

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

Journeying With God

"A great windstorm arose, and the water beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped."

[Mark 4:35-41]



If you use an Ignatian contemplative practice to live into this reading, you can feel the wind in your face and feel the spray of water soaking your clothes. You rocket about in the wild lurching of the boat and the wide expanse of turbulent water that cascades over the side threatens to sink you and the boat to the bottom. Your own vulnerability and ability to

endure comes front and center. Can you make it? Is it possible to survive such a tempest? But then, Jesus comes forward, raises his hands, stills the water and in the dead calm, he turns and asks you, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?"

It is so easy to feel brave when things are going well. Not so easy when glitches come along. But we can view a setback as an obstacle to overcome or an opportunity to explore. Now, I realize that sounds like a sound bite straight from Pollyanna but think about it. What gift lies embedded in those things we might see as problems?

For example, we have now embarked on a "shake down cruise" of sorts in our music program. As we search for our "It is so easy to feel brave when things are going well.

Not so easy when glitches come along. But we can view a setback as an obstacle to overcome or an opportunity to explore."

-Rev. Carole Wagemen

next musical leader (in addition to our ongoing rector search), it can feel a bit uncertain as though our usual solid footing has been hammered a bit. Like the disciples, it is tempting to say: "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing??"

Jesus' calm demeanor, however, is built on trust. Trust in God. Trust that what might feel like skating on thin ice is



Martha Stretton... A Farewell But Not Goodbye!

On Sunday, July 21 St. Luke's parishioners bid a fond farewell to their church musician and organist, Martha Stretton, at a special reception held in her honor. Martha has served as organist and choir director for the past seven years (two of these years serving as co-musician with Joe Grannis prior to his retirement in 2008.) Martha has accepted a position as the Assistant Director of Music at the First Congregational Church in Springfield, but



she will remain a member of St. Luke's.

The farewell celebration began at the 10:00 o'clock worship service, as Martha had been asked to select some of her favorite pieces of music to play that morning. She chose two J. S. Bach pieces: "Two-Part Invention #8" and "If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee" for the prelude and postlude respectively. The hymns were all Bach tunes as well. Can you guess who her favorite composer is? During

From the Senior Warden

Another Invitation

We are right in the middle of the search process, and we've done so much already that we can begin to feel excited about finding a new rector. But a next big step that we have to take is the "Appreciative Inquiry" meeting on **September**



8, when the whole parish will gather to talk about our own relationships with clergy and St. Luke's overall. This is an opportunity for us to brag about our church, and our comments will be used to develop the Parish Profile that we will send to rector candidates. Ann Cooper, our Diocesan Companion, will ask each of us to answer four questions, and I hope that you will take a moment before the meeting to ponder your answers:

- When have you felt that St. Luke's was doing God's work and fulfilling our mission?
- What 3 things do you value most in our congregation?
- Remember a time in your life when you really appreciated the ministry of a priest.
- What 3 exciting, energizing and important things will St. Luke's accomplish during the next 3 years?

Please plan to attend the meeting if you can. We need your voice and your vision to help us create an exciting Parish Profile. I hope to see you there. But if I don't, please remember to pray that the Holy Spirit is with us as we work to find a new Rector.

Your sister in Christ, Kathryn

P.S. Isn't the new appearance of Willard Hall wonderful? Take a moment to thank your Junior Wardens, Andrew Pennell and Richard Crocker, who coordinated and scheduled and inspected and directed that huge project, which is pretty much complete now (and I know that we're all delighted that the door to the restroom is no longer in the middle of the dining hall.)

September LITS Deadline:

☞ AUGUST 23rd

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

Journeying With God

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merely a chance to walk more deeply with God. It is not the destination that is important—it is the journey we take to get there. Journeying with God is never boring!

One of the more outstanding features from the History Night data was the thread of resilience with which this congregation has historically moved through other challenging times. It is wonderfully inspiring and I anticipate our immediate musical future is ripe with possibility and trying on some new approaches as we continue to "Sing a new song to the Lord"—just in some new ways.

- Do you play piano, organ, violin, flute or some other instrument? How about preparing a prelude or postlude some Sunday to share the gift with which God has graced your life?
- Do you play guitar, banjo, kazoo, tambourine? Join with a few of our other musicians to lead a hymn or two as we lift our voices in praise.
- Do you love to sing? How about gathering three others and make a quartet to sing an anthem? Octet would be even better! Demonstrate the joy of singing in a small group who know how to listen to each other.
- Every heard of "paperless music"? I have—and I am going to teach you some as we go along.

I am not worried. The boat will not be swamped. We are heading for the shore just fine. Jesus is in the boat with us singing along at full voice and with great joy.

Blessings, Rev. Carole



Office Guild

"None of these pens work!" "Got any markers?" "Where is an easel pad?" "I found some pencils but how can we sharpen them?" "The printer is out of ink! Does anyone know if there is any more somewhere?" "We only have lavender paper." "Did you get that date down on the calendar?"

There is some undercover sleuthing work going on to create a new spiritual discipline: "The Office Guild". While we are wading through the files, books, records, needed supplies, etc, in order to get the office up and running efficiently again, we are also looking to establish a small group of parishioners who might be willing to staff the office voluntarily one day/week in the mornings. Please stay tuned for more details about this and speak with Rev. Carole if you think you might like to help or would like more information.

MDC Says Mark Your Calendar For Sunday, September 8th



We hope you have enjoyed the improving Vermont summer weather and are ready for back to school and work. Plans are now in place for another important event, an all-parish "Appreciative Inquiry." It will be held on Sunday, September 8 following the 10:00 o'clock worship service, and will be led by our Diocesan Companion, Ann Cooper.

She will be asking all of us to look at four questions focusing on our spiritual values, what we have appreciated most in past rectors, and what we hope for in our new rector. As is our custom, we will share a meal, as well as provide childcare and transportation. We hope and pray for a good turnout in keeping with the earlier May History Night. This journey, like our faith, is not easy or familiar, but surely, the more participation the better the result.

If you have been worshiping with us this summer, you would know we created and made available draft copies of the *All Parish History Night* documents, both by decade and by topic, which contained the original remarks parishioners posted on the black panels back in May. We have been asking the very same question the MDC will be asking when we begin drafting our Parish Profile: What do you see? We want to know, and we continue to welcome the thoughts of those who have been a part of our community. As was noted by attentive parishioners, some significant moments and events seemed to be missing. If you have reviewed these documents and added comments, please be sure to return them to the MDC chairman to insure inclusion when the drafting of the Parish Profile is underway.

So where exactly have we been in this search for a new rector? Here are some highlights.

- December 10, 2012 The Vestry charged the Ministry Discernment Committee (MDC) to conduct their search in accordance with Diocesan guidelines. A budget of \$5,000 to \$8,000 was set with no geographic limitations. MDC "will recommend to the vestry three candidates from whom the vestry will discern which candidate to call as rector." MDC should make its recommendations as close to April 1, 2014 as possible.
- Sunday, January 6, 2013 The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ Commissioning of the MDC at the 10 o'clock service by Canon of the Ordinary, Lynn Bates. A joint meeting followed the service with MDC, Vestry, Interim Rector, Carole Wageman lead by Canon Bates. Lew Watters was elected as chairman of MDC.
- **Sunday, January 20** the first MDC meeting held following worship services on "housekeeping."

- Sunday, January 27 Interim Rector, Carole Wageman led us in a so-called "Parking Lot Exercise." As a final discussion at the Annual Meeting inside Willard Hall, parishioners were encouraged to share our hopes and dreams for the future.
- Sunday, February 24 MDC met following worship services led by the Rev. John Miller, Canon Lynn Bates and Rev. Carole joined us as individual spiritual and personality gifts were developed and shared, including the Meyers-Briggs Type Indicator. It required homework, but revealed a balance of talents and gifts among us. Bonnie Watters served a delicious hot meal.
- Sunday, March 10 MDC clusters studied from the Parking Lot Exercise with Rev. Carole.
- Sunday, April 14 MDC met following worship services to plan the *All Parish History Nigh*t. We brainstormed meeting details, drafted written invitations and assigned contacts with the goal to maximize parish participation.
- Sunday, April 28 MDC first meeting held with our Diocesan Companion Ann Cooper. We learned that the search process is "not a corporate hire," and History Night is first of three special meetings. We cannot decide where to go until we understand where we have been and where we are now. Ann emphasized the evening should be spontaneous and fun.
- Wednesday, May 8 All Parish History Night held at Fletcher House in Chester. Under rain showers, 38 members and friends of St. Luke's gathered to share a light evening meal served by friends from the Baptist Church. Young and old shared histories and connections with our church under the direction of Ann Cooper along with MDC members at small group tables. Everyone posted on panels by decade: first topic, what things were going on in the World, second, what was happening in our parish, and finally what transpired in our own personal lives. It was a God filled evening. Anyone can see the results on the large panels still on display in the sanctuary, and some of us are still adding things we missed that eventful night.
- **Sunday, June 6** MDC processed the results of the *All Parish History Night*. Rev. Carole joined us as we began seeing definite threads, social themes, strong ministries and a resilience to outside pressures. It was decided to provide written drafts of the results by decade and by topic for the purpose of further in depth study, as well as allowing for othe addition of significant missing events by anyone who wished to do so.
- Tuesday, June 25 MDC and Vestry held a joint meeting on Discernment at the Watters' home. Again served around a meal Rev. Carole graciously filled in for our companion Ann Cooper who was flood bound in Middlebury. This serious leadership inquiry centered on questions of who we

MDC Says Mark Your Calendar...

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are, who do we want to be, and what specific skills and gifts will we need to get there.

MDC members are busy preparing portions of the Parish Profile describing various towns currently served by St. Luke's. Following the **All-Parish Appreciative Inquiry** on **September 8**, we will be hard at work drafting our profile for review by everyone in the parish, finalized by the Bishop and the Transition Team, including a compensation package prepared by the Vestry.

As always your questions and comments are welcomed.

Your brother in Christ, Lew Watters, MDC Chairman

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Hospitality at the Altar Part 1 of 2: Gluten Free Wafers

Unless you are serving at the altar, you might not be aware of the hospitality that takes place in special circumstances. This month and next, we address some particular situations that surface and why we do the things we do. This month: gluten-free wafers.

Gluten sensitivities have become a growing medical concern in recent years and the Church seeks to respond in a way that offers hospitality to those who have allergies to the gluten protein found in wheat and some other grains. During communion, we offer gluten free wafers that are stored in a separate container away from the gluten based wafers. If you need gluten-free, just ask and we will serve you from the gluten-free container. The celebrant will not handle it directly in case gluten particulates are on our hands from the consecration prayer. Other suggestions are certainly welcome.

Next month, Fr. Sanford will address situations for those who choose to not take communion wine. If you have any other topics you might like to see addressed, please speak with Rev. Carole.

Untapped Resources

While taking photos of the earth, the space shuttle Columbia made a surprising discovery: Underneath the harsh Sahara Desert were 26 lakes, as well as miles of underground rivers. That region's inhabitants face tough conditions because those abundant resources haven't yet been tapped.

Churches often suffer a similar problem. Congregations can't reach their full God-given potential unless people discover and use their gifts. When we tap into our talents, however, God promises that we "will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail" (*Isaiah 58:11*).

Ask, Seek, Knock

The text of Rev. Carole Wageman's sermon on Sunday, July 28 was based on the Gospel of Luke 11 in which Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray. Rev. Carole ended her sermon with this prayer which we wish to share with you.

A Prayer

We are your people, Lord, and you are our God. Keep us ever in your watchful eye and be not far from us.

- Teach us how to Ask and wait for the presence of the Holy Spirit that we might not even realize is there listening through all our asking.
- Teach us how to Seek and Search for your truth and guide us in our seeking.
- Teach us how to Knock down the walls that keep us from seeing the Open Doors that stand ready to receive us. Stand beside us as we Knock to be let in to your table—the table that is already set and waiting for us to arrive.

"Ask, and it will be given you; search and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks the door will be opened." (Luke 11:9-10)

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Spiritual/Christian Formation

Christian Formation is a bit different from Christian Education. "Education" is learning about something. "Formation" is how that learning shapes our lives. An active spiritual life has always been an important aspect of life at St. Luke's. So, how can we continue to thrive spiritually during this in-between time? Is clergy leadership the only way in which we can gather and learn about God, Scripture, Jesus, etc? Are we possibly missing out on the spiritual formation opportunities that occur when two or three are gathered just for prayer or reflection?

Our Children's program is perhaps the most pressing need right now. I would like to gather a few creative and enterprising folks to help re-design how we help our children learn about God's love for them. Please speak with Rev. Carole if you are interested. If you love God, you have what it takes to share that with our kids.

[&]quot;Our greatest fulfillment lies in giving ourselves to others." —Henri J.M. Nouwen









A Farewell But Not Goodbye!

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the service, the choir sang a special ditty* entitled, "Martha, Martha, We Adore You" that was written in her honor by choir members, Jane Davis and Belinda Whipple-Worth and adapted to Beethoven's, Hymn to Joy (also known as the hymn, Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee.) *View entire ditty on St. Luke's website: www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org.

Following the service about 30 parishioners, friends and family gathered downstairs in the newly refurbished Willard Hall to enjoy a buffet-style lunch that included many of Martha's favorite dishes. The choir presented Martha with a lovely piece of Raku Pottery by Vermont artist, Andrew Berends. The Watters gifted her with a framed original Lew Watters pen & ink drawing of the tower of the First Congregational Church in Springfield where Martha will be the Assistant Music Director. Kathryn Wright, Senior Warden also presented her with a generous monetary gift on behalf of the parish.

It was a joyful occasion and time for reminiscing and expressing our gratitude for the ministry of music that Martha has shared with us these

past seven years. Martha has delighted us with her exceptional musical talent performing on St. Luke's historic S. S. Hamill Organ as well as on the more modern keyboard. She directed a small group of singers into becoming what is affectionately known as "a small but mighty choir." Martha also brought a very special spirituality into her music ministry, focusing our hearts and minds on loving and worshipping the Lord and not just about giving a performance. She always reminded choir members, "Listen to the words you are singing!" Prayer was a key element in every rehearsal.

We feel very blessed to have had such an outstanding musician in our midst and will truly miss Martha's presence.

We wish Martha every blessing as she begins this new segment on her musical journey. —*Pat Fromberger* (photos courtesy Lew Watters) To view additional pictures, visit www.flickr.com/photos/stlukeschester/

Thank you all for the lovely reception and the generous gifts you gave me last Sunday. It was a delightful time together, and I feel very blessed to be a part of this faith community. St. Luke's has certainly been supportive of its music ministry for many years; it will be exciting to see what happens next!

Gratefully, Martha Stretton

The Outreach Corner

PINS Back To School Donations Deadline is August 18

Although the kids have recently been released from school, the PINS committee is preparing for the next school year. For several years we have had a collection for back-to-school items to fill backpacks that are given to the Springfield Department of Family Services. The staff there distributes the backpacks to kids in foster families or families in crisis. Last year we were able to fill over 40 backpacks and hope to do the same this year. The backpacks go to kids from kindergarten to high school, so the items needed are:

3-Ring binders with lined paper

3-Hole 9"x12" plastic folders with pockets

Pens, pencils, erasers, sharpeners, and rulers

8"x10" spiral notebooks

Safety scissors, construction paper, and calculators Backpacks (new or in very good condition) of all sizes.

PINS (Partners in Service) 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 until **Sunday**, **August 18th** for your donations. Every kid returning to school likes to start the year with new equipment, especially these kids who don't often get new things. Won't you help us help them? —*Marcia Clinton*

Operation Christmas Child

heartfelt thank you for all the many donations of covers, shoeboxes, and other recycleable items! They are very much appreciated. We always have a need for any size, shape, type and color of covers or lids. Some of the games we are making require lots of covers, so please don't hesitate to bring whatever kind you have. They can be left on the table at the rear of the church.

We are now at the mid-point of summer, so keep an eye out for the school supplies sales that usually run from now through September. We always need paper of any kind, crayons, (last year we ran out of crayons way too soon), pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners, and erasers. Since all of these items go inside every shoebox, we need a lot of them and any you can provide will go a long way in helping these kids go to school. Children from third world countries are not allowed to go to school if they don't have the supplies. And even if they are able to find the supplies, it costs their parents more than a week's pay just for a box of crayons or a few pencils.

Also as you venture out on special trips this summer, keep *Operation Christmas Child* in mind as you travel and save a hotel bar of soap or two for the shoeboxes.

Afghans for Afghans

A fghans for Afghans is collecting wool knit sweaters, hats, mittens, and socks for girls. If anyone would like to join in making them, the deadline is September. Thank you! —*Cindy*

"Whether you call on him or don't call on him, God will be present with you." —Frederick Buechner

St. Luke's Financial Information

	<u>June 2013</u>		Year to Date		<u>Budget</u>	Budget
Plate/Pledge Income	\$	10,129.71	\$	50,832.11	\$ 102,400.00	49.64%
Other Oper. Income	\$	585.06	\$	9,668.61	\$ 21,160.00	45.69%
Restricted Income	\$	898.00	\$	1,965.10		
TOTAL INCOME	\$	11,612.77	\$	62,465.82	\$ 123,560.00	50.56%
Regular Expense	\$	8,472.20	\$	53,516.51	\$ 125,333.74	42.70%
Restricted Expense	\$	48.00	\$	193.57		
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	8,520.20	\$	53,710.08	\$ 125,333.74	42.85%

There really isn't anything to say this month except keep up the good work with your pledges, if possible, and give a little extra as able.

—The Financial Committee

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Outreach Committee

St. Luke's Outreach Committee met briefly on Sunday, July 28 to discuss the need of appointing a chairman (or co-chairmen) and to consider our outreach priorities in the coming year. We are still seeking a person(s) to take a leadership role of this important ministry. The main responsibilities are to call 2 or 3 meeting a year and to help initiate the process of determining how our outreach funds will be allocated each year. If this is a ministry that you feel called to, please speak to Rev. Carole. We ask everyone to be praying for a chairman to come forth.



Sale On The Green To Become "Sale On The Screen"

Just as April makes us looks forward to summer, August makes me think of how fall is just around the corner. Is the firewood all cut? House painting done (or the attempt washed off with the next rain storm)? And 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". What we are looking for are items to be offered for

sale that are in good working order and will bring a minimum sale price of \$50 in an online sale format. Items will be photographed for listing, and if sold, help will be available to arrange for pickup and or shipping. While details of the exact venue to sell offered items are still being worked out it is important that you 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 for St. Luke's. If you have something you wish to donate or have questions about what kinds of items you can offer, please call me at 875-3490. Stay tuned for more updates as our planning unfolds in the coming days and weeks. —*John DesLauriers*



Have You Signed St. Luke's Banner?

In 2001, Pat Saul, Bonnie & Lew Watters, Jan Brochu and Adelaide Johnson made a small banner depicting a replica of St. Luke's church. The fabric used to make the letters and borders came from many parishioners. It was presented on Easter Day of that year when John Morris was the Interim Priest. The banner is normally displayed on a lovely stand made by Don Robinson. The original intention was to have all parishioners sign the back of the banner, but recently we discovered there are many missing signatures. The banner is currently on a table at the back of the church (with a pen attached in a small pocket



on the front.) Please do take time to sign this bit of St. Luke's memorabilia.

God's Emergency Numbers

When In Sorrow	call John 14
When you have sinned	call Psalm 51
When you worry	call Matthew 6:19-34
When you are in danger	call Psalm 91
When your faith needs stirring	call Hebrews 11
When you feel down and out	call Romans 8:31
When you want peace and rest	call Matthew 11:25-30
When the world seems bigger than God	call Psalm 90
If your pockets are empty	call Psalm 37
When you are lonely and fearful	call Psalm 23
When you grow bitter and critical	call 1 Corinthians 13
For how to get along with other men	call Romans 12
If you are depressed	call Psalm 27
If people seem unkind	



WEEKLY

Lunch Bunch Book Study:

Mondays, Noon-1:15PM is taking a break for the remainder of the summer and will resume with a new book study in September. If you have a book you'd like to recommend reading, please speak to Rev. Carole.

Choir On Summer Hiatus:

St. Luke's Choir is now on their summer hiatus and will join the congregation in the pews throughout August. We plan to resume rehearsals in September, pending the hiring of a new church musician.

LESS THAN WEEKLY

St. Luke's 75th August Supper:

Saturday, August 3rd, seatings at **4:30, 5:45, & 7:00PM. Reservations:** Call the **Harrisons** at **875-2784.** Tickets \$12.00 adults; \$6.00 children ages 6-10 yrs. Invite your friends, family and neighbors for a great evening of outstanding food and fellowship.

St. Luke's Vestry Meeting:

Monday, August 12th, 6:30PM in Willard Hall, for Short Bible Study; Monthly Agenda at 7:00PM. Focus of the meeting is "Worship & Music." All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Worship Committee Meeting:

Sunday, August 25th, 11:45 PM in Willard Hall. Plans for the upcoming Advent season calendar and other worship issues will be discussed. Parishioners are welcomed to attend and share their ideas and suggestions.

LOOKING AHEAD

All-Parish Appreciative Inquiry:

Sunday, September 8th, in Willard Hall following the 10:00AM service. Led by our Diocesan Companion, Ann Cooper. Meal and childcare provided. Mark your calendar and make it a "high priority" event. Read the MDC article on page 3 for more details and speak to Lew Watters if you have questions.



Birthdays:

- 3 Bob Bazin
- 3 Kara Watters Lake
- 6 Lillian Willis
- 9 Kyle Gagnon
- 10 Hayden Noves
- 12 Bill Hoyt
- 13 Morgan Willis
- 16 Emily Guerra

Anniversaries:

- 6 Chapin & Joan Darling
- 8 David & Marjorie Carey

"God has given us two hands: one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing."—Billy Graham

- 18 Thomas DesLauriers
- 18 Susannah Pennell
- 25 Beverly Dunbar
- 26 John Hoover
- 26 David Willis, Jr.
- 20 Davie Vinio,
- 27 Amos Worth
- 28 Kathleen Willis
- 29 Kelly Watters

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

love."

† Worship SchedulE †

Aug. 4 PENTECOST XI (Proper 13)

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

Aug. 11 PENTECOST XII (Proper 14)

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

Aug. 18 PENTECOST XIII (Proper 15)

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

Aug. 25 PENTECOST XIV (Proper 16)

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:45 AM Worship Committee Meeting

Child Care available in Willard Hall during the 10:00 a.m. Service

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Carole Wageman, 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

