



Light in the Shadows



SEPTEMBER 2015

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

Feeding Hungry Souls

"Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."



"Crumbs." I find that an interesting choice of words the Syrophoenician woman used after she had asked Jesus to heal her daughter who had a demon. Her undeterred response came right after Jesus had essentially insulted her by calling her a "dog." (My feeling is that Jesus was cranky that day!) Even so, cranky or not, Jesus, impressed by her persistent faith, does give this foreign woman what she had

asked of him. To us hearing this story, it may seem that this woman settled for too little: only "crumbs!" (What about the full loaf? Even half a loaf would have been enough to feed herself and her daughter.) No, the "crumbs" were plenty enough food because this woman knew deep down the mercy and power of this Jewish man named Jesus who offered her the leftovers.

"As God's children today here at St. Luke's and elsewhere, we are surrounded by many "spiritual foreigners" in our communities and in the greater world: people or groups who either do not profess the Christian faith or who do not yet have a church home or place of worship."

—Rev. Heidi L. Edson

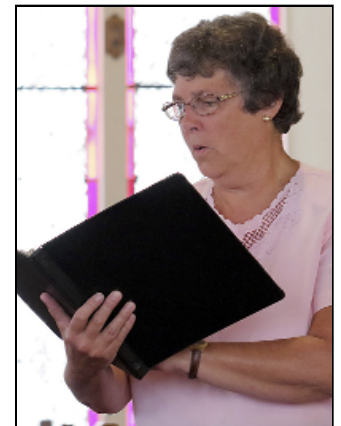
As God's children today here at St. Luke's and elsewhere, we are surrounded by many "spiritual foreigners" in our communities and in the greater world: people or groups who either do not profess the Christian faith or who do not yet have a church home or place of worship. How can we as Christ's disciples, who are called by God to share the Good News, even begin to meet the hunger for a meaningful relationship with God these people have? Feed them! Maybe some "crumbs" is all we can offer, but it will be enough to feed hungry

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A Farewell

On Sunday, August 23, St. Luke's parishioners said good-bye to two beloved and faithful members—the Rev. Sanford R. Johnson, and his wife Bonnie, who have been an active part of our community for the past seven years. They are beginning a new chapter in their lives as they look forward to retirement and discerning where God will lead them next. Parishioners from the eight o'clock service had an opportunity to say good-bye at a mini-coffee hour following that service. A more elaborate reception was held after the 10:00 a.m. service. Bonnie & Sanford were adamant about having no lavish parting gifts bestowed upon them, but we couldn't resist leaving them with a few small mementos. These included a small 4x6 album with some photo memories of the Johnsons past seven years at St. Luke's; a copy of Bonnie Watters' book, "A Dozen Cats Plus One Sew," in which one of the cat is named, Sanford; and a small two-fold picture frame containing one of Sanford's favorite portrait shots taken by Rudy Winston and Lew Watters' pen & ink graphic print of St. Luke's Church. Bonnie Watters also shared a special poem she was inspired to write just



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From the Senior Warden

Because Jesus Asked Us To

There's a small wooden box mounted at shoulder height on one of the pillars in the sanctuary, next to the podium near the front entrance. It has a little lock, and the word "Alms" is carved into the front of the lid. There's a slot on the top to drop coins into the box. It's a collection box for funds that are given to the poor, a relic from decades ago.



St. Luke's no longer uses the collection box to gather funds for the poor. Instead, we have a Rector's Discretionary Account, and we annually budget funds to keep money in the account. (Not enough, mind you, because \$500 a year won't buy many emergency motel rooms or tanks of gas or past-due utility bills.) In addition, we deposit the loose coins and bills in the collection plate on the first Sunday of each month into the account. The Rector is solely in charge of the account, which she uses only to give financial assistance to the needy. (Some worshipers have been puzzled by the name of the account, and Heidi thinks the account should be renamed the "Alms for the Poor" account.)

Be generous on first Sundays. Consider giving a donation to the account in the name of someone else. We can always do more, can always give more to help the poor. Anything we do for one of his sheep, we do for Him.

In Christ's Name,
Kathryn

Poinsettia Offspring Plants Seeking A Home

Cyrena Goodrich recently contacted Adelaide Johnson (our altar guild directress)...to let her know she has some offspring from one of the poinsettia plants from a St. Luke's Christmas Eve service six years ago and wanted to know if anyone would like them. She has the "mother plant" which is still thriving and about 9 or 10 offspring plants. They all flower every year (although not in time for Christmas)...but by mid-January or so. If anyone would like one of these plants, let Cyrena know soon as possible. Cyrena is moving to Houston, TX this month where she is starting a new one-year job. Email: cyrena@vermontel.net

Feeding Hungry Souls

(Continued from page 1)

souls because this food comes from the Bread of Life who is Jesus. As we look forward to this month that includes Bishop Tom's visit, the baptism of Sam, a wedding, Children's Sunday School and other events planned, may we be mindful of the "foreigners" we may meet, knowing that we, too, were once foreigners ourselves but have now been found by God because someone somewhere gave us a few "crumbs." We ate them and were blessed.

In Christ, together,
Heidi L. Edson+



New Adult Formation Series Will Begin On September 23

The Wednesday morning adult formation group is taking a break after having just completed the DVD Series by Tex Sample entitled: "Tex Mix: Stories of Earthy Mysticism." After a few weeks of a needed break, we will resume again on **September 23** (at 10:30 a.m. in Willard Hall) following the mid-week Eucharist. Our next focus of study will be two Writings in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) classified as "Wisdom Literature": Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. Although not often a part of our regular Sun-day Lectionary Year Readings, our Sunday Readings for September do indeed include Proverbs in our Year B Lectionary for this month of September.

Why do a study on Hebraic Wisdom Literature? Unlike the Law and the Prophets that form a major set of written works in the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) and that give the salvation history of Israel, the Wisdom Literature does not focus on the actions of God in Israel's history. In fact, some of these Writings make no direct or explicit mention of "God." Instead, what these Writings offer for us as followers of Christ are godly insights drawn from daily life.

Our study will highlight our experiences of spirituality that serves to orient our lives to God who is the origin and goal of our existence. For this study, all you will need is a Bibles of which St. Luke's has plenty available. For most sessions, there will be background material for you to take home. We'll read the text together and then discuss the material. Although each set of Reading does progress, each session is "stand alone." So feel free to drop by when and how often you can. Our first Writing will be the Book of Proverbs. It is recommended (but not required!) that you read the entire Book before the sessions start. —*Rev. Heidi*

"The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will know peace." —*Mahatma Gandhi*



Always gracious, Adelaide Johnson welcomes guests.



The Hensel-Whalens & Sophia Buchanan eye the dessert table.



Sean Buchanan promoting the Silent Auction selection.

77th August Supper Is A Winner

To begin with, God provided beautiful weather. Secondly, everyone who setup, cooked, served, or cleaned up did it joyfully with a happy heart. Everything was donated, not a single expense. It appeared that we served about 120 people, including a couple honored guests and several little people. The record setting tally—all profit—\$1,724.25, and the total, including the “Silent Auction,” was \$2,570.25.

We had twenty surveys completed and all said, “Don’t change a thing!” It was suggested that milk be offered for children and homemade breads be added. We served three meats, three cold soups, two drinks, baked beans (a hit), and seven different salads. The to-die-for desserts received lots of praise—the whole dozen! I knew who to ask for what and that worked beautifully. The price was right.

This marked our 77th year of serving the August Supper. There were a few newcomers who were delighted. The average guest comes with friends and has been coming for ten to twenty years. How did new guests find us? The signs, “The Message,” the website, the poster, the postcard, but mostly through a friend. We even have one couple who want to join adult formation and several want information about the pet blessing and Christmas Tea. We reign!

What do I like about the August Supper? It is the epitome of our talents as cooks and our warm hospitality. Sitting and chatting with guests is a gift. Even the ticket boys did that well. Myself, I will continue to cook my coconut cream pies, coleslaw, broccoli salad and cold soups. We have a guidebook of what works and who does what. Our Fellowship and Fundraising meeting may produce a new leadership team. Let’s pray for that and have a 78th in 2016.

—*Bonnie Watters, Happy Cook*

Silent Auction—An Added Bonus

The third **Silent Auction** held in conjunction with the Annual August Supper turned a good profit totaling \$846. Donated items, ranging from original art to a selection of demitasse cups, Harper Lee’s newest novel entitled “Go See a Watchman,” an antique adult rocking chair, and a beautifully packaged gift basket—all contributed to the interest and success. Amazingly, Kathryn Wright’s 6 hours of garden weeding raised \$250 along with her 4 chocolate cakes another \$60! Marcia Clinton’s six pack of home brew raised \$35. That’s six dollars a bottle! Interest and bidding was strong thanks to an attractive display under canopy coupled with added personal attention and promotion by Sean Buchanan during the dinner. Ideal August weather brought more than a hundred satisfied dinner guests to our event. Thanks to everyone who donated and bid. God willing, see you all next year.—*Lew Watters, Auctioneer*

August Vestry Meeting Highlights

St. Luke's Vestry met on Monday, August 3 and discussed the following agenda items:

- **Financials:** In the absence of Treasurer Lynda Farmer, clarification was requested on several points of the financial report. Assistant Treasurer Kathryn Wright will look into the matters and report back at the next Vestry meeting.
- **Pledges:** John Hoover gave an update on the state of pledges. As of August there were 30 active pledges. Of them 15 have paid more than pledged, which presently helps to balance out nine which are in arrears. Many people travel in the summer, so delays are expected; but parishioners are urged to keep pledge payments up to date. St. Luke's depends upon that revenue when it approves its yearly budget. Hoover then asked for clarification on the funds which are to go into the Rector's Discretionary Fund on the first Sunday of each month. The Vestry reaffirmed that loose change (not checks, not pledges, and not regular enveloped cash or checks) would qualify.
- **Audit:** The Audit Committee—composed of David Willis, David Carey, and Norm Wright—completed its report ahead of deadline. The clean audit had no questions and no exceptions.
- **August Supper:** Kathryn reported that proceeds of \$1700, plus \$770 from the Silent Auction, would go into the general fund, thereby making this the most successful August Supper to date. Congenial conversation pervaded the event and produced a most welcoming evening. Bonnie Watters will be holding a committee wrap-up meeting to discuss details and recommendations for the future.
- **Willard Hall Sign:** The Vestry approved repainting the sign to improve its legibility.
- **Upcoming Special Services:** Details were discussed for the farewell services on August 23 for Bonnie and Sanford Johnson with Sanford presiding at both services. Bishop Ely's Visit is on September 13. The service will include the baptism of Sam Buchanan and a special reception afterward for that family and parishioners to speak with the Bishop.
- **User-Friendly Church Bulletins:** Rev. Heidi and Pat Fromberger are working on them for Rites I and II. In the long run it should save both trees and money and make it easier for visitors to follow the services.
- **September Vestry Meeting.** The meeting on **September 14** will have Stewardship as the focus topic. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

—Lillian Willis, Secretary/Clerk

The Final Gardening Class... Maintenance, Preservation, Cooking, Clean-up



The last of the four garden classes took place on August 20. It focused on continuing maintenance suggestions: ways to combat attacking pests—such as zucchini borers; ways to extend production time and thwart the upcoming first frosts; and general clean-up

after the garden has lost its ability to produce, as well as preparation for next year's garden. Also discussed were ways to ripen, cook, or store various vegetables—from herbs to beets, carrots, Brussels sprouts, and butternut squash to tomatoes. Pictures were shared and problems discussed.

Then came one of the favorite parts of each session: the tastings. This session featured baby pear yellow and red tomatoes, three different kinds of basil, and homegrown melon from my garden, and refrigerator sweet cucumbers from Lauren Pullman's garden. Darlene Strand recommended a recipe for Zucchini Crisp¹ as a way to use a good amount of zucchini. Only Darlene has made this recipe, but everyone in the class is looking forward to preparing it.

• **Conclusion:** The session ended with an evaluation given out to all present. The responses were most complimentary. Many in the class either had not tried gardening before or had very little luck. They appreciated all the supplies they had been given; felt the number, timing, and content of the classes were perfect; and were enthusiastic about next year's garden and their expansion of it. They felt confident and successful about their efforts and appreciative of the recipes and tastings that have inspired them to try new vegetables and new ways of serving them. They liked meeting other gardeners and sharing experiences.

While I cannot say that the program—in spite of extensive promotion and also co-sponsorship by the Family Center and Food Shelf—reached a large group of underserved individuals, those who did sign up for the program from reading newspaper articles, seeing the posters, or hearing about the program from a variety of sources loved the experience. They were a wonderful group of women and are now confident gardeners eager to raise and eat their own healthy and diverse food. All were most grateful to the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont for providing the funds for the materials, tools, and seeds necessary and to St. Luke's for providing the classroom space.—Lillian Willis

¹ **Footnote:** There wasn't space in this LITS to include Darlene's zucchini recipe but if anyone wants a copy, contact Lillian or we can post it on the bulletin board at church.

As children of God, we are all brothers and sisters...Let us overcome our fear of the unknown and try to know and understand those who differ from us. May we come to accept that we are all kin—part of God's family.

—“Forward Day By Day,” November 29, 2008



Sanford greeting Freddy Holden following the service.

A Farewell

(Continued from page 1)

that morning before coming to church (see poem at bottom of this page.) Several folks shared many words of gratitude for all that Sanford and Bonnie have contributed to our faith community in the time they have been here. There is little doubt the Johnsons will be greatly missed. We wish them much joy in their retirement and many blessings as they continue on their faith journey.—*Pat Fromberger*



Our Deepest Thanks

Bonnie and I want to express our heartfelt thanks for your kind words and affirmation of us at the celebrations on our last Sunday at St. Luke's on August 23rd. We deeply appreciate all that you said, all the great fellowship, and the pictures and reminders of our years at St. Luke's. As we have said before, St. Luke's and its people are very special. Out of the blue God called us to be with you and you have truly been our home. It has been our joy and privilege to be among you these past seven and a half years.

Now God calls us, both you of St. Luke's, and Bonnie and I into new directions and new chapters in our lives. We rejoice in this and are excited about it, even if we don't know the full extent of what shall unfold before us. My father always said that at the right moment things would come together and we would be set on the right path. It has been my experience that is what has happened, even when the path was of a completely different direction than I expected or was looking for.

So now our paths part and we go into new and exciting journeys. But we shall always treasure and hold in our hearts the joy of our years at St. Luke's. Again, thank you for everything. As the Hawaiians say, "mahalo."

*Blessings,
Fr. Sanford+*



Parishioners laying on hands and praying for Bonnie & Sanford.



Lew Watters presenting a special gift to Sanford & Bonnie.

Farewell Faithful Johnsons

I'm thinking and thinking, what can I say?
Today is Sanford and Bonnie's last day.
Called to fill in when Paul passed out
Now seven years later there's much to tout.

Bonnie sings like a bird in the choir
Sanford blended with Paul like a squire.
When interims over three years were the mix
You could count on Sanford to do a fix.

Bonnie NH paid all the church bills
Sanford was always there to do the drills.
We will miss these two treasures; I'm sure to cry
It's not going to be easy to say goodbye.

—Bonnie Watters

The Outreach Corner

66 Backpacks Filled With Love

On Monday, August 17th, nine volunteers worked in Willard Hall to sort all the school items and put them in the backpacks. Special thanks to Adrian and Lucy, son and granddaughter of the Hoovers who were visiting and assisted us. We were able to assemble 66 backpacks dividing them into 4 groups by grade with specific items for each age group. They were: K-3 (15), 4-6 (18), 7-9 (17), 10-12 (16). Each backpack had a tag stating: "Filled with love for you from St. Luke's Church Chester, Vermont."

A shopping trip was necessary to have every backpack complete. That cost was \$189.72, but 4 members of St. Luke's, on that day, gave the PINS committee cash donations totaling \$140 towards the shopping trip. Therefore it only cost us \$49.72 for the extra school items. The PINS treasury now has \$708.59 in it.

The next day the backpacks were delivered to the Springfield office of the Department of Child and Family Services. The social workers there who helped haul them all in were thrilled to receive them. Just before school opens, the DCF office holds a picnic for the kids and many of the backpacks are distributed then. Also individual workers take some of the backpacks to kids in their caseload who are most needy.

The PINS committee is grateful for the generous donations from the congregation of St. Luke's Church. Thank you everyone. As far as we know we are the only church in this area who contributes backpacks to the Springfield office.

PINS (Partners in Service) is faith communities and human service agencies collaborating to help local children and families in need. The beauty of PINS lies in its ability to convey a message of love, empathy and caring to vulnerable children who are experiencing feelings of loss, fear, isolation and grief. A child's realization that someone in their community cares for them makes an enormous difference to individual well-being.

—*Marcia Clinton*

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you so much for all of the awesome help at the last OCC workshop! We got a lot of flannel boards finished for the 2-4 year old boxes. We will be having another workshop on Thursday, **September 24th** from **2:00-7:00 p.m.** in Willard Hall. Everyone is invited to come even if it is just for a few minutes. Thank you very much. We still need lots and lots of covers and bottle caps to make the games. Any that you can save for us are greatly appreciated. School supplies are on sale at the big department stores now and donations of these items are very welcomed. I am going shopping for them often. We could use pencils, erasers, paper of any kind, pencil sharpeners, crayons, colored pencils, dual power calculators, etc.. We can also use any kind of small toys like yo-yos, cars, whistles, flashlights, puzzles, etc.

Now Supporting 10 Soldiers

There are 10 soldiers that we are now supporting. I have heard back from one of our soldiers, a 19-year old lady map maker, who was thrilled to get our notes. Please help make these soldiers feel loved and their transition back home an easier one. There are plenty of cards in a special basket in Willard Hall to use for this purpose. If you don't know what to write, a simple: "Thank you" or "We are thinking of you," will be GREAT. Thank you so much to all of the card writers.—*Cindy*

Perfect Peace

Peace is Christ's distinctive gift—not money, not worldly ease, not temporal prosperity. These are at best very questionable possessions. They often do more harm than good to the soul. They act as clogs and weights to our spiritual life.

Inward peace of conscience, arising from a sense of pardoned sin and reconciliation with God, is a far greater blessing. This peace is the property of all believers, whether high or low, rich or poor.—*J.C. Ryle*

OCTOBER LITS Deadline:

 **SEPTEMBER 18th**

Send all articles, announcements, photos, etc. to: Pat Fromberger, 180 Gates Road
Andover, VT 05143
Email: panjoe@vermontel.net

Special September Dates:

- Labor Day, September 7
- Patriot Day, September 11
- Bishop Ely's Visit to St. Luke's, September 13
- National Grandparents' Day, September 13
- Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15 – October 15
- International Day of Peace, September 21
- First Day of Autumn, September 23



Antique Wagon

Original Oil: Vermont Landscape
by Ruth Harrison

Third Annual Sale On The Screen Starts Mid-September

It's that time of year – time to make room in the basement, attic, garage, wood shed, barn, chicken coop (no live animals please) before the snow flies. You know you haven't ridden that bike in years, those snow tires don't fit the new car, that kayak /camping trip is a distant memory so clear it out and help out in this annual fundraiser. If it is in good repair and worth something let us list it for you and turn that in-the-way item into greenbacks for St. Luke's. You know the saying, "reduce, re-use, and recycle". Or, as my Dad used to say, "The more you own the more you are owned." So give it up for a good cause!

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS. You call, Email, snail mail or even talk to myself or Lew and tell us what you have. If we think we can move it then we will need 3 or 4 digital photographs of the item (if you don't have the means we do). Then we list it online and communicate (read haggle and or beg) with the excited new owners and once the deal is struck we will sort out the pickup. If it is a small item I could, if you like, retrieve and meet the buyer. If it is large we will make arrangements to meet the buyer at your place.

So what are we looking for? Well we have in the past sold bikes, a canoe, furniture, a ping pong table, tools, and heck, even a cuckoo clock. So I don't know about you but I am heading out to the garage to make my list (I kind of want to get the car in there before the snow flies.)

Who you gonna call? Junkbusters.

John DesLauriers @ 875-3490 or jwd@vermontel.net or

Lew Watters @ 875-2114 or lewb@vermontel.net

St. Luke's Financial Information

	<u>June 2015</u>	<u>YTD 2015</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Income	\$ 10,690.00	\$ 74,782.00	\$ 116,488.00	64.2%
Regular Expense	\$ 11,756.00	\$ 83,390.00	\$ 147,940.00	58.0%
NET INCOME	(\$ 1,066.00)	(\$ 10,662.00)	(\$ 31,452.00)	

July is 7/12 of the year, so both Income and Expenses should be at 58%. Income is ahead of budget and Expenses are right on target for the month. Several expenses will be reclassified in August and that, coupled with the success of the August Supper and Silent Auction, will improve our monthly net income. Thanks to everyone for keeping up your pledges and for your ongoing support.—**Lynda Farmer, Treasurer**

SEPTEMBER Meetings & Events

WEEKLY

• **Adult Formation Study:**

Sundays, following the **10AM** worship service each week at 11:35AM in Willard Hall. Tex Mix: "Stories of Earthy Mysticism."

• **Lunch Bunch Book Study:**

Mondays, **Noon-1:15PM** in Willard Hall for a bag lunch, discussion and prayer. We are reading, "*The Jesus I Never Knew*" by Philip Yancey. All are welcome to join us.

• **Mid-Week Eucharist/Adult Study:**

Wednesdays in Willard Hall: **9:30AM** for informal Eucharist; **10:30 AM**—a new Adult Study: will begin on **September 23** focusing on two Writings in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) classified as "Wisdom Literature": Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. Read article on page 2.

• **St. Luke's Choir:**

Sunday weekly rehearsals have resumed at **9:00AM** in the sanctuary. We welcome new members. Contact Ashley Paine, our church musician, if you are interested.

LESS THAN WEEKLY

• **Bishop Ely's Visitation:**

Sunday, **September 13, 9:00AM** (one service only.) Bishop Tom Ely will be celebrating Holy Eucharist, Rite II and the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. A reception will follow in Willard Hall.

• **St. Luke's Vestry Meeting:**

Monday, **September 14, 6:30PM** beginning with Bible Study in Willard Hall. This month's meeting focus is Stewardship. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

• **Christmas Tea Planning Meeting:**

Monday, **September 21, 1:30PM** in Willard Hall. We will be discussing plans for this upcoming event and would welcome your ideas. Please come join us!

• **Christmas Child Workshop:**

Thursday, **September 24, 2:00-7:00PM** in Willard Hall. We will be making toys and games for the shoeboxes. Please do come and help out. No special talent is needed. See page 6 for details.

SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays:

2 Lynda Farmer	23 Elliot Langston
2 Bonnie Johnson	26 Eileen Widger
5 Matthew Stretton	27 Penny Buchanan
7 Thomas Guerra	28 Leona Hensel-Whalen
7 Jim Sullivan	29 Marcia Clinton
11 Sean Whalen	29 Walter Rich
15 Al Haumann	
15 Norman Wright	
17 Chris Langston	
20 Richard Crocker	
21 Deb Brown	

Anniversaries:

9 Norman & Ruth Harrison
14 Bill & Julie Hoyt
21 Andrew & Ellie Pennell

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

✠ WORSHIP SCHEDULE ✠

Sept. 6	XV PENTECOST (PROPER 18)
8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Sept. 13	XVI PENTECOST (PROPER 19)
9:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite II & Sacrament of Holy Baptism (Reception following in Willard Hall)
Sept. 20	XVII PENTECOST (PROPER 20)
8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Sept. 27	XVIII PENTECOST (PROPER 21)
8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite II

☛ **CHURCH SCHOOL:** Sunday School will resume this month. Watch the Sunday Bulletin for information.

St. Luke’s Episcopal Church

The Rev. Heidi L. Edson, Rector

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

