Thanksgiving Evensong

Sunday, November 24
at 4 p.m.

With Scripture, Memorial Prayer,
The Pittsburgh Historical
Music Society Orchestra,
and our 1823 Pipe Organ

Offering requested

Street parking is limited to one
side only in the neighborhood

Christmas Lessons and
Carols Service
Sunday, December 15
at 4 p.m.

Based upon the service
from Kings College,

Kathleen and Eva Hendricks, soloists
and Jeffrey Gray, Organist
Offering requested

The Pittsburgh Historical Orchestra

The Pittsburgh Historical Musical Society was founded in 2010 to recreate the music of Pittsburgh in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The Orchestra seeks to affirm that music is part of our culture and is best understood in its original context by performing on original instruments, in historical dress, and in historical venues.

We again welcome the Orchestra to Old St. Luke’s Church, as they and this historic church together seek to present an engaging interpretation of history, within Christian worship, which help to sustain the recognition of our shared heritage. Your generous freewill offering will be appreciated.

The Role of Two Churches

In 1692, the village of Eastchester, New York was settled and a Presbyterian Meeting House was built. In 1702, the Colony of New York passed an Act to establish the Church of England and the wooden Meeting House became an Anglican congregation, and named St. Paul’s Church. In 1761 a stone building was begun, but it was not completed until 1788.

In 1773 John P Zenger, editor of the Weekly Journal, was arrested for his accurate reporting of an election held on Eastchester’s village green. William Cosby, the royal governor of New York, had denied voting rights to the Quakers. Cosby charged Zenger of seditious libel and he was imprisoned for nine months. Zenger’s attorney spoke of the right, in nature and in law, to oppose and expose the tyranny of arbitrary power, at least by speaking and writing the truth.

Zenger’s trial and his editorials have become the basis for the First Amendment of the American Constitution. In 1953 Congress designated St. Paul’s Church as the National Shrine for the Bill of Rights.

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The Symbol of an Inclined Tomb

King Richard III of England lived from 1452 to 1485. He reigned for two years, before he was killed in the Battle of Bosworth in the 1455-1485 War of Roses. Historians say that his death ended the Middle Ages in England.

King Richard was a maligned monarch, and his body was roughly buried in Leicester, England. In 2012, thanks to an archeological dig by the University of Leicester, his remains were found under the parking lot of the Gray Friars Priory. The Leicester Cathedral will place the remains in a raised limestone tomb, marked with a simple cross, in the chancel of the church. The tomb is centered in the outline of a rose, representing the Wars of the Roses, fought to control the throne of England.

Of particular interest to us at Old St. Luke's Church is that the King's tomb is inclined and facing to the east, just as the older graves in our Burial Ground are also pointed to the east and the rising of the sun each day, as a symbol of Jesus' promise of the resurrection.

Role of Two Churches, continued

When the Revolutionary War began in 1775 the patriots condemned the use of the Book of Common Prayer because it included prayers for the King of England. Rather than accept the patriot's order, the church was closed and the building was used as a barracks and as a hospital for Hessian soldiers. Those who died there were buried in the church's burial ground. It is estimated that today some 9,000 burials have been made in the 5 acre tract. In 1787 the building was used as a courthouse, and Aaron Burr pleaded some cases there. In 1788, the church was consecrated and services were resumed. A pipe organ was installed in 1833 and is still playable. The decline of the congregation led to the final service in 1977, and the church was deconsecrated. The church was given to the National Park Service in 1978 and to be open for tours.

Just as John Zenger, a member of St. Paul's Church and his trial led to the First Amendment of the Constitution, so a parishioner of Old St. Luke's Church, John Neville, and his role in the Whiskey Rebellion, led to the first test of the Constitution, when Washington ordered 13,000 militiamen to restore peace in this area.

In Memoriam
Samuel E. Nutbrown 1917 - 2013
Edward M. Reno 1917 - 2013
President of the Board of Directors 1975

Restoration Work Continues

The present Old St. Luke’s Church building is 161 years old, and the older it gets, the more it needs frequent care.

In September, the exterior of the Altar window, and the nave windows on the hard weather side had several sash and one sill replaced. The windows were repainted in October. Total cost was $2,620.

In 2006 each of the eleven windows and doors were completely restored by the Kelly Art Glass Co., and painted by the Markantone Painting Co, (Cost then was $10,700)

The sash of this stained glass window was replaced.

The Garden House needed to have the base board on the hard weather side, as well the riding mower ramp, replaced. The work was done by a retired carpenter from the Senior Craftsmen for $600.

A potion of the fascia on the Garden House also had to be replaced.

An exterior base board on the Church’s vestibule (narthex) was replaced.

The grass in the Burial Ground this summer has been cut by the White Lawn Service, Crafton. The privet hedge beside Church Street has been frequently trimmed by our Board Member Jim Robinson. Also, the dehumidifier in the Bride’s Room was recalled and a new one was purchased. A new vacuum cleaner was also purchased. The church is cleaned by Vladimir Ivashchenko.

We hope that you will agree that Old St. Luke’s Church is maintained in exemplary condition.
A History along Chartiers Creek.

Near the intersection of Greentree Road and Washington Pike Rt. 50 in Heidelberg is placed a Pennsylvania Historical Marker which describes the history of the Heidelberg race track. The track was the idea of Ike Wright, the owner of Wright’s Seafood Inn, and Steeler’s Art Rooney. In 1948, the Pittsburgh Racing Association opened a racetrack to host NASCAR races and performances of Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus shows. The 87 acre race track closed in 1973. Today, what is called Raceway Plaza, includes Wal-Mart, Lowe’s Home Improvement, and Shop-N-Save.

One History Marker obviously could not display all of the history of that tract of land prior to 1948, but we know who first owned the land in the late eighteenth century. On the northern side of the Chartiers Creek, Peter Painter named his plantation Heidelberg, and his neighbor was Gen. John Neville who named his plantation Woodville.

Directly across Chartiers Creek from Heidelberg and Woodville was Major William Lea’s plantation named Summerhill which he patented in Pennsylvania in 1788. His neighbor to the south was Presley Neville’s plantation named The Avenue. Major Lea’s land included today’s Glendale and where Old St. Luke’s Church is situated today in Scott Township.

Real estate sales and boundary lines certainly must have changed since 1788, but one problem involving the Creek seems to have persisted, namely, occasional flooding. In June, 1955, U. S. Congressman James G. Fulton, (R. Dormont) initiated a U. S. Army Engineer’s study of a Flood Control Project for Chartiers Creek. The Creek flows through 12 communities, beginning In Little Washington to McKee Rocks and into the Ohio River. The plan took a decade to develop, and the work was divided in five units, starting in 1968 near McKees Rocks. The second unit began in 1969 at East Carnegie, to Glendale, and the third unit also began in 1969 from Glendale to Toms Run Road in Woodville. The fourth unit began in 1970, and the Creek was realigned by removing a big loop around Kirwin Heights, from the Pressley Road bridge, to the Thoms Run road intersection with Washington Road. (See note below.) The fifth unit began in 1971 at Presto, and ended at Bridgeville. The Creek bed was lowered five feet in places, the channel was widened and where Creek banks were subject to erosion, they were reinforced with heavy rock. The cost of this total project was $33 million dollars.

Note: It is interesting that the big loop in the Creek which included Major Lea’s northern boundary, opposite Heidelberg and Woodville, was not also realigned from the end of Kirwin Heights realignment on toward Carnegie.

Another realignment, of a nearby creek, occurred facing Fort Ligonier in Ligonier (date uncertain) when a hairpin loop in Loyalhanna Creek was removed so that Rt 30

James G. Fulton (1903–1971) was a Pennsylvania Senator 1939-1940 and a U. S. Congressman from 1945 to his death in 1971. In 1970 he was instrumental in funding the U. S. space program. He owned several newspapers, including the Mt. Lebanon News.
2013 Dues and Memorial Designation
(2014 Dues begin next Easter Sunday)

Name _______________________________
Address _____________________________
City __________________ Zip _________
Phone ___________
Email _____________ Prefer Newsletter by email ___
Dues $15 ____ or $ _____
In Memory of ____________________________

Memorials remembered in November 24 Service

Payable to OLD ST. LUKE’S CHURCH
Please mail to Richard Davies
300 Madison Ave., #309

A Christmas Ornament
Designed in Williamsburg for us, we offer this three dimensional translucent gold finish Window Sun Catcher and Christmas Decoration. $15 ($17 if mailed)
Call 412-489-3795 for details.

Please consider including Old St. Luke’s Church in your Last Will and Testament

“If someone visits a small, isolated country church and finds it is well kept, cared for and clearly prayed in, this is itself a witness. So time and money spent caring for such a building should not in principle be regarded as a waste.”

Quote is from “A Radical Vision for the Church”
The Church of Wales, Report 2012