

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

Change Is In The Air



39 degrees and counting...Leaves are going from green to a rainbow of colors. Change is in the air! Get ready for it!

As sure as the seasons change so too does a community of God's people. This community of St. Luke's will see big changes in the near future as the MDC (Ministry Discernment Committee) begins to interview candidates and finally

send a short list of clergy candidates to the Vestry, who will then call the next Rector. It is all very exciting and might seem complicated. So, let's keep it simple:

- Pray for us all to be able to see God at work in our midst.
- Support the people who are working so hard at all this (MDC, Vestry, others).
- Pray and love your sister and brother.
- Love your neighbor.
- Be a good steward of all God has given you and work toward tithing.

Sure, the snow and dead of winter will come. But so will the spring and those lime-green leaves. The best Good News is that God is working in the midst of it all. Honest!

Thad thadinvt@svcable.net

Creation's Splendor

In Romans 1:20, St. Paul writes that God's powers are on display for all people through creation. Humans, he reasons, should conclude there's a God simply by observing.

What does creation's splendor and beauty reveal to us about God? Take a moment and stick your head out the window. It's amazing how colorful creation is. God isn't a boring God who sees only in black and white. He's a God of beauty with an amazing imagination. God creates with a splash of joy.

Every day this week, stop and ask, "What is God's creation revealing to me about his character?"

—Rev. Mike Paulson preacher, educator, musician from ND.



From church archives: Silvio (the Watters famous cat) and a 10-year old Margie DesLauriers from a 2007 Blessing of the Animals at St. Luke's.

Saint Francis Day And "Blessing of The Animals"

We invite you to join us on Saturday, October 4th at 10:00 a.m. for the annual Blessing of the Animals on the front lawn of St. Luke's Church. Come help us bless the animals and celebrate the Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and the environment. Saint Francis developed a profound connection with living things through his fascination with nature. His main inspiration came from animals and he viewed animals as living examples of spiritual integrity, blessing them and striving to understand and connect with them.

On this special day we will have treats for 4-footed and 2-footed beasts and Saint Francis medals for all the pets. Blessing people's pets is known to be one of the best ways to introduce



new people to our church and encourage them to "try on" a community of faith. There are flyers available in back of the church so please invite your friends and neighbors and have a blast at the same time! Woof! Meow! Baa!, etc.

From the Senior Warden

We Need to Become More Missional

That's the word that everyone is throwing around this year: "Missional." The Bishop has written and spoken about it, we've been given a book about it, the upcoming Ministry Fairs are all about it, and it's the theme of this year's Diocesan Convention. But what does it mean?



The Episcopal Church has always used an attractional model, meaning that we hope to attract new members (with Sunday School or a new rector, perhaps?) rather than going out to evangelize and recruit them, which is definitely not our style. But we've all agreed that this "they will come" model no longer works, and that our graying congregations will need to do something different if we want to grow.

Missional action is venturing out into the community to "see what God is up to in the neighborhood" and perhaps getting involved in the efforts as a congregation. There are signs that God is already hard at work in our community, and we're helping God do it with our financial outreach to organizations like the Chester-Andover Family Center and the rescue squad and Habitat for Humanity. But that doesn't involve our going out and meeting new people and asking questions for ourselves. We need to find the small, struggling efforts to help one another that could maybe use our help. How about diapers for needy young mothers, or adult day care or rides to doctors or tutoring or community meals? God is at work out there. We just have to ask where.

Seeking in the Name of Christ, Kathryn

Interim Rector Away

Thad will be away from October 19th through October 27th. He will be serving as a vocational faculty member at one of the Episcopal Church's CREDO Conferences for clergy. If you need a priest during that time please either contact our Priest Associate, the Rev. Sanford R. Johnson (srjbbj@gmail.com or 603-209-1997 Cell) or the Senior Warden, Kathryn Wright (katewrit@sover.net or 463-1570). (Note: This absence was pre-arranged with the Vestry when Thad was called to be our interim.)

Remembering Saint Luke The Evangelist

On Sunday, October 19, (St. Luke's Sunday) we will be celebrating the Feast Day of Saint Luke the Evangelist. Saint Luke is the author of the gospel that bears his name and its sequel, the Acts of the Apostles (not to mention being our patron saint.) In the gospel's introduction, Luke demonstrates his concern for accuracy: "I ... decided, after investigating everything carefully ... to write an orderly account ..." (Luke 1:3, NRSV). He also carefully sets the historical context for his much-loved telling of Jesus' birth, naming specific rulers to help us know the approximate date (Luke 2:1-2).

In Acts, Luke recounts the ministries of the earliest Christians, including a detailed travelogue. In some chapters, Luke writes in the first person, indicating that he was, at least some of the time, among the first apostles.

Colossians 4:14 calls Luke "the beloved physician." According to tradition, he was also a painter and created the first icon of Jesus' mother, Mary.

We invite you to join us at either the 8:00 a.m. HE, Rite I Service or the 10:00 a.m. HE, Rite II Service on Sunday, October 19. We also look forward to greeting The Rev. Angela Emerson who will be officiating that day in the absence of Thad and Sanford. Angela is the Diocesan Minister for Stewardship Development and has been to St. Luke's on several occasions.

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Why Do We Do That?

(an occasional article on our liturgy)
THE BRIDGE

The service is divided into 2 parts: Ministry of the Word **1** and the Ministry of the Table. The first includes all the lessons, sermon, Creed and Prayers of the People; the latter includes the Eucharistic Prayer, sharing bread and wine, giving thanks for being fed (post-communion prayer), blessing and dismissal (to go into the world sharing the love we've received). The "bridge" between these two parts is the General Confession and the Peace. Why? This design is actually quite old and focuses on our need to confess that we need God's forgiving love and that we need to be "right" with our sisters and brothers in the church. Thus, we confess together and then we greet each other with God's peace ("The peace of the Lord be with you.") The Peace is an act of being reconciled..."in peace with one another" before we share in Christ's Body and Blood. So, the next time we are "passing the Peace," let's be aware of what we are actually doing. God might surprise us!

[&]quot;Our walk counts far more than our talk, always!" —George Mueller

Vestry Meeting Highlights

St. Luke's Vestry met on September 8th for their regular monthly meeting. Rev. Thad Bennett led a brief Bible Study and discussion on Matthew 18:15-20, which was the gospel reading for the coming Sunday. He pointed out this passage was an good example of how to deal with disputes and dissention in the church.

The focus topic of the month, "Stewardship," was tabled because the Stewardship Committee has not yet met. They will be meeting on Sunday, September 28 at 9:00 a.m. to outline the fall stewardship campaign.

- The Audit Report Status: No Audit Committee members were present, but Senior Warden, Kathryn Wright reported the committee is finalizing the audit report and she will notify the Diocese that it is in the works. The report is due the end of September.
- The Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Bonnie Johnson reported that as of August we are right on track with income and expenses for the year and urged everyone to keep their pledges coming.
- Rector's Report: Thad reported Church School would resume on Sunday, September 14, following much the same format that was initiated last year. (See article on page 5.) Communication Issues: Thad also mentioned he's become aware of some discussions about change and other church related topics that could have been handled in a more positive way. He then led the Vestry through a helpful exercise using the decision to hold this year's Diocesan Convention at Jay Peak as an example. This has been a current "sensitive" topic in several parishes due to extra expenses that weren't anticipated. It was a good example of how to deal with issues in a positive manner vs. having rumors and comments taking place behind the scenes. Thad also mentioned that he would be focusing his September & October sermons around discerning liturgical ministries (preaching and teaching, discerning who might have special skills or talents. (Read article on page 4.)
- Old Business: Lew Watters updated us on the WinCycle Collection Event slated for Saturday, October 18th and sponsored by St. Luke's Church. This will take place at the Chester/Andover Elementary School parking lot from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.. It could not be held at St. Luke's as originally hoped, however we will still be sponsoring the event and doing the publicity. (See article on page 6.)
- New Business: Lew Watters requested that St. Luke's consider purchasing their own projector to use for the upcoming electronic interviews of prospective rector candidates and for other kinds of activities (presentations/teaching, etc.) He strongly recommended it as a very useful piece of equipment in this electronic age. The Vestry gave their full approval.
- Next Vestry Meeting: October 13. Focus is to be on "Communication & Publicity." —Pat Fromberger

St. Luke's In Transition

Our Parish Portfolio has been on line since mid-July and the Office of Transition Ministry is no longer accepting names as of September 26. As this article goes to press, your Ministry Discernment Committee is now training with our Diocesan Companion, Ann Cooper, to learn more about how best to process and inter-



view interested candidates. As soon as we receive the names of interested candidates on September 30 from Canon Lynn Bates, MDC swings into action.

We will acknowledge all entries, receiving and reviewing their qualifications, sending them a preliminary set of our own questions, and then conducting interviews in depth via Skype. We do not know how many names we will receive, but we will endeavor to consider each and every one with courtesy, hospitality and compatibility. We are seeking to find those potential candidates who best match the profile you all helped to create. It is not a corporate hire. Rather, it is a match that is ultimately guided by the Holy Spirit. When the MDC list is shorted to a few finalists, we will be inviting them to Chester, including their spouse if married or partnered. Ultimately, selected MDC members will then be visiting the remanding candidates in their parishes. You may recall, the Vestry charged MDC with submitting 3 candidates for their consideration. The Vestry will then choose our next 3/4 time rector.

Please keep us in your prayers.

Your Bother in Christ, Lew Watters, MDC Chairman

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Giving Our First Fruits To God

At the southwestern edge of New Zealand, a National Geographic writer traveled with a local guide along paths strewn with river pebbles. Suddenly the guide bent to pick up a finger-long sliver of "greenstone" — jade — shimmery and smoothed by the river. He handed it to the journalist, saying, "Our people have a tradition that you don't keep the first piece you find. So I'm giving it to you."

Throughout Scripture, "first fruits" signifies people giving their best back to God because he first gave the best of himself to humanity. Ultimately, Paul teaches, "Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died" (1 Corinthians 15:20, NRSV).

In response to this gift of life, we give our own first fruits to God; for example, we might spend early-morning time in prayer, set aside an offering as our first budget item, and make sure our first words to family each day are sweet ones. —from The NewsletterNewsletter; October 2014.

Come Join Us For A Stirrings of the Spirit Field Trip

Let's get going to **Church of the Woods**, a ministry of Kairos Earth in New Hampshire!



Nurture your spiritual health and learn about starting a new and fresh ministry.

Sunday, October 12

Worship @ 3:00 PM
The Story of Church of the Woods @ 5:00 PM
Dinner Together @ 6:00 PM

No cost to you.

Sponsored by *Stirrings of the Spirit* More Info... @ diovermont.org

Discerning Liturgical Ministries

On Sunday October 5th our Interim Rector will ask members of the church to do some discernment (that word is not just for the Ministry Discernment Committee!). He'll be inviting us to discern together who of our members might have the gifts and skills for the ministries of lector and intercessor/chalice bearer. These are both liturgical and pastoral ministries that are not for everyone. Often they are for the people blessed by God and the Holy Spirit with the gifts of interpretation and clarity (lector); a calm reverence and understanding (intercessor), a sacred presence of servanthood (chalice bearer) and a combination of all with the added gift of gentle leadership (liturgical minister). He's been preaching and teaching a bit about this topic and inviting us to "discern together" who might have such gifts. Please keep this work in your prayers.

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True Heroes

We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say, "It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem." Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes. —Fred Rogers, Presbyterian minister and "hero" of Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood

Upcoming Bishop's Visit

On November 16th the Rt. Rev. Thomas C. Ely will be with us for worship at St. Luke's as part of his annual visitation schedule as the Episcopal Bishop of Vermont. In addition to leading our worship and preaching, the Bishop also brings pastoral ministries with him. If you are interested in formally joining the



Episcopal Church (being confirmed or being received from another denomination) or having your baptismal vows reaffirmed, please speak with Thad **no later than October 5th.** Thanks!



Adult Forum: The Lord's Prayer

There is an ecumenical version of the Lord's Prayer found in the *Book of Common Prayer* on page 364 on the right-hand side. Many people mistakenly think this is the "modern version" of the Lord's Prayer. But, as we'll discover during an Adult Forum (date TBA), it is actually the result of almost 30 years of research, study, translation and theological work that has tried to reproduce "what Jesus actually said." The Bible gives us two version (Luke 11:2-4 and Matthew 6:9-13) and the records of the early church also give us some hints. The result is the prayer that most denominations are currently using for public liturgy. Want to know more? Watch the Sunday Bulletin and website for the Sunday on which Thad will present a forum after the 10:00 a.m. service.

A Note From The Pew

The Rev. Jim Littrell has let us know that he'll be busy on Sundays as the new Interim Pastor for the West Dover Congregational Church. Please keep Jim and his new ministry in your prayers.



Christian Symbol: Altar

This central furnishing in a Christian worship space is usually fairly large, with a solid front that may be decorated with symbols or words. The flat

surface, often covered with a cloth, is where the Communion elements are prepared and placed, reminding us of Jesus' sacrifice as the Lamb of God. In some churches, the altar looks more like a table, with open legwork. We remember that Jesus invites us into fellowship with God now and to the heavenly banquet for eternity. We place offerings on the altar to symbolize our sacrificial response to God's redeeming love.

Church School Off To A Great Start

Church School for children has had a great start with seven kids present! The gospel lesson was read and we talked about forgiveness, and sang our song, *This Little Light of Mine*. Cindy Roundy-Winston was the "Meet the Minister" guest of the day and showed, a DVD and talked about Operation Christmas Child. The children's activity was to make maracas for the OCC shoeboxes..

Children, leaders and parents are following the same pattern as last year: 1st Sunday: Gospel Lesson Discovery; 2nd Sunday: Church Ministry Discovery; 3rd Sunday: Gospel Lesson Discovery; 4th Sunday: Outreach/Helping Discovery. We have a format to mimic what the adults are doing upstairs: scripture, "teaching" and prayers. Child care will also be available. If you would like to share a ministry with the children that you do (either in or outside of church) or are willing to just help out, let Thad know. Our key focus is to let the children know that they are beloved of God, important to this community and loved...anyone can help with that, eh!? Interested: Talk with/contact Thad.



Children learn about Operation Christmas Child



The Outreach Corner



Operation Christmas Child

On Friday, September 22, I was so blessed to be able to hear a young man from Rwanda, named Alex Nsengimana, speak about receiving a shoebox when he was a child in an orphanage. He spoke about what his life was like in Rwanda and how receiving the shoebox changed his life and how he was able to overcome his anger and forgive the people who murdered his family. His story really touched and motivated me to do more boxes! Alex said that each box not only impacts the life of the child who receives it but up to 9 other people too. You can read about his amazing story here. Photo from the Samaritan's Purse website. http://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/alex-story/

Thank you so much for faithfully saving all of the recycleable items for making the toys and games. Maze games are being made out of corrugated cardboard, so please save any cardboard you may have for us. We also need many kinds of caps/lids/covers to use in games. Thanks to all of you—we now have enough toilet rolls—but can still use more shoeboxes, old calendars, and magazines with colorful pictures. Soap, wash cloths, and small toys help fill up the boxes—so keep them coming. Thank you all for your generous help so we can fill lots of boxes!

Please watch the Sunday Church Bulletin for the dates of our upcoming packing parties!

Soldiers Cards

One of the chaplains we have been sending cards to for distributing to soldiers who get NO mail, has given me the names and addresses of four more soldiers who never get mail. Please spend a minute every week to sign a card to send to them! Even if you just write thank you, have a nice day, or we're praying for you, you have no idea how much it is appreciated. Thank you so much! —*Cindy*

WinCycle Collection - October 18

MinCycle E-Waste Collection Event (sponsored by St. Luke's Church & Chester/Andover Elementary School) will take place on Saturday, October 18 from 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. in the school parking lot. This is an opportunity for anyone to bring their old computers, printers, cell phones, microwaves and other electronics, to be safely disposed. The fees for recycling the various items range from as little as \$2.00 for CD players, \$12.00-\$17.00 for computer monitors and up to \$27.00 for console TVs. Computers, keyboards, mice, cables, cell phones and pagers are all free. See St. Luke's "Special Events Page" for the complete WinCycle fee schedule, including items not collected such as freon units, lawn mowers, appliances or furniture.

You might ask, "Why should I bring my computer here when there are other free recycling location?" Lew Watters recently visited with the manager of the Springfield Recycle Center and asked about data destruction of computers that they collect for free. Right on their sign it says, "Owners are responsible for data destruction." Recently, their trailer was broken into, and all the laptops were stolen.

Collection sites listed by the State of Vermont distinguish between those that offer secure hard drive destruction, and those that do not. WinCycle is on the short list that collects fees which cover secure recycling including hard drive destruction. To hold this event, WinCycle obtains necessary State Environment permits and coordinates with local police and fire. The WinCycle team does all the collection of old electronics and the money. Below are links to the Vermont Environmental Conservation site, and to WinCycle. http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/e-waste/e-DataSec.html

http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/e-waste/e-DataSec.html http://windsorgoodnewselectronicsrecycling.com/services/ recycling-center/

October 18 also happens to be St. Luke's Patron Saint's Day this year and ties in with our church mission to be good environmental stewards. We invite everyone to join us in responsibly disposing of dangerous electronic waste. You can learn more about this global problem on our website. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Lew Watters 875-2114 or email lewbon@vermontel.net.

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Looking Ahead To November

Keep putting change into your UTO (United Thank Offering) Blue Boxes.

We'll have an ingathering on All Saints Sunday, November 2 and send our collective donation to the Episcopal Church Women's UTO Fund. Remember: Every penny to UTO is given away for mission and ministry!

"Faith goes up the stairs that love has made and looks out the window which hope has opened." —Charles Spurgeon

SOLD! On Sale On The Screen



Much thanks to Lynda and Dick Farmer for donating the pictured canoe which sold for \$180! What do you have that is in need of a new home? We are still in need of items to list so it's time to purge those good used treasures that you know you won't use again. As we have been saying we need good clean working items with an anticipated value of at least \$50. Needed are three or four digital pictures and whatever information you can provide on the item. Again if you do not have a digital camera let us know and we will shoot, write text and

list. The **Sale On The Screen** will continue through the months of September and October so get crackin'. Free yourself—it's liberating! Just ask Lynda who now has room for her new kayak. Contact John DesLauriers at 875-3490 or email: jwd@vermontel.net or Lew Watters at 875-3114 or email: lewbon@vermontel.net. Many thanks! —*John DesLauriers*

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"Jennings & McComber" To Perform In Chester

The newly formed musical duo of Kara (Watters) Lake & Andy Lake, known as, Jennings & McComber (the name derived from their grandmother's maiden names) — will be performing at the First Baptist Church, Chester at Grounded4LIFE on Friday, October 24 at 7:00 p.m.. Kara & Andy made their debut this summer at the Gifford Medical Center in Randolph, singing "Green Mountain Indy Music"



on guitars, ukulele, bass violin...performing original songs they have written. Kara is the daughter of Lew & Bonnie Watters. There is food and fellowship at 6:30 p.m. before the performance begins at 7:00 p.m. Donations are welcome.

St. Luke's Financial Information							
				_		<u>2014</u>	<u>% of</u>
	<u>August 2014</u>			<u>Year to Date</u>		<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Plate/Pledge Income	\$	6,978.00	\$	68,923.00	\$	106,940.00	64.5%
Other Oper. Income	\$	2,744.00	\$	11,394.15	\$	27,206.00	43.9%
Restricted Income	\$	0.00	\$	7,874.98			
TOTAL INCOME	\$	9,722.00	\$	88,192.13	\$	134,146.00	65.7%
Regular Expense	\$	8,281.64	\$	73,112.28	\$	5 154,536.16	47.3%
Restricted Expense	\$	357.86	\$	1,920.82	9	1,738.82	110.5%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	8,639.50	\$	75,033.10	\$	156,274.98	48.0%
NET INCOME			\$	13,159.03			

We're two-thirds of the way through the year and should be at 66.7% of our budget for both income and expenses. Through the end of August, our income is just a little short of this but we have a couple more fundraisers coming up before the end of the year to help with this. On the other side, our expenses are well below the anticipated amount which is very good news. I'm not saying we can sit back & take it easy but we are in good shape financially at this point. Thank you to all who kept your pledges current through the summer. That certainly helps us. If you got a little behind, this is a good time to start getting caught up. —*Bonnie Johnson, Treasurer*



WEEKLY

Lunch Bunch Book Study:

Mondays, Noon-1:15PM in Willard Hall for a bag lunch, discussion & prayer. We are reading *"Traveling Mercies—Some Thoughts on Faith"* by Anne Lamott. Please come join us.

· St. Luke's Choir Rehearsals:

St. Luke's Choir is back and has resumed Sunday rehearsals at **9:15 a.m.** in the church sanctuary. New choir members are always welcomed. Speak to Jacob McLaughlin, Church Musician, if you have an interest.

LESS THAN WEEKLY

Blessing of the Animals:

Saturday, **October 4, 10:00AM** gathering on the front lawn at St. Luke's. All pets are welcome. Invite your friends and neighbors and do come. (Read the article on page 1.)

St. Luke's Vestry Meeting:

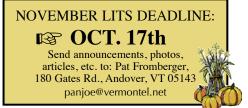
Monday, October 13, 6:30PM; Bible Study; 7:00PM Regular Meeting Agenda in Willard Hall. Meeting focus is Publicity & Communication. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

- Paper Mache Angel Workshop: Monday, October 6, 1:30PM to 3:00PM in Willard Hall. The Christmas Tea Craft group will meet to complete their angels projects.
- "Jennings & McComber" Music: Friday, October 24, 6:30PM at the First Baptist Church, Chester. Food, fellowship, fun. Read article on this page for details.

Looking Ahead...

Bishop Visitation:

Sunday, **November 16**, Bishop Thomas Ely will be at St. Luke's Church. Anyone wishing to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church should speak to St. Luke's Interim Rector, Thad Bennett by **October 5th**.





Birthdays:

- i Kat Meyer
- 10 Ruth Harrison
- II Sally Hoover
- 19 Harrison Gleim
- 19 Sarah Jane Scarlett

Anniversaries:

- 2 Doc & Annemarie Sexton
- 7 Malcolm & Ann Summers
- 14 Joe & Pat Fromberger
- 28 Tom & Eileen Widger
- 31 Walter & Sandra Rich

"Words which do not give the light of Christ increase the darkness." — Mother Teresa

- 19 Moser Worth
- 20 Brian Anderson
- 21 Cyrena Goodrich
- 30 Amy Jones

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

+ Worship SchedulE +

Oct. 5 XVII PENTECOST (Proper 22)

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Oct. 12 XVIII PENTECOST (Proper 23)

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Oct. 19 THE FEAST DAY OF SAINT LUKE

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Oct. 26 XX PENTECOST (Proper 25)

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

CHURCH SCHOOL: Has resumed, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary & recessing to Willard Hall after the Collect of the Day.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Thaddeus A. Bennett, Interim Rector
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

