



JANUARY 2017

Light in the Shadows

"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Matt. 5: 16

May We Share God's Rich Blessings With The Rest of the World

"And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'" [Mt. 3:17]



Thank you, St. Luke's, for your generous Christmas year end monetary gift for Doug and me. Your gift was timely and certainly came in handy as the Edson family (Doug, myself, and Thundarr) headed off to Rhode Island for a few days during my week's break. We spend two nights in a La Quinta hotel (pet friendly) near Coventry where, during the day, Doug and I traveled to different

parts of this lovely State visiting towns and cities and taking in some good food and vibes. A memorable part of the trip was our tour of the Vanderbilt Breakers Mansion we took while in Newport. Doug was quite impressed with sheer size of this opulent summer cottage (62,482 sq. ft. and five stories high!) once occupied by the Vanderbilt family and friends. Though the weather did not permit us a walk "on the Cliffs," we still managed to enjoy a spectacular view of the Atlantic Ocean with the waves crashing in.

As impressive and charming as Rhode Island was for us, what will remain with me from our trip will be the several

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—Rev. Heidi L. Edson

encounters with the people who, quite friendly and in "holiday mode," wished Doug and me a "Merry Christmas." One dear woman in particular who was sitting at the table next to us in a small restaurant in Newport was beaming with happiness. Her granddaughter was with her and she wanted to share this with me. Her deep fondness for her granddaughter was quite obvious as she was sharing her joy with me.

In the First Sunday after the

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St. Luke's Parish Brunch & Annual Meeting, January 22

St. Luke's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 22**, following the ONE service at **9:00 a.m.**—which will be **Rite I** (with music.) This is a special opportunity for us all to worship together and enjoy additional fellowship when we adjourn to Willard Hall for a Potluck Brunch prior to holding the Annual Meeting.

We strongly urge all parishioners to be present at this important meeting. The main item on the agenda will be St. Luke's 2017 Budget. Our declining and aging membership along with the loss of some major donors in the past few years, has made an impact on our finances and we are faced with a major shortfall in our pledged income. Last year the 2016 pledged income was \$81,720. This year the pledged income is \$61,454 (\$20,000 less) and about \$30-35k less than what we need (although the budget had not been finalized at this writing. Read the "Stewardship article on page 3.)

Additional meeting agenda items will include approval of the various annual reports that summarize the major ministries in which we have been engaged this past year. [Note: Copies of the **Annual Report Booklet** will be available in church on Sunday, January 15, to give everyone an opportunity to read through the reports prior the meeting.] Other business to be conducted includes the election of new Vestry Members (see the Nomination Committee Report on page 3) and the election of Delegates & Alternates to the Diocesan Convention as well as assigning chairpersons to

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From the Senior Warden

A New Year, A New Challenge



As I write this final column as Senior Warden, I find myself reflecting on the past year and the steadfast commitment of St. Luke's parishioners to be servants of God and continue to carry out his ministry, modeling to the secular world how a loving community can work together despite our diversity and differences. We have seen a slow decline in numbers in the past few years as our membership ages, but I remain heartened by the energy and vitality this small community known as St. Luke's manages to display. I also remain hopeful as I watch our small, but energetic Church School bring a spark of excitement to our worship and life together. If only that childlike faith and enthusiasm could be put into a bottle so we could all partake of it!

I have enjoyed working alongside Rev. Heidi this past year and watching her grow in confidence in this second year of her ministry. Following in the footsteps of two long-time, well-beloved rectors is not an easy position to be in as we often have expectations based on the past and more seasoned priests. But Heidi is beginning to make her own impact on St. Luke's and introducing us to her perhaps gentler, yet nonetheless profound faith. The Adult Formation Study programs she initiated and held on Sundays and Mid-Week, were excellent and challenged us to deeper thought about scripture and our faith in the modern world. If you haven't taken part in any of these ongoing studies, I encourage you to do so in the coming year.

Our faith and our commitment to St. Luke's will certainly be tested in 2017 as we face not only a financial challenge, but the uncertainty in our country and the world as a whole. Thanks be to God for his unconditional love for all humankind and his promise to be with us always. And thanks be to God for this special community, known as St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

My prayer is that we continue to live our lives in a manner that reflects God's love so all the world will come to know him.

Your sister in Christ,

Pat Fromberger

...and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matt. 28:20 KJV)

May We Share God's Rich Blessings With The Rest of the World

(Continued from page 1)

Epiphany in the New Year, our Gospel Reading is the account of Jesus' Baptism by John. What made this baptismal event so stunning is what took place right after Jesus came up from the river Jordan. The heavenly voice of God the Father spoke to the world about the love God had for His Son. As the grandmother in the restaurant eagerly expressed her love for her family, God, the Father, was none too shy in announcing God's love for the whole world because of Jesus. In this Season of the Epiphany, we, too, are blessed with the presence of God's Son, Jesus. As Jesus came to teach and heal the world, I hope we can follow in God's steps and minister in our community as we enjoy the presence of Christ among us and in us.

The Christmas message of peace and good will still rings relevant in the new year and in this Season of the Epiphany. So may we as the St. Luke's family, continue to wish one another a "Merry Christmas" ("Merry Christ's Mass!") as we come together to dine side-by-side with the Host, remembering our own new births in the Spirit at baptism. Better yet, let's eagerly share the bounty of God's rich blessings with the rest of the world. In God's world, there's ample room at the Table where the Bread never runs out and is never dry.

In Christ, together,

Heidi +



Annual Parish Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

the major fund-raising events. This year we will take some time to do some brainstorming and get your thoughts and ideas on how we might celebrate St. Luke's Church 150th Anniversary in the year 2018. [St. Luke's was organized on March 3, 1868 and the first service of Holy Eucharist was celebrated on Easter day, April 12, 1868.] This anniversary can be an exciting opportunity to share St. Luke's history, not only the story of our faith community, but as an important part of Chester and the surrounding communities.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** is one of the few times during the year when we gather as one body to pray, eat, and discuss issues that matter most to our parish. It's an important event and all are urged to attend. Please come and make your voices heard as we reflect on the ministry of St. Luke's and the challenges we face in the coming year. Your presence counts! Look for a sign-up sheet in Willard Hall to indicate what food dish you can bring for the brunch.

Nominating Committee Report

At the 2017 Annual Meeting on January 22, we will be electing new members to serve on St. Luke's Vestry. Four of the current members will end their 3-year terms at the Annual Meeting: Jane Davis, Pat Fromberger, Andrew Pennell and Belinda Whipple Worth. Kathryn Wright resigned in October leaving a 1-year term open. We are grateful that Andrew & Belinda have chosen to be nominated again for the 2017 Vestry. Here is the slate that will be presented at this year's annual meeting:

2017 Vestry Nominees:

Belinda Whipple Worth (re-up for a 1-year term)

Andrew Pennell (re-up for a 3-year term)

Jean Hancock (NEW 3-year term)

Beth Salisbury (NEW 3-year term)

OPEN 3-year term: Nominations will be accepted from the floor. Meet the two new candidates:

• Jean Hancock

In June of 2001 Jane and I moved from the Washington, DC area to Chester, VT. We knew that we wanted to be involved in a church and we looked around the area and found St. Luke's to be the one fit for us. I had been involved in the Episcopal Church for many years, having taught in Episcopal schools in the DC area and was a member of an Episcopal Church in DC and Jane was involved in the Congregational Church but was involved also in Episcopal schools so it was very familiar. When we first arrived we volunteered in the morning club for children arriving early to Chester/Andover Elementary School which St. Luke's sponsored. I have also



served 2 terms on the Vestry (2004-2010) and have been a delegate to the convention for four years. Presently I am serving on an advisory team for Rock Point Summer Camp, which meets monthly in Burlington and I am in charge of the acolytes here at St. Luke's Church. For me, Sunday mornings means going to church and sometimes I look forward to it and other times I am not too enthusiastic. However, I always get something spiritual or meaningful on Sunday mornings, whether it is in the liturgy, the sermon, the community, or acolyting. It is important for me to be an active member of this parish. I know two of the "issues" with any church is attendance and change, two difficult and challenging areas of concern. I am coming to the vestry with an open and enthusiastic heart and I look forward to volunteering in another way.

• Beth Salisbury

I have lived in Vermont all my life. I was raised in Proctorsville and now live in Springfield. I have been a teacher at Cavendish Town Elementary School for 16 years. My husband, James and I first came to St. Luke's in the summer of 2015. We were searching for a church family and a place to be married (which we were on September 19, 2015.) We were so welcomed by St. Luke's parishioners and Rev. Heidi that we felt at home. I look forward to serving on the Vestry and hope I can bring a different perspective as a younger, new member of St. Luke's along with my experience of working with children. I am grateful for this opportunity and thank you for considering me as a nominee.



St. Luke's 2017 Stewardship Campaign Standing

I have been involved in church leadership positions for many years and I don't think I remember a time when church finances didn't cause me to feel like I was running around with my hair on fire. It probably accounts, in part, to my thinning mane now. Often I look with envy at the churches with large endowments and long to have their budgets.

As you are probably aware, St. Luke's is not heavily endowed. We operate yearly on the gifts from our members, fundraisers and interest income from the sale of the rectory. On one hand, it seems antithetical to worry about money and finances when we really want to be attending to our spiritual journey. It's hard to have lofty thoughts when you are concerned about paying the heating bill.

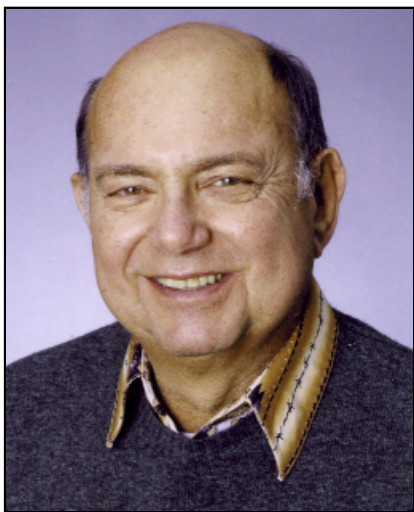
If it is any consolation, I have read stories of endowed

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churches and it seems abundance can create spiritual impediments as well, including poor stewardship of the members, wasteful use of resources and complacency. Truthfully, I would rather be a part of a generous, involved and loving group like St. Luke's than to be part of the "frozen chosen" that endowed churches can become.

What are our challenges? We had 28 pledge cards returned with pledges totaling \$61,454. This is about \$20,000 less than last year and while the budget has not been finalized, about \$30-35k less than what we need. It's easy to become dismayed, but we can also consider this to become an invitation to consider new ways of being church. Complacency won't be an option. Please pray for and engage the leaders of St. Luke as they consider ways to address this. —**Doug Edson, Stewardship Coordinator**

A Celebration Of Life



Peter K. Rosengarten

November 17, 1935 – December 1, 2016

On Friday, December 9th, St. Luke's celebrated the extraordinary life of Peter Rosengarten who left us on December first after a long and courageous battle with cancer. He died peacefully at home in Weston with Tia and family at his side.

The celebration of life at St. Luke's for Peter was in the sanctuary filled with friends near and far, some having to stand in the isles. The late afternoon light streamed in the Trinity Window casting a shadow of the cross from the top of the American flag at the front of the church. Especially moving were so many who came forward for the Eucharist to personally celebrate Peter's life. He was remembered with many memorials from Pennsylvania, Weston and surrounding towns.

Reverend Heidi in her Homily said upon meeting him for the first time, "Peter had a way about him that made others feel at home with him...Let us, who remember his life, take joy in this man who knew how to make a home wherever he was and who had the gift from God to make everyone feel at home with him."

Tia and family seemed to feel at home as they lingered and shared their time together in Willard Hall at the catered reception. In conversations with his children, one heard many stories of their loving father. They were so grateful and all said how much their father "loved St. Luke's."

In his obituary, we learn and understand Peter's "strong commitment to community service: the Pennsylvania Economy League where he became coordinator of County Affairs, coached junior ice hockey, actively supported Native American rights, was a vestry member at Church of the Good Shepherd in Rosemount, and earned a master's degree in Government Administration from the Wharton

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Business School, University of Pennsylvania."

Weston Vermont is a better place thanks to Peter's dedicated service to the Playhouse, town government including 12 years as board chair, and the rejuvenation of the Old Mill Museum. St. Luke's will be forever grateful for his steadfast service to vestry, stewardship and finance, organ restoration, search for a new rector, and preservation of our historic building even to overseeing the improvement of our sound system. He regularly served as a lector and usher.

Reverend Heidi concluded, "Peter is now at home in God's heavenly kingdom."—*Low Watters*



Wreath Workshops Produced Many Holiday Smiles

Four workshops the weekend before Thanksgiving gave participants the opportunity to decorate 35 beautiful evergreen wreaths with especially collected natural materials. The smiles on the faces of the participants and the joy that pervaded Willard Hall made it clear why so many return year after year to embellish their favorite early holiday decorations. Special thanks for different and abundant greenery go to Pat Fromberger and Nina and Don Huffer, who also provided milkweed pods and pine cones. Proceeds from the workshops enabled a \$100 donation to the Chester Conservation Committee's Youth Environmental Camp Scholarship fund and realized \$608.92 for the church's General Fund.



Susannah Pennell in a moment of joyful levity.



Mary Anderson proudly displays her lovely wreath.

Next year we will implore people to sign up very early so we can order enough wreaths to satisfy all those who are interested. This year we had to turn away at least five people. This is a program that gets all participants into the holiday mood, appeals to people who come from Chester and neighboring towns in Vermont and New Hampshire, and encourages both new skills and new friendships. If you've never done this before, we hope that next you will be a part of this activity that is drawing more men and women each year. —*Lillian Willis*.

Church School Advent Presentation Of “The Friendly Beasts” a Big Hit!



Photos courtesy Lew Watters

St. Luke's Church School children practiced for weeks to do a very special presentation for the congregation on the 4th Sunday in Advent. They memorized all the verses of “The Friendly Beasts,” a traditional English Carol about the gifts the animals give to Jesus at his birth. Jane Davis (a member of the choir) helped church school leaders and children learn the song and to make some fantastic masks that represented each of the animals depicted in the verses (donkey, cow, sheep, dove, the camel.) They performed it for the congregation on Sunday, December 18th, just before the Offertory with members of the choir backing them up. As each animal was named, one of the children stepped forward holding up the appropriate mask.

They were even dressed in clothing that coordinated with the colors of the masks. What a joyful presentation it was! Thank you children and thank you to your leaders.



Lessons From A Snowman



- ✧ It's okay to wear white well after Labor Day.
- ✧ Simply hanging out in your front yard can be fun.
- ✧ Accessories don't have to be fancy or expensive.
- ✧ We're all made mostly of water.
- ✧ You know you've “arrived” when a song is written about you.

- ✧ So what if you're a little bottomheavy?
- ✧ Don't get too much sun.
- ✧ Sweating too much can be disastrous!

Free Refills

God's kingdom is like free refills at a restaurant. Wait—what?! Jesus used common, everyday items to explain the kingdom of God; we can too! The kingdom is like free refills. Still thirsty after one soda or coffee? Get another—no charge. In fact, the kingdom of God is better than free refills because you don't even have to pay for the first glass.

It's like having a parent buy you a favorite meal when you're young. You sit back and savor it without the price crossing your mind. That's okay, because the generous giver loves you and wants to be with you.

Sure, that's simplistic, but so are Jesus' parables. Overanalyze them and they may fall apart. But ponder the single point each makes, maybe get a chuckle and an a-ha! out of it, and that parable has done its job. So grab another free refill—of your beverage and of God's love!

—Heidi Mann

The Outreach Corner

The United Thank Offering



On Sunday, **January 8th**, we will be the ingathering of UTO Blue Boxes and envelopes at both worship services that morning. For those of you who have faithfully been putting your coins & bills in the blue boxes throughout the year, this is the day to bring

them to church. If you do not have a blue box, there will be special UTO envelopes at the back of the church for you to make a donation. We hope everyone will be very generous for this special outreach.

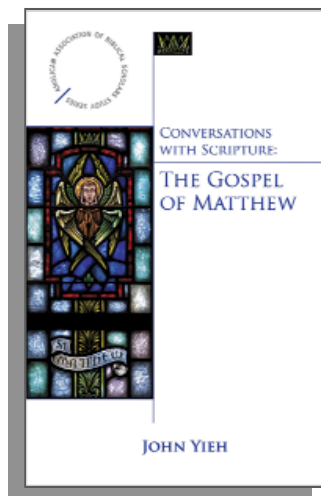
The **United Thank Offering (UTO)** is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. Through UTO, men, women, and children nurture the habit of giving daily thanks to God. These prayers of thanksgiving start when we recognize and name our many daily blessings. Those who participate in UTO discover that thankfulness leads to generosity. UTO is entrusted to promote thank offerings, to receive the offerings, and to distribute the monies to support mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion.

UTO is a personal spiritual discipline of thanksgiving that supports God's mission throughout the world. How it Works: Give thanks for the good things that happen every day. For little things like a good parking spot on a busy day, sunshine for your family picnic, or a birthday card from a friend. For big things like recovery from serious illness, a new job, or forgiveness and reconciliation after a long dispute.

As you give thanks, put some coins or dollars into a **United Thank Offering Blue Box**, or set aside an offering reminder for later. When your box is full or you put a check in a United Thank Offering envelope, your thanksgivings unite with others' prayers and thankful quarters, dimes, and dollars from across The Episcopal Church to support God's mission around the world. You are never too young or too old to count your blessings and share your thankful spirit with others.

Janet Hunter is the coordinator and contact person for United Thank Offering at St. Luke's. If you have questions or want to know more about this outreach ministry, please feel free to chat with her.

Mid-Week Adult Formation: The Gospel of Matthew



Beginning on Wednesday, **January 11 at 10:30 a.m.** in Willard Hall, our Mid-Week Adult Formation Group will embark on its study of the Gospel of Matthew. In addition to our Bibles, we will also be using a companion book entitled: "Conversations with Scripture: The Gospel of Matthew" written by John Yieh. This book is a part of the "Conversation with Scripture" created for Episcopalians.

As do all the Gospels, Matthew's Gospel offers a unique perspective on the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Professor Yieh's book interprets the Gospel of Matthew from a sociological and historical perspective. In his book, Professor Yieh shows how Matthew's Gospel used Jesus' stories and teachings to help the burgeoning and racially mixed church navigate through its struggles and conflicts with Rome and within its own ranks as regards theology and religious practices.

"Conversations with Scripture: The Gospel of Matthew" is written with the contemporary church in mind who also faces struggles with regards to promoting unity and with keeping the faith relevant and alive in an increasingly hostile and divisive world. Professor Yieh offers us insights into how we can better articulate and live out our faith in Christ as individuals and as a church. Please plan to come and bring a friend or two. Each session is stand-alone and begins at 10:30 a. m. See Rev. Heidi for a copy of the book. Suggested price is \$10.00.

About the author: John Yieh is a Molly Laird Downs Professor in New Testament at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, VA. His previous teaching posts were at the Bangor Theological Seminary in Maine and also at the Andover Newton Theological School in Boston, MA. Professor Yieh is an active member of the Anglican Association of Biblical Studies and an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church, USA.

FEBRUARY LITS DEADLINE:

 **JANUARY 27th**

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

The Christmas Tea & Sale Uplifted Spirits



This year's Christmas Tea & Sale was a day filled with joy and wonderful fellowship among friends and guests. Ashley Paine played Christmas music on the piano during the first half of the day adding a really festive mood and the room hummed with a blend of happy conversations and lively tunes. It was especially uplifting to have so many young children (both those who served as young hostesses and those who came to shop with their parents). Jane Davis's kitchen crew was fantastic and put out a beautiful spread of fare for the buffet table. Marcia Clinton and Eileen Widger are "Grandma's Attic" genies. How they always manage to organize all those items is pure magic! Sally Hoover beautifully orchestrated the

"Baked Goods Table" with food samples to tempt buyers and a diverse selection of holiday foods for gift-giving. Georgiana Cheney did a splendid job of selling items at the new "Cherished Treasure Trove" table. And let's not forget our gracious tea pourers. Adelaide & I are grateful for the enthusiastic response of all the church members who helped to make this event happen (especially the men—Red J., John D. Tom W. & Dave W.—who moved Grandma's Attic items from the shed to Willard Hall; set-up (& took down) all the tables. What would we do without all these strong men. Thank you everyone! We raised over \$2,500.

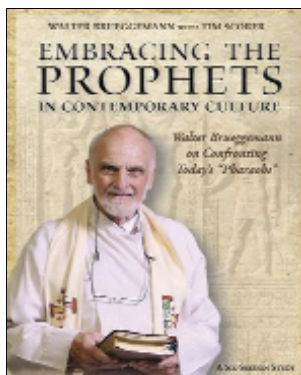
Footnote: At the end of the day Grandma's Attic still had some real treasures left over. The Department of Child and Family Services in Springfield every year sponsors a Christmas party for the foster kids and their families. A special part of this party is the "store" where the kids can shop for gifts for their family members. An assortment of gift items were selected by the PINS (Partners in Service) committee, packed into three large boxes and delivered to DCF for the "store."



Sunday Adult Study: "Embracing the Prophets"

Our Sunday Adult Study Group will resume on the **15th of January**. We will be viewing the six-week DVD Series, "Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary Culture" with Walter Brueggemann. Each Session's DVD presentation runs approximately 45 min allowing us a few minutes of reflection afterwards. Please plan to come. We will start as close to **11:30 a.m.** as possible. Each session is stand alone and ends by **12:30 p.m.**

Walter Brueggemann is a retired Old Testament scholar, prolific author, and professor emeritus at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA. Professor Brueggemann has written over fifty-eight books, and several commentaries on books of the Bible. Professor Brueggemann is also a minister in the United Church of Christ. —Heidi+



JANUARY

Meetings & Events

WEEKLY

• Sunday Adult Formation Study:

Sundays, following the 10:00AM worship service from 11:35AM-12:30PM in the side classroom. On **January 15th** we will begin our study on the prophets of the Old Testament using the DVD series entitled: "Embracing The Prophets in Contemporary Culture" by Walter Brueggemann. All are welcome to join us. See the article on this page for more information.

• Lunch Bunch Book Study:

Mondays, **Noon-1:15PM** in Willard Hall for a bag lunch, discussion & prayer. We are reading, *The Five People You Meet In Heaven*, by Mitch Albom. All are welcome to join us.

• Mid-Week Morning Prayer and Adult Formation Study:

Wednesdays: **Morning Prayer: 9:30AM; Adult Study: 10:30AM**, in Willard Hall. We will begin a new study on **January 11th** on the Gospel of Matthew, using the Bible & a companion book entitled: "Conversations with Scripture: The Gospel of Matthew" written by John Yieh. All are welcome to join us. Read article on page 6 for full details.

• St. Luke's Choir Rehearsal:

Sundays at **9:00AM** for warm-up & rehearsal in the church nave. Special rehearsals will be held as needed on Saturdays. New members are welcome. Speak to Ashley Paine, church musician, if you are interested or just show up!

LESS THAN WEEKLY

• Monthly Vestry Meeting:

Monday, **January 9th** in Willard Hall. **6:30PM Gathering & Reflection; 7:00PM Regular Agenda.** Focus will be the 2017 Budget and Annual Meeting Agenda. All parishioners are welcome to attend these meetings.

• Annual Parish Brunch/Meeting:

Sunday, **January 22nd** following the ONE SERVICE at **9:00AM (Holy Eucharist, Rite I with Music)**. All parishioners are urged to attend this meeting. See articles on pages 1-3 for more information.

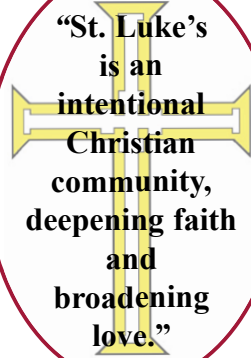
JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays:

4	David Carey	16	Ashley Paine
4	George Cheney	24	Sandra Rich
7	Margaret Hugg	25	Freddy Holden
8	Lesley Koenig	26	Walter Sharon
10	Alexandra Scarlett	26	Belinda Whipple Worth
11	Marjorie Carey	30	Brian Paine
11	Heidi Edson		

Cowardice asks the question: Is it safe? Expediency asks the question: Is it politic? Vanity asks the question: Is it popular? But conscience asks the question: Is it right? And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular—but one must take it simply because it is right.

—Martin Luther King Jr.



✠ WORSHIP SCHEDULE ✠

Jan. 8

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

Jan. 15

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

Jan. 22

9:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I (with music)
Potluck Brunch/Annual Parish Meeting

Jan. 29

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

Feb. 5

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

☛ **CHURCH SCHOOL:** Sundays, 10:00 a.m. starting in church and children recessing to Willard Hall following "The Collect."

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Heidi L. Edson, Rector

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

www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org

St. Luke's Church is Handicapped Accessible

Light in the Shadows

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P. O. Box 8, Chester, VT 05143
Return for ADDRESS CORRECTION
Or if Undeliverable

