



AUGUST 2014

Light in the Shadows

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

Coming Or Going?

I have recently heard some folk talk about the people who seem to have left St. Luke's during this time of transition and they wonder, "Will they come back?" I have three thoughts to share:



1. During such times of transition I usually promise congregations that **THREE THINGS WILL HAPPEN:** Some people will leave; some people will come back; and most people will cross their arms and "wait and see." I always encourage God's people—that would be us—instead to take a more proactive and different approach. Times of transition are huge opportunities for a

congregation and its leadership to create itself anew for a new sense of mission and ministry. If that work is exciting and interesting people will want to be a part of it and they won't wait for the new rector.

"People come to and stay at a church because they encounter a community that is open, welcoming and on a spiritual journey."

—Rev. Thaddeus A. Bennett

2. How do you get people to come to church? **You invite them.** The new rector will not either bring back old members or bring in new people. People come to and stay at a church because they encounter a community that is open, welcoming and on a spiritual journey. Sure, the person "up front" can make a difference, but the real presence in the place is the people of God who are in

ministry together with the priest, not because of the priest. If you want people to come and experience St. Luke's as God is creating it now—invite them, love them when they arrive and ask them if they'd like to help with creating St. Luke's.

3. Finally, if people do leave, let's give thanks for their time with us and for the mission and ministry to which they are moving. This is life: people come into our lives and people go out of our lives. We need to be thank-full!

Continued on page 2



Jacob McLaughlin, St. Luke's Church Musician, performing at his recent concert on July 18. (Photo courtesy Lew Watters.)

A Musical Evening

If you've attended St. Luke's in the last year you're familiar with Jacob McLaughlin as a church musician. On Friday, July 18, those of us who came to St. Luke's saw a very different side of our organist and choir director. From what we heard that night we can conclude that Jacob is a talented composer, vocalist and adept on several instruments. Jacob's concert, **"802 Experience"**, ran the gamut from rock to jazz with a variety of musical styles in between. The program included the title song, lyrical love ballads and a rather jazzy keyboard piece, *Houston on My Mind*, and his efforts were well received by the 25 or so folks in attendance. In addition to the keyboard Jacob also accompanied himself on guitar and ukulele.

Following the concert we all enjoyed a typical St. Luke's reception in Willard Hall. I'm sure that Jacob would want me to tell you that he has copies of his first CD, that contains a number of the pieces from the concert and, if you ask him, I'm sure he'd be willing to sell you one. We are indeed fortunate to have such a musically talented individual as our church musician. —**John Hoover**

From the Senior Warden

Think About Doing New Things

I recently attended a Diocesan Council meeting and I learned about pastoral projects happening in other parishes. One church is operating a large and very successful day care center. There are churches hosting weekly free meals in their communities and churches that are operating food shelves and thrift shops. There is even a "Bless the Backpacks" service on the Sunday before school begins.



One of the questions that the Ministry Discernment Committee had to answer when we were creating our Parish Portfolio was, "*How do you engage in pastoral care outside your worshipping community?*" We were hard-pressed to respond to this question. We created our "Giving Tree" because we wanted to illustrate the many in the parish who are individually involved in giving their time to great causes, but St. Luke's doesn't have a community pastoral project that we can participate in together. Perhaps this is something that we should ponder going forward. The Bishop has asked all of us to read "*Missional*", which talks about congregations going out into their communities to "find out what God is up to in the neighborhood." Is that what the Holy Spirit would have us do? I'd love to hear your thoughts on this subject.

*Peace to each of you,
Kathryn*

Church School And Christian Formation, August 17th

Our Interim Rector, Thad, is asking to meet after church on **August 17th** in Willard Hall (about 11:30 a.m. or so following the "coffee hour") with everyone involved in last year's Church School and the wonderful ministry of Christian formation with children. As well, if you are interested in this ministry, even if you did not help last year, please join us. The focus will be to have fun, to have a positive experience for both adults and children and to deepen our faith and knowledge of God's love for us all—grown and big as well as young and small.

If you cannot be with us on the 17th but are interested, please let Thad know. Thanks! FYI: The tentative date for church school start-up is September 14th, but that all depends upon what people think!

Coming Or Going?

(continued from page 1)

Look at me: I'll be here for just 6 months. I doubt we'll all be best friends at the end of that time, but I do hope we'll be deeper sisters and brothers in Christ; I hope we'll have shared some of our faith together; I hope we'll have learned some things from one another and be better Christians as a result. So, be thankful and remember to say "thank you" when people do leave. The worst thing—I think—is for people to leave without the chance to give thanks for our time and times together.

Thanks for listening and be sure to let me know what you think about comings and goings!

Faithfully,

Thad

thadinv@svcablenet



Ministry vs. Job

Some people have a job in the church.

Others invite themselves into a ministry.

What's the difference, you ask?

If you are doing it just because no one else will, it's a job.

If you are doing it to serve the Lord, it's a ministry.

If you quit because someone criticized you, it's a job.

If you keep on serving, it's a ministry.

If you'll do it as long as it does not interfere with your other activities, it's a job.

If you are committed to staying even if it means letting go of other things, it's a ministry.

If you quit because no one thanked you or praised you, it's a job.

If you stick with it even though no one recognized your efforts, it's a ministry.

It's hard to get excited about a job.

It's almost impossible not to get excited about a ministry.

If your concern is success, it's a job.

If your concern is faithfulness and service, it's a ministry.

If God calls you to a ministry, don't treat it like a job!

Lord, strengthen your servants and move us to a true sense of ministry and service, through your grace and mercy.
Amen.

(from The Guardian, St. Michael's Church, Brattleboro)

Our faith—what we believe and hold fast to—is important. But it is how that faith is embodied in the world that makes a difference. Sometimes we can spend too much time thinking, when God's injunction comes in the form of a Nike commercial: Just do it.—*Foward Day By Day, May 2013*

Some Outreach Opportunities

Thad has mentioned how “outreach oriented” St. Luke’s seems to be. So, he sent these ideas along for our consideration.

Diocese of Vermont Outreach: *Alleluia Fund*

Many of you were able to make contributions last year to the *Alleluia Fund*. Once again you are invited to make a donation to this important initiative, which supports ministries throughout our diocese. Such ministries as Rock Point, Earth Stewards, The Cathedral Chapter, The Outreach and Social Justice Committee, The Global Reconciliation Committee, and Rock Point Summer Camp are supported by the *Alleluia Fund*.



This year a new ministry has been added: **Formation for Children, Youth and Adults**. Last year’s goal was exceeded by almost \$10,000. This year the goal is \$75,000. I realize that we are all living on a fixed income whether we are employed or retired. That said, it is my hope that we will be able to donate in any amount, large or small, to provide a means for these ministries to continue and grow in our diocese. Let’s try for 30% participation from St. Luke’s—it is the number of people who care and support the effort not just the amount of money!

Further information about the *Alleluia Fund* or how to make an online donation can be found at <http://www.diovermont.org/Mission-and-Ministries/Alleluia-Fund-articles/> or make a check out to the *Alleluia Fund* and mail it to: Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, 5 Rock Point Road, Burlington, VT 05408.

- **National Outreach:** How can I help the immigrant children crisis? Go to the website for Episcopal Relief and Development at <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/> and learn more on the tab “US Diaster.”
- **International Outreach:** Peace in the Middle East? How do I support Episcopal and Anglican efforts to keep the Diocese of Jerusalem’s Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza open and serving victims of this war? Go to the website for Episcopal Relief and Development at <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/> and learn more on the tab “Middle East.”

Ministry Discernment Progress

Presently the Diocese of Vermont status for St. Luke’s is ‘accepting names,’ which means interested clergy are contacting Canon Lynn Bates for consideration for the position of 3/4 time Rector. As Thad Bennett, our Interim Rector has suggested, there are a variety of sources for getting good candidates for our rector position. One of them is you: Do you know a priest who might be interested? Who would be a good match for the profile we have made together and is on-line? Feel free to contact such priests, tell them about the website posting of the position and, if they are interested, that they should contact Canon Lynn Bates at the diocese. Since all names need to come through the Bishop’s office that is the best starting place.



I want to especially thank everyone for the excellent support I have received to keep our website up to date. If you have a ministry beyond our worshipping community, please consider adding yours to those found on the “Our Giving Tree” page.

Below are two important links you should visit if you have not done so lately:

<http://www.diovermont.org/About/Clergy-Deployment/>
<http://www.stlukeseπισcopolvt.org/discernment.html>

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please speak to me, or anyone on the Discernment Committee.

*Your Brother in Christ,
Lew Watters, MDC Chairman*



Christian Symbol: The Burning Bush

In Exodus 3, God speaks to Moses from a bush that is burning but not consumed. When Moses asks what he should say if the Egyptians questions who sent him to lead the Israelites out of slavery, God states, “I AM WHO I AM.” Centuries later, when people wonder who Jesus is, his answers hint at his divinity: “I AM the light of the world; I AM the good shepherd; I AM the bread of life” and, perhaps most profoundly, “Before Abraham was, I AM” (John 8:58). On Pentecost, God’s Holy Spirit comes upon the apostles as fire. Thus the burning bush is a powerful symbol of God’s presence echoed through time

“If you think you can walk in holiness without keeping up perpetual fellowship with Christ, you have made a great mistake. If you would be holy, you must live close to Jesus.”
—C.H. Spurgeon

St. Luke's Outreach Committee Report

As many of you know, St. Luke's has a long history of dedicating 10% of our pledge and plate income for outreach to our community and the world. Here is the finalized **Outreach Budget for 2014**:

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS:

1. Chester/Andover Family Center	\$ 1,000.00
2a. Habitat for Humanity, Springfield	\$ 450.00
2b. Habitat for Humanity, Bennington	\$ 450.00
3. Vermont Food Bank	\$ 500.00
4. Chester Volunteer Rescue Squad	\$ 600.00
5. Meals on Wheels	\$ 500.00
6. Our Place Drop-in Center	\$ 500.00
7. Ministerium	\$ 800.00
8. Chester/Andover Community Cares	\$ 300.00
9. Emergency Fund (St. Luke's)	\$ 600.00

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL:

1. Americares	\$ 500.00
2. Partners in Health	\$ 300.00
3. CHABHA (Children Affected by HIV-AIDS)	\$ 700.00
4. SAMS – Smith Family (South American Missionary Society)	\$ 1,100.00
5. Episcopal Relief & Development	\$ 1,100.00
6. Operation Christmas Child	\$ 300.00

Outreach Beyond The Budget:

SEDER: It was decided by the Vestry that the Seder Meal was not to be a fundraiser for St. Luke's Church. Instead, any freewill offerings given at the dinner will be donated to an organization that promotes peace in the Middle East. This year the money will go to Kids 4 Peace-Vermont, a non-profit organization that brings together Jewish, Muslim and Christian youth from Vermont, New Hampshire and Jerusalem. More information can be found on their website: k4p.org/Vermont.

• **THE MAPLE FEST DINNER** raises money for **PINS (Partners in Service)**, which is a partnership between St. Luke's Episcopal Church and the Department for Children and Families. Our church, along with other churches in the area, participates in a wide range of programs that often cover gaps between what Family Services is able to fund, and the actual needs of the families they serve.

• **FREE COMMUNITY MEALS:** St. Luke's has donated the use of Willard Hall as one of the lunch locations for the monthly Free Community Meal. Several members of St. Luke's have participated in setting up and cooking for these meals, both at St. Luke's and at other churches in town.

The Next Meeting of the **Outreach Committee** will be on **September 7, 9:00 a.m. in Willard Hall**. All are welcome!! We will begin to look at our Outreach opportunities for 2015, so please bring your ideas and information about organizations that you may wish to support. (We are trying to be mindful of the percentage of organizational funds spent on administration and fundraising vs money spent on actual programs.) —*Jane Davis & Sally Hoover, co-chairs*



Calendar Note:

Thad will be away from August 28th through September 6th attending the 6th Annual Bennett Family Gathering in California as well as discovering Crater Lake in Oregon. If you need a priest during that time please either contact our Priest Associate, Sanford Johnson (srjbbj@gmail.com) or the Senior Warden, Kathryn Wright. (katewrit@sover.net).

True Sacrifice

In 1 Chronicles 21, King David prepares to offer God a sacrifice of repentance. The man from whom David must purchase supplies is so eager to help that he offers everything for free. David replies, "No. I'm buying it from you, and at the full market price. I'm not going to offer GOD sacrifices that are no sacrifice" (v. 24, The Message).

How often we do that ourselves: forgo a latte to put a few dollars into the collection plate ... read Scripture for only five minutes a day ... say we're too busy for a service project, then spend hours watching TV The list goes on.

It's not that we should "give 'til it hurts"; it's about giving 'til it feels good! God doesn't need our sacrifices; we do. Our faith grows when we challenge ourselves to give up something less valuable to embrace the richness of God. When we give more than we're comfortable giving, our need for control is replaced by confidence that God holds us. (from Newsletter; Newsletter August 2014)

Five Gifts From God

LOVE makes our friends a little dearer.

JOY makes our hearts a little lighter.

FAITH makes our paths a little clearer.

HOPE makes our lives a little brighter.

PEACE brings us all a little nearer. —*Author Unknown*



A Tearful Farewell To Interim Rector, Carole Wageman

On Sunday, June 29th, we bid a tearful farewell to the Rev. Carole Wageman, as she officiated over her last worship service at St. Luke's. Carole has served as our Interim Rector since December 2012 and during these past eighteen months devoted herself with great passion and energy to guiding St. Luke's through the transition time before calling a new rector. She has shepherded us through some difficult situations (particularly the mold issue in Willard Hall), helped revitalize the Church School, got our church records updated, formed a volunteer office guild, and initiated new opportunities for adult learning. Her sermons were spiritual and challenging and in the words from her farewell ditty written by the choir, "Kept us wanting more." The reception following the service was a celebration to express our love and thankfulness for Carole's ministry among us and to send her off with our well wishes as she takes time for rest and attend to family needs. A special thanks to Rudy Winston whose wonderful photos captured some special moments during this day. We plan to have more of these photos posted on the website and on Flickr.



The Outreach Corner

Back To School Collection

Throughout the year committee members of PINS (Partners in Service) have been collecting backpacks from store sales and thrift stores. Now we are asking the congregation of St. Luke's to assist us in filling these backpacks for kids returning to school in the fall. Last year we were able to give over 50 backpacks filled with school supplies to the Springfield Department of Family Services to distribute to kids in foster families or families in crisis.

The backpacks go to kids from kindergartners to high school. **Items we are collecting are:**

1½ inch, 3-ring binders	5"x8" spiral day planners
pencils, pens, sharpeners	backpacks
folders with pockets	8"x11" spiral notebooks
crayons, erasers	lined 3-ring binder paper
colored pencils	folders with 3 holes
thumb drives	

PINS is one of the organizations that St. Luke's supports through its Outreach Program. We work closely with the Vermont Department for Children and Families agency. Its mission is to bring together faith communities with human service agencies. It helps promote the resiliency and success of children and youth who have been victims of abuse and neglect, ranging in age from infants to young adults.

A bin will be in the back of the church during July and until Sunday, August 17th for your donations. For a new school year every kid likes to start with new equipment for learning, especially these kids who don't often get new things. Won't you help us help them?

—*Marcia Clinton*

Operation Christmas Child

Many thanks again for all of the recyclable items we use for making toys and games. We could use more big covers (from mouthwash, laundry soap, spray paint cans, and like) for the new games we're making—as well as all the other kinds of caps and covers. Don't toss out your empty egg cartons! We need them! Also we can always use more shoe boxes. They seem to be harder to find these days. Remember the school supply sales still going on. We are collecting pencils, crayons, colored pencils, pencil sharpeners, calculators, and paper to be placed into every box. Other useful items are hats for boys, small toys, cars, hand knitted or crocheted items, clothing, flip-flops, wash cloths, soap, water bottles, and small games. Many thanks! —*Cindy*

Knit-A-Square

We are looking forward to receiving your knitted or crocheted 8-inch squares to send to Africa. These squares are sewed together to make warm blankets which will be given to orphaned children with AIDS who spend most of their time outside. Please consider helping us with this worthy ministry. Thank you!

Cards For Soldiers

There is a basket of cards and pens on the table in Willard Hall. Please take a moment or two to write your thanks to a soldier who is defending our freedoms. They LOVE to hear from us! If you don't know what to write, you can just say thank you, we support you, we pray for you, are thinking of you, or have a great day.

Many Hands Make Light Work

On Sunday, July 27, an *Operation Christmas Child Workshop* was held following the "coffee hour" that morning. It turned out to be a perfect time to capture extra hands to help make toys and games for the OCC shoe boxes. Even our Interim, Thad, got into the moment—recalling how much fun it is to color pictures! Janet Hunter brought her niece, Stacey, and another guest from their B & B, who also got into the spirit of things. Altogether ten people participated. Cindy is a genius at finding ways to use recycled items—even the covers of the church bulletins get used for a matching the picture game. You too, can help. Read the article above and stay tuned for the next workshop so you can participate in the fun and best of all; know your efforts will bring joy and smiles to the faces of children who have little.—*Pat Fromberger*



Photos
courtesy
Rudy
Winston



Pre-Order Advent Calendars

Christmas may be months away, but St. Luke's Christmas Craft Group is offering an opportunity to preorder a fabric **Advent Calendar**. Made by hand, we need some lead time to complete them in time for the 2014 Advent season. This is an heirloom quality Advent Calendar that can be reused year after year. Packaged in it's own cloth storage bag, it comes with a wooden dowel and braided cord for hanging. It includes 24 felt ornaments and has stitched-on pockets

for the small paper messages explaining what each ornament symbolizes. The finished size is 24"x30". If you want to order one for your children or grandchildren, contact **Adelaide Johnson** (802-875-4634) or email: haroldadelaide@vermontel.net by **September 30th**. [Note: there is a sample of the Advent Calendar in Willard Hall and an order sheet. The cost is \$50.00. Checks should be made out to "St. Luke's Church" with a note: for Advent Calendar.]

Get Ready For The Sale On The Screen

As John DesLauriers wrote last year, "After the August Supper comes the Chester Sale on the Green in September. As most of you know, in years past, St. Luke's has held a Tag Sale on the Saturday of this event. Well, usher in the 21st Century version called "**Sale on the Screen**."

Our new endeavor was a success last year, earning about \$1400 in sales without the hassle of cleanup, so this year we will again repeat the "**Sale on the Screen**." Here is how it works: we accept only items that are in good working order and will bring a minimum sale price of \$50 in an online sale format. Items will need to be photographed for listing, and once sold, arrangements for pickup and or shipping can be made. So, start looking around for those items you have collected that will have value for a new owner and can make this sale a successful fundraiser again for St. Luke's.

If you have something you wish to donate or have questions about what kinds of items you can offer, or need photographs taken, please call **Lew at 875-2114**, or **John at 875-3490**. This online sale will continue through September and October. —*Lew Watters and John DesLauriers*

St. Luke's Financial Information

	<u>June 2013</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>2014 Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Plate/Pledge Income	\$ 8,611.11	\$ 54,542.50	\$ 106,940.00	51.0%
Other Oper. Income	\$ 139.00	\$ 5,520.80	\$ 27,206.00	20.3%
Restricted Income	\$ 0.00	\$ 7,874.98		
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 8,750.11	\$ 67,938.28	\$ 134,146.00	50.6%
Regular Expense	\$ 11,034.12	\$ 56,894.37	\$ 154,536.16	36.8%
Restricted Expense	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,149.12	\$ 1,738.82	66.1%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 11,034.12	\$ 58,043.49	\$ 156,274.98	37.1%
NET INCOME		\$ 9,894.79		

We're half-way through the year and you can see that our income is right on target but we need to keep up with the income. We have based our deficit budget on about \$11,000.00 in income per month (assuming that our expenses are budgeted accurately). The good news is that at this point we have only spent a little more than 1/3 of our expense budget. Keep up the good work.

—*Bonnie Johnson, Treasurer*



WEEKLY

• Lunch Bunch Book Study:

Mondays, Noon-1:15PM in Willard Hall for a bag lunch, discussion & prayer. We are completing "*Can You Drink the Cup*" by Henri J.M. Nouwen and will begin a new study soon. Please come join us.

• St. Luke's Choir:

St. Luke's Choir is on summer hiatus and will resume rehearsals in September. Keep your voices in tune over the summer months and keep your ears open for new choir members!

LESS THAN WEEKLY

• St. Luke's Annual August Supper:

Saturday, August 2, 5:00PM-7:00PM on the back lawn at St. Luke's Church. Continuous seating. Cost is \$12.00 adults; \$6.00 children ages 6-10 yrs. Reservations can be made by calling the Harrisons at 875-2784. Invite you family, friends and neighbors!

• Vestry Monthly Meeting:

Monday, August 11: 6:30PM short Bible Study; **7:00PM** Regular Meeting Agenda in Willard Hall. The meeting focus is on Worship, the Altar Guild and Music. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

• Church School & Christian Formation Meeting:

Sunday, August 17: 11:30AM following the coffee hour in Willard Hall. Please come and share your ideas. (See article on page 2 for more details.)

SEPTEMBER LITS DEADLINE:

☞ AUGUST 22nd

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



AUGUST CELEBRATIONS



Birthdays:

3 Kara Watters Lake	26 John Hoover
6 Mary Porter	26 David Willis, Jr.
6 Lillian Willis	27 Amos Worth
8 Aurora Hansel-Whalen	28 Kathleen Willis
10 Hayden Noyes	29 Kelly Watters
12 Bill Hoyt	30 Rose Fisher
13 Morgan Willis	
16 Emily Guerra	
18 Thomas DesLauriers	
18 Susannah Pennell	
25 Beverly Dunbar	

Anniversaries:

8 David & Marjorie Carey

"The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why."
—Mark Twain

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

✠ WORSHIP SCHEDULE ✠

Aug. 3	VIII PENTECOST (Proper 13)
8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Aug. 10	IX PENTECOST (Proper 14)
8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Aug. 17	X PENTECOST (Proper 15)
8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Aug. 24	XI PENTECOST (Proper 16)
8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Aug. 31	XII PENTECOST (Proper 17)
8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite II

☛ **Church School:** On summer hiatus. Resumes in September.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Thaddeus A. Bennett, Interim Rector

The Rev. Sanford R. Johnson, Priest Associate

313 Main Street, Chester, VT 05143 • Office Phone: 875-6000
www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org

St. Luke's Church is Handicapped Accessible

Light in the Shadows

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

