



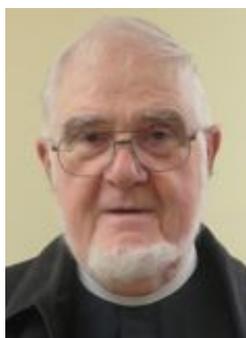
NOVEMBER 2021

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

PLEASE WELCOME REVEREND BRUCE MACDUFFIE!

The Vestry is delighted to welcome the Reverend Bruce MacDuffie from Westminster, VT, who will be leading worship at St. Luke's during the months of November and December. Many of you may remember Bruce from a two-week period when Heidi had broken her ankle and Reverend MacDuffie seamlessly filled in.



Bruce MacDuffie is canonically resident in Central New York and licensed in that diocese and those of New Hampshire and Vermont – coming to the aid of congregations which need his help for services or pastoral care.

Bruce retired from the Diocese of Central New York in 2005, then serving as teacher and priest in North Dakota. He returned to Central NY in 2010, and retired to Westminster, VT, in 2015, where Bruce served three terms as Justice of the Peace and also volunteered with his wife for Westminster Cares, providing rides for clients and delivering meals three days a month. He has served as supply for a number of parishes in Vermont, New Hampshire, Alabama, and Central New York.

Friendly and outgoing, Bruce is married to Lee MacDuffie, a retired psychotherapist and artist; and they share 7 children, 8 grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren. Lee is delightful and regularly accompanies her husband. She will welcome company in her pew at Sunday services, when Bruce is leading worship.

The Vestry is relieved and excited to have Bruce step in to lead us in services and celebrations through the most joyous, family-oriented months of the year.

HELP STOCK THE 2021 CHRISTMAS MARKET



Discover what we are promised and what we need to make this year's holiday market a fun and productive experience and fundraiser for St. Luke's. Think some of your "favorite things." What you like, others will undoubtedly crave. See page 4 of this newsletter.

**WREATH WORKSHOPS
NOVEMBER 18-20**
Eight different sessions at \$45 per wreath if you register and pay before November 5.
Decorate a premade wreath with everything you need for the most personal wreath ever. See page 3 of this newsletter.



CHANGING TIMES AND SEASONS

The leaves change, the times change, but the Season of Autumn is always the Season of Stewardship.

The year has turned once more and come around to another Coronavirus Stewardship Appeal. At least we are back within the walls of the church building, albeit with the doors open in order to let the autumn breeze disperse the virus.

This past year has seen many changes at St. Luke's. The most noticeable may be that St. Luke's Rector Heidi and her husband, Doug Edson, made their decision to leave St. Luke's and return to Colorado in September. That has provided us with the opportunity to experience a variety of worship leaders this Fall. We are thankful we will have the Reverend Bruce MacDuffie with us in November and continuing through Advent and Christmas.

The Vestry is looking forward to meeting with a representative from the Diocese to discuss options for us to consider as we look to St. Luke's future. We will keep you all informed as the process unfolds.

Meanwhile... the "business" of the church continues to be taken care of by the Vestry. As you may remember, the Season of Autumn is also the Season of Stewardship.

Last year, even with the church building closed for much of the year and services suspended until we could master the necessary technology, we saw an increase in pledges. Both the number of people pledging and the dollar amount pledged by individuals increased! Isn't that an amazing surprise?

We are hoping that a similar miracle will occur this year.

As the leaves fall returning nourishment to the earth and you look for your pledge packet to arrive, you might begin to consider what portion of what is "yours" you could return to nourish the continuing life of St. Luke's.

Blessings,
Belinda Whipple Worth



PLEASE DONATE TO THE FLOWER FUND FOR ALTAR FLOWERS IN MEMORY OR THANKSGIVING

To provide flowers for the altar at Sunday services or for holiday celebrations, parishioners contribute to the Flower Fund. After the Sunday service, the flowers may go home with the donor or be given to a birthday celebrant or someone from the congregation who would benefit from that gift of beauty and caring. Chester Hardware has a shop at one end of the store that has been a good source of flowers, and the store will bill the Church.

To sponsor flowers for a Sunday service, please write a check for \$30 payable to St. Luke's Church with "Flower Fund" in the memo section. The check may be placed in the collection plate or mailed to St. Luke's.

To arrange for your sponsorship of a specific Sunday, please email Eileen Widger (twidger@sbcglobal.net) with the name(s) you would like to remember and your preferred Sunday clearly identified. (For example, second Sunday of October in thanksgiving for Mary Smith.) This is an easy way for any individual to complement the beauty of the church and our Sunday services while providing a caring symbol of love for the person who receives the flowers after the service.

Father,
Pardon the sins
of our yesterdays;
Grant confidence in thee
for our tomorrows;
That we may be free
to walk humbly with thee
Today.



— Percy F. Rex
(*Day by Day*, February-April 1981)

LETTER FROM HEIDI

Doug and I would like to express our gratitude for the wonderful send-off St. Luke's gave us on our last Sunday in September. Since then, it's been a bit of a roller-coaster ride with travel and applying for available apartments. We have finally landed in Arvada, CO, in a modest-sized apartment located near shops, banks, etc. We are blessed to have found this place, though the apartment is quite small. Doug has been busy with home-improvement projects, such as putting up shelving to create more space for our belongings. For my part, I have been enjoying Zoom worship with several of the Episcopal churches in or near our area of Denver. One of my clergy colleagues from when we were in Denver about seven years ago is now the Rector of St. James' in Wheatridge, CO, close to where we live. When the dust settles a bit, Doug and I may begin attending in-person worship there.

With Thundarr in tow, Doug and I drove to Phoenix for Doug's nephew's wedding. Though it was a whirlwind trip, the wedding was lovely, and it was great (especially for Doug) to reconnect with his family a bit. Thundarr, having by now traveled coast to coast with us, did pretty well with the long car hours. That said, we are all (including said cat!) happy to come in for a landing!

Our thoughts and prayers continue to go with all of you at St. Luke's. In this busy church season, we pray you will continue to thrive and to be led by the Holy Spirit in these holy days and weeks.

*In Christ together,
Doug and Heidi+*



Dale Cooley Deming, 1927 - 2021

Chester resident, aeronautics process engineer, talented woodworker, and St. Luke's parishioner, Dale Deming died peacefully in Bennington, VT, on October 4, 2021. Upon

his retirement, Dale and his wife, Gloria, moved to their ski home in Chester and purchased a summer home on Lake Winnepesaukee. Dale restored both homes in which he built beautiful cabinetry. He is survived by Gloria, his wife of 69 years; two daughters, Debra Deming Walsh of Pownal, VT, and Virginia Deming Griffin of Westfield, MA, and Chester, VT; three grandchildren; and two sisters, their children; and a niece and nephews. A private Memorial Service, led by Rev. Ian Montgomery, at the church and interment in the Memorial Garden took place on Saturday October 25. The family asks that memorial donations be sent to the Chester/Andover Family Center or to a local food bank.

Thoughts for a Thanksgiving Prayer

A Grace by Robert Louis Stevenson

Lord, behold our family here assembled. We thank thee for this place in which we dwell, for the love that unites us, for the peace accorded us this day, for the health, the work, the food, and the bright skies that make our lives delightful, for our friends in all parts of the earth.

Give us courage, gaiety, and the quiet mind.

Spare to us our friends, soften to us our enemies.

Bless us, if it may be, in all our innocent endeavours.

If it may not, give us the strength to encounter that which is to come. May we be brave in peril, constant in tribulation, temperate in wrath, and in all changes of fortune loyal and loving to one another.

As the clay to the potter, as the windmill to the wind, as children of their sire, we beseech of thee this help and mercy for Christ's sake. Amen.

WREATH WORKSHOPS NOV. 18-20

Bring on holiday joy by decorating a premade evergreen wreath. Our safe workshops make a great present for yourself, a family member, or a friend.

Workshop participants choose from an array of collected natural materials, bows, and different embellishments they add to their evergreen wreath. Wire, glue guns, and other supplied equipment make the decorating easy and successful. Open to the public, the workshops will take place on November 18-20 in Willard Hall and will again benefit both the church and Chester Conservation Committee's youth environmental-camp scholarships.

Participants must preregister early to be assured of a wreath and their choice of eight different workshops:

Thursday November 18, 9-10:30 AM or 1-2:30 PM or 6:30-8 PM;

Friday November 19, 9-10:30 AM or 1-2:30 PM or 6:30-8 PM; and

Saturday November 20, 9-10:30 AM or 1-2:30 PM.

Men and women may come alone or register with a friend or group.

A \$5 early-bird discount on \$50 per wreath will apply to those who preregister and pay by Friday November 5. Contact Lillian Willis at lbwillisct@comcast.net or at 802-875-1340. Make check out to St. Luke's Church, write Wreath Workshop in the memo line, and mail to Lillian Willis, PO Box 318, Chester, VT 05143.

Highlights of October Vestry Meeting

The October 12 Vestry Meeting was held in person at Willard Hall and also by Zoom.

Music Additions and Changes. By Zoom Anne Goodreau asked about restoring certain regular service music and suggested hymns for St. Luke's Day to be celebrated on October 17 and for Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. She will check her suggestions with those leading the services. Anne is also searching for better lighting for the dark piano area.

Transition. Services for Dale Deming. The Rev. Ian Montgomery will perform a private Memorial Service for the family on October 25; and interment of Dale's ashes was approved for burial in the Memorial Garden. **Church Services.** Rev. Bruce MacDuffie will lead Sunday and holiday services during the months of November and December. **Welcoming Visitors and Newcomers.** Janet Hunter will write welcome notes to new worshippers who sign the book at the back of the church. Lynda Farmer will be the main greeter, along with other Vestry members, to distribute leaflets and directions on Sundays. **Pastoral Care Procedures.** The present committee of Janet Hunter and Marti Assenza wants a more hands-on proactive approach to welcome visitors, check on those whom we don't see often, include people serviced by the Prayer Chain, deliver *Day by Day* booklets (perhaps by Vestry), tell Lillian Willis so newcomers can receive digital LITS, etc. Belinda will begin to offer Prayers for Healing after Sunday services, and David Carey will announce that. **New Parish Directory.** We will likely wait until a new Rector is secured before issuing a new directory.

Treasurer's Report. John DesLauriers reported that the quarterly property payment boosted income in September. That same month \$500 in **Outreach** funds was distributed as follows: \$100 to Chester EMS Rescue, \$100 to Londonderry Rescue Squad, and \$300 to Meals on Wheels. **Envelopes for Pledges.** John will check into who wants to receive the envelopes. **PPP Loan.** John did the paperwork, and the second PPP government loan was forgiven. **Audit Report for 2020.** The Diocese responded to our "thorough audit" by newly requesting that we ask for proof that paid staff were enabled to work in the USA. John will check the appropriate personnel files. **Rector's Discretionary Fund.** The Vestry voted to add Belinda Whipple Worth as an approved signatory, along with David Carey, while awaiting the securement of a new rector.

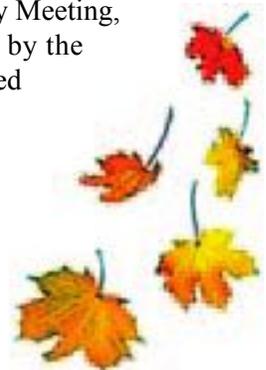
Junior Warden's Report. Outside Lights. David Carey reports the tall streetlights now work and are on three motion sensors. He will attend to the now-dark big sign near the street and the nonfunctioning short solar lights along the sidewalk toward the Willard Hall steps. Lighting needs to function as night programs and meetings are scheduled for November on. **Crab Apple Pruning.** David will check with Dan Cote about timing for pruning and aim for after leaves fall and the trees are dormant. Belinda and Lillian would like to be present at any pruning or have input when there is more information. **Furnace Room.** David will clean it out before the November Wreath Workshops and will suggest items to store or eliminate.

Old Business. TO DO LIST from 9-14-21. John DesLauriers will contact VTEL to enable Marti to check church telephone messages and email from her home. **Sunday Announcements.** David Carey will announce where to find offering plates and ask newcomers to introduce themselves; he will welcome Zoomers by Chat, rather than out loud. **All Saints' List of Remembrances** will be created by Lillian. **Church Historian** is still needed. **Wreath Workshops and Christmas Market.** Organization and PR have started. Volunteers and crafters are needed for the Christmas Market; Lillian Willis will promote.

New Business. Delegate Changes for Diocesan Convention 11/4-6 by Zoom. Rick Hunter cannot attend. Belinda Whipple Worth and Jane Davis will attend; Beth Salisbury has stepped up as an Alternate. Delegates need to register by 10/15 online. **Stewardship Drive.** Belinda Whipple Worth will chair; create letter, send cards to mailing list. Rick Hunter printed address labels last year from the office computer. In-gathering Sunday is November 21. Belinda will send a draft letter out to Vestry for review/comment before mailing; goal is to get the letter in the mail by first week in November. John DesLauriers will pitch the case for support at a Sunday church service. **Budget for 2022.** We should have a first pass at the November Vestry Meeting, so the budget can be completed by the December meeting and approved in January.

Next Vestry Meeting: Tuesday
November 9 at 6:30 PM.

Lillian Willis, Clerk



AMAZON'S SMILE PROGRAM

When ordering Christmas presents, please consider signing up for one effortless way to support St. Luke's. Amazon's Smile program will regularly give a donation to St. Luke's Church that is NOT an add-on to your purchase price, but is a donation that will be equivalent to one-half of one percent of your purchase amount. Purchases that generate a donation are generally those bought directly through Amazon, not those bought from one of Amazon's partners.

This is how you can set up an automatic additional contribution to St. Luke's without any expense on your part. If you order from Amazon and have an Amazon account, go to <https://Smile.Amazon.com> and sign in to your account. (You may be linked to it automatically.)

On the top bar of the page that opens up, hover over Accounts & Lists. Choose Your Account from the Your Account listing. Scroll down to the Other Programs box (far right on the second line of big boxes toward the bottom of the page) and click on "Change your Amazon Smile charity." To speed the process, find the box entitled "Or pick your own charitable organization." Type in "St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Chester, VT." Click on "Search." That action will show you a listing for our St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Chester, VT. Click on "Select." The next page will tell you that you've changed or added St. Luke's as your charity and give you the opportunity to drag the AmazonSmile icon onto your URL Bookmarks header for easy online ordering. You just need to remember to choose AmazonSmile when you order to give St. Luke's a chance to benefit. That's it!

If you've never ever ordered through Smile, go to <https://Smile.Amazon.com>. To register, you may have to give your email address and add your Amazon password. Then follow directions similar to those above to indicate St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Chester, VT, in the area where you pick your charitable organization. Only one beneficiary may be designated at a time. If you've already chosen a charity, you can change or even rotate your chosen organization by simply signing in and following the directions above. We hope you'll consider supporting St. Luke's in this additional, no-cost way. If you have questions, please contact John DesLauriers or Lillian Willis.

If you wish pledge envelopes, please contact John DesLauriers at jdesl2020@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS MARKET DEC. 4

The Christmas Market team is looking forward to having the market inside this year!!! In preparation for that happy event, we will decorate Willard Hall after the Wreath Workshops and finalize promotion details. But first, we need to have a better idea of what we can offer...both to plan layout and to see what we can advertise on our website and in local media. Last year we found that publicizing items and allowing preordering of many of them – especially those in short supply – made a huge difference. For instance, we know that this year we will have gingerbread kits that would make a great family present or activity, *authentic* mince meat for pies or tarts, some truly fabulous preserves (such as Ann Summer's famous *real* chunky English Orange Marmalade), and breads, coffee cakes, and specialty desserts (such as Eileen Widger's stunning Visiting Cake). Plus handmade dog treats that the best animals deserve and an amazing selection of delicious soups and casseroles that all of us need to devour. And that's just a smattering of delicacies.

We also will have evergreen decorations, craft items, and – new this year – handmade soap by Courtney Gammell that has no nasty chemicals to bother your skin, plus Cyrena's famous potholders in two sizes, and other handmade items that people love to purchase. Of course, Grandma's Attic will feature an array of treasures, including a selection of jewelry. Perhaps you have art, costume jewelry, china, or house presents you can donate.

Thinking about what we expect and hope to offer leads me to ask if there isn't something you can cook, make, or give to enhance our offerings. What's your favorite soup, casserole, coffee cake, jam, or dessert? When you make one for yourself, could you make another for the church? And if freezer room is a problem, we have area freezer space to enable you to cook and freeze early.

I also have many yogurt containers that are perfect for the quarts of soup we like to offer and plastic containers suitable for some casseroles. Just let me know what you need and what you can make.

We're looking for ideas, photos of items to publicize them, and people to increase market share and interest. Please contact Lillian Willis at lbwillisct@comcast.net or 802-875-1340 to let us know what you can contribute. We'd love your help to make this a wider St. Luke's community effort and involve more in the spirit and fun.

Lillian Willis

THANK YOU TO LEADERS OF OUR OCTOBER CHURCH SERVICES

Many thanks to those who stepped up to lead our Sunday services in October. Specifically we want to recognize the Rev. Sanford Johnson, who led services on October 3 and 17 and who was incredibly gracious and informative in helping us start the process of securing Supply Priests while we waited for word from the Diocese about possible options for a new rector for St. Luke's. Our own Rev. Anne Brewer immediately agreed to lead the service on October 31, the fifth Sunday of the month. And Belinda Whipple Worth and John Hoover answered our need for Morning Prayer on October 10 and 24. The generous and immediate assistance from all of these priests and Lay Leaders made worship during the month of October a delightful, familiar, and most interesting experience.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL!



St. Luke's Financial Update

	Sept. 2021	YTD 2021	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget
Pledge & Plate Income	\$ 2,842.00	\$ 46,357.00	\$ 54,206.00	85.52%
Other Operating Income	\$ 4,916.16	\$ 21,965.51	\$ 35,200.00	62.40%
Restricted Income	\$ 715.00	\$ 2,185.00	\$ 2,540.00	86.02%
Total Income	\$ 8,473.16	\$ 70,507.51	\$ 91,946.00	76.68%
Regular Expense	\$ 8,929.87	\$ 72,399.97	\$ 102,238.81	70.81%
Restricted Expense	\$ 715.00	\$ 1,925.16	\$ 2,340.00	82.27%
Total Expense	\$ 9,644.87	\$ 74,325.13	\$ 104,578.81	71.07%
Net Ordinary Income (loss)	\$ (1,171.71)	\$ (3,817.62)	\$ (12,632.81)	30.22%
Draw on Investments	\$ - .00	\$ - .00	\$ 14,750.00	0.00%
Net Income	\$ (1,171.71)	\$ (3,817.62)	\$ 2,117.19	

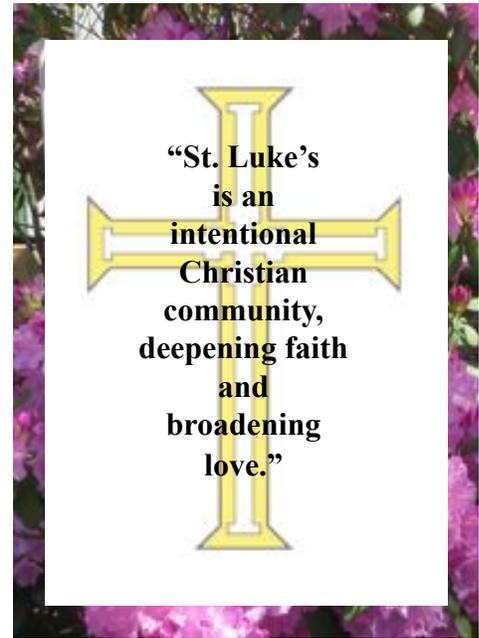
We remain in good financial condition. As of the end of September, YTD income is 10.5% above budget, while expenses are 4.2% below. We have yet to draw down any funds from our investments to augment our income, thanks in part to our Second Draw PPP loan, which was recently approved for forgiveness. Please note, the PPP monies are not shown as income in the above summary.

Reminder: please mail in your pledge contributions. Thank you!



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays:

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

Anniversaries:

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



DECEMBER LITS



DEADLINE

November 20th

Send articles and photos to
lbwilllistc@comcast.net