



# Light in the Shadows



JANUARY 2014



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

## Where Is The Star Leading You?



They started out long before they had any idea of where they were going or what they would find. They were astrologers, most likely—scientists of the day who studied the stars and in this particular stellar alignment, they saw something new being foretold that had to do with a royal birth in the constellation specific to the House of Judah. So they set out to

attend the birth of this new king, supposing (erroneously) that any royal birth would surely take place in the Judean palace of royalty...that of King Herod. It was not to be and their visit only provoked Herod’s own paranoia and anxiety. The Magi didn’t give up and return home, however, they had come much too far to give up now. They trusted that something was happening. Now they just had to figure out what that was because it clearly was outside of their normal expectations.

*“What star are you following with all its mystery and unknowns? Where is it leading you and can you open your heart to trust that spiritual mystery is sometimes swaddled in unfamiliar and unaccustomed wrappings?”*

*—Rev. Carole Wageman*

What they finally found, however, was God “on the loose” in a manger—an animal food trough. Born just like any other baby to a young woman and older man who accompanied her. God made manifest—plainly visible and achingly vulnerable.

Who knows what went through their minds as they arrived at this most unlikely venue for royalty. Perhaps they were more adept than most of us at recognizing the ways in which God will choose to

be at work in the world through sometimes very strange and unexpected circumstances.

Perhaps in this season of Epiphany, we might consider the lessons these ancient astrologers offer us: faithful and

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## St. Luke’s Annual Parish Meeting Sunday, January 26

St. Luke’s Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26. Don’t miss out!!! The parish will begin their day together in worship and prayer during a single Rite II service at 9:00 a.m. We will give thanks for our blessings and call upon the Holy Spirit to renew us and guide us through the day-long gathering. Following our worship together, we will enjoy a Potluck Brunch and some time for parish fellowship before the meeting begins.

The meeting agenda will include discussion and approval of the various annual reports. These reports reflect the many ministries with which we have engaged during this past year. The Annual Report Booklet will be available in church on Sunday, January 19, to give everyone an opportunity to review the various reports before the meeting. Please note that again this year, we won’t be electing new vestry members at the meeting since the current vestry roster will remain unchanged until our permanent Rector is called. We will also be hearing an update on the great strides the MDC (Ministry Discernment Committee) has made this past year and the transition timeline for the next few months.

In addition to discussion of the 2014 Annual Budget, that has been approved by the Vestry, we will be electing our 3 Diocesan Convention Delegates and 3 Alternates. This past year our Delegates were Jean Hancock and Kathryn Wright who reported back that it was an inspiring and fun experience. The focus of next year’s Diocesan

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## From the Senior Warden

## A Wondrous Gift

The Christmas I was seven, my aunt sent me a little glass globe with a tiny mustard seed inside. It had a gold band around it—to hold the two halves together—and hung around my neck on a fine gold chain. It was my favorite present that year because it was so grown-up and elegant, and seemed somehow magical. No one could explain to me why there should be a seed inside a glass necklace, though, which I found puzzling. My mother just talked to me about fashion fads, and said mustard-seed jewelry had become very popular.



Now I find it sad, thinking of that little girl who didn't know Jesus and his teachings about faith and God's love. (It would be another five years until God reached out and grabbed me, a troubled adolescent, and I heard Him say my name.) And you can imagine my grin the first time I heard the verse about the mustard seed from Matthew, finally understanding the secret of the necklace.

**Matthew 17:20 "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed...Nothing will be impossible for you."**

*With New Year's blessings to all,  
Kathryn*

## Where Is The Star Leading You?

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persistent searching for the "Aha!" moments where God is at work. Trusting that God is showing up even if it is outside of our expectations. Bearing the gift of ourselves to the most unlikely places where we find the most unexpected need.

How many times, do we pass by God at work in our world just because it doesn't look like we expect it to look? Doesn't sound like we expect God to sound? Doesn't behave the way we expect a Deity to behave. Of course, it is not a big stretch to realize that it is our ideas of God that shape what we see, hear and expect. What if we, like these Magi of so long ago, were to suspend our own limited expectations and look, instead, for the unimaginable mystery, astonishing wonder and unpredicted surprise? What would we find?

So, as we enter this new year, can you try on a new way of being in the world yourself? What star are you following with all its mystery and unknowns? Where is it leading you and can you open your heart to trust that spiritual mystery is sometimes swaddled in unfamiliar and unaccustomed wrappings?

God leaves no fingerprints nor provides any map. But his star leads us always as he waits for us to find him since he is always looking for us.

*Blessings,  
Rev. Carole*



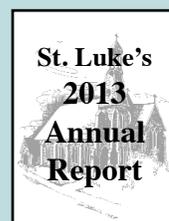
## Stewards Sort Trash

Let's walk through our recycling history at St. Luke's. I am reminded that daughter Kelly got us recycling and composting when she was in fifth grade at CAES. In later years, Kathleen Willis's Girl Scout troop thanked the church for the use of Willard Hall for their meetings by donating a color-coded plastic bin recycling system. Later our friend Heather Nowlan, a former environmental intern and park ranger, did a kid's program and explained why we should save the environment. So we ask that you recycle office paper, plastics, glass, returnables and cardboard as appropriate. But further, we have placed a plastic compost bucket with lid for all wet stuff except meat. Please no more food in the trash barrel. The critters jump in our truck before we make the Springfield run and have a joyful feast! Join the smart trash team!—*Bonnie & Lew*

How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these.

—George Washington Carver

## \*\*\* Annual Reports Due \*\*\*



Lew and Bonnie Watters have once again graciously offered to compile the 2013 Report Booklet, for St. Luke's Annual Parish Meeting which will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2014. They have asked to remind everyone that **all reports are due on Friday, January 10, 2014**. They will be distributed in church on Sunday, January 19th.

Lew prefers to have the individual reports in a word document in Times New Roman, 12-point single-spaced, or in the body of an email. Send to [lewbon@vermontel.net](mailto:lewbon@vermontel.net). Extra copies of last years report are available for those who need one for a reference. Lew does have the complete document on his backup drive if individuals would like last years page sent to them. It is important that we know who to expect reports from, and that they are checked for spelling. Many thanks.



## St. Luke's Children's Program Off To A Successful Start

Our newly emerging **Children's Formation Program** has had a successful startup in December. We can say there certainly has been enthusiasm and joy both in the leaders and the children. A wonderful start! Thanks to all who helped bring Christ's love and light to our children in Advent: Ellie Pennell, Lillian Willis, Lew Watters, Bonnie Watters, Norman Harrison, Carole Wageman, Kathryn Wright, Kat Meyer, and Jean Hancock.

Of special note was Lillian Willis's help with wreath making and talking about Advent Wreaths on Advent 1. The children took home a wreath along with an Advent Calendar and Family Service provided by Rev. Carole. Norman Harrison's visitation as our M&M (Meeting the Ministers) for Advent 2, described his ministry as Assistant Treasurer (and Chief Counter). He was fabulous sharing his duties, likening the church contributions he counts paying for heat, lights, etc., just like their parents do for their family; the kids applauded him. Lew Watters joined the Norm Harrison team and made button name tags for the children. They illustrated on a template prepared with their name and the wording "I am the light of God." They also colored and covered UTO boxes with manger animals along with the message "Waiting is Saving for the Gift," just as we do when we give to St. Luke's and anticipate Christ's birth.

Advent 3 was "weathered out;" however, Advent 4 "Giving Back to God" (Stewardship focus) included several activities such as watching the video "The Three Trees" and decorating Christmas Cookies as the children prepared and hosted coffee hour for the congregation. It was quite yummy!

Each Sunday lesson started with lighting the Advent Candle and saying a special Advent Prayer. Some sessions included singing a song.

### Here is the schedule for January:

- **Jan. 5** Theme: Epiphany and the Three Magi. Led by Ellie Pennell and Assistant
- **Jan. 12** Meeting the Ministers (M&M): Adelaide Johnson of the Altar Guild will be joining us.
- **Jan. 19** Baptism – in honor of the Baptism of Jesus this month: Led by Polly Montgomery and Assistant
- **Jan. 26** "Giving Back to God" (Stewardship) Program to be determined.

Our monthly program focuses on a combination of Liturgically Specific Lessons (Weeks One and Three), Community Connections ("Meeting the Ministers," Week Two) and Stewardship ("Giving Back to God," Week Four).

In addition, our Childcare Teens, Margie DesLauriers and Mary Anderson (Mahusky) are currently "on deck" for Sunday morning childcare for the youngest of our children.



Kat Meyer & Bonnie Watters help the church school children decorate cookies for the Coffee Hour they hosted on Advent 4.



photos courtesy Lew Watters

We also now have two Acolytes in training under the watchful and caring eye of Jean Hancock: Susannah Pennell and Zoe Meyer. If any youngster is interested, please speak with either Jean Hancock or Rev. Carole Wageman on how to get involved. There is plenty of room for all!!!

**Parents:** We have the opportunity this winter to continue to develop this program due to two anonymous donations totaling \$5,500 dedicated to the winter's heating bill and other expenses for the children's program. This generosity will enable our worship to continue in the church building while the children's program uses the Willard Hall area. Please help us build this program by attending as much as your schedule (and weather) allows. We will also be reaching out to you for help in various ways. One way to develop this ministry as a sustainable program will be to build a fellowship of parishioners from all ages and backgrounds to continue the leadership. We are off to such a great start!!! Thanks again to all for the help, encouragement and support. —**Church School Formation Committee**



## December Vestry Meeting Highlights

St. Luke's Vestry met on December 9 for a very brief meeting agenda followed by their annual Christmas potluck dinner gathering and celebration—this year held in Willard Hall. Spouses were also invited and it was a very festive and enjoyable evening.

- **2014 Budget:** The main item on the evening's meeting agenda was the discussion and acceptance of the proposed 2014 budget. Sally Hoover, in presenting the budget on behalf of the finance committee, noted that pledges for 2014 have increased. We have lost some members and gained some new families. Andrew Pennell elucidated on more precise estimates for winter heating costs as a result of the new thermostats he installed. Heating Willard Hall weekly and the church on weekends should be around \$300 per week. The newly received \$5500 heating donations should cover the costs of heating the church on Sundays through the winter. Sally explained that at the end of the 2012/2013 heating season there was some carryover from HB Plumbing & Heating, which was applied to the 2013-2014 heating season by them. Unfortunately between heating seasons, we ran out of fuel and had to have an emergency delivery of over \$800 worth of oil, which needed to be paid separately. Since we have chosen to worship upstairs this winter in support of the newly rejuvenated church school program and to continue to offer a welcoming and holy place of worship, we will be significantly over the budget on the monthly heating costs. The 2014 budget has been increased to meet that need, but is partially offset by the two anonymous donations. After discussion and questions a motion to approve the proposed budget was made and unanimously approved.

- **Other Business:** Norm Harrison reported that the Christmas Tea & Sale has brought in \$2400, a profit higher than that of 2012 and impressive in view of the smaller number of customers.

- **Clergy Funds:** The Vestry approved the annual clergy housing resolution which Rev. Carole requested to claim her compensation as housing allowance as allowed by IRS regulations.

- **Wreath Workshop Donation:** Lillian Willis requested approval of a \$75 donation to "Chester Conservation Committee's Environmental Camp Scholarship Fund" (which is down from the \$100 approved in 2012.) Fewer participants in this year's Wreath-Decorating Workshops reduced the initial profits (before donations) from \$892.75 to \$617.67. Lillian had to reduce the number of wreaths ordered because response was so slow. She recommended that next year people commit earlier to the workshop and to purchase of decorated wreaths so the order could more realistically

*Continued at top of page*

reflect interest and yield higher profits for the fundraiser.

**Next Vestry Meeting:** Monday, **January 13, 6:30 p.m.** in Willard Hall. The focus will be on plans for the Annual Meeting, approval of the MDC final Parish Portfolio and outlining the 2014 Vestry Meeting Schedule. Parishioners are always welcome to attend these meetings.



## St. Luke's Annual Meeting...

(continued from page 1)



Convention will be "Formation." The theme title is currently under construction but will be announced soon. This year's Diocesan Convention will be held, **October 31-November 1, 2014** at Jay Peak Resort in the Northeast Kingdom. Funds to offset the expenses of sending our delegation of lay and clergy is included in our annual budget. Delegates to convention are expected to participate in the pre-convention information

meetings during the fall as well as attend the entire 2-day program on the weekend of the convention. Please see Rev. Carole for further information if you would like to be considered as a delegate or alternate. Our Annual Parish Meeting is the one time during our calendar year where we gather as a family to pray together, eat together, and work together on the issues that matter most to our parish. It's an important event, and all are urged to attend and make their voices heard when we make the decisions about the ministry of St. Luke's and how we will move forward together in the coming year. Your presence counts!

Don't forget to let **Bonnie Watters** (875-2114) know what you plan to bring to the Potluck Brunch. Child care will be available. Please let Senior Warden, **Kathryn Wright** (463-1570) know by January 19, if you have need for child care so we can make appropriate arrangements.

See you then as we continue to discern God's call for our parish family! —**Pastor Carole+**



**FEBRUARY LITS DEADLINE:**

**JANUARY 24<sup>th</sup>**

Send announcements, articles,  
photos, etc. to:

Pat Fromberger, 180 Gates Rd., Andover, VT 05143  
panjoe@vermontel.net

## Hospitality, Joy & Tasty Food Highlighted The Christmas Tea

St. Luke's Christmas Tea & Sale took place on Saturday, December 7th, amidst a barrage of festivals, craft fairs, concerts and many other holiday activities taking place that same day in many of the surrounding towns. The number seems to grow each year and it increasingly becomes a challenge to provide something special to the Christmas advertising-weary public. But one thing St. Luke's does very well is to offer outstanding hospitality and food. The Christmas Tea & Sale is no exception.

Every year for this event, a team of faithful workers (both men and women), gather the afternoon before and transform Willard Hall into a mini-cafe, draping card tables with festive tablecloths and individually created boxwood and evergreen centerpieces. The large buffet table, near the kitchen, is also set up with a large centerpiece (this year made by Eileen Widger) ready to become laden with the sumptuous delights arriving the day of the tea.

On Saturday morning the doors were opened just before 11:00 a.m. and guests had already started to arrive. In the our warm and relaxing setting, friends and neighbors sat down together to enjoy good food and conversation. Martha Stretton entertained those fortunate enough to be present for the first hour of the tea, with a Christmas medley of beautifully performed piano music. In addition guests could shop in leisure from a numerous collection of hand-crafted items made by members of St. Luke's, as well from a bounty of baked goods, candies, holiday nut mixtures, jams, relishes and dilly beans. Of course "Grandma's Attic" is always a favorite place to find unexpected treasures. This year a new approach was taken and rather than price every item, customers were asked to make a donation they felt worthy of the purchase. The "costume jewelry" table was also a hit especially attracting little girls wanting to find a special gift for a Grammy, Mom or Aunt. Although we never experienced a huge rush, the visitors continued to wander in throughout the day right up to the closing at 3:00 p.m.. All total this year's event raised over \$2400 for St. Luke's, a new record high for this event.

Our many thanks to everyone who helped make the Christmas Tea a successful fundraiser. There were so many of you! Thank-you notes are in the mail, but we'd like to mention a few persons for whom we are especially grateful: the kitchen team of Jane Davis, Jean Hancock, Kathryn Wright, Doreen Wilson & Cindy Roundy-Winston; tea pourers, who included Lynda Farmer, Ruth Harrison, Marcia Leader, & Bonnie Watters; Sally Hoover, who single-handedly managed the holiday food table as well as contributed a large number of items to sell; Marcia Clinton and Dee & Don Robinson for taking on Grandma's Attic; Red Johnson our excellent cashier; and for all those church



members who hand-crafted items, note cards, candles, socks, & much more. A one-of-a-kind item made and sold this year were the brick needle pointed & hooked doorstops. A brain-child of Lillian Willis, who came up with the designs, she stitched four herself and then found the nimble fingers to execute the remaining 8 bricks. We are truly blessed with a community of people who faithfully come together in such a wonderful way. —*Adelaide Johnson & Pat Fromberger, 2013 Christmas Tea Co-chairpersons*



## The Outreach Corner

### Operation Christmas Child

Thank you again to everybody who has been involved in the **Operation Christmas Child** ministry this past year. We assembled and filled 143 boxes this year and we couldn't have done it all without you! Beginning in January, we will start having an OCC workshop once a month in Willard Hall. We have no dates yet; so watch the Sunday bulletins for dates and times. We hope to see you there. You don't need any special talents to participate and help disadvantaged children; everyone is welcome to come, whether they attend church or not. We could use a lot more little filler items to put in the boxes, like little toy cars, baseball hats, little McDonald type toys, dual power calculators, etc. We can use any items that have logos on them, like pens, water bottles, key chains, hats, etc. to use in the boxes.

For those of you who knit, you can help us make jingle bell bracelets. With size 8 knitting needles, and worsted weight yarn, cast on 5 stitches and knit in the garter stitch for 8 inches, then sew together. You can sew on jingle bells or give them to me to sew the jingle bells on. Speak to me if you have questions.

As always there is still a need for lots of covers of every size, and color. Thank you for the steady supply. We could use more of the yogurt, oatmeal, etc. lids to make the crocheted rings from. Thank you again for all of your participation. —*Cindy*



### Knit-A-Square

This message was recently sent from the Knit-a-Square Group: *"The need for blankets and other items is growing exponentially. There are so many children out there who need warm items for cold winters. Please remember that we distribute all year round to try to keep ahead of the freezing winters, so please do continue to knit and crochet!"*

We can use any knit or crocheted squares out of any yarn, in any stitch as long as they are 8-inch square. Thank you! —*Cindy*



### Seek First

Seek first the kingdom of wealth, and you'll worry over every dollar. Seek first the kingdom of health, and you'll sweat every blemish and bump. Seek first the kingdom of popularity, and you'll relive every conflict. Seek first the kingdom of safety, and you'll jump at every crack of the twig. But seek first [God's] kingdom, and you will find it. On that, we can depend and never worry. —*Max Lucado, "Fearless"*



## 2013 Parish Life Highlights... Welcomes, Good-byes, New Ventures, & Always Fellowship & Fun!!!



Lynn Bates commissions the Ministry Discernment Team



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Passover Seder



Maple Fest Dinner & Raffle



Easter Egg Hunt



Rudy Winston, newly confirmed member of St. Luke's



Pampered Chef Fundraiser

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Good & Faithful Servant,  
Adelaide Johnson



LEGOS  
Contest  
(above  
right)



Good-bye to Martha,  
Church Musician



Pet Blessing



← Greeters at  
August Supper



PINS Backpack Drive



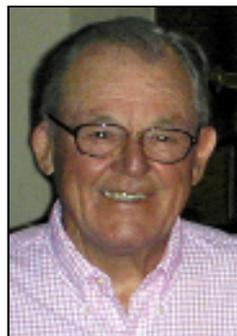
Children host Advent 4  
Coffee Hour



Welcome to New  
Church Musician,  
Jacob McLaughlin



Operation Christmas Child



Bud Watson  
May 28 1928 –  
October 19, 2013  
R: 2013 Christmas Tree;  
last one from Bud's lot.



Kids help hoist Christmas Wreath



WEEKLY



- **Lunch Bunch Book Study:**  
**Mondays, Noon-1:15PM** in Willard Hall for a bag lunch & discussion. We will conclude our **Advent Book Study, "Silence & Other Surprising Invitations of Advent" on January 6.** A new book study will start up on January 13. Please bring your ideas for a new read. All are welcome to join us.
- **St. Luke's Choir Rehearsal:**  
**Sundays 9:15AM** in the sanctuary. We always welcome new members. No experience needed, just a love of singing. Please speak to Jacob McLaughlin, our new church musician if you have an interest or want more information.

LESS THAN WEEKLY

- **The Epiphany of Our Lord:**  
**Monday, January 6, 6:30PM** in Willard Hall. Come join us for a worship service at St. Luke's celebrating this special feast day in our church calendar.
- **SAMS Spaghetti Supper:**  
**Tuesday, January 7, 6:00PM** in Willard Hall. Russ & Heidi Smith, SAMS missionaries from Chile, will be giving a presentation and sharing some of their recent experiences. We invite you to come and lend support to this special outreach. No charge but a freewill offering will be taken. Call Bonnie Watters, 875-2114 or Kathryn Wright, 463-1570 if you want to help of have any questions.

• **St. Luke's Church School:**  
**Sundays, at 10:00AM** in Willard Hall. Please read the article on page 3 for all the exciting things that have been happening and for the January Church School schedule.

• **Vestry Meeting:**  
**Monday, January 13, 6:30PM,** in Willard Hall, starting with a brief Bible study and segueing into the regular meeting agenda. The focus will be on plans for the Annual Meeting, the Parish Profile and the Vestry meeting schedule for 2014. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

• **Annual Parish Meeting & Brunch:**  
**Sunday, January 26,** following the one service that morning at **9:00AM.** Read the article on page 1 for details and do come!



# JANUARY CELEBRATIONS



## Birthdays:

3	Hadley Gleim	12	Donna Farrell
4	David Carey	12	Mackenzie Walton
7	Hannah Crocker	18	Henry Pennell
9	Don Robinson	24	Sandra Rich
10	Alexandra Scarlett	25	Freddy Holden
11	Marjorie Carey	26	Belinda Whipple Worth

## Prayer For A New Year

LORD, I give up all my own plans and purposes, all my own desires and hopes, and accept thy will for my life. I give myself, my life, my all utterly to thee, to be thine forever. Fill me and seal me with thy Holy Spirit. Use me as thou wilt. Send me where thou wilt, and work out thy whole will in my life at any cost, now and forever. **Amen.** — *Betty Scott Stam*

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

## ✠ WORSHIP SCHEDULE ✠

- Jan. 5**      **II CHRISTMAS**  
8:00 AM    Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
10:00 AM    Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- Jan. 6**      **THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD**  
6:30 PM    Holy Eucharist/Feast of Lights
- Jan. 12**     **I EPIPHANY (The Baptism of Our Lord)**  
8:00 AM    Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
10:00 AM    Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- Jan. 19**     **II EPIPHANY**  
8:00 AM    Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
10:00 AM    Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- Jan. 26**     **III EPIPHANY – ONE SERVICE**  
9:00 AM    Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
Annual Parish Meeting & Brunch following the service in Willard Hall.)

**Church School: 10:00 a.m.** in Willard Hall.

### St. Luke’s Episcopal Church

The Rev. Carole Wageman, Interim Rector  
The Rev. Sanford R. Johnson, Priest Associate  
313 Main Street, Chester, VT 05143 • Office Phone: 875-6000  
[www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org](http://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  
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Or if Undeliverable

