



Light in the Shadows

MAY 2012

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

Departing In Peace

*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,
according to thy word;*



Finding myself rapidly approaching the end of my ministry at St. Luke's, and following subsequently upon that, retirement from full time ministry, I must admit to a bewildering roller coaster in my current emotional state. While the present is a time of real grief, an honest acknowledgment of how greatly I will miss this parish and all its members, the future seems to hold

so many unanswerable questions. Doesn't it always? There is Christina's illness, my uprooting, and numerous questions regarding moving to a new and lesser known environment, (granted less snow, less cold and shorter winters, but tornadoes!).

*"There is the
centuries old echo or
reiteration of words
once spoken:
'Do not be afraid,'
and the sustaining
sustenance of a
resurrection truth that
followed upon this;
lifting us above the
darkness that seems
from time to time, if
not always, to seek
to engulf us."*

—H. Paul Brannock-Wanter

Everything presently seems to conspire towards an overload of my internal computer, or at least it seems that way. Its use as metaphor does provide a positive connotation for the difficult relationship I have with that actual machine itself which so dominates our culture. Close to, but I haven't crashed yet. Yes, that's near to a response.

And yet, there is the abiding presence of God and God's love made known through Jesus Christ. There is the centuries old echo or reiteration of words once spoken: "Do not be afraid," and the sustaining sustenance of a resurrection truth that fol-

lowed upon this; lifting us above the darkness that seems from time to time, if not always, to seek to engulf us.

Continued on page 2



LEGO Contest Lures Ninety Plus To Willard Hall

Over 90 adults and young people enjoyed the original creations displayed at the **2012 LEGO Contest** held on Saturday April 14. Thirty-six entries by children in Pre-Kindergarten through Sixth Grade provided imaginative displays that intrigued and inspired both younger and older onlookers. Judges **Andrew Pennell** of Bellows Falls, VT, and **Chris Johnson** (Sanford's son) of Concord, NH, spoke with each of the participants to learn in detail what they



were trying to accomplish with their designs, the special features presented, and how long it took the young people to create their constructions. The judges' positive comments to each of the participants let the youngsters know what seemed most appealing or impressive to them and emphasized that the judges appreciated all the time, effort, and talent involved in each entry. So positive was the experience that most of this year's contestants are already considering what they will make for the 2013 contest!

Entries were judged by grade for their originality, imagination, and presentation. In the team entries, the age of the

Continued on page 3

From the Senior Warden

The Loss Of My Trees



Until recently, two huge, lush trees graced my Victorian apartment building. The tree in front shaded my second-story kitchen, and the one beside it shaded my third-floor bedroom. The trees gave shade and protection from sun and rain, from constant traffic streaming by, and from the neighbors only a driveway

away. Even in the heat of the summer, my bedroom was always a lovely, cool haven, and the kitchen was deeply shaded in the brutal afternoon sun. The huge tree beside the building came down in a September rainstorm, splitting in two and crashing into the house next door as I cried and wondered if the summer's heat would be unbearable. The ragged, nine-foot stump left behind is ugly. Then the Town tied a sign to the giant tree in front and cut it down to make way for a new power line. The dog and I walked beneath the branches of that tree when we left to run some morning errands. We returned to find only a low, freshly cut stump and a few bits of sawdust, and blinding sunshine reflecting off two sides of the narrow building. I cried again.

How naked the building looks now, taller and somehow vulnerable without the big trees around it. How changed my life seems, hearing dump trucks roar past and rain hammer against the windows and the neighbors next door shouting. My comfortable haven is gone, and I am heartbroken.

It all comes down to faith, doesn't it? I admit that I've been sorely wounded and that I need God's help to heal. I'm praying for courage in the face of dreadful change, which I resent, and the strength to do what needs to be done. I need to give my pain over to Him, and to look forward and think of growth, and grace.

You are all in my prayers, as I hope I'm in yours.

Kathryn

Departing In Peace

(Rector's Column continued from page 1)

Thanks to all of you at St. Luke's for your faith, prayers, and being a community wherein God's love is allowed to overcome our fears and the darkness, such that faith does deepen and love is broadened. Thank you for your prayers for Christiana, Joseph, and me, I who am the least of all the saints at St. Luke's.

*For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.*

In Christ's love always,

Paul



Rector's Resignation And Notes On Transition

As your Senior Warden, I have written to Bishop Ely to officially notify him of Father Paul's resignation. The Vestry will meet soon with the Bishop and Canon Lynn Bates to learn about the complicated and lengthy process, about two years, for calling a new Rector to St. Luke's. Next steps and discussion of the process will be the focus of the **Vestry's Annual Retreat** on May 18th and 19th.

Father Paul will be with us throughout May, but he will leave for his annual vacation on June 1st. Father Sanford will officiate on Sundays, beginning on June 1st, and we will call a Supply Priest for Sundays when he is not available. Father Paul will return to officiate for a final time at the services on July 1st.

The Vestry voted unanimously to continue Father Paul's salary and benefits through September, as a farewell gift of grateful appreciation and love from the parish for his ten years of service to St. Luke's. Parishioners are also invited to make individual monetary donations towards this farewell gift if they so desire. We will have a special reception following Father Paul's final service at St. Luke's on Sunday, July 1st, sharing our best and his favorite recipes. Be thinking of what you'll contribute.

Please speak with me if you have questions or concerns, and feel free to call me at home (802) 463-1570 if you'd just like to talk about the way our lives are changing. The Holy Spirit is with us all as we grow. —*Kathryn Wright*

"If you know the Good Shepherd who calls and tends you daily, keep your ears and eyes on the One who will keep you whole. He is calling today. Accept no substitute."
—*Forward Day By Day 4/1/2009*

"Courage does not always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, 'I will try again tomorrow.'" —*Mary Anne Radmacher*

LEGO Contest *(continued from page 1)*

oldest member determined the grade. A separate family class enabled a variety of family members to collaborate, and one prize was awarded to the Gross Family of Cavendish—two of whose children also won recognition in grade categories—for its creation entitled End of the Season: 30 Years of LEGOs.

At noon LEGO prizes were awarded to the grade winners and runners-up, with special awards for the Most Fun, Most Vermont, Most Original, and Judges' Choice (considered Best in Show). While the judging went on, participants checked out the other entries, shared ideas and techniques, or played soccer outside. Many enjoyed coffee and juice supplied by Lisai's Market and delicious homemade doughnuts made by the Whalen-Hensel-Browning Family.

Among the winners from St. Luke's family connections:
Fourth Grade: First: *Green Beret Training Center* by **Willy Hugg** (Belinda Worth's grandson.) Fifth Grade: First: *Vermont Map* by **Gurion and Sam Lake** (the Watters grandsons.) Sixth Grade: First: *Easter Inspired* by **Morgan and Field Willis**.

Thanks to separate donations by some Vestry members, plus the entry fees, the contest enabled St. Luke's to send a \$125 donation to the Children's Section at Chester's Whiting Library. —**Lillian Willis**



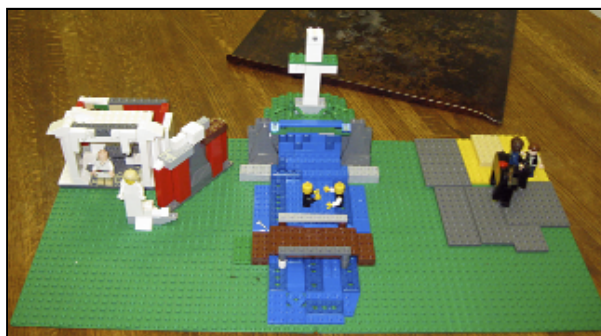
Judges Andrew Pennell and Chris Johnson look over some of the entries along with contest organizer, Lillian Willis.



Vermont Map: 5th Grade winning entry by Gurion & Sam Lake



Willy Hugg with his 4th Grade winning entry, *Green Beret Training Camp*.



Above: *Easter Inspired*: The 6th Grade winning entry by Morgan & Field Willis



At Left: Sean & Aurora Whalen and Gurion Lake admiring Willy's winning entry.

LEGO
Contest
Photos
Thanks to
Lew Watters

A Woman of Passion, Marti Assenza... A St. Luke's Profile

Having known Marti Assenza for almost thirty years, I was delighted to see her return full-time to St. Luke's last fall. When I chose to do her story, her answers to my regular old questions took on a real feeling of passion for all that is important to Marti—her upbringing, animals, Girl Scouting, nursing and especially her daughter, Elizabeth. She even has new passions for jewelry making and photography in her retirement. Thankfully one of her most coveted passions is St. Luke's.

Marti was born on November 12, 1943 in Providence, RI to Richard and Mary Stoddard. She holds that special position of middle child between two sisters. The Stoddard family did a lot of camping. Marti remembers especially a trip at age seven to Fairplay, CO to visit their uncle, a Presbyterian minister. Accompanying them was two six-month hold beagle puppies and they camped all along the way. Back home they had a large garden with chickens, ducks, pigeons, turkeys and dogs—the hound variety. The family's outdoor activity turned to boating when her dad bought a cabin cruiser, with Narragansett Bay being their favorite waterway.

Marti was passionate about scouting, beginning as a Brownie through to Senior Scouting. Her dad was the leader of her Mariner Girl Scout troop when she was in high school; they built an ice boat and ran a regatta for all the Sea and Mariner Scouts in R.I. Membership in the Future Nurses and Fencing Clubs filled her activity hours. She would attend the Episcopal Church with her father, even though she was raised a Roman Catholic.

After high school Marti attended the University of Bridgeport in Bridgeport, CT, graduating in 1965 with a BS in Nursing. She shared a sweet story about a kitten she rescued from behind the cafeteria in her freshman year. Ironically she named him "Troubles," for if he were found in their room that is what he would be! Her passion for this animal was so strong that she would go down to Seaside Park to dig sand for a litter box. I connected with this story because I had to give my NYC cat, Flipper, away just like Marti did Troubles.

Marti's first job was in Pediatrics at Montefiore Hospital in the Bronx, where over 14 years she was a staff nurse, then Head Nurse in the Children's Unit, next Head Nurse in the Pediatric ICU, and finally the last five years as Head



Nurse in the Pediatric Outpatient Care Unit. She helped develop the first intensive course for ICU Nurses at the hospital. Marti also spent a year as an agency nurse and worked mostly at Bellevue Hospital on the Pediatric Unit. When she moved to VT she took a break from Nursing until 1991 when she started working for the VNA and worked there in various capacities until her retirement in August 2011. Her two sisters, are also nurses.

In 1976 she married and she and her husband bought a house in Vermont two years later. The marriage ended in divorce in 2007 after sixteen years of separation. Marti contends that the best result of her

marriage was the birth of Elizabeth Marie on November 1, 1981. A month later she and her little passion moved to Vermont permanently. Elizabeth went to Flood Brook School, then for high school to the Long Trail School. Her college years were at Saint Michael's College in Burlington, VT where she majored in Theatre and Education. After graduation she spent a year as a substitute teacher at Manchester Elementary. Elizabeth then moved to Washington, D.C to become a kindergarten teacher.

This proud mother reports that her daughter currently works for the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital Council as a Field Director and now is a Membership Development Specialist. This year she led the team of



Elizabeth Assenza & her Mom
at St. Luke's in 1998.

volunteers who planned the Girl Scouts' 100th Anniversary Interfaith Service. The service is at the Washington National Cathedral and The Most Reverend Katherine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the United States, is preaching. Like her mom, Elizabeth started in Girl Scouts before she could be a Daisy and continued as a Girl Scout

ever since. She was a counselor at camp for several years and during college was a troop leader. Most recently

continued on page 5

Marti Assenza con.'t...

Elizabeth was accepted at Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York and will start there in the fall. She hopes to pursue ordination with the Unitarian Universalist Association and at this time is interested in hospital chaplaincy.

In the good old days Marti was an avid skier and spent three winter vacations skiing in Switzerland. One winter she worked at Stratton as a Little Cub Instructor. In her retirement Marti is making jewelry. Her interest began about four years ago; and to perfect her newfound artistic passion, she has taken several courses in jewelry making. She works in Polymer Clay, makes Kiln Glass Cabachons and earrings, Wire Wrapping and Weaving and Chain-maille. Marti and a friend sell at the Londonderry Farmers Market and hope to expand to the Manchester Farmers Market this summer. In her profile picture she wears one of her pieces. She also dabbles in photography and produces a lovely photographic calendar every Christmas with a family theme as gifts. Her 2008 calendar featured lovely lilies in various presentations.

When Elizabeth was three, they visited her cousin in Pennsylvania and she went to Sunday School with him at his church. When they got home to Vermont Elizabeth asked her Mom why they didn't go to church. So Marti and Elizabeth visited St. Luke's. "We were so warmly welcomed that I never visited any other churches." In earlier years Marti was a Sunday School teacher, an usher, a lector and took part in the Alpha Course. "Due to the demands of my job I did not take a very active part at St. Luke's for several years. And now that I am retired, I enjoy getting to know new members and getting back into the church community. One thing that I love about St. Luke's is the warmth and love and acceptance offered to all who walk through the doors." (We have heard that before!)

Like all of us, Marti hopes in this time of transition St. Luke's continues our growth as a community in Christ and can strengthen our bonds as a church. Too, she hopes a membership of a younger generation will grow St. Luke's. Now that is passion. —*Bonnie Watters*

Christian Symbol: Tongues of Fire



Reminiscent of the Pentecost account in Acts 2 when "tongues of fire" rested on the disciples' heads as the Holy Spirit birthed the church, images of flame symbolize the Spirit. Sometimes a tongue of fire is paired with a dove and set on a red background—other symbols of the Holy Spirit. Fire may also indicate spiritual fervor and zeal in a Christian's life.

Easter Sunday Reception and Egg Hunt

It was a joyful sight to see so many families filling the Sanctuary at St. Luke's Church on Easter Sunday Morning, with the scent of Easter lilies and other spring flowers wafting through the air. Someone remarked about the absence of Easter bonnets and how they missed seeing this one-time colorful tradition. Kathryn Wright, our senior warden, however can always be counted on to show up in a splendid hat. This year's straw bonnet was festooned with an array of lilac colored spring flowers. Marti Assenza, also a believer in the hat tradition, sported a striking turquoise straw bonnet. By the time the service was over, the young children in the sanctuary were antsy to get outdoors and find the hidden Easter Eggs. But before they did that, they were fed some goodies from the delicious buffet in Willard Hall. It was a beautiful day and a glorious celebration of the Lord's resurrection. Alleluia He is risen, He is risen indeed!



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The Outreach Corner

Operation Christmas Child & Other Needs

Thank you very much to Belinda Worth for the big bags of hand knit dolls! Some of them will be going into the *Operation Christmas Child* shoe boxes and some of them will be sent to Africa for kids with AIDS to cuddle! In Africa, 500 children a day are orphaned due to AIDS, poverty or both. Why not put a smile on a child's face and knit or crochet an 8 inch square to be made into a blanket or a handmade toy for a child to cuddle? We can always use hand knit or crocheted winter hats made for an adult sized head (I'm told these children have large heads), a sweater vest, sweaters, 8-inch squares (to be made into blankets), and handmade dolls or animals.

We have 20 squares already but need a lot more as 35 squares will make one blanket. We also have 2 hats ready to go. Winter in Africa is quickly approaching. There is a great need for knitted or crocheted Cuddles which is like a big sleeping bag for babies. If anyone is interested in making one of these, I have the patterns.

We need lots of help with *Operation Christmas Child*. As always, we need lots and lots of shoe boxes either cardboard or plastic, all with lids. These are harder and harder to come by so any you could donate to us are greatly appreciated. We can use many more covers and plastic lids for games and could use anything you may have to fit inside the boxes like clothes, school supplies, toys, etc. These items do not need to be new BUT they need to look new.

Please remember our "*Change For Children*" jar that is on the back table next to the mail boxes. Thank you! —Cindy

The Ascension Challenge

Ever wonder what it might have been like to be a disciple when Jesus ascended into heaven? He gave them the monumental task of making disciples of all the world. Plus, they'd have to do it without relying on Jesus' physical presence, as they had until then. Were the disciples overwhelmed, uncertain, afraid?

Maybe, yet they went on to spread the gospel throughout the world nonetheless. They rose to the challenge because they fixed their gaze above as they watched Jesus disappear into the clouds.

When we follow that example, offering ourselves as willing servants and keeping our eyes trained on Jesus instead of our circumstances, there's no limit to what God can accomplish through us.

April Vestry Meeting Highlights

St. Luke's Vestry met on April 18. Because of a lengthy agenda and the need to discuss the pending retirement of the Rector, the **April Focus Topics** of Music and Altar Guild were postponed. **Peter Rosengarten**, on behalf of the Finance Committee, reported that we are OK at the moment, with pledges at 25% for this quarter, and in the same general position as last year.

- There was no Rector's Report since Paul was not present. He had been asked not to attend the meeting because of the agenda discussion concerning his retirement and a parting gift from the parish. **Senior Warden, Kathryn Wright**, reported she has notified Bishop Eli, as required in writing, concerning Paul's retirement.

- **Junior Wardens' Report:** Andrew Pennell explained that the hot water heater failed and was replaced at a cost of \$1400 and the two furnaces have been cleaned and are in good shape. He detailed a list of substantial tasks for **Green-Up Day on May 6** following the 10:00 a.m. service. Tasks include raking gravel from the grass, planting Pat Saul's memorial tree, and installing an outdoor light near the parking lot and path. Volunteers will be urged to bring tools and participate in the work. *The Inn Victoria* will repair the damage to the church's lawn once their workers there have finished that backyard landscaping next door.

- Kathryn asked for **copies of past minutes** since they are presently missing. Anyone with the books or copies of old minutes is requested to contact her. Lillian Willis will create a book of minutes and LITS for year 2012. Kathryn will contact Lew Watters to see about videoing Paul's remaining sermons, as well as gathering information from the one he preached about the founding of St. Luke's.

- The main topic of the evening was **Paul's resignation**. This included discussion of an appropriate farewell gift and a celebration in gratitude for his 10 plus years as our rector. The initial details of the search process and the need to secure clergy to cover services when Sanford will be out of town was discussed briefly. Kathryn will call the Diocesan office to arrange for Bishop Thomas Eli and Canon Lynn Bates to meet with the Vestry as soon as possible so we can have a better understanding of the process and can begin to put the next steps into motion. (See Kathryn Wright's article on page 2.)

- **Lillian Willis** reported on the successful **LEGO Contest** held at Willard Hall on Saturday April 14. (See the article and photos on pages 1 & 3.)

- **The Vestry Retreat** will replace the May Vestry Meeting on Friday and Saturday May 18 and 19. The main topics will be the details of a farewell celebration for Paul's ten years at St. Luke's and the steps in the search process for his successor. —**Lillian Willis, Recording Secretary/Clerk**

Join Us For Ascension Day At St. Luke's



The celebration of **Ascension Day** (40 days after Easter) is a significant event in our church calendar. This year it falls on Thursday, **May 17** and there will be a service of **Holy Eucharist, 6:30 p.m.** at St. Luke's.

For the past three years St. Luke's has also held a "**Shrimp Boil**," following the Ascension Day service that is organized, prepared and hosted by the choir members. The simple menu consists of shrimp boiled in special seasonings, tangy dipping

saucers, a tossed green salad, French bread, and desserts. It's always delicious and always lots of fun. For those who cannot eat shrimp, this year we will also add savory chicken wings to the menu so nobody will feel left out.

So be sure to mark **May 17** on your calendars and do come join us for this special event. There is no charge but we will take a free will offering to help offset some of the costs. —*St. Luke's Choir Members*

St. Luke's Financial Information

	<u>Mar. 2012</u>	<u>Jan.-Mar. 2012</u>	<u>% of</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Plate/Pledge Income	\$ 8,094.00	\$ 30,799.60	\$111,100.00	27.72%
Other Oper. Income	\$ 634.96	\$ 3,851.51	\$ 21,864.00	17.62%
Restricted Income	\$ 875.00	\$ 925.00		
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 9,603.96	\$ 35,576.11	\$132,964.00	26.76%
Operating Expense	\$ 10,471.49	\$ 21,569.54	\$145,811.44	22.58%
Restricted Expense		\$ 570.31		
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 11,358.30	\$ 33,498.15	\$145,811.44	22.97%

This being the end of the first quarter, you can see that income is just slightly above 25% while expenses are below that. \$875 was added to Restricted Income with \$775 of that raised for PINS at the Maple Fest Dinner and the other \$100 a Memorial gift for the Memorial Garden. As you can see none of this money has been spent as of 3/31. In March there was also a new water heater purchased and installed in Willard Hall which is not on this report since it is considered equipment and shown on the balance sheet. —*The Financial Committee*

United In Prayer Group

The United in Prayer Group will meet on Monday, **May 14, 6:30 p.m.** in Willard Hall. Please spread the word to your family and friends. If you have questions or special prayer requests, email them to Sara Gagnon at pinkpsyche@live.com. United in Prayer is a diverse group from several different area churches with prayer as the unifying goal.



WEEKLY

- **Monday Lunch/Discussion Group:**
12:00PM-1:00PM in Willard Hall. Brown bag lunch & book study discussion with the Rector on topics of spirituality and faith. We are reading, "*A Dresser of Sycamore Trees—The Finding of a Ministry*," by Vermont author, Garret Keizer. Please come join us!
- **Wednesday Morning Prayer Group & Holy Eucharist:**
7:30AM Intercessory Prayer
8:30AM Holy Eucharist in Willard Hall.
- **St. Luke's Choir Rehearsal:**
Sunday mornings at **9:15AM** in Willard Hall. New members welcomed.

LESS THAN WEEKLY

- **Green-Up Day at St. Luke's:**
Sunday, **May 6th** following the 10:00AM service Raking and other yard work projects. See Vestry Highlights on page 6 for more details.
- **Adult Evening Bible Study:**
Tuesday, **May 8th & 22nd** at **6:30PM** in Willard Hall and ending promptly at **8:00PM** with Compline. All welcome to join us.
- **Annual Vestry Retreat:**
Friday, **May 18th**; gather **6:00PM** at Blue Hill Farm, Chester for supper. Saturday, **May 19, 8:00AM** for breakfast followed by meeting until about **1:00PM**. Focus will be on new Rector Search Process and making plans for July 1 farewell reception for Paul.
- **Ascension Day Worship Service:**
Thursday, **May 17, 6:30PM**, Holy Eucharist, Rite II followed by "Shrimp Boil" in Willard Hall (see article on this page for details.)
- **Ascension Day Shrimp Boil:**
Thursday, **May 17, 7:30PM** following the Worship Service. Hosted and prepared by the choir members. Please come join us. (see article on this page for more information.)
- **Worship Committee Meeting:**
Sunday, **May 20, 9:15AM** in Willard Hall between the services. Parishioners are invited to come and share their thoughts.



MAY CELEBRATIONS



Birthdays:

5	Ray Holden	24	Anita Wright
7	Joan Darling	26	Marilyn Mahusky
7	Sara E. Thiebaud	27	Julie Walton
12	Chapin Darling	28	Brittany Langston
15	H. Paul Brannock-Wanter	28	Bud Watson
22	Chris Meyer	30	Samuel Cowles
22	Joan Sullivan		

Anniversaries:

17	Richard & Janet Hunter
19	Jack & Jill Dowd

JUNE LITS Deadline:

 **MAY 25th**

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

**“St. Luke’s
is an
intentional
Christian
community,
deepening faith
and
broadening
love.”**

✠ WORSHIP SCHEDULE ✠

May 6	EASTER V
8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Green-up yard after service)
May 13	EASTER VI
8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
May 17	ASCENSION DAY
6:30 PM	Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Shrimp Boil following the Service)
May 20	EASTER VII
8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
May 27	DAY OF PENTECOST
8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM	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. H. Paul Brannock-Wanter, 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

Light in the Shadows

St. Luke’s Episcopal Church
P. O. Box 8, Chester, VT 05143
Return for ADDRESS CORRECTION
Or if Undeliverable

