



JUNE 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*

## LIVING IN UNITY

*"Oh, how good and pleasant it is, when brethren live together in unity!...For there the LORD has ordained the blessing: life for evermore." [Psalm 133:1&5]"*

It's almost summer as I write this. Usually this time of the year, life slows down a bit. Schools are out, and families are planning their summer vacation. Well, that's in normal times! But we all know that these are not normal times. This summer, as we move beyond the COVID-19 restrictions (thanks to the vaccines!) and into more social settings, we come to find ourselves wondering what "normal" might look like post COVID. One thing I think we can all agree on is that things can't ever be quite the same again.



The pandemic all of us have been suffering through has not been kind. Since all this began, tensions among us and in our country and world seem to have become more pronounced. We've lived through a lot: a presidential election, a coup attempt on our Capitol building, to name just two news-heavy events. These events plus the many other acts of racism, violence, and injustice have highlighted the political divide among us. We here at St. Luke's are not immune to this divide.

The writer of the June "Forward-Day-by-Day" devotional for June is Keith Gogan from Tulsa, OK. In his June 20 devotional, Keith, an English teacher in a Christian school in Tulsa, writes about the polarization of differing ideas and groups of people. Keith Gogan asks what it would take to bridge the gap among all of us. Seems impossible, doesn't it!

Psalm 133 is one of the shortest Psalms in our Bible and Book of Common Prayer (Ps 117 is the shortest with

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## CELEBRATION: BISHOP SHANNON PENTECOST SUNDAY MAY 23, 2021 AND 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSECRATION OF ST. LUKE'S

It was a double celebration: the feast of Easter/Pentecost and the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the consecration of our church building. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of May in 1871 Bishop Bissell of Vermont came to Chester to bless and consecrate the newly-built church building of St. Luke's.



At a special 11 AM service of Holy Communion, Bishop Shannon MacVean-Brown was joined by Rev. Deacon May Taggart, and Rev. Canon Auburn Watersong. The outdoor service was also broadcast via Zoom and was followed by a delicious picnic bag lunch, prepared by Janet and Rick Hunter, and the opportunity for more informal conversation.



L to r, Rev. Deacon Mary Taggart, Bishop Shannon MacVean-Brown, Rev. Heidi Edson, Rev. Canon Auburn Watersong

## Living in Unity

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only two verses!). Yet in just five verses, Psalm 133 offers us the cure to our unrest and divisions which can be summed up in one important word: UNITY! Often we associate unity and uniformity together, but these two words are distinct. Unity is not the same as uniformity. Quite the opposite. Unity is about coming together in Christ with a heart and mind centered in respect and love for the other despite our differences – or perhaps because of our differences!

As we head into the summer months and our "new normal," let's make a real effort for unity here at St. Luke's. Keith Gogan writes that there will always be this problem of disunity in our world, but we can make sure that we, as the Church, are not contributing to the problem. For this to be true, however, we need help from God and from each another.

Heidi+

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## REOPENING OF CHURCHES

**I**n the month of June with summer just around the corner, life for us here at St. Luke's is beginning to open up. Our Diocese reports the good news that the number of COVID-19 cases is on the decline, while the number of vaccinated individuals is climbing. Although there is every indication that we are moving more quickly toward being able to worship inside our church buildings, Bishop Shannon reminds us that we are not yet there, but we will be!

As I write this, several weeks later in early June, near the end of May the Diocesan Restart Team along with Bishop Shannon gave all churches the "go-ahead" to apply for the Phase 4 in our reopening plan. St. Luke's is poised to submit our Phase 4 plan that will allow us to worship inside, albeit with restrictions still in place, such as continuing to wear masks and practicing social distancing. Once we receive our approval, plans are to move our worship indoors. I will be sure to let you know when this happens. Meanwhile hearty thanks go to several Vestry members who are preparing the space in our church building for worship!

Already I am thinking about these summer months and Sunday worship. Since we have been holding one Service on Sunday morning since late summer of 2020, we will

PAT FROMBERGER'S FAVORITE HYMN

### ***ABIDE WITH ME***

(Words: Henry Francis Lyte;

Music: Eventide, William Henry Monk)

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;  
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide:  
when other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour;  
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?  
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;  
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;  
heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.



continue to hold only the one Service until around September of 2021 when, at that time, we can re-assess our needs and make changes, if desired. For the time being, our Service will continue to take place at 10:00 AM on Sundays. In addition to our in-person worship in our building, Zoom worship will also be made available for those of us who – for various reasons – do not wish to come in person at this juncture of time.

As we enter into summer with the flowers in bloom, know that we are blessed with so much beauty and growth that surrounds us. My hope is that we, too, may find the beauty and the joy in each other as the St. Luke's family of faith. Goodness surrounds us with even better days to come. For this we give God thanks!

Heidi+



## PAT FROMBERGER – A MOST WONDERFUL ROCK

**M**any people love and appreciate rocks. A rock is a thing of strength, solace, and beauty – enduring reliably without fanfare. Rock is the foundation of the church, homes, monuments, markers, features in a garden, a simple pebble to delight a child or sooth an adult. Rock endures, standing buffets of time and controversy. It is beautiful and exhibits singular characteristics upon close scrutiny.

Pat Fromberger was a most wonderful rock for St. Luke's, her family, friends, and community. We at St. Luke's have missed her presence throughout the COVID tenure and will miss her now forever.

On Pentecostal Sunday, May 23, 2021, the day we celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Luke's Consecration, Pat left her earthly delights and duties, and her spirit soared. This charming, quiet, and dignified person, this lover of birds and irises, this deeply religious and loyal rock of St. Luke's. This archivist, long-time choir member (alto with a small, reliable, true voice), photographer who always remembered to bring her camera to document events and people at St. Luke's, and creator and editor of our monthly LITS newsletter. Pat was a quiet magician – gently reminding everyone about deadlines and articles (without guilt or impatience), inspiring the best in people, and thereby making our church community sing true by keeping people informed and caring.

She was also a lover of crafts – making the most detailed, precise, artistic ornaments which were always perfectly completed by the appointed deadline. For many years she co-led (along with Adelaide Johnson and then Eileen Widger) the Christmas Tea, which changed with the times into the Christmas Market. Creative, conscientious, and highly organized, she was focused, loyal, and reliable, but with a quiet, grounded – sometimes wicked – sense of humor broadcast by a signature, quirky, wry smile that bespoke amusement, patience, and tolerance. She was a behind-the-scenes magician – with no complaints, no lust for fame or recognition – who made good things happen wherever she was involved. A truly lovely person, a woman of intelligence and grace, and a most wonderful, enduring rock.



Patricia S. Fromberger, 1940-2021  
Photo taken on her birthday, 2-4-21



**Celebration of Life Memorial Service for Pat Fromberger.** The service will take place on Saturday June 12, 2021, at 11 AM at St. Luke's. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Chester-Andover Family Center, PO Box 302, Chester, VT 05143 or [www.chester-andoverfamilycenter.org](http://www.chester-andoverfamilycenter.org).

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM ZOOM MAY 11 VESTRY MEETING

**Focus.** Reflection on Zoom Meeting of May 4 with Canon Auburn Watersong. All is on hold until hearing back from Canon Watersong regarding Communications.

**Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer John DesLauriers reported that income is up for the month, primarily from the submission of one completed annual pledge that mercifully decreased the forecasted deficit. Endowment is up. According to an official report, St. Luke's has apparently overpaid its assessment, so the Diocese will need to make an adjustment for the year.

**Junior Warden's Report. Zoom Church Services.** David Carey reported he has been managing the Zoom church services since May 1. Andrew Pennell got a repeater to help the signal to computers for the outdoor sound system. **Tidy Up Day.** Went well, and John put down grass seed afterward. **Website.** Marti Assenza can now access the calendar from her home and has updated the event page. She also added Tidy Up Day photographs from Lew Watters. **Proposed Blog.** No one is interested in taking on that job, and all felt the present website did the job better and was less chatty. **Outside Steps to Willard Hall.** David will get a quote from Mike Waysille, who rebuilt the stone wall and added stone steps to those steps previously, for creating the stairway in stone. **Mowing.** Janice Fielder heard about We Be Mowing in Gassetts, a company that mows small church lawns for free. David will check that out. **Roof.** One slate is missing on the south entranceway roof. **Watters Proposal.** Lew Watters wanted to offer a volunteer enrichment program at St. Luke's for school-children who had suffered during Covid lockdown. Beth Salisbury said that teachers are already doing that through the school system.

**Rector's Report.** Heidi missed Tidy Up Day because she was officiating at a graveside service. **Church on Sunday May 30 during the Plant Sale.** Heidi may consider offering church only by Zoom.

**Old Business. 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Luke's and Bishop's Visit.** Bishop Shannon will come in person and bring several people with her for a service at 11 AM. Heidi still has to work out several details with the Bishop regarding communion, the proposed Q&A after the service, and proposed bag lunch for all. If lunch is approved, Janet Hunter will make bag lunches for all, and Marti

Assenza will send out an email about the lunch and plea for an immediate response so Janet can know numbers. Heidi will send out two emails about communion once details are settled.

**New Business. Envisioning Indoor Worship.** We will wait for the guidelines from the Diocese before discussing, but may also continue to offer Zoom for those who are unable physically or psychologically to come to indoor services.

Next Vestry Meeting: Tuesday June 8, 2021.

**Lillian Willis, Clerk**

### Holy Trinity

The Holy Trinity, as someone has said,  
is not two men and a bird.  
It isn't a doctrine, it's a mystery:  
not a puzzle to be solved  
but a wonder to behold.



The Trinity is an icon you gaze at  
free of the distracting hubris of understanding,  
an image of God's shape-shiftness,  
God's three-dimensionality  
(the three dimensions being Here, There, and Everywhere),  
God as This and the Opposite of This  
and None of the Above.

The Trinity is  
the sound of three hands clapping.

There are not three separate people: there is One.  
There are not billions of things in the universe:  
there is One.

The Trinity is an image of God as loving community  
(God is crazy about themselves) —  
the Lover, the Beloved, and the Love flowing between,  
the Three-In-One in which you are the fourth member.

The Holy Trinity is the gate of heaven  
which is always closed,  
preventing you from trying to figure out a way in,  
so instead you just give up and fall in love.  
I mean, look at them. How could you not?

*By Steve Garnaas-Holmes at Unfolding Light*



## SUCCESSFUL PLANT SALE FOILS NASTY WEATHER



**T**he weather was cold and wet for the first days of what ended up as a four-day Plant Sale, but visitors and your hardy St. Luke's Plant Crew persevered and somehow produced a winner!

The plants were beautiful, varied, and abundant. Gardeners we had never known called me to offer plants from their abundant gardens to be potted and labeled at my house. Consequently, there were more choices and more plants potted than ever this year – amounting to over 1500 plants – so many, in fact, that we extended the three-day event to Monday Memorial Day to try to find them homes. With unpleasant weather, despite our determination, by the afternoon of Memorial Day an absurd abundance of plants remained on the lawn. Not wanting to waste those resources and physical evidence of so much personal labor, I called someone on the Rockingham Library Board and arranged for a representative to come to the church on Tuesday morning to remove the 175 remaining plants to sell at their plant sale the weekend of June 5-6. Thus, the sharing and caring supported another worthy cause.

This massive effort was only possible because of the tremendous generosity of fellow gardeners and friends both inside and outside St. Luke's and because of the crucial help of our dedicated volunteers. Those volunteers were more than crucial: gardening, potting, labeling, packaging dahlias, supplying fresh rhubarb, transporting plants to the church, grooming, selling, advising, cashiering, erecting and returning tents and tables, mowing, and so many personal efforts that made the event efficient, effective, and welcoming. Eternal thanks go to the most hardy, consistently gracious, wonderful workers: David and Marjorie Carey, Marcia Clinton, John and Alison DesLauriers, Doug Edson, Sally Hoover, Don and Nina Huffer, Ian and Polly Montgomery, Tom and Eileen Widger, Ruth Zezza and John McLure, and David Willis.

**Lillian Willis**



We had more plants this year than ever! Our crew of growers, potters, and event volunteers were focused and dedicated. They worked wonders...even adding an extra session on Memorial Day because we had so many great plants still available. At left, you can see Nina Huffer. She and Don, along with Alison DesLauriers, are special gardeners who make this event possible.

## TOTAL COOPERATION ON TIDY UP DAY 2021

What a day Saturday May 1 was. The weather was most cooperative; the helpers were a friendly, cheerful lot, and a great deal of fine work was done. I refer of course to the Clean Up St. Luke's Day when a hearty band of wonderful volunteers worked hard to clean up the grounds of the church. The plan was for everyone to arrive at about 10 AM, but when I got there around 9:30 Andrew Pennell was already hard at work raking a huge amount of leaves from off the grass. However, it wasn't very long before everyone else showed up to lend a hand, and we soon had piles of leaves and fallen branches stacked up in different locations around the lawn. John DesLauriers, with his very handy-dandy trailer, was particularly helpful in carting it all off while the rest of us helped lift everything onto the trailer. It amazed me just how much could be squashed into the trailer, especially when it was trampled down by John's determined marching back and forth on top of it all.



A real treat was the presence of Tom DesLauriers and his muscling of the power sweeper that raked all the winter sand and gravel that had traveled from the parking lot into the grass. That gravelly material has now been returned to its proper parking surface, and John later followed up by applying grass seed to the barren locations.

Meanwhile people were cleaning up other parts of the outside of the church and, in particular, the section alongside the church to and from Main Street and the Memorial Garden. Here the flower beds were cleaned and weeded, a small amount of trash removed, and everything made to look trim and proper. We are now waiting for all the perennials and newly planted annuals to show their heads. Once spring arrives, there is usually something always in bloom in the Sidewalk and Memorial gardens.

Thank you to all who showed up that first Saturday of May: Marjorie Carey; Marcia Clinton; Doug Edson; Alison, John, and Tom DesLauriers; Andrew Pennell; photographer Lew Watters; and Lillian and David Willis. The crew really spruced up the outside of St. Luke's and prepared it for the outside Sunday services we are now enjoying.



### David Carey, Junior Warden

Some of the clean-up crew, l to r: Tom, Andrew, John, Doug, David W.  
Missing: all the camera-shy ladies.





## The Listening Itself

Not the image you seek,  
that's the idol to avoid,  
but the paying attention,

not the voice  
you want to hear  
but the listening itself,

not the answer but the waiting,  
this is prayer.  
Here we meet the holy.

Not the object  
but the love,  
this is God.

*By Steve Garnaas-Holmes  
at Unfolding Light*



**Sunday Church Services: In person and by Zoom at 10 AM. Details in Rev. Heidi's weekly email.**

St. Luke's Financial Update				
	Apr. 2021	YTD 2021	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget
Pledge & Plate Income	\$ 11,625.00	\$ 23,620.00	\$ 54,206.00	43.57%
Other Operating Income	\$ 546.39	\$ 4,507.99	\$ 35,200.00	12.81%
Restricted Income	\$ 50.00	\$ 570.00	\$ 2,540.00	22.44%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 12,221.39</b>	<b>\$ 28,697.99</b>	<b>\$ 91,946.00</b>	<b>31.21%</b>
Regular Expense	\$ 7,947.02	\$ 30,316.73	\$ 102,238.81	29.65%
Restricted Expense	\$ - .00	\$ 765.54	\$ 2,340.00	32.72%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 7,947.02</b>	<b>\$ 31,082.27</b>	<b>\$ 104,578.81</b>	<b>29.72%</b>
Net Ordinary Income (loss)	\$ 4,274.37	\$ (2,384.28)	\$ (12,632.81)	18.87%
Draw on Investments	\$ - .00	\$ - .00	\$ 14,750.00	0.00%
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 4,274.37</b>	<b>\$ (2,384.28)</b>	<b>\$ 2,117.19</b>	

You will note the April Pledge & Plate Income far exceed the monthly budget figure. The monthly budget figure largely assumes income is even month to month, while pledge payments vary from weekly, to monthly, to quarterly and occasionally one lump sum. Given the generous pledges received in April we are in a good cash position and have yet to make any draws on investment funds. With the Plant Sale coming up Memorial Day weekend I expect it will be quite some time before any such draws are necessary.

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

## JUNE CELEBRATIONS

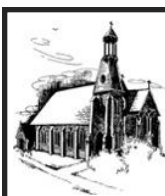
### Birthdays:

- 1 Michael Wilson
- 1 Stephanie (Wilson) Blauch
- 6 Doreen Bolger
- 11 Lynn Reed
- 11 Martha Stretton
- 17 Evelyn Meyer
- 18 Patrick Wilson



### Anniversaries:

- 6 Ross & Amy Jones
- 13 Sanford & Bonnie Johnson
- 20 George & Georgiana Cheney
- 20 Fred & Alyce Fielder
- 22 Lew & Bonnie Watters
- 28 Dale & Gloria Deming
- 29 Red & Adelaide Johnson



### 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

### JULY LITS Deadline

👉 JUNE 20<sup>th</sup> 👈

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