



Light in the Shadows

NOVEMBER 2011

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

A Thank You And A Seasonal Reflection



Towards the end of this month of November Donna Reidt, having been called, will assume the responsibilities and privileges of Priest in Partnership of St. Mary's Church in Wilmington, Vermont. Sunday, November 13 will be her last day here at St. Luke's as an Associate Priest. As I write this, I know that I speak for not only myself but the entire

community of St. Luke's when I say that we will miss her and that our prayers and a part of ourselves accompany her in this new phase of her faith journey.

Has it really been only a little over a year and half since Donna first came here as a transitional deacon? During this time we have had a shared adventure in our ever continuing journey of faith as disciples of Christ. Whether the intended of formation which brought about Donna's assignment here was hers or ours, individually or as a com-

"The Saints are and always have been real individuals; 'characters' who refuse to conform to many of the norms of place, time, and culture. They refuse to be implicated in a standard of the bland leading the bland."

—H. Paul Brannock-Wanter

The month of November begins with the *Feast of All Saints* on November 1. Maybe it has been my reflection upon Donna's departure, on All Saints, or maybe just a

munity, I am now not at all certain. I suspect it was both and I am thankful for her witness, joyful levity, and grace as she served with and among us. Thanks be to God for her faithful witness to the love of God in her ministry. I hope we can all celebrate Donna's ministry here on Sunday November 13th. Although her official connection will end on that day, I trust God and know that there are ties of love in Christ that will never be severed.

Continued on page 2



St. Luke's parishioners' blessings will soon be seen showering down onto the altar.

Sharing Our Blessings

"Let us give up our work, our plans, ourselves, our lives, our loved ones, our influence, our all, right into God's hand; and then, when we have given all to Him, there will be nothing left for us to be troubled about."

—Hudson Taylor

There is such pain in the world today dealing with materialism. We are all so consumed by whether we will "have enough." As you are reading this, in this moment, is life not perfect? St. Luke's is a very generous parish in so many ways and the Stewardship Committee hopes that the work we have done to point out the blessings in each of our lives has been helpful to many people. It was our hope last year to remind ourselves of all the sharing that goes on at our church on a daily basis by developing the *Giving Tree*. This year we hope to display those blessings more specifically "*Showering Down on our Altar*." Blessings at St. Luke's are not always translated into dollars, but at this time of year we all need to consider how much of our abundance we can share with St. Luke's and its outreach in the world.

Over the next couple of weeks we will be reminding each other in different ways how to consider our gifts and blessings. Thank you all for everything that you do to share God's love with the world.

Sunday, **November 13th** will be *Ingathering Sunday*. This will be an appropriate time to bring your pledge card to church and place it in the offering plate. We are so grateful for your gift! —**The Stewardship Committee**

From the Senior Warden

A Feast For The Eyes



Following a suggestion in a recent “*Forward Day By Day*” meditation, I downloaded a picture of Caravaggio’s painting, “Taking of Christ”, and I made it my desktop image. I see it every time I boot up my computer, and it never fails to affect me.

I gaze at those three terrifying soldiers, clad in sinister black metal and leather, one of them angrily grabbing Jesus by the curve of his neck and shoulder. Judas reaches across Jesus and grasps his shoulder in an embrace, lunging forward with a deadly kiss upon his lips. A servant holds a lamp aloft in astonishment and a man identified by some as John the Evangelist throws up his hands and screams “No!” to the world beyond. In the midst of this violent scene of movement and power and terror, it is Christ’s image that overpowers the painting. He sits serenely still, eyes closed in pain at Judas’ betrayal, knowing what is to come. (“Forgive them, Father, for they know not what they do.”) His hands are clasped loosely in his lap, fingers intertwined, patiently enduring the chaos around him, certainly praying as His world comes apart.

This picture feeds me every time I see it. It renews my faith and touches my heart. It reminds me to strive for grace under pressure and acceptance in the midst of pain. Take a few moments and visit: www.caravaggio.com and see if it feeds you, as well.

God’s peace and blessings,

Kathryn

Worship Is Giving God the Best He Has Given You

“Be careful what you do with the best you have. Whenever you get a blessing from God, give it back to Him as a love-gift. Take time to meditate before God and offer the blessing back to Him in a deliberate act of worship. If you hoard it for yourself, it will turn into spiritual dry rot, as the manna did when it was hoarded. God will never allow you to keep a spiritual blessing completely for yourself. It must be given back to Him so that He can make it a blessing to others.”

—Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*

A Thank You...

(Rector’s Column continued from page 1)

quirk of my own strange mind, but recently I have been pondering my use of the word character as in; “she/he is a real character.” I suppose I once used this phrase in a very Episcopalian and diplomatic way to describe someone who was difficult, and in much the same way that the equally diplomatic phrase “that’s interesting” was used to describe an ambiguous response to something. I now recognize that for many years past I have used it as an accolade of high degree.

The word “character” primarily means those attributes that distinguish one individual from another. Its secondary meaning is of moral and ethical strength; integrity. Informally “character” means an eccentric. When I use it, I have come to realize that I intend the combination of these last two meanings. In the realm of faith to be a “character” is something to strive towards, or at least long, for.

In the Christian context, the saints were and are both eccentrics, and individuals of profound integrity. This does not mean that any degree of proximity to them ever makes others necessarily comfortable; it can, but there’s absolutely no assurance of this. The Saints are and always have been real individuals; “characters” who refuse to conform to many of the norms of place, time, and culture. They refuse to be implicated in a standard of the bland leading the bland. I suppose it stands to reason that if one want to be a disciple/saint one has to be a “character”. Something to ponder when singing the song of the saints of God. “I mean, God helping, to be one too.” **Amen.**

In Christ’s love,

Paul

St. Luke’s Financial Information

	<u>September</u>	<u>Jan.-Sept.</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Pledge & Income	\$ 7,801.00	\$ 82,195.64	\$ 111,806.00	73.52%
All Other Income	\$ 685.58	\$ 17,815.49	\$ 22,750.00	77.45%
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 8,486.58	\$ 99,815.13	\$ 134,556.00	74.18%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 12,066.01	\$ 99,729.33	\$ 141,428.20	70.52%

I have no comments to add this month other than to thank everyone who have kept their pledges current and to request others to please bring their pledges up to date as we near the end of this fiscal year.

—Sally Hoover, Treasurer



The Rt. Rev. Thomas C. Ely enthusiastically greets parishioner & Vestry member, Peter Rosengarten, after the 10:00 a.m. worship service on October 23.

Bishop Ely Visited St. Luke's On October 23

The Rt. Rev. Thomas C. Ely, Bishop of the Diocese of Vermont, along with The Rev. Joel Hill, a Deacon at St. Michael's Church, Brattleboro, visited St. Luke's Church in Chester on Sunday, October 23, which happened to coincide with the *Feast Day of Saint Luke the Evangelist*. In his remarks to the congregation, Bishop Ely noted that many of the characteristics of Saint Luke's ministry in the gospels, (e.g. hospitality, reaching out helping hands to the community at large, and sharing God's love in many other special ways)—he was delighted to see reflected on St. Luke's Church "Giving Tree" display bulletin board at the back of the church. He challenged those present to think about what it means to be a member of this community of faith, about what is God calling us to do and to continue to share our stories with others. An informal reception was held for the Bishop in Willard Hall following the service with lots of good food enjoyed by all.

Holiday Wreath-Decorating Workshops on November 18 & 19

Parishioners, their friends, and members of the public are invited to participate in any of four November **Wreath-Decorating Workshops** that will take place in Willard Hall and benefit both St. Luke's Church and the Chester Conservation Committee. Friday, **November 18** offers three different workshop sessions: **9:30-11:00 a.m.**, **1:00-2:30 p.m.**, and **7:00-8:30 p.m.**. Saturday, **November 19** has one workshop: **9:00-10:30 a.m.**

Each Wreath Workshop costs \$35 and includes a fresh, pre-made evergreen wreath about 22" across, a huge variety of specially collected natural materials for decorations, plus bows, ribbons, glue guns, wire—all the essentials needed to create a very personal, one-of-a-kind wreath. Hot drinks and homemade goodies will help make the sessions even more festive and appealing. Because the numbers at each session are limited, attendees must preregister. Men and women are welcome to come alone or register with a friend or group. **A \$5 early-bird discount will apply to those who preregister and pay \$30 by November 3.**

Checks should be made out to "*St. Luke's Church*" designated for the "Wreath Workshop", and mailed to:

Lillian Willis, P. O. Box 318, Chester, VT 05143. For reservations or additional information, please contact **Lillian Willis** at lbwillisct@comcast.net or **802-875-1340**.

Anyone who has glue guns, clippers or wire cutters to lend for the workshops or special ribbons, decorations, or natural materials to donate—such as shells, unusual pine cones, berries (bayberries, juniper, *ilex verticillata*, sumac, etc.), milkweed pods, and any evergreens (white or Scotch pine, holly, boxwood, blue spruce, cedar, juniper, *arborvitae*, rhododendron, etc.) that can be cut closer to the workshop dates—is encouraged to contact me. Anyone interested in decorating additional wreaths



Morgan & her Mom, Kathleen Willis, proudly display the wreath they decorated at a previous workshop.

at the workshops that can be sold to the public, should also contact me as soon as possible so a realistic wreath order may be placed.

This is a great opportunity for people to support two good causes, start getting ready for the holidays, and have fun doing it! —**Lillian Willis**

Everything *And* The Kitchen Sink!



Despite a rainy, grey day the crew for this year's **Fall Tag Sale** did an outstanding job of coping with less than ideal conditions for holding this event. Wisely, John DesLauriers and Andrew Pennell (co-chairmen) made the decision to put most of the items to be sold inside Willard Hall. Along with a great team of helpers: Alison D., Don & Dee Robinson, Marcia Clinton, Norm Harrison, Bill Hoyt, Jane Davis, Jean Hancock, Anita Wright, Bud Watson, Red & Adelaide Johnson, Lew Watters, and Kathryn Wright—almost everything was arranged inside by Friday afternoon. There were some really outstanding values to be found as can be seen in some of the photos on this page. Many thanks to all who made donations.



Kathleen Willis found some great buys for her kids.

On Saturday morning, John and his team scrambled to locate a couple of small tents and set them up on the side lawn. They cleverly loaded a small wooden trailer with a huge pile of children's toys that had been donated to the sale and then put up a sign, "\$1.00 per piece, per bag or per container." They sold like gangbusters! The display under the outdoor tents also served as an attraction to draw potential customers and from there they were directed to the main part of the Tag Sale taking place in Willard Hall. It wasn't our best event from a fundraising standpoint (we netted \$628.25 by the end of the day) but it was successful in making St. Luke's a visible presence in the community that day and providing the opportunity to meet and chat with a variety of people. I am very grateful for the energetic team of helpers who added a ray of sunshine to an otherwise soggy day. —**John DesLauriers**



John DesLauriers and Norm Harrison man the tents on the side lawn at St. Luke's during the Tag Sale.



Some of the outstanding items that were offered at the Fall Tag Sale including a handsome antique child's rocker.



Customers found it hard to resist the offer of "\$1.00 per piece, per bag or per container."

The Christmas Tea Soon Will Be Here!

St. Luke's Annual **Christmas Tea & Sale** is just around the corner. This year's event will be held on Saturday, **December 3** from **11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Willard Hall**. The Christmas Tea is always a special celebration in the community life at St. Luke's and a wonderful opportunity to greet and share a joyful experience with folks from the surrounding communities.

We are seeking parishioners to help make this another successful fundraising event for St. Luke's. A small group of ladies met together for a few weeks in October to make Christmas ornaments and to cover coffee tins. Others from the congregation have been busy crafting items at home. We still need persons to bake Christmas cookies and other treats for the **Tea Buffet Table** as well as baked goods for sale at the **Holiday Food Table**.

Any contributions of items that might be a unique gift for someone or possibly be an irresistible treasure to another, are welcomed for **Grandma's Attic**. "**Cookies in a Tin**" (a dozen or more cookies of your choice that fit into a decorated 13 oz. coffee tin for \$4.00!) was a huge success last year. If **Marcia Leader** hasn't contacted you yet and you want to bake cookies, please give her a call (387-4308). There are many other ways you can help (donating paper goods, pouring tea, helping sell items, setting up & cleaning up, etc.) We would love to have some young children to act as little hostesses during the tea. Look for the **Christmas Tea Sign-up List of Needs** on the Guest Book podium at the rear of the Church and indicate how you can help. If you have any questions, please speak to Adelaide Johnson. Many thanks!

—*Adelaide Johnson & Pat Fromberger, Chairpersons*



St. Luke's
Christmas
Tea & Sale

Saturday, December 3
11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
in Willard Hall

Save the date and be sure to invite your friends and neighbors to this popular annual event!

- Hot Brewed Tea (& Mulled Cider)
- Christmas Cookies & Sweet Treats
- Tasty Tea Sandwiches
- Home Baked Holiday Foods
- Lovely Hand Quilted Items
- Grandma's Attic Bargains Galore
- Handcrafted Tree Ornaments



Do come & invite your friends & neighbors!

There Is No Substitute

The Christian community plays an important role in the life of discipleship because this community is nothing less than the body of Christ in the world today. It is among brothers and sisters in faith that we:

- experience the presence of Jesus Christ, living and incarnate;
- come together for worship, confess our sins, hear the gospel and receive Communion;
- accept church discipline through the gentle guidance of others;
- learn, through the successes and failures around us, what it means to live a life of discipleship.

"There is no substitute for living around other Christians," write Stanley Hauerwas and William Willimon of Duke Divinity School. A "primary way of learning to be disciples is by being in contact with others who are disciples" (Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony). We grow in discipleship as we strive with others to hear God's Word, feed the hungry, welcome strangers and love one another. —*Homiletics*

Special Choir Rehearsals

In preparation for the seasons of Advent and Christmas, Church Musician, Martha Stretton has scheduled 3 extra rehearsals on the following Saturday mornings from **9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.** at the Church: **November 19th, December 10th and December 17th**. If you would like to sing with the choir during these seasons, please come join us! No experience needed, just a joy of singing unto the Lord.

A Christian Symbol: Cornucopia



Cornucopia, a Greek word meaning "horn of plenty," has origins in Greek mythology. But the cornucopia became a religious symbol and was even stamped on Jewish coins. Overflowing horns, now common as Thanksgiving centerpieces, came to symbolize abundance and blessings.

The Outreach Corner

Operation Christmas Child Nearing Deadline Date

Sixty-one boxes have been decorated and filled for *Operation Christmas Child*!

We still need LOTS of help so here are several ways you can help:

- **Donate some time to decorate and fill boxes.**
- **Donate supplies to fill the boxes.**
- **Contribute to the shipping costs.**
- **Pray for the children to receive these boxes.**

We are in short supply of pencils, crayons, wash cloths, and small toys for boys of every age. We could also use some dual power calculators, decks of cards, McDonald-type toys, etc. If you have any questions, please call me (875-3292) or speak to me at church.

Remember our change for children jar at the back of the church for all those pennies you don't want. All of these coins goes towards the shipping of the boxes.

We have until **November 20th** to get as many boxes done as we can. Thanks for your help and prayers. —*Cindy Roundy-Winston*

The Mitten Basket Appeal



The Mitten Basket is back in Willard Hall and gradually filling up, but we still are appealing to all knitters to keep your needles 'clacking'. There is a need for many mittens and hats (made to fit children from kindergarten to second grade ages 5-8 yrs.) They will be distributed to area schools in December.

The mittens are quite simple to make and beginners who wish to learn to knit should contact **Marcia Clinton, 875-3531**, and she will put you in touch with a mentor.



Blessing of The Pets An Ever Popular Event

Always a fun event, St. Luke's Annual Pet Blessing took place on a beautiful, sunny Saturday morning on October 8th. Twelve well-behaved (for the most part) pets that included golden retrievers, a terrier, an elegant mid-size poodle, Marcia Clinton's feisty dachshund trio (Spike Jones, Minnie Pearl and Baby Snooks), Kathryn Wright's "Mable", a pug/cocker mix and the senior in the group, a couple of other dog breeds I didn't recognize plus two brave cats—gathered with their owners on the back lawn of the Church to receive a special blessing. The rapt expression on each animal's face as Paul places his hand on their head and blesses them, is a beautiful sight to behold.

"The church is about loving another because he or she is a creature of God. It is about expanding our own parameters and boundaries, so that we can imagine God's love for those who frighten or shock us." (*Forward Day By Day 11/15/09*)

Come Join Us For A Starry Night Progressive Dinner on November 4



The sunflowers are a sign of a lovely fall evening when we celebrate the newcomers at St. Luke's. The starry night "Newcomers/Old-Timers Progressive Dinner" is on **Friday, November 4**. (so you need to respond quickly if you want to attend this fun event!) Car pooling station is the church at 5:45 p.m. and from there we head to **Bill & Julie Hoyt's in Weston** for appetizers and drinks. At 7:15 p.m. we return to Chester to the **Watters** in the Stone Village, and lastly pop over to Main Street for desserts at the cozy home of **Ruth & Norm Harrison** at 8:30 p.m.. No newcomer is allowed to prepare food. The sunflower invitations have been mailed to the honored guests. Old-timers should sign-up with the Watters and indicate what they might bring to enhance the meal offerings like appetizers, vegetables, bread, salad, dessert, or even wine. There is only one progressive newcomers dinner this year, so let's make this the fun this celebration always produces among us. —**Bonnie Watters**

Choral Evensong Service on November 6th

The Rector and Choir of St. Luke's Church invite you to a service of **Choral Evensong** on All Saints' Sunday, **November 6**, at **4:00 p.m.**, preceded by an Organ Prelude at **3:45 p.m.** Evensong was created by Thomas Cranmer from the sevenfold monastic cycle of prayer—the two offices of Vespers and Compline are combined and set to serene music. Using the liturgy in the *Book of Common Prayer*, the officiant, choir and congregation make their evening prayers together, chanting the beloved canticles, the Magnificat and the Nunc dimittis. The liturgy also includes prayers of intercession and thanksgiving, Old and New Testament readings, a hymn, and an anthem.

This contemplative service allows the participant to be drawn into a deeper awareness of God. You are cordially invited to end your Sunday afternoon with this gathering of hearts longing for God "as our eyes behold the vesper light." A reception in Willard Hall follows the service.

Special November Services At St. Luke's:

- **November 1 – All Saints' Day**, Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 6:30 p.m.
- **November 6 – Choral Evensong**: Organ Prelude, 3:45 p.m.; Worship Service 4:00 p.m.
- **November 23 – Holy Eucharist, Rite II**, 6:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve

Special LITS Deadline Alert!

The deadline for the December LITS is earlier than usual (Nov. 16th) due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. I will need to get the newsletter to the printer by Friday, Nov. 18th. —*the Editor*

We Invite You To Dinner Church, Nov. 12

St. Luke's first Dinner Church was held in October with 17 persons attending. Everyone liked the informal yet sacred format and felt it was worth continuing on a monthly basis. The next **Dinner Church** is being planned for Saturday, **November 12** in Willard Hall beginning at **6:00 p.m.** This time around there will be teams assigned to the various tasks of setting-up, food preparation and clean-up. Watch for final details in the Sunday Bulletin and sign up and come to the feast.



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 & faith. We are reading, "Keys of the Kingdom" by A. J. Cronin. 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:**
Thursdays, **7:00PM-8:00PM** and on Sunday mornings at **9:15AM** at the church. We will have a special Saturday Rehearsal, 9:30AM-11:30AM on November 19th in the Sanctuary.

LESS THAN WEEKLY

- **Newcomers/Old-Timers Dinner:**
Friday, **November 4th**, a Progressive Dinner to welcome new members. Read the details in the article at top of page.
- **Adult Evening Bible Study:**
Tuesdays, **November 8th & 22nd** at **6:30PM** in Willard Hall and ending promptly at **8:00PM** with Compline. We are reading the book of Isaiah. All welcome to join us.
- **St. Luke's Dinner Church:**
Saturday, **November 12th**, **6:00PM**, Willard Hall. See details at left.
- **Parish/Vestry Discussion:**
Wednesday, **November 16th**, **5:30-7:00PM**, Willard Hall. Join us for a light supper and further discussion of St. Luke's Vision statement.
- **St. Luke's Vestry Meeting:**
Wednesday, **November 16th**, **7:00PM**, in Willard Hall, immediately following the Vision discussion. Focus will be on Outreach.
- **Wreath-Decorating Workshops:**
Friday, **November 18th** & Saturday **November 19th** in Willard Hall. See the article on page 3 for the times and other details.
- **Christmas Tea Workshop:**
Monday, **November 28th**, **1:30PM-3:00PM** in Willard Hall. We will be assembling the table centerpieces. Join us if you can.

NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays:

1 Elizabeth Assenza	15 Lily Jones
3 Chris Dakin	17 Peter Rosengarten
3 Louise Park	18 Betsy Stretton
11 Richard Hunter	19 Carter Evelyn Willis
11 Chilton Williamson	20 Julie Hoyt
12 Marti Assenza	26 Dale Deming
13 Luke Allen Pennell	26 Joe Fromberger
14 Russ Gagnon	

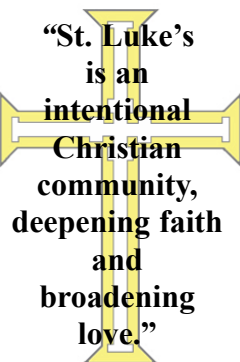
Anniversaries:

- 16 Norm & Irene Wright
- 18 Bill & Leigh Dakin

December LITS Deadline:

 **NOV. 16th**

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



✝ WORSHIP SCHEDULE ✝

- Nov. 1 ALL SAINTS' DAY**
6:30 PM Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- Nov. 6 PENTECOST XXI (Proper 27)**
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II
3:45 PM Organ Prelude
4:00 PM Choral Evensong (Reception to follow)
- Nov. 13 PENTECOST XXII (Proper 28)**
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- Nov. 20 LAST PENTECOST (Proper 29)**
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- Nov. 27 THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

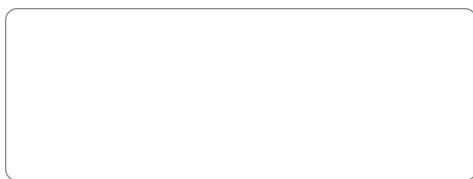
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. in Willard Hall. Child Care: 10:00 a.m. Service

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The Rev. H. Paul Brannock-Wanter, Rector
The Rev. Sanford R. Johnson, Priest Associate
The Rev. Donna Reidt, Priest Associate

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