



Light in the Shadows

OCTOBER 2012

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



Rev. Paul Brannock-Wanter is shown blessing a pair of Golden Retrievers at St. Luke's Pet Blessing last year.

St. Luke's Annual Blessing Of Pets Will Be Held On October 6th

The **Blessing of Pets** will be held on Saturday, **October 6**, beginning at **10:00 a.m.**, on the back lawn at **St. Luke's Church**. This event is held annually on the Saturday falling closest to October 4, which is the *Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi*. St. Francis is known for his love of the larks flying about his hilltop town. The story goes that he and his early brothers, staying in a small hovel, allowed themselves to be displaced by a donkey. St. Francis founder of the Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans) who died on October 3, 1226, once said, "If you have men who will exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal likewise with their fellow men."

All pets and their owners are invited to participate in this service to both honor and give thanks for the special role pets play in our daily lives. In addition to receiving a blessing by the priest, each pet will be given a tasty treat and a St. Francis pet medallion which features the image of the patron St. Francis of Assisi. In the event of rain, the blessing will move indoors to Willard Hall.

An Early Advent

As I pondered what to say in the October "*Light In The Shadows*" it occurred to me that we, at this moment, are in a kind of Advent. The liturgical season of Advent is a time of active and expectant waiting and preparation. The watch words are, "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord." And this is where we find ourselves at this time. As I said a couple of months or so ago, we are like the trapeze artist in mid-air. We have let go of one bar, but the one we are to grab a hold of is still out before us. We are in that frightening and fearful space between hard and fast rocks that anchor us. We have only our trust and commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ.



"Active and expectant waiting: first of all, how hard this is for us all! We want things to be settled and on an even keel. We want to know how things are, and how they are going to work out."

—Fr. Sanford R. Johnson

But this is not all bad. There is nothing better for us to hold to and to trust in. Active and expectant waiting: first of all, how hard this is for us all! We want things to be settled and on an even keel. We want to know how things are, and how they are going to work out. I sense some of this longing and expectation in the thoughts that some have expressed about "how come it is taking so long to have an Interim in place, or, why haven't we called a new Rector by now? Remember that the time between Fr. Andrew's leaving, and Fr. Paul's arrival was about two years. Hopefully this time it might be sooner, but understand that in this day and age, that is about average for a transition in Episcopal parishes, particularly when we are seeking a new Rector, and not just a Priest in Partnership.

Active and expectant waiting, and active and expectant preparation. This does not mean sitting back and waiting to see what might happen. This does not mean waiting to see

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From the Senior Warden

That Melancholy Season



After another sweet summer in Vermont, I find that the changing trees and cooling days make me sigh with regret. Everyone else I know loves the fall, enthusiastically declaring it their favorite of the seasons, but the growing darkness and crimson leaves just fill me with a sweet sadness that I experience

every year at this time. By contrast, spring is such a hopeful time for me, full of green miracles and thoughts of rebirth, that I often find myself whistling with happiness. Fall just makes me sigh.

It's a time of waiting for the cold nights and frosted windshields, time for unpacking winter coats and hats, time for stacking firewood and getting the chimney cleaned and confirming that the plow guy is planning to do the driveway once snow falls. It is a time of waiting for Advent to begin, a time to clean our physical and spiritual houses in anticipation of the joy that we know is coming with the celebration of Christ's birth. For St. Luke's, it's also a time of waiting to learn about our future, about the Interim Priest who will be our spiritual leader for a time, and about the new Rector we will call to lead us and worship with us in the years to come.

I'm impatient. I want the raking to be done, and the gardens to be put to sleep, and I want this time of uncertainty about our spiritual leadership to be over. "Please, God, give me patience during this time of waiting, and ignore my ungrateful sighs. Give me strength and wisdom, and help me focus on the now so that I may, with grace and courage, see and accept the beauty of fall and the promise that it holds."

*Blessings from Your Sister in Christ,
—Kathryn*

Paul's Address

If you wish to send a card to Paul, his address is:
Paul Brannock-Wanter
215 Houston Avenue
Paris, KY 40361

An Early Advent

(continued from page 1)

what others might do (such as the Vestry, whom we have elected to carry out the administration and management of our parish). They are the ones entrusted and charged by Canon Law to call our new Rector. They are the ones who are to represent us and the parish. So, first of all, hold them, each one of them, in your prayers, in your continuing prayers. And express to the Vestry members your dreams and hopes for our parish of St. Luke's. They need to and want to hear from you as to what your hopes, dreams, and vision is for St. Luke's and for God's call to us to be His people in this place, at this time.

How is God calling us to be His people at this time and in this place? You might have something to offer in answer to this question that no one else has seen or thought of. So don't be shy about sharing your thoughts with the members of the Vestry. And, believe me; what you might say to one member will certainly be shared with all at the next Vestry meeting. Your thoughts and concerns will carefully and prayerfully be considered. That is one of the great and wonderful things about this parish! All concerns and comments are considered and looked at, in the context of asking "what is God calling us to be and to do". Indeed this is one of the things that makes this parish unique and exciting

Active and expectant waiting: It is hard for us, and yet this is what we are called to at this moment. I invite and encourage each person who is a part of, and is associated with, the Parish of St. Luke's, Chester, VT to carefully enter into this "early Advent season" and pray. Pray for the Vestry, charged with making decisions on our behalf. Pray that we might discern God's will and call to us. And pray that we have the grace and the courage to respond. And indeed share the thoughts and insights to come to you.

*Blessings,
Fr. Sanford*



Prayers for Father Paul

I recently learned that Paul contracted a severe case of the West Nile virus, which landed him in the hospital for almost a week. He is home and recovering, gaining strength slowly. He was to begin as the Sunday supply priest in a little nearby parish the beginning of October, but that has been put off until the beginning of November. I talked with Paul Sunday evening, September 23, and he sounded good, and was grateful that as bad as it was, it wasn't worse. He is also grateful for our prayers and specifically asked that we all continually hold him in our prayers for the next few months. —Sanford+

Worship Committee

St. Luke's Worship Committee met in September and discussed the upcoming services and special events. Martha Stretton noted she will be away on the Sundays of October 28 and November 4th so we will need to find someone to lead the music or make alternate plans. The Worship Schedule for the next few months is as follows:

October 6 - Annual Pet Blessing, 10:00 a.m. on the back lawn at St. Luke's Church.

October 21 - Feast of Saint Luke the Evangelist; 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. (UTO Ingathering.)

November 1 - All Saints' Day Eucharist; 6:30 p.m.

November 4 - All Saints' Choral Evensong Service; 4:00 p.m.; refreshments following.

November 21 - Thanksgiving Eucharist; 6:30 p.m. at St. Luke's.

December 16 - Greening Up the Sanctuary following the 10 o'clock service.

December 16 - Lessons & Carols; 4:00 p.m. with covered-dish supper following service.

December 24 - Christmas Eve Eucharist; 7:00 p.m.; One Service only this year.

December 25 - Christmas Day Eucharist; 10:00 a.m.

[Note: These plans are subject to approval by the interim priest whenever he/she might start.]



St. Luke's Discernment Prayer



LORD, we seek your guidance in our search for a Rector for St. Luke's. Throughout this journey, we ask you to bless us with wisdom and patience, to open our hearts and minds to new thoughts and possibilities, and to unify us in our choices and decisions.

Grant that we may know and understand what things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power faithfully to accept and accomplish them. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**We open our hearts to you, God.
We open our hearts to each other.
Prepare a priest for us.
Prepare us for a priest.**

Amen

September Vestry Meeting Highlights

Until further notice, the light supper at 6:00 p.m. preceding the monthly Vestry Meeting will be discontinued due to busy schedules. The next meeting on Wednesday, **October 17** will begin with Bible Study at 6:45 p.m. (a discussion of the appropriate reading from *Forward Day By Day*) followed by the regular meeting agenda at 7:00 p.m..

• **Financial Report.** Treasurer Sally Hoover reported that there will be only one more quarterly investment payment for the rest of this year; but the lack of a paid interim for the month of October will make the budget almost break even for the year.

• **Maintenance.** Junior Warden, Andrew Pennell has talked with two contractors who are interested in the small job of repairing damage done last year by heavy winds. He will give them a deadline so they can determine who can best fit the job into their schedules.

• Board Decisions:

Approved allowing *Inn Victoria* to erect a big wedding tent on the lawn at the rear of St. Luke's on June 21 & 22, 2013 for a donation of \$150.

Approved allowing Janet Hunter to borrow two large tables and the older folding chairs to accommodate their guests over Thanksgiving.

Approved allowing Lillian Willis to organize four sessions in Willard Hall, November 16 & 17 for Wreath-Decorating Workshops to benefit St. Luke's Church and the Chester Conservation Committee. Evergreen wreaths, natural materials, bows, and necessary equipment will be supplied. Space is limited, so interested participants are urged to contact Lillian as soon as possible. (See article on page 5.)

• **A Discernment Prayer (shown at left)** was finalized and is to be read during the Sunday *Prayers of the People*, at Vestry meetings, and by church members in their daily prayers. The purpose is to intentionally seek the Lord's guidance as we seek a new rector; to unite members of the congregation and stimulate thought and prayer. Pat Fromberger has prepared a bookmark version that will be available at the back of the church starting, Sunday, October 30th. —**Lillian Willis, Clerk and Secretary**

NOVEMBER LITS Deadline:



OCTOBER 19th

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



John DesLauriers and Andrew Pennell did a grand job of organizing and overseeing this year's Tag Sale.

2012 Annual Tag Sale Update

St. Luke's Annual Tag Sale was held Saturday, September 22 in conjunction with Chester's Fall Foliage Festival. In spite of overcast weather and a cool breeze in the morning we had a steady stream of both tire kickers and delighted bargain hunters. Thank you to all who made donations and of course our dedicated crew: Marcia Clinton, Red & Adelaide Johnson, Kathryn Wright, Anita Wright, Bill Hoyt, Andrew Pennell, Henry Pennell (toy inspector) and Lew Watters (price checker extraordinaire and the only one I know that can sell an item off the \$5 table for \$10). To date we have netted a little over \$600 and we still have a few items which we will sell by other means including a very nice antique goose neck rocker. I should mention that although we have had years with more items donated, this year due to the condition of the goods we had very little that had to be hauled away for recycling.

If we view this event solely as a fundraiser we would consider the day moderately successful. However, when we remember it provides us with yet another opportunity to interact with friends and visitors to St. Luke's, the outcome from that is immeasurable. —**John DesLauriers**



Luke and Henry Pennell had a fun time finding ways to spend their special Tag Sale allowance.

Christian Symbol: Open Book



Open Book—A book symbolizes the Bible, the written Word of God. When shown open, a book represents truth or revelation. Apostles and saints are often pictured holding an open book, understood as the New Testament writings of the early Christian church.

We Are Seeking Good Costume Jewelry, Check Your Jewelry Box

We're planning to expand our jewelry sales for this year's annual *Christmas Tea & Sale*, on Saturday, December 1st and are asking for donations of good costume jewelry. Do you have jewelry that you don't wear, but that someone else might be delighted with? Consider making it a part of this year's inventory and turning it over to be sold to benefit St. Luke's. Contact Adelaide Johnson if you have jewelry items that you're willing to part with. Thank you from the Christmas Tea & Sale Committee.

Holiday Wreath-Decorating Workshops on November 16 & 17

Get ready for the holidays with friends and families by decorating a pre-made evergreen wreath with specially collected greens, natural materials, bows, and other decorations, plus all the wire, glue guns, and equipment necessary to make the decorating fun and successful. Open to the public, as well as friends and parishioners, the workshops will take place in Willard Hall and once again benefit both St. Luke's and the Chester Conservation Committee.

So mark your calendars now, spread the word, and contact me to reserve your spot. Space is limited, so people must pre-register. Choose from three different workshop sessions on Friday, **November 16: 9:30-11:00 a.m., 1:00-2:30 p.m., and 7:00-8:30 p.m.** Or sign up for the Saturday morning workshop **9:00-10:30 a.m. on November 17.** Each session will offer homemade refreshments, great camaraderie, and all the essentials to create a very personal, one-of-a-kind wreath. Men and women are welcome to come alone or register with a friend or group. A \$5.00 early-bird discount will apply to those who preregister and pay \$30.00 by **November 3.** The regular fee is \$35.00.

Checks should be made out to St. Luke's Church, designated for the "wreath workshop", and mailed to: Lillian Willis, P.O. Box 318, Chester, VT 05143, or put in her box at the back of the church. For additional information, feel free to call 875-1340 or email me at lbwillisct@comcast.net.

Please also let me know if you have glue guns, clippers or wire cutters to lend for the workshops or special ribbons, decorations, or natural materials to donate—such as shells, unusual pine cones, berries (bayberries, juniper, *ilex verticillata*, etc.), milkweed pods, and any evergreens (white or Scotch pine, holly, boxwood, blue spruce, cedar, juniper, *arborvitae*, *rhododendron*, etc.). Those berries and greens should be cut closer to the workshop dates, and I would be happy to help with that task if you would like assistance. Please also let me know if you are willing to decorate one or more additional wreaths at the workshops that can be sold to the public.

This is a great opportunity for people to support two good causes, start getting ready for the holidays, and have fun doing it! I hope you can participate!

—*Lillian Willis*



A great family activity as you can see by these photos.
An event enjoyed by all generations.



Marilyn Mahusky and her daughter Mary proudly show off the wreath they created at last year's workshop.

"The external work must be done, for we still have to find our way into the situation where faith is possible. We must take a definite step. What does this mean? It means that we can only take this step aright if we fix our eyes not on the work we do, but on the word with which Jesus calls us to do it." —*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

"A life changed by Christ's action gives witness to those not yet believing. If we do our part in opening the way to God's will in our lives, we will be changed. Our changed lives may not bring anyone to believe in Jesus' forgiving power, but we do not know that. Someone's conversion may depend upon our starting to walk."

— *Forward Day By Day*, 1990

The Outreach Corner

Operation Christmas Child Countdown

Collection week for the Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes this year is November 12-18th. We have a little more than a month to get all of the boxes ready! We are still in need of LOTS of shoe boxes.

Thank you to Marcia Clinton for the 8-inch squares, mittens, and items to put in the OCC shoe boxes.

We will be holding another **Operation Christmas Child Workshop** on Friday, **October 19th** from **1:00-8:00 p.m.** in **Willard Hall** here at St. Luke's Church. Our focus will be on decorating shoe boxes and making toys and games to put inside the boxes. Refreshments will be served. Come help us for a few minutes, an hour or more. We decorated 37 boxes at the September OCC workshop. Thanks to Marcia, Pat, and Ruth.

There are many clearance sales going on right now. Perhaps when you do your regular shopping, you could look at the clearance items and pick up one or two things to put inside the shoe boxes.

We still need lots of pencils, shoe boxes, soap, vegetable and fruit styrofoam trays, and covers of every size, shape, and color. If anyone could donate any of these items, we would really appreciate it.

Please remember our "Change For Children" jar at the back of the church. Just 2 cents a day over the course of a year will cover the shipping of one box.

We will also accept any of your leftover Halloween candy (except for chocolate; it melts in the boxes).

Last but not least, donations of your old jeans are welcomed. These are made into small purses, bags, roads for little cars, etc. (see photos) —**Cindy**

To All Our Wonderful Friends At St. Luke's Church,

Thank you all so much for the great backpacks and school supplies to help our children and families prepare for school. It is a pleasure to watch the children come in and be so surprised to see all the backpacks to choose from!!

It is a comfort to know there are special people like you watching over our families. Thank you all for making a difference in their lives.

Sincerely,

*The Springfield DCF staff, the
Springfield Foster Parents and
especially the children and families.*



Pictured here are some of the **Operation Christmas Child** items made from recycled items—such as old jeans, plastic lids & bottle caps, church bulletin covers, etc. We invite you to come to the OCC Workshop on **October 19th, 1-8 p.m.** at Willard Hall and help us with this worthwhile effort!

Outreach Committee Meeting Notes



One of the non-budget organizations that has been long supported by St. Luke's parishioners is the **United Thank Offering** or commonly known as UTO. United Thank Offering is a personal and family devotional program of the Episcopal Church. It is a practice in our life in Christ that begins with daily prayers and gifts of thanksgiving. These gifts of thanksgiving—coins and bills dropped in the UTO Blue Box—from each individual (man, woman and child) are combined with others at parish and diocesan celebrations and finally within all of The Episcopal Church. The Offerings totaling nearly \$3 million each year (January through December 31) are given away in the form of grants. These grants continue to support and strengthen the mission and ministry of the Church throughout the world. Every penny of the Offerings is allocated each year for granting.

The mission of the United Thank Offering is to expand the circle of thankful people. To achieve this mission, we encourage daily prayers, offerings and awareness of the abundance of God's blessings. The UTO boxes and envelopes are now available. If you have not yet picked yours up, you will find them on the table at the back of the church or see Norm or Ruth Harrison. It's a bit late to start collecting coins in the UTO boxes, but please pick one up and begin saving for 2013. The annual "Ingathering" takes place on Sunday, **October 21** (The Feast Day of Saint Luke) during the offertory. Make checks out to St. Luke's Church with a notation for UTO.

We have compiled a loose leaf binder of **St. Luke's 2012 Outreach Budget** that can be found in Willard Hall. This is an attempt to keep everyone informed on how budgeted outreach monies are allocated, a little about each recipient and the feedback that we get from them. Please do take a few minutes to look through the book. If you have any questions or comments about what you see (or don't see) please get them to **Don Robinson** (875-2030) or donrob@vermontel.net. Of particular interest this month we draw your attention to the two sections that are for our **SAMS missions families**. There is an update from the Smiths detailing the move they have recently made and to the nature of their new mission at El Salvador Church. Also you will find a very nice letter from Ian and Polly Montgomery that details the scope of their ministry in Peru and thanks us for our support.

The next meeting of the Outreach Committee is between services on Sunday, **November 11th**. Please come and join us. —**Don Robinson**

Bell Ringers

On August 28 on the anniversary of Tropical Storm Irene, members of St. Luke's rang the church bell for 30 seconds. Churches all over the state were urged to participate to remember those who suffered and who helped recover. The Baptist Church bells could also be heard at exactly 7:00 p.m. in Chester. Thank you Jean Hancock for organizing this fun activity! Visit www.flickr.com/photos/stlukeschester to view more photos.



WEEKLY

• Wednesday Morning Prayer Group & Holy Eucharist:

7:30AM Intercessory Prayer
8:30AM Holy Eucharist in Willard Hall.

• St. Luke's Choir Rehearsal:

Sundays, **9:15AM** in the church sanctuary and on Saturdays as needed. We are beginning to practice music for the Advent & Christmas season and would welcome new members! Please speak to Martha Stretton, Church Musician, if you have an interest.

LESS THAN WEEKLY

• Annual Pet Blessing:

Saturday, **October 6th**, 10:00AM. on the back lawn of St. Luke's Church. All pets welcome. See article on page 1 for details.

• The United in Prayer Group:

Monday, **October 8th**, 6:30PM, in Willard Hall. All are welcome to attend. For prayer requests or any questions, email Sara Gagnon at pinkpsyche@live.com.

• St. Luke's Vestry Meeting:

Wednesday, **October 17th**, in Willard Hall: **6:45PM** Bible Study; **7:00PM** Regular Meeting. Agenda Focus will be on Communication & Publicity. All parishioners are welcome.

• OCC Workshop:

Friday, **October 19th**, 1:00PM-8:00PM in Willard Hall. We will be decorating shoe boxes and making various toys. Please come for an hour or longer. Refreshments. See article on page 6 for more details.

• UTO (United Thank Offering):

Sunday, **October 21st**, at both services. The ingathering for the UTO will be taken during the offertory on this day (the Feast Day of Saint Luke the Evangelist.) Please be generous for this worthy mission. Speak to Norm Harrison if you need a UTO envelope or box.

• Christmas Tea Craft Group:

Monday, **October 22nd**, 1:00-3:00PM in Willard Hall. We will be making artificial candle wreaths. All are welcome. Speak to Adelaide Johnson or call her at 875-4634 if you wish to join us.

OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS

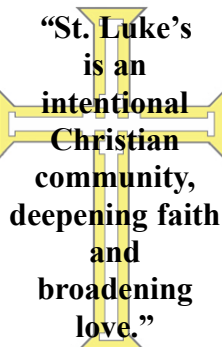
Birthdays:

1 Kat Meyer	19 Moser Worth
10 Ruth Harrison	20 Brian Anderson
11 Sally Hoover	21 Cyrena Goodrich
12 Christina Brannock-Wanter	23 Virginia Fontaine
19 Maggie Cowles	26 Eamon Cassels
19 Harrison Gleim	30 Amy Jones
19 Sarah Jane Scarlett	

Anniversaries:

2 Doc & Annemarie Sexton
6 Curt & Martha Cowles
7 Malcolm & Ann Summers
9 Ian & Polly Montgomery
14 Joe & Pat Fromberger
28 Tom & Eileen Widger
31 Walter & Sandra Rich

"Faith is a living and unshakable confidence, a belief in the grace of God so assured that a man would die a thousand deaths for its sake."
—Martin Luther


 "St. Luke's
is an
intentional
Christian
community,
deepening faith
and
broadening
love."

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Oct. 7 PENTECOST XIX (Proper 22)
 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Oct. 14 PENTECOST XX (Proper 23)
 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Oct. 21 FEAST DAY OF SAINT LUKE
 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Oct. 28 PENTECOST XXII (Proper 25)
 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Nov. 1 ALL SAINTS DAY
 6:30 PM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. in Willard Hall. Child Care: 10:00 a.m. Service

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Sanford R. Johnson, Priest Associate
 313 Main Street, Chester, VT 05143 • Office Phone: 875-6000
www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org

St. Luke's Church is Handicapped Accessible

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St. Luke's Episcopal Church
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 Return for ADDRESS CORRECTION
 Or if Undeliverable

