: The Work of Reverend Ben Shambaugh

By Jeffrey Sussman

Ben Shambaugh grew up in a family of doctors.

His grandfather was an esteemed doctor, and his father (age 91) is still practicing medicine and teaching young doctors at Emory University. Before that, his father was the medical advisor to the Nationalist Chinese Army in Taiwan. His mother was a physical therapist and one of her patients was Madam Chiang Kai-shek.

Ben is one of five siblings and twin to his brother George, who is a professor of international affairs and government and Director of Masters of Science in Foreign Service Programs at Georgetown University, where he was also chairman of the Department of Government. He prepared students for the United States Foreign Service.

Growing up, Ben and his siblings were members of Emanuel Episcopal Church in LaGrange, Illinois, where the children sang in the choir and where Ben and George served as acolytes. During high school, Ben participated in church sponsored youth events, and those events planted the seeds of his faith.

As a young pre-med college student, Ben worked alongside his grandfather doing medical research. The priesthood was not a career he considered at that time. However, he became increasingly involved in campus ministry while in college and his interest in the priesthood developed, grew, and finally became compelling. Following graduation, he applied and was accepted at General Theological Seminary in 1985.



**General Theological Seminary, New York City**

As evidence that twins do not necessarily think alike, George attended Oberlin College, where he majored in political science. He went on to Columbia University and earned a Ph.D. He is still an Episcopalian, though he attends church services only on Christmas and Easter, as do many other Episcopalians.

During his summers, while a seminarian, Ben worked

for the National Parks Service in Christian ministry. It was at the National Parks that Ben met his future wife, Shari, who worked as recruiter in the Parks office on 47 Street. They were both living at the Seminary. After their children were born Shari earned a degree in art therapy.

The Shambaughs have two children: Scott who designs aerospace satellites (and is not a church goer), and Katherine (aka, Kate), who works for the Portland Parks Conservancy in its environmental department. As with their father, both offspring enjoy the outdoors: hiking, sailing, kayaking, skiing. In Portland, Katherine is a member of a group of Christian seekers in their 20s, who regularly attend church services and call themselves The Young and The Restless.

As the dean of a cathedral, Ben is like a CEO with manifold responsibilities that include outreach, capital campaigns, pledging, music programs, lecture series, etc. Regarding music, Ben and other members of the congregation organized 20 concerts between Christmas and New Year's. Earlier in the year, they had organized 20 other concerts. And whenever possible, Ben partakes as a musician, for he is an accomplished Tuba player.

And when it comes to pledging, Ben has been inspired leader, who has increased his church's pledging by almost 10% a year. To achieve that remarkable amount of giving, Ben develops personal relationships with every member of his congregation, encouraging the congregation to reach a goal of 100% participation. He has designated each member of the vestry as his personal representatives to call on members of the congregation with whom they have personal relationships.

He says the more we do for the community, the greater the number of congregants will be and that will serve to increase pledging. He emphasizes that an indirect approach, such as having concerts and lectures, will bring people into the church. And every time, the church hosts an event it is publicized in local media, so that the entire community is aware of the wonderful things that the church does that may or may not be theological. Ben says, "Good news that contains the church's name is a win for the church." So, for example, a couple from the Congo, who only speak French, heard about the church and decided to get married there. Ben speaks a little French, so he was able to perform the ceremony.

And speaking of French, Ben and Shari will be enjoying themselves for a few weeks in France, where Ben had been a cannon pastor at the American Cathedral for four years. Following that visit and a brief sabbatical, he will become St. Luke's new rector on May 1, and Shari, who must complete her teaching obligations in Portland, will join him in June. We all look forward to his vibrant and engaging rectorship at St. Luke's.



## PARISHIONER PROFILE

### ST. LUKE'S WELCOMES A NEW MEMBER OF THE PARISH: **JULIAN TRUPIN**

By Jeffrey Sussman



Though he is 6'5", he is not a basketball player. Instead, he is a skillful ice-hockey player, who is football fan. He did not play sports in school; at Baruch College in New York City, he majored in philosophy and economics. When asked to name his favorite economist, he said Joseph Hayek, certainly one of the great minds of that science. And when it comes to philosophers, Julian named Kierkerkard and Heidegger. It's not surprising that Julian enjoys reading philosophy and economics in his spare time, though he admits the subjects are rather dry. His other interest in cinema.

Julian grew up in Bayshore with his sister Cordellia, who is now a student at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT), where she is studying textiles. His parents both worked as technical writers for Microsoft, and his mother is now a writer for the real estate publication, *Dirt*, but finds time to be a free-lancer on subjects related to real estate.

Julian's father is Jewish; his antecedents emigrated from Lithuania and Latvia. His mother was brought up as an Episcopalian and her antecedents came to America in the 1840s from Ireland. Julian chose to be an Episcopalian, being attracted to the traditions and structure of church services, including the liturgy and hymns.

His two dogs, Betsy, a Coon Hound, and Percy, a Beagle, have been blessed at Pet Sunday. Julian manages to find time away from his pets during his travels to Europe, where he ventures once a year. In May, he intends to visit France.

## ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH CAMPAIGN, Mar 20, 2023

### NAMES OF THOSE WHO HAVE PLEDGED IN 2023

Mr. & Mrs. James Amaden  
Mr. William Ameringer & Mr. Kevin Byrne  
Ami Ayre  
Ms. Jacklyn Baker  
Dianne Benson & Lysbeth Marigold  
Mrs. Norborne Berkeley, Jr.  
Pamela Blackman  
John Brancati  
Mr. & Mrs. James Brandi  
Chesie Breen  
Eleine & Jon Bricken  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Budd  
Mary Busch  
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Chapman  
Mr. & Mrs. David Coles  
Hilary Collins  
Ms. Kimberly Elash and Mr. Doug Cornett  
Chris & Kristin Corwin  
Mr. Brian Craig and Dr. Michael Swerdlow  
Mr. & Mrs. Milford Crandall  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Cromack  
Lynn Czarnecki  
Mr. Duncan Darrow  
Loretta Knauer Davis  
Caroline Dean  
Ms. Carol Deane  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael de Havenon  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert DeLaMater  
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Edwards, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Hersey Egginton  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Fewell  
Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Field, II  
Kevin & Fiona Fleming  
Mr. Dennis Gates  
Jeff Gates & Michael Moran  
Aimee & Justin Geehrens  
Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Giles  
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Hadden II  
Patricia Hand  
Mr. & Mrs. G. F. Robert Hanke  
Dr. & Mrs. Wayne Isom, MD  
Susan Jaxheimer  
Lynn Jerome  
Mr. & Mrs. James Johnson  
Fritzi Kallop  
Jane M. Kappes  
Mrs. Lucy Muhlfeld Kazickas

Mr. Alexander Laughlin  
Mrs. Alexander M. Laughlin, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. David Laughlin  
Ernest Leatherwood Jr.  
Ms. Michele Llewelyn  
Maureen Loughnane-Stack  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Lynch  
Mr. Greg Mansley  
Robert Kirby Marcantonio  
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Mrs. Merle McDonald-Aaron  
Mrs. Annelie McLaughlin  
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Mr. & Mrs. Jack McSpadden  
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Mrs. Henry Murray  
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Mark Nelson  
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Mr. & Mrs. Charles Niggles  
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Mrs. Claire Olszewski  
Louis O'Neal & Tina Giles  
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The Ruggiero-Panagopoulos Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy T. Parker, III  
Ms. Michele McBee Peters  
Mr. & Mrs. John Phillips  
Katharine Rayner  
Betty & Deborah Reutershan  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Riggi  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald H. Roberts, Jr.  
Anthony Rosina  
Carolina and Kevin Schaefer  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Schumacher  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schurr  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schwagerl  
Coco Shean  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Smart  
Mrs. Lalitte Smith  
Carolyn Snyder  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Sohm  
Nancy Stewart  
Jonda Stilwell  
Bruce & Colleen Stonemetz  
Tina Sukapdjo

Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Sussman  
Mr. & Mrs. John Tarbet  
Minerva Taylor  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Thomas  
Mr. Clif Thorn & Mr. James Testa  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Thorsen  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Tillinghast  
Helene Tilney  
Hugh Tilney  
Patricia Tobin  
Salvatore & Patti Tocci  
Mr. & Mrs. Conor Tochilin  
May Trent  
Sean Trowbridge  
Justin Udelhofen  
Mr. Richard Udice  
Ms. Tania Valverde  
JanWillem van Bergen Henegouwen  
Dr. & Mrs. Vincent Vigorita  
Jennifer Borg  
Mr. Marshall Watson & Mr. Paul Sparks  
Mr. & Mrs. Chris White  
Holly Whitmore  
Mrs. Richard C. Wilson  
Jane Wood



## PHOTOS OF SOME OF OUR VESTRY MEMBERS AND STAFF



**Tina Giles**



**Charles Riggi**



**Mary Busch**



**Lucy Kazickas**



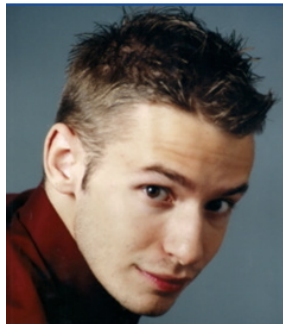
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