



JULY CELEBRATIONS



Birthdays:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 2 Pat Ballou | 17 Ciana Roundy-Winston |
| 2 Marc DesLauriers | 17 Margaret Yahemiak |
| 4 Nate Gagnon | 18 Jean Hancock |
| 6 Rachel Guerra | 22 John DesLauriers |
| 8 Zoe Meyer | 24 Annemarie Sexton |
| 8 Kathryn Wright | 25 Fletcher Aspden |
| 10 Howard Henry | 28 Martha Cowles |
| 14 Adelaide Johnson | |

Anniversaries:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 3 Sean & Judy McDonald | 20 Russ & Sara Gagnon |
| 10 John & Sally Hoover | 28 Chris & Kat Meyer |
| 14 Paul & Christina Brannock-Wanter | |

AUGUST LITS DEADLINE:

JULY 17th

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

WOSHIP SCHEDULE

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| July 5 | V PENTECOST - One Service |
| 9:00 AM | Parish Breakfast in Willard Hall |
| 10:00 AM | Holy Eucharist, Rite I |
| July 12 | VI PENTECOST |
| 8:00 AM | Holy Eucharist, Rite I |
| 10:00 AM | Holy Eucharist, Rite II |
| July 19 | VII PENTECOST |
| 8:00 AM | Holy Eucharist, Rite I |
| 10:00 AM | Holy Eucharist, Rite II |
| July 26 | VIII PENTECOST |
| 8:00 AM | Holy Eucharist, Rite I |
| 10:00 AM | Holy Eucharist, Rite II |
| Aug 2 | IX PENTECOST - One Service |
| 9:00 AM | Parish Breakfast in Willard Hall |
| 10:00 AM | Holy Eucharist, Rite I |
- Sunday School: 9:45 AM in Willard Hall. Child Care: 10 AM



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The Rev. H. Paul Brannock-Wanter, Rector
313 Main Street, Chester, VT 05143 • Office Phone: 875-6000
www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org
St. Luke's Church is Handicap Accessible.



Light in the Shadows

JULY 2009

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

I Don't Know, or Discerning the Truth

There are only two kinds of people, those who accept dogma and know it, and those who accept dogma and don't know it. G.K. Chesterton, 'The Mercy of Mr. Arnold Bennett,' *Fads vs. Fancies*.



A religious apologist is not one who makes an excuse for faith. Instead, such a person makes a cogent argument for whatever religion it is that the particular apologist professes. One of the eminent Christian apologists of the early Twentieth Century was an individual named G.K. Chesterton. While he had and has numerous admirers, and a number of his writings are still in print, I must admit that I have never read any of his works; other than sections of *Orthodoxy* many years ago, and several of his fictional *Father Brown* mystery series; if these novels can be considered a Christian apology, it is of a most implicit and subtle form.

"All too frequently, people and groups, churches or individuals, on the left or the right, talk at their perceived opponents rather than to them, and there is no possibility of real conversation."
---Paul Brannock-Wanter

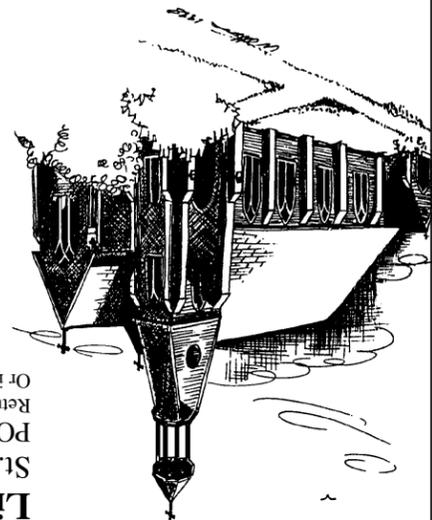
In my recent reading of the book *What is the Point of Being a Christian?* by Timothy Radcliffe, a present day apologist, I came across the above quote from Chesterton that seemed strikingly to delineate the present dilemma of the Christian faith with its multiple divisions engendered by our religious and cultural wars; not least in our own Anglican Communion. If both sides are dogmatic, that is, believe that they 'hold' the absolute religious truth, there can be no conversation. All too frequently, people and groups, churches or individuals, on the left or the right, talk at their perceived opponents rather than to them, and there is no possibility of real conversation. In such a situation as at present, the Church finds itself like a car stuck...

Continued on page 2

71ST
ST. LUKE'S CHURCH
ANNUAL SUPPER
Saturday, August 1ST

By Reservation Call: 875-2784
Seatings at 4:30, 5:45 & 7 pm
Adults: \$12; Children 6-10, \$6

MAIN ST. CHESTERVT.
Church Lawn (Rain or Shine)



Light in the Shadows
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
PO Box 8, Chester, VT05143
Return for ADDRESS CORRECTION
Or if Undeliverable



The June vestry meeting began with a study of chapter 3 in our study of Changing the Conversation. The discussion focused on scripture, evangelism and theology. There will probably be a more comprehensive report of this meeting but one of the reflections I might ask you to consider from this discussion is to think of, or tell about an experience when someone shared something of his or her faith and experience of God with you in ways that were real and meaningful. Our vestry meeting focused on stewardship and hosted Rev. Angie Emerson, the stewardship minister for the Diocese, and we talked about how we could encourage sharing our stories, making our faith more real and alive to ourselves and others. The vestry has begun listening to one faith story a month, as told by one of our members and the past two months have been quite profound. This is not always easy for the storyteller, but I think we are all being rewarded personally for this effort. The hope for St. Luke's is that we will form a year-round stewardship committee over the summer that will be only partially responsible for pledges, and more responsible for helping to discover the mysteries of God and become good stewards of all our relationships. **Marcia Leader**

Vestry Retreat

Historically, St. Luke's vestry has met for a retreat every spring. For the past 2 years Jean Hancock and Jane Davis have offered their home for the venue so it has been inexpensive AND so enjoyable and comfortable. I believe that it is due to this "comfort" that we all relax and can easily share our feelings and ideas about ourselves, our church and our spirituality. This year was particularly exciting and as Martha Stretton put it, "an evening of sharing with a sincere desire to understand the spiritual origins of true generosity."

Generosity and discipleship were the beginnings of our thinking on changing the stewardship conversation at St. Luke's. After two sessions of prayer, reflections and sharing we focused on what is precious to each of us and how we share these things in our everyday lives. Every member practiced writing a collect at the end of our session and we shared our joy through these prayers.

We also celebrated the wonderful work that Bonnie and Lew Watters have done building our church's website, www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org. Martha had a cake made with the homepage of the website "frosted" on the top. It was sensational!

Our planning session ended the event. We focused on delegating liaisons from the vestry to each of our many ministries, scheduling each into meetings throughout the year, and reminding each other of the value of signing up to share our individual spiritual journeys at each meeting. **Marcia Leader**

I Don't Know, or Discerning the Truth

(Continued from page 1)

in Vermont mud, wheels turning and throwing up a lot of dirt, getting rustier by the moment and falling apart, but not moving forward on its journey in and towards God in Christ.

The quote also speaks to our ongoing parish discussion of the book *Changing the Conversation* which posits a third way for congregations to exist, to be transformed, changed, and transformative churches in the post-Christian, post-Christendom, culture we Christians now find ourselves to inhabit. Rejecting the dogmatic positions of left or right; the dogmas of the Enlightenment, Modernist, Era or those of the pre-Enlightenment, Christendom, Era the author, Anthony B. Armstrong, posits an approach to faith for our post-Modernist time that reflects another way, a radical way that seeks to return Christians and the Church to the earliest roots of our faith. This 'Way' calls for the need for repentance, a desire for a changed heart, and an affirmation and basic acceptance of the creed of the earliest Christian communities that 'Jesus is Lord or Sovereign.'

Armstrong's book presents a minimalist approach, but one that allows for us once again to learn the 'Way,' the title by which Christianity first was known. It calls upon us to live in humility as individuals, as Christian communities, and as the institutional Church. It calls upon us to live grace, rather than to just speak grace. Above all, it asks in many circumstances that those words which most individuals and institutions find difficult to speak, be spoken: "I (we) don't know."

Now mind you, I'm not speaking dogmatically, nor I'm sure, is Armstrong. On the other hand and in light of Chesterton's quote, maybe both he and I are but don't know it. In all events, I urge you to read the book this summer and join in the ever widening parish conversation. **In Christ's Love,**

Paul



left to right, Lew Watters with Issac, Cindy Roundy-Winston, Alexandra Scarlett, Ciana Roundy-Winston, Adelaide Johnson, Kathryn Wright, Paul, Martha Stretton, Belinda Worth, John Hoover, Sally Hoover, Mary Pill, Marcia Leader, John DesLauriers, Jane Davis, Red Johnson, Bonnie Watters, Bud Watson, Marija Cunningham, and Peter Rosengarten. Photo courtesy of Kara Watters Lake.

Recognition Sunday

June 7th celebrated the efforts of many parishioners and honored the high school and college graduates. The St. Luke's community gives to the church in many ways that are not always visible or appreciated on a daily/weekly basis. John Hoover proudly recognized all of the people who participate in the worship services every Sunday...there were a lot! Adelaide Johnson presented small gifts to the altar guild members; Jean Hancock thanked her acolytes both adults and children; and Paul recognized the high school and college graduates from our parish, Meghan Guerra, Michael and Stephanie Wilson from Green Mountain Union High School and Brittany Langston from college. (see *Graduates*, page 4).

Martha Stretton was presented with the Good and Faithful Servant Award. She embraces her commitment as church musician every Sunday, and throughout the week, with love and dedication to God. Her ministry encompasses everyone whether they sing in the choir or just appreciate her musicality. Martha's goal is to praise God through a variety of musical expressions. The congregation celebrates and thanks Martha for sharing her gifts with us.

Every Recognition Sunday we are reminded of the great efforts of many people to enrich our Sunday worship and daily life. Each Recognition Sunday I realize that there are always "others" who should make the recognition list and have not been included. I think this Sunday is a big "thank you" to everyone because in our own ways we all make a difference in the lives around us. **Marcia Leader**



Martha Stretton and Paul Brannock-Wanter



Adelaide Johnson and Paul Brannock-Wanter



Others recognized at the celebration were (left to right): Ciana Roundy-Winston, Margie DesLauriers and John Hoover, the man who made everyone feel good about serving God at St. Luke's.

Graduates



Photo: Burlington Free Press

Graduate Brittany Langston sang the National Anthem at the 205th University of Vermont Commencement Ceremony on the University Green on May 17. Brittany is a recent Dean's List graduate with a degree in vocal performance. Brittany has been a member of the University's Catamount Singings for the past three years, as well as The Oriana Singers of Burlington. With that group, Brittany has also performed with the Mozart Festival. Parishioners will recall her many solos at St. Luke's as a member of the choir.

Marc DesLauriers has completed his Graduate Studies in Sport Management at Ithaca College. After completing a fall internship at the college as the Director of the Wellness Clinic, he will be awarded the Master of Science in Sport Management degree. Coupled with his undergraduate degree in Clinical Exercise Science, Marc plans a career in the health and fitness industry.

Pat and Mike Saul attended two graduations of two granddaughters this month. Aubrey M. Saul graduated from the University of Connecticut with honors in Chemistry and Mandy Saul graduated from Marlborough Elementary School and will be attending the Compass School in Belows Falls this Fall.

Green Mountain Union High School graduates are Michael and Stephanie Wilson and Meghan Guerra. Meghan plans to attend the University of Vermont this fall majoring in chemistry. Mary Anderson graduated from Chester-Andover and is excited about starting at GMUHS in the fall.

Tucker Poitras graduated from Fall Mountain Regional HS. He will attend Norwich University beginning this fall.



What am I?

Where do I grow?

Ask the church gardener, Marcia Clinton.

Holden's Celebrate 60 years



Ray and Freddy Holden celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Saturday, June 6 in Willard Hall. Nearly a hundred friends and family enjoyed marking this hallmark day in their lives. Little Fred, Aunt Tootie's nephew, kept the crowd on its toes. Food and friends were plentiful, and the recognition of the couple's enduring relationship was a model to be sure. It was simply a treat to be there to celebrate with the couple. *Bonnie Watters*

St. Luke's at Saint-Gaudens

Time to repeat a park visit. Sunday, August 16 is a special day in Cornish, NH at Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site. As part of the National Park Service, the entrance fees are waived and there is a free concert! The Heritage Brass Ensemble will be playing music of Gabrieli, Bach, and "West Side Story" by Bernstein in the Little Studio. Bring your own picnic (including wine if you like) and meet at the park by 1 PM for an afternoon of chamber music, followed by a walk through the formal gardens, the classical art and the house. Retired former lead ranger Lew will be your personal guide. Brochures and concert schedules are on the table at the back of the church. More information on the Park website: <http://www.nps.gov/saga>. *Lew Watters*

New Blood

The joy that comes from helping others worship, the satisfaction you feel knowing you've helped others enjoy fellowship following the service, the fun of meeting newcomers and being St. Luke's contact person to visitors. All this can be yours when you're a St. Luke's Server. St. Luke's Servers usher, read the lessons, pray and administer the chalice, provide a welcoming to visitors or host the coffee hour following the service. St. Luke's Servers has a need for those who are willing to join us and be added to our servers' schedule and begin to have the joy, the satisfaction and the fun of serving at St. Luke's. If you are interested in helping through serving please contact Sally or John Hoover via any of the following means: (1) in person at church, (2) via email at sallyrhoover@vermontel.net or johnrhoover@vermontel.net, or (3) by phone at 875-6224. *John Hoover.*

For Sharon Poitras, Life is Good...by Bonnie Watters

...as long as it is soft and woolly. Sharon Poitras LOVES wool, any natural fibers. Fiber arts are her passion and working with fiber gives her that inner peace. That Sharon found herself at St. Luke's and decided to stay is a very good thing. Because there are so many special warm and generous charms about this wonder woman, it is the right time to share her story.

Sharon was born in Central Falls, RI in 1956. Her mother's family was from Pikeville, KY, and her father was from Pawtucket, RI. The family moved back and forth from Kentucky to RI several times in her growing up years. Her parents had seven children, one boy and six girls. In the scheme of things, she was the fifth child, fourth girl. Her dad's dream was for all the children to go to college and be able to support themselves. He went into the service during World War II and did not finish high school until he was 36 years old. In fact, he graduated from high school the same day as Sharon's oldest sister. He attended the Rhode Island School of Design, majoring in textile design. He worked at the Lebanon Knitting Mills and rose from night janitor to running the place.



School for Sharon was a means to the end. "I have spent over twenty years in various academic programs but never embraced school." In spite of her defiance of compliance, she did herself and father proud by finishing sixth in her class, thanks to some wonderful teachers who saw her potential and would not give up on her. Sharon graduated from Keene State College with a B.A. in Sociology in 1983 while raising two children, working for the college and farming. In 1992 she completed Midwifery School, and in 2004 she earned a Master's in Social Work from the University of New Hampshire.

Sharon has worked in human services most of her career. She began working for FEMA after her last year of college. She has worked in the area of child protection for the State of New Hampshire, as a midwife, crisis worker in several hospital ERs; and for the last six years she has served as a therapist, working with clients with severe psychiatric diagnoses, at Health Care and Rehabilitative Services in Springfield, VT. After college she had a busy midwifery career; however, while she no longer practices, she still gets to attend a few births, covering for other midwives.

Sharon met her husband while in college at Keene State, and was married for 24 years. They divorced after many years of separation. Sharon has raised her three children, Thomas, Robin, and Tucker, and one stepdaughter Libby, on the family farm in Alstead, NH. Thomas was born in Providence during the blizzard of "78;" Robin and Tucker were born at home. Thomas is a roofer and lives in Rhode Island with his wife Lindsay. Robin is a herdsman, managing 600 dairy goats in Weathersfield, VT. She plans to marry Nate Patnode in June of 2010 and has bought the N.H. farm from Sharon. Tucker graduated from Fall Mountain Regional High School this June and will attend Norwich University, having secured a number of handsome honors and scholarships. She and her children raised a flock of independently minded and often naughty Icelandic sheep and a flock of Natural Colored sheep. Interest in sheep began with two rescued Romney sheep, and developed flocks that the children have shown over their growing up years. These 4H and open champions produced the breeding stock.

Entering into their lives is Joe Plummer whose family farm has been a mainstay in Grafton VT for the over sixty years. After Joe and Sharon met, it seemed clear that running two farms in two states would be a challenge. The solution, Green Meadows Farm, combines the two. There are sheep, goats, geese, rabbits, chickens, three calves, a horse, three dogs and five cats. One looses count! Joe points out that one herd benefits another. They market sustainable product-based farm products, providing high quality, locally grown meat and vegetables to family and the community. Sharon and Robin developed the new website for growing business (www.greenmeadowsfarmvt.com). Adjoining the farmhouse is a charming retail farm store where one can buy the goat and lamb you will remember from the St. Luke's Seders. Plan to make a visit with your family; it is pure joy. Then Sharon has her beloved pastime, and the shop is full of wool products of every description, including sweet playscapes for children. When does she make these? At night, of course.

Nothing seems insurmountable to Sharon now. Although she juggles jobs and work at the farm, she enjoys a new life with Joe with good health to boot. Sharon was raised in a Catholic community. Since leaving home she has searched for a church family that was nurturing and embracing of her family. Sharon found just what she needed at St. Luke's. The last few years have been challenging, with the death of her mother, a sister and other losses. She "blames" her supportive, loving St. Luke's family for this peace. "The support I received from my St. Luke's family supported me when I felt I could not stand on my own. My hope for St. Luke's is that the community grows, and I am able to contribute to positive supportive fellowship."

The Outreach Corner

The PINS Committee (Partners in Service - Faith Communities and Human Service Agencies collaborating to help local children and families in need) has taken on a summer project of filling backpacks with back-to-school items. We already have over 20 backpacks, acquired either free or at low cost, and are asking the congregation for assistance to fill them. These backpacks will then be distributed to foster children and children in need so they will have new equipment to start the next school year in late August.

Appropriate items for K-high school are: rulers, pencils, sharpeners, erasers, pens, highlighters, calculators, 2" 3-ring binders, loose leaf paper, 8x10" spiral notebooks, protractors, crayons, etc. There will be a collection bin in the back of the church labeled "PINS" for donations.

The PINS program allows social workers and other staff of the Springfield Family Service Department to voice the needs of the children on their caseloads, needs that would otherwise go unheard and unmet. The Springfield Family Services covers a large area of southern Vermont and has contact with over 70 foster homes and over 100 children in their revolving caseload.

School items will be collected during the month of July and the committee will pack up the backpacks in August for early delivery to Robbie Wierzbicki, our Resource Coordinator at Family Services.

Look for the many back to school sales this month and help us fill the collection bin for the kids. Thank you.

The Mitten Basket contents are growing, but slowly. It seems there are only a few knitters clicking at those needles to produce mittens for the kids in the local schools. It takes many mittens and hats to fill the bags that St. Luke's delivers to the four local schools in December. Brand new store bought are also welcome to fill the basket.



HELP! **Marcia Clinton**

It's all about the fun!

The Smoothies Operation was well organized, well supported and just plain fun. Was the \$45 earned worth it? Yes, indeed. The weather was great, just the right temperature. The smoothies were sensational. The worker bees had so much fun that, in fact, two – Kaila McDonald and Ciana Roundy-Winston didn't want to part or see it end. Next year, if it is destined to happen, we ought to be at Jack and Jill Dowd's place where there is more traffic. And Mary Anderson and her mom had some great display ideas. Something to sip about! **Bonnie Watters**



Left to right: Bonnie Watters, Judy McDonald, Kaila McDonald and Ciana Roundy-Winston.

Burgers and Dogs Fly

We were so busy grilling burgers and dogs at the St. Luke's Annual Picnic, thanks to Grill Master John DesLauriers, that we have no pictures to prove that forty plus people enjoyed wonderful salads, desserts, and conversations to accompany the treasures from the grill. Our oldest daughter Kate, here for her 20th high school reunion, brought her own raw veggie burger for John to grill, and had fun reacquainting herself with her fellow classmates and St. Luke's friends. Thanks to all the cooks for making our big girl happy! **Lew and Bonnie Watters**

Community Challenge Initiated

The Watters attended the initial gathering of several service and community organizations representing St. Luke's and ourcheester.org on June 15 at the Stone Hearth Inn. Initiated by Anne Lamb, its mission is to become a networking system to help partner community service organizations with volunteers and volunteers with community service organizations. There will be a Community Service Fair in the fall. You read more about it in future LITS and www.ourcheester.org. **Lew and Bonnie Watters**

Joyful Noisemaking

1 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.
2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.
3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.
5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

(Psalm 100)

If you were at the 10 AM service on June 14, you heard ringing in your ears! Susan Chamberlin from the Schulmerich Handbell Co. (www.schulmerichbells.com) visited us once again and brought a full set of MelodyChimes for us to try out. Susan spoke briefly of the ancient history of bells in the church, and reminded us that handbells originated as a quieter alternative to using the tower bells for "change ringing" in England.

MelodyChimes are similar to handbells, but are sturdier and less expensive.

As we saw and experienced during Sue's presentation, playing the MelodyChimes is easy for all ages. It was a delight to see 25 people ringing "Amazing Grace" and to see a group of 8 doing a bit of change ringing on the spot!

After the service, almost \$600 was raised so we are well on our way to having a set completely funded. Parishioners are invited to "buy a chime" in someone's name. See the display in Willard Hall for sign-up.

Some of the uses we have envisioned so far are:

- Accompanying congregational singing (as we did during Sue's demonstration)
- Handbell anthems
- Accompanying the choir
- Visiting shut-ins (MelodyChimes are completely portable!)
- Intergenerational activities with Sunday School
- Ringing during events such as the Tag Sale, the August Supper, etc.

Martha Stretton



Notice:

Rector on vacation. Paul will be on vacation from July 1-26. In the event of an emergency contact Sr. Warden, Marcia Leader (802-387-4308), Jr. Warden, Jean Hancock (875-1855) or Fr. Sanford R. Johnson (603-876-4433)

Weekly Meetings and Events:

Wednesday Morning Prayer Group & Holy Eucharist:

7:00 am Intercessory Prayer

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

Father Ian Montgomery is the guest celebrant.

Less Than Weekly:

First Sunday of the month in July and August will be "Music Free" services...that is Rite I at 10:00 am with no music. The remainder of the services each month will be the regular Rite I at 8:00 am and Rite II at 10 am.

August Supper Timetable, Saturday, August 1

- 7:30 am Special Men's Breakfast followed by setup.
- 10 am Meat Carving at the Masonic Hall
- 9- noon Ladies Chop and Chat in Willard Hall
- Floral Arrangements Placed
- Silverware Prepared and Tables Set
- 4 pm Prepare the Banquet Table
- Servers/Runners Report
- Tickets Sold, Reservations Fulfilled
- 4:30 pm First Guest Seatings (5:45 pm and 7 pm follow)
- 8 pm Cleanup and Putaway

Please complete and return the enclosed information gathering sheet about the August Supper and your role(s) in it. Thank you.