



JANUARY 2011

# 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*

## The Joy of the Snow



**W**hen was the last time that you made a snow angel?" I was looking out of my window at the paltry fall of snow we have had thus far this winter, and for no reason whatsoever, that thought, formed as a question, came to mind. Truth be told, my answer would have to be told counted not in years but decades.

Snow and its accompanying cold, is now largely perceived as an obstacle in life for many adults; pax to those skiers among you. Add in often gray, overcast skies with a seemingly lifeless earth, a sharp wind, plus concerns about heating costs, plowed driveways, and dangerous roads; it becomes psychologically and spiritually almost more than can be borne. Winter has become something to be endured; a thing gone through at best. At worst, it has become an enemy. Given the frequent variations of this theme arising in conversations, and overheard snatches of the same, I strongly suspect I am not alone in holding this possibly jaundiced, as in the often grayish-yellow wan skies (sorry!), view of the season.

*"The gift to those who find themselves in the Way is to be on fire with life; to burn brightly with the light not ours, and to live in redemptions promise, ..."*

*—H. Paul Brannock-Wanter*

possibly might just happen closes the door to joy, from seeing and living in this awesome world in an openness to and trust in God's presence even in the most wintry landscapes.

Have you ever noticed how fully alive most children are? Children see life as an adventure full of joyful possibilities. They are on fire with life, lights burning brightly. In

Somewhere along life's way, between the child and the adult, the joy of the snow has been lost. My fear is that this loss is symptomatic of a far greater loss of wonderment, joy, and of awe; that an openness to grace and a belief in God's possibilities at all times and in all situations is eclipsed by a narrowness defined by the sole parameters of time and our convenience. Our anxieties induced by fears of what just



*(Photos courtesy Anne Clarke Brown)*

## Ordination At St. Luke's Episcopal Church Is An Historic Event

**O**n Saturday, December 18, The Right Rev. Thomas Clarke Ely officiated at the Ordination of **The Rev. Donna Jane Reidt** to the sacred order of priests at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Chester, Vermont. The church pews overflowed with fellow clergy from the Diocese of Vermont and elsewhere, family members, friends, and St. Luke's parishioners who all came to celebrate and participate in this joyous and historic occasion. This is the first ordination to be held at St. Luke's Church in its 142-year history as an incorporated parish.

Since the young age of eight, Donna knew she wanted to be a priest. It's been a long journey with many setbacks along the way, but Donna never wavered in her faith and optimism to follow her dream and God's calling. *(You can read more about her journey in a profile written by Bonnie Watters in the 2010 March LITS on St. Luke's website: [www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org](http://www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org))* Donna was ordained as a Deacon at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Brattleboro in December 19, 2009 and since March of 2010 has been serving as a transitional Deacon at St. Luke's. A gala reception was held in Willard Hall following the ordination. The St. Luke's community presented Donna with a gift of a travel communion kit. Donna plans to remain at St. Luke's as a Priest Associate until she is called to another parish.

*Continued on page 2*

*(More photos on page 3)*

## From the Senior Warden

If you are familiar with Anthony Robinson's book, *"Changing the Conversation,"* you may recall that one of the chapters is called, **"Let's Get (Less) Organized."** Quoting Robinson:

*"In too many congregations, the way the congregation is organized to do business, and the implicit idea that the best way to get people involved is to get them on a committee, is proving counterproductive. Moreover, the elaborate organizational structures of many congregations are designed more for maintenance than mission—to maintain the status quo rather than respond to new challenges."*



**One of the essential tensions in any organization is between maintaining the status quo and moving forward.** If nothing is maintained, things may fall apart. If we are all about maintenance, things may die. There are aspects of the status quo of Christendom that are proving themselves practically unmaintainable. Likewise, the very changes that are shattering Christendom provide many opportunities for growth.

As our **Annual Parish Meeting** date approaches (Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>) we all have an opportunity to think about St. Luke's maintenance and mission.

**Our statement of purpose serves as a destination of sorts**, an indication of what the point is. Using the familiar metaphor of *"the journey,"* you might think of our purpose as our reason for going in the first place:

- To go where no one has gone before, *or*
- To take a family-bonding trip, *or*
- To start a package delivery service, *or*
- To make a map of uncharted territory

**Our mission will flow from that reason for going in the first place.**

- To go where no one has gone before means we have to set out with a lot of unknowns toward the edge of the known universe.
- To take a family-bonding trip means we can decide to go near or far, rough or deluxe, on foot or by car, *or...* you get the idea.

Our choice of destination will influence our mode of transport, what we decide to bring, whether we have to invent something new to make the journey possible, etc..

If we are committed to **being an intentional Christian community deepening faith and broadening love**, we must pick some destinations and make



## The Joy Of Snow

(continued from page 1)

comparison, most, but not all, adults seem only half alive, cautious and mindful of risks; dimly burning wicks at best.

The gift to those who find themselves in the Way is to be on fire with life; to burn brightly with the light not ours, and to live in redemptions promise, a promise which allows a childlike knowledge of life as an adventure full of joyful possibilities. It is always ours for the asking, and the receiving. With such, even winter will seem warm. All we have to do is surrender our guardedness, and our fears. When was the last time you made a snow angel in the joy of the snow, and of life?

In Christ's love,

*Paul*

some plans to get there. Here are some questions to ponder in advance of the Annual Meeting, when we will share our thoughts and continue to chart our course:

**1. What does community look like today?** How can you tell when it is thriving? How can you tell what it needs to grow? How can you tell when a community is ending? Is it important to ride out the ebb and flow of community life or is that counterproductive in an increasingly fast-paced virtual world? How much intention can we expect ourselves to bring to the task of forming community? Do we derive our sense of community from the civic arena? Religion? Theology? Politics?

**2. What deepens your faith?** Faith is related to the word fidelity, to the concept of trust. In what or whom do you trust? Doctrine, institutions, people, the living Christ? What serves to deepen this? How can you tell when it is deepened? Threatened?

**3. What broadens your love?** Is your love a feeling, a discipline, an ideal, a project? What allows your love to broaden? Do you love at a distance, up close, or both? How does your faith inform your love? How is Christian love different from other humanitarian efforts? Or is it?

I have sought in vain to find the source and exact wording of the following statement, but I am left with no choice but to paraphrase it, acknowledge that it is not original with me, and hope that you find it inspiring.

*A Statement of Purpose is a nice thing to read.*

*A Statement of Mission gets me going in the morning.*

Please plan to attend and participate in the Annual Parish Meeting. It's always worth showing up to see what the Holy Spirit will do in our gathered community.

—Martha Stretton



## More Photos From The Ordination of The Rev. Donna Reidt...

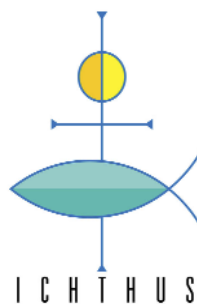


**Ordination Photos**  
courtesy  
Anne Clarke Brown;  
**Reception Photos**  
courtesy  
Lew Watters

### Spiritual Nourishment

Someone, feeling spiritually unfed, wrote a letter to a newspaper, saying that after some 30 years of attending church, he couldn't remember one sermon. The letter writer said he'd probably wasted his time, and preachers were wasting theirs, as well.

A few days later, someone else wrote a rebuttal. This writer said he'd been married for 30 years but couldn't recall the entire menu of any one of the thousands of meals his wife had fixed. Yet he knew those meals were nourishing and gave him strength to do his work. He also said that without eating those meals, his body would have been long dead. Without going to worship, he added, he'd be spiritually dead, too.



### A Christian Symbol: Fish

The first letters in the Greek phrase "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior" spell ICHTHUS, or fish. Early Christians used the sign to convey their faith and avoid persecution. In the gospels, fish are part of several miracles. They also represent people who need to be "caught" for Christ. Today, a fish bumper sticker is a popular indicator of Christian faith.

## Meet The New Nominees For St. Luke's 2011 Vestry...



### Richard Crocker

I have resided in Chester since 1993 and have lived in southeastern Vermont since 1966. Early in my working life I ran a large-scale family maple operation. Worked construction jobs in the Northwest and Alaska. Somehow in my spare time I learned to be a machinist and metalworker evolving into a shop owner and manager. For the last 20 years I have concentrated on building and remodeling homes. Part time sailor, boat builder and apiarist. I have four children, 3 still at home.

In 1995 I was nominated to the Rockingham Community Land Trust board of directors. With about 3 years off, I have been on that board for 12 of the last 15 years. Board chair twice for a total of 3 years. Treasurer most of the other years. Formal training from NeighborWorks America in real estate development, finances for nonprofit board members, community development and board strengthening.

I was confirmed at St. Luke's in June of 2008. The Christian community I found here is spirited, alive and vibrant. Willing to seek and find the Way, challenge itself discerning the Holy Spirit's intentions and being relevant to our times. It is my hope that good will come of our community's work. I am pleased with the chance to serve those ends as a Vestry member. —**Richard Crocker**



### Andrew Pennell

Vermont is my home. I was born and educated here and after a number of years living in Boston, my wife, Ellie and I made our way back. I was raised in Chester and St. Luke's has always been present in my mind as a place where I was welcome and could belong. Once re-rooted here we returned to the church seeking peace and perspective and we continue to get that from the St. Luke's community. We have three young children who can often be seen tearing down the aisles at St. Luke's on Sunday. I am very fortunate to have become reacquainted with St. Luke's. It's a special place that does good and I look forward to learning and offering what skills and perspective I have to further its mission. —**Andrew Pennell**



### Pat Fromberger

I am one of the "seasoned" members of St. Luke's, having attended since 1978. The Rev. Frank Moss was the Rector when I first came to St. Luke's, followed by The Rev. Andrew Osmun a couple of years later. My faith deepened and matured during the Osmun years and now under our current Rector, Paul, as St. Luke's became a community centered on scripture and open to the workings of the Holy Spirit. In past years, I attended a Cursillo weekend, was a member of a Discipleship Group at St. Luke's, and became involved with the Alpha Courses held at our church. I have served on the Vestry a total of 9 years (1993-1990); was a delegate to the Diocesan Convention; served on the Discernment Committee that resulted in calling of Paul, our current Rector. I have sung in the church choir for most of my years at St. Luke's and have been co-chairing the Christmas Tea & Sale with Adelaide Johnson for the past 3 years. I participate in the weekly Book Study, Tuesday Evening Bible Study and the Parish/Vestry Book Study. I have been the editor of LITS since December 1993 and this continues to be my primary ministry. For the past five years I have taken on the task of formatting the Sunday Bulletin and other special service bulletins.

In 2004 I retired from the Vermont Country Store having worked more than twenty-four years as a member of their mail order catalog production & creative team. It was here that God prepared and equipped me for my current ministry as an editor, layout and graphic arts person.

I admit that I have been reluctant to serve on the Vestry again (already having a full plate), but God keeps nudging me in this direction, so I said, "Yes", when approached by the Nominating Committee. I know in my heart that God will not give me more than I can handle, so I am putting my trust in Him. My prayer for the St. Luke's community is that we continue to be open and obedient to God's will as we define and carry out his mission. —**Pat Fromberger**

### A Prayer for The New Year

Eternal God, thank you for bringing us once again to the threshold of a new year. Help us dedicate each day of 2011 to following your will for our lives. Guide us, Lord, in all our decisions and actions, day by day and hour by hour. Help us accomplish all that you desire for us to do, until our mission on earth is finished. In Jesus' name we pray. *Amen.*





## Save the Date: Annual Parish Meeting Will Be On February 6

**T**he **Annual Parish Meeting** will take place on **Sunday, February 6**, following the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service that day. We will begin with a potluck luncheon and segue into the meeting agenda. This year we will elect five members to the Vestry: 2 current members who are seeking a second term; and 3 new members (whose short bios are on page 4.) St. Luke's 2011 Budget (as approved by the Vestry) will be presented and discussed.

The primary focus of this year's meeting will be to begin charting a course of action for our new statement of purpose: "*St. Luke's is an intentional Christian community, deepening faith and broadening love.*" What does this mean to us both as a parish and individually? What steps do we need to take to make this a reality? How can we use it as a gauge (or tool) to determine if we are carrying out God's will? In her column this month (see page 2), Senior Warden, Martha Stretton poses some thought provoking questions in regard to our purpose and mission. Please read and give some thought to these in the coming weeks. We urge everyone to make it a top priority to attend the **Annual Parish Meeting** on Sunday, **February 6**. As we strive forward in our purpose and mission, the input of as many St. Luke's members as possible is a vital element.

## Final Annual Reports Reminder

**A**ll annual reports need to be in Pat & Mike Saul's hands by **January 3rd** to allow enough time to compile them for the printer. If you haven't done so yet, email them to: pat1215@vermontel.net. Everyone who needs to write a report should have received an email message from Martha Stretton with instructions. If you have any questions, please contact Lew Watters (875-2114) or Pat Saul (802) 236-1024.)

## On January 6 We Will Celebrate The Epiphany Of Our Lord

**E**piphanY 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 Thursday, **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.



## How We Express Our Christianity

**T**he apostle Paul knew the strength of his ministry depended on his coming together with the disciples. It was in coming together for worship and the common meal (eucharist) that the disciples gathered strength and courage to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to a hostile world.

How often do we hear, "Oh, I don't go to church often, but you don't need to go to church to be a Christian." The truth is, "being a Christian" is not something private. Our Christianity is expressed when we gather as a people to worship. It is in our coming together to rehearse the gospel of Jesus Christ that we strengthen our common faith. We are not merely individual Christians, but a Christian people. It is as a people gathered in worship that we find the sustaining strength that makes our faith a reality.

—*Forward Day By Day, September 2010*

"The greatness of God rouses fear within us, but his goodness encourages us not to be afraid of him. To fear and not be afraid — that is the paradox of faith." —A.W. Tozer

## The Outreach Corner

### Operation Christmas Child Thank You!

We packed 109 boxes this year thanks to everyone who helped! We are "following the boxes" with the new Samaritan's Purse bar code system and as soon as we hear from them, we will report where our boxes went. We will continue collecting for the boxes throughout the year. Soaps and wash cloths are the items we ALWAYS run out of and never have enough, so start putting them aside for the 2011 OCC. We will continue to collect all sizes and shapes of covers, yogurt lids, and shoe boxes. Any of these items that you can save for us would be greatly appreciated. Also, please save us your old sweatshirts, (any size), or fleece clothing. They are used to make mittens for the Mitten Basket and to put in the Operation Christmas Child boxes.

### Note From A Soldier...

I received this letter from the group of over 120 Soldiers that we made the Thanksgiving goodie bags and cards for:

"Words cannot do justice for how I feel as I and my fellow soldiers are the recipients of your random acts of kindness. Your actions were unexpected and it has profoundly increased the spirits of our unit as we enter the Holiday Season away from family, friends, and loved ones."— *CPT. Hansen*

I will copy the letter and hang it up on the bulletin board for everyone to see. Please take some time every week to write a short note to our soldiers overseas. It means so much to them. Thank you.

—*Cindy and Ciana Roundy-Winston*

### Mitten Basket Hats & Mittens Were Delivered

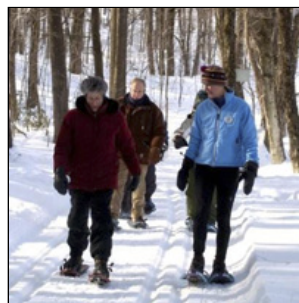
The woven Mitten Basket that sat in Willard Hall for most of 2010 garnered a beautiful assortment of mittens and hats. St. Luke's has some very talented knitters, anonymous that they may be. 50 pairs of mittens, a scarf, 5 hats and 2 hat/mitten combo were divided and given to the Chester/Andover, Bellows Falls, and Grafton schools. All were well received and needed. Knitters please continue to make mittens or hats throughout 2011 as the Mitten Basket will return to Willard Hall soon. Donations of store-bought items are also gratefully accepted, for those who don't knit. Come late Winter most mittens for small hands and hats can be found on sale. —*Marcia Clinton*

## Ski for Heat on January 30th

Once again BROCC - Community Action in Southwestern Vermont, will be hosting *Ski for Heat* at Wild Wings Ski Touring Center in Peru on Sunday, January 30. You



Cross-country ski (above photo) or snowshoe to raise funds for those needing heat.



him at [bhoyham1@myfairpoint.net](mailto:bhoyham1@myfairpoint.net)

do not have to be an accomplished cross country skier to participate; snow shoeing is an option. If you want to do neither, come to Wild Wings and enjoy the ambience of the day. All the money that is raised goes to BROCC's Shareheat Fund and is matched up to \$5000 by CVPS. Get someone to sponsor you or, if you are not inclined to outdoor activity at the end of January, sponsor someone who is going out. This is a thoroughly enjoyable event that brings the community together in a wonderful cause. Let's get a good representation of all ages and abilities from St. Luke's. Information and registration forms are available at [www.skiforheat.org](http://www.skiforheat.org) or contact **Bill Hoyt** at 824-5055 or email

### St. Luke's Episcopal Church Financial Information

	<u>November</u>	<u>Jan.-Nov.</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Pledge & Income	\$ 8,352.00	\$98,577.72	\$100,519.00	98.07%
All Other Income	\$ 3,703.28	\$30,987.24	\$ 23,875.00	129.79%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$12,055.28</b>	<b>\$129,564.96</b>	<b>\$124,394.00</b>	<b>104.16%</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 9,607.12</b>	<b>\$110,780.30</b>	<b>\$144,691.64</b>	<b>76.56%</b>

Thanks to all of you it is quite possible that we will turn 2010 from a deficit to a balanced budget year. We ended November with a net income of \$18,785.00, all of which is due to be spent in December plus several thousand more. Hopefully everyone was still able to give generously in December. If that is the case there should be no deficit which means we will not have any reserve. A huge "Thank You" goes to everyone.

—*Sally Hoover, Treasurer*

## January/February Worship Note...

Beginning Sunday, January 9th, 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.





## 2010 Christmas Tea & Sale A Great Success

Thanks to a team of wonderful helpers from the parish, this year's Christmas Tea was a rousing success. We had more handcrafts than ever before, fantastic baked goods and great participation all around. The "Cookies in a Tin" were a big hit as customers got to choose what kind of cookies to fill a holiday decorated coffee tin with as many cookies as would fit for a mere \$4. Marcia Clinton's containers of handmade chocolates flew out the door as did her "scherenschnitte" (paper cutting design) Christmas ornaments. The lovely hand-quilted items and festive kitchen or hostess aprons were also popular. It was obvious from looking around Willard Hall that people were having a fun time, chatting and visiting with friends as they enjoyed savoring all the Christmas goodies from the buffet table.

We were able to raise \$2,200. this year, which will definitely help reduce the budget deficit.

A heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this possible!

—Adelaide Johnson & Pat Fromberger



(photo courtesy Rudy Winston)

## An Advent Celebration & Blessing of Marriage

An unusual Advent II service took place at St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Sunday, December 5, as Sharon L. Poitras and Alan B. Haumann were united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony during the 10:00 a.m. service of Holy Eucharist. The Rev. Paul

Brannock-Wanter officiated along with Priest Associate, The Rev. Sanford R. Johnson. It was a joyous celebration of family, friends and fellow parishioners. A small reception was held for the couple following the service in Willard Hall. Our best wishes to Sharon, Al and their blended families!



### WEEKLY

#### • Monday Lunch/Discussion Group:

Meets 12:00PM-1:00PM in Willard Hall. Brown bag lunch and book study discussion with the Rector on topics of spirituality and faith. We are currently reading, "Chasing Francis" by Ian Morgan Cron. 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:

Thursdays, 7:00PM-8:00PM and on Sunday mornings at 9:15AM in the church. New members are welcome. Please come join us!

### LESS THAN WEEKLY

#### • The Epiphany Of Our Lord:

Thursday evening, January 6th at 6:30PM, Holy Eucharist, Rite II, in the sanctuary of the Church. We invite you to come!

#### • Adult Evening Bible Study:

Meets on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday this month, 6:30PM in Willard Hall & ending promptly at 8:00PM with Compline. We are reading the Book of Isaiah; come join us! The next session is January 11th & 25th.

#### • St. Luke's Vestry/Book Study:

Wednesday, January 19, 2011 in Willard Hall. 5:30PM, brown bag supper; 6:00-7:00PM book study, "Called to Be Church" Please read Chapter 8 for the next session. Parishioners are both welcomed encouraged to attend.

### \*\*\* MARK THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR!

#### • St. Luke's Annual Parish Meeting:

Sunday, February 6, following the 10:00AM service. Potluck luncheon in Willard Hall, then we segue into meeting agenda to include elections of Vestry members and other delegates, reports, etc. (See article on page 5.)

"The highest reward for a person's toil is not what they get for it, but what they become by it." —John Ruskin



# JANUARY CELEBRATIONS



## Birthdays:

4 David Carey	16 Susan Purinton
7 Margaret (Worth) Hugg	18 Henry Pennell
9 Don Robinson	21 Kai Forlie
10 Alexandra Scarlett	23 Irene Wright
11 Marjorie Carey	24 Sandra Rich
12 Donna Farrell	25 Freddy Holden
12 Mackenzie Walton	26 Belinda Whipple Worth

## FEBRUARY LITS DEADLINE:

**JAN. 21<sup>st</sup>**

Send articles, photos,  
announcements, etc. to:

Pat Fromberger,  
180 Gates Rd.,  
Andover, VT 05143  
panjoe@vermontel.net

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

## ✠ WORSHIP SCHEDULE ✠

### Jan. 2 CHRISTMAS II – ONE SERVICE

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

### Jan. 9 EPIPHANY I

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

### Jan. 16 EPIPHANY II

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

### Jan. 23 EPIPHANY III

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

### Jan. 30 EPIPHANY IV

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

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

The Rev. Donna Reidt, Priest Associate

313 Main Street, Chester, VT 05143 • Office Phone: 875-6000

[www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org](http://www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org)

**St. Luke’s Episcopal Church is Handicapped Accessible**

**The Epiphany  
of Our Lord  
Jesus Christ  
January 6th  
6:30 p.m.  
HE, Rite II  
St. Luke’s  
Church**

**Light in the Shadows**

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

