

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



Christmas Tea & Sale A Success!

This year's Christmas Tea & Sale brought many friends, neighbors and visitors together for a delightful time of savoring the delicious foods and drinks, renewing friendships and relaxing from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. Willard Hall was buzzing with laughter and conversations lending a joyful aura to the occasion.



We wish to take this opportunity and express our heartfelt thanks for all who helped make this year's event such a wonderful success—those who helped craft beautiful tree ornaments; created stunning quilted throws, hangings, mats; knitted mittens; crafted birch candle votives; and sewed calico aprons. Also thank you to the many parishioners who baked the many exquisite Christmas goodies for the tea table and for the baked goods table, donated great giftable treasures for Grandma's Attic and nurtured cuttings for the plant table. Needless to say, without the volunteers who helped out the day before and during the sale (setting up; pricing items; manning the tables; washing dishes and disassembling everything at the end of the day), we could not undertake such an event. Finally at the end of all our labors we are pleased to announce that the Tea earned just over \$2121.00 for St. Luke's budget and that will help us meet our Outreach goals for 2008.

—Adelaide Johnson & Pat Fromberger, Chairpersons

On Viewing the Night Sky (An Epiphany-Tide Meditation)

On a recent cold and clear night just after sunset I found myself briefly (it was very cold) mesmerized by the night sky. Looming just above the horizon, or the hills on the same, was the narrowest of a crescent moon with its ends facing almost upward. Not far above was a bright object; surely not a star, but most probably a planet. I could not discern any stars as of that moment in the sky, just that



slight suggestion of the moon and its bright companion.

In common with many others, I suppose I should find myself daunted by the vastness of the universe, the great distances involved, and the theories of time and space congruent with these facts, but, I don't. Neither have I ever felt that insignificance or loneliness that some have intimated when gazing at the sky at night.

If anything, I feel a profound sense of wonderment and communion. My wonderment is derived from the seasonal and cyclic constancy, and its seemingly unchanging pattern; where what changes that do occur are measured in eras or millenniums, not years. My sense of communion arises from a profound sense, intuitive almost, that my view of

"In the end
(or was it a beginning?),
and with wonder and
awe, they found that
stars source,
the True Light
which as the Gospel
of John tells us
gives light
to everyone."

—Paul Brannock-Wanter

the night sky is shared with many others at any present time and has been shared by many others throughout the long history of humankind, and human endeavor with the good and evil that has always resulted from the same. I like to think and pray that a thousand years hence others will share in this same communion.

What I sense when viewing the night sky is that we are not alone. No, this is not my sanction of belief in alien life



Our December Vestry "meeting" always focuses on our budget. Our December Vestry "Christmas Party" has historically been hosted by Paul and Christina. So, if we do a good job with the bud-

get, we can go to the party!!!

Pat Saul presented the budget that the Finance Committee developed for 2009 and it was approved by the Vestry. Pat was very appreciative of the parishioner's commitment to keeping up their pledges in a timely way this year. This has made her job easier and I know she wishes to thank all of you for your faithfulness. There was much discussion about the model we used for our pledge card this year, asking people to separate out their outreach gifts from their church pledge. The Vestry will plan a discussion around this topic prior to Annual Meeting so that we can present our vision regarding Outreach to the Parish. John DesLauriers reminded the Vestry that we should be proud of the fact that we are trying new things not just using the same old model.

This year the **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held in Willard Hall on Sunday, **February 1** after the service. The Vestry invites everyone in the parish to come and share brunch and their ideas, and listen to "the state of the Parish" at this meeting. This has historically been very well attended and we hope that as many of you as possible will take a couple of hours on February 1 to join us. Children are very welcome.

The Vestry will meet with The **Rev. Jeanette Tweedy**, Canon for Ministry Development for the Diocese, in January to review Paul's sabbatical and plan for a **Mutual Ministry Review** in the spring.

Paul and I will meet to write a grant to the Diocese asking for money to fund a strategic plan consultant.

So, we all got to go to the party!! The snow almost canceled the event but when good food is the motivating factor no one wants to stay home. Thank you Paul and Christina for a lovely evening.

—Marcia Leader

FEBRUARY LITS DEADLINE: JANUARY 16th

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

On Viewing the Night Sky

(continued from pg. 1)

forms or an endorsement of the premise of an old TV series whose name I can't recall. It is an affirmation from things seen to the substance of things not seen, of faith in that God who is both creator of the universe and redeemer of this world and its writhing mass of life that, more often than not, seeks light even in the darkness of the night sky or that darkness of human folly.

When I saw that crescent moon and it bright companion I thought how appropriate for this season. I recalled that ancient and peculiar story of some wise individuals who, on seeing a star, left their land to follow the leading of the same star on a rather long and perilous journey to a foreign land. In the end (or was it a beginning?), and with wonder and awe, they found that stars source, the True Light which as the Gospel of John tells us gives light to everyone. May we be found in that Light even in the darkest of nights. May we follow our Star, even Christ Jesus.



Get Ready for Epiphany

Many Christian denominations celebrate Epiphany each year on or near January 6. "Epiphany," which means "showing forth" or "manifestation," celebrates the visit of the magi, or wise men, to the infant Jesus. These men, also known as kings, saw the star that led them to Bethlehem.



The fact that these wise men were Gentiles, not Jews, teaches us an important theological lesson: Their search for the Savior shows that Jesus came for all people.

In 1875, Philip Bliss wrote the hymn "The Light of the World Is Jesus." The first stanza captures the meaning of Epiphany, a season of light:

The whole world was lost In the darkness of sin, The Light of the world is Jesus! Like sunshine at noonday, His glory shone in. The Light of the world is Jesus!

St. Luke's 2009 Pledge Drive

The Stewardship Committee is deeply grateful to all the members of St. Luke's who responded to the 2009 pledge drive. At last reckoning, forty eight members responded, raising \$93,350 in pledges for operations and \$3,996 for Outreach. This represents almost all those who pledged last year. Considering the financial news, we think this is an outstanding performance on the part of all of you.

Vestry & Other Nominations

The Vestry Nominating Committee consisting of John L DesLauriers, Pat Fromberger, Lew Watters, and Belinda Whipple Worth, will recommend Sally Hoover for a 3-year term and Belinda Whipple Worth for a 1-year term to be voted upon at the Annual Parish Meeting on February 1. There is still one open position to bring St. Luke's 2009 Vestry membership to nine. The committee had three excellent recommendations to fill this slot, and although these persons were very interested in serving, none of them are available at this time due to other commitments. That means one slot will remain vacant in 2009 unless there is a nomination and acceptance from the floor at the Annual Parish Meeting. Anyone may nominate themselves, if they feel so called. To be eligible to serve on the Vestry a candidate must be baptized and a church member in good standing (i.e. enrolled in the parish register in which they habitually worship and take communion at least three times a year). By canon law, a Vestry should consist of not less than three nor more than twelve members. St. Luke's Vestry currently has nine active members.

Current members whose terms end at the 2009 Annual Parish Meeting are as follows:

- John DesLauriers (who does not wish to re-up).
- **Belinda Whipple Worth** (who will re-up for a 1-yr. term filling out Nat Seeley's unfinished term).
- **Meghan Guerra** (youth representative, ends her 1-yr. appointment). We do not have a candidate for this spot.
- Nat Seeley (whose term would end in 2010) has moved to Colorado.

We also need to choose our delegates to the **Diocesan** Convention at Annual Parish Meeting. St. Luke's is entitled to have three delegates, whose responsibility is to attend the Diocesan Convention and the pre-convention meetings in the fall and to vote on behalf of the Parish on matters brought before the convention. They are also required to report back to the Parish following the convention. To date we have two persons who have agreed to serve as delegates and one person who will be an alternate. That means we need to choose a third delegate and two alternates at the Parish Meeting. Please keep this matter in your prayers between now and February 1 as well as prayerfully considering whether you might serve in this capacity.

Diocesan Delegates recommended by the Nominating Committee are:

- Pat & Mike Saul, as delegates (1 slot open).
- Martha Stretton, alternate (2 slots open).

At the right are brief bios about the two Vestry nominees.

—The Vestry Nominating Committee

Belinda Whipple Worth

The began attending St. Luke's with my family about 20 years ago at the urging of Mary Henry, who I met at a Cursillo weekend. My children received their faith education here, and although none of them attends church regularly, they will join in spirited discussion about the nature of God and the role of faith in one's life. The diverse and



devoted community of St. Luke's has been, and continues to be, an important support in my spiritual life.

Over the years, I have been involved in the life of St. Luke's in many capacities: Vestry; Choir; Lay Reader; Lector; Prayer and Chalice; Prayer Team; Sleeping Bags for the Homeless Project; Sunday School/J2A; Marnie Keator's Discernment Team; and the August Supper and the Christmas Tea & Sale.

In my private life, I am a psychotherapist and spend as much time as possible on the water in my kayak and with Willie, Wyatt and Lydia, my three (very energetic!) grand-children. I also serve as Secretary on the board of CHAB-HA (Children Affected By HIV/AIDS), and have traveled to Africa in support of CHABHA's work there.

My life as a Christian includes the responsibility to serve my Christian community. Serving on Vestry provides me the opportunity of intentionally working together with others to discern and put into action God's Will for St Luke's. —*Belinda Whipple Worth, Windsor Vermont*

Sally Hoover

Although I moved to Vermont less than three years ago, I've been attending St. Luke's for at least 10 years when here. I was active in two churches in Wilmington, Deleware and served on the Vestries of both. One of the things that attracted me to St. Luke's was the strong outreach program and



how almost everyone in the parish seemed to be involved at some level either within the parish or the wider community. Also, since it is a relatively small parish, a lot of members are involved in the liturgy in some way which can enhance worship for all of us. I have always believed in study and prayer as aids to deepen my faith and have taken advantage of courses offered at my previous churches, been part of a silent prayer group that met weekly and tried to do independent spiritual reading. If chosen to serve on the Vestry I will strive to discern God's will for the direction of St. Luke's and work with the rest of the Vestry to achieve it

What Our New Website Means to Us

s planned, our newly designed site was published Aduring Advent with the help and input from the Vestry and committee members over the past few months. Our goal was to have a good design that follows our mission statement, that was cost effective and easy to maintain and update. The Diocese has deemed us poster child for web sites.

Because of the compatibility of software used by Pat Fromberger and myself, anyone can easily read the current LITS on line. One can also print a copy of the current Sunday Bulletin, see what special events are coming, as well as view pages about who we are and how we worship and have our being at St. Luke's. Like some other savvy web users who have cancelled their LITS subscription, you too can save the Parish current postage, printing and handling costs. Simply notify us to cancel your subscription because you are an "online reader".

My personal goal is to keep our site very current, useful and therefore widely read. (We now have all kinds of web statistics, including how many "visits" are made and what pages are viewed most.) You can help immeasurably by providing feedback, correcting errors and broken links, suggesting content, and by taking and sharing interesting pictures of parish activities. This is St. Luke's website, not mine, not Paul's, not the Vestry's. It is ours as a community of faith, online and in the World Wide Web.

If you are a parent of a child in the parish and do not wish their picture appearing on our web pages, you need to contact me and Marcia Leader, Senior Warden. The Vestry is looking into creating a privacy policy if necessary.

Included in our web hosting services are mailboxes for church members. So for prompt attention, please address correspondence regarding the website to:

webmaster@stlukesepiscopalvt.org.

Home email for the Watters is full enough as it is.

• This month's website trivia question: What is the most viewed page? This month's prize: a free web search tutorial to the first person to submit a correct answer.

> —Lew Watters webmaster@stlukesepiscopalvt.org

Anchor Cross

The anchor is a symbol of the Christian's hope in Christ. "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure" (Hebrews 6:19, NIV). The early Christians used this cross during the days of persecution. They saw hope in the anchor's



cross, while non-Christians saw nothing but an anchor.

Worship Committee Meeting

Ct. Luke's Worship Committee met on Sunday, December 14 to review the previous quarter and to plan for the upcoming liturgical seasons. Those attending were: John & Sally Hoover, Jean Hancock, Mike & Pat Saul, Martha Stretton, Belinda Whipple-Worth, Pat Fromberger, Sanford Johnson and Paul Brannock-Wanter.

Review of Last Quarter:

A question was raised about chanting the psalm during the 1st Sunday combined service. It was suggested that perhaps it would be more appropriate to move the chanting of the psalm to a Sunday when there are two services. Overall the reaction to this worship format has been favorable and the Rector desires to keep the chanting of the psalm on the first Sunday of each month.

Positive comments were received regarding the "lay sermons" during the Rector's sabbatical. Parishioners were able to see another side of fellow worshippers through the sharing of the lay person's faith.

Looking Ahead:

Services will be held in Willard Hall starting the 1st Sunday after Epiphany in order to conserve our fuel usage. A question was raised regarding having one Sunday service each week instead of two. A brief discussion followed, raising the issues of the purpose of worship, the concern for community and the desire to serve all parishioners. There was no resolution to this sensitive issue and it was suggested that this might be a topic for small group discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting.

UPCOMING SERVICES:

Ash Wednesday: February 25 (held in Willard Hall)

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II 6:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite 1

First Sunday of Lent: March 1 – Holy Eucharist, Rite 1

Palm Sunday: April 5

HOLY WEEK:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: Holy Eucharist

(Time to be announced)

Maundy Thursday: April 9 (Time to be announced)

(TBA) Holy Eucharist

Foot Washing/Stripping of Altar

Good Friday: April 10

Stations of the Cross NOON

7:00 p.m. The Liturgy of Good Friday

Holy Saturday: April 11

7:00 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter (Fellowship event to follow)

Easter Sunday

10:00 a.m. Festival Eucharist - ONE SERVICE

(Fellowship event to follow)

The next Worship Committee Meeting will be on Sunday, March 29 at 9:15 a m

Seeking, Walking & Reflecting the Light of Jesus Christ — St. Luke's 2008











Mary Milanesi Jan. 30, 1923-May 12, 2008





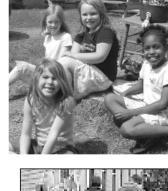




















The Outreach Corner



The Outreach Committee wishes to thank everyone who participated in voting for the selected charities throughout the month of November. All the charities will receive a donation in 2009, the amount will be determined by the percentage of the total vote. For the local charities the results were:

Chester/Andover Family Center, 16%; Habitat for Humanity, 15%; Hospice, 14%; Vermont Foodbank, 13%; Visiting Nurse Assoc., 12%; Ministerium, 11%; Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont, 7%; Camp Scholarships, 7%; and Windsor County Partners, 5%. For the international charities the results were: Americares, 29%; Partners in Health, 23%; CHABHA, 20%; Our Little Roses' 17%; and The LAMB Institute, 11%. A total of 34 people voted.

In mid-December members of the Outreach Committee counted up the mittens and hats that had been knitted by members of the parish (and some from outside the church). A total of 21 hats, 41 pairs of mittens, 10 hat and mitten sets and 3 beautiful sweaters were collected. These were divided, bundled up into 4 packages and given to Chester/ Andover, Grafton, Saxtons River, and Bellows Falls schools before the Christmas break. We send a huge "thank you" to all the knitters who continued to fill the mitten basket throughout the year. The schools appreciate the donation, and the mittens and hats find their way to a number of needy hands and heads.

—Marcia Clinton

Button, Button, Who's Got the Button?

We made "Honey of a Girl" and "Honey of a Boy" buttons for our grandchildren for Christmas. These rewards come with a teaspoon of honey for good deeds. At St. Luke's you only have to give us your name and its spelling, and we do the rest. The button machine was rusty, but we oiled it up and are ready to update you with your name button. At events, they tell folks who you are and that you belong to St. Luke's. Let us help make that connection for you. Lew will have the button maker at the Annual Parish Meeting.

A Freezer Full

Don't forget to personally deliver a meal from the freezer in Willard Hall when you visit a shut-in—a parishioner, a neighbor or a friend. We'll cook and replenish in February.

Letter From A Soldier

Cindy-Roundy Winston and her family are the driving force behind the Outreach effort started earlier this year to encourage parishioners to write letters to our soldiers in Iraq. The response from the soldiers has been heartwarming and she cannot stress enough how important it is to continue to keep writing. But Cindy and her family have gone way beyond writing letters for they regularly send care packages to soldiers and have established a loving connection as a result. This past month Cindy received the following letter from one of the soldiers and it underscores why it is so important to make an effort to let our men and women in the service know that they are loved and not forgotten back home in the States.

Dear Cindy and Family,

I would just like to say thank you so much for EVERYTHING you guys have done. You honestly have done so much in making sure my men and I always had a piece of home. I don't know if the people at home really understand how much care packages and cards and even drawings from children boost our spirits. My guys and I really appreciate the time you guys took to send a 'lil' love from the states. Well to let you know I as well as my men are doing fine. We are finally all back at Fort Campbell, KY and we are very proud and happy to say that my whole platoon made it home without any death or serious injuries. That is a great thing. Now I am just adjusting to living a normal life for a little while before we deploy again. I am also now a 1LT, got promoted on 26 November this year. Once again I would just like to thank you for your service to this country and to all service members abroad. It is people like you that make being deployed to a hostile area a little easier. For that I love you all very much and it is hard for me to write this without getting teared up a little bit, but it is just because I appreciate keeping me and my men in your hearts all this time. Thank you.

> With all my love, 1LT Brian 2/320th FAR 1BCT 101 ABN





Matthew Stretton writes a note to the soldiers in Iraq while participating in the *Indoor/Outdoor Fun Day* at St. Luke's this past March. You can help too. Cindy and her children regularly make a special note cards and leave them in Willard Hall so parishioners can write a few lines during Coffee Hour each week.

Ski for Heat: Help Keep Local Families Warm



This past year, we have had occasion to get to know **Bill Hoyt** 1 (a relatively new communicant at St. Luke's) and learned that Bill is concerned about the absence of youth in our congregation and gave us some suggestions on how we might initiate more interest. We liked his ideas because we have been cooking with our youth (Meals with Meaning). We love it; they love it.

Here is Bill's idea. Ski for Heat is a community service event at Wild Wings Ski Touring Center. It will be held on Sunday, January 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 **p.m.** at the Center in Peru, Vermont. The participants raise money from sponsors, and it all goes to supplying home heating fuel to local families in need. Go to http://www.skiforheat.org for details. Bill and the Watters hope to put a St. Luke's team together with youngsters and any adults who wish to participate. One, two, several hours. We are working out the details so let us know of your interest. These kinds of activities worked for our kids and his as well. Bill sees this leading to pizza at a local pizzeria and movie nights at a local theatre, or hikes and bikes in the spring. Who knows? Let's get started. We might even see our kids in church. —Bonnie & Lew Watters

Cookbook Delivery

or all those who prepaid their \$3 for printing T of their new cookbook and their commitments to order in advance, I extend grateful thanks. With the holiday rush out of the way and with an established daily discipline, great progress is being made to transfer your recipes into an Adobe design program to edit for consis-

Fine Recipes, Good Cooks, for Great Eatina



tency. We have scanned wonderful photographs to make dividers for categories of recipes. The spirals are here, a date to borrow the binder from SCA is set, and a realistic printing date is real. Fine Recipes, Good Cooks for Great Eating, presenting over 80 recipes, will be available at the Annual Meeting, God willing.

-Bonnie Watters

Parishioner News...

- · Nat, Angie, Ben & Isaac Seeley have moved from Londonderry, VT to Cortez, Colorado. We will miss them at St. Luke's but wish them many blessings in their new home. If you'd like to drop them a note their address is: Nat & Angie Seeley, P.O. Box 1086, Cortez, CO 81321.
- · Joe Grannis has transferred his membership from St. Luke's to St. Michael's in Brattleboro, VT. Now that he has retired as St. Luke's Church Musician, Joe looks forward to being able to worship with his wife Susanna, a member of St. Michael's. We miss you, Joe!—you leave a huge gap in the fabric of our St. Luke's community.
- Virginia Fontaine, who had been fighting a severe infection in her leg, underwent surgery to amputate her leg just prior Christmas. She is recovering at the Springfield Health & Rehabilitation Center, 105 Chester Road, Springfield, VT 05156. Please keep her in your prayers.

Annual Report Deadline

deadline for reports is Wednesday, January 14. Please forward your reports to Lew Watters in a timely fashion. Microsoft Word or emailed documents are preferred. A final version will be provided for approval before printing if requested. When the job goes to the printer is a secret, so please be prompt. We already have two reports. Thank you.

Annual Meeting Brunch

ur fellowship meal at the Annual Parish Meeting, on Sunday, February 1, centers around a pot luck. Bring whatever suits your fancy, but let Bonnie Watters know whether it is a casserole, salad, soup, bread, dessert or drink, just so there is balance. Thank you.

Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory position. – Author unknown



WEEKLY

Monday Lunch/Discussion Group:

Meets 12:00PM-1:00PM in Willard Hall, Brown bag lunch and book study discussion with rector on topics of spirituality and faith. Come join us!

Wednesday Morning Prayer **Group & Holy Eucharist:**

7:00AM Intercessory Prayer 8:00AM Holy Eucharist in Willard Hall.

Choir Rehearsals:

Tuesdays, 6:45PM-8:15PM. Sunday mornings from 9:10 AM - 9:40AM to warm up and rehearse the anthem. Call Martha Stretton, 875-3145 for more information.

Thursday Holy Eucharist and **Bible Study Group**

12:30PM Holy Eucharist in Willard Hall followed by 1:00-2:30PM Afternoon Bible Study. Please come join us.

LESS THAN WEEKLY

St. Luke's Vestry Meeting:

Wednesday, January 21st in Willard Hall. 5:30PM for supper; 6:00PM for Bible Study; 6:30PM for regular meeting agenda. The focus will be on the Annual Parish Meeting Agenda. Parishioners are welcome to attend.

Adult Evening Bible Study:

Thursday, January 15th in Willard Hall, starting at 6:30PM and ending promptly at 8:00 PM with Compline. Note that evening Bible Study has been changed from Tuesday to Thursday evenings. Do come join us!

Ski for Heat:

Sunday, January 25th from 9:00AM to 4:00 PM at WIId Wings Ski Touring Center in Peru Vermont. Youth & adults can ski one, two or more hours and earn money to help keep families warm this winter. See article on this page.

2008 Annual Parish Meeting:

Sunday, February 1st following the 10:00AM Worship Service. Starting with a pot luck brunch in Willard Hall, we will be electing new Vestry members, Diocesan Delegates and discussing the state of the parish. All parishioners are urged to attend this important meeting.



Birthdays:

David Carey Susan Purinton Margaret (Worth) Hugg 18 Henry Pennell Don Robinson Kai Forlie Alexandra Scarlett Sandra Rich IO Marjorie Carey Freddy Holden Mackenzie Walton 26 Belinda Whipple Worth Greg Brown Sean McDonald

SPECIAL JANUARY DATES:

- The Epiphany of Our Lord, January 6
- Baptism of Our Lord, January 11
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 19
- Inauguration Day, January 20
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25

St. Luke's Episcopal Church is Handicap Accessible

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 AM Parish Breakfast – Willard Hall 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Jan. 6 EPIPHANY of OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

6:30 PM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Jan. 11 I EPIPHANY (The Baptism of Our Lord)

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

Jan. 18 II EPIPHANY

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

Jan. 25 III EPIPHANY 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Feb. 1 IV EPIPHANY – ONE SERVICE

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
(Annual Parish Meeting & Potluck Brunch

following the Service.)

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. in Willard Hall. Child Care: 10:00 a.m. Service

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

