



St. Luke's Episcopal Church Newsletter

Late Pentecost-Christmas 2013

Letter from our Rector

Dear People of St. Luke's,

If St. Luke's were not here, would anyone notice? Please don't panic; this is not a prelude to bad news, but instead a way to help us reflect on our stewardship of God's gifts, through the mission of the Church.

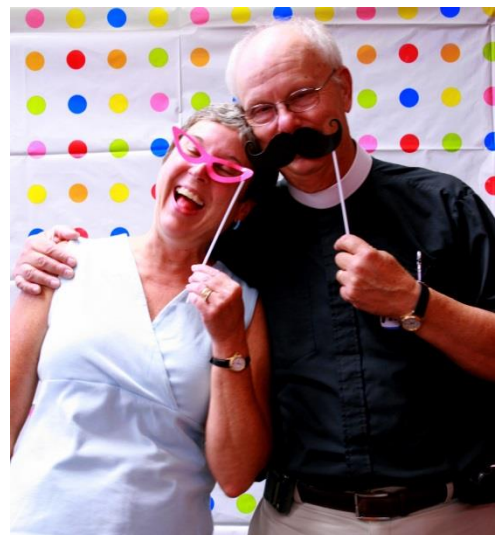
On November 17 after Church we will have a potluck lunch, at which I will be asking a number of people to talk about their ministries, many of which take place through St. Luke's, or as a living out of faith and baptism. In every case I will have asked folks to reflect on three questions:

1. *What need are they addressing?* Ministry is about meeting a basic need of some kind using one's God given gifts and efforts.
2. *What challenges does this ministry present?* Ministry in the real world is complex, and involves effort, skill, prayer, and planning—not to mention a sense of humor. Where does *this* particular ministry call us to stretch?
3. *What makes it all worthwhile?* Part of the answer here is if it is ministry it is in some sense an offering. But it is also true that people get a particular satisfaction from doing certain things. (Frederick Buechner once defined call as "that place where the world's deep need and your deep gladness meet.")

Where is this going? The other day I was at a regular monthly meeting, when one of the pastors spoke of a conference he attended at which the presenters asked the following rhetorical question: *Why should I give to your Church?* Giving here should be understood not only in terms of money, but time and effort as well. I believe St. Luke's is worth supporting, because its people are engaged in ministry of various kinds, and I hope this will become clearer after our luncheon. It's one thing to say "we're doing x,y, and z," filing them by title. It's quite another to listen to people who are actually representing Christ and the Church in a variety of ways. **Please put Sunday, November 17 on your calendar**, and come learn more about what some of your fellow parishioners are doing to further the kingdom.

Faithfully,

Fr. Tim





Grace Place Update from Rev. Corey Walmer

Grace Place is off to a good start! We have a great group of kids, with ages ranging from 5 to 11 years and a steady staff of adults; we even have a staff photographer, Brenda Holman! We have been blessed this year to be partnering with Laurie Guay and crew, from Fayette Baptist Church. Laurie is a recent graduate of Liberty University with a Master's in counseling, is a veteran home schooling and Sunday School teacher, and brings enthusiasm, organization and creativity to the program.



To date, we have explored the creation story from a few different angles, and were recently visited by a guest artist, Elaine Graff, who led the children in working with clay dug from Androscoggin Lake. Last week, the children decorated shields and discussed God as strength and shield. Future lessons include a segment on Joseph and forgiveness, an All Saint's Day celebration (with visiting guest "saints") and teaching on praise and thanksgiving. A community dinner for the children and

their families will be held on Friday, November 22 at 5:30. The children will be preparing meatballs and breadsticks; Grace Place staff and others will be preparing a simple spaghetti dinner to accompany the kids' cooking efforts. As we move toward advent and Christmas, the children will be learning about preparation and gifting.

HOW CAN YOU HELP WITH THE GRACE PLACE MINISTRY?

- Volunteer to provide healthy snacks (usually for around 14-16 folks) on Friday afternoons;
- Dress up as a saint (we already have Mother Theresa, St. Luke and possibly John the Baptist!) and arrive in character to tell your story around the "campfire" on Friday, November 1;
- Help with our community meal with the families on Friday, November 22.

We will continue to meet on Friday afternoons from 3:30-5:00 pm when school is in session. Stay tuned for next semester's plans! Thanks to St. Luke's for making this community ministry possible. Please contact Corey if you would like to join in the fun!

Sunday School Continues at 8:45am



This year we are using the Intermediate Shell Episcopal Curriculum. As the class is made up of older students we are able to use the BCP and the Bible references as primary sources. We are in the Covenant section learning about the Hebrews' journey over hundreds of years. The children are also working on "stained glass" windows for the undercroft with the help of John Sytsma.

~Justy Nazar

St. Barnabas, Rumford Update



The other day I was speaking with someone who said, “I hear you’re going to Rumford.” I thought: “Hm...this has lost a little in translation.” So here is where we are at this point. I’m not going anywhere in the sense of leaving St. Luke’s; we are exploring partnering with St. Barnabas. Folks from St. Luke’s gathered to provide feedback a couple of weeks ago after church. The feedback: “We’re concerned about St. Luke’s if you’re stretched too thin—and about you.” “We could do Morning Prayer once a

month; it’s a perfectly valid service.” “We need to continue to pray about this because God might be calling us to do it.” “We think St. Barnabas’ needs to be flexible by changing their service time twice/month to 11:30 so you don’t have to miss any services here.” The next steps: St. Barnabas’ will use supply clergy for a time after Fr. Tim Parsons retires Advent 1; and Vicki Wiederkehr, the bishop’s right hand gal for helping congregations in transition will probably be coming to our November vestry meeting.

There you have it.

Holy Conversations

A group of 6-8 people continue to meet each Sunday in Fr. Tim’s office for in depth conversation about the book, *People of the Way*. We have taken some extra time because the book is full and the conversations in depth. The book is very much about what it means to engage the community at large, but also to rediscover our distinctive identity as Episcopalians based on the way we practice the Christian faith, rather than on perceived influence or status.



Important Calendar Notes (Please see St. Luke’s Calendar for More)

Date	Event
Nov. 3	All Saints’ Sunday, DST 2:00 am
Nov. 17	11 am Stewardship gathering over lunch
Nov. 27	Annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale
Dec. 1	Advent Begins
Dec. 6	7 pm Northfield a cappella concert at St. Luke’s
Dec. 7	ECW Craft Fair in Farmington
Dec. 8	Acolyte practice with Eucharistic Ministers
Dec. 12	9 am Santa’s Workshop Prep
Dec. 14	9 am Santa’s Workshop
Dec. 15	Community Carol Sing @ Old South—annual ECUHEAT fundraiser
Dec. 22	Acolyte practice after church
Dec. 24	5:30 Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist w/ Chancel drama

Chaplaincy Program



I have been a chaplain, working alongside Carole and Fr. Tim, at Franklin Memorial Hospital for over a year now. I visit many areas of the hospital on my rounds and they are all important to me, but the oncology and 3rd floor (Med. Surg.) units are something special. The staff is warm and welcoming to everyone including me and the compassion and understanding they have for their patients is clearly evident. In those first weeks when I was nervous about possibly saying the wrong thing at the wrong time, I learned so much by observing their way of communicating and just being with the people they were treating. It was not long before I looked forward to my visits not just for what I was able to bring to the patients but for all that they were bringing to me. It is a gift to be able to show up for people when they are particularly vulnerable, unknown paths we all know life takes, not just for some of us but ALL of us. It doesn't take much to realize some day I will be on the other end of this equation. When that day comes, may I be as generous and open and giving as the majority of people I see.

I have learned so much, for which I am deeply grateful. I encourage anyone who has the time and the desire to have your hearts and minds open even more than they already are, to consider the possibility of becoming a chaplain.

~Susan Schell

Santa's Workshop



Our annual outreach through Santa's Workshop will be on **Saturday, December 14th from 9:00 to 11:30 am**. Everyone in the church family is invited to participate in this event to help children purchase gifts for their parents. We are always in need of dad gifts like: gloves, socks, ice scrapers, tools, winter hats, flash lights, key chains, candy and the like. We are also in need of Christmas gift bags as it is easier on the wrapping crew.

Volunteers Needed: On **Thursday, December 12th at 9:00 am** to set up the shopping area and ready the supplies. On **Saturday, the 14th**, to wrap, assist kids in their purchases and check customers out. Monetary gifts and any volunteer time are appreciated. Please contact Justy (645-2783) who will put you to work!

HELP WANTED: Parish Musician

Kathryn Sytsma has served ably and faithfully for St. Luke's. She not only plays the organ, but picks hymns and directs the choir. It's a lot to do and so at her request, we have begun the process of searching for a new parish musician, ideally an organist. We'll be putting ads in a variety of places, because organists who can play the music and hymns are becoming rarer. I mention this in case you might know of someone and also so that we might all be intentional about enjoying Kathryn's playing while we have her (which we will for a few more months).

~Fr. Tim

Our Haitian Partner: Update from Emily Scribner

Good things have been happening in Haiti. Last week, I enjoyed a phone conversation with Sarah Merrill of St. Alban's Church in Cape Elizabeth, updating me on changes at our shared partner St. Luc's in Trou du Nord. Sarah visited St. Luc's last spring and has remained in touch with Pere Louis since then. She is very encouraged by signs of improvement at St. Luc's School and believes the church is more lively, as well.

Pere Louis Rosanas is still the priest in charge of St. Luc's Church and School. However, he is no longer responsible for a second parish and school. Sarah feels that Pere Louis's increased presence in Trou du Nord is a main reason the school seems more organized and the church more alive. The new school principal is well qualified and has implemented effective changes. Thanks to a recent St. Alban's project, the latrines have been improved.

In response to President Martelly's new emphasis on public education and the resulting decreased enrollment in church-run schools, St. Luc's has eliminated its high school and reduced the number of classes in the elementary grades. At the same time, at Suffragan Bishop Beauvoir's urging, they are creating a trade school there. Eager to make the trade school successful, Pere Louis sees getting electricity connected to the school a priority.

In November I will go to Haiti. First I will spend a week at the independent Christian school in Ouanaminthe where I went two years ago. The following weekend I plan to meet up with Pere Louis; I hope to participate in the Sunday service at St. Luc's and see the school. I will put a box in the undercroft where anyone who wishes can leave gifts of school supplies for me to take to our partner. Colored and regular pencils (no crayons please -- they melt in the heat), rulers, scissors, paper, etc. would be appreciated. I'll tell you all about it when I get back!



HANNAFORD GIFT CARDS FOR THE HOLIDAYS!



Do you know someone who could use convenient gift certificates for the holidays?

Would you like to gift a student with groceries or other staples/supplies this semester?



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

Please remember our Food Pantry needs this season!

For the month of **November we will collect 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. Thank you!

Worship at Edgewood Manor and Orchard Park



It is St Luke's turn to lead a half hour ecumenical worship service at Orchard Park and also at Edgewood Manor on the first Thursday of each month. Usually there are about a dozen of us in all, to pray, sing hymns, ponder Scripture from the next Sunday's liturgy and visit with each other. We've been doing this for a long time! Betty Knox used to select appropriate hymns and play the piano, and she knew quite a few residents.

Fortunately, after Betty returned Home to God (after a very long and devoted life), Kathryn Sytsma came to the fore. There is no doubt that Kathryn can play anything in any hymn book, thus adding a bit of liveliness to our service. At different times, various people have participated faithfully as their lives have permitted. Recently Gwen Doak and companion dog Ben, have been attending every worship, to the pleasure of many residents. We always appreciate a strong--and accurate--voice, which we now have because Rick McKinney has been added to our leaders' group. Finally, Irene Berry prepares and prints the "bulletin". Any of us can bring flowers, and the wooden cross made by Bob Morris (from local wood) is always set up with the flowers as we try to morph a common room into a chapel. Come and worship with us, the first Thursday of each month, 10:00 a.m. at Orchard Park, and 11:00 a.m. at Edgewood Manor.

~Irene Berry



The ECW Annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale at St. Luke's

9 – 12 am, Wednesday, November 27th –Pre-Order Only

Pies available for pre-order: Apple, Pumpkin, Mincemeat

Special orders possible on request

FMI: See Carolyn McLaughlin



Thanksgiving Donations Needed

Carolyn McLaughlin will be collecting donations of turkeys, money for turkeys, and 5 lb bags of potatoes for the food pantry again this year. If donating money, you may put it in an envelope (in the pews and marked with "Turkey") and either give to Carolyn McLaughlin or leave it in the collection plate. Thank you!

*United Thank Offering (UTO) is a spiritual practice found throughout the Episcopal Church. When we find ourselves thankful for something, we put some change--it can be any amount--in "the blue box." Once or twice a year this small change is gathered up to become grants which make a real difference. **We are currently in need of a UTO Coordinator**, whose primary job is to put together the ingathering and remind us to use the blue box. If you might be interested, please see Fr. Tim.*



Church Library

BOO HOO! Do you hear those cries in the "wilderness?" They are the wails of the unread church library books. There are many different books to choose from. Listen carefully as you come down for coffee time and stop by to take out a book to browse through or read. No due dates. No fines. Help make us a happy well-read library.

~Justy Nazar

<http://www.stlukeswilton.org>

St. Luke's has a new website URL, which is much easier to remember and type! Heidi Schott from the Diocese met with Fr. Tim and Lisa to give us some much-needed pointers. The former website, stlukeswesternmaine.episcopalmaine.org, will be disabled as the URL was too cumbersome and it has not been updated since the switch to a Wordpress site was made a while back. Making changes to the look and feel and navigation is Lisa's next project!

http://www.stlukeswilton.org is up and running, but we will make an announcement when the major changes are completed. Thank you for your patience as we work through the learning curve!

~Lisa Lindsay



Acolyte Training Schedule

Nov. 10thMeet with Eucharistic Ministers
Dec. 8thPractice for Christmas
Dec. 22nd ...(after church) Practice for Christmas
Jan. 12thMeet with Fr. Tim
Feb. 9thTraining. Acolyte Recognition
and special coffee hour!
March 9th ..Training
April 13thPractice for Easter
May 11thPractice for Pentecost

Advent Collect

Advent is near and shortly after you receive this, Daylight Savings Time will have arrived, and the darkness will begin to arrive early. So, it seems very appropriate to include the collect for the first Sunday of Advent.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



ECW ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR on Saturday, December 7th

At the VFW Hall in Farmington during the Chester Greenwood Parade
Crafts, Candy, Fudge, and more!



Celebrate at St. Luke's on Tuesday, December 24th at 5:30 pm
Full Eucharist Service
Chancel Drama by Michael Cooper

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

*****NEW Web Address:** www.stlukeswilton.org

St. Luke's Who to Contact

Rector:	Fr. Tim Walmer	645-2639 or 778-5252
Deacon:	Rev. Corey Walmer	778-5252
Sr. Warden:	Janet Morris	778-6019
Jr. Warden:	Rick McKinney	897-1029
Clerk:	Irene Berry	
Treasurer:	Dick Condon	

Other Vestry Members:

John Sytsma, Robert Condon, Carolyn McLaughlin, Jeannine LeVigne,
Janet O'Neil, Carole Trickett

Secretary:	Lisa Lindsay	645-2639
Altar Guild Directress:	Ann Prentiss	778-2300
Eucharistic Minister:	Rev. Corey Walmer	778-5752
Church School:	Justy Nazar	645-2783
Acolyte Mentor:	Brenda Holman	778-3397
Newsletter:	Lisa Lindsay	645-2639
Episcopal Church Women:	Carolyn McLaughlin	645-2312
Lectors/Lay Readers:	John Craig	778-0169