



Light in the Shadows

JUNE 2012

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

Transitions And Transformation



We at St. Luke's are entering a new phase in our life as a parish, just as Fr. Paul is embarking on a new chapter in his life and ministry. In his sermon on May 20th, Fr. Ian Montgomery spoke of some of our feelings as we enter this transition. The bottom line to his message is that we are held in God's hand as we move forward and God calls us to the fulfillment of His purpose for our parish and lives. On Friday evening, May

18th and the following morning, the Vestry met for their annual retreat. It is a time of fellowship and a time to look ahead in our life together. This year the focus was on our transition, and Canon Lynn Bates, the Diocesan Deployment officer, was with us to talk about our search for a new rector, and how the process proceeds. Friday evening Fr. Paul and I joined the Vestry as we offered our thanks and appreciation to Fr. Paul for his ten plus years as our rector. Then on Saturday Canon Bates and the Vestry met (without any clergy) to explore the process and way ahead.

*"We know that we are
God's and that He
holds us in His hand
and calls us forth to
the fulfillment of
our being in
His Kingdom."*

—Fr. Sanford R. Johnson

arrival? Will we have a safe journey? And on and on. If anyone is to be honest about it, they have to admit some fear and trepidation about the act.

This is where I find us at this moment. We have just let go of the first trapeze (our journey in faith with Fr. Paul as

The image that I keep seeing over the past couple of weeks or so is that of a trapeze artist. This seems to express where we are at this moment in our transition. The artist is to "fly through the air" from one trapeze to another. Amongst other things it takes trust and faith to do this. Will the timing be right? Will the trapeze on the far side meet us on our



Highlights of St. Luke's Vestry Retreat on May 18-19

The two-day Vestry Retreat, hosted by Jane Davis and Jean Hancock at beautiful Blue Hill Farm in Chester, was a time for new and current Vestry members to get to know one another better, conduct regular monthly business, and address the major matter of Paul's retirement and the continuation of services and other church responsibilities in the immediate and near future until a interim minister can be found.

At the Friday night dinner meeting, among many business matters, camp scholarships were awarded, progress reported on the plaque installation for the Memorial Garden, and plans for Recognition Sunday/Annual Parish Picnic on June 10, and recognition of a parishioner for "The Good & Faithful Servant award." The remainder of the evening was devoted to attendees sharing their personal experiences of the many positive ways Paul's ministry at St. Luke's has impacted their lives and their faith. Vestry members were urged to invite other members of the congregation to also make their appreciation known to Paul before the farewell celebration being planned for Sunday, July 1.

The Saturday morning session was dedicated to addressing the short- and long-term needs of St. Luke's and its members due to Paul's retirement and the immediate alternatives to supplying those needs, as well as the long-term process of seeking a new minister and the several choices regarding a part-time or full-time position. (Please see Kathryn Wright's separate article on page 2) The meeting

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From the Senior Warden

A Person of Prayer



The Vestry held our Annual Retreat on May 18th and 19th, and we made a lot of progress in identifying the process that we must go through to call a new rector. We met with **Lynn Bates**, Canon to the Ordinary and the Diocese's Deployment Officer, who provided us with lots of reading material

and posed many questions that we need to answer before we can begin our search. Do we want to call an Interim, who would act as our Rector during the search process? (Since we will continue Fr. Paul's salary and benefits through October, we would call an Interim who would begin on November 1.) Do we want to align ourselves with another parish that may be struggling? If you have thoughts on either of these questions, I urge you to speak with me or another member of the Vestry. It is critical that each member of the parish has an opportunity to contribute their viewpoint on these issues.

Once we have made decisions on these two questions, we will form two committees to proceed with the search. The Self-Study Committee will compile information regarding the abundant gifts in our parish, a tally of what we have to offer to a new rector, and where we envision ourselves in the next five years. The Discernment Committee will seek and screen candidates and ultimately present their final choices to the Vestry. Each of these sub-committees of the Vestry will consist of seven members, two from the Vestry and five from the general church population. Membership in either committee will require a huge time commitment, as both will involve many, many meetings and lots of reading and discussion and prayer. The primary criteria for joining either committee, "the one bedrock quality needed in every person who will serve in this capacity, is that they are spiritually committed persons of prayer". If you are interested, centered in daily prayer and eager to do the work in finding a new rector, please let me know on which committee you'd like to serve.

The Vestry needs your prayers. We have been charged with filling the huge vacancy that Father Paul

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Transitions And Transformation

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our Rector) and we are flying though the air towards the second trapeze (that day when St. Luke's next Rector will be here and settled). We have just started this journey (this flight) and we have some anxiety, along with questions to which we don't yet see the answers. We are starting a transition and a change. (And I above all others don't like change! I shall miss the joy the past four years have brought me as I worked alongside my friend Fr. Paul.) However, we are also entering into a transformation of our life as a parish and as people of God. As St. Paul says in his letters, we eagerly await what we shall become even though we can't see at this moment what it shall be.

We know that we are God's and that He holds us in His hand and calls us forth to the fulfillment of our being in His Kingdom. And we know that His Son, Jesus Christ, is always with us. We also affirm that as we journey, we go with Jesus Christ, the One who is the Journey, and the Journey's end. Thanks be to God!

*Blessings,
Fr. Sanford*



Real Prayer

Prayer is a direction of life, a focusing of one's most personal and deepest attention Godward. The purpose is to love God and learn to know him so well that our wills, our actions, will be more and more aligned with his, until even our subconscious reactions and purposes will have the mark of his love, his life, about them. Prayer is no longer an "activity." It [becomes] the continuing language of that relationship God designed to fulfill a human life.

—Keith Miller, The Taste of New Wine

will leave in our church, an overwhelming task that seems daunting at this point. We need your prayers for wisdom, your interest in the work that we are doing, and your encouragement as we move forward. Replacing our beloved Rector, going through the lengthy and complicated process outlined by the Diocese, is a job for everyone in the parish. With God's help, and all our prayers, we will get the job done.

*Your Sister in Christ,
Kathryn*

Highlights of Vestry Retreat...

(continued from page 1)

was run by **Lynn Bates** from the Vermont Diocese. She is Canon to the Ordinary, a trained Transition Minister, and also a formal representative of the Bishop. She stressed that she and the Bishop are in partnership with us in the search and provided a variety of helpful written materials to aid the Vestry in the process. She noted that the search usually took 18-24 months in order to be able to assess the needs and desires of the parish, recruit the members to serve on the Ministry Discernment Committee (formerly called the Search Committee), and do the necessary research and visitations to narrow the candidates. While there is much to do, fortunately between Sanford's help and that of Ian Montgomery, the immediate basic needs are covered. That leaves the next and most important mission for a good and proper celebration of Paul's ministry when he returns for his last sermon and service on Sunday, July 1.



There will be only one service (at 10:00 a.m.) that day so that our entire community can share this time together. It is hoped that all who value Paul's ministry at St. Luke's over the past ten plus years will attend this fond farewell.

—**Lillian Willis**, *Recording Secretary/Clerk*



We're Having a Party!

Father Paul's last Sunday with us will be July 1st, when he returns from a month's vacation to celebrate his final worship service at St. Luke's. We are going to have a big **Farewell Reception** for him immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service that day (there will be just one service.) We plan to erect a

tent on the back lawn to accommodate extra guests as we will be inviting clergy and other folks from Chester and surrounding communities to join us, making it a festive event.

Plans are still in the works and we welcome your ideas for honoring Paul at the reception. Please speak to me or other members of the Vestry. Could you share a special memory with him? Could you cook a dish that's one of his favorites? Or sing a song or recite a poem or a prayer? We invite everyone to put on their thinking caps and help us make this a memorable and joyous occasion.

I hope that everyone will plan to attend the reception on **July 1st**, if only for a quick meal and a few moments to greet Fr. Paul and wish him well on his journey to a new life. He has been our faithful teacher and spiritual leader for more than a decade, and it would be wonderful to have a big crowd to illustrate how much he means to us. Please contact me at katewrit@sover.net or (802) 463-1570 to let me know what you plan to furnish for the reception or if you have any ideas to share. We also invite those who wish, to make a monetary donation as part of Paul's parting gift. Checks should be made out to: Norm Harrison, Assist. Treasurer, with a memo for, "Rector Gift."—**Kathryn Wright**



Grill masters, Lew Watters & John DesLauriers adding the finishing touches to the hamburgers at last year's picnic.

Annual Parish Picnic & Recognition Sunday: June 10

On Sunday, **June 10** following the 10:00 a.m. worship service, the St. Luke's community will take time to give thanks and recognition to those persons who share their time and talents throughout the year. The recipient of "*The Good and Faithful Servant Award*" will also be announced at this time. The parish picnic will follow with hamburgers, hotdogs and rolls supplied. All you need bring is yourselves, a favorite side dish, salad or dessert or condiments such as potato chip, pickles and the like. Please let **Kathryn Wright** know what you plan to bring via email katewrit@sover.net or by phone (463-1570).



Irene Fraser Wright

January 23, 1923 – May 14, 2012

Remembering Irene

Irene was my first friend in Chester. While exploring Vermont, as a possible place to relocate, we stayed at the Chester House Inn.

The following year we returned to Chester, found a house and again stayed at the Chester House with Norm and Irene.

When we arrived following the van in a rental truck, Irene who loved plants, helped me unload my houseplants and leave them in the drive until we moved in the following day. We soon found we shared many other interests.

Mary Pill had started a Bible Study class at St. Luke's where I found many more friends, so I invited Irene to come with me. If you asked Irene to pray for someone, you knew she really did. It was not just a casual response.

Being an avid reader Irene was a trustee of the Whiting Library, with particular interest in children's reading.

In the last few years as she became less able to travel about, we would talk on the phone weekly.

Irene was one of my best friends and I miss her very much. —**Ruth Harrison**

In Memoriam



Louise R. Park

November 3, 1919 – May 4, 2012

Louise Park was a long-time Episcopalian and member of St. Luke's in Chester for 22 years and prior to that a member of Immanuel Church in Bellows Falls for 17 years. Although raised a Methodist, Louise told Bonnie Watters, when she interviewed her for a profile in 2003, "she felt the church was too big, too unfriendly." Upon being introduced to the Episcopal Church by a friend, she was impressed with the warmth she received as a newcomer and became confirmed at age 25. Louise spent a good portion of her life being active in the church. She was secretary to Bishop Harvey Butterfield (the first time a Bishop had a secretary) and became immersed in peace, justice and rights of citizens. She became a prime mover in the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont and her communities throughout her life. She also taught Sunday School at the Cathedral and at one time was editor of the *Mountain Echo*.

Louise and her husband, Charles, moved to Grafton in 1976, from Burlington, where she has lived until her death on May 4. She continued to remain a strong force in the surrounding communities having founded the Rockingham Area Land Trust and served as its treasurer, served as auditor for the town of Grafton, served as a treasurer of Parks Place, and was a board member of Grafton Cares. One cannot overstate the importance of her contributions to these community outreaches. Louise Park always gave her all.

Louise was well-loved and respected at St. Luke's and was known for her savvy, outspoken opinions and her delightful sense of humor. She served as assistant treasurer, was a member of the Budget Committee and also served on search committees. She was a faithful attendant of the 8:00 a.m. service until her health made it difficult to get out and about so early in the morning.

We are all grateful to God for sharing with us the life of this dedicated and faithful servant of the Lord.

JULY LITS Deadline:

➡ JUNE 22nd

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

Parish News



• **Saul Johnson Hensel-Whalen** came in to the world early on the morning of May 25—same birthday as Ralph Waldo Emerson. He weighed 8 lbs., 4 oz. and measured 21 inches long. He was welcomed with love by his parents, **Sean Whalen and Ashley Hensel-Browning**, and his sister Aurora; and he was welcomed with love at St.

Luke's on the Sunday following his birth. Whereupon he was sent home and immediately fitted with barn boots and a tiny pitchfork. Much work awaits his help.

• Congratulations to **Jack & Jill Dowd** who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on May 19.

Your Faith Can Grow & Strengthen

The suspension bridge over Niagara Falls was begun by a thread attached to a kite. When the wind blew, the kite floated across the water to the other side. Workers then attached a string to the thread and pulled it across. To the string, they attached a rope and pulled it back. By this slow-but-sure method, the bridge was built.

Our faith may be just a little thread or no larger than a mustard seed, but we must act on it (see James 2:14-18). Through action, our faith will be strengthened (Colossians 1:23) as it moves us to do even greater works of faith for our Lord (2 Thessalonians 1:3). And in this slow-but-sure way, our faith can grow exceedingly (Ephesians 4:15-16).



“Shrimp Boil” And So Much More

Over the past few years, Ascension Day (also known as the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord) has become more popular at St. Luke's. Yes, the hymns are wonderful (especially Agincourt), and the sermon is always enlightening and inspiring. But we've noticed that absolutely everyone hangs around afterward for the shrimp boil, hosted by the choir. I don't know which is more fun: gathering to cook and set up, or enjoying the meal itself. This year there were 26 in attendance and the menu was expanded to include chicken wings for those folks for whom shrimp simply doesn't work. We also had the option this year of “peeled” or “u-peel'em” shrimp. Some of us prefer the latter, as it slows down our consumption. Belinda Whipple-Worth outdid herself bringing at least 6 sauces and a delectable boiling concoction.

If you missed it this time, don't let it slip by you next year (Thursday, May 9, 2013). And if you decide to join the choir between now and then, you get to have twice the fun.

—Martha Stretton

St. Luke's Financial Information

	<u>Apr. 2012</u>	<u>Jan.-Apr. 2012</u>	<u>2012 Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Plate/Pledge Income	\$ 11,046.00	\$ 41,845.60	\$ 111,100.00	37.66%
Other Oper. Income	\$ 4,264.34	\$ 8,115.85	\$ 21,864.00	37.12%
Restricted Income	\$ 215.00	\$ 1,140.00		
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 15,525.34	\$ 51,101.45	\$ 132,964.00	38.43%
Operating Expense	\$ 11,227.90	\$ 44,155.74	\$ 145,811.44	30.28%
Restricted Expense	\$ 279.44	849.75		
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 11,507.34	\$ 45,005.49	\$ 145,811.44	30.87%

Everyone is still doing a great job of keeping up their pledges and giving extra when they can. As you can see pledge incomes are above the 33.3% needed to meet the budget which means there is money to apply to the deficit. The \$215 restricted income is from Holy Week for the Church in Jerusalem. A check will be going out to them in May or June. The restricted expense was used for Easter Baskets and food for PINS families. —*The Financial Committee*



The Outreach Corner

Operation Christmas Child & Other Outreach Needs

Thank you to everyone who has been saving all the covers and shoe boxes! We could use some more tuna fish type cans for making the Mancala games.

We are collecting items to put inside the boxes throughout the year. We can always use school supplies—pencils, pencil sharpeners, crayons, notebooks, paper, DUAL POWER calculators, etc. Please remember our “*Change For Children*” jar at the back of the church, which is pretty empty at the moment. It’s waiting to receive your spare change (pennies are definitely OK)—we welcome any and all change.

KAS (Knit-A-Square) is a global group of knitters/crocheters who make 8-inch squares. All the squares we send are put together with everyone else’s squares to make “global” love blankets for kids in Africa with AIDS. It’s the world in a blanket! Grandmothers and prisoners in South Africa help to sew these blankets together which provides them with a sense of purpose, dignity and ability to give back to their community. These blankets tell the kids how special they are. Five hundred kids become orphaned in Africa every day due to AIDS, poverty or both. Most people think of Africa as hot. The African winter is coming up very quickly and is expected to be colder than usual with temps to below freezing at night. We invite you to join us in knitting or crocheting 8-inch squares to make some blankets for them. So far, we have sent 52 (8-inch) squares to Africa (35 make a blanket), and 6 hats. KAS also needs T-shirts, undershirts, and socks in all sizes—used is fine. They also need sweaters and vests for children ages 2-10. These are knit or crocheted in rectangles and sewed together, no special stitches or patterns are needed. They

can be made up in any kind of yarn and you could use up your left-over yarn to make them. Please help us warm some more children.

A local pastor will be going to Africa in the next few months and has asked for jeans to take with him. They don’t have to be new but they do have to be without holes. If anyone has any they could part with, we could use any size from kids to adult.

Lastly, please don’t forget our soldiers! Even though we are only supporting 2 soldiers at this time, they still need to hear how much we appreciate them and what they are doing for our country. There is a basket in Willard Hall filled with blank cards and pens. See me if you have any questions. Many thanks. —*Cindy*

PINS Collecting For Summer Camp Necessities

Once again **Partners in Service (PINS)** will collect items for foster kids and kids in crisis who are going to summer camp, either day camp or overnight camping. St. Luke’s is the only church in this area that over the past few years has donated items necessary for kids to have a good camping experience. At the rear of the church will be a bin for donations of: duffle bags, flashlights with batteries, personal hygiene kits, flip-flops, beach towels, sun block, journals with pens and clean sleeping bags. The collection will end on **Sunday, June 24th.**

The PINS program allows social workers and other staff to voice the needs of the children in their caseloads, needs that would otherwise go unheard and unmet. This insight allows congregations to give a focused and immediate response to these young victims of neglect, abuse and family stress. —*Marcia Clinton*

A Thank You Note From The Chester Rescue Squad

Dear Parishoners,

Thank you for your generous donation. It is through the continued support of community members such as yourself that we can offer the services we do.

Sincerely
Amber Wilson
CRS



Outreach Committee Meeting Notes



Outreach Committee Members L-R: Dee Robinson, Marcia Clinton, Sally Hoover, Norm Harrison, Lew Watters & Cindy Roundy-Winston

The Outreach Committee met for the first time since the Annual Meeting. Many items were discussed in trying to get a handle on what our job is and how we might get it done. We are truly blessed to have a congregation that recognizes the importance of giving and as a result we have tithed in our annual budget for the past few years. We see EVERY MEMBER of

the parish as a member of the Outreach committee and because of that we are asking for your input on the following areas.

- Selection of recipients in the past was based on the premise that the number of recipients for each year should be limited so that the support we give is meaningful. Last year there were 18 donations made: 9 local; 9 national/international. **1. What do you think about this practice?**

- In the past we have allotted 50% of the funds for local charities and 50% for national/international charities.

2. What is your feeling on this practice?

- The selection of which charities/organizations to support has not been reviewed for a couple of years. Our discussion centered around supporting organizations that you are particularly interested in or personally participate in. Your thoughts please. **3. Do you have one to suggest?**

- We would like to foster a deeper relationship with the recipients. Our plan is to send a letter to each recipient to develop closer ties. We would also like to have someone from the parish be the “in house” or “contact person” who would be willing to represent that particular organization. We already have members who are aware of the goals and accomplishments of past recipients. This could be a great help to those of us who are not familiar with all of these organizations and their missions. For example, Jane Davis and/or Belinda Whipple-Worth would be naturals for CHABHA and the Chester/Andover Family Center contact might be Dee Robinson, Jane Davis, Adelaide Johnson or Cindy Roundy-Winston.

4. Would you be willing to be the in house contact person for one or more of the recipients? Which one(s)?

5. What is your reaction to this approach?

We know that there are other parish members that are interested in serving on the Committee, but were not able to attend this particular meeting and we hope that they are able to attend our next meeting which is scheduled for **June 17 at 9:15 a.m. in Willard Hall** between services. Those present at this first meeting were: **Marcia Clinton, Norm Harrison, Sally Hoover, Lew Watters, Cindy Roundy-Winston, Dee Robinson and Don Robinson.**

Please talk with or contact one or more of these committee members prior to the June 17th meeting. Our agenda will be to discuss and act on your input from the five questions posed in this report. Better still come to the meeting and share it personally! —*The Outreach Committee*



WEEKLY

- **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. June 10 is our last Sunday before a summer hiatus. But we will sing on July 1, Paul's final service at St. Luke's and invite anyone to join us then. Speak to Martha Stretton.

LESS THAN WEEKLY

- **Recognition Sunday/Picnic:**

Sunday, **June 10th** following the **10:00AM** service. “The Good & Faithful Servant Award” and others will be honored. Please bring favorite side dishes, salad and desserts for the picnic. (See page 3 for more details.)

- **Adult Evening Bible Study:**

Evening Bible Study class will take a break or hiatus until further notice as we work to get a transition team in place.

- **Outreach Committee:**

Sunday, **June 17th, 9:15AM**, between the worship services in **Willard Hall**. All welcome. See the article on this page for details.

- **Monthly Vestry Meeting:**

Wednesday, **June 20th, 6:00PM** for a light supper; **6:30PM Bible Study**; **7:00PM** regular meeting agenda in Willard Hall. Focus will be on Transition Steps and establishing a Ministry Discernment Committee.

- **Vacation Bible School:**

Monday-Friday: **June 25th–29th** at the **First Baptist Church** in Chester from **9:00 a.m.-12**. Donations are welcome for snacks and treats as well as monetary contribution to help offset costs. The theme is “*Sonrise National Park*” (heading to the woods to learn how Jesus meets our every need.) The age of the children are preschool to sixth grade. Older children are encouraged to be helpers. All the churches of the Ministerium are invited. If you have any questions, call Mary Pill (875-2309).

JUNE CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays:

1 Mathilda Bolger	11 Martha Stretton
1 Nancy Lindsay	12 Lindsey Walton
1 Michael Wilson	15 Brennon Cassels
1 Stephanie Wilson	17 Evelyn Meyer
6 Doreen Bolger	18 Patrick Wilson
7 Sara Gagnon	28 Emily Dakin
7 Dee Robinson	29 Mike Saul

Anniversaries:

4 Ray & Freddy Holden
6 Ross & Amy Jones
12 John & Marcia Leader
13 Sanford & Bonnie Johnson
15 Bud & Joan Watson
20 Fred & Alyce Fielder
22 Lew & Bonnie Watters
23 David & Lillian Willis, Sr.
24 Peter & Tia Rosengarten
28 Jerry & Anne Cassels
28 Dale & Gloria Deming
29 Red & Adelaide Johnson

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

✠ WORSHIP SCHEDULE ✠

June 3

TRINITY SUNDAY

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

June 10

PENTECOST II

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

June 17

PENTECOST III

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

June 24

PENTECOST IV

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

July 1

PENTECOST V

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II (ONE SERVICE)
Paul’s Farewell Reception following the service

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

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

