



JUNE 2015

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

"Grow Us Together" In Christ

"The Kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground..." (Mark 4:26)



June is the season when many churches begin to cut back on their regular ministries and activities. St. Luke's is no exception: Children's Sunday School will recess until next fall and the choir will be taking a summer break, to name a few things. Many of us see the summertime as an opportunity for some needed relaxation and down-time—a time when we

try and catch a break from the normal wear and tear of daily living that the rest of the year brings.

It certainly is important to find our times of refreshment and renewal. Summertime makes it easier for many of us to more fully enter into a type of sabbath rest. Let me suggest a way of seeing this rest for ourselves and for the St. Luke's community.

"I would say to all of us here at St. Luke's, 'Don't take a break from worship or fellowship this summer. Instead, let's use this time to break into what St. Luke's has to offer this summer.'"

—Rev. Heidi L. Edson

say to all of us here at St. Luke's, "Don't take a break from worship or fellowship this summer. Instead, let's use this time to break into what St. Luke's has to offer this summer."

Right here in the town of Chester, celebrations and other opportunities for worship and fellowship are taking



Celebration of New Ministry: An Historic Event at St. Luke's

On Wednesday evening, May 6, **The Rev. Heidi L. Edson** was officially inducted as the twenty-first rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church and our first woman rector. The Right Reverend Thomas Ely, Bishop of the Diocese of Vermont, officiated at the service of Holy Eucharist, celebrating "New Ministry." Several clergy and deacons from throughout the diocese, as well as St. Luke's parishioners, friends and others from the local community were present to participate in this joyous occasion. During the Induction Ceremony, the vestry wardens, and other key parish leaders were invited to come forward and stand together with our new Rector, saying together:



"On behalf of the people of St. Luke's, we ask, Heidi, that you, in love, call us to repentance and faithfulness as we seek to share the Good News of God in Christ through our ministry and service."

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From the Senior Warden

Joy At The Joy Wah

I read it three time and still I couldn't believe it. I was in a Chinese restaurant at the end of a wonderful meal, full and not really paying attention when I opened my fortune cookie. And there it was, God speaking directly to me, in print next to my lucky lottery numbers: "You begin to appreciate how important it is to speak of your personal beliefs." He was talking to me, the lady who doesn't speak much about my religion and then feels guilty about not being a better evangelist. Instead, I try to live the Word, to be an example of Jesus' teachings, but it's not a substitute for talking about it, is it? I'm quick to respond to "You're so lucky, Kathryn" with "It's not luck. God takes good care of me," but I think He wants more.



NPR recently aired statistics that bewildered me: 70% of the country has no religious affiliation at all, and there is a sharp, upward trend in the number of people drifting away from church each year. Not me. I'm hanging on to my church and the joy it gives me with all my strength. I'm more involved, participating in an adult study on the Gospel of Mark and attending Wednesday morning Eucharist. I'm more faithful in reading *Forward Day by Day* each morning, and I listen harder to scripture readings. And my love for my church family continues to grow. I can't imagine ever giving up any of that. Now I just have to learn to talk about it.

With gladness and singleness of heart,

Kathryn

June 7th – Recognition Sunday & Annual Parish Picnic

A final reminder that **Recognition Sunday** and the **Annual Parish Picnic** are happening on Sunday, **June 7**, following the 10 o'clock service. We are taking this opportunity to express our gratitude for various leaders, special ministries, and to honor recent grads as well as present the "Good & Faithful Servant" award. The picnic happens after the service—grilled hot dogs and hamburgers (provided) and all the various favorite side dishes that parishioners will provide. If you haven't signed up on the sheet in Willard Hall indicating what you can bring, please do so or let Bonnie Watters know by phone. Most of all plan to be there and join us in giving thanks for our many blessings!

"Grow Us Together" In Christ

(Continued from page 1)

place here at St. Luke's and in other congregations. The Congregational Church, for example, will be celebrating an ordination this month. Here at St. Luke's, there is plenty going on. Lillian's gardening workshop is in full swing and will continue her workshop this month, thanks to our Stirring of the Spirit grant. Our Mid-week Eucharist will not be taking a break this summer but will continue through the summer months. After our Adult Study series in Mark's Gospel ends this month, plans are underway to begin another study sometime in July. More information about this will come as the time nears.

In our corporate worship this month, we are entering into "Ordinary Time" also known as the "Season after the Pentecost." Though this season lasts for quite a while, "Ordinary Time" need not be associated with "Normal Time." This is the season of the Holy Spirit. In this month, we return to Mark's Gospel for our Sunday Readings. One of the Readings we'll hear will be the "Parable of the Growing Seed" that Jesus shares with his disciples and with others gathered with them. As with all his parables about seeds, this parable points to the kingdom of God. "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground..." Jesus says. I like to think of this parable as one of the "willy-nilly sowing" stories Jesus tells. The sower goes out and strews the seed all around, not seeming to care much as to where they will land. That speaks to me of the work of the Holy Spirit in our church and community. Then when the sower is finished, the seeds begin to sprout and grow while the sower sleeps. So, as we embrace summer, may we indeed find our rest in knowing that the Holy Spirit is at work in and through us to "grow us together" in Christ. Knowing this makes our summer far from ordinary!

In Christ, together,

Heidi L. Edson+



JULY LITS Deadline:

👉 **JUNE 26th**

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

How is your heart? Is your heart hardened for one reason or another? Ask that God might soften it. Is your heart closed to the blessings that God wants for you? Ask God to open it? Can we give our hearts to God, trusting that God will give them back to us as a gift for the world?—*Forward Day by Day*; 5/15/13

Celebration of New Ministry... continued from page 1



(Photos by Lew Watters)



Rev. Heidi's response was: *"Amen. Live without fear knowing God loves you, has made you holy and has reconciled you to one another."* The Peace was then passed. St. Luke's choir (nine members strong) sang the anthem,



"Deep Within" by David Haas—transitioning into the second half of the service with The Liturgy of the Eucharist, including the Renewal of Baptismal Vows by everyone. It was a beautiful and deeply moving service.

A reception was held in Willard Hall immediately following the service with a splendid array of finger foods and other delicious fare. A special thank you to all of the cooks at St.

Luke's who provided the food and to Kathryn Wright and helpers for coordinating everything so beautifully.

A Footnote: A special thanks to **Lew Watters** for all the great photos he took that day (in addition to the pictures on this page, more photos can be viewed at our Flickr account site:

www.flickr.com/photos/stlukeschester/.) It should be also noted that this photography was the result of a parish collaboration between Lew and Rudy Winston, who loaned him a very expensive Canon lens that perfectly matched for the low evening light and distant framing. From the beginning, interest in Heidi's ministry at St. Luke's has spread across the country. The Diocese of Vermont and the wider Episcopal Church have posted photos and linked our church.



Congratulations To Recent Grads!

We take this opportunity to express our congratulations to all graduates on a job well done and best wishes from all at St. Luke's as your respective futures unfold!



- **Mary Anderson (in photo at left)**

Mary Anderson, the daughter of Marilyn Mahusky and Rich Anderson and big sister to Brian Anderson, graduated with honors from Vermont Academy on May 23, 2015. She plans to attend UVM in the fall in the College of Arts and Sciences. Mary hopes to combine dance and pre-med (now that is a challenging goal!)...and live in an environmentally sustainable dorm. Congratulations and best wishes!

- **Elizabeth Assenza**

Elizabeth Marie Assenza, the daughter of Marti Assenza of South Londonderry, graduated from Union Theological Seminary of New York City on May 15, 2015 with the degree: Master of Divinity. She is applying for candidate status in the Unitarian Universalist denomination. Elizabeth plans to do a year-long Hospital Chaplaincy Residency program. After which she will do a year-long internship in a congregation. Well done, Elizabeth and our best wishes!

- **Chris Johnson**

Chris Johnson, son of Sanford & Bonnie Johnson of Marlboro, NH, will receive his Bachelor's of Science degree from American Military University on June 13, 2015. Many of us have gotten to know Chris through his participation as a judge during St. Luke's LEGO contest for the past 3 years. Our congratulations!

- **Erica Johnson**

Erica Johnson, daughter-in-law of Sanford & Bonnie Johnson and Chris's wife will get her Bachelor's of Science degree from Granite State College on June 7, 2015. Kudos to both Erica and Chris!

Listening to God Was The Focus Of May Vestry Retreat

St. Luke's Vestry held their annual Retreat on May 15 & 16th. Friday evening was purely a social event with the Vestry members and their spouses/partners enjoying a "by design" potluck dinner at the home of Lillian & David Willis in Chester Depot. It was a time to kick back and enjoy each others' company without having to tend to any business or other matters of concern about the parish. Lillian & David were very gracious hosts and we all admired their beautiful backyard on this balmy spring evening.

On Saturday, it was only Rev. Heidi and the Vestry members who journeyed to Saint Joseph's Dwelling Place located in Ludlow off of Route 100, for the second part of our retreat. We arrived at 8:00 a.m. and enjoyed a simple breakfast before adjourning into a brief business meeting. The remainder of the day was spent in prayer and reflection...focusing around the theme "Listening to God"... how we can become better listeners personally and as a community of faith. The retreat allowed us time for group reflections and fellowship as well as private time for individual prayer. We concluded the day with an informal communion. Catherine Joanne, director of Saint Joseph's Dwelling Place, was our spiritual guide and facilitator. A gifted singer and musician, she beautifully wove music into our time together. All of us went home feeling refreshed and with a deeper sense of how we can be more attuned to God's loving presence in our lives.—**Pat Fromberger**



Thank You God...For This Past Season of Church School

On Pentecost Sunday, which also marks Memorial Day, we remembered all the people in the Bible who we have learned about this year: ones who have “walked with God.” It was good to hear everything that our children have remembered: Adam and Eve, the first people; Noah, who listened to God and built the Ark to save his family and the creatures of the Earth; Abraham, who made a great covenant with God; his wife Sarah, who laughed when she heard the news that she would become a mother in her old age. Also fresh in the children’s minds was the story of Moses, and the women who guided him: his mother Jochebed who put him in a basket on the Nile; his sister Miriam who watched over that basket as Pharaoh’s daughter Bithia found and adopted little Moses. The children know that Moses had a terrible temper that led him to kill an Egyptian, and that he ran away to escape being punished; that he met his wife Zipporah at a spring where he defended her against the shepherds who tried to hog all the water; that it was while shepherding her father’s sheep that Moses met God in the burning bush; that God’s first words to Moses were, “Take off your shoes, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” They remembered too, on Memorial Day, how God sent plagues on Egypt to convince Pharaoh to “let my people go,” and how eventually they did go, in haste, and how they crossed the Red Sea, and how Pharaoh’s armies were destroyed behind them; and how Moses smote the rock to get water, and later went on top of the holy mountain for forty days and nights to receive the Commandments; and how Moses’ temper struck again when he saw the golden calf being worshipped.

Above all this, they know that the rainbow is a sign of God’s covenant; that God promised Abraham and Sarah that their children would number more than the stars in the sky; and that Moses is to lead God’s people to a land flowing with milk and honey: the Promised Land. And we are reminded each week that Jesus is shown in the stained glass at the front of the Sanctuary, teaching children—and that if we look closely, there are some around Jesus who have gray hair too.

Really, they know a lot. I do wish there were more kids in Sunday School, but the ones who are there sure are taking it in. We hope this lays the foundation for the faith that will sustain them. Even at their tender ages, they have a growing sense of the mysteries of life: where do we come from; how do we grow; what happens when we die? What a joy it is to teach them now!

Sunday School will take a vacation for the summer and will resume after Labor Day. At our last lesson in June the children will receive a challenge for the summer: to learn the 23rd Psalm and the Lord’s Prayer; and on June 7 the Sunday School will be teaching the whole congregation

the beautiful prayer that Father Ian taught us, as well as a couple of songs that we love. Please join in!

To everyone who has supported these precious children as they grow—that is, our whole congregation—thank you. Bonnie and Lew, Ashley, Jessica, Lillian, all of the Meeting Ministers, all who have offered to help, and maybe most of all the anonymous donors who kept the Sanctuary warm so we could “make a joyful noise” downstairs; we thank you.

But from the perspective of a child, there was a certain kind of visit that stood out from the rest: those times when Mary Anderson and Margie DesLauriers were with us. Mary and Margie are young women out in the world; yet they are not so very far from where our young children stand today. When Mary and Margie join us, as each did at key moments in the year—on vacation from college, for instance, or after a spectacular dance recital—the children do sit up and listen. Mary shares the particular excitement of being on the verge of college; Margie has given them a shining example of how it feels when you leave home and make choices about what you want to learn. In these young women, our kids see what it means to grow and “walk with God.” It means the world to them.

Thank you, St. Luke’s community. Thank You God for all our blessings!

Sean Whalen

for St. Luke’s Sunday School

Some Photo Spotlights From The Church School Year...



The Outreach Corner

Operation Christmas Child

Many thanks to everyone who stayed after the service on Sunday, May 24 for the Operation Christmas Child Workshop to start the process of making simple footwear for needy children. Especially, Belinda, Doug, and Sally who did the difficult task of cutting out sole shapes from hard plastic bottles! Heidi and Pat helped by cutting out old dungarees into shapes that will make up the outer covering of the footwear. Adelaide and Kathryn cut loads of strips from plastic shopping bags that Cindy will twist and magically transform by crocheting into cords. Lots was accomplished but there is still more to be done. Cindy hopes to hold another workshop in June or July. Stay tuned. In the meantime we would welcome other kinds of donations for the shoeboxes: soaps, washcloths, combs and other personal care items; small new toys, pencils, pens, erasers, crayons, paper, and other school supplies. Many thanks!

Remembering Our Soldiers

If you watched on TV or listened on the radio to any of the special programs aired over the **Memorial Day** weekend, you could not help but be moved by the stories of our veterans and the young men and women who continue to serve our country. As you know, we here at St. Luke's have been writing notes to some special soldiers who never receive mail from home. So please continue to take a few minutes and write a friendly note to them each week after church. It doesn't have to be long, maybe just a friendly "hello, thinking about you, thanking you for your service." There are lots of blank cards (and pens) in a special basket on one of the side tables in Willard Hall for your convenience. Keep in mind that these soldiers are on the front lines with no other support from home besides us. They love receiving a caring note from home and they especially enjoy getting drawings from the children. Thank you for helping with this ministry. —Cindy

Humility, true humility, is the deep knowledge that God is to be sought, and found, and served in every person. The gift of humility comes from the heart of Jesus Christ to you. Jesus knows that humility will help you see others as he sees them, to hear in them his truth, and to learn from it. If we believe that every person, made in the image of God, bears some part of the truth the whole community needs, then humility before others can be the key to truth.

—Forward Day by Day; 5/19/10

Rock Point Summer Camp It's Not Too Late...Act Now!



Send a child, grandchild or neighbor to camp!

Camp makes a difference in the life of a child!

NOW is the time to send that registration form in!

Camp provides an opportunity for a child to gain skills:

- communication
- collaboration
- confidence
- creativity
- leadership

Camp helps a child develop:

- grit • tenacity • optimism
- self-control • new skills

... and have a whole lot of FUN & MEET FRIENDS!

MEET THE STAFF...and oh what a staff we have!

- **Hayden, Kayla, and Alyssa** are all former campers; one is a high school graduate, two are currently in college.
- **Lauren** has just graduated from St. Michael's and comes with camp and environmental education experience.
- **Jordan** is from the UK, certified Lifeguard and has worked with children and youth professionally.
- **Hannah** is a college student at St. Michael's and also in the environmental program.
- **Charlotte** is our camp health & wellness coordinator, a certified Wilderness First Responder, has summer camp counselor experience and currently works at the Howard Center.
- **Bill** is the assistant director; retired school teacher, past outdoor educator and camp director.

Questions, concerns, curiosities?

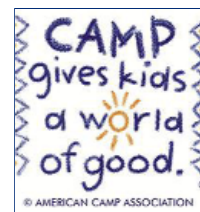
Call me @ 802-425-6551 or check out:

www.rockpointcenter.org

With Peace & Joy!

Sherry+

Sherry Osborn, Director



Note: Camp Scholarships are available from St. Luke's. Speak to Kathryn Wright, Sr. Warden.

My Vegetable Garden Classes Begin



Participants in the gardening project were very enthusiastic about the different supplies in their "goodie" bags and about learning how to use them.

included a trowel, weeding tool, garden gloves, paper cups for tomato plants to deter cutworms, a container of Miracle-Gro, two old nylon stockings to tie up the tomato plants, and envelopes of garden seeds (green and purple beans, beets, carrots, lettuce, Swiss chard, zucchini summer squash, and butternut winter squash).

How to layout the garden, cut the fabric, ameliorate the soil, and plant and care for the seeds were discussed and questions answered.

After the class, the gardeners loaded into their cars bags each of potting soil, composted cow manure, and sand, plus a large plastic container in which to mix soil and later collect weeds or vegetables. Also live plants of broccoli, Brussels sprouts, 2 kinds of cabbage, two Roma tomato plants, 2 tomato stakes, and 6 different herbs (chives, Egyptian onions, oregano, parsley, sage, and Italian basil). Happy women left the parking lot, and none has answered my follow-up email with cries of help. We shall see if their enthusiasm continues by Session #2 on June 18. —*Lillian Willis*

St. Luke's Financial Information

	<u>April 2015</u>	<u>YTD 2015</u>	<u>2015 Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Plate/Pledge Income	\$ 6,216.99	\$ 40,465.56	\$ 96,885.00	41.8%
Other Oper. Income	\$ 2,943.21	\$ 6,282.25	\$ 18,503.00	34.0%
Restricted Income	\$ 1,315.00	\$ 5,788.81	\$ 1,100.00	525.3%
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 10,475.20	\$ 52,536.62	\$ 116,480.00	45.1%
Regular Expense	\$ 16,205.51	\$ 51,150.50	\$ 138,740.12	36.9%
Restricted Expense	\$ 1,669.84	\$ 3066.34	\$ 8,500.00	36.1%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 17,875.35	\$ 54,216.84	\$ 147,240.12	36.8%
NET INCOME	(\$ 7,400.15)	(\$ 1,680.22)		

The bottom line for April doesn't look very promising but there is an explanation for the big increase in expenses during April. The first thing (and not really great news) is that our pledge income was down for the month compared to previous months. Please try to keep your pledge payments current, even when you are away. The church's bills don't take a vacation. **The second situation** we ran into in April is that we had to have not one, but two emergency service calls for the furnace. The cost of these, added to another call earlier in the year, is over \$1,100.00.

And the final item that put us a little bit into the hole is that the Diocese and the Church Pension Fund caught up with their paperwork to get Heidi's pension contributions started along with the bills for health & dental insurance for Heidi & Doug. So we had to pay 3 months worth of premiums in April for these. **Overall**, we're hanging in there – with 33.3% of the year gone, we are about 12% ahead of budget on the income side and only 3.5% over budget on our expenses. —*Bonnie Johnson*



WEEKLY

• 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/Study:

Wednesdays in Willard Hall: **9:30AM** for informal Eucharist; **10:30 AM** Adult Study on the Gospel of Mark.

• My Vegetable Garden Classes:

Thursdays, **June 18; July 16 & August 20th, 10:00AM–NOON** in Willard Hall at St. Luke's Church. Read the article on page this page for description and update.

• St. Luke's Choir Rehearsals:

Sundays, **9:00 a.m.** in the church sanctuary for warm-up and rehearsal. The choir will be taking a summer break after Sunday, June 7.

LESS THAN WEEKLY

• Recognition Sunday And Annual Parish Picnic:

Sunday, **June 7th**, following the **10:00AM** service that morning. We will honor and give thanks to leaders and recent grads. A picnic will be held after the service. More information on page 2. Come join us!

• Vestry Monthly Meeting:

Monday, **June 1st, 6:30PM** for Vestry Bible Study; **7:00 PM** for regular meeting agenda. in Willard Hall. Focus is on Christian Education (Church School/Adult formation.) All parishioners are welcome to attend.





JUNE CELEBRATIONS

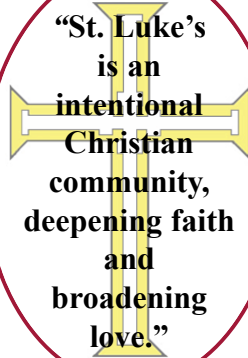


Birthdays:

1 Mathilda "Sis" Bolger	11 Martha Stretton
1 Michael Wilson	12 Lindsey Walton
1 Stephanie (Wilson) Blauch	17 Evelyn Meyer
3 Sophia Buchanan	18 Patrick Wilson
6 Doreen Bolger	23 Todd Parah
11 Lynne Reed	28 Emily Dakin

Anniversaries:

6 Ross & Amy Jones
12 John & Marcia Leader
13 Sanford & Bonnie Johnson
20 George & Georgiana Cheney
20 Fred & Alyce Fielder
22 Lew & Bonnie Watters
23 David & Lillian Willis, Sr.
24 Peter & Tia Rosengarten
28 Dale & Gloria Deming
29 Red & Adelaide Johnson



✠ WORSHIP SCHEDULE ✠

June 7	II PENTECOST
8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Recognition Sunday/Parish Picnic)

June 14	III PENTECOST
8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite II

June 21	IV PENTECOST
8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite II

June 28	V PENTECOST
8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite II

✪ **CHURCH SCHOOL:** June 7 is the final day of Sunday School (we are taking a summer break) and will resume in September.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Heidi L. Edson, 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

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P. O. Box 8, Chester, VT 05143
Return for ADDRESS CORRECTION
Or if Undeliverable

