

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Newsletter—Advent/Epiphany 2012/2013



Dear People of St. Luke's,

By now you will nearly all know that we are going to be bidding farewell to our wonderful Deacon Tom Deschaine and Carlene. Obviously this is not easy for anybody, not least Tom and Carlene. There is the sheer difficulty of saying goodbye—we're going to miss them. I am going to miss them; Tom has been helpful to me in many ways behind the scenes.

Also I think this occasion just reminds us of impermanence and change, of which we've had our share. People come, and after a sojourn here—enough time for us to get to know and value them—they leave again, usually to move to another community. In a way it's not unlike kids growing up. I well remember a stretch of about eight weeks in his final year of medical school when our son lived with us while doing rotations—short drive to work and Mom's cooking being the attractions. Then I remember him getting all packed up, renting a U-Haul truck, and driving up the road. What struck me forcefully was "this is it, he's really going off on his own."

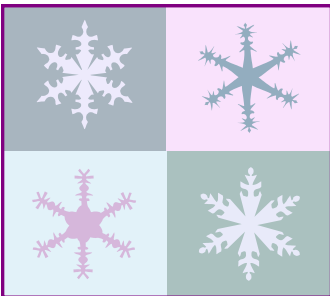
But of course that's what I wanted, momentary tugs at the heart strings notwithstanding. So I think that part of our collective vocation in this place is to take people, nurture them, benefit from their presence and gifts, and send them off again—enriched and better equipped to make a difference in whatever setting they find themselves.

We'll have an opportunity to thank Tom and Carlene November 11. After the service there will be a special coffee hour brunch. Their final Sunday will be November 18.

Meanwhile, by the time you get this Corey will have begun mentored practice at St. Mark's Waterville. This particular good-bye is temporary, and is made in order that (God willing, and things proceeding according to plan) we can say hello in a fuller way as she steps into a new role in June.

Faithfully,

Fr. Tim



FAEM Carol Sing at Old South & Northfield Concert at St. Luke's

Please attend our Ecumenical Carol Sing at Old South on Sunday, December 2 at 3pm.

This event, at which donations are taken, benefits the EcuHeat Fund.

There will be a combined choir under the direction of musicians from Old South; choir members are invited to wear their robes. The rest of us can come and sing along!

On Sunday, December 16 at 4pm Northfield a cappella vocal ensemble will perform a concert of seasonal music at St. Luke's. Please join us to enjoy the guilty pleasure of celebrating Christmas with festive caroling and pleasant company!



See inside for more fellowship opportunities this holiday season...



St. Luke's Mission In Action

KNOW, SHARE, SERVE...



ON THE FRONT LINE

At Diocesan Convention this year Bp. Lane addressed each of the congregations of the Diocese with a question and a challenge. The question: where is your front line? Where do you engage the community? The challenge then is to move the line, to more fully connect with the communities around us. We'll all be hearing more about this, as Bp. Steve has asked everyone to have conversations with stakeholders in the communities we live in, asking "what do you need from the Episcopal Church." (By the way, you can read his address, and also his sermon, on the Diocesan Web site, www.episcopalmaine.org)

Meanwhile, having had some time to think about this I'm struck by the ways in which the community is here: whether it is the Grieving Children's program, or Grace Place, or AA or Scouts, the community shows up regularly in our facility. Then there are the other ways in which we are present in the community: food pantry, nursing home, hospital, etc.

I want to focus a minute on Grace Place, because the last newsletter featured its start up. Since that time we have welcomed several kids from the community, as well as some of our own. We've fed them healthy snacks, told stories from the gospels, begun each session with a "welcome rap," to the rhythm of "roses are red, violets are blue" (they love it), and generally tried to fill each time slot with activities and crafts. It has been a lot of work, and many of you have helped out. I believe it is making a difference in the lives of these children and their families. The purpose of Grace Place is to "feed children with God's love through Bible stories and healthy snacks." I'm not sure how you measure this sort of thing, but I am sure that feeding is taking place, on more than one level; and that includes those of us who are helping out.

WEBSITE

Speaking of consulting the calendar: We are in the process of redesigning the web site, and the calendar is posted right on the web site. Also it has a new, more logical web address:

www.stlukeswilton.wordpress.com

Finally, while we're on the subject if you have a new e-mail please update us: stlukes@myfairpoint.net

The Hospitality Committee

We have a number of events scheduled & are in need of prepared dishes and volunteers.

Please contact Brenda Holman if you can assist this ministry!

BAKE SALE SUNDAYS:

DEC. 9 & JAN. 13

(ECW Pie Sale for Thanksgiving replaces Nov. bake sale)

ALTAR GUILD, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS & GREETERS

Please consider assisting with welcoming others to St. Luke's worship services once or twice a month. If you're shy, perhaps you could assist the Altar Guild with preparations to make St. Luke's welcoming & beautiful. To help the altar guild contact Ann Prentiss; to assist with pastoral care, worship services or greeting please contact Janet Morris and Fr. Walmer.

SUNDAY LECTIONARY

John Craig is dedicated to providing scheduled readers for worship services. Please choose an upcoming Sunday that works best for you and contact him to volunteer!

...in Christ

Parish Stewardship

As this edition of the newsletter goes out I want to talk about some of what we hope to do with our ongoing stewardship.

First, a gentle but very important reminder: if you can get caught up on a pledge we would very much appreciate it. I watch the treasurer decide which of the necessary bills he can pay. We made some significant cuts last year; we will likely make more this year. But we need your help. Thank you.

Secondly, I am going to do a series of short, weekly pieces on "Proportionate Giving as Spiritual Practice."

These will probably take place just before the offertory. The overall theme of this series is that sharing our resources is an integral part of our faith journey, and that it can be liberating not onerous. (No, I'm not pretending "whitewashing this fence" is really fun.)

Next, beginning in Advent we will be highlighting some ministries which take place. Stewardship doesn't mean "how we raise money in the fall," but "all the ways we respond to God's call," and offering our time and talent is a big piece of that.

The vestry and I will also be looking at a couple of other directions. But what I have described above will be taking place, and we will gather up our pledge cards on November 25, the feast of Christ the King, the last Sunday before the new church year begins in Advent.



PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY

In the near future I'll be sending out a letter as part of the process of updating our pastoral care ministry. This ministry has been going on informally a long time, and more formally for the past two or three years. As with all things, it needs some tweaking; "it ain't broke," so we aren't fixing it. We are trying to be more current in our assessment of both needs and people who might help address a particular kind of need. As the stewardship article pointed out, use of our gifts is an integral part of being a good steward. I hope to involve a good number of people without overburdening anybody. Stay tuned!

ALTAR GUILD & CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS

Altar Guild Members, our Christmas cleaning & polishing date is Saturday Dec. 15th at 9 am. We should be finished by noon or sooner, depending on how many attend. *(A snow date will be announced if it becomes necessary.)*

Winter & Warm Hearts



Holidays can be difficult at times, especially those times we miss loved ones due to distance or death. Talking with someone can give us a chance to share the happy memories and ease the loneliness or sadness. Thankfully we have many resources to turn to for help at St. Luke's and in our community at-large.

You can always contact Fr. Tim or Janet Morris with any prayer requests or to arrange a visitation.

The Grieving Children & Teens program meets at St. Luke's *(for more information contact Jim Douglass, AHCH Community Grief Specialist at 795-9462)*. Prayer requests are always welcome; so please contact the church office at 645-2639 or stlukes@myfairpoint.net and let us know how we can help!





Santa's Workshop

affordable gifts
for YOUTH shopping & giving

Saturday, DEC 8th @ 9-11:30 AM*

*Adults enjoy refreshments in Santa's Kitchen
while Youth gather, shop Santa's Workshop
& have their finds custom wrapped!*

MEET: ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

59 HIGH ST, WILTON

(at the corner of High & School streets)

WHEN: SATURDAY, DEC. 8TH — 9:00-11:30 AM

*workshop opens at 9am,
arrive early for best selection!

FIND: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE ON YOUR LIST!

QUESTIONS? CALL 645-2639



**We are also in need of items for men
& to add to gift bundles such as:**
mittens & gloves, scarves, hats, socks,
wallets, gift certificates, ice scrapers, tools,
& individually wrapped cocoas, coffees,
teas, chocolates, nuts & candies.

**Please bring in your donations
before set-up on Thu. Dec. 6th!**

SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Annually, St. Luke's **Santa's Workshop** provides community children with an affordable alternative to shopping for gifts during the holidays. Youth are invited to visit St. Luke's and shop for their loved ones the second Saturday in December and gift wrapping is provided!

**Saturday, December 8th
from 9am to 11:30am**

As always, we are in need of holiday gift bags
(large and extra large sizes)
for wrapping items since they are most popular.

Bags are the fastest & easiest way for young people to wrap gifts for everyone on their list! Bright colors and festive holiday designs are best. Spare bags, tissue, ribbons, tape, stickers, and tags are always welcomed.



***Santa's Workshop volunteers
are needed to assist with:***

- ⇒ **SETUP ON THURSDAY, DEC. 6TH (9AM)**
- ⇒ **WRAPPING GIFTS & WELCOMING GUESTS
ON SAT. DEC. 8TH (8:30AM-12 NOON)**

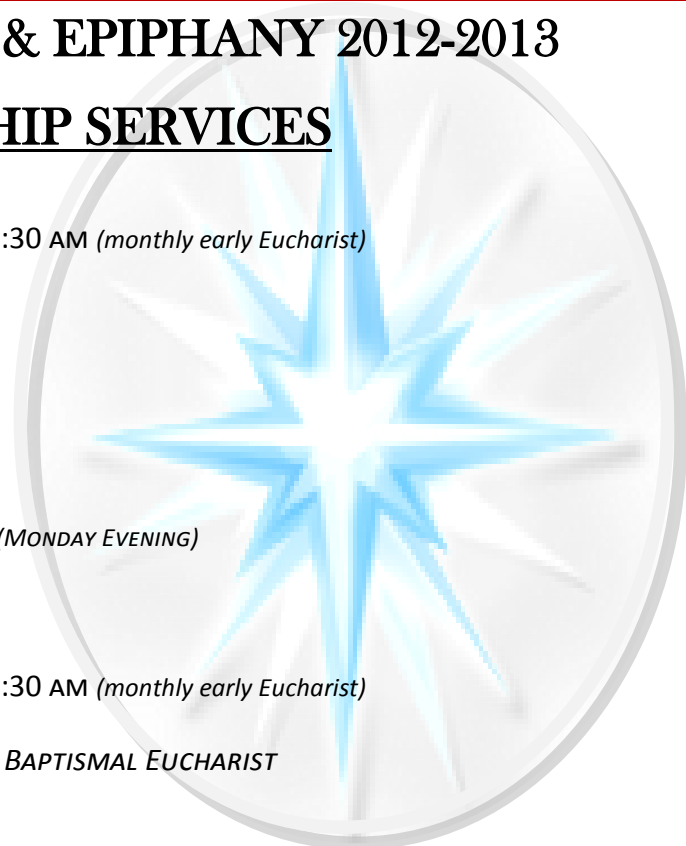
Please contact Justy Nazar (645-2783) or the church office to volunteer for Santa's Workshop!





ADVENT, CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY 2012-2013

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES



Dec. 2	—	First Sunday of Advent	8 AM & 9:30 AM (<i>monthly early Eucharist</i>)
Dec. 9	—	Second Sunday of Advent	9:30 AM
Dec. 16	—	Third Sunday of Advent	9:30 AM
Dec. 23	—	Fourth Sunday of Advent	9:30 AM
Dec. 24	—	Christmas Eve	5:30 PM (<i>MONDAY EVENING</i>)
Dec. 25	—	Christmas Day	(<i>no worship service</i>)
Jan. 6	—	Epiphany Sunday	8 AM & 9:30 AM (<i>monthly early Eucharist</i>)
Jan. 13	—	Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ ...	9:30 AM, <i>BAPTISMAL EUCHARIST</i>



ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

Daily devotional readings, for individuals, families and children will be available at St. Luke's toward the end of November for the Advent season.
(Please contact the church office by phone or email if you would like us to mail you these materials.)

CHRISTMAS EVE CHANCEL DRAMA

Again this year the Christmas Eve service will be early, at 5 PM, and will again include a chancel drama. This is a huge gift Michael Cooper gives us each year, and it is always deeply appreciated.



CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWERS

As in years past, we will decorate the altar for Christmas with poinsettias. Poinsettias usually cost around \$12.50 each. Please list those who you would like honored or remembered in our bulletin listings (*using separate sheet of paper if needed*) and include your name and phone number and email in case we have questions.

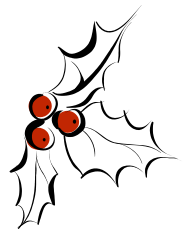
Donations and listings should be sent to the church office no later than Wednesday, December 19 for inclusion in the bulletin, thank you.

HONOR/MEMORY of:

HONOR/MEMORY of:

Requested by:

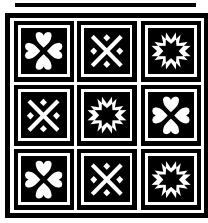
phone/email:



Calling all bakers: it's time for the ECW Thanksgiving Pie Sale!

It's time for St. Luke's annual ECW Thanksgiving Pie Sale—please help to make this fundraiser a success! We need volunteers to bake pies and sign-up sheets are available in the undercroft; let us know what type and how many pies you can help with. Pies can be dropped off in the kitchen & undercroft Tuesday evening (Nov. 20) or early Wednesday morning (Nov. 21) before the sale begins at 9 am.

Preorders are required to reserve these homemade pies! Please call the church office at 645-2639, Jeannine LeVigne at 645-2304, or email stlukes@myfairpoint.net with your order no later than Friday, November 16th. Traditional pies of Apple, Pumpkin and Pecan are available for \$9-\$10 each and specialty types are available upon request for a bit more. Orders may be picked up at St. Luke's on Wednesday, Nov. 21 from 9 am to 12 noon; orders of 5 or more pies we will deliver. Talk with your family, friends and co-workers and reserve your pies to help support the programs at St. Luke's!



ST. LUKE'S CRAFT FAIR

St. Luke's craft fair is just around the corner:
Saturday, December 1st at the Farmington Legion Hall.



All kinds of crafts, candy, and jams would be welcomed. All proceeds from the craft fair go to outreach projects. Please see Carolyn McLaughlin or another ECW member for more information.

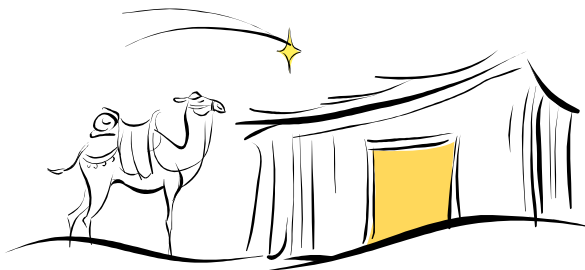
Care & Share Thanksgiving Donations needed by Sunday, Nov. 11th

Checks can be made payable to "Care & Share Food Pantry"
or St. Luke's with the memo "for turkey" and placed in the collection plate.

BIRTHDAYS FOR ADVENT & THE NEW YEAR...

December

Barbara Black (14th)
Debbi Hiltz (16th)
Gwen Doak (20th)

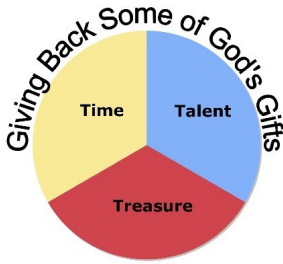


January

Grace Balboni (5th)
Evelyn Conkey (8th)
Jacob Fortier (8th)
Levi Hiltz (10th)
Justy Nazar (10th)
Kevin Howley (17th)
Michael Cooper (19th)
John Doak (21st)
Ruth Esty (26th)



Please join us for a farewell brunch in honor of
The Rev. Tom & Carlene Deschaïne
Sunday, November 11th
following our 9:30am Eucharist



Christ the King Sunday
Stewardship Pledge Ingathering
Sunday, Nov. 25



WILTON COMMUNITY DINNER



The fall WECO community dinner has been moved to 5pm, Nov. 10th
at the Wilton Congregational Church. We will be responsible for desserts.

Special thanks to the Boy Scouts for helping with our community dinners, your service is greatly appreciated!

GracePlace Sessions — Thanksgiving, Advent & New Year

November 6th, 13th & 27th *break Nov. 20, for Thanksgiving*

December 4th, 11th & 18th

Holiday vacation break: Dec. 25, for Christmas

Jan. 1, for New Year

January 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th

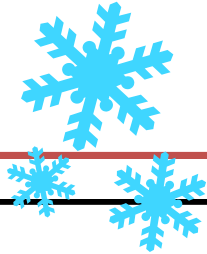


Thank you GracePlace friends for all your support. We had a great start this fall & we are looking forward to sharing the Thanksgiving, Advent & Epiphany seasons with the kids!

Please check your calendars & join us for a session or two over the next few months. GracePlace attendance has been 6 to 8 attendees each week, so extra adult volunteers to assist with projects & snack time are needed & welcomed!



**Baptisms at St. Luke's
First Sunday after Epiphany,
January 13**



**DEADLINE FOR LENT 2013 (FEB-APR) NEWSLETTER
NOTICES & ARTICLES BY WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16**

ANNUAL MEETING

The tentative date this year for the annual meeting is Sunday, January 20.
deadline for reports: Friday, January 11

***Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Worship Service
at Henderson Memorial in Farmington on Monday, January 21 at 12 noon***



ST. LUKE'S COAT CLOSET



**Adult & children's gently-used coats are now available in St. Luke's Coat Closet.
Please help yourself and tell others so that everyone may stay warm this winter.**

Update on our Church Library Challenge!

Our Church Library contains an eclectic variety of religiously-themed books. Last year Justy Nazar challenged the congregation to select a book from the Church Library & give a quick review! Quite a few books have been checked out since, but only one review so far. Don't be shy, send in your reviews for us to include in the bulletin.



During the upcoming year, adults & children alike are asked to choose any book from the library, read it, and provide a quick review for others who might consider reading it. What did you like or dislike? Share your thoughts with the congregation!

WECO "Coffee & Conversation"— 8 AM FIRST THURSDAY EVERY MONTH

UPCOMING MEETINGS: Nov 1, Dec 6, Jan 3 @ Wilton Methodist Church.



Boy Scout Troupe 518 meets weekly at St. Luke's, Sundays at 6:30pm.



NURSING HOME WORSHIP—FIRST THURSDAYS MONTHLY
ORCHARD PARK 10 AM & EDGEWOOD 11 AM

HANNAFORD GIFT CARDS—STOCKING-STUFFERS!



Hannaford Gift Cards are a simple holiday gift—for the recipient and St. Luke's!

Using the card for regular purchases and gifts benefits the church, as St. Luke's receives 5% of every \$1000 purchased. Hannaford Gift Cards are a convenient way to support valued programs at St. Luke's.

Please see Tony McLaughlin, Janet O'Neil, or Gwen Doak for more information.



FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED...

For the month of November we will be collecting Saltines,
for December we will collect Canned Baked Beans,
and for January we will collect Canned Tomatoes.

*These collections will be for the food pantries in Farmington and Wilton.
Please bring these items to church with you for the food pantries, thank you!*



COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

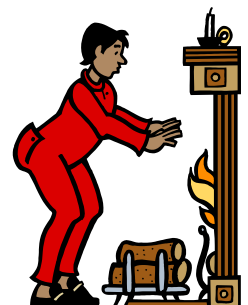
Coffee Hour is a ministry of hospitality and fellowship here at St. Luke's.
Please sign up in the kitchen to support this ministry, thank you!



Remember: Want to assist with the need for fuel assistance during the coming months? Please attend the Ecumenical Carol Sing:

Old South on Sunday, December 2 at 3pm

Donations benefit the EcuHeat Fund.



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

**59 High Street in Wilton, Maine
P. O. Box 249, Farmington, ME 04938**

207-645-2639

E-mail: stlukes@myfairpoint.net

Web Address: www.stlukeswilton.wordpress.com

St. Luke's Who to Contact...

Clergy: Fr. Tim Walmer..... 645-2639 or 778-5752

Deacon: Tom Deschaine..... 622-9679

Vestry:

Sr. Warden: Janet Morris 778-6019

Jr. Warden: Rick McKinney 897-1029

Clerk: Irene Berry

Treasurer: Dick Condon

Other Vestry Members:

Barbara Black, Robert Condon, Chris Cook, Brenda Holman, Kevin Howley,
Jeannine LeVigne, Rick McKinney, & Janet O'Neil

Secretary: Gwendolyn Doak 645-2639

Altar Guild Directress: Ann Prentiss 778-2300

Chalice Bearers: Tom Deschaine..... 622-9679

Church School: Justy Nazar..... 645-2783

Acolyte Mentor: Brenda Holman..... 778-3397

Newsletter: Gwendolyn Doak..... 645-2639

Episcopal Church

Women (ECW): Carolyn McLaughlin 645-2312

Lectors/Lay Readers: John Craig 778-0169