



Light in the Shadows

“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” Matt. 5: 16

Blessing, a Perspective

Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak . . . Jacob said, “I will not let you go, unless you bless me.” Genesis 32: 34-36



One of the key themes of Scripture, both within the Old Testament, and the New is that of blessing; of being blessed, or the act of blessing. To bless is to pray God’s favor or grace upon an individual. To be blessed is to be pronounced holy, approved by God. When used in the context of such expressions as “blessed be God’s name,” it signifies the very nature of God as the Holy One.

Despite the numerous references in the Bible to the act of blessing or being blessed, their usage seems to have fallen into abeyance or has at least been devalued for most Christians in their daily lives. It has largely become a response for a sneeze; “God bless you,” or is found in the framework of ritualized worship as a benediction or closing blessing. Even in this latter category it has become optional.

“Blessing is a Christian’s loving response to our redemption and the gift of life, carrying one beyond word into compassionate deed.”

—H. Paul Brannock-Wanter

This is most unfortunate. One could posit that a Christian’s very purpose is that of being a living blessing. It is a basic acknowledgment that one has been blessed by and in the life of Christ Jesus. Blessing is a Christian’s loving response to our redemption and the gift of life, carrying one beyond word into compassionate deed.

In a world where cursing each other is all too often the acceptable form of human expression, and interaction, those who are disciples of Christ are called to follow another way: *“But I say to you who listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who*

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Rev. Paul Brannock-Wanter collects his thoughts prior to opening St. Luke’s Annual Parish Meeting.

Parish Meeting Highlights

On Sunday, January 29 St. Luke’s parishioners gathered together for one worship service that morning at 9:00 a.m in Willard Hall, where we are meeting during the winter months to conserve fuel and lessen the cost of heating the building. The space this year has been made more attractive and comfortable thanks to the addition of 25 new, padded folding chairs that are a result of the diligence and perseverance of **Ruth Harrison** to raise monies for this purpose. We are all most grateful for her efforts.

At the conclusion of the service, Paul asked the question, “How do you want to proceed to the next stage of the morning?” (i.e. transforming the worship space into an area to enjoy our parish brunch prior to the Annual Meeting agenda.) John DesLauriers in his innate wisdom and common sense replied, “Don’t worry about it, it will just happen,”—which it did as a few of the men efficiently moved tables and chairs into place with seemingly little effort. Meanwhile Kathryn Wright with helping hands of a few of the ladies, set out food for the potluck brunch, which included everything from soups to nuts. Grace was sung and we ate. By 11:30 a.m. everyone was well fed and ready to tackle the Annual Meeting Agenda. 32 parishioners were present. The following is a brief synopsis of the meeting.

Jane Davis graciously volunteered to be the recording secretary. The minutes from the 2010 Annual Meeting were

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From the Senior Warden

It Is Enough



I live a very modest life. I live in an upstairs apartment, drive a 12-year-old car, and do my shopping at thrift stores. I don't travel, don't have television, and I hardly ever go out to eat. I have to be so careful about finances that I began to find myself growing weary and discouraged over the constant need to watch my pennies and live frugally.

When this unhappy state began to get worse, sliding downward from cranky discouragement into self-pity, I asked God for help. Not surprisingly, God totally ignored my request for a way to ease my meager finances. Instead, He sent me nine little words of encouragement that changed my bad attitude forever.

"A little can be a lot. It is enough." And so God's answer to my prayer reached me, hidden in an old Irish saying that I heard in a radio broadcast on a topic I've already forgotten. I heard those nine words as if they were shouted at me and I was suddenly able to view my life with new eyes. I have shelter and there is enough to keep my little home warm. There is enough to cook and bake for friends and family, and to give to my church. There is enough to keep the old car going. There is enough for me to thrive. It is enough, indeed, and I am blessed. Thank you, Lord, for always hearing me, and for always answering.

*Yours in Christ,
Kathryn*

Christian Symbol: X = Kiss



During the Middle Ages, when few people were able to write, many documents were signed with an X. Signers kissed the letter to affirm their sincerity in the same way they kissed the Bible when taking an oath. The letter X wasn't selected at random. It was the sign of St.

Andrew, who was crucified on an X-shaped cross. The X implied a sacred promise to fulfill one's obligation in the saint's name.

Blessing, a Perspective

(Rector's Column continued from page 1)

curse you, pray for those who abuse you. Mt 6:27." Blessing is a confession of divine relationship to others within the holiness of God. It is an expression of a sacred intimacy which rises above our otherness and that transcends our differences.

As Christians, to be a people who bless is no mere sneeze. If it arises from the heart it can be an opening into the vision of God's call, God's holiness, and the oneness found there. It can be an affirmation that all are made in the image and likeness of that God who blesses unceasingly. God bless you. Try it.

In Christ's love,

Paul



Refocus for Lent

- Give up complaining — focus on gratitude.**
- Give up harsh judgments — think kind thoughts.**
- Give up worry — trust God to provide.**
- Give up discouragement — be full of hope.**
- Give up bitterness — turn to forgiveness.**
- Give up hatred — return good for evil.**
- Give up anger — be more patient.**
- Give up pettiness — become mature.**
- Give up jealousy — pray for trust.**
- Give up gossiping — control your tongue.**
- Give up sin — turn to virtue.**
- Give up giving up — persevere.**

—*Author Unknown*

The Paradoxes of Life

- When I spend myself — body, soul and strength — I find replenishment within.
- When I extend kindness freely, I find kindness growing abundantly within.
- When I give abundantly to God and charity, I find my resources increasing instead of diminishing.
- When I exhibit happiness, I find mostly happy responses.
- When I give or serve or share or provide, I receive or am served or shared with or provided for in return.
- When I offer peace of mind to another, I discover it growing within myself.
- When I feel at peace with God, I discover I am at peace with the world.

—*Charles Ferrell*



Photos above & below: Parishioners, with Annual Report Books in hand, prepare for the meeting to begin.



Belinda Worth presenting the Nominating Committee Report.

St. Luke's Annual Meeting ...

(continued from page. 1)

accepted and Bonnie Watters read a letter from Ian & Polly Montgomery, expressing their thanks for the continued support of their missionary work in Peru and to give a short update on happenings. The letter was submitted along with the other reports in the 2011 Report Book.

Belinda Worth presented the Nominating Committee Report explaining that with only one person going off the Vestry this year, the committee opted to present two candidates to ease the gap in 2013 when more spots would be open. This brings the Vestry membership up to 11 members for 2012. **Lynda Farmer** (a former Vestry member) and **Lillian Willis** (new to the Vestry) were elected to serve 3-year terms. Belinda (who ended a second 3-year term at this annual meeting) was given a huge vote of thanks for her dedicated service through the years. Lew Watters noted that Belinda has served a total of 12 years, during her time at St. Luke's, the longest anyone has served on the Vestry in our history. Other decisions made were: **Richard Crocker**, **Kathryn Wright** and **Jean Hancock** will be our 2012 Diocesan Delegates to Convention; alternate Delegates will be **Jane Davis**, **Anita Wright** and **Mike Saul**.

2012 Fundraising Event Chairpersons are as follows:

- **August Supper** – Kathryn Wright
- **Fall Tag Sale** – John DesLauriers & Andrew Pennell
- **Christmas Tea** – Adelaide Johnson & Pat Fromberger
- **Wreath Decorating Workshop** – Lillian Willis
- **PINS Maple Fest Dinner/Raffle** – Marcia Clinton
- **Seder** – Kathryn Wright, Jane Davis & Jean Hancock

The parish then broke into four groups to discuss the four main points of St. Luke's new Vision Statement: what it means to us and how we might implement it. This produced some lively discussion.

The **2012 Budget** was then open to discussion with questions and clarifications answered by **Sally Hoover**, St. Luke's Treasurer and other members of the Financial Committee who were present. Once again St. Luke's will be operating on a faith based budget. Before closing the meeting it was noted that we need someone to head up the **Outreach Committee** to replace Pat Saul. Part of the responsibility of this committee is to determine how our Outreach is prioritized and to educate the congregation about the mission of the various organizations. **Don Robinson** volunteered to head up this committee and immediately responded to the need of appointing a contact person for the United Thank Offering (UTO) and that person will be **Mary Pill**. Jane Davis closed us in prayer and the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m. —**Pat Fromberger**

St. Luke's Willard Hall: A Bit of History

Many who worship at St. Luke's Church and enjoy the various events and activities that take place in the bright and airy space known as "Willard Hall," have only some knowledge of the history of this much used facility and wonderful asset to our community life.

When St. Luke's was built in 1871 there was no undercroft. For nearly 80 years St. Luke's had no parish hall, Sunday school rooms, or kitchen. Annual meetings, church suppers, and sometimes winter services were held in Wiley Hall, the second floor of Carpenter's Store next door (now known as the Moon Dog Café) and the property of Susan Wiley, one of the Fullerton daughters. For a number of years Sunday services were held there in winter as well.



Excavation of Willard Hall c. 1948

In 1948 a bequest from Pearl Willard, a lifelong parishioner, made it possible to finish excavating the undercroft and create a meeting space, kitchen, and classrooms. If you ever wondered who the woman was in the

framed black and white photo hanging by the door leading up to the sanctuary, it is Pearl Willard. Willard Hall served the church well for many years, with improvements made to the kitchen in 1975, but overall it remained somewhat cave-like in appearance with low ceilings, inadequate lighting and large granite support pillars dominating much of the space. The bathroom was the size of a broom closet and there was no space for an office for the Rector. In the space where the current office is was a large furnace.

In 1998, under the leadership of The Rev. Andrew G. Osmun, plans were begun for making major repairs and

restorations to both, the sanctuary (where the walls were gradually spreading outwards) and to Willard Hall. Those renovations got underway in spring of 1999 and were mostly completed in 2000. During that period we had to vacate the sanctuary and worship services were held in the NewsBank Conference Building just down the street from St. Luke's. These photos clearly show the wonderful transformation to Willard Hall as we enjoy it today.

—Pat Fromberger



Kitchen (in background) December 1991



Newly renovated kitchen 2001



Annual Meeting Brunch 1999



Pancake Supper 2009

Alive

by Jane Davis

Oh ancient land, primeval wood,
I walk your well-worn pathways
Of pillowed mosses
And craggy granite outcroppings,
Pine carpets and peat filled bogs.
The pungent aroma of decaying pine,
Stirring to soil beneath my booted foot,
Eddies upward,
And into the depths of my soul.

For this transported moment,
Breathing earth,
I am one with all that has come before,
Before the pale skinned explorers,
Before the feather or the arrowhead,
Before the eagle or the mammoth,
Or the giant, long-toothed cats,
Before the crust had cooled,
Or the firmaments divided.
Bathed in the light
Of connectedness
To all of God's creation,
My soul opens, and I am alive.

2009

Pack Well On Your Lenten Journey With Mercy, Grace & Forgiveness

During Lent, as we focus on Christ's journey to the cross, let's also examine the journey of our lives. The first task when leaving on any adventure is packing. What have you placed in your bag? Are you weighed down with temptations, self-doubt, money worries, relationship troubles? Have you overlooked any important items? Maybe your bag feels too empty for the challenges ahead. Remember to pack mercy, grace and forgiveness.

Thanks to Easter, we know that our journey in Christ continues, even when the road becomes difficult. So as you prepare for Lent, carry with you the hope made possible by Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf.

—Based on the "Journey to Hope" sermon series,
www.rethinkchurch.org/lent

Parish News



Congratulations Stephanie & David!

Stephanie Wilson, daughter of Doreen Bolger and Michael Wilson and **David Blauch**, son of Brad and Tammy Blauch, were united in marriage on Saturday, January 28, 2012 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Chester, VT. The Rev. H. Paul Brannock Wantner was the celebrant. Stephanie and David make their home in Lebanon, PA. Our congratulations to the happy couple and may God fill their lives with many blessings.



Singing a Glad Song

I was dismayed the first time we sang Hymn #318 in church. I didn't know the hymn at all. I'd never heard it before and crossly wondered why we were singing a new tune that nobody knew. I can't read music and couldn't follow the complicated melody. Instead of the gladness I always feel when we stand to sing, I just felt resentful. We sang this hymn many times in the weeks to come, though, and the congregation began to learn it. While I still couldn't sing it, I could recognize the melody and began to love the words. "*I have no help but thine; nor do I need another arm save thine to lean upon; it is enough, my Lord, enough indeed.*" And now, months later, the melody is familiar and easy for me and the hymn has become one of my favorites. I know that I owe a big thank-you to Martha and the members of the choir for their patience in teaching me a new way to sing the praises of God.

—*Kathryn Wright*

"No man ever got very high by pulling other people down.... Don't knock your friends. Don't knock your enemies. Don't knock yourself." —*Alfred, Lord Tennyson*

The Outreach Corner

Keep Watch for The 4th Annual Maple Fest Dinner & Raffle

Save the date. Saturday, March 24th will be the Annual Maple Fest Dinner & Raffle to raise funds for PINS. A pork roast dinner and all the sides, breads, and desserts with a touch of maple syrup. This is the same weekend of the maple syrup open house celebrated throughout the state. Again there will be the famous raffle with an assortment of desirable items that ticket holders can choose to win.

The PINS committee will need more volunteers to help make this event a success. So if you wish to help along with having a fun evening contact Marcia Clinton at 875-3531. We also will need items for the raffle. Have a gift left over from the holidays that doesn't quite suit you? Donate it to the raffle. Have business you want to promote? Call Marcia to make a donation.

PINS (Partners in Service) is faith communities collaborating with human service agencies to help local children and families in need. This is the only fundraiser held each year and the PINS committee relies on St. Luke's congregation to make this a success. If you have questions contact a member of the committee: Jane Davis, Norm and Ruth Harrison, Sally Hoover, Marcia Leader, Dee Robinson, Cindy Roundy-Winston, or Kathryn Wright.

—*Marcia Clinton*



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper ...A Time To Indulge

Shrove Tuesday refers to the day before Ash Wednesday, and is the last day before the beginning of Lent. Although shrove derives from the word *shrive* or *shriven*, meaning to repent, or to have repented, Shrove Tuesday is not typically associated with repentance. Instead it is usually a day for great and gluttonous celebrations that will use up cooking ingredients to make treats many will forgo during Lent.

St. Luke's will celebrate this occasion by holding its **Annual Pancake Supper** on Tuesday, **February 21** beginning at **5:30 p.m.** in **Willard Hall**. The menu consists of pancakes (naturally) made from Bonnie Watters' famous batter, real maple syrup tapped from John DesLauriers' trees, Lisai's savory sausages, and fruit salad. John DesLauriers has volunteered to flip flapjacks and Ruth and Norm Harrison are supplying the sausage. Everyone else is invited to bring canned or fresh fruit to build a taste-tempting fruit salad. (It would be most helpful if you can bring your fruit to the church the Sunday before on February 19th) There is no charge for the supper but baskets will be on the tables to collect free-will offerings for *Episcopal Relief & Development*. Please invite your friends and neighbors to this fun event and come enjoy some really good eats and great fellowship.

"We are so busy that we always think we have to set aside special time for God. We forget that God is always as close to us as the air we breathe. God is always here."

(*Forward Day By Day* 2/16/09)

Join Us For Dinner Church On Feb.11th



This Service is based on one of the earliest models of the Eucharist which took place in the midst of a meal with the Breaking of the Bread at the beginning, a Lesson and Story in the middle, and the Sharing of the Cup towards the end; all in the context of a meal with simple unaccompanied singing at various places.

The next **Dinner Church** will be held on Saturday, **February 11, 6:00 p.m.** in Willard Hall. Different participants are asked each month to do the various tasks of setting the tables, food preparation and cleaning-up afterwards. Look for a sign-up sheet in Willard Hall and do speak to our Rector if you have any questions.

Christmas Tea Craft Group Is Getting A Jump Start On 2012

St. Luke's Christmas Tea Craft Group will meet on Monday, **February 13, at 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.** in Willard Hall to begin making ornaments for this year's event. **Lillian Willis** will be demonstrating how to make "animal character" felt ornaments that have always been a favorite in her family. Anyone is invited to join this group, but it would be helpful if you let **Adelaide Johnson (875-4634)** know if you plan to come so we can plan accordingly. Participants should bring a pair of scissors.

February Special Dates:

- African-American History Month
- Boy Scout Sunday, February 5
- Valentine's Day, February 14
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, February 19
- Presidents Day, February 20
- Ash Wednesday, February 22
- First Sunday in Lent, February 26



WEEKLY

- **Monday Lunch/Discussion Group:** 12:00PM-1:00PM in Willard Hall. Brown bag lunch & book study discussion with the Rector on topics of spirituality and faith. We are reading, *"The Way of the Heart"*, by Henri J. M. Nouwen. Please come join us!
- **Wednesday Morning Prayer Group & Holy Eucharist:** 7:30AM Intercessory Prayer
8:30AM Holy Eucharist in Willard Hall.
- **St. Luke's Choir Rehearsal:** Sunday, **February 5 & 12, 9:15AM** in Willard Hall. Saturday, **February 18, 9:30AM-11:30AM** in Willard Hall. New members welcomed.

LESS THAN WEEKLY

- **Adult Evening Bible Study:** Tuesday, **January 10th & 24th at 6:30PM** in Willard Hall and ending promptly at **8:00PM** with Compline. We are reading the book of Isaiah. All welcome to join us.
- **St. Luke's Dinner Church:** Saturday, **February 11th at 6:00PM** in Willard Hall. See article on this page for details.
- **Christmas Craft Group:** Monday, **February 13, 1:30PM-3:00PM** in Willard Hall. See article on this page for details.
- **St. Luke's Vestry Meeting:** Wednesday, **February 15th, 6:00PM**, for a light supper in Willard Hall, followed by the regular meeting agenda at **7:00PM**. Focus is on orientation and welcome of new members. Parishioners are welcome to attend.
- **Saturday Choir Rehearsal:** Saturday, **February 18th, 9:30AM-11:30AM** in Willard Hall. We will be working on music for the Lenten & Easter season. New members are always welcome to join us.
- **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper:** Tuesday, **February 21, 5:30PM** in Willard Hall. See article on page 6 for details.
- **Ash Wednesday Eucharists:** Wednesday, **February 22, at 8:00AM & 6:30PM** in Willard Hall. Imposition of Ashes and the Penitential Order of Holy Eucharist.

St. Luke's Year End Financial Information

	<u>Dec. 2011</u>	<u>Jan.-Dec, 2011</u>	<u>Budget 2011</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Pledge & Income	\$ 10,814.00	\$ 113,654.38	\$ 111,806.00	101.65%
All Other Income	\$ 5,596.87	\$ 28,280.83	\$ 22,750.00	124.31%
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 16,410.87	\$ 141,935.21	\$ 134,556.00	105.48%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 24,229.86	\$ 148,178.25	\$ 141,428.20	104.77%

As you can see from the above, we ended the year with a deficit. Pledges ended the year about \$800 below budget but plate offerings made up for the pledges by being almost \$2,800 over budget. Unfortunately, expenses were over budget even more so the bottom line was a deficit just \$400 less than what was budgeted. The Vestry agreed to an \$8000 transfer from the Vanguard Funds to cover the deficit and put a small cushion in checking for 2012. —*Sally Hoover, Treasurer*

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

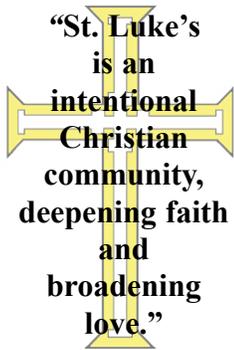
Birthdays:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4 Pat Fromberger | 12 Leigh Dakin |
| 6 Harold (Red) Johnson | 17 Marjorie DesLauriers |
| 10 Mary Anderson | 20 Altanai Roundy-Winston |
| 10 Field Willis | 23 Fred Fielder |

Anniversaries:

- 12 Bob & Linda Bazin
- 12 Brad & Bev Dunbar

"Life will only work out successfully one way, and that is God's way."
—Leslie Weatherhead



**“St. Luke’s
is an
intentional
Christian
community,
deepening faith
and
broadening
love.”**

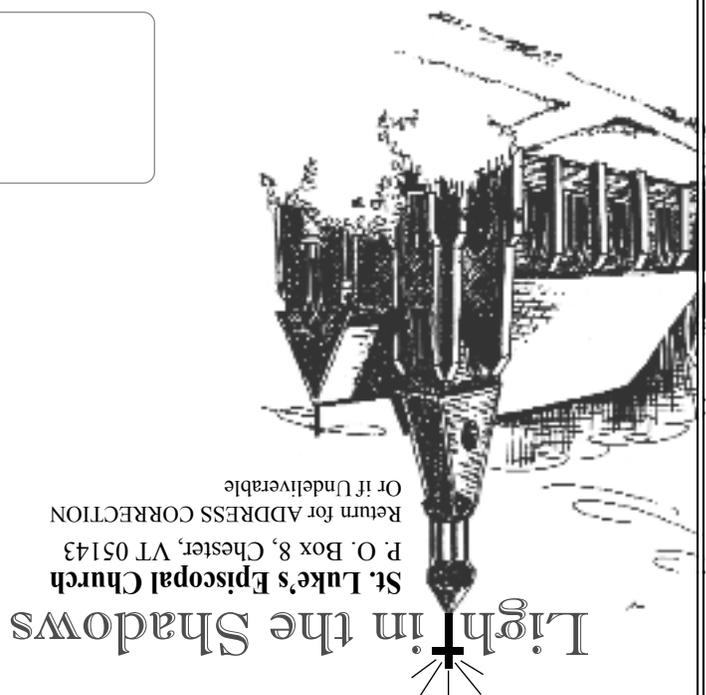
MARCH LITS
 Deadline:
 **FEB. 17th**
 Send articles, announcements,
 photos, etc. to:
 Pat Fromberger,
 180 Gates Rd.,
 Andover, VT 05143
 email:
 panjoe@vermontel.net

✝ WORSHIP SCHEDULE ✝

- Feb. 5 EPIPHANY V**
 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- Feb. 12 EPIPHANY VI**
 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- Feb. 19 LAST EPIPHANY**
 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- Feb. 22 ASH WEDNESDAY**
 8:00 AM Imposition of Ashes/Penitential Order/Eucharist
 6:30 PM Imposition of Ashes/Penitential Order/Eucharist
- Feb. 26 LENT I**
 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. in Willard Hall. Child Care: 10:00 a.m. Service

St. Luke’s Episcopal Church
 The Rev. H. Paul Brannock-Wanter, Rector
 The Rev. Sanford R. Johnson, Priest Associate
 313 Main Street, Chester, VT 05143 • Office Phone: 875-6000
www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org
St. Luke’s Church is Handicapped Accessible



Light in the Shadows
 St. Luke's Episcopal Church
 P. O. Box 8, Chester, VT 05143
 Return for ADDRESS CORRECTION
 Or if Undeliverable