



JANUARY 2012

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

Journeys And Epiphanies

'A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of year
For a journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter.'
T.S. Eliot *Journey of the Magi*



Lately I've been reflecting on how frequently the motif or image of a journey figures throughout the Biblical narrative. Even within the Christmas or infancy cycle of readings from the Gospels for this season of the year, one finds numerous references to journeys undertaken. There is Mary's visit to Elizabeth, the holy family's journey to Bethlehem, the shepherds short journey/jaunt, and the wise men's much longer journey to the same, and finally the holy family's flight into Egypt.

"The intention of Scripture is not that of either manual or map. It is journey as a love story wherein one finds the assurance of God's love and redemption."

—H. Paul Brannock-Wanter

equal if not greater regard, the metaphorical and metaphorical distance traversed by the individual soul in the lifelong journey of faith.

Perhaps the greatest present difficulty concerning this concept of faith journey is the widespread prevalence of the viewpoint that there is a well delineated map for the journey in Scripture or the many numerous self help

Continued on page 2

St. Luke's Annual Parish Meeting Will Be Held On January 29th



Always an important event in the life of St. Luke's, the **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held on Sunday, **January 29** following the worship service that morning. There is only one service at 9:00 a.m., then we will adjourn to Willard Hall for a Potluck Brunch and segue into the meeting agenda.

Annual Parish Meeting is a special opportunity for the majority of St. Luke's faith community to come together, enjoy fellowship over a meal, and to express gratitude for the shared blessings of this past year. The agenda includes discussion and approving of reports (we hope to have the **Annual Report Booklet*** in church on the Sunday before the meeting—January 22, so everyone will have an chance to read through it prior to the meeting.) The other business to be conducted includes election of Vestry Members and of Delegates/Alternates to the Diocesan Convention, and presentation of St. Luke's 2012 Budget. There will also be an opportunity for small group discussion centered around St. Luke's newly adopted vision statement. Please put this date on your calendar and make every effort to attend.

One final reminder to those who are planning to come—please bring a food item for the Potluck Brunch. It would be helpful if you let Bonnie Watters (875-2114) know what you plan to contribute to the meal.

**See the note on the Annual Reports due date on page 2 of this newsletter.*

From the Senior Warden

More Conversation



I surprised everyone this year and sent out a very religious Christmas card that said “May your heart rejoice as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Have a wonderful and blessed Christmas.” It had a beautiful Nativity scene on the front, with cherubim and a glowing Christ child. I

know that many of my secular friends will be surprised. Some may even be dismayed and think “Oh, no. Kathryn’s gone off the deep end with her religious stuff.” Nope. That’s not it.

I listen to the Gospel and think so much about the early disciples, the followers who lived the Word and spread the Word. I want to be in that place, where I’m actively sharing my love of Christ with unknowing others. I want to take opportunities to explain that going to church – well, sharing the Eucharist, really – recharges my emotional battery and my spiritual focus. It connects me with God. So that’s my New Year’s resolution this year, to make conversations about faith happen.

*Yours in Christ,
Kathryn*

Annual Reports Reminder

All annual reports need to be in Lew Watters’ hands by **January 10th** to allow enough time to compile them for the printer. If you haven’t yet done so, email your report to: lewbon@vermontel.net (preferably a Word document attachment) or send it to: Lew Watters, 250 North St., Chester, VT 05143 (finished clean typed hard copy.) Everyone who needs to write a report should have received an email message from Lew with instructions. If you have any questions, please contact Lew (875-2114).

January/February Worship Note

Beginning Sunday, **January 8th**, worship services will be held in Willard Hall in order to reduce our heating costs during the winter months. We will resume services in the sanctuary as the weather dictates.

Journeys And Epiphanies

(Rector’s Column continued from page 1)

manuals of our era; a map that will get us from point A to point B. While many present manuals seem to intentionally foster this false perspective, Scripture assuredly does not. Yes, there are hints and guesses, there are those things which one ought to do or ought not to do. Even about these there is less clarity than we presume.

The intention of Scripture is not that of either manual or map. It is journey as a love story wherein one finds the assurance of God’s love and redemption. The faith journey of Scripture is one of constant surprise, and of those numerous unattended moments when grace broke through leading to that one unattended moment when grace was incarnated, fleshed out, in Christ Jesus, and through him in those who followed and still seek to follow him. The joy of this journey of faith whether exuberant or bittersweet is in the surprise, life as surprise, and in the unwarranted and enduring presence of God’s love.

In Christ’s love,

Paul



The Right Road

My Lord God,

I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me.

I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does, in fact, please you.

And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.

I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. —**Thomas Merton**

Each morning as you stand face to face with the grace of the new day, I invite you to proclaim this truth: “I am not too busy to taste the fullness of life today.” —*Macrina Wiederkehr*



Another Great Christmas Tea & Sale!

It seems to get better every year. The Annual Christmas Tea & Sale is one of the most enjoyed activities at St. Luke's and this year's event was no exception. The morning of the tea started slowly with just a few customers meandering into Willard Hall to have first dibs on the baked foods, crafts and attic treasures, but by noon the room was vibrant with joyful sounds as the tea tables filled up and more people came to shop. Seats were soon hard to find and Grandma's Attic and the craft tables were doing a brisk business. **Adelaide's Johnson's** quilted pot holders & the other quilted items were especially sought after and our "YoYo" calico tree ornaments were a big hit. **Linda Bazin** had created a spectacular quilted Advent Calendar hanging that sold quickly. This year the Baked Goods Table was teeming with items including a wide assortment of homemade jams, breads cookies, candies and other specialty items. The "Cookies in a Tin" sale were not as brisk as the previous year, but still a popular draw.

What makes this event so special? Maybe it's the festive atmosphere. Maybe it's all those smiling faces. Maybe it's all the delicious goodies to eat. Maybe it's everyone joyfully lending a helping hand. Maybe it's the thrill of finding a fantastic bargain in Grandma's Attic. Maybe it's having the time to sit down and visit with friends and neighbors over a cup of tea.

To me it's all these things combined and much more. Adelaide and I are so grateful for everyone's support. The many donations of handmade craft items, the fabulous array of baking done for the buffet table, baked goods table and the "Cookies in a Tin." The great kitchen team organized by **Jane Davis** and the ever faithful Grandma's Attic gals—**Dee Robinson**, **Freddy Holden** and **Janice**



Fielder. The lovely ladies who poured tea (**Ruth, Bonnie, Sara, Kathryn and Lillian**) and **Marcia Leader** and her granddaughter, **Katelyn**, managing the cookie tin sales. **Sally Hoover** at the Baked Goods table, **Red Johnson**, cashier extraordinaire and the many others (more than we have space to name here) who helped make the tea a success. At the end of the day we had made over \$2000.00 for St. Luke's and spread lots of good Christmas cheer!

—*Adelaide Johnson & Pat Fromberger*



In Memoriam Patricia D. Saul

December 15, 1939 – November 17, 2011



(Photo taken at St. Luke's 2006 Christmas Tea.)

Whenever I think about Pat Saul, her cheerful smile comes to mind. Pat loved the Christmas Tea and along with her husband, Mike, acted as the cashier and greeter for this event for nearly as many years as she was a member of St. Luke's (she and Mike came to St. Luke's in 1997, having moved to Chester, Vermont from Yalesville, Conn.)

From the moment she and Mike stepped through the doors at St. Luke's they became totally involved in the life of this faith community. Pat served on the Vestry for a number of years and later as the Vestry Secretary & Clerk. She and Mike were Delegates to the Diocesan Convention numerous times and served as Deanery

Representatives. Pat & Mike were lectors during worship services and Pat was a prayer leader. She sang with the choir for a short time until her health prevented her from doing so (but she continued to sing out with joy from the pews.) She regularly participated in the Wednesday Morning Prayer Group and Holy Eucharist and with Mike attended and supported almost all the special events at St. Luke's. For the past 2-3 years, Pat acted as the office church secretary, 3 days a week, on a volunteer basis and she and Mike copied and assembled the weekly Sunday Bulletins in recent years.

Pat was not a person you could ignore when she was in the same room with you. She was never shy about expressing her opinions and had a deep and abiding faith in the Lord. She was a "people person" and loved being among others. Or as Paul expressed it at her memorial service, "Pat was a party girl." One of her passions was "outreach" and helping others in the local community as well as in the world. She took up the reins of the United Thank Offering (UTO) when Jane Zezza passed away and was always ready and eager to take up the cause of those in need. Another of her passions in recent years was to raise funds for a Memorial Garden at St. Luke's Church. This dream became a reality in the summer of 2008, when the garden was planted. Pat has always wanted her ashes laid to rest here at St. Luke's when God called finally her home.

Pat was such a vital presence at St. Luke's and in the local community that it is difficult to grasp the reality of her death. I still expect to look up and see her sitting in her favorite pew, or get a phone call from her during the week asking me some question about church. She has touched all our lives with her unwavering faith and witness of God's love. We will truly miss her, but are grateful knowing she is free of the debilitating pain from rheumatoid arthritis that she courageously endured for so many years. Our prayers go out to Mike and to their children as they grieve the loss of a loving wife and mother. —*Pat Fromberger*



A Christian Symbol: "Ecce Agnus Dei"

Latin for "Behold, the Lamb of God," this is the phrase John the Baptist used twice to point out Jesus to others (John 1:29, 36). It marks Jesus' Epiphany (manifestation, revelation) as the Anointed One (Christ, Messiah).

Essentially, the kingdom of God is the rule of God. Where God's will, rather than ours, is done, there is the kingdom. And the glory of the kingdom is that wherever it is found there we find health, wholeness of life, joy, and peace.

Why must we still pray, "The kingdom come?" Because, as Aldous Huxley puts it, too few of us have learned to pray, "My kingdom go." Our self-will, our determination to have things our way rather than God's way, is the only reason why God's kingdom is not the only kingdom we see and experience on earth. But the good news is that the kingdom is *near*. It is in fact *right here*. If we want it. (*Forward Day By Day*, January 11, 2010.)

Wreath Decorating Workshop Was A Success



On November 18 & 19 forty-two evergreen wreaths were decorated by creative parishioners, friends, and members of the public at four festive workshops. Men, women, and young people embellished their luxurious evergreen wreaths with items from an abundant and intriguing supply of natural materials that had been gathered for them. They looked closely at flowers, seeds, nuts, and bark with

an imaginative eye and no preconceived notions. Their decorated wreaths were unique and stunningly beautiful! The sessions prepared participants in advance for the holidays and netted \$712.80 for St. Luke's from which a \$100 donation will be made to the Chester Conservation Committee to encourage its work on open space trails in the area.

If you missed the event this year and would like to participate in 2012, please contact me at lbwillisct@comcast.net or at 802-875-1340. In the meantime, special thanks to all who donated materials and best wishes in the coming New Year! —**Lillian Willis**

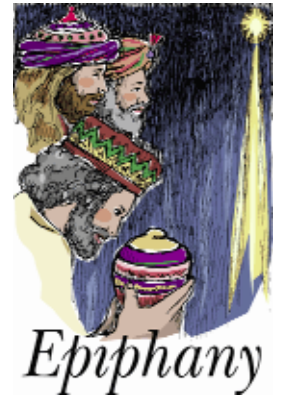


Ruth Harrison proudly displays the lovely wreath she decorated at the Wreath Decorating Workshop

"A reverential awe of God puts our lives in perspective. Such "fear" reminds us to be still and know who we are and who God is. When we acknowledge that our hearts are open to God—from whom we can hide nothing—we are reminded over and over again both how small we are before God, and how beloved." (Forward Day By Day 2/1/09)

The Epiphany Of Our Lord Celebrated On January 6

Epiphany is the climax of the Christmas Season and the Twelve Days of Christmas, which are counted from December 25th until January 5th. The day before Epiphany is the twelfth day of Christmas, and is sometimes called Twelfth Night, an occasion for feasting in some cultures. The term epiphany means "to show" or "to make known" or even "to reveal".



As with most aspects of the Christian liturgical calendar, Epiphany has theological significance as a teaching tool in the church. The Wise Men (the Magi) who brought gifts to the infant Jesus were the first Gentiles to acknowledge Jesus as "King" and so were the first to "show" or "reveal" Jesus to a wider world as the incarnate Christ. This act of worship by the Magi, which corresponded to Simeon's blessing that this child Jesus would be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" (Luke 2:32), was one of the first indications that Jesus came for all people, of all nations, of all races, and that the work of God in the world would not be limited to only a few.

At St. Luke's Church we will observe The Epiphany of our Lord on Friday, **January 6** with a service of **Holy Eucharist, Rite II at 6:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary. We invite you to join in this special celebration with us.



A New Year's Blessing

May God make your year a happy one!

Not by shielding you from all sorrow and pain,

But by strengthening you to bear it as it comes;

Not by making your path easy,

But by making you sturdy to travel any path;

Not by taking hardships from you,

But by taking fear from your heart;

Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,

But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;

Not by making your life always pleasant,

But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,

And by making you anxious to be there to help.

God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead. —**Author Unknown**

The Outreach Corner

Mitten Basket Thank You!

The Mitten Basket collection for 2011 has ended and the final count was 59 pairs of mittens/gloves and 3 hats. They were divided into 3 bundles and delivered to Chester/Andover, Saxtons River and Grafton schools tagged with a notes from St. Luke's Church. All the bundles were well received. One school has a rule that kids cannot go out for recess without mittens in the winter. So all you knitters keep up the good work and the Mitten Basket will make another appearance mid-2012. For those who bought mittens and gloves, remember the Mitten Basket and look for sales at the end of the season. —*Marcia Clinton*

PINS (Partners in Service) Report

Every year the Department of Child and Family Services, Springfield office, holds a Christmas party for foster children and their families. At the party there is a free Christmas shop for children to buy gifts for their family and foster families. We at St. Luke's were asked to contribute items for the shop and wrapping paper, ribbon and tape. Adelaide J. and Pat F. co-chairs of the Christmas Tea offered a free run through the two rooms of Grandma's Attic at the end of the day to take anything that might be appropriate for the kids' shopping. Four boxes filled with new or very lightly used items were delivered to the Springfield office the week before the party. Robbie Wierzbecki, our coordinator for PINS was thrilled with the amount and variety of items for the kids.

PINS (Partners in Service) is faith communities and Human Service Agencies collaborating to help local children and families in need. The beauty of PINS lies in its ability to convey a message of love, empathy and caring to vulnerable children who are experiencing feelings of loss, fear, isolation and grief. A child's realization that someone in their community cares for them makes an enormous difference to individual well-being.

—*Marcia Clinton*

230 Shoeboxes Sent To Operation Christmas Child

A huge thank you to everyone who helped with the *Operation Christmas Child* shoeboxes! This year, 230 shoeboxes were finished. This is the most we have ever done. Let's see if we can surpass that number in 2012. We can still use soap, shoeboxes, all kinds of toys for boys, clothes either homemade or store-bought, and as always we need tons and tons of jar, bottle or can covers—any size either plastic or metal. We used 230 pencil sharpeners and 230 pads of paper, and 2,300 pencils. As you can see, the need for these items is great as every box has school supplies included.

I am working on knitted balls and crocheted rings and am making lots of games. I could use LOTS of yogurt container type lids and all sizes and shapes of covers metal or plastic for game pieces. As soon as I have a collection of games and toys ready, I will display them for all to see.

Keep that change coming! This year, we collected \$164.50 for the shipping of the boxes and \$143.50 of it came from the change jar. Please consider donating your spare coins today. The "Change for Children" jar will be in Willard Hall.

Also please consider joining me in knitting, crocheting, or sewing for children with AIDS in Africa and the homeless at home and around the world. I have lots of easy knitting patterns for socks, hats, mittens, etc.

Jesus said: "I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." *Matthew 25:40 (KJV)*

Thank you!

—*Cindy Roundy-Winston*



Beautiful Things To Be Cherished

We all cherish the beautiful objects we use in our worship. Our beautiful stained glass and silver and antique furniture are valuable and, as good shepherds for the generations of worshipers to come, we are charged with making certain that St. Luke's is carrying adequate insurance coverage on them. To do that, we first have to do a comprehensive inventory, written and photographed

and appraised when necessary.

Would consider being part of an *Inventory Committee* to work on this? Give it some prayerful thought and please contact **Kathryn Wright** by email katewrit@sover.net or phone (463-1570) or speak to me at church on a Sunday, if you're interested in sharing in this ministry, which promises to be informational.

Come Join Us For Dinner Church, Jan. 14



St. Luke's first Dinner Church was initiated in October and November with everyone enjoying the informal yet sacred format. This Service is based on one of the earliest models of the Eucharist which took place in the midst of a meal with the Breaking of the Bread at the beginning, a Lesson and Story in the middle, and the Sharing of the Cup towards the end; all in the context of a meal with simple unaccompanied singing at various places.

The next **Dinner Church** will be on Saturday, **January 14** beginning at **6:00 p.m.** in Willard Hall. Teams are assigned each month to perform the various tasks of setting-up, food preparation and clean-up. Look for a sign-up list at the back of the church and indicate if you are coming and what task you are willing to do. Speak to the Rector if you have any questions.

Stewardship Report & Pledge Update

To all of you who pledged to the 2012 Stewardship Campaign, a big thank you from the committee. For those of you who have the appeal letter sitting in your "To do" pile on your desk, we respectfully request that you make your pledge and submit it as soon as possible. This will enable us to put the final budget figures together for the new year. At this point last year there were 41 pledges for a total of \$106,406. This year we have 32 pledges for a total of \$92,030. We need your help to carry on the wonderful work of St. Luke's Chester.

Thank you.

*Bill Hoyt,
for the Stewardship Committee*

Special January Dates

- New Year's Day, January 1
- Epiphany, January 6
- Baptism of the Lord, January 8
- Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observance, January 16
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18–25

January Meetings & Events

WEEKLY

- **Monday Lunch/Discussion Group:**
12:00PM-1:00PM in Willard Hall. Brown bag lunch & book study discussion with the Rector on topics of spirituality & faith. We will begin reading a new book in January. Please come join us!
- **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** at the church. New members welcomed.

LESS THAN WEEKLY

- **The Epiphany of Our Lord:**
Friday, **January 6th** at **6:30PM** in the church sanctuary. Holy Eucharist, Rite II. Come join us for this special celebration.
- **Adult Evening Bible Study:**
Tuesday, **January 10th & 24th** at **6:30PM** in Willard Hall and ending promptly at **8:00PM** with Compline. We are reading the book of Isaiah. All welcome to join us.
- **St. Luke's Dinner Church:**
Saturday, **January 14th** at **6:00PM** in Willard Hall. See article at top of page for details.
- **St. Luke's Vestry Meeting:**
Wednesday, **January 18th**, **6:00PM**, for a light supper in Willard Hall, followed by the regular meeting agenda at **7:00PM**. Annual Parish Meeting will be the focus. Parishioners are welcome to attend.
- **St. Luke's Worship Committee:**
Sunday, **January 22nd** at **9:15AM** in Willard Hall. We will be discussing plans for Lent & Easter Worship. Come share your thoughts and ideas.
- **Annual Parish Meeting:**
Sunday, **January 29th**, following the **9:00 AM** service that morning. We will have a Potluck Brunch and then segue into the Annual Meeting Agenda. All parishioners are urged to attend. Please remember to bring some item of food to contribute to the meal.

St. Luke's Financial Information

	<u>November</u>	<u>Jan.-Nov.</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Pledge & Income	\$ 9,885.49	\$ 102,840.38	\$ 111,806.00	91.98%
All Other Income	\$ 1,778.14	\$ 22,712.45	\$ 22,750.00	99.83%
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 11,663.63	\$ 125,552.83	\$ 134,556.00	93.31%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 10,487.36	\$ 120,749.77	\$ 141,428.20	85.38%

Thank you all for keeping up with your pledges. Even though expenses seem light to date at 85% of budget for the year, there are quite a few items that are only paid in mid to late December. As you can see, we need a total of \$16,000 before the end of the year in order to meet all our expenses and erase the deficit. We hope everyone has a blessed Christmas and a good New Year. Thank you for your commitment to St. Luke's

—The Finance Committee



JANUARY CELEBRATIONS



Birthdays:

3 Hadley Gleim	12 Mackenzie Walton
4 David Carey	18 Henry Pennell
7 Hannah Crocker	23 Irene Wright
9 Don Robinson	24 Sandra Rich
10 Alexandra Scarlett	25 Freddy Holden
11 Marjorie Carey	26 Belinda Whipple Worth
12 Donna Farrell	

February LITS Deadline:

 **JAN. 27th**

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

**St. Luke's Church is
Handicapped Accessible**

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

✠ WORSHIP SCHEDULE ✠

Jan. 1	THE HOLY NAME OF OUR LORD
8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Jan. 6	THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD
6:30 PM	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Jan. 8	EPIPHANY I (The Baptism of Our Lord)
8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Jan. 15	EPIPHANY II
8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Jan. 22	EPIPHANY III
8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Jan. 29	EPIPHANY IV – ONE SERVICE
9:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
	Brunch/Annual Meeting, following 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

Light in the Shadows

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

