



NOVEMBER 2022

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

NOVEMBER THANKSGIVINGS

Ever mindful of the bounty of the earth, the needs and generosity of others, and the love of God, this month we think of special ways to express our appreciation and different ways to share what we can with others.

St. Luke's Annual Stewardship Campaign

The Vestry asks you to look for your pledge appeal in the mail and consider what you can spare to help continue our services, outreach efforts, and upcoming events. Please read more on page 3.

All Saints' Day

On Sunday November 6, we will celebrate All Saints' Day by reading aloud the names of family and friends who have died and whom parishioners would like to remember.

Read details in the newsletter about the Wreath Workshops, Greening of the Church, and the Christmas Market, plus ways to be part of these events.

Thankful Steps

Every time you walk up the freshly scraped and painted steps of St. Luke's, please send your thanks to Tom Widger, who did an amazing job before the cold weather struck. Tom says that in the spring he intends to redo the steps, which are feeling their age, even if they now do not look it.



CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHRISTMAS MARKET?

People are cooking some of their special preserves, soups, casseroles, pies, and cakes. They are creating gifts and seeing what they can contribute to Grandma's Attic...from household and kitchen items, china, flower vases, and jewelry to artwork and even never-used wedding presents. Do you have something someone else would treasure? Do you have a delicious family recipe you can make and share? Perhaps a house plant you can divide with a container that would make a splendid gift to cheer others while the garden is asleep. We're also looking for small waterproof containers about 5" wide and 4" high that could hold leafy transplants.

Do you have artwork that no longer reflects your taste but someone else might love? That would be a charming addition to the variety that always makes the Christmas Market such fun to visit. If you need help transporting items, contact Lillian Willis at 802-875-1340 or lbwillisct@comcast.net. Thank you for thinking, searching around, and making something delicious or appealing for people or their pets. Our Pet Corner will have homemade treats for furry and feathered friends.

A list of some of the available items will be featured on the church website in a couple of weeks so people can preorder their selections.



One garden's farewell to summer before the recent cold nights.

VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



The October 11 meeting was held both in person and by Zoom.

Treasurer's Report. John DesLauriers reviewed the September P&L. Pledges are lagging, but expenses are lower because we do not have a formal rector. Therefore, we have not had to tap investments so far, which is good since the stock market is down significantly. The Money Market is the only fund not to lose money. John will do a breakdown for the November meeting. **Sexton.** Per Sharon Sinclair's request, John has reduced her hours from 3 to 2 per week because of insufficient work. Her son will mow for the remainder of the year gratis, and she will check with her husband to see either can snow blow and salt the paths. If not possible because of insurance, another solution must be found for winter care of walks. **Finance Committee.** The church needs to start one up again. **Church Bylaws.** Will be discussed further at November Vestry Meeting **Audit Letter from Vestry to Audit Committee.** A letter of recommendations from the committee was approved and emailed to the Diocese to complete the report which had been filed previously. **Budget for 2023.** First review of proposed budget should be in November to allow for revisions in December and approval for Annual meeting in January of 2023. Should we continue to budget for a Supply Priest since that is the biggest part of the guesswork? Pre-convention Zoom conference said the Diocese's financial situation was not as dire as earlier reported and reiterated the conversation Lillian had had on February 17, 2022, with Canon Brownridge that there was a dearth of Episcopal rectors in VT, nation, and world. It would not be easy to find even Supply Priests. That task might be made easier if parishes would join together to share a priest. But the problem is that any sharing would involve greater expenses for salary, housing, health insurance, and retirement requirements. Can our church afford even a portion of the basic requirements? Presently St. Luke's is in a period of financial and organizational calm – due to present donors, fundraising activities, a devoted organist, generous Supply Priest, and two licensed lay readers (John Hoover and Belinda Whipple

Worth). Over the past year, Bruce MacDuffie has implemented a Wednesday 5:30 PM Eucharist service and reading groups. The stability that comes with Bruce's devotion and commitment to future segments, as well as the reduced costs from his Supply position, have relieved a lot of anxiety over next steps and last-minute searches for Sunday leaders. The decision was made that we should wait until after the new year to explore how to get Episcopal churches in the area together for an initial discussion of preferences.

Focus: Internal Matters. Bruce MacDuffie. Bruce is willing to continue as Supply Priest through 2022, into the first quarter of 2023, and perhaps beyond. He was encouraged to let us know in advance when he needed weekends or other time off so we could secure Sunday coverage for services. **Church Bylaws.** To be discussed further at the November Vestry meeting. **Coffee Hour.** Every Sunday, David turns the pot on, but we need another sign-up sheet for goodies. **Microphone.** David will check with Bruce on the brand he uses for possible purchase by the Church. **Church Website.** Information has been added about Wreath Workshops and Christmas Market. **Stewardship Campaign.** In-Gathering Sunday will be November 20, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, so an additional appeal may be made at that service after parishioners have received the appeal letter and pledge card in the mail. The aim is to have letters printed and Vestry members write personal notes on them to parishioners as soon as possible.

New Business. Thanksgiving and Christmas Preparations. Greening of the Church will be on November 27, Thanksgiving Weekend. David will get a tree. Lillian has ordered a large wreath for the nave and wreaths for the red doors; will erect garlands on sign and lampposts; will decorate Willard Hall window wells after the wreath workshops to prepare for Christmas Market on Saturday December 3, 10-1, with pick-up of preordered items 9:30-10. Dates and times were set for Lessons and Carols, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day services.

Next Vestry: Tuesday November 8, 6:30 PM.

Lillian Willis, Clerk

ST. LUKE'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Shortly parishioners will receive the Stewardship Campaign Letter Appeal and Pledge Card for 2023 in the mail. Please take time to prayerfully consider what God is calling you to pledge or donate to continue supporting St. Luke's Church in the coming year. If you do not receive a letter or need a pledge card, please contact Belinda Whipple Worth, our Stewardship Campaign Coordinator, at 802-282-7129 or belinda.ww@gmail.com, and she will be happy to send them to you.

In order to facilitate our budget process, please return your pledge form in the envelope addressed to Marti Assenza (our Pledge Treasurer) by or before November 20, In-Gathering Sunday. Thank you for your help. We are very grateful for your faithfulness and perseverance during these challenging times and appreciate the many ways you make our church welcoming and effective for our extended community and wider needs through our outreach efforts.



HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

There are bins at the back of the church for canned and packaged goods to be given to the Chester-Andover Family Center to help supply needy families with food for Thanksgiving. Especially needed are turkeys, turkey breasts, cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, mushroom soup, pie crust mix, canned pie filling, brown sugar, and cinnamon. For perishable items, please speak with David Carey or deliver items to the CAFC on Thursdays 10-4 or Fridays 10-2.

Free Thanksgiving Dinner for VTel Senior Customers

For customers age 65 or older using VTel or VTel Wireless, free sit-down dinners are offered on Friday November 25 at 11 AM-5 PM, at Black Rock Steakhouse, 284 River Street, Springfield, VT. Places are limited, so make your reservation fast by contacting vermontel.com/Thanksgiving or 802-885-9000.

This is a small note, But it contains a "BIG" Thank-you For the donation of the BACK PACKS For the children in Foster Care. They appreciated them and we appreciated you for your time and thoughtfulness in putting these together. We are forever grateful for your generosity.
The FosterCare Team in Springfield, VT.

PINS BACKPACK Thank-you

The note above was sent to the church from the Springfield Foster Care Team for the 69 backpacks that were delivered to the Springfield Office of the Department of Child and Family Services to be distributed by social workers to children in foster care or families in crisis before school started.

Donations to the PINS Fund, which couldn't quite cover the cost of materials purchased, are still requested. To contribute simply note PINS in the memo line on your check to St. Luke's. Thank you!

PINS Committee



WREATH WORKSHOPS

The wreath-decorating workshops are November 17-19. Both the number of wreaths and available sessions are limited, so we urge you to contact friends and family and make your reservation as soon as possible to ensure your preferred session. The deadline for early-bird reservations that saves \$5 on the cost of \$50 per wreath is Thursday November 10. Please contact Lillian Willis at lbwillisct@comcast.net or 802-875-1340 quickly.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

On October 9, there was a wonderful turnout of people and their pets for our annual Blessing of the Animals. The morning was overcast but without rain and not too cold, so the event was held as usual on the side lawn. A sign in front of St. Luke's throughout the previous week, as well as newspaper press and other PR, drew in several visitors to Chester that morning, and we all assembled in a semicircle on the lawn.

Following prayers and a hymn, Rev. Bruce MacDuffie, accompanied by helpers, slowly walked around the assembled crowd, stopping in front of every animal and its owner. Each animal's companion dipped his or her hand into the bowl of blessed water and placed a hand on the pet's head. At the same time a blessing was said, and thus each animal was blessed by name.

There was much excitement from some of the animals, and also from some of their owners, but all passed without serious incident – perhaps helped by bowls of drinking water and small treats.

After all the animals had been blessed and a closing prayer said, all the visitors and their animals were invited to attend our regular 10 AM service. A few took up the offer, and our Sunday morning service started a few minutes later than usual.

Everyone attending thought the event was a pleasure and is looking forward to the ceremony next year. The Blessing of the Animals is always held on the Sunday closest to St. Francis of Assisi Day, which is October 4th.

David Carey



Blessings and treats for all made for a most enjoyable occasion ...with a stand-in portrait of a familiar dog who was absent for this favorite event.





All Saints' Sunday Commemorations November 7, 2021



Evelyn Onken Beery	William Pearce	Patricia Susan Fromberger
Edwin N. Beery, Jr.	Marlene Whitacre	Paul Steven Fromberger
Edwin. N. Beery, M.D.		Zenta & Josef Fromberger
Elizabeth F. Willis	Dale C. Deming	Mary & Steven Kochiss
Helen W. Willis		Anna & Vincent Bartosik
Deborah Willis		Josephine & Paul Spies
Samuel A. Willis II	Sherman T. Whipple	
William H. Onken, Jr.	Louise Clough Meyer	Barbara Mastrobattista
Nancy S. Wall	Margaret Whipple E.	
John C. Goldthwaite	Margaret Jones Whipple	Judith Lynn Copping
Richard D. Turner	Sherman Whipple	
	Paul Whipple	Robert Freeman
Jerry Salisbury	Judith Whipple	
Elisabeth Salisbury	Alan Whipple	
Virginia Salisbury	Mary B. Foor	
James and Sally Walker	Gertrude Tingley	
Dianna Bassett		
Nancy Stocker	Samuel L Richards, Jr.	
	Ruth T. Richards	
Carolynn Johanson	Samuel L. Richards, III	
	A. Eugene Hoover	
Robert Fielder	Alice R. Hoover	
Milford Fielder	James H. Hoover	
Fredericka Holden	Joyce A. Hoover	
Raymond Holden	Jay E. Hoover	
Frederick Fair		
Hazel Fair	Arthur Garfield Watters	
Minnie Manchester	Marie Watters Manion	
Shepherd Manchester	George Manion	
Ruby Cram	Marilyn Watters Phelps	
	Robert Maxwell Watters	
Judith Holding	Denys Watters	
Phillip Devine	Francis Patrick Edwards	
Martha Brewer	Lorena Jennings Edwards	
	Florence Hall Edwards	
Thomas Lang Mahusky	John Francis Edwards	

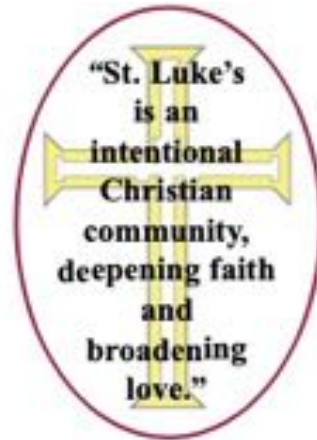
Note. The names listed above will be remembered on All Saint's Day, which is Sunday November 6, 2022. If those who could not submit the names of their loved ones in time to make the November edition of LITS will send those names to Lillian Willis, lbwillisct@comcast.net, by Thursday November 3, the names can be added to the final list for the Sunday service and read aloud.

Church Services

Sunday services at 10 AM are both in person and by Zoom. All services are usually followed by coffee hour.

On Wednesdays at 5:30 PM Bruce MacDuffie leads a short Eucharistic service without music.

Please join us.



November Celebrations




Birthdays:

1 Elizabeth Assenza
12 Marti Assenza
13 Luke Pennell
14 Samuel Buchanan
15 Lily Jones
18 Betsy Stretton Adamovich
19 Carter Willis
22 Richard Hunter
26 Joe Fromberger
29 Ashley Hensel-Browning

Anniversaries:

18 Bill & Leigh Dakin
18 Sean & Ashley Hensel-Browning

	Sept. 2022	YTD 2022	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget
Pledge & Plate Income	\$ 2,561.00	\$ 29,487.00	\$ 42,325.00	70%
Other Operating Income	\$ 3,851.45	\$ 23,493.13	\$ 33,950.00	69%
Restricted Income	\$ 60.00	\$ 926.92	\$ 2,790.00	33%
Total Income	\$ 6,472.45	\$ 53,907.05	\$ 79,065.00	68%
Regular Expense	\$ 4,179.04	\$ 43,260.71	\$ 79,100.71	55%
Restricted Expense	\$ - .00	\$ 828.81	\$ 2,590.00	32%
Total Expense	\$ 4,179.04	\$ 44,089.52	\$ 81,690.71	54%
Net Ordinary Income (loss)	\$ 2,293.41	\$ 9,817.53	\$ (2,625.71)	-374%
Draw on Investments	\$ - .00	\$ - .00	\$ 6,500.00	0%
Net Ordinary Income	\$ 2,293.41	\$ 9,817.53	\$ 3,874.29	

As can be seen above, we have ended the third quarter in solid financial condition. This is due in large part to not having the expense of a 3/4- or 1/2-time rector with all the associated costs. Our next Vestry meeting will be, in part, dedicated to reviewing preliminary budgets scenarios. Much of the discussion will undoubtedly concern our current model with a Supply Priest vs. a part-time rector.



St. Luke's Episcopal Church



313 Main Street, Chester, VT 05143; Office Phone: 802-875-6000
stlukes@vermontel.net; www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org

DECEMBER LITS

Deadline Nov. 20

Send all articles, photos, etc.,
to Lillian Willis at
lbwillisct@comcast.net