

Chapter 4

I Bring You Good Tidings

"I bring you good tidings" was the message on the first weekly issue of the Evangel, dated October 11, 1959. At a Vestry meeting on April 14, the previous spring, the Communications Committee had suggested "the substitution of an enlarged weekly bulletin to replace the monthly newsletter" which by now could not keep up with all the "good tidings" at St. Luke's. Mr. Bush, our rector at the time, said, "We hope you like it."

Someone had paved Ft. Hunt Road (see the early histories), and it seemed that all roads led to St. Luke's, which had grown miraculously during the 1950's.

These figures tell part of the story:

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1960</u>
Families	107	463
Communicants	57	629
Baptized Members	520	596
Confirmed members	98	864
Church School Pupils	167	611

Whitsunday in the Park

The weekly Evangel was one first that year and there was another. In March, Kit Parker had suggested a full congregational service at Fort Hunt Park on Whitsunday. We celebrated this on May 17; in later years we were invited to meet at Mt. Vernon Park. I'm not quite sure just which year it was, but one Sunday we marched in full glory down Lafayette Road toward the park, banners flying, robes fluttering in the breezes,

and neighbors watching in awe (and envy?). Thus began a long-standing St. Luke's tradition.

Our tidings were not always good, however, for Mr. Bush resigned on February 1, 1960 to go to St. Luke's in San Antonio, Texas. During this time the Rev. Philip Smith, Chaplain at VTS, later Suffragan Bishop of Virginia and Retired Bishop of New Hampshire, served as supply priest.

The Rev. Edward Morgan III

Our prayers were answered when the Rev. Edward Morgan III accepted the call to be our rector, effective May 1. We looked forward to the arrival of Ed and his wife, Margaret, and their young family, Beth, Sarah, and Edward. His first service was on May 8.

Ed was formerly rector of the Cople Parish churches in Westmoreland County, Virginia. Before going to the Seminary, he had graduated from the University of Virginia as a mechanical engineer and had worked for the DuPont Company.

In February of that year we won a dubious honor. When some of you are wielding brushes, soap, furniture polish and vacuums and reminding yourselves that these clean-up days are, yes they are, fun, it may be of some consolation to know that the Mt. Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce that winter awarded St. Luke's third place in its Clean-up, Paint-up, Fix-up Campaign. Now, how's that for fame?

We took part in three great diocesan ceremonies in 1960: the election and

consecration of Bishop Robert F. Gibson as the 15th bishop in the history of the Virginia Diocese, and the retirement of Bishop Goodwin, in whose honor Goodwin House was later named. We made our first retreat to Shrine Mont from September 9 to 11, at a cost of \$12 per person, and our kindergarten opened with a full enrollment of 30 children.

On St. Luke's Day in October, Mr. Robertson, the first rector of St. Luke's, came from Lynchburg to deliver the sermon.

Sharing Our Building

One wonders where all of the community groups which shared our church buildings managed to meet. Some of these were Job's Daughters, Cub Scouts 690 and Scout Troop 690, the Rifle Club, Cub Scouts 654 and Scout Troop 654, Explorers 654, Brownies, Bluebirds, Girl Scout Leaders, and the Mt. Vernon Civic Association.

In fact, one wonders where all of our own church groups managed to meet. Our 15-member vestry met monthly and more often if necessary, trying to solve the problems of a rapidly growing church. There was a group called the Stewards of St. Luke's, which worked hard and enjoyed a great fellowship as well. There was a large and very active membership in the Episcopal Churchwomen, the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, and the Junior Brotherhood of St. Andrew (which in '65 became the Crucifers Guild). The Brotherhood of St. Andrew sponsored an Advent Breakfast each year for the men and boys of the church. The Altar Guild worked as diligently as they still do; there were three choirs; and last but certainly not least, the Young People's Fellowship was organized in 1960, called at one point EYC and later JYC and SYC. There was a growing suspicion that we needed more space.

There were six women's chapters, four of which (St. Catherine's, St. Anne's, St. Margaret's, and St. Monica's) met in the homes of members, and St. Dorothea's, which met at the church where baby-sitters were provided. The Senior Chapter met at the home of Bernice Carter Davis, a long time resident and historian of the area.

The Evangel Tells All

The comings and goings of all these church groups were duly reported in the Evangel - "squeezed in" might be a better description- and the seasons of the Church Year were carefully noted and beautifully described each week. Births, baptisms, confirmations, burials, transfers received and transfers sent, illnesses and recoveries, all were part of the Evangel's weekly message.

Standing Room Only

Meanwhile there was standing room only at some of the services. Later that year, two services were held at one time, one in the nave and one in the parish hall. At one point, Bill Barber reported to the vestry that he had ordered folding chairs for the aisles. The parking lot was filled. There were moans from owners of dented fenders. Each week, members were urged to exhibit their pioneering spirit and park in the Hollin Hall Shopping Center (Blue Laws kept stores closed on Sundays and we had obtained permission to park) and walk up the hill to the church. It was reported to be spiritually as well as physically invigorating.

The Vestry called a special congregational meeting in March to vote on the purchase of the property at the corner of Fort Hunt Road and Wellington, called appropriately The Corner House.

On July 14, 1961 there was a very beautiful and fondly remembered service of Holy

Matrimony at Gavans Methodist Church in Baltimore; the bride was Virginia Smith and the groom was Charles Johnson.

Go into the world

Transfers were received from far corners of the globe: St. Christopher's in Kailua, Hawaii; St. George's in Honolulu; Holy Trinity in Sussex, England; the Pro Cathedral in Paris; St. John's in Essex, England; and parishes in Topeka, San Mateo, and Portland. This was a time, too, of farewells to those going overseas, military and civilian. The Overseas Mission Society sponsored a series of conferences for laymen going abroad to three areas to aid them in being sensitive to opportunities for Christian witness in Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Middle East. In the tract racks was a Directory of Churches in Europe and Nearby Countries.

While this amazing growth was taking place, there was mounting apprehension about the skies above our planet. Three items had been discussed at a Stewards' meeting in 1960: protection from blast; missiles and outer space; and strategic air power. In 1961 all men of the parish were invited to a talk and films on Missiles and Space. In April of that year, the Soviet Union had sent a man into space and returned him safely to earth. In response to the area-wide concern, the vestry voted in December, 1961, to make our kitchen available as a disaster (either man-made or natural) station.

In the midst of this disturbing news, the warmth of fellowship and the spirit of Christ among us continued to bring blessings without number.

A Library Committee

In July, Mr. Morgan appointed a Library Committee (Mary Klein, Anna Lou White, and Theo Massey, our new Director of Christian

Education) "to promote, administer a library". It was hoped that it would include "music and audio-visual materials and equipment, maps, film strips, slides, recordings, tapes, and films".

A Gifts and Memorials Committee

A Gifts and Memorials Commission, suggested by Harrie White, was established with Maurice Herndon, chairman, Mary Benington, and Charles Coston serving with him. Bev Triplett became the church secretary, Lois Chapin became Director of Christian Education, and Bill Williams was General Superintendent of the Church School.

That summer we had a picnic supper and dance on the barge going down the C & O Canal.

Far across the ocean, on December 29, 1961, the Presiding Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Arthur Lichtenberger, visited Pope John in Rome, the first such meeting in the history of the Episcopal Church.

A Turning Point

At the congregational meeting on January 5, 1962, a report presented by Senior Warden Les Kinnamon somehow seemed to mark a turning point for St. Luke's in this, the fourth decade. "A Fundamental Approach to the Future" involved designing a church and parish hall to be located on the present site, to accommodate church families with a total membership of 2,000 baptized persons. To this end the congregation voted to purchase the property at 39 Wellington Lane. At this meeting the vestry expanded from 15 to 18 members.

At this same time, Ed Morgan and Senior Warden Les Kinnamon explained another part of St. Luke's vision for the future- the philosophy that churches should be located close to people. Accordingly, St. Luke's began to plan for the

mission which became St. Aidan's Church. It was suggested that St. Lukers living south of Collingwood Road should become part of the new congregation, and many of them did

Day School Enlarged

The St. Luke's "campus" now included the White House acquired in 1957, in which the kindergarten met; the Corner House acquired in 1960, in which were three offices and four Church School classrooms; and the Gold house acquired in 1962. Plans progressed for opening classes for four year olds in March. They were held in the Gold House and taught by Sue Harvie and Mary Shaffner. (By 1964 the Day School reached an enrollment of 67. In 1967 Fairfax County Public Schools began to provide kindergarten classes; consequently the number of five-year-olds in St. Luke's Day School began to decrease).

Events in Parish Life

Parishioners Maude and Charles Gallagher celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Charles Johnson applied to the Bishop for status as a postulant for Holy Orders.

On a purely secular note, St. Dorothea's Chapter presented a "Wash and Wear" Fashion Show put on by VEPCO, after which there was a mass disposal of irons and ironing boards. Perma press had come of age.

Ordinations to the Diaconate

Two ordinations to the diaconate were of interest to St. Luke's: Glenn Hewlett, formerly an active communicant, was ordained deacon at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Lexington, Kentucky, and Jim Smith, Senior Seminarian assistant, was ordained deacon at St. George's in Fredericksburg. A special treat that year was the visit of the Rev. Patrick Sanders and his wife from Greenville, Mississippi, where he was the

rector of St. James. He had been a seminarian assistant at St. Luke's from 1957-1959. We continued to be blessed with visits from the seminarians who had given so much and so lovingly to us at St. Luke's.

As the warm summer months returned, it was reported that air-conditioning was on order, the do-it-yourself variety, Palm Leaf Fans! Remember those? Gentlemen were urged to be comfortable and to come to church in shirt sleeves. Ladies were still covering their heads for church with hats and prayer caps, and St. Margaret's Chapter sponsored a Fall Hat Show in the parish hall.

"Sorry, ladies, not yet. . ."

Lest we forget, at a meeting in September, 1962, the vestry discussed the question of whether the canons should be changed to permit the election of women to the vestry in the diocese. (The comment in the Evangel: "Sorry, ladies, not yet.") It was not until 1968 that our first lady member of the vestry was elected, Adelaide Bolte.

As St. Luke's continued to grow, our Church School became the fifth largest in Virginia, and in October, 1962, the ordained ministry was supplemented by the appointment of a curate, the Rev. Barry Evans, deacon.

A nostalgic remembrance of the way it used to be was a note in the Evangel: "The church is always open for prayer and meditation. Why not stop in during the week on your way to work or when out for an evening stroll?"

Building Committee Appointed

At the annual congregational meeting in January 1963, the Senior Warden was authorized to appoint a Building Committee. Jim Hardy was asked to be chairman. His first objective was to submit to St. Luke's Vestry a

plan for the physical expansion of the church. Four Study and Advisory Groups for the Building Committee and the architect were appointed to plan for the future at St. Luke's, with Chairpersons Frank Brown for Administration; Lalla Barber for Fellowship; Maurice Hepner for Worship; and Martha Barfoot for Christian Education.

Bill Barber, Senior Warden, and Jim Hardy, chairman of the Building Committee, announced the appointment of Charles Stein, Jr. as Chairman of the sub-committee for fund raising. Milton Grigg was appointed architect for the new building.

A few miles away, St. Aidan's, which had begun as a St. Luke's mission, held its first service in its new building, August 16.

136 baptized members had transferred their membership from St. Luke's.

Bishop Goodwin came to administer the order of confirmation to a standing room only congregation. Not just St. Luke's but the whole diocese was growing. Bishop Gibson reported a 52% increase in the number of communicants in the past 10 years and also noted the acceptance of a gift of eight and one-half acres of land from Mr. B. M. Smith of Arlington, to be used for a church home for the aged and a nursing unit, in the city of Alexandria. This was to become Goodwin House.

Someone must have mentioned our parking problems because President Kennedy inaugurated the 50 mile hike

Termites? Oh, My. . .

Somehow St. Monica's Chapter managed to serve 300 people at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper that year. Not to be outdone, St. Dorothea's sponsored a Square Dance later in April. That was the good news. The bad news? Termites were discovered under portions of the

1933 church building. We were alerted to their presence when our current (1989) Senior Warden, Martha Barfoot, had the heel of her shoe go through the floor as she approached the altar rail.

Continuing their strong emphasis on missions, in the spring of 1963 the women of St. Luke's made possible the first blood bank for children in Saigon, through Bill and Louisa Trigg, who were there with A.I.D and were helping at the American Women's Association at Children's Hospital, where many war casualties were treated. At the three remaining meetings of the ECW that spring, a white elephant table was set up, the proceeds to go to Saigon.

Our own St. Anne's Chapter continued the mission work of St. Luke's by sending \$50 to Bishop Chander Ray in Pakistan for purchasing a bicycle for one of his clergy. Pakistani clergy averaged three to five hours on bicycles in those days to minister to their people.

We Mourn

That year we mourned the death of two faithful members of our church: Frank Sanderson, a former Vestryman, and Mildred L. (Aggie) Finks, who might be remembered as the founder of St. Luke's (see Chapter I).

Our December 1, 1963, Evangel was a poignant reminder of one of the most tragic moments in the country during our time: "In Memoriam, John F. Kennedy, 1917-1963."

When Barry Evans, our curate, was assigned to the jurisdiction of Bishop Creighton and the Church of St. Stephen and the Incarnation in D.C., the Rev. George H. Dawson accepted a call to come from Bandera, Texas, to St. Luke's as Assistant Rector, on January 15, 1964.

Three lay readers received licenses from the Bishop to deliver sermons of their own composition: Fred Greene, Charles Johnson, and

Harrie White, Jr. Anna Lou White became the full-time secretary, and Charlotte Quale replaced Anna Lou as Assistant Treasurer.

Presiding Bishop Hines Elected

The Rt. Rev. John Hines was elected 22nd Presiding Bishop and installed in Washington Cathedral. He had been a seminarian at St. Luke's in the 1930's.

Our building plans seemed to be in a holding pattern that year.

In May, Bishop Gibson came for the Rite of Confirmation, and we had our Annual Youth Sunday observance. We mourned again, this time for the death of a dedicated member of our congregation, Vestryman Larry St. John (Kay's husband).

The following spring we met in groups in our homes to keep the members of the parish informed about the progress of the buildings and to get their suggestions.

In 1965 a rather depressing description of St. Luke's was made ". .. termites in the building, chairs in the aisles, church school scattered all over the place, obstinate leaks in the parish hall. . ."

In the spring of that year, the Vestry voted to develop a reorganization plan which included a provision that women and male non-vestrymen would be able to serve on church committees with responsibility for Administration, Education, Social Relations, Stewardship, and Worship.

There were three choirs. Kent Alexander directed the Senior Choir; Bernice Whitestone, the Teen Choir; and Marilyn Houston, the Junior Choir.

Mr. Dawson was called to Good Shepherd, Corpus Christi, Texas, and the Vestry authorized Mr. Morgan to seek another Assistant Rector.

That year the oldest member of our parish, Mrs. Eugenie Saugstad, died. She had painted the tablets on either side of the sanctuary containing the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed.

One Small Candle Lighted

An Evangel in March 1965 noted a very special area of pastoral concern. "A small group of members is being constituted informally to visit the sick. Persons willing to share this ministry and contribute two hours per month are asked to speak to the clergy at the earliest opportunity." One small candle was lighted and it glowed in the darkness.

To give those leaving town for summer weekends a chance to worship, we began to have a service at 8:00 p.m. every Thursday. A call went out for an Evangel crew; and anyone willing to help was asked to call Fred Suffa, Kay Jewell, or Mr. Morgan. (There was no notation as to whether or not they were flooded with volunteers!)

At a Vestry meeting in December of that year, one more obstacle to our building a larger church was removed. The purchase of one third of an acre of land north of the present church was authorized, and this provided the minimum amount of land needed to expand our building.

Pastoral Counseling and Consultation Center

At the congregational meeting on January 16, 1966, a budget item of \$1250 brought a question from the floor and a brief explanation of a Pastoral Counseling and Consultation Center which was to be located at St. Luke's. It opened on February 8, and in a short while expanded to include Silver Spring United Presbyterian, The Falls Church, and Asbury Methodist (Charlestown, WV). Mr. Morgan was

co-founder and first chairman of the Board of Directors.

A trial balloon indicated that St. Luke's was two to one in favor of allowing women to serve on vestries in the Diocese of Virginia. And whether or not in celebration, St. Anne's had a very successful card party.

Four ladies of the parish, Adelaide Bolte, Bernice Carter Davis, Longina Flakowicz, and Anna Lou White, made and gave to the church a beautiful green altar superfrontal pulpit and altar hanging and a communion burse and veil to match.

It may not have stopped the U.S. Mail, but on February 6, 1966, the Evangel presses were silent. Why? The unforgettable blizzard of '66. The snows did finally melt and the Evangel resumed its amazing coverage of almost everything that was going on, not only at St. Luke's, but around the world. It reported that a "spectacular" fashion show was held in the parish hall. Thelma Clark had done the honors.

A New Assistant Rector

From faraway St. Luke's in Lakeview, Oregon, the Rev. Stuart Henderson accepted a call to be Assistant Rector at our St. Luke's. He and Beverly, Catherine, Jennifer, and David drove across the country, arrived several weeks later, and settled into a church-owned house on Wellington Lane.

A very special gift and award was presented that fall to Frank Brown, Director of the Junior Brotherhood of St. Andrew, for serving more than ten years as an acolyte. John Smith presented the award as the group's sponsor.

Sufficient acreage had been acquired to build a new church and provide the parking space needed. It was now necessary to deal with the financing. A loan of \$70,000 was noted in a Vestry meeting about this time. The funds were

to be used to pay off mortgages on all four satellite houses.

Outreach Continues

Meanwhile the members of St. Luke's continued their outreach, working at the Gum Springs Trailer Store, volunteering in the tutoring and literacy programs, and taking part in the American Field Service's "Operation Bus Stop", which provided housing for foreign students. The ECW sponsored Round Robin Bridge Tournaments, Ice Cream Socials, Square Dances and Bazaars without number. Lalla Barber was hostess for what seemed a Wellington cottage industry which created hand made items of every description, gathered white elephants, and helped to add to the growing building fund.

Toward furthering C.O.C.U., Consultation on Church Unity, the Rev. Mr. Duley of Aldersgate Methodist Church and our Mr. Morgan had a pulpit exchange.

Attending the Consecration in January, 1961, of the Rt. Rev. Robert Hall at St. Paul's, Richmond, by the Presiding Bishop John E. Hines were these St. Lukers: Ed and Margaret Morgan; Stuart and Beverly Henderson; Martha Barfoot, ECW President; Jim Davis, Sr. Warden; Bill Williams, Jr. Warden; and Harrie White, Trustee.

First Folk Mass

The EYC, with the encouragement of Seminarian Assistant Howard Hanchey (later Professor of Pastoral Theology at VTS) issued a call for 10th to 12th graders who could sing or play the guitar to join in preparation for a Folk Mass. The first one was celebrated at St. Luke's on May 7, 1967 (to be followed by many others in the ensuing years), and one parishioner commented that he had "never had so much fun in church before".

When Bishop Hall, our Coadjutor, made his first visit on May 28, he was presented with the largest single class of confirmation candidates in the history of St. Luke's, more than 60 adults and young children

The Day School was ten years old. Naomi Pennington and Bernice Whitestone had served as teachers during those ten years. Sue Harvie and Mary Shaffner had both served five years.

In June, two new and very young members of our parish were greeted with much rejoicing, Andrew Henderson, born June 15, and Meg Morgan, born June 21

The New Liturgy for Holy Communion

At the 62nd General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the U.S. in Seattle, an item was noted requesting "sufficient authority to carry out the needed translation of the Prayer Book into simple English." Mr. Morgan went to Seattle to hear the presentation of a resolution which he had made earlier that the Epistle and Gospel at the service of Holy Communion be authorized to be read in translations other than the King James version. The following items were also passed: (1) the new liturgy for Holy Communion was authorized for trial use; (2) women were to be allowed to sit as deputies to the General Convention, and (3) the House of Deputies voted to permit licensed lay readers to administer the chalice

A Go Ahead for Building Plans

The Annual Congregational Meeting on January 8, 1967, was one of the most important meetings in the 38 year history of St. Luke's. Jim Hardy, Milton Grigg, and the four leaders of the Study Committees gave reports. The building plans were approved unanimously, providing 20,000 square feet of new floor space and remodeling 10,000 square feet of existing floor

space. The congregation voted to employ Ketchum, Inc., as a fund raiser.

With the Annual Council of the Diocese coming up, Jim Davis, undaunted, requested a straw vote on the question of changing the Diocese of Virginia canon law to allow women to serve on vestries. The vote was 79 for and 26 against

In December Jim Hardy wrote, "We've come a long way - the final decision is 'Go ahead!'"

On January 13, 1968, we mourned with his family, friends, and those to whom he had dedicated his life, the death of the Rt. Rev. Frederick Deane Goodwin, retired Bishop of Virginia, at his daughter's home in Wheeling, WV. His death brought deep sadness to Ed Morgan, whom Bishop Goodwin had confirmed and later ordained, first as deacon, then as priest.

St. Luke's in Profile - 1968

A statistical profile of the St. Luke's congregation was done that July and showed that:

- 25% were born in Virginia
- 85% owned or were buying their homes
- 10% or less lived in apartments
- 87% lived in homes that were 18 years old or less
- 70% or more lived less than 3 miles from the church
- 50% had been members of the congregation less than 5 years
- Mean age: 27.8 (average age of total membership)
- Median age: 20.5 (as many younger as older)
- Mode age: 12.5 (more in 10-15 group than in other 5 year groups)

What it seemed to say was that we were all very young, that there were many new homes in the area, that many were new arrivals, and that we wanted to be close to our church.

Our guest priest on July 7 was the Rev. Philip A. Smith, Chaplain and Assistant Dean for Student Affairs at Virginia Theological Seminary.

Fire Damages Parish Hall

As far across the ocean Czechoslovakia was invaded, 25 people gathered in prayer in the church that evening.

While those in charge struggled with the financing of the new building and considered building in stages, fire destroyed the church kitchen and caused extensive damage to the upper rooms of the parish hall, library, and Pastoral Counseling Center. Ten pieces of equipment answered the call as the alarm was sounded. The Mt. Vernon, Penn Daw, Lorton, and Franconia Fire Departments cooperated to extinguish the fire 15 minutes after the alarm was sounded. Damage was estimated at \$30,000.

Not because of the fire, but shortly thereafter, a Parish Planning Committee was appointed, to study the overall ministry of the church. Fritz Behrens was chairman; Jamie Adair, David Kent, Shirley Shaw, and Jack Smith served with him. An extensive revision of the building plans was made. It was decided to remodel 5,800 square feet of the existing building and to build 23,000 square feet of new construction

A Decade Draws to a Close

Our fourth decade was drawing to a close. We had not yet laid the cornerstone, but were drawing nearer to that exciting and happy moment.

