



DECEMBER 2016

Light in the Shadows

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

Preparing Our Homes And Hearts To Receive The Christ Child

"And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." [Luke 2:7]



In seminary at CDSP in Berkeley, CA, a group of us students began a tradition every year before Christmas. We would join our Franciscan and Jesuit colleagues in the evening to re-enact a beautiful tradition familiar in Mexico known as the Posadas (Joseph's and Mary's search for a place to give birth to Jesus). Traveling together in groups that consisted of a Joseph, a (very pregnant) Mary and us pilgrims, we would walk from house to house (dorm rooms, mostly) and knock on the door. Then we would start singing the Posadas song about the weary couple in need of a

*"My prayer for
St. Luke's this
Advent and
Christmas is that
we may be
innkeepers to a
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the true light and
for a warm place to
stay for the night."
—Rev. Heidi L. Edson*

place to stay. From inside the "house", the "innkeeper" would reject us with a song about how there isn't any room and the door would remain shut. We would walk from house to house until we came to the one house that recognized the Holy Family and the pilgrims through song. The door would be opened to welcome Joseph, Mary and us pilgrims inside where fellowship, food and fun greeted us.

Advent is a very special time of the year for preparing our homes and hearts to receive the Christ Child at

Continued on page 2



*Linda, Chris & Mary invite you...
"Come Join Us!"*

St. Luke's Annual Christmas Tea & Sale

**Saturday, December 3rd
11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
in Willard Hall**

We guarantee a relaxing, fun day to visit with friends & neighbors over a cup of hot tea, tasty sandwiches and a wide assortment of delicious holiday treats. Then shop for great gift-giving items!

- * Original Handmade Ornaments *
- * Hand-Quilted Gift Items *
- * Decorations *
- * Holiday Food Gifts *
- * Jams/Jellies/Relishes *
- * Grandma's Attic Bargains *
- & much more!

☛ Read the article on page 3.

From the Senior Warden



Who Will Serve?

Serving on the vestry is both a ministry and a privilege. At St. Luke's Church we have always been blessed with parishioners who are willing to serve their faith community by being a member of the vestry. During the period while we were going through the rector search process, the vestry in place at that time remained far beyond their elected terms in order to maintain stability of leadership and a smooth transition. We jokingly called ourselves the "frozen chosen." Four of these vestry member's terms will end at the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting and they deservedly look forward to a break from this responsibility. The recent resignation of our treasurer also leaves an unfilled, 1-year term. One member has decided to re-up for another 3-year term; another is still deciding. This leaves three openings. We have been fortunate to have a 9-10 member vestry for several years. We can certainly function with fewer members, especially in the light of dwindling church attendance, but I also believe it is important to elect some new members to the vestry who can bring fresh outlooks and energy.

Being a member of the vestry is not a burdensome task. It can be and often is an uplifting experience as members bond with one another and share a mutual desire to maintain our vital and ongoing community as they oversee the secular work of the parish. Yes, there is business to be transacted, but there is also time for thoughtful discussion, sharing, and even moments of "joyful levity." That being said, it was concerning to hear at our November meeting, that the nominating committee had approached seventeen members of the parish this past month, asking them to consider being on the slate of nominees for vestry at the Annual Meeting and none were willing.

St. Luke's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **January 22, 2017**. During elections we will open the floor for name(s) of nominees to serve on the vestry. I remain hopeful that some parishioner(s) will consider serving on the vestry and I pray that God will open hearts and minds to accept this call to ministry.

Christmas Blessings, Peace & Joy!

Your sister in Christ,
Pat Fromberger

Preparing Our Homes And Hearts
To Receive The Christ Child

(Continued from page 1)

Christmas. This time of year is a happy time for those of us with family and friends with which to celebrate the holiday season. For others, though, this time of year can be a lonely time. Loved ones and family members are missed. My prayer for St. Luke's this Advent and Christmas is that we may be innkeepers to a welcoming "house" for the weary travelers in our communities who are searching for the true light and for a warm place to stay for the night. In the true spirit of Christmas, may we gladly open our doors wide and welcome the Christ Child inside.

Merry Christmas!

Heidi +



Gifts For A King

Bring him thy precious things
And lay them at his feet;
The gold of love, the hope that springs
The unknown ways to meet.

Bring him thy lovely things;
The joy that conquers care,
The faith that trusts and sings,
The frankincense of prayer.

Bring him thy bitter things;
The myrrh of grief and fears,
The aching heart that stings
With pain of unshed tears.

These for thy gifts to him;
And for his gifts to thee,
The comfort of his steadfast love,
His tender sympathy.

—Annie Johnson Flint



JANUARY DEADLINE:

 **DECEMBER 26th**

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

Join Us At The Christmas Tea & Sale, Saturday, December 3rd!

On Saturday, **December 3**, from **11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.** St. Luke's Church will hold its Annual Christmas Tea & Sale in **Willard Hall**. This event is one of the major fundraising activities of the year and a wonderful opportunity to share what we are all about at St. Luke's by offering warm hospitality and fellowship to the greater community. Although called a "Christmas Tea," the generously laden buffet table will include a varied selection of tasty sandwiches, deviled eggs, finger foods, holiday cookies, dessert bars and much more. Brewed tea is poured by gracious hostesses, and guests may also choose coffee or mulled cider as their preferred beverage. All you can eat for \$8.00.

In addition to tea and goodies there will be many items on display to purchase for gift-giving—hand-crafted holiday decorations, quilted items for the home decor, homemade jams, jellies, relishes, candies, specialty snack mixes and specialty holiday foods. "Grandma's Attic" will feature a potpourri of items at bargain prices (no price tags; you pay what you think the item is worth—keeping in mind this is a fundraising event for the church. This year we are adding a table called, "Cherished Treasure Throve" that will include donated items of greater monetary value (such as quality dishware, a breadmaker and the like.

At this point in time (about five days before the Tea) we still welcome donations of hand-crafted items, baked goods, specialty breads, jams, etc. for the "Holiday Food Table." Note that items for "**Grandma's Attic**" need to be brought to church **no later than, Friday, December 2** from 1:00-3:00 p.m.. On Tuesday, **November 29th** we will meet in Willard Hall at **1:00 p.m.** to assemble the table centerpieces.

CHRISTMAS TEA WEEK SCHEDULE:

- **Tuesday, November 29, 1:00 p.m.**
Assemble table centerpieces.
- **Friday, December 2, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.**
Bring Grandma's Attic item donations.
Help set-up for the Tea.
- **Saturday Morning, December 3, 9:00 -10:00 a.m.**
Set-up Kitchen & Buffet.
Deliver any additional donations.

If you have any questions or wish to volunteer your help please speak to **Adelaide Johnson (875-4634)** or **Pat Fromberger (875-3548)**, who are co-chairing this fundraising event.



Our Sumptuous Buffet Table



Eating & Visiting



Original Handmade Ornaments & Quilted Items



Grandma's Attic Holiday Foods for Gift Giving



November Vestry Meeting Highlights

November is a time to give thanks for all our blessings, to concentrate on Advent, and to prepare for the new year that always seems to arrive faster than the last.

• **Budget for 2017:** The November Vestry meeting traditionally discusses a draft budget for the next year. With the recent resignation of Kathryn Wright from her position as Treasurer, the Vestry needs to recruit both an Interim Treasurer and someone to take over that position at the Annual Meeting. Fortunately Lynda Farmer continues to do the bookkeeping, and John Hoover continues as Pledge Treasurer, so the situation is not as difficult as one might think. Still signatories needed to be changed on our checking account at TD Bank and on other accounts, such as the Vanguard Fund. The Vestry moved to name Marti Assenza, Jane Davis, and John DesLauriers as signatories and to accept Kathryn's resignation with appreciation for her dedication over the years. A committee will be formed to draft the 2017 Budget.

• **Treasurer's Report:** In presenting the report for the month, Lynda Farmer noted that pledges were still behind, but that happily the painter's final bill came in under budget, with no charge for some additional work. Next year St. Luke's assessment to the Diocese will change to a monthly payment, and the Rector will be due for a raise.

• **Stewardship Letter:** An excellent letter was sent to present pledgers and parishioners, lapsed members, occasional members, and those reading LITS online. In-gathering Sunday will be November 20, and the results of that campaign will help determine the budget.

• **Junior Warden's Report:** John DesLauriers reminded us that the building restoration project is ongoing, but also on budget. He will contact another plasterer for inside church repairs. Thanks to John and Andrew Pennell, the church sign at the front of the building was moved to the end of the ramp and a post with the new "Episcopal Church Welcomes You" sign was installed at the sidewalk to encourage visitation and participation.

• **Nominations Committee Update:** Jane Davis reported she has been unable to find any members of St. Luke's willing to be nominated to fill any of the 3 vacancies on the Vestry in 2017. Some were wary of night meetings, but each year the day and time are adjusted to meet the needs of Vestry members, so that schedule should not be a concern. Interested parishioners are encouraged to contact Jane and learn more. If no one steps forward, we will seek nominations from the floor at the Annual Meeting in January.

• **Next Vestry Meeting:** Monday, December 5, Vestry annual Christmas Gathering. A mid-December meeting will be scheduled to discuss and approve a preliminary 2017 Budget.

A Celebration of Lessons & Carols On Sunday, December 18



The Annual Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols is possibly the best-known Christmas service in the Western world. This service celebrates the birth of Jesus by telling the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus in a series of short readings from the Bible. The readings are interspersed with carols, choral music, and congregational singing of hymns. For many it's a moving spiritual experience.

We invite you to come join us in the annual celebration of **Advent Lessons & Carols** on Sunday, **December 18, 4:00 p.m.** at St. Luke's Church. Following the service we hope you will join us for a potluck supper—with everything from soups to nuts—in Willard Hall.

Be sure to put this festive event on your calendar and invite your friends and neighbors. Be on the lookout for a sign-up sheet at church, letting **Janet Hunter** know if you are coming and what you plan to bring for the meal.



An Invitation To Sing With Us For Advent & Christmas

We invite anyone to sing with the St. Luke's Choir for the Advent and Christmas Season. It could be for one Sunday, a few Sundays in Advent, Lessons & Carols, Christmas Eve—or all of the above! The Lessons & Carols service is on Sunday, December 18th. (read the article on this page.) Just let me know your fancy and I'll provide you with music. We are especially looking for some soprano support for the Christmas Eve service, as one of our beloved members will be visiting family, and another will be working and supporting our community.

There will be a special rehearsal on Saturday, **December 10, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.** in the church in addition to our regular Sunday rehearsals at 9:00 a.m. If you cannot make it on Saturday the 10th, but would still like to sing, another option might be to let me know if you can make it to a Sunday rehearsal and I'll try to plan rehearsal accordingly.

We are also looking for a flautist who would be willing to join us for one of our a music pieces. Contact Ashley Paine, amrose@mail.plymouth.edu or phone evenings: 802-886-7941. Many thanks.—*Ashley*

Beautify The Sanctuary With A Gift Of Christmas Memorial Flowers



Adorning the church sanctuary and nave with beautiful scarlett red and creamy white poinsettias has long been-standing tradition at St. Luke's as we celebrate of the birth of Christ. Did you ever wonder how this tradition began?

Poinsettias, also known as, "Christmas Star," perhaps because the shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are thought of as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. It's said that this winter flower's association with Christmas comes from a Mexican legend. The story goes that a child, with no means for a grander gift, gathered humble weeds from the side of the road to place at the church alter on Christmas Eve. As the congregation witnessed a Christmas miracle, the weeds turned into brilliant red and green flowers. The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. The white leaves represent his purity. The plant is named after Joel Roberts Poinsett, first United States ambassador to Mexico and the amateur botanist who introduced the plant to the U.S. in 1825.

At St. Luke's poinsettias are given as memorials for departed loved ones or in special thanksgiving for family members and special friends. If you wish to participate in this lovely tradition send a check payable to: "St. Luke's Church" with a memo, "*Christmas Memorial Flowers*" by **December 15th** to: **Adelaide Johnson, 294 Hill Top Rd., Andover, VT 05143.** Please include a note with the names of persons you wish to commemorate, PRINTED CLEARLY, and indicate whether the persons named are for a "Memorial—those who have died" or are a "Thanksgiving—for those still living.



Church Is A Starting Place

"Church is not a stopping place but a starting place for discerning God's presence in the world. By offering people a place where they may engage the steady practice of listening to divine words and celebrating divine sacraments, church can help people gain a feel for how God shows up—not only in the Holy Bible and Holy Communion but also in near neighbors, mysterious strangers, sliced bread, and grocery store wine. That way when they leave church, they no more leave God than God leaves them. They simply carry what they have learned into the wide, wide world, where there is a need for people who will recognize the holiness in things and hold then up to God." — "*Leaving Church,*" by Barbara Brown Taylor

Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule

Sunday	Nov. 27 Advent I
8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Sunday	Dec. 4 Advent II
8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Sunday	Dec. 11 Advent III (Rejoice/Rose Sunday)
8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Sunday	Dec. 18 Advent IV
8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
	(Greening of the Church after the 10:00 a.m. service)
4:00 p.m.	Lessons & Carols
	(Join us for a covered dish supper following the service.)
Saturday	Dec. 24 CHRISTMAS EVE
6:30 p.m.	Carol Singing
7:00 p.m.	Festival, Holy Eucharist
	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Sunday	Dec. 25 Christmas Day
	The Nativity of Our Lord
10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
	[with Music/No Choir]
Sunday	Jan. 1 The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ
10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist



A Christian Symbol: Angel

Angel, which means "messenger" in both Hebrew and Greek, is a spirit-being God created to perform tasks for him. In the Bible, angels appear in human form (always as men) to deliver divine messages. Angels appear separately to Joseph and Mary, announcing Jesus' upcoming birth, and "a multitude of the heavenly host" (Luke 2:13) tells shepherds of the Savior's arrival. Scripture offers little information about angels, though we know some rebelled against God. Among the holy angels, categories include cherubim and seraphim.

The Outreach Corner

Vermont Foodbank Visit

On Tuesday, November 15th, six members of St. Luke's motored down I-91 to the Vermont Foodbank Center in Brattleboro, VT. We sorted and re-packed zillions of apples!!! A good time was had by all as you can see by the happy faces in this photo. Our next scheduled visit will be on December 13th. More helping hands are always welcome and this is a great way for St. Luke's to reach out to the community. Contact either Jane Davis or Sally Hoover if you want to join us on our next venture.



L-R: Tess who works at the Vermont Foodbank in a job re-entry program, Tom Widger, Marcia Clinton, Eileen Widger, John Hoover (trying to hide) and Sally Hoover. Jane Davis is behind the camera!

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you so much to everybody who helped at our packing party, especially the church school children. A special thank you to Beth and James Salisbury for their help with the notes to go in the shoeboxes.

At this time, 189 shoeboxes are at the collection center. The numbers will be higher as I am still packing. Right now I can only use the lids from oatmeal, yogurt, etc. for making the crocheted rings. Thank you so much to everybody for saving recycle able materials for me. I really appreciate it.—Cindy

Holiday Greeting To Soldiers

Please sign a card for the soldiers. Holiday times are very lonely for those who are way from home and are receiving no mail. This is the season of love so let's share some of ours and let our service members know that we do care. Thank you!

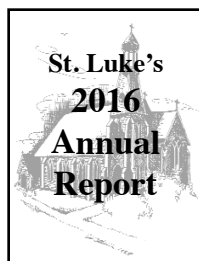
Sad News For A Good Reason... CHABHA, Children Affected By HIV/AIDS Is Closing

As some of you may know, CHABHA is closing its doors. CHABHA, Children Affected by HIV/AIDS was the brain-child of St. Luke's members, Susanna and Joe Grannis. Both Jane Davis and Belinda Whipple Worth also served on the Board and traveled to Rwanda and South Africa in 2005 and 2007 to work with the leaders of CHABHA's outreach programs there. CHABHA provided food, school fees, supplies and uniforms, HIV/AIDS education and psychosocial support to hundreds of children who were orphaned or severely affected by the AIDS epidemic. Many of these children lived in child-headed households. It also provided professional job skills training to young people who could not attend secondary school, as well as providing scholarships to many who were able to further their education.

The good news is that, thanks to projects like CHABHA's, much more is known about HIV/AIDS, thanks to educating children, much of the stigma has been removed from this disease. And, thanks to government efforts and non profit organizations, anti-retroviral medications are now available to many people who were not being served when CHABHA began.

A huge thanks to Susanna and Joe who inspired many of us to open our eyes, open our hearts and roll up our sleeves. St. Luke's has faithfully supported CHABHA for many years. Much gratitude to our congregation for reaching across the ocean to help so many wonderful children in need.

Annual Reports Due January 8th



Lew and Bonnie Watters have generously agreed to compile the **2016 Annual Report Booklet** in preparation for St. Luke's Annual Parish Meeting which will be held on Sunday, January 22, 2017. So this is a reminder that **ALL Annual Reports are due on Sunday, January 8, 2017**. This enables us to

have the completed Annual Report Booklets in church on the Sunday, January 17 a week prior to the meeting, so they can be read and inwardly digested ahead of time!

Lew prefers to have the individual reports in a Word document in Times New Roman, 12-point single-spaced, or in the body of an email. Send to lewbon@vermontel.net. Lew has extra copies of last year's Annual Report Book for those who need one for a reference. It is important that we know who to expect reports from, and that they are checked for spelling. Many thanks.

2017 Stewardship Campaign Report

“Writing the Next Chapter of St. Luke’s History”

“Each one should give what he has decided in his own mind, not grudgingly, or because he is made to, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Cor. 9:7



Sunday, November 20th was Ingathering Sunday at St. Luke’s. Surrounding the altar were gifts representing contributions made to the food pantry at the Chester/Andover Family Center, Operation Christmas Child, and the annual ingathering of pledges for the following year. The Rev. Heidi Edson offered a prayer and a blessing for all these offerings.

Taking a look at the state of pledging for 2017 shows a picture that could be better. By Ingathering Sunday, St. Luke’s had received 21 pledges totaling \$52,130.00. That amount represents 63.7% of what was pledged for 2016. While being down 36.3% from last year may sound pretty bad we all know that there are those who mean to pledge but just haven’t gotten around to it yet. There are 15 parishioners who pledged last year but hadn’t done so by Ingathering Sunday. The Stewardship and Finance Committees are hopeful that St. Luke’s will receive quite a few more pledges before the budget of 2017 has to be finalized.



If you haven’t pledged yet and meant to do so, please mail your pledge card to the church or place it in the collection

plate as soon as possible. If you’ve misplaced your pledge card there are extras on the table at the back of the nave.

— *John Hoover, Pledge Treasurer & Stewardship Team Member*

Please Save Cancelled Stamps, Card Fronts, Ribbons & Gift Wrappings



I’m making my annual appeal for everyone to save their cancelled stamps (domestic or foreign.) When you do this please leave enough paper around the stamp so that they can be neatly trimmed. If there is not the right amount of paper left around the stamps, they will not be of any value and will not be accepted by stamp companies. Leaving an area of paper around the stamp, also ensures that the stamp is undamaged.

Also please save the fronts of any used greeting cards, Christmas or otherwise, plus scraps of ribbon and gift wrapping paper. The stamps go to charitable organizations and the greeting cards, ribbon and wrapping paper are recycled into new cards. Please put the stamps, card fronts, etc. in an envelope or a clear plastic bag and leave them on the table at the back of the church or hand them directly to me on any Sunday. Thank you! —*Freddy Holden*



Meetings & Events

WEEKLY

• Sunday Adult Formation Study:

Sundays, following the 10:00AM worship service from 11:35AM-12:30PM in the side classroom. 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.

• 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 have begun an Advent study on “When God Comes Down”, by James Harnish. All are welcome to join us. See the Rector if you need a book.

• St. Luke’s Choir Rehearsals:

Sundays at 9:00AM for warm-up & rehearsal in the church nave. Special rehearsal to be held on Saturday, December 10th, 9:00AM-11:00AM at the church. New members are welcome. Speak to Ashley Paine, church musician, if you are interested. Read article on page 4.

LESS THAN WEEKLY

• Vestry Christmas Gathering:

Monday, December 5th, The Fullerton Inn in Chester. Meet for social time: 6:00PM. Dinner will be at 7:00PM.

• Greening The Church:

Sunday, December 18th, following the 10AM service, we will adorn the nave with evergreen roping and branches. Please stay and lend a hand. The children are invited to set up the creche with Rev. Heidi.

• Lessons & Carols:

Sunday, December 18th, 4:00PM. at St. Luke’s Church. A potluck supper will be held in Willard Hall following the service. All invited to come. Read the article on page 4.



DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS



Birthdays:

2	Andrew Pennell	22	Michael Fromberger
5	Jessica Buchanan	24	Noah Jones
5	Ellie Pennell	26	Alyce Meyer-Fielder
7	Janice Fielder	26	Sanford Johnson
7	Bonnie Watters	27	Cindy Roundy-Winston
14	Alison DesLauriers		
17	Brad Dunbar		
18	Christine Burchstead		
20	Tom Widger		

Anniversaries:

22 Bill & Lynne Reed

Amid this sometimes crazy season, quiet my heart, Lord. Help me find Christmas peace in you.

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

✠ WORSHIP SCHEDULE ✠

Dec. 4 II ADVENT
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Dec. 11 III ADVENT
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Dec. 18 IV ADVENT
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II
(Greening the Church)

4:00 PM Lessons & Carols

Dec. 25 CHRISTMAS DAY
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I (with music)

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

See complete
**Advent &
Christmas
Worship
Schedule**
on page 5

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

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

