



MARCH 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

God Invites Us To Embark On A Spiritual Journey

*"...Sir, you have no bucket and the well is deep.
Where do you get that living water?" [Jn 4:11]*



I think all of us are familiar with the story of the Samaritan woman at the well from whom Jesus requests a drink (See John 4:4-30). This woman has been coming everyday for years to the same well for water. Each day she comes (probably) alone during the hottest part of the day.

If we're honest deep down, I suspect that, our own church community here at St. Luke's, can relate to this woman who worries about there being enough water for herself and her loved ones. Lately, St. Luke's has begun to wrestle earnestly with the question of what lies ahead for us as the Episcopal Church here in Chester. As we witness our own church attendance and our finances diminishing, we wonder how deep the well of our resources run.

*"Lent is this
incredible Season
in our Church
year where
the living God
invites us to
embark on a
spiritual journey
that leads
ultimately to
victory and joy
in Christ."*

—Rev. Heidi L. Edson

Lent is this incredible Season in our Church year where the living God invites us to embark on a spiritual journey that leads ultimately to victory and joy in Christ. Yet the Lenten Road we are asked to take is a long and narrow one that requires our life's commitment freely given to God as Jesus' followers this day and every day. At points along the way we are bound to wonder if the path we, as the St. Luke's church community, are walking upon is sustainable.

The good news is that, the One we follow is the Living

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Annual Maple Fest Dinner & Raffle PINS Fundraiser: Saturday, March 11

A touch of maple and a dash of fun highlight the menu for the **Annual PINS Maple Fest Dinner and Raffle Fundraiser** to be held on Saturday, **March 11th, 6:00 p.m.** in Willard Hall. This year's entree features baked ham with vegetable side dishes and scrumptious desserts—all



Wow! Look at all those scrumptious Maple desserts!

made by St. Luke's cooks with a hint of maple and lots of love. Wine will be available for those who wish to have some with their dinner. Cost for the dinner is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 12. Donations for wine will be accepted. An array of raffle items will be on display and guest can purchase tickets for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Participants choose which gifts they would like to win by placing their

Continued on page 2

From the Senior Warden

Looking Forward

I'm writing this column while waiting to listen to the president's address. Praying and wondering about the future direction of our country brings me to thinking about the future of St. Luke's. My thoughts go to the budget discussion at our Annual Meeting. This discussion was very much driven by a concern for St. Luke's future, even a fear, that St. Luke's as we know it might not survive into the future. This thought causes a little catch of anxiety in my heart. A question comes quickly following that catch, "What should we do to insure our survival?!"

Remember the catchy question: "What Would Jesus Do?"

What would Jesus do? What would Jesus have us do? How can we know what our God would have us do? Would Jesus call us to hunker down, to protect what we have? To "take care of our own"?

Or would he call us to follow him, to "deepen and broaden God's love" in the world? Perhaps, in some new or unexpected way?

My guess is that Jesus would call us. I expect he would call us out of our familiar place, whether it is a place of comfort or a place of fear. He would call us into the vulnerability of community.

What would it be like for us to join in prayer and conversation, in community, around the question: "What Would Jesus Have St. Luke's Do?"

I invite you to respond to my thoughts.

Belinda

God Invites Us To Embark
On A Spiritual Journey

(Continued from page 1)

Water we will ever need. The woman left the well that day hopeful and full of joy because of Jesus. My prayer this Lent is that we will learn to drink from the well that never runs dry and become joyful followers of Jesus Christ.

*Blessed Lent,
Heidi+*

PINS Maple Fest Dinner
& Raffle Fundraiser...

(Continued from page 1)



tickets in the tins by those items. The winning names are drawn following the dinner. **Reservations** for dinner can be made by calling **Marcia Clinton at 875-3531**. Last year every seat was taken, so be wise and make your reservation for a fun evening.

This is the only fundraiser for PINS (Partners in Service) activities and its success is dependent upon volunteers from the congregation. We still need dona-

tions of gift items for the raffle portion of the evening, but they need to be delivered to Willard Hall by Friday, March 10th. Contact Marcia Clinton if you have a question about what to donate or simply bring your items to the church.

PINS is a local outreach program for children and youth in crisis. We work closely with the Springfield office of the Department of Child and Family Services on an "on call" basis. The program allows social workers and other staff to voice the needs of the children in their caseloads, needs that would otherwise go unheard and unmet. Each year we have given Easter dinner to 3 or 4 needy families along with food staples and Easter baskets to the kids in these families; and in August give back-to-school backpacks filled with school supplies to be distributed by the social workers.

—*Marcia Clinton*

Sharing Our Freedom & Abundance

Nowadays we hear too many Americans talking about recent refugees and migrants from other lands as if they had forgotten that their own ancestors were once strangers in the land of Egypt. God willed that his people should be free some three thousands years ago. He willed that our ancestors should be free. He wills that we share our freedom and abundance in this good land with all who long for it and will try to use freedom well. God bless America, that she may never shut her doors to those who are free in hope and in spirit. —*Forward Day By Day, July 2010*

A true friend knows your weaknesses but shows you your strengths; feels your fears but fortifies your faith; sees your anxieties but frees your spirit; recognizes your disabilities but emphasizes your possibilities. —*William Arthur Ward*

Living The Life Marked As Christ's Own—Adult Lenten Study



This year during Lent, the St. Luke's Adult Formation groups will be engaging in a more personalized study format. The topic of study is entitled: "The 5 Marks of LOVE: Living Life Marked as Christ's Own: A Discipleship offering inspired by the Anglican Marks of Mission. By using workbooks as a guide (thanks offered to our own diocese for providing

these hard copies), each of you will have the opportunity to share with each of us your weekly experiences with each "Mark" as we journey together through this season of Lent. Our Study will begin on **March 5th** for the **Sunday group** and on **March 8th** for the **Wednesday group**.

There are extra hard-copies of the Workbook available. But the great news is that this study is designed as a personal daily study for anyone and everyone! You can go online to download additional copies for yourself plus also receive a daily email with mobile-ready video and a question. The cost: there is none! Here are the links:

www.5marksoflove.org (for the email video series) and www.ssje.org/5marksofloveresources (to download the workbooks and other resources.)

Do plan to join us in Willard Hall for this Study. 'Might make for part of your Lenten discipline this year, eh! Our Mid-Week Study on Wednesdays will be preceded by Morning Prayer beginning at 9:30 a.m. Come to one or both and invite others to come and join you.

More about the Anglican Marks of Mission: In 2004, the Anglican Consultative Council (A group of Anglican and Episcopal bishops, clergy and lay that meet every two or three years) drafted a Statement on mission called "The Five Marks of Anglican Mission." Based in the Baptismal Covenant, this Statement has served to shape the way the Episcopal and Anglican Church in the world views and practices mission both at home and abroad. —Heidi+



Giving Credit Where Due?

Running late for a meeting, a man circled the block, looking for a place to park. Desperately, he raised his eyes toward heaven and prayed, "Lord, if you'll find me a parking spot, I promise I'll start going to church again." Just then, a car pulled out of a space right in front of the man. "Never mind," he said to God. "I found one!"

Lenten Ministerium Series

This year during Lent, the Ministerium of Chester and Andover is pleased to announce its 2017 Lenten Series to be held each Wednesday evening beginning on the 8th of March and ending on the 5th of April. Instead of the customary worship service held at each church in the course of the Series, this year we are planning something different. Our theme for 2017 will be "Whole Life Worship" and it will entail a unique experience at each of the churches in the course of the Series.

The Ministerium came up with this theme in January, with the wish to breathe some new life into this annual custom. "Whole Life Worship" is basically how we experience God in worship and praise in all aspects of our life together as Christ's body: through Fellowship, Reflection, Witness & Praise, the Everyday, and by sharing Communion with each other. **Note: The complete Lenten Series Schedule of times and places is listed on page 7.**

St. Luke's will be hosting the first week of this Series on **March 8th** with a Potluck Meal and a Devotional. Due to an expected large turnout, St. Luke's venue will take place at the **Congregational Church** in Chester beginning at **6:00 p.m.** For the devotional, the plan for now is to lead participants in a short reflection on a passage of Scripture using the Lectio divina method of study. The Ministerium is excited about this year's Lenten program and we hope that as many of you as can will take part as we reconnect with one another in our Christian community this Season of Lent. Janet Hunter is looking for people willing to help her with hosting this event with preparation, set-up, and clean-up afterwards (the Congregational Church will also help!) Heidi Edson is looking for St. Luke's people to serve as facilitators in the table-discussions for our reflection. Please contact Janet or myself for more information.

—Heidi+



We Invite You To Come Sing With Us During Lent & Easter!

The choir and church musician would like to extend an invitation to anyone who might like to sing with us during Lent and Easter. If you love to sing but are not ready to make a full-time commitment to the choir, this is a perfect opportunity for you to "test the waters" so to speak. Having more members may enable us to do more 4-part voice pieces and enrich our worship service. Rehearsals are held on 9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings, prior to the 10:00 a.m. service and will hold one or two special Saturday morning rehearsals as needed. If have an interest please speak to Ashley Paine, email at amelissapaine@gmail.com, or just show up on Sunday! —Ashley Paine, Church Musician

Highlights Of February Vestry Meeting

At the February 8th Vestry Meeting the Focus Topic was Outreach, but the 2017 Budget was also a necessary part of the discussion because the Outreach Committee needed to know if the St. Luke's would continue its commitment of tithing income from pledge and plate and what funds, therefore, the committee could count on to be allocated to support the Outreach ministry.

- **Focus Topic: Outreach.** The Outreach Committee, represented by co-chairs Jane Davis and Sally Hoover, responded to the budget realities discussed at the Annual Meeting by presenting a tentative plan that indicated support for specific past charities have been eliminated: CHABHA has disbanded, and Operation Christmas Child would not continue at St. Luke's because of Cindy Roundy-Winston's move to New York. The donation to SAMS (Society for Anglican Missionaries & Senders) was being halved. In addition, this year support would go to either Park Place or Our Place. Otherwise the organizations proposed for outreach support were those listed in the Annual Report. However, that report did not indicate any amount per charity because the Outreach Committee was awaiting the total sum available from the Vestry, which, in turn, was awaiting a clear picture of the church's finances and information on potential reductions for health and property insurance. After much discussion about suggestions made at the Annual Meeting, the Vestry decided that the Outreach Committee could tentatively start planning on having \$5500 available, but the committee is urged to contribute more to local causes and late in the year because the actual amount available from tithing may decrease if income does not increase.

- **2017 Budget.** The deficit budget proposed at the Annual Meeting had aroused great concerns regarding the sustainability of St. Luke's if expenses continued to exceed income. Suggested revisions had included eliminating Outreach altogether, reducing or eliminating funding to anything but local charities, looking into additional ways to save on health and property insurance, and asking parishioners to increase their pledges by 10% in order continue the church's charitable giving. Accompanying these suggested partial financial solutions were statements by some parishioners that outreach was a part of Christian mission and that they would leave the church or reduce their contributions if Outreach were not a major part of St. Luke's service to the community. The Vestry left the Annual Meeting with a commitment to first resolving the insurance matters to see what reductions in expenses could be attained, but it also needed a better sense of the actual

financial state of the church. Sally Hoover is acting as Interim Treasurer to try to reconcile some confusing line items and better organize the allocations. While she is still working on that project, it is apparent from the January Profit & Loss Statement that pledges and funds received are down a third.

- **Insurance.** Unable to take advantage of Health Connect for the Rector, because of requirements in the church canons that funding for health insurance must come from the church budget, we discovered we could take advantage of a small employer program in Vermont that, in combination with Medicare, would allow the same coverage for the Rector at a savings of about \$3000 per year to St. Luke's. The paperwork for that adjustment has been submitted, and changes should go into effect within 2-3 months. Potential savings on property insurance still needs to be fully investigated.

- **Transparency.** Copies of the Agenda for Vestry Meetings and the latest Profit & Loss Statement will be available at the back of the church for anyone interested. Much of that information, as well as the approved meeting minutes, are on file in the Church Office. Oral reports by Vestry members to parishioners will continue on the Sunday immediately following the monthly meeting. Highlights of the monthly meetings will continue to be posted in the next month's LITS. The Vestry will be reporting back to the congregation as progress is made on changes to the budget.

- **Rental of Willard Hall.** The Vestry approved rental of Willard Hall to "Six Loose Ladies" for a workshop on Saturday, March, 25, 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., for \$100. Janet Hunter will open and shut the hall for them.

- **Ministerium Lenten Series.** St. Luke's will be hosting the Potluck Supper that kicks off this series on Wednesday, **March 8**, beginning **6:00 p.m.** at the Congregational Church in Chester (it is being held here since they have a larger hall.) In addition to contributing main dishes, side dishes, salads or desserts, St. Luke's members will be responsible for set-up and clean-up afterwards.

- **Next Vestry Meeting:** Monday, **March 6th**—the focus topic will be "Maintenance." Vestry meetings have been moved to the first Monday of the month during Lent because of the Wednesday evening Lenten Series.

—Lillian Willis, Recording Secretary

APRIL LITS DEADLINE:

 **MARCH 24th**

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

Continue reading at top of page

Pancake Supper Lived Up To Its Promise

Seventeen folks gathered in Willard Hall on February 28th to enjoy St. Luke's annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper for one final indulgence before transitioning into the liturgical season of Lent. We were pleased to welcome four guests amid the attendees and noticed they were enjoying the fellowship as well as the meal. Two of the guests said they plan to come back for the Maple Fest Dinner on March 11th, just a couple of weeks away. As promised, Bonnie's pancakes practically floated off the plates and the sausages disappeared quickly. The fresh fruit salad was a nice taste contrast to the sweet maple syrup topping the pancakes. No one went home hungry, for sure, and thanks to the generosity of the participants we were able to make a donation to Episcopal Relief & Development.

Many thanks to Bonnie & Lew Watters for organizing this event, to master flapjack flipper, John DesLauriers, and to everyone who donated fruits, helped serve and helped to clean up afterwards. —**Pat Fromberger**



Above: Lew Watters samples Bonnie's famous pancakes.



Above: Janice Fielder & Anita Wright dig in.

At left: Ignore the name on the apron—this is our own flapjack "king" John DesLauriers who was kept busy flipping stacks of pancakes.

Adult Study Is More And More Interesting...

Bonnie and I have been on board with the Adult Study Programs that are held weekly on Wednesdays. Our latest journey into the Gospels is from a series, "Conversations with Scripture: The Gospel of Matthew." The Anglican Association of Biblical Scholars publishes it. These study guides are composed of short chapters that lead us on a vibrant look at the historic context beginning with Biblical times as well as significant interpretations by religious scholars from mainline denominations up to the present.

Our current study is an in-depth look at the Gospel of Matthew approached from a biographical point of view. Who were Matthew's readers? Interestingly, they were both Jews and Gentiles. Thus Matthew "begins his gospel with a genealogy of Jesus 'the Messiah' (anointed one in

Hebrew) and also claims Jesus is the 'Son of God,' which was blasphemy to the Jews. The next chapter, the Teachings of Jesus is a comprehensive look at Jesus as teacher, especially his principal ideas for his disciples. We read the stories from various translations of the Bible. Finally, study author John Y. H. Yieh examines Jesus Followers, his opponents and finally his early church.

My study of the context of Gospels has provided me with a far better insight and understanding of what it means to be a Christian in the modern world. Thanks be to God.

And, as my dear Bonnie will attest, our group discussions are most enlightening.—**Lew Watters**

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." —Martin Luther King Jr.

Continue reading at top right

The Outreach Corner



About Partner In Health

When is the last time you were in Rwanda, Liberia or Sierra Leone? How about Malawi or Lesotho or the Navajo Nation, Haiti, Mexico, Russia or Peru? “Never” or “seldom” you say? Actually, because of St. Luke’s outreach support of **Partners in Health**, you have been to all of these countries, every day.

You have built and run hospitals and clinics, made house calls, trained community health care workers and stayed for the long haul. You work with local governments and health care providers, to deliver 1st world health care to 3rd world countries (or regions of countries). You have taught HIV/AIDS prevention, helped transport patients to distant clinics, worked tirelessly to prevent the spread of multidrug-resistant strains of Tuberculosis, and set up cancer treatment centers where no treatment had previously been available.

And, right here in the United States, you work with the Navajo Nation where one in three persons are diagnosed diabetic or pre-diabetic. You train local health care workers to make house calls, diagnose and educate patients about diet and medications. You also are working to deliver fresh produce to areas that haven’t previously had access to them, through the Fruit and Vegetable Prescription Program.

You are relentlessly and tirelessly delivering hope, and a better quality of life to people you have never met. Congratulations St. Luke’s!!

For much more detail on Partners in Health’s many programs visit their website www.pih.org. and read a great book “Mountains Beyond Mountains” by Tracy Kidder, about the life and work of PIH Founder, Paul Farmer. —*Jane Davis, Outreach co-chair*

LEGO Discount Ends On March 10

This is a reminder that the early-bird discount of \$5 for the **2017 LEGO Contest** will end on March 10. While registration may be taken even on the day of the contest—Saturday, **March 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** at the **News-Bank Conference Center**—after March 10 the entry fee will go to \$15. This event is open to students in grades Pre-K through Grade 8 and their families. Detailed information is in the **February LITS** or may be found on St. Luke’s website. Registration forms are also available at www.ourchester.org & www.chestertelegraph.org. Printed forms are available at the Whiting Library in Chester, at Chester-Andover Elementary School, and at the Library and the Elementary School in Grafton.



The most important facts to remember are that all creations must be original, cannot be larger than 24" x 36" and will be judged on their originality, imagination, and presentation. Participants must bring their entries to NewsBank between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 18. If a structure is a team entry, the age of the oldest member will determine the grade category. There is also a separate family team class for collaborating children and parents. Motorized LEGOs will be considered in a separate section.

Judges will interview the entrants between 10:00 a.m. and Noon. At 12:30 p.m. LEGO prizes will be awarded to winners and runners-up in the different classes, with special awards for the Judges’ choice for Best in Show and Most Vermont creations. The Creators’ Choice Award will be given to the entry that the contestants themselves vote as the most outstanding creation.

While the judges are looking at the entries, participants can share ideas and make an additional construction at two special LEGO stations. They will not be able to remove their creation from the special areas and won’t be able to enter them in the contest, but this is a good opportunity for students to construct something different, perhaps with a friend, for additional fun. Refreshments will be on sale to make the waiting time even more enjoyable.

A check for the registration fee should be made out to “St. Luke’s Church” and mailed, along with the registration form, to the Registrar, **Lillian Willis, P.O. Box 318, Chester, VT 05143**. Please contact her if you need further information at 802-875-1340 or lbwillisct@comcast.net. Sponsored for the sixth year by St. Luke’s, the event will benefit both the church and the Children’s Section of Chester’s Whiting Library.



Ministerium Lenten Series 2017: WHOLE LIFE WORSHIP

“Worship is more than a song or a corporate gathering on a Sunday morning. Based on Romans 12:1-2, it is the offering of our whole lives to God as a response to his mercies and greatness. Through this surrender, God renews our minds and transforms our character towards Christ-likeness. “Whole Life Worship” is an invitation for Christ-followers to worship God with their lives (1) through personal devotion in solitude, (2) through the happenings in their every day ordinary, (3) through opportunities God opens up for them in ministering to the world, (4) through intentional spiritual comradeship in small community, and (5) through the Movement of the congregational gathering.” ⁽¹⁾

March 8 at 6:00 p.m. Whole Life Worship in Fellowship: Potluck Supper, Scripture Reflection in Lectio divina style

Hosted by St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Location: Congregational Church of Chester

Please bring a main dish, side dish, salad, or dessert to share. Drinks will be provided.

March 15 at 7:00 p.m. Whole Life Worship in Reflection: Reflections on the Journey to the Cross

Hosted by Andover Community Church

Location: Andover Community Church

March 22 at 7:00 p.m. Whole Life Worship in the Extraordinary Ordinary Everyday: Worship Grounded4LIFE style

Hosted by the Baptist Church

Location: First Baptist Church of Chester

March 29 at 7:00 p.m. Whole Life Worship in Praise: Testimonies, Praise, & Thanksgiving for our new life in Christ

Hosted by: Renewed Life in Jesus

Location: Renewed Life in Jesus Church

April 5 at 7:00 p.m. Whole Life Worship in Congregational Gathering: COMMUNION

Hosted by: Congregational Church of Chester

Location: Congregational Church of Chester

⁽¹⁾ from <https://wholelifeworship.com/about-whole-life-worship/>

MARCH Meetings & Events

WEEKLY

- **Sunday Adult Formation Study:**

Sundays, **11:35AM-12:30PM**. A 6-week Lenten study, “The 5 Marks of Love: Living Life Marked as Christ’s Own” begins on **March 5th**. All are welcome to join us. See page 3 for details.

- **Lunch Bunch Book Study:**

Mondays, **Noon-1:15PM** in Willard Hall for a bag lunch, sharing, discussion & prayer. We are reading a new book, “Dignity, Its Essential Role in Resolving Conflict,” by Donna Hicks, PhD. 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. A 6-week Lenten Study begins on **March 8th**: “The 5 Marks of Love: Living Life Marked as Christ’s Own.” All are welcome. See page 3 for 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. New members are welcome! Speak to Ashley Paine if you are interested.

LESS THAN WEEKLY

- **Monthly Vestry Meeting:**

Monday, **March 6th** in Willard Hall. **6:30PM Gathering & Reflection; 7:00PM Regular Agenda**. Focus topic is “Maintenance.” All church members are welcome to attend.

- **Ministerium Lenten Series:**

Wednesdays, **March 8, 15, 22, 29 & April 5**. “Whole Life Worship.” See complete schedule with times and locations on this page.

- **PINS Maple Fest Dinner/Raffle:**

Saturday, **March 11th, 6:00PM** in Willard Hall. Reservations for dinner can be made by calling Marcia Clinton at 875-3531. Read full details on pages 1-2.

- **LEGO Contest:**

Saturday, **March 18th, 9:00AM-1:00PM** at the Newsbank Conference Center in Chester. Entries by Friday, March 10 are \$10.00. After that date and on the day of the contest, entries will be \$15.00. See page 6 for details.

Thank You!

A sincere thank you to all for the cards and good wishes for my milestone birthday. All are very much appreciated.

“Freddy” Holden



MARCH CELEBRATIONS



Birthdays:

8 Janet Hunter	17 Norm Harrison
8 Lew Watters	17 William Scarlett
9 Ross Jones	31 Bill Dakin
10 John (Doc) Sexton	
17 Meghan Guerra	

Anniversaries:

12 Jim & Joan Sullivan

Reminder!



Daylight
Savings Time
begins on
Sunday, March
12. Set your
clocks ahead the night before.

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

✠ WORSHIP SCHEDULE ✠

Mar. 5

I LENT

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

Mar. 12

II LENT

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

Mar. 19

III LENT

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

Mar. 26

IV LENT

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

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

