



Light in the Shadows

OCTOBER 2017

"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

Finding Joy

*"Joy is not something to learn, it is something to live."
[pg. 348 in The Book of Joy]*



I am one of those who likes to read chapters in several books together, a different book per night. Not long ago, I finished reading the book entitled: "The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World." This book features wisdom from two world-renowned and respected leaders of two of the world's great religions, Tibetan Buddhism and Christianity. With Douglas Abrams acting as host and moderator, in 2015, His Holiness

the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu met in Dharamsala Province of India to engage in the single question: How do we find joy in the face of life's inevitable suffering. Through the sharing of their own happiness and sufferings in life, the two world leaders came to a common agreement as to what the source of true joy is: relationship and community.

"As Episcopalians here at St. Luke's, we are blessed to be a part of a rich Anglican heritage that believes that the joy of worship of God springs forth from the conviction that our own faith in Christ becomes even more real the more we share it among ourselves and also with others outside our faith community."

—Rev. Heidi L. Edson

As Episcopalians here at St. Luke's, we are blessed to be a part of a rich Anglican heritage that believes that the joy of worship of God springs forth from the conviction that our own faith in Christ becomes even more real the more we share it among ourselves and also with others outside our faith community. It is this connectedness we have with each other in Christ that gives rise to the joy that is embedded in our hearts.

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St. Luke's Offered A Friendly Welcome To All At The Chester Fall Festival



Saturday, September 16 (the opening day of the 2017 Chester Fall Festival on the Green) was an extremely hot day for Vermont, especially in mid-September—but we were lucky enough to be under a tent, provided by the Pennell Family and set up by Andrew, Doug, and Henry. That morning, along with Heidi & Doug, Beth & James Salisbury, Anita Wright, and Daniel Lora-ditch—Jean Hancock spent time chatting with people and encouraging them to come see what we, as St. Luke's Church had to offer. Lew Watters and Belinda Whipple Worth joined them later and Belinda brought delicious ice cream to serve, which was very popular on that hot day. Belinda adds: "Visitors were delighted, and surprised, that we were sharing our abundance of ice

Continued on page 3

From the Senior Warden

The Glory of The Lord in The Wilderness

"They looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud."



I heard these words in church today. I had thought that the Glory of the Lord appeared in rainbows and the sun's corona. Or during a great spiritual event: The Birth of The Messiah, The Resurrection of the Messiah, the feeding of thousands, raising Lazarus after being three days dead. Good and positive events and places.

But here is the Glory of the Lord, in the Wilderness!

The Israelites were hungry in the Wilderness, whining and crabbing, wishing for the good old days, as Heidi described it. Wishing they had died oppressed back in Egypt where at least their bellies were full.

As I consider current world events, I fear we are on the precipice of a significant Wilderness. As I consider the hurricanes that have battered and ruined the lives of people in the Caribbean and along the Gulf Coast, I know those people and places are experiencing a dire Wilderness. I pray they may also be given grace to see the Glory of God in their Wilderness.

But, coming back to the scripture: here is the Glory of the Lord, in the Wilderness. What does this mean? Does this have any meaning for us individually? If I am experiencing some sort of bleak or black "wilderness," spiritual, or psycho-emotional, what if I were able to look ahead of me and, looking further into the Wilderness, I could see the Glory of the Lord!? It might be a profound kind of experience; one that might change me. Perhaps I would carry that experience of the Glory of the Lord within me through the Wilderness

The recent earthquakes in Mexico were devastating and frightening. In the town of Cholula many of the hundreds of domes and bell towers of the Colonial era churches were damaged. Bells will not be rung and Mass will be held outside fearing that the vibrations of the bells could bring down church buildings.

What if St. Luke's (the building) were damaged or destroyed? What if there was no beautiful Gothic-style building with an historic tracker organ?

Finding Joy

(Continued from page 1)

Often, though, we either are unaware of the power of joy residing in us or we mistake it for a fleeting happiness—one that is based on circumstances of life. As the subtitle of the book suggests, lasting happiness is a life-choice we make. This happiness is a joy that accompanies us in the midst of our sorrows and sufferings.

This month of October promises us as the St. Luke's community many opportunities for sharing our joy with others. One such event we will be holding outdoors for the greater Chester community, will be the annual St. Luke's Animal Blessing to honor Saint Francis of Assisi. Very soon after this, the St. Luke's wedding bells will be ringing in Chester as our pews will be filled to capacity with friends and family of the bride and groom who will come to Chester and to St. Luke's to witness the marriage of Sam and Anna. The very next day will be our own feast to enjoy as we celebrate through worship and fellowship our own patron saint, Saint Luke. How blessed we are to have this joy of God in our hearts that spills out to others when our hearts are open.

*Blessings,
Heidi+*



Instant Sunday School

Children's Sunday School starts October 1st at the 10:00 a.m. service, with or without children! A group met on Monday, September 25th to discuss plans. Rev. Heidi provided us with "Instant Bible Lessons," books for ages 2-5 and 5-10. We immediately adopted these as a perfect idea for us. Each of us chose two lessons, one from each book. The plan is that we sign up for specific Sundays and will be prepared to teach a lesson and lead an activity. This should work well for us. All lessons are very clearly laid out, with a list of materials needed for the coordinating activities. We'll have our lesson kit in a bag with all necessary materials ready to go on our designated Sundays.

—*St. Luke's Church School Team*

Surely, the future of St. Luke's is unknown. Perhaps wishing for the good old days when our building and coffers were full. It seems we're at least on the edge of a small Wilderness, aren't we? What meaning might seeing the Glory of the Lord in the Wilderness have for us (the people) of St. Luke's?

—*Belinda,
Senior Warden*

The Chester Fall Festival...

(Continued from page 1)

cream, dog biscuits, cold drinks and chairs in the shade, with no expectation of a cash donation. People always asked again to double check, when we said, 'It's free.' Heard more than once: 'Really? Churches usually want money.' Many seemed touched by this small gesture of generosity on our part."

Friday, before the festival, Marti Assenza and Janet Hunter packaged baked vegetarian and purchased healthy "blessed" dog biscuits that were handed out to many dog visitors, not to mention a goat. Heidi comments: "I handed out or offered a lot of the dog biscuits and reminded the owners about the October Blessing of the Animals."

In addition there was a scavenger hunt for young people, created by Lillian Willis. Mostly adults wanted to do the hunt, especially because at the end, the prize was to ring the church bell. Under the tent there were craft projects for children, church school post cards, and a colorful hand-out (designed by Bonnie and Lew) about St. Luke's Church, now taking the place of the rack card. Quite a few people asked to look inside the church where Doug answered many questions. Jean was in the church some of the time and was struck by the number of positive comments that were made about the beauty of St. Luke's. People also wanted to tell their own "church" stories. Sunday afternoon, the talented duo of Jennings & McComber (Kara Watters Lake and husband Andy) performed their impressive Celtic folk music and original songs. It was a perfect ending to a fun weekend.

So why were we doing all this? Several weeks ago Rev. Heidi talked in her homily about changing attitudes toward mainline religions after talking with a visiting couple. They talked about their Lutheran church in New York, and shared about their many years of active membership and how sad they were to see their church over the years becoming smaller and smaller. "We all agreed that the Church was finding it difficult to reach Millennial and other unchurched (or under-churched). How can we get these people involved in the faith and life of the faith community?" We tried and this year's Chester Fall Festival participation may provide us with a positive way forward.

—*Lew & Bonnie, Jean Hancock and Rev. Heidi*

Footnote: We invite you to learn more and visit our photo albums, at these two online links:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/stlukeschester/albums>
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/ourchester/albums>

Festival photos courtesy Lew Watters



James & Beth lead the Scavenger Hunt inside St. Luke's.



On Sunday afternoon, many folks came to enjoy a free concert by Jennings & McComber on St. Luke's side lawn.



The multi talented husband-wife duo, of Jennings & McComber (Kara Watters Lake and Andy Lake) shown performing both celtic folk music and their original songs under the tent.

September Vestry Meeting Highlights

St. Luke's Vestry gathered on Wednesday, September 13 for their monthly meeting with a special focus topic on "Stewardship." Rev. Heidi led a short *reflection time on John 6:1-14 about the "Loaves and the Fish." Following prayer and a reading together of St. Luke's Vision Statement, they segued into regular meeting agenda.

- **Approval of Minutes:** It was decided and voted upon to postpone the approval of August Meeting Minutes because a final draft had not been submitted. Both the August and September Minutes will be reviewed and approved at the October Meeting.

Additional Agenda Items:

- **Fall Festival On the Green:** Finalizing of plans for St. Luke's presence in the upcoming Chester Fall Festival on the Green September 16 & 17.

- **Piano:** A second point for discussion centered on an 85-year old baby grand piano for sale that St. Luke's might be interested in purchasing. (Footnote: Ashley had suggested that we look for a good piano, preferably a baby grand, for the sanctuary as the keyboard doesn't have a full sound.

- **Focus Topic—Stewardship:** Belinda presented "talking points" from Anthony Robinson's book, "Changing the Conversation" to get us thinking about how to approach the Stewardship Season. Basis for our conversation was the passage from John 6 (*See under reflection time.) Questions reflected upon were: "Why we personally come to St. Luke's?" "How can we introduce others to our community and engage them here at St. Luke's?" "How do we learn to fish?" Point was made to distinguish "technical problem" from "adaptive challenge." The Vestry is seeking church member(s) to lead and serve on a stewardship team or committee for our 2018 campaign. Please speak to Belinda if you are interested and need more information.

- **Asst. Treasurer's Report:** Nancy Pennell and Andrew are still reconciling St. Luke's financial records. Good progress is being made. Heidi raised question about which account number to use for Supply Organist reimbursement slips. The correct account for this is #5514 (Supply Musician). There was no Profit & Loss Statement because the account was not yet reconciled. Lynda, upon request by John, however, will send the Vestry the more recent Profit & Loss Statement(s).

- **Jr. Warden's Report:** Work with the lighting for the choir area of the church is ongoing. Andrew noted that the halogen and LED lights are not compatible.

- **Sr. Warden's Report:** Belinda completed her signature on the Vanguard form and handed the paperwork to Lynda to be filed.

Continued at top of page

- **Rector's Report:** Heidi reported that the Ministerium met on Tuesday, September 12th at St. Luke's. Changes are taking place in both the Chester Baptist Church and at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Both churches are undergoing pastoral transitions. Heidi will be attending a Diocesan Council Meeting in Rutland on September 30th. Our annual visit with Bishop Tom Ely will be on Wednesday, January 10, 2018. A vestry meeting with the bishop is planned for that date.

• OLD BUSINESS:

Final details of **Chester Fall Festival** were briefly discussed. Jean Hancock reported that people have signed up to work with planning for our Children's Sunday School program. She will organize a meeting with them for going forward. Note: *(Be sure to read the follow-up "Chester Fall Festival" article on pages 1 & 3 of this newsletter.)*

• NEW BUSINESS:

Rev. Heidi asked about the level of commitment to "The Upon this Rock Point Parish Partnership Campaign." It was discussed and agreed upon to have individuals contribute to this fund and to make announcements to this effect. Heidi confirmed that the Diocesan Convention Reimbursement monies are indeed to be used to reimburse Delegates most of the Convention costs not to exceed an average of around \$100. or so. St. Luke's budgets \$500. for Convention per year.

- **St. Luke's 150th Anniversary:** A discussion was initiated about how we might celebrate St. Luke's 150th Anniversary. St. Luke's Episcopal Church was consecrated in May of 1868. General agreement is to hold special service or services during this month. We will invite Bishop Tom to participate.

- **NEXT VESTRY MEETING.** Wednesday, **October 11** with a focus topic of "Publicity and Communications."



A Prayer For Neighborliness

O God, we pray for a broader vision of the needs of humanity, and a deeper compassion to fill those needs; for a planting of the seeds of concern for all humanity in our hearts; for a tapping of the wells of generosity. May we live together as people who have been forgiven a great debt. May we be gentle, walking softly with one another. May we be understanding, lest we shall add to the world's sorrow or cause to flow needless tears. May we be as anxious for the rights of others as we are for our own. May we be as eager to forgive as we are to seek forgiveness. May we know no barriers of creed or race or sex, that our love may be like Yours — a love that sees all people as Your children and our kin. May we be ministers of humanity. —Peter Marshall



Annual Blessing of the Animals St. Luke's Church

Sat. Oct. 7 at 11 a.m.

Sun., Oct. 8 at 4 p.m.

*** St. Francis Medals**

*** Treats for Pets and Owners**

*** It is free, just like God's love!**

Celebrate your love for your pets,
both living and departed.

Side Lawn (Willard Hall if rain)
St. Luke's Episcopal Church • 313 Main St.
Chester, VT 05143 • 802.875.6000

stlukeseiscopalvt.org

Blessing of the Animals To Be Held On October 7th & 8th

October 4th is traditionally the Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi. On this date it is customary that in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures, animals are led to churches for a special ceremony called the "Blessing of the Animals." Here at St. Luke's we celebrate this special event on the Saturday and Sunday closest to that date. Open to the community, all pets and their owners are invited to attend this informal outdoor service to honor and give thanks for the special role pets play in our daily lives. St. Luke's Church offers two opportunities to participate: **Saturday, October 7 at 11:00 a.m.** and on **Sunday, October 8 at 4:00 p.m.** In addition to receiving a blessing by the Rev. Heidi Edson, each pet will be given a tasty treat and a Saint Francis pet medallion.

A special thanks to Bonnie Watters who will be making human treats and providing cat nibbles and to Marti Assenza who is doing the vegetarian dog biscuits. The Animal Blessing will take place on the side lawn of St. Luke's (or in the event of rain, in Willard Hall.)



NOVEMBER LITS DEADLINE:

👉 OCTOBER 27th

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



How do we give thanks to God? By caring for that which God loves. God loves human beings. God made us in his image. Caring for people, especially the "least of these," is a fitting sacrifice of thanks to God.—*Forward Day By Day*, 10/27/16

Our True Identity

Self-rejection is the greatest enemy of the spiritual life because it contradicts the sacred voice that calls us the "Beloved." Being the Beloved expresses the core truth of our existence. ...

Your true identity is as a child of God. This is the identity you have to accept. Once you have claimed it and settled in it, you can live in a world that gives you much joy as well as pain. You can receive the praise as well as the blame that comes to you as an opportunity for strengthening your basic identity, because the identity that makes you free is anchored beyond human praise and blame.

—*Henri Nouwen*

The Outreach Corner



Chester/Andover Blanket And Outerwear Drive: October 27th & 28th

It is hard to believe that winter is rapidly approaching but it is, and many people in our area do not have warm clothing for their families. This is the 10th year for the annual blanket and outerwear drive!! Please search your closets and donate anything that you no longer wear. These items will be gathered and organized for distribution to those in need. All items are free to those who come to “shop”.

The event has outgrown the space in the St. Joseph’s Church and will be held in the fellowship hall of the Congregational Church. No meal will be served at the church, but food will be available to carry-out.

We will place bins at the back of St. Luke’s sanctuary and in Willard Hall for your donated items.

Also, please consider volunteering for some of this important event:

Set up and organization of donations in the fellowship hall of the Congregational Church:

Monday, Oct. 23 – 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 24 – 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday Oct 25 – 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 26 – 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

DISTRIBUTION DAYS

Friday, October 27 – 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Saturday October 28 – 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

CLEAN-UP:

Saturday, October 28 – 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Please **contact Edie Brown** if you would like to volunteer: edieandwally@hotmail.com

PINS Update: Helping A Family In Need

Early in September the (Partners in Service (PINS) committee received a request from Robbie Wierzbicki, our liaison at the Springfield office of the Department of Child and Family Services (DCF). She had grandparents who came forward to raise their grandson. They would need some help to make an additional bedroom for the little guy. The DCF office is able to give them \$400 towards the \$800 total cost of the addition. The majority of the members of the PINS committee voted to match the \$400 to assist the grandparents in adding a new bedroom for their grandson.

The PINS committee since its conception has asked to be contacted with specific requests on an ongoing “as needed” basis when individual needs and emergencies arise. Flexibility and creativity are defining characteristics on PINS partnerships with DCF personnel.

—*Marcia Clinton*

(SAMS) Urgent Prayer Request From The Smiths

We have not written about the violence in our Region, the Araucanía, recently. But now we will say something. Last week, in one 24-hour period, 4 churches were burned north of here. Three days ago a group of people occupied the Catholic cathedral in Concepción (Bío-Bío Region) about a situation here in Temuco. Just now, Pastor José Pino of San Mateo Church wrote on the church’s Whatsapp this: “I ask that we pray for peace in the Araucanía, because there are now threats of burning churches in the city (Temuco, the capital of the region). Holy Trinity Church is on alert. Let’s pray that nothing happens.”

Holy Trinity is a historic, 109-year-old, downtown church, made completely of wood. It could be a vulnerable (it is the only wooden church downtown) and very symbolic target. The pastor and his family live on the second floor of a connected, old wooden building. So this prayer request isn’t just about a building, but about the safety of our brothers and sisters. *Thank you,*

Russ & Heidi Smith, SAMS Missionaries
(Request received September 23, 2017)

God’s loves. God forgives. God embraces. All this comes not from our earning it, but from God’s initiative. The grace of God truly is free. And because of that grace, so are we.

—Forward Day By Day 10/20/2009

Recognizing our need for God and coming to the Lord with humility is the true beginning of a committed and inspired spiritual journey.

—Forward Day By Day 10/27/2013

ITEMS NEEDED!!!

Fourth Annual Sale-On-The-Screen



Like I said in the September LITS "It's that time of year again" for **Sale-On-The-Screen** and we are in need of donated items to offer for sale. So again here is how it works. You contact myself, **John DesLauriers**, or **Lew Watters** and let us know what you have. We will need digital photos of the item and a description (which we can do if necessary). We will then list the items on line for sale. So look around for good usable items that still have value (but are no doubt weighing you down), and contact us in person, by phone, or email. It will be therapeutic and help raise money for the general fund. The sale will run through the month of October.

Many Thanks!

Photos: (top to bottom) show a few of the items we have to date: A framed & matted Ruth Harrison Pastel, A WEN Detailer Car Waxer, and an Armstrong Student Model 104 Closed Hole Flute.

John at 802-875-3490 or jdesl2020@gmail.com

Lew at 802-875-2114 or lewbon@vermontel.net

2017 Christmas Tea & Sale Plans Underway

It may seem too early to be talking about the Christmas Tea, but at the fast pace this past summer has gone by, perhaps we are not too far off-base in our thinking! **St. Luke's Annual Christmas Tea & Sale** will be held on Saturday, **December 2nd**, so please note the date on your calendars.

A small planning group of six ladies along with chairpersons, Adelaide Johnson and Pat Fromberger, met in Willard Hall on September 25 to share ideas and get the ball rolling for this major fundraising event. Among the ideas discussed for making handcrafted items were felt Christmas ornaments, needlepointed holiday-theme napkin rings, bargello eye-glass cases, quilted runners, and wine tote bags. The group hopes to hold at least one or two craft workshops in late October or early November, but those plans are still tentative. (Check the Sunday announcements for more information.)

"Grandma's Attic" will be featured again as it continues to be a popular draw. Therefore we are asking church members & friends to be looking for some items around their homes that are clean and in good shape. We could also use items that would appeal to young children. Eileen Widger and Marcia Clinton have agreed to manage Grandma's Attic. Jane Davis and Lillian Willis will head up the kitchen crew and Sally Hoover will reign over the Holiday Food Table.

If you have any ideas and suggestions for the 2017 Christmas Tea, or would like to become involved, please talk to either Adelaide or Pat.



WEEKLY

- **Sunday Adult Formation Study:**

Sundays, 11:40AM-12:30PM. We have begun a new study with a focus on scripture stories using The Rev. Carole Wageman's book, "The Light Shines Through: Our Stories are God's Story." All welcomed to join us for some lively discussion on Sunday mornings.

- **Lunch Bunch Book Study:**

Mondays, **Noon-1:15PM** in Willard Hall for a bag lunch, sharing, discussion & prayer. We are currently reading, "Dignity, Its Essential Role in Resolving Conflict," by Donna Hicks, PhD. All are welcomed to join us.

- **Mid-Week Morning Prayer and Adult Formation Study:**

Wednesdays: **Morning Prayer: 9:40AM**; in the Side Chapel (in Willard Hall if weather gets too chilly.) **Adult Study 10:30AM** in Willard Hall. We have begun a new study with a focus on scripture stories using The Rev. Carole Wageman's book, "The Light Shines Through: Our Stories are God's Story." The discussions have been very lively. All welcomed to join us.

- **St. Luke's Choir:**

Choir members will be singing from the pews until a new church musician/choir director can be hired.

LESS THAN WEEKLY

- **Blessing of The Animals:**

Saturday, **October 7th, 11:00AM** or **Sunday, October 8th at 4:00PM** on the side lawn at St. Luke's. Open to the community. Read article on page 5 for complete details.

- **Monthly Vestry Meeting:**

Wednesday, **October 11th** in Willard Hall. **6:30PM Gathering & Scripture Reflection; 7:00PM Regular Agenda.** The focus topic will be "Publicity and Communications" All church members are always welcomed to attend.

- **Prather/Digel Wedding:**

Saturday, **October 14th, 3:00PM** at St. Luke's Church; officiated by Rev. Heid L. Edson.

OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Kat Meyer | 20 Brian Anderson |
| 10 Ruth Harrison | 21 Cyrena Goodrich |
| 11 Sally Hoover | 30 Amy Jones |
| 19 Moser Worth | |

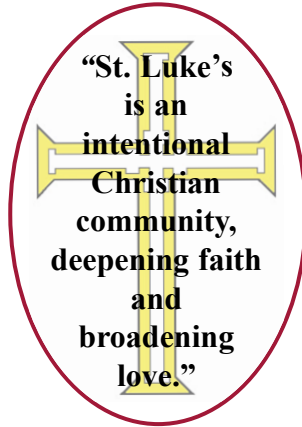
Anniversaries:

- | |
|--------------------------|
| 2 Doc & Annemarie Sexton |
| 3 Brian & Ashley Paine |
| 7 Malcolm & Ann Summers |
| 14 Joe & Pat Fromberger |
| 28 Tom & Eileen Widger |
| 31 Walter & Sandra Rich |

Kindness in words
Creates confidence,

Kindness in thinking
Creates profoundness,

Kindness in giving,
Creates LOVE.—*Lao-Tse*



✝ WORSHIP SCHEDULE ✝

- Oct. 1 XVII PENTECOST (Proper 21)**
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- Oct. 8 XVIII PENTECOST (Proper 22)**
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- Oct. 15 FEAST DAY OF SAINT LUKE**
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- Oct. 22 XX PENTECOST (Proper 24)**
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- Oct. 29 XXI PENTECOST (Proper 25)**
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- ✝ **CHURCH SCHOOL:** Begins on Sunday, October 1st at the 10:00 a.m. service. All children are welcomed.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Heidi L. Edson, Rector
313 Main Street, Chester, VT 05143 • Office Phone: 875-6000
stlukes@vermontel.net • www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org
St. Luke's Church is Handicapped Accessible

Light in the Shadows

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

