



Light in the Shadows

APRIL 2010

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

Rolling Away the Stone

*The angel rolled the stone away.
The angel rolled the stone away.
It was early Easter Sunday morning,
The angel rolled the stone away.
(African-American Spiritual)*



One of my favorite Easter Hymns (not found in our Hymnals) has the above refrain based upon Matthew 28:2: "And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it." It is a powerful reminder that Easter is always about the possibilities of God in the seemingly impossible

world and situations in which we humans so often find ourselves; sometimes of our own making. When the stone was rolled away from the tomb what was shown was the real absence; Jesus not there, but raised from the dead. Yet what was also shown was the real presence and power of that God, and that love, seeking to give to all of us life eternal.

*"God will roll
the stone away
from the tombs
of our lives; as
surely as was
done that Easter
morning which
unleashed forever
the power of
new life."*

—H. Paul Brannock-Wanter

Can we muster just enough faith to let go and let God; let God roll away the stone? This is no less valid a question for being a cliché. Do we find our tombs comforting at least

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Remembering...Connecting

St. Luke's 5th **Annual Passover Seder** was magnificent. First the food; **Sharon Poitras'** perfect contribution and preparation of goat and lamb and those lamb meatballs. **Adelaide Johnson's** introducing that butternut squash with trims and her meringue droplets that float into your mouth; unforgettable chocolate meringues from **Sally Hoover**; **Marcia Clinton's** macaroons that were going home in pockets; the marinated asparagus cooked to perfection by **Kathryn Wright**; the lovely tossed salads from **Marija Cunningham** and **Belinda Whipple Worth**; and **Bonnie Watters'** roasted potatoes, chicken and yummy haroset, whose ingredients were chopped by **Lew**. And the beverages: the wine and grape juice contributed by two Johnson families.



But of course the **Passover Seder** is more than the food and the wine! It is retelling the biblical story of the liberation of the Israelites from their bondage in ancient Egypt. Many denominations sharing a table at St. Luke's on Palm Sunday night was the real meaning of it all. Everyone of us had a connection to one or more people in the room. We listened

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From the Senior Warden

Have you ever had the experience of walking into a room and then having to ask yourself, "What did I come in here for?" You knew there was a reason but it eluded you briefly. Maybe you even had to retrace your steps before you could retrieve your line of thought and proceed with whatever you were intending to do.



As the parish book study of "*Changing the Conversation*" ended this week, I found myself wondering if we are in a similar position in the church. Do you ever wonder why you're here? Why the church is here? What was it we came here to do, exactly?

Some of the key concepts from "*Changing the Conversation*" bear repeating here: We are living in a post-Christendom world, we need to respond to this state of affairs prayerfully and with discernment, the usual models of "church" may not work for us anymore, and change will be required. However, without a clear sense of definite purpose we will not know how or what to change.

Although one might expect solid agreement on certain core issues of the reason for our existence, it seems clear that we are faced with a lot of ambiguity when it comes to being the Body of Christ in the world. This ambiguity can lead to some false dichotomies: private piety vs. social justice, individual spiritual growth vs. building community, ecumenism vs. faithfulness to our heritage, and many more. And these false dichotomies can be divisive.

"*Called to be Church: The Book of Acts for a New Day*," is something akin to retracing our steps to re-discover why we are here. This book study will begin this month preceding the **April 21** Vestry Meeting. Looking at the birth of the church can help us in our discernment of our purpose as St. Luke's moves forward into the rest of this year and the rest of this century. *The Holy Longing*, the subject of the Monday Noon Book Study, also addresses many of the questions we might encounter along the way. Prayerful discernment of our focus as a parish is a necessary step in our growth. This discernment should not be done by a small group of people—it should involve everyone. We all have things to learn from each other, and voices absent from the conversation will impoverish all of us. Please join the conversation!

—Martha Stretton

Rolling Away the Stone

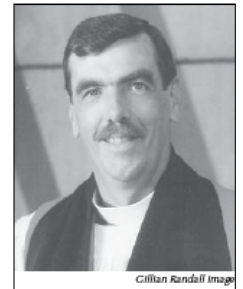
(continued from page 1)

in their being what we know, even if the atmosphere is suffocating? At least one of the messages of Easter is to surrender to the possibilities of God, to trust that love; to allow ourselves to be open to and opened by that love. In the rolling away of the stone everything is gain and all we have to lose is fear. Hear the further message of the angel who rolled away the stone, "Do not be afraid; I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said (Matthew 28:5-6)." In God it is always Easter, always the time for the rolling away of the stone and resurrection from the dead; freedom and new life. Amen, may it be so for us this Easter Season and the rest of our lives.

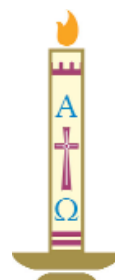
*In Christ's love,
Fr. Paul*

Bishop Ely To Visit St. Luke's On Sunday, April 11

The Right Reverend Thomas Clark Ely, Bishop of the Diocese of Vermont, will be making his annual visitation to St. Luke's on **Sunday, April 11**. He will be celebrant and preacher at both services. All parishioners are encouraged to make a special effort to be in church that day and extend a warm welcome to the bishop. The Sunday following Easter is often known as "low Sunday," so let's do our part to make that designation a thing of the past. Following the 10:00 a.m. Service, there will be a reception in Willard Hall. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet Bishop Ely and be updated on happenings in the Diocese and the Episcopal Church in general. So please circle the date of April 11 on your calendar right now and plan to be there!



A Christian Symbol: Paschal Candle



This large, white candle is an ancient symbol for Christ, the light of the world. The candle contains a cross and/or an Alpha and Omega to symbolize that Jesus is eternal and always present with his people. Also called the Easter candle, it plays a prominent role during Easter vigils and celebrations. Some churches also use the candle during baptisms and funerals.

Remembering...Connecting

(continued from page 1)



to our old SCA friend Kathy Weaver from Springfield share her remembrances of the Passover Seder. Jean and John Penney, who live and raised their now grown children in Chester, chose to experience the Seder for the first time. They wished that all the churches in the Chester Ministerium could jointly or individually offer this remembrance to their members. Sharon and Al were proud of their connection to her faith community, raising and preparing the symbolic lamb. Lew and I were proud of our efforts to spread the word about the Seder tradition that brought guests from Bondville and Brattleboro. Paul said it well, "It's about remembering; God has not forgotten his people. It's about 're-member-ing', being connected with God and with one another."

—Bonnie Watters (Photos on this page courtesy Lew Watters)



"Awake, thou wintry earth — Fling off thy sadness! Fair vernal flowers, laugh forth Your ancient gladness! Christ is risen."

—Thomas Blackburn

Ministry Expo 2010

This first annual **Ministry Expo** is sponsored by the Diocese of Vermont Ministry Support Team to consolidate events normally spread over several Saturdays. Planners encourage congregations to bring teams to one of the two nearly identical day-long events, which will be packed with workshops designed to educate and inspire ministry in a wide variety of areas. Congregational teams can attend together, experience a variety of learning opportunities, and share their learnings and insights when they return home. Specially designed worship services, with music provided by congregational music teams, will begin and end both events. See below for a schedule for the day and a listing of workshops.

Please register in advance, using the form in the Ministry Expo Brochure (a downloadable version is available on the diocesan website: www.dioceseofvermont.org). It will be helpful in planning space use to know which workshops people plan to attend.

The registration fee for a congregational team is \$40 for up to six people (\$5 per additional registrant). Individuals may register for \$10 if the registration is received by March 31, and for \$12 after March 31. The fee includes morning snacks and coffee/tea. Please plan to bring lunch.

Contact Wendy Grace at Trinity, Rutland, with questions: trinity2@sover.net, or **802-775-4368**. The Expo will be held at two locations: **April 24 at Zion Church, Manchester Center, & May 1 at Good Shepherd, Barre.**

MINISTRY EXPO SCHEDULE

- 9:00 a.m. Gathering, Hospitality
- 9:20 a.m. Worship with music by diocesan musicians
Zion, Manchester & St. Peter's, Bennington,
in Manchester and from St. Andrew's,
Colchester, in Barre
- 10:00 a.m. Workshop Session I
- 11:00 a.m. Workshop Session II
- NOON Gather for Noonday prayers
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Workshop Session III
- 2:00 p.m. Workshop Session IV
- 3:00 p.m. Final Gathering
Closing worship with music

Descriptions of the workshops can be found online at www.dioceseofvermont.org under "**Coming Events.**" It should be noted that our own **Jean Hancock** is helping lead the workshop on Christian Formation, entitled, "Wade in the Water": Exploring the Ministry of the Baptized.

Look for brochures at the back of the church or on the bulletin board. You may also want to speak to the Rector or Martha Stretton, if you are interested in attending.



65 folks gathered in Willard Hall and enjoyed a savory maple repast.



Wow! Look at all those great desserts!



A fabulous array of raffle prizes.

Maple Fest Dinner & Raffle Delighted All Who Came!

St. Luke's held the second annual **Maple Fest Dinner** to benefit PINS (Partners in Service) on Saturday, March 20, and all who attended agreed it was a great success. Twenty-one volunteers worked to transform Willard Hall into a dining room the day before, and divided into teams of two to serve and replenish food, and everyone seemed pleased with the great service.

Our 65 guests dined family style on turkey roasted with a maple-cranberry-bourbon glaze, maple-sweetened baked beans, maple-glazed carrots, cranberry sauce, maple bread and muffins, and our favorite maple-dressed crucifer salad. The bountiful dessert table included a large assortment of pies and cakes, all made with maple syrup.

Following dessert and coffee, we held a lively raffle (aided by John Hoover's stirring announcements) and items won included cases of spring water, an original painting, a felted handbag, jewelry, a 1930's quilt, a quilted wall hanging and, of course, lots of maple syrup. We raised over \$700 to benefit PINS. The Partners in Service (PINS) program brings together faith communities with human service agencies. It promotes the resiliency and success of children



John Hoover hands one of the raffle prizes to a very happy winner.

and youth who have been the victims of abuse and neglect, ranging in age from infant to young adult.

Robbie Wierzbicki, the Resource Coordinator for Springfield Department of Child and Family Services identified 3 families in crisis situations that would benefit from Easter food baskets. Boxes of an Easter dinner and food staples were assembled along with Easter baskets for 10 children, ages ranging from 1 month to 16 years old. Gift cards from Shaws were enclosed in note cards wishing the families Easter blessings from the parishioners of St. Luke's Church.

—Kathryn Wright & Marcia Clinton

(Photos courtesy Lew Watters. Visit St. Luke's website for lots more photos! www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org)

Meet St. Luke's 2010 Vestry

At the Annual Parish Meeting held in February, four members were elected to serve 3-year terms on St. Luke's 2010 Vestry. Three are new to the Vestry—**Jane Davis**, **Bill Hoyt** and **Kathryn Wright**; the fourth member, **Marcia Leader**, will be serving a second 3-year term. We are grateful to have such a strong leadership team at St. Luke's and encourage everyone in the parish to give them their support and prayers as they take on this important ministry.

2010 Vestry Officers:

Martha Stretton, Senior Warden
Kathryn Wright, Junior Warden
Sally Hoover, Treasurer
Norm Harrison, Asst. Treasurer
Jean Hancock, Recording Secretary/Clerk

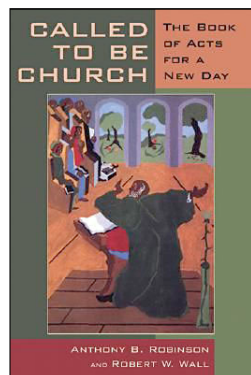


St. Luke's 2010 Vestry Team. Front row, L-R.: The Rev Donna Riedt, Deacon, Kathryn Wright (new Junior Warden), Mike Saul, Jane Davis and our Rector, Paul. Back row L-R: Martha Stretton (new Senior Warden), Bill Hoyt, Lynda Farmer, Marcia Leader and Jean Hancock (Recording Secretary/Clerk; an appointed position.) Missing from the photo are Sally Hoover (Treasurer), Norm Harrison (Asst. Treasurer, appointed position), Peter Rosengarten and Belinda Whipple Worth.

Joining the Conversation...

Having just completed "*Changing the Conversation*," we can see a positive energy among the book study participants. The author Anthony Robinson offers us a way forward. Approaching our future with what he calls, "**adaptive challenges**," we will discover our purpose and place in our community. We already have a good start simply reading and studying, in what promises to be a lengthy and uplifting process that will require patience combined with urgency.

Our fervent wish for St. Luke's is that more parish members join the conversation on the second book, "*Called to be Church: The Book of Acts for a New Day*," As Senior Warden **Martha Stretton** says on our website, "It views the challenges facing the church through the lens of the book of The Acts of the Apostles, delving into what we know about the early church and what we can learn from it today. Each chapter focuses on a different portion of the book of Acts, first examining it as scripture and then offering application to our current situation in this post-modern, post-Christendom era. Noting that our current secular culture displays a persistent interest in spirituality, the authors focus on the unique challenges and opportunities



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that present themselves to Christian communities of faith."

The book study begins at **6:00 p.m.** on Wednesday, **April 21**, immediately following dinner (open to all) at 5:30 p.m. with the Vestry. Do come, and share in the next discussion. Books are available at St. Luke's, or by special order from Misty Valley Books. —**Lew & Bonnie Watters**

What Is An Idea Worth?

Cindy and Ciana Roundy-Winston shared their concern about St. Luke's 2010 budget financial shortfall and hoped they could personally help. Paul directed them to Martha Stretton, our Senior Warden, who encouraged the two to put together some ideas to present to the Vestry for simple fund raising with a fun, fellowship outcome.

With Bonnie Watters help, a dozen ideas resulted. A limited number of the old **Saturday Night Suppers** will be revived starting this month (see article on page 7.) Other ideas: Rudy Winston sharing his photographing talents, will do family portraits early this fall; workshops are planned to make and put together boxes for *Operation Christmas Child*; Movie Night; Alumni Day smoothies; and a special Spring Garden Party is being planned for out on the church lawn with a couple of sweet twists. Cindy & Ciana filled out the Vestry "fund raising forms" and presented them to Martha who was thrilled and proud to share them with the Vestry and make their dreams become real.

The Outreach Corner



Prayers of the People

I hope that you have noticed that something new has been added to the *Prayers of the People* insert on Sunday. You will now find that one of St. Luke's Outreach projects are listed every Sunday and we hope that you find a moment or two to pray for them throughout the week.

The bulletin board in Willard Hall has been updated and now includes monthly reports from the treasurer and clerk and current and new outreach projects. Please take a moment to look over the information and ask questions if you have any.—*Pat Saul*

Operation Christmas Child

We have been working on making toys, books, and games to put into the *Operation Christmas Child* boxes and need your help!

Could you please save us corrugated cardboard, clean tuna fish cans, empty liter soda bottles, plastic lids from oatmeal boxes, yogurt, etc.

Ciana has a goal of 300 boxes this year and we can't do that without your help! If you would like to decorate a box, make or donate something to put in a box, we would LOVE it! Thanks for all of your help!

—*Cindy & Ciana Roundy-Winston*

The Giving Tree

You will notice a wall hanging in Willard Hall. It is our way of sharing God's gifts that came out of the Stewardship ministry. Upon one of the colored leaves one writes a ministry, outreach or personal gift of time and talents one gives freely in love. Straight pins are there in the box with the leaves to attach to the banner. For example, Lew and I placed on one of our leaves the weekly Thursday home schooling we do with our six eager grandchildren. They are waiting for us each week to jump into science and social studies projects. These gifts of ourselves with God's encouragement are not monetary and do not show on our church balance sheet, but might be those hours at the Chester-Andover Family Center or driving folks to doctor's appointments with Community Cares. Be proud and post your personal ministries.—*Bonnie Watters*

A Garden Party! Save May 22 On Your Calendar!

Marija Cunningham has a special ministry. She volunteers at *Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site* for three seasons of the year creating beautiful floral arrangements with other women. We engaged her with the idea of a flower arranging workshop, also enticing Adelaide Johnson and members of the Altar Guild to join in the fun. Ciana's violin teacher, Julane Deener (whom we know from her solos in the choir) loved the idea of showing off her violin students with an outdoor concert. What better complement to the occasion than fancy cakes served by little girls to guests at pretty card tables on the back lawn at St. Luke's on a May afternoon.

Details are still in the works, but you might want to save the date: **Saturday, May 22**, from **2:00-4:00 p.m.** All this for a modest charge of \$5. You can register now at St. Luke's website, www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org or email Bonnie Watters at lewbon@vermontel.net.

The Web Site That Almost Got Away

Funny, Lew thought that I was getting error messages when I checked my web mail. Strange that our strategically placed links were taking us to a temporary St. Luke's Episcopal Church page that intimates that the church's web site is up for grabs! Searching emails, making telephone calls, and troubleshooting brought us to the fact that the church's domain name had not been renewed by March 25. Steered to the right place by a technical expert, we renewed within the grace period with time to spare, but it was a scary Saturday morning here in webville! Did you notice, is the question! —*St. Luke's Webmasters*

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Income/Expense Statement

	<u>February</u>	<u>Jan.-Feb.</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Pledge & Income	\$ 6,180.00	\$19,714.00	\$100,519.00	19.61%
All Other Income	\$ 589.87	\$3,653.42	\$ 23,875.00	15.30%
TOTAL INCOME	\$6,769.87	\$23,367.42	\$124,394.00	18.79%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$12,101.25	\$22,051.41	\$144,691.64	15.24%

Unfortunately this month was not as nice to the budget as was January. That being said, we are still slightly ahead percentage wise for income and very slightly under budget for expenses. Please keep in mind that in order to eliminate the budgeted deficit, total income needs to average about \$12,058 per month and to make budget it needs to average \$10,366.—*Sally Hoover, Treasurer*

Lunches & Quilters, Go-to-gether

On **Saturday, May 1st**, a bus load of fifty ladies from the *Common Threads Quilt Group* in the North Country will descend on St. Luke's for one of our famous classic lunches. For \$10 we serve a variety of soups, salads, sandwiches, chips, cookies and sweets with beverages. We will need all those components and plenty of help from **10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** on that day. Then again on Saturday, **June 5th** for the *Country Treasures* quilt event. Talk to **Bonnie Watters** or **Adelaide Johnson** about your offer of help in whatever way you can. These two events, with your donations of food and help, bring \$750 to St. Luke's bottom line. We are good at this. Proof is they just keep returning!



Hold Back, Please

...on those generous offers of plastic containers. St. Luke's is equipped to feed freezer meals to a whole village with the collection of yogurt, cottage cheese and whipped cream containers. Please recycle them on your own for now. Thank you.

Acceptance

Whatever you send me,
Lord, I will accept.
My response may be clumsy,
or even inept.
But I know you want only
the best for me, too.
So with your help,
I'll do what you
want me to do.
—Peggy Ferrell

The Greatest Ornament

"The church knew what the psalmist knew: Music praises God. Music is as well, or better, able to praise him than the building of a church and all its decoration; it is the church's greatest ornament."
—Igor Stravinsky

Remember Board Game Night?

The first Saturday Night Supper was held 10 years ago in mid-January 2000, with 55 adults and children in attendance. A potluck menu of pasta delights & "cakes-to-die-for" desserts preceded the games, and we charged \$5. Those who stayed after dinner picked their partners and opponents and went to a table to play Monopoly, Parcheesi, Candy Land, Scrabble and other games and it was a fun time!

After a two-year hiatus a slightly reformatted **2010 Saturday Night Supper** is being revived. The first in a series will be held on **Saturday, April 17th**, beginning with games at **3:30** in the afternoon and ending with pizza and sundaes at **5:00 p.m.** The cost is \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. The planners, Cindy and Ciana Roundy-Winston and Bonnie Watters will be looking for pizza and sundae makings and of course families to enjoy the event. We expect to spread the word and fill Willard Hall.

Oldtimers Celebrate The Newcomers

Our newer tradition of welcoming new members of our parish, both in the spring and the fall, has become a rather nice one. Welcoming folks into our homes has always been a special St. Luke's tradition. Remember the foyers?

Friday evening, April 23 the progressive meal starts with hors d'oeuvres around **6:00 p.m.** at Ian & Polly Montgomery's home (yes, they will be back from Peru, newcomers become oldtimers!) Then to Blue Hill Farm where Jane Davis and Jean Hancock, with Kathryn Wright's help, will offer the main course and finally everyone will end up at the Watters in the Stone Village for dessert. As the date nears the trail map will be available so let us know if you can be counted on to participate and bring an element of the progressive meal. An invitation has been sent to eight newcomer families.



Meetings & Events

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 reading "*The Holy Longing*" by Ronald Rolheiser. Please come join us!

• Wednesday Morning Prayer Group & Holy Eucharist:

7:00AM Intercessory Prayer

8:00AM Holy Eucharist in Willard Hall.

• St. Luke's Choir Rehearsals:

Thursday evenings (6:15PM. for centering prayer) and 6:45PM.-8:15PM for singing in Willard Hall. We welcome new members!

LESS THAN WEEKLY

• Easter Week Eucharist:

Tuesday, April 6, 6:30PM Holy Eucharist, Rite II at St. Luke's Church.

• Easter Week Eucharist:

Thursday, April 8, 6:30PM Holy Eucharist, Rite II at St. Luke's Church.

• Bishop Visitation:

Sunday, April 11, Bishop Thomas Ely will make his annual visit to St. Luke's Church at both services. More details on page 2.

• 2010 Saturday Night Supper:

Saturday, April 17th in Willard Hall, beginning at 3:30PM, for board games & ending with Pizza & Sundaes at 5:00PM. See article on this page.

• Adult Evening Bible Study:

Bible Study meets the **3rd & 4th Tuesdays** in April, 20th & 27th, at 6:30PM in Willard Hall. We are reading Isaiah and invite you to come join us.

• St. Luke's Vestry/Book Study:

Wednesday, April 21st in Willard Hall. 5:30PM, light supper; 6:00-7:00PM book study, "*Called to be Church: The Book of Acts for a New Day.*" The regular Vestry meeting follows the book study. Parishioners are always welcome to attend.

• Newcomers Progressive Dinner:

Friday, April 23rd, 6:00PM starting at the Montgomerys and ending at the Watters. See article at left for details and watch for a sign-up sheet in Church.



APRIL CELEBRATIONS



Birthdays:

5 Marcia Leader	17 Emily Cowles
9 Kate Watters	19 Vinnie Crocker
11 Brad Purinton	22 Jane Davis
12 Gloria Deming	27 Joseph Brannock-Wanter
13 Rudy Winston III	28 Malcolm Summers
15 Karligash Roundy-Winston	30 Dick Farmer
16 Sharon Poitras	30 Suzy Forlie

Anniversaries:

2 Rudy & Cindy Roundy-Winston
9 John & Alison DesLauriers
12 Dick & Lynda Farmer
19 Chris & Karen Langston
27 Milford & Janice Fielder
27 Don & Dee Robinson
27 David & Kathleen Willis
29 Vinnie & Kathy Crocker

MAY LITS DEADLINE:

 **APR. 23rd**

Send articles, photos,
announcements, etc.

to: Pat Fromberger,
180 Gates Road,
Andover, VT 05143

panjoe@vermontel.net

St. Luke's Episcopal Church is Handicapped Accessible

✠ WORSHIP SCHEDULE ✠

April 4 EASTER SUNDAY

10:00 AM Festival Eucharist of Easter Day, Rite II
ONE SERVICE
(Reception & Egg Hunt following service)

April 11 EASTER II (Visitation by Bishop Ely)

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II
(Reception following 10 a.m. Service)

April 18 EASTER III

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

April 25 EASTER IV

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

May 2 EASTER V

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II – ONE 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

The Rev. Donna Reidt, Deacon

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

