

# Ligh 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



## Easter Memory (2012)

t the Vestry Meeting on Tuesday, March 20, 2012, I announced to the members that I would be retiring as Rector on July 1. On the following Sunday the same announcement was made to those present following both Services. I hope you all realize that this announcement has not been the outcome of an easy decision nor one

made on impulse. God knows, it certainly doesn't reflect in any negative way on my profound love for all of the people of St. Luke's. Rather it arises out of my own and familial circumstances. Our family needs to be together. Of a certainty, following my retirement and departure you will continue in my heartfelt prayers, and equally so in my fondest memories. It is especially because of the latter that the following past Easter reflection from 2007 seems so appropriate at this time.

> As always and ever, Christ is risen! Paul

## **Easter Memory**

In recent years I have found that the annual celebration of the Feast of Easter has evoked a unsought plethora of memories of past Easters and of people I once knew and love still. I am almost afraid this phenomena is yet another indicator of one grown old, or at the least, growing old; this being an idea I don't care to scrutinize too closely. It's not that I'm living in the past or even care to do so, rather, the past seems to continually intrude into the present.

For me, Easter has always represented a yearly mile- $\Gamma$  stone, both as the celebration of the most important Christian feast and event; which was something I grasped only in early adulthood, and as a marker of passing time; something which was apparent in my youth.

From the ages of eight to twenty something, Easter was the first time since the onslaught of winter, since the autumn, that I and my family would travel north to Niagara Falls; to the place where, with the exception of my two

Continued on page 2

## Holy Week/Easter Worship Schedule

#### PALM/PASSION SUNDAY April 1

Holy Eucharist, Rite I 8:00 AM

with Liturgy of the Palms

10:00 AM **Holy Eucharist, Rite II** with Liturgy of the Palms

**PASSOVER SEDER** – Willard Hall 5:30 PM

Monday April 2

6:30 PM Holy Eucharist

April 3 Tuesday

6:30 PM Holy Eucharist

Wed. April 4

6:30 PM Holy Eucharist

#### Maundy Thursday – April 5

6:30 PM Holy Eucharist

Foot Washing/Stripping of Altar

7:30 PM Night Watch until Midnight

#### Good Friday – April 6

NOON Stations of the Cross

The Liturgy of Good Friday 6:30 PM

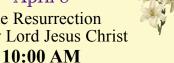
Easter Eve – April 7

7:30 PM The Great Vigil of Easter (Reception following)



### EASTER DAY April 8

The Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ



## **Festival Eucharist of Easter Day**

Reception in Willard Hall following the service and Easter Egg Hunt (outdoors if weather permits)

## EASTER WEEK

Monday-Friday, April 9-13

6:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

#### From the Senior Warden



Lexperience such overwhelming sadness when we read the Passion on Palm Sunday that I weep. How He suffered on our behalf, accepting his pain and humiliation for us, and then asking God to forgive those who had harmed him. Then, at our evening Passover Seder that night, I experience continuity

and kinship with those whose trials and tribulations paved the way for Christianity. But it is the celebration of joyous Easter and the Resurrection that makes my heart take flight with joy.

What terrible change Christ's death made in the lives of His faithful. They must have wondered how they could possibly go on with their lives without Him, feeling lost and fearful about their future, grieving the loss of His love and wisdom. Devastating change, to be sure, but one which events forced them to accept. It was their faith that kept them going, their certainty that the loss of their spiritual leader was part of God's plan. We must call upon our faith whenever we, too, are faced with painful loss and change.

With Easter blessings to all, Kathryn

### An Old Hasidic Tale

The rabbi asked his students: "How can we determine the hour of dawn, when the night ends and the day begins?"

One of the rabbi's students suggested:"When from a distance you can distinguish between a dog and a sheep?"

"No," was the answer of the rabbi.

"Is it when one can distinguish between a fig tree and a grapevine?" asked a second student.

"No," the rabbi said.

"Please tell us the answer, then," said the students.

"It is, then," said the wise teacher, "when you can look into the face of human beings and you have enough light [in you] to recognize them as your brothers and sisters, up until then it is night, and darkness is still with us."

Let us pray for light. It is the peace the world cannot give. — "The Path of Peace", by Henri J. M. Nouwen.

## **Easter Memory**

(Rector's Column continued from page 1)

youngest siblings, we were born; where roots were to be found. Easter was a time of extended family; of grand-parents, uncles, aunts, first cousins, and cousins of various degrees as well as great aunts, great uncles, and those whose degree of relationship I never quite determined,

as well as numerous friends. Easter represented spring thaw; the winter passing, celebration, renewed connections, and reaffirmations of love and ties that neither distance nor time could sever.

Remarkably, thirty some years on, I suppose Easter still represents these things to me. Many family and friends are scattered at a greater geographical distance, and a number at an indeterminate, or no, distance, having gone to God. Easter or rather the risen Lord still holds the promise of win-

"Easter or rather the risen Lord still holds the promise of winter passing, of renewed life come again, and connections and affirmations of love and relationship that never end."

—H. Paul Brannock-Wanter

ter passing, of renewed life come again, and connections and affirmations of love and relationship that never end.

For Christians, Easter is the living memory that continually intrudes upon and informs our lives, not as past event; but always present. The risen Lord is promise, hope, and above all love unvanquished. May none of us grow so old in spirit that we forget this, or cease to live it. A most joyous Easter is extended to all.

In God's Peace & Love,

Panl

## **Divine Forgetfulness**

For humans, forgetfulness can be frustrating and worrisome. Yet it can be a blessing to be able to forget certain things.

The late professor and author Gerhard E. Frost noted that "forgiveness is a beautiful form of forgetfulness" — a heaven-sent absent-mindedness.

For what is failure to forgive but the refusal to release a memory of someone's hurtful actions? Only by releasing old grudges and choosing to forget past wrongs can we find peace. For help, we can look to God as the ultimate example of "forgetting" sins.

#### **Passover Seder Celebration**

The Passover Seder marks the night when the Israelites were "passed over" by the angel of death when the tenth and final plague (the death of all the firstborn) was visited upon Egypt. The angel passed over all homes marked by lamb's blood on the lintel and two doorposts. The original verb for "pass over" is *posach*, and its noun form is *pesach*. Thus, the lamb whose blood on the lintel and two doorposts ensured salvation, was referred to as the paschal lamb. The paschal lamb was then eaten that night: "and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the Lord's Passover." (Exodus 12:11).

The menu is traditional and within our parish family we have gifted cooks to prepare the lamb, goat and chicken, roasted potatoes, tasty vegetables, tossed salad, macaroons and meringue treats. **SEDER** is a Hebrew word meaning "order" so there are special requirements like bitter herbs (radishes, horseradishes), matzoh, haroset (apples, cinnamon and nuts), parsley and of course, boiled eggs.

St. Luke's invites you to join us in celebrating a traditional

## PASSOVER SEDER



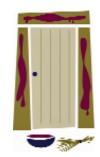
Palm Sunday, April 1, 5:30 p.m. in Willard Hall (Proceeds benefit St. Luke's Church) Suggested donation: \$10 age 12 and up, \$7.50 age 5-11, under 5 free

The Harrisons @ 875-2784 for reservations.

We hope you will come join us for this traditional celebration on Sunday, April 1 at 5:30 p.m..

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### **Christian Symbol: Doorposts**



The image of a doorframe marked with blood comes from the Old Testament Passover account, when the Israelites prepared to flee slavery in Egypt. God directed them to slaughter lambs for a final meal and paint their doorposts with the blood. God sent the Angel of Death to kill the firstborn sons of Egypt, but the blood on the Israelites' doorposts

served as a signal that the Destroyer should "pass over" those homes. Likewise, the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, saves us from eternal death.

#### Where Was I?

Our young son often asks where he was when something significant happened before he was born. "Where was I when you two got married?" "Where was I when Nana died? And even "Where was I before I was inside your body?"

My response is always "You were in God's heart." God said as much to Jeremiah: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you" (Jeremiah 1:5, NRSV).

A Good Friday spiritual asks plaintively, "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?" Clearly none of us was present when Jesus died. Yet as we worship on Good Friday, we place ourselves at the cross, where Jesus bore our sins.

"Where was I," we might ask our heavenly Father, "when they crucified Jesus?" I'm confident that God's tender answer is "You were in my heart." Indeed, only because of our place there did Jesus go willingly to the cross—and rise to assure us of everlasting life. —Heidi Mann

## What Would Easter & Life Be Without Jesus?

#### Without the risen Savior in our hearts, life is like:

- A chocolate Easter Bunny empty on the inside;
- An Easter bonnet easily blown off kilter;
- Last year's Easter outfit it doesn't quite fit right;
- An Easter lily it soon withers and dries up;
- A bag of jellybeans sugary and sweet but lacking substance;
- An unfound Easter basket full of gifts that spoil and go to waste;
- A colored Easter egg looks great but cracks under pressure;
- The Easter bunny always hopping here and there;
- Marshmallow Peeps becomes hard when opened up;
- Easter parade a long journey with no destination;
- An unopened Easter card a message of love unclaimed. —David Patterson

"Jesus can help us if only we invite him to do so. He is always willing to assist us but he waits for us to acknowledge our helplessness, He knows that on our own we cannot challenge the tempter. He patiently waits for a specific invitation to come to us. We should go beyond mental assent that he is able to help us, to the practical invitation to Jesus to carry us through." (Forward Day By Day 3/2/09)



St. Luke's Episcopal Church sanctuary, Easter 1874.

### A Bit of History: The Tradition of Easter Flowers

It has long been a tradition in Episcopal churches and at St. Luke's to adorn the sanctuary with beautiful Easter lilies and other spring flowers on Easter Day. These lovely flowers create a fragrant and joyful atmosphere as the community of faith gathers together to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. They bring to mind

renewal and rebirth after a long winter season. As far as we can determine, this photo showing the altar literally cascading with spring flowers, was taken in 1874, three years after the building was completed in 1871. (The first Holy Eucharist at St. Luke's was celebrated on Easter Sunday, April 12, 1868 in the Chester Academy on Main Street.)

## **Easter Memorial Flowers**



In anticipation of St. Luke's joyful Festival Eucharist on Easter Sunday, April 8, the Altar Guild will be decorating the sanctuary with fragrant Easter lilies and other traditional spring flowers. To help support this endeavor and honor departed loved ones or to celebrate the lives of children, parents,

spouses, partners, etc. – please make a check payable to: "St. Luke's Church" with a note in the memo line 'for Easter Memorial Flowers'. Send it along with a note listing the names (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY) indicating if "in Memory of" (those who have died) or "in Thanksgiving of" (those still living). Mail a check and names to: Adelaide Johnson, 294 Hill Top Road, Andover, VT 05143. The deadline for submitting names is April 1st. (Names may also be emailed to haroldadelaide@vermontel.net)

### The Meaning of Easter

In a 2010 Barna Group survey, two-thirds of Americans knew that Easter is a religious holiday. But only 42 percent connected its meaning to Jesus' resurrection. And only two percent of adults said they would describe Easter as the most important holiday of their faith.

Not everyone who connects Easter to religion has the facts straight. Two percent of Americans said Easter is about Jesus' birth. Another two percent said it's about Jesus' "rebirth." And one percent said it's a celebration of his second coming. Another three percent described Easter as a celebration of spring or a pagan holiday.

In the same survey, 31 percent of active churchgoers said they'd definitely invite an unchurched friend to worship with them on Easter weekend.

This Easter, share the truth and joy of the holiday with someone who doesn't know Jesus. News of the resurrection is too good to keep to ourselves!

## **March Vestry Meeting Highlights**

Ct. Luke's Vestry met on March 20 in Willard Hall. Those who came early enjoyed pizza and discussion of the scripture readings and meditation from Forward Day By Day for that day. The actual meeting agenda began at 7:00 p.m. with opening prayers and reaffirmation of the Vestry Rule of Life. Pat Fromberger shared some of her spiritual journey to St. Luke's and the experiences as a member of this parish that have deepened her faith and commitment to Christ through the years. The March agenda focus was on the topic of Outreach and Don & Dee Robinson were invited to share their thoughts as chairs of the Outreach Committee. Don was primarily concerned with learning what the Vestry's expectations for this committee were in the coming year. Setting priorities as to which organizations (local, national & international) St. Luke's Church will contribute to and informing the parish members about these seemed to be a major issue. It was suggested that the Outreach Committee could arrange to invite representatives to come and speak either during the announcements or the coffee hours on Sundays. The Vestry also recommended that the Outreach Committee needed to reform as a more cohesive group and to set some overall goals. Peter Rosengarten reported on behalf of the finance committee, saying that to date we are doing okay with the pledge income and budget, but need to be aware that expenses are low this time of year. (See finance report on page 7.)

Paul, in his **Rector's Report**, announced that he has made the difficult decision to retire early (after serving 10 years at St. Luke's) due to his need to be with his family in Kentucky, especially as Christina undergoes treatment for breast cancer. Paul will be here through April, May, then take the month of June as his vacation time to pack and prepare to move. His last Sunday at St. Luke's will be on July 1. The Vestry regretfully accepted Paul's resignation but fully understand and support him in having to make this difficult transition.

Junior Warden, Andrew Pennell, announced that "Clean-up/Green-Up Day at St. Luke's will be on Sunday, May 6th this year. Under other business, the Vestry gave formal approval for Lillian Willis to continue with the plans to hold a LEGO Contest Fundraiser in Willard Hall on April 14th. Part of the funds raised will benefit the Children's Library in Chester. Lillian will be looking for donations and volunteers to help with this event. (See page 6 in this issue for more details.) Pete Rosengarten reported the brass plate for the Memorial Garden is in the process of being engraved. He is still trying to locate an appropriate size and shape stone to mount it on. Lillian & David Willis have generously volunteered to maintain the Memorial Garden this year and were given a heartfelt note of thanks from the Vestry. The next Vestry meeting is on April 18th.

—Pat Fromberger



John Hoover & his assistant, Morgan Willis raffle off items

## **Maple Fest A Grand Success**

On Saturday evening, March 24th, Willard Hall filled up with hungry maple-loving folks for a roast pork dinner with all sides and desserts made with a touch of maple syrup. After dinner John Hoover hosted the raffle, electrifying the audience with anticipation for each drawing



Yummy maple desserts!

of the thirty plus items. Those lucky people who won their prizes were delighted, especially William Scarlett who very much wanted graphic artist Lew Watter's framed and matted ink print of the Rockingham Meeting House.

A total of 58 adults and 4 children attended the dinner bringing in \$600. The raffle added an additional \$175, so the grand total raised for PINS was \$775. Expenses were minimal as most everything was donated. The PINS Committee wishes to thank everyone who participated in making the evening a fun-filled success. We could not have done it without all the volunteer help.

Once again the committee asked our liaison person, Robbie Wierzbiecki, at Springfield Family Services for three families we could assist with an Easter dinner. For this Easter we are giving three families a complete Easter dinner, Easter baskets for 7 kids ages 6 months to 14 years, and boxes of food staples to tide them over.

PINS (Partners in Service) mission is for faith communities and human service agencies collaborating to help local children and families in need. A vehicle for putting faith in action, PINS projects allows congregations to give a focused and immediate response to these young victims of neglect, abuse and family stress. A child's realization that someone in their community cares for them makes an enormous difference to individual well-being.

## **The Outreach Corner**

## Operation Christmas Child & Other Outreach

A special thank you to Dee Robinson for all the yarn and fabric she donated. These are being used to make blankets for homeless people and crocheted rings for *Operation Christmas Child*.

Also another reminder about our "Change for Children" jar. It is located in the rear of the church on the table near the mail boxes. Just a few cents a day can add up to cover the shipping costs for many boxes. Please consider donating your spare change. Thank you.

We can always use more school supplies for the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. We will need at least 3,600 pencils this year. Other school supplies that are put into the boxes include erasers, pencil sharpeners, crayons, pens, calculators (dual power), rulers compasses, etc. If you have any questions about appropriate supplies, just speak to me.

Other items we can always use are toys for boys, like small cars, yo-yos, Slinkys, tops, etc. We are also looking for clothing items for boys, either purchased new or handmade.

### ... Two Other Outreach Projects

- **1.** Please join me in knitting or crocheting 8"x8" or 12"x12" inch squares that are used to create blankets for children with AIDS.
- 2. There is real hunger in our local community that I have witnessed first-hand. Please be as generous as you can in donating foods to the **Chester-Andover Family Center**, either directly [you may drop off your donations at the Center during regular hours: Tuesday, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., Wednesday, 1 p.m.- 7 p.m., Friday, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a. m.- 2 p.m..] or by placing canned and other non-perishable food items in the collection bin at the back of St. Luke's. Suggestions include hearty and nutritious food items such as canned soups, stews, sauces, fruits, vegetables, boxed or canned meals, peanut butter, jelly, tuna fish, cereal, pasta, and rice. Thank you!

—Cindy

"If we had no winter the enring would not be so pleasent if

## "If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome." —Anne Bradstreet

## **2012 LEGO Contest Saturday April 14 in Willard Hall**

Please spread the word to children, grandchildren, and young houseguests about the LEGO Contest on Saturday, April 14 at Willard Hall, here at St. Luke's. LEGO-maniacs well need to preregister and pre-pay the \$10.00 entry fee by April 10 in order to reserve a spot of approximately 18"x30" for their unique creation. No kits will be



Gurion Lake (the Watter's grandson) works on his LEGO project

allowed. Open to the public with grade-level prizes for enthusiasts Pre-K through Eighth Grade, the contest will also have some special awards—such as Most Vermont. Contestants must bring their pre-built entries and set them up between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Judging will take place 10:00 a.m. to noon, with prizes awarded at noon.

Please visit www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org or www.ourchester.org for all the details and necessary form, or pick the registration form up at Chester's Whiting Library, whose Children's Library will receive a portion of the proceeds. Entries will be judged on originality, imagination, and presentation. This is a great family and community event, so enter or simply come to enjoy the creativity and refreshments that will be for sale. For more information, call **Lillian Willis, 875-1340.** 



Gurion's completed LEGO "Bandstand and Musicians".

<sup>&</sup>quot;It is useless to pray for more knowledge, power or faith until you begin to use what you have already."

<sup>-</sup>Henry Bucklew

## Happy Birthday Norm Harrison! 90 Years Young on March 17





Torm Harrison celebrated his 90th birthday on Saturday, March 17 (St. Patrick's Day.) The next day when he came to church after the 10 o'clock service to pick up the offertory monies, he was greeted with a chorus of parishioners singing "Happy Birthday" as he walked into Willard Hall during the coffee hour. Bonnie Watters had made a large carrot sheet cake (one of Norm' favorites) and it was enjoyed by all. If you missed last month's newsletter, be sure to read the great profile Bonnie wrote about Norm's interesting life in the March issue of "Light in the Shadows." It can be viewed and read online at www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org

Top photo: Norm blows out the candles on his birthday cake.

Bottom photo: Norm & Ruth pose for a birthday portrait.

## St. Luke's Financial Information

			<u>% of </u>	
	Feb. 2012	<u>JanFeb. 2012</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Plate/Pledge Income	\$ 8,037.00	\$ 22,705.60	\$111,100.00	20.44%
Other Oper. Income	\$ 606.72	\$ 3,216.55	\$ 21,864.00	14.71%
Restricted Income		\$ 50.55		
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 8,643.87	\$ 25,972.15	\$132,964.00	19.53%
<b>Operating Expense</b>	\$ 10,471.49	\$ 21,569.54	\$145,811.44	14.79%
<b>Restricted Expense</b>		\$ 570.31		
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 10,471.49	\$ 22,139.85	\$145,811.44	15.18%

As you can see above, lines for restricted income and expense have been added to this report. The \$50 in income is for the *Memorial Garden* and the \$570.31 under expenses bought the new padded chairs for Willard Hall. They have made a difference in both appearance and comfort. The money for the chairs was donated in 2011 so it does not show on this year's income, but does affect our bottom line. As was reported to the Vestry, in order to stay on budget income should average \$11,080 per month. To erase the deficit, income needs to average \$12,150 per month. As you look at these monthly reports please keep those numbers in mind and thank you for supporting the work of St. Luke's. —*The Financial Committee* 



#### 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, "A Dresser of Sycamore Trees—The Finding of a Ministry," by Vermont author, Garret Keizer. 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 mornings at **9:15AM** in Willard Hall. New members welcomed.

#### LESS THAN WEEKLY

#### Adult Evening Bible Study:

Tuesday, April 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 Vestry Meeting:

Tuesday, April 18th, 6:00PM, for a light supper in Willard Hall. Bible Study/Discussion 6:30PM; Regular Meeting agenda at 7:00PM. April focus will be on "Music & Altar Guild". Parishioners are always welcome to attend these meetings.

#### · Passover Seder

Sunday, **April 1, 5:30PM**. at St. Luke's Church. See article on page 3 for details. We invite you to come & bring family and friends.

#### · Holy Week Worship Schedule:

The complete Worship Schedule for Holy Week & Easter Services can be found on page 1..

## MAY LITS Deadline: **APRIL** 20<sup>th</sup>

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



# APRIL CELEBRATIONS

#### **Birthdays:**

- 3 Jerry Cassels
- 5 Lisa Crocker
- 5 Marcia Leader
- 9 Kate Watters
- 12 Gloria Deming
- 13 Ryan Crocker
- 13 Rudy Winston III
- 14 Emily Crocker

- 15 Karligash Roundy-Winston
- 16 Sharon Haumann
- 17 Emily Cowles
- 22 Jane Davis
- 25 David Willis, Sr.
- 27 Joseph Brannock-Wanter
- 30 Dick Farmer

#### **Anniversaries:**

- 2 Rudy & Cindy Roundy-Winston
- 9 John & Alison DesLauriers
- 12 Dick & Lynda Farmer
- 19 Chris & Karen Langston
- 27 Don & Dee Robinson
- 27 David & Kathleen Willis



"St. Luke's
is an
intentional
Christian
community,
deepening faith
and
broadening
love."

## + Worship SchedulE +

Apr. 1 PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I, Liturgy of Palms 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Liturgy of Palms

6:00 PM Passover Seder – Willard Hall

**Apr. 8 EASTER DAY – ONE SERVICE** 

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

(Reception/Easter Egg Hunt following service.)

Apr. 15 EASTER II

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Apr. 22 EASTER III

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Apr. 29 EASTER IV

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II St. Luke's Complete Holy Week Worship Schedule is on page 1

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

