

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Newsletter—Lent & Easter (Feb-Apr) 2013

Dear People of St. Luke's,

Since Lent began early this year so does Holy Week, falling the last week in March. The cycle of nature and the biblical story have some themes in common. In nature we move toward spring, but not steadily or in a straight line. We had a recent warm spell, but as I write this the next night promises to be in the single digits. It doesn't look as though we'll see many tulips or even crocuses poking their heads up by Easter Sunday, though I could be wrong about that. Still, there are three hours more daylight than in December, so we know spring *is* coming, even if it entails passing through mud season on the way.

Holy Week begins with "All Glory Laud and Honor," and moves quickly to the passion gospel. Along the way we remember Maundy Thursday, worship ecumenically on Good Friday, light the paschal candle in the dark to symbolize Jesus' resurrection, greet the dawn outdoors, and sing "Jesus Christ is Risen today." Like spring, Easter will come, even though we pass through Gethsemane and Golgotha along the way.

Just as we participate in nature's rhythm so we also are caught up in the sacred story, and move toward hope, rebirth, and renewal. Jesus is risen and pulls all creation with him. Maybe it's just me, but renewal and rebirth seem especially important this year. Even my wood pile is smaller than I anticipated (I've heard the same thing elsewhere). So join hands, link arms, come worship together and together we'll discover again the joy of Easter after Lent, just like the return of spring after a long winter.

To quote St. Paul, *May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, through the power of the Holy Spirit.*" (Romans 15: 13)

Fr. Tim



Fellowship during Lent & Easter...

Please join us for St. Luke's upcoming potlucks, evening prayer services, book study, children's egg hunt and our other events throughout Lent and Easter!

See inside for schedule & details...

St. Luke's Mission In Action

KNOW, SHARE, SERVE...



LENTEN SERIES

We have a fruitful Lenten series this year, reading and discussing *Love Set Free*, a series of meditations on the Passion in John's gospel. Attendance has been good, discussion lively, and I think we've found our faith stimulated.



NEWS FROM THE DEACON FRONT...

As most of you are aware by now, Corey will be assigned to St. Luke's after ordination. As part of the preparation process she has written an article explaining more about her new role, which is included in this newsletter. The journey toward ordination has been challenging, fruitful, and full of grace. In the meantime people often tell me, "tell Corey we miss her." I do tell her, and she appreciates it, and looks forward to return.



WEBSITE

Speaking of consulting the calendar: We are in the process or 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:

FEB. 10, MAR. 10, APR. 14

EASTER BREAD SALE:

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

9AM-12NOON

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

LENT & EASTER 2013

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES

<i>DATE</i>	<i>SERVICE/EVENT</i>	<i>TIME</i>
Feb. 13	— Ash Wednesday.....	7:00 PM
Feb. 17	— First Sunday of Lent.....	9:30 AM
<i>Lenten Series begins:</i>		
<u>Potluck & Book Study</u> — Wednesdays at 5:00 PM (2/20—3/20)		
Feb. 24	— Second Sunday of Lent...	9:30 AM
Mar. 3	— Third Sunday of Lent	8:00 AM (MONTHLY EARLY EUCHARIST) & 9:30 AM
Mar. 10	— Fourth Sunday of Lent....	9:30 AM [DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME, AHEAD 1HR]
Mar. 17	— Fifth Sunday of Lent	9:30 AM
Mar. 24	— Palm Sunday.....	9:30 AM PROCESSIONAL & EUCHARIST
Mar. 28	— Maundy Thursday	7:00 PM
Mar. 29	— Good Friday.....	12:00 NOON Farmington Ecumenical Service at Henderson Memorial & 7:00 PM Ecumenical Good Friday at Dryden Baptist
Mar. 30	— Easter Vigil.....	8:00 PM
Mar. 31	— Easter Day Sunrise Service at Voter Hill	5:30 AM Easter Eucharist 9:30 AM (followed by egg hunt for the children)

Lent and Easter Lectionaries

HOLY DAY:

PSALM

1ST LESSON

2ND LESSON

GOSPEL

Ash Wednesday

103

JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17

2 CORINTHIANS 5:20b—6:10

MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

First Sunday of Lent

91:1-2, 9-16

DEUTERONOMY 26:1-11

ROMANS 10:8b-13

LUKE 4:1-13

Second Sunday of Lent

27

GENESIS 15:1-12, 17-18

PHILIPPIANS 3:17—4:1

LUKE 13:31-35

Third Sunday of Lent

63:1-8

EXODUS 3:1-15

1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-13

LUKE 13:1-9

Fourth Sunday of Lent

32

JOSHUA 5:9-12

2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21

LUKE 15:1-3, 11b-32

Fifth Sunday of Lent

126

ISAIAH 43:16-21

PHILIPPIANS 3:4b-14

JOHN 12:1-8

Palm Sunday

31:9-16

ISAIAH 50:4-9a

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

LUKE 19:28-40

Maundy Thursday

116:1, 10-17

EXODUS 12:1-14

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26

JOHN 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday

22

ISAIAH 52:13—53:12

HEBREWS 10:16-25

JOHN 18:1—19:42

The Great Vigil

30

Ezekiel 37:1-14

CANTICLE 8

EXODUS 14:10-21—15:20-21

ROMANS 6:3-11

MATTHEW 28:1-10

Easter Day

118:1-2, 14-24

ACTS 10:34-43

1 CORINTHIANS 15:19-26

JOHN 20:1-18



Lenten Series

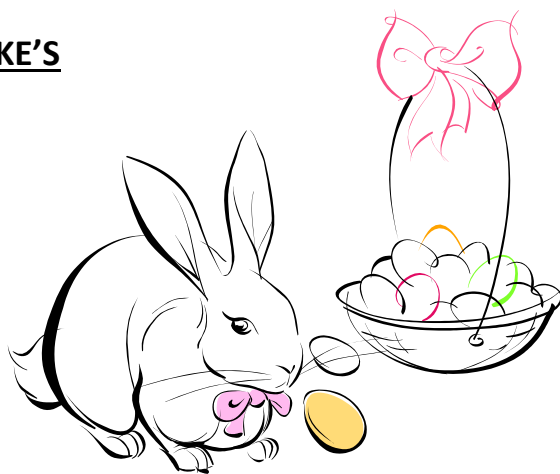
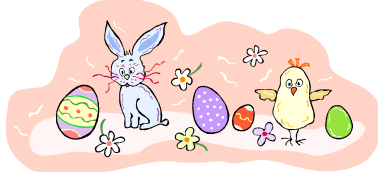
Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, on February 13. The Ash Wednesday liturgy will take place that day at 7pm, with the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

The following week begins our regular Lenten series, which will again be in two parts. Wednesday evenings beginning February 20 and running through March 20 we'll have a potluck at 6pm, followed by a brief book study on "Love Set Free" by Martin L. Smith at 7pm. We should be finished by around 7:30. For those of you who are interested in the book study let me know and we'll get a count to order some; they are not expensive. I look forward to this opportunity for fellowship, study, and worship.

EASTER DAY CHILDREN'S EGG HUNT AT ST. LUKE'S

JOIN US EASTER DAY!!!

Children enjoy an egg hunt immediately following worship on Easter Sunday. Bring the family and enjoy Easter day at St. Luke's.



EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS



As in years past, we will decorate the altar for Easter. If you would like to remember a loved one, please include their name(s) on this form and return to the church office. Please also include your name and phone number or email in case we have questions.

Donations and listings should be sent to the church office no later than Wednesday, April 4th for inclusion in the bulletin, thank you.

HONOR/MEMORY of:

HONOR/MEMORY of:

Requested by:

phone/email:

SO... WHAT DO DEACONS DO ANYWAY???

by Corey Walmer

As part of my preparation for ordination, Tim has asked me to write a bit about the role of the deacon in today's church. I recently completed a Canonical assessment and as part of that, was asked to respond to a "Coffee Hour" question that could come up during informal conversation. Just for fun, I will share some of my response to the following question:

"Oh, I'm so glad you're finally ordained! Our priest could really use the help!"



"Yes, Mrs. Jones, I too am glad to be ordained and back at St. Swithen's. It sounds like you have some ideas about how I could be plugged in at the church.

Of course, I will be serving a liturgical role on Sundays by preparing the table for Eucharist, proclaiming the Gospel, helping with writing the Prayers of the People and giving the dismissal. I'll probably preach once in awhile too. That will give Fr. John a break! I'm not Father John, though, and we each have separate and distinct ministries much as a body has many parts."

"The role you see me in during Sunday worship is a kind of guide for what we all are supposed to be doing outside the service. So, as you see me preparing the table, I am serving as a reminder that Jesus came not to be served but to serve. When I read the Gospel, I am proclaiming the Good News of Christ. When I edit the Prayers of the People each week, I am encouraging all of us to respond to the needs of the world through prayer and action. Finally, in the Dismissal, I am kicking everyone out to go do God's work in the world. So, while it looks like I'm doing a few liturgical tasks, I am also modeling how all of us are to live out our Baptismal covenant to "proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ, seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself."

"Many folks don't realize that most of a deacon's ministry is spent focusing on need outside our parish walls. We deacons are charged, in our ordination vows, to care for the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely and encourage the Church to do the same. So, while I'm serving liturgically, I am also keeping an ear to the ground to identify areas where our church community could be a helping presence in the world beyond our walls. Then, my job is to make the needs known to our church and encourage folks to know and exercise their own ministries in response. It does not mean I do it all! It may mean organizing, training and encouraging parishioners so they can get out there in response to need."

"I also see my vocation as a therapist as an extension of diaconal ministry. I work with lots of folks who are "the poor, the weak, the sick and the lonely" and as I engage with them, I am entering into their lives and walking with them for part of their journey. Once in awhile, we even talk about faith. It's not so much what I say or do as a therapist, but more about a ministry of presence, with the Christ in me looking at the Christ in them. "

(continued on page 7)

“ Father John(Waterville--Tim St. Luke's) won't be getting an assistant and I think he already knows that. I might not even be around all that much outside the Sunday service because my current deaconal ministry takes place at my job. What he will be getting is a collaborative co-worker who encourages lay ministry and care of the poor, the weak, the sick and the lonely in the name of Christ. He focuses on the care and feeding of those inside the Church, the deacon is focused on service to God outside the parish and helping the Church pay attention to and respond to those God calls us to serve. It is a good balance. “

In an address to the New England Deacon's Conference back in 2010, our Bishop lamented lagging attendance and engagement with the Church: “Fewer and fewer people are coming to our churches to see what we've got. More and more, we've got to take what we've got to the people. And deacons will lead the parade. In this new time, service is most likely the most effective form of sharing the good news – even if it doesn't lead to new members or new money.... We need a church that connects both to its own people and the larger world around them.”

So, as Fr. Tim gives the dismissal, the words are not simply a liturgical “goodbye” but a directive to be taken seriously: “LET US GO FORTH IN THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD.”

We respond: “THANKS BE TO GOD;” in other words, Out the door! Let's get to work! AMEN!



GracePlace update...



Throughout the fall, GracePlace welcomed an average of six students attending each of our once-weekly session on Tuesdays. Some group projects over the semester included: a fieldtrip to, and Thanksgiving penny collection for, the Wilton Food Pantry; grateful heart marigold seeding cards; Christmas cards; advent banner; and many other activities.

In addition to snacks and fun shared during the sessions, the children were eager to share their experiences and finished arts & crafts with their families. To reinforce the positive messages and conversation shared during Bible story time and throughout the sessions, GracePlace volunteers and church members provided take-home snacks and reading materials. For example, Thanksgiving and Christmas take-home items included Health & Human Services booklets designed to educate and enable families to discuss topics such as bullying, grief counseling, and drug use.

GracePlace still needs your help throughout the spring semester to continue providing lesson plans, snacks, and volunteers for each weekly session. Please consider making a donation to the Sunday School Lenten fundraising project to benefit GracePlace; the goal is to raise \$175 toward food and craft items for the after-school program.





ST. LUKE'S Sunday School — Mission in Action...

Every Lent, the Sunday School selects a mission project. For a few weeks, the children focus their efforts on educating the congregation to a need they've identified in the world — while showing how St. Luke's can help raise funds, donate critical supplies, or volunteer, in active response to that need.

This year, the Sunday School has pledged themselves to help raise funds for two projects: St. Luke's after-school program GracePlace and for a Episcopal Development & Relief program.

The goal is to raise \$350, which includes \$175 for GracePlace snacks and supplies and \$175 toward a special cooking stove through the Episcopal Development & Relief Fund. The Sunday School will track the progress, representing those donations on a visual display in the undercroft throughout Lent. The congregation has an opportunity to donate throughout Lent; please show your support with a donation to one of these projects!



BIRTHDAYS during Lent & Easter seasons: February—April

February

Brenda Holman (28th)
Craig Ouellette (19th)

March

Chris Cook (7th)
Janet O'Neil (8th)
Carole Trickett (10th)
Colleen Condon (13th)
Corey Walmer (20th)
Kathryn Sytsma (29th)

April

Charlie Hicks (10th)
Janet Morris (10th)
Joy Warren (11th)
Cooper Hiltz (14th)
John Sytsma (24th)
Bob Morris (25th)



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME:
SUNDAY, MARCH 10th, set your clocks ahead one hour!**

REMINDER: CHURCH LIBRARY CHALLENGE!

Our Church Library contains an eclectic variety of religiously-themed books. Don't forget that Justy Nazar has challenged the congregation to select a book from the Church Library & give a quick review!

SUNDAY LECTIONARY

Lectors serve a vital role in St. Luke's ministry, and John Craig is dedicated to providing scheduled readers for Sundays and special services. Please consider being a reader if you haven't already — then contact John to select a day that works best for you!

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED...

For the month of February we will be collecting EVAPORATED MILK,
for March we will collect TOILET PAPER, and for April we will collect CANNED BAKED BEANS.

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!

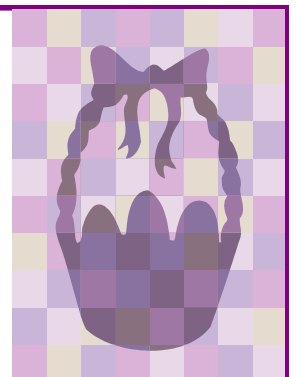
HANNAFORD GIFT CARDS—Easter Basket STUFFERS!

Do you know someone who could use an Easter ham or dinner?

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

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 information.



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!**



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

Vestry:

Sr. Warden: Janet Morris 778-6019

Jr. Warden: Rick McKinney 897-1029

Clerk: Irene Berry

Treasurer: Dick Condon

Other Vestry Members:

Robert Condon, Tom Doak, Jeannine LeVigne, Rick McKinney,
Carolyn McLaughlin, Janet O'Neil & John Sytsma

Secretary: Gwendolyn Doak 645-2639

Altar Guild Directress: Ann Prentiss 778-2300

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