



Light in the Shadows

FEBRUARY 2015

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

So We Begin A New Chapter

"...And immediately they left their nets and followed him." (Mark 1:18)



It is good to finally be here with you at St. Luke's in Chester, VT. The journey here began for me the end of July when I wrote my first letter to the Diocese of Vermont expressing my interest in pursuing a call here. My interest was piqued when I browsed the St. Luke's website and studied your church profile. What I saw and read was a faith community full of the vibrancy for the

Lord that only the Spirit can enable. It still took St. Luke's and me, each in our way, several more months of waiting on God in prayer and seeking counsel from trusted individuals and spiritual leaders.

In late November, I received a written invitation from Lew Watters for Doug and me to come for a visit. Wow! From the moment we arrived, the MDC and the vestry

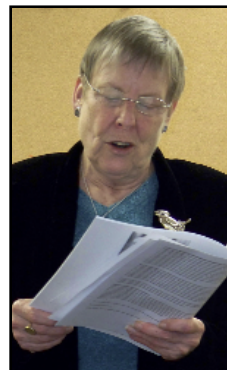
members of St. Luke's welcomed us and made us feel right at home. We had a great time together despite the Nor'easter that came to pay us all a visit. Our hosts, Penny and her daughter, Rachel, at the Inn Victoria, where we stayed, welcomed us with a cup of tea when we showed up late that first evening. Doug and I were humbled by the genuine hospitality and warmth from you and from the town of Chester.

A little less than week later, after Doug and I returned to Lakewood, CO,

Kathryn Wright phoned me with the invitation to come and to serve as your next Rector. To be honest, I was pretty



Annual Parish Meeting Highlights



St. Luke's held their Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 18. Following the one service at 10:00 a.m., members recessed downstairs to Willard Hall to enjoy a sumptuous potluck brunch prior to segueing into the annual meeting agenda. It was a smaller gathering (21 adults and 7 children) than in previous years, due to the fact that several members were out of town that weekend.

The meeting was moderated by Senior Warden, Kathryn Wright and Lillian Willis was appointed the Recording Secretary. The minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting were approved after noting that a page from the 2013 minutes had inadvertently been included. Kathryn invited questions and/or discussions of in the 2014 Annual Report Booklet and as there were none we moved on to the **Vestry Elections**: Four Vestry members have resigned: Richard Crocker, Bill Hoyt, Marcia Leader, and Peter Rosengarten. Parishioners elected six current Vestry members to new terms: Lynda Farmer, Lillian Willis, and Kathryn Wright for three-year terms; Jane Davis, Pat Fromberger, and Andrew Pennell for two-year terms. Parishioners elected the following four parishioners to newly serve on the Vestry: Marty Assenza, Janet Hunter, and Sean Whalen for one-year terms; Belinda Whipple-Worth for a two-year term.

"As with Jesus and the disciples, we, too, have been called into a new chapter in the life and ministry of St. Luke's. Together, may we embrace this opportunity and readily answer God's call to serve."

—Rev. Heidi L. Edson

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From the Senior Warden

New Faces On The Vestry

The membership of St. Luke's Vestry has been frozen for more than two years, which was a requirement the Diocese had to ensure stability and continuity during the search process. That requirement ended once we called Heidi, however, and four members gratefully retired and four new vestry members were elected at the Annual Meeting in late January. We will miss Peter Rosengarten, Marcia Leader, Bill Hoyt and Richard Crocker. And we are blessed to have Belinda Whipple-Worth, Marti Assenza, Janet Hunter and Sean Whalen joining the vestry. In addition to new energy, these new vestry members will bring new perspectives, new skills and new ideas as we move forward.



The Senior Warden is sometimes called "the rector's warden," and is appointed by clergy. Heidi has asked me to continue as Senior Warden for another year, and I was happy and honored to accept.

This is your 10-member Vestry. Talk to us. We're doing God's work on your behalf and would welcome your input. And pray for us, for wisdom and strength.

Marti Assenza

Jane Davis

Lynda Farmer

Pat Fromberger

Janet Hunter

Andrew Pennell, Jr. Warden

Sean Whalen

Belinda Whipple-Worth

Lillian Willis, Clerk/Recording Secretary

Kathryn Wright, Sr. Warden

So We Begin A New Chapter

(Continued from page 1)

dumbfounded and couldn't say anything (as Kathryn will attest to), so surprised I was! After talking it over with Doug, I phoned Kathryn back the next morning and accepted the Call. Then I started thinking, "Yikes! What am I getting into?" But as Doug and I started saying our farewells to our friends and colleagues from Colorado, it became more apparent with each passing day that coming to Chester to serve and to be among you here at St. Luke's is what God has in store for us. We are humbled that God would give us this gift of an open door into your community.

How wonderful to begin our lives together this Season of the Epiphany. In many ways, our stories parallel the stories we hear during this time: Jesus' baptism by John the Baptizer in the river Jordan, the forty long and difficult days Jesus spent in the wilderness discerning and preparing for His public ministry, and then His call to the disciples to join Him. As with Jesus and the disciples, we, too, have been called into a new chapter in the life and ministry of St. Luke's. Together, may we embrace this opportunity and readily answer God's call to serve.

Doug and I are eager to learn all we can about you and the communities in which you live and work. Feel free to contact us or me and stop by sometime for a visit.

**In Christ, together,
Heidi L. Edson+**

At The Core

Prayer is the core of our day. Take prayer out, and the day would collapse, would be pithless, a straw blown in the wind. But how can you pray—really pray, I mean—with one against whom you have a grudge or whom you have been discussing critically with another? Try it. You will find it cannot be done. —*Amy Carmichael*



Church School Children Meet The Outreach Ministers

On Meeting Ministers Sunday, February 11, Sally Hoover and Jane Davis, chair ladies of the Outreach Committee joined us, not on chairs, but on the floor in our circle. We talked briefly of how God gave us the earth and the heavens without our asking and that it was better to give than receive. Sally asked the Whalen kids if they knew anyone who needed something. They did. The ladies shared how St. Luke's gives to organizations in the world, the state and in Chester. Food, money and time were gifts, but some in fact asked and received. Our activity this day was to make and then give Jacob beautifully-crafted goodbye/good luck/will miss you cards.

Annual Meeting Highlights...

(Continued from page 1)

• **Election of Convention Delegates and Alternates:** Jean Hancock, Janet Hunter, and Kathryn Wright were elected as the 2015 Delegates; Marti Assenza, Rick Hunter, and Belinda Whipple-Worth as the 2015 Alternates.

• **Fund Raising Events Chairs** were decided as follows;

• **August Supper:** Kathryn Wright will chair a committee that includes Bonnie and Lew Watters and Janet Hunter.

• **The Silent Auction** needs a new chair and fresh attractions if it is to make significant money.

• **Fall Foliage Sale On The Screen:** Lew Watters and John Des Lauriers will co-chair again, but Lew stressed that interesting donations are needed to make the event a financial success.

• **Christmas Tea & Sale:** Adelaide Johnson and Pat Fromberger agreed to be the co-chairs again.

• **Maple Fest (PINS Fundraiser):** Marcia Clinton will chair and has set the date for March 21, 2015. (See page 6.)

• **Presentation of the 2015 Budget** was done by Treasurer, Bonnie Johnson. The 2015 Budget, which had been approved by the Vestry on January 12, 2015, has a \$25,000 deficit (which is actually down \$2,235 from 2014). The church has had a deficit budget ("faith-based budget") for 6 years, but has always managed to come out all right at the end of each year. Discussion and questions were invited. The assembly expressed their heartfelt thanks to Bonnie for her outstanding efforts as treasurer.

• **Other matters:** Lillian Willis announced the 4th annual **LEGO Contest**, sponsored by St. Luke's, will be held on Saturday, **March 21st** at the Newsbank Conference Center in Chester. The question was raised as to why we didn't hold the contest at St. Luke's and the answer was simply, "There isn't the space for the huge turnout of this popular event." See Contest details on page 4 of this newsletter.

• **Closing Prayer:** Joining hands and voices, together we recited the Lord's Prayer, followed by a final blessing from The Rev. Sanford Johnson. The meeting was adjourned at 12:43p.m.



One of the attributes of God that keeps coming up in scripture is God's scandalous extravagance. He scatters his love far more broadly and recklessly than we tend to do. There is always, God seems to think, a chance that seed—even seed wasted on poor soil—will flourish against the odds.

—Forward Day By Day, 2/20/2008

If we are to accept the teaching of Jesus at all, then the only test of the reality of a man's religion is his attitude to his fellow men. The only possible proof that a man loves God is the demonstrated fact that he loves his fellow men.

—William Barclay

LEGO Alert: 2015 LEGO Contest Is March 21: 🖱️ Pre-Registration Deadline Is March 16



Above: A very happy, Noah Jones accepting his prize and congratulations at the 2014 LEGO Contest.

The annual **LEGO Contest**, sponsored by St. Luke's, will once again take place at the **NewsBank Conference Center**, 352 Main Street, Chester, VT 05143. Last year over 175 enthusiastic children and adults from 15 towns in Vermont and 3 in New Hampshire viewed fabulously different creations in the comfortable space generously donated by NewsBank, Inc. Our winter LEGO Contest gives young people and their families additional incentive during inclement weather to use their imagination and possibly collaborate on a project. The event is open to the public and will be held **9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday March 21**. The \$10 Early Bird pre-registration deadline is March 16. After that date, the entry fee goes to \$15.

LEGOManiacs Pre-K through Grade 8 and their families are invited to enter and display their original creations (no kits are allowed) for others to admire. Entries should be constructed at home, brought to the NewsBank Conference Center, and set up in a space of approximately 18 inches x 30 inches from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on the day of the contest. Entries will be judged in different grade categories from 10:00 a.m. to noon for their originality, imagination, and presentation. If a structure is a team entry, the age of the oldest member will determine the grade category. There is also a separate family team class for collaborations by children and adults. The judges like to speak with every

entrant to make sure they understand each entry's theme and details before they write comments on each entry card. Those comments are very supportive and helpful.

Starting around 12:30 p.m. LEGO prizes will be awarded to the winners and runners-up in the grade and family team divisions, with special awards for the *Judges' Choice for Best in Show* and *Most Vermont Creations*. New this year will be the opportunity for the entrants themselves to vote for the one entry they like best. That prize will be known as *Creators' Choice*. During set-up and while the judges are speaking with the entrants, participants will have the chance to check out the other fabulous entries and to share techniques and ideas with the other exhibitors. Refreshments will be on sale to encourage people to stay and view the different entries.

Participants should **pre-register by March 16** to be assured of a space. Entry forms may be downloaded from Special Events at www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org and www.ourchester.org. Printed forms are available at the Whiting Library and Chester-Andover Elementary School on Main Street in Chester.

A check for the pre-registration fee of \$10 per entry should be made out to "St. Luke's Church" (with a memo: Lego registration) and mailed, along with the registration form, to the **Registrar, Lillian Willis, P. O. Box 318, Chester, VT 05143**. Both the entry form and fee must be received by March 16 in order to reserve a space. Entries after March 16 and on the day of the contest will be \$15, if there is space; but to avoid disappointment, pre-registration is strongly encouraged.

LEGO prizes are a big incentive for participants, but are very expensive; so we are seeking donations from those who want to support this family program. Please make your donation check out to St. Luke's, mark LEGO in the memo section, and send to Lillian Willis or put in the plate at Sunday service.

A portion of the proceeds from the program will go to the Children's Library at the Whiting Library, which will display a winning entry for all to see. For additional information, please call Lillian Willis at 802-875-1340.

This will be the fourth year for this event, which every year grows in popularity. With this early notice, we hope you'll be able to spread the word to every child you think might be interested so this will be the most successful year yet. Thank you for your help. —**Lillian Willis**

"Love is our true destiny. We do not find the meaning of life by ourselves alone — we find it with another."

— Thomas Merton

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Three A's... Ashley, Alleluia and Amen!

Ashley Paine is a teen by my standards, 47 years younger than I, born January 16, 1987 in Greenfield, Massachusetts. She has one younger sister, and they would relate to my girls who loved playing outside together too. Her childhood days were spent on horseback, on a bike or at the piano, dutifully doing her piano lessons when she and her sister were done playing. Family remains important and reading was a passion and still is.

No surprise, Ashley's musical interests continued in high school, playing flute in the concert and marching band. In her senior year the music director coached her to conduct a piece with the band that was brought to a competition. From the beginning of her high school years she accompanied the school chorus, and also enjoyed accompanying at her home church, First United Methodist of Brattleboro, as well as at her piano teacher's church in Greenfield, MA. Additionally she acted in the drama club and was in the National Honor Society. In her happy school years she even tackled foreign language and science courses—an all around girl! At sixteen Ashley began working at Hannaford in Brattleboro and worked there through college. No doubt she acquired her great people skills in this great first work experience.

Ashley attended Plymouth State University to study music education, piano performance and pedagogy. She continued playing the flute in the University Symphonic Band and sang in the University Chorale. She became a member of the Music Teachers National Association. While in college she was the organist and accompanist at the Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ. Her experience includes various accompanying gigs for Community Theater, instrumental and vocal soloists at PSU, schools and churches. Upon graduation from college, Ashley was a long-term music sub at Pittsfield Elementary School in Pittsfield, NH; and in the fall of 2010, she began her present position as music teacher at Westminster Schools in Westminster, VT. No fibbing; she still finds time for reading, running, yoga, gardening, cooking, hiking, and of course music!



Ashley at the organ on her first Sunday as St. Luke's Church Musician

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We have Martha Stretton to thank, as most of you know, since the two met at the Springfield Community Chorus in 2010 and two years later, Ashley began substituting for Martha at St. Luke's. Today she accompanies the Chorus as well. Lucky us, she finds our congregation and services warm, inviting, and fulfilling. Fortunately, we had the good sense to hire her for the musician position on Jacob's departure.

Ashley loves animals, and she and her husband Brian have a black lab mix named Ernie. She also has a turtle named Scooter who lives at school but "summers" with the couple at home in North Springfield.

"My hope is that the whole congregation learns and enjoys both new and familiar music together, and that we remember that we can all be musical," says our music treasure. Teach us, Ashley. We will behave, just like Ernie and Scooter! —**Bonnie Watters**

Lenten Living

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18 this year. Christians have observed this season of the church year since the fourth century. It's traditionally a time of reflection, penitence and spiritual renewal before Easter.

During Lent, some Christians give up something that hinders their relationship with God. Others do something extra for their spiritual growth or make a special sacrifice. The key is to make Lent a memorable season of sincere spiritual growth—a time that can set the tone for the rest of the year.

The Outreach Corner



Gearing Up For Maple Fest 2015

The annual PINS (Partners in Service) fundraiser, the **Maple Fest Dinner**, will be held Saturday, **March 21**, at **6:00 p.m.** in Willard Hall. The menu this year will be a pork roast dinner; with all the side dishes and desserts having a touch of pure maple syrup. Wine will also be available to accompany dinner.

In the past years the “Maple Fest Raffle” has always been a highlight of the evening with tickets drawn immediately after dinner. The raffle relies on donations from the congregation and the many people who step up and give. Perhaps you have an unwanted Christmas gift and are looking for a way to share it with someone who will love it. We’ll take it! Just call **Marcia Clinton** at 875-3531 to make arrangements for pick up.

A successful Maple Fest relies on many volunteers—cooks, bakers, wait staff, clean-up crew—to name a few. Please consider giving us your assistance and we promise you will have a fun evening.—**Marcia**

Operation Christmas Child

We have already begun preparations for the 2015 shoebox campaign and seek your help. Please come join us for an **Operation Christmas Child Workshop** after the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, **February 8th** in Willard Hall. We will be making bookmarks. If you can cut, paste & color we could use your help. We are still collecting all sizes of caps, especially laundry detergent, water bottles and yogurt container lids. You can hand them to me after church or place them in the large black plastic bin under the OCC display table located in Willard Hall.

Remember Our Soldiers

Please don’t forget our soldiers and take a few minutes to write a caring note to them each week after church. There are blank cards in a special basket in Willard Hall for your convenience. Keep in mind that these soldiers are on the front lines with no other support besides us. Thanks to you, each soldier received a Happy Holidays poster along with 12 Christmas cards in December. Thank you for helping with this ministry. —**Cindy**

Best Wishes To Jacob!

Sunday, January 11, was Jacob McLaughlin’s last day serving as St. Luke’s Church Musician & Organist and we held a mini farewell party for him following the 10:00 a.m. service that day. Knowing Jacob’s fondness for distinctive neckties, the choir members presented him with a bright red necktie that had a definite musical theme. As you can see from the photo, Jacob loved the tie and quickly put it on. He even awed our Senior Warden, Kathryn, who commented afterwards, “I am so impressed that he knew how to tie a necktie and without a mirror!” We wish Jacob the very best in his endeavors to broaden his musical career and are most grateful for the having had the opportunity to experience his special gift of music at St. Luke’s. Best wishes, Jacob!



MARCH LITS Deadline:

FEBRUARY 20th



Send all articles, announcements, photos, etc. to:

Pat Fromberger, 180 Gates Road
Andover, VT 05143

Email: panjoe@vermontel.net



John Is All Set To Flip Flapjacks At The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



St. Luke's invites you to their annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, **February 17** beginning at **5:30 p.m. in Willard Hall**. John DesLauriers is stepping up to the grill to flip the pancakes and Bonnie Watters is providing her "Joy of Cooking" batter. The sausage patties are on order from Lisai's and are being donated by the Watters, filling the gap left by the Harrisons, who provided sausage patties for more years than we can count.

We do need fruit, however, (fresh or canned) for the fruit bowl salad and ask that members bring their donations on the Sunday before (February 15th.) Then the only thing left to do is get out the word and

invite your friends and neighbors! This is a great opportunity to introduce people to our special brand of hospitality. The supper is free but there will be baskets on each table for a free-will offering to benefit *Episcopal Relief & Development*. *

*Footnote: Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) uses our financial gifts in the most effective ways possible to serve and support people suffering worldwide. Visit their website to learn more. <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/>



St. Luke's Financial Information

	<u>Dec. 2014</u>	<u>Total 2014</u>	<u>2014 Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Plate/Pledge Income	\$ 10,505.76	\$104,572.12	\$ 106,940.00	97.8%
Other Oper. Income	\$ 3,870.06	\$ 16,945.60	\$ 27,206.00	62.3%
Restricted Income	\$ 417.76	\$ 8,565.91		
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 14,973.58	\$130,083.63	\$ 134,146.00	97.0%
Regular Expense	\$ 11,329.79	\$115,115.25	\$ 154,536.16	72.2%
Restricted Expense	\$ 2,906.19	\$ 12,562.22		
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 14,235.98	\$127,677.47	\$ 156,536.16	82.7%
NET INCOME		\$ 2,046.16		

This is a summary of our 2014 year-end financial status. I reported at the Annual Meeting that we ended the year with a deficit of about \$ 4,000.00. I realized after the meeting that this included about \$6,370.00 in depreciation which does not impact the money in the checkbook. As far as our available cash, we actually came out about \$2,000.00 ahead of where we were at the beginning of 2014. Considering we lost a couple of large pledges during the year, I think we did very well. Thank you to everyone who helped make this work.

The Finance Committee prepared and the Vestry has accepted another faith-based budget for 2015. That means that, once again, we are facing a rather large deficit (about \$25,500.00). This is not much different from what we have dealt with for the last 5-6 years. I am confident that we will again make ends meet. I hope everyone will keep this in mind throughout the year and take advantage of any fund-raising ideas you might come up with to help. I am looking forward to a great year with our new rector leading us forward.—*Bonnie Johnson, Treasurer*

FEBRUARY

Meeting & Events

WEEKLY

• Lunch Bunch Book Study:

Mondays, Noon-1:15PM in Willard Hall for a bag lunch, discussion & prayer. We are currently reading, "Traveling Mercies—Some Thoughts on Faith" by Anne Lamott. Please come join us.

• St. Luke's Choir Rehearsals:

Sundays, 9:00 a.m. in the church sanctuary for warm-up and rehearsal. New choir members are welcomed. Speak to Ashley Paine, Church Musician, if you have an interest.

LESS THAN WEEKLY

• Vestry Monthly Meeting:

Thursday, February 19th, in Willard Hall; **6:30PM, Bible Study; 7:00PM, Regular Meeting Agenda**. Focus: Welcoming new members & meeting schedule. All parishioners are welcome to attend these meetings.

• Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper:

Tuesday, February 17th, 5:30PM; in Willard Hall. Pancakes, sausage, fruit cup and fun! See article on this page for more details..

• Ash Wednesday Services:

Wednesday, February 18th, 8:00AM & 6:30PM at St. Luke's for Imposition of Ashes and the Penitential Order of Holy Eucharist.

• Operation Christmas Child Workshop In February:

Sunday, February 8th, following the 10:00AM service. We will be making bookmarks. See page 6 for more details.

Looking Ahead

• LEGO Contest:

Saturday, March 21st, 9:00AM & 1:00PM at the **Newsbank Conference Center**, Main St. Chester. Registration required. See article on page 4 for the complete details.

• Maple Fest Dinner & Raffle:

Saturday, March 21st, 6:00PM in Willard Hall. See article on page 6 for more information.

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays:

4 Pat Fromberger	17 Marjorie DesLauriers
6 Harold (Red) Johnson	17 Linda Doll
10 Mary Anderson	23 Fred Fielder
10 Field Willis	23 Bill Reed
12 Leigh Dakin	

Anniversaries:

12 Brad & Bev Dunbar

Special Dates

- African-American History Month
- Boy Scout Sunday, Feb. 8
- Valentine's Day, Feb. 14
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, Feb. 15
- Presidents Day, Feb. 16
- Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18
- First Sunday in Lent, Feb. 22

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

✠ WORSHIP SCHEDULE ✠

Feb. 1

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

Feb. 8

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

Feb. 15

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

Feb. 18

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist I, Imposition of Ashes
6:30 PM Holy Eucharist II, Imposition of Ashes

Feb. 22

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

☛ **CHURCH SCHOOL:** Begins at **10:00 a.m.** in the sanctuary & then recesses to Willard Hall after the Collect of the Day.

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

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St. Luke's Episcopal Church
P. O. Box 8, Chester, VT 05143
Return for ADDRESS CORRECTION
Or if Undeliverable

