



St. Luke's Episcopal Church Newsletter

Lent & Easter 2014

Letter from our Rector



Dear People of St. Luke's,

This past Saturday the vestry gathered at our house for a day long retreat, a time of discussion and planning. I want to share some of the highlights. Before the retreat we reviewed "where we've been" in our various conversations the past couple of years. Then we spent time looking at three questions; we left the fourth for the next vestry meeting, to allow adequate time for it.

Why not ask, "What can we do to grow and attract new members?" Obviously we want new members. But desiring new members is rather like wanting good health. If we want to be in good health we need to attend to some specific things: diet, exercise, stress level, etc. In the same way, these questions are about basic aspects of life as a Christian community which create conditions for congregational health and vitality.

1. How can we better care for one another?
2. How can we draw closer to God in worship?
3. How can we nurture spiritual growth *in people of all ages?* (italics mine)
4. How can we collaborate with the wider community?

Reflection on 1): Community building activities—such as the monthly tea, or the annual lobster roll efforts, are good for us. The "Peace" during the service is valued highly. In "family sized" churches like St. Luke's one becomes part of the community not by joining but by being "adopted." We need to make sure people are; and also remember that this will be different according to individual differences.

Goals from 1)

- In appropriate ways allow more personal expression in the prayers of the people.
- When Diocesan training is available, train additional "Eucharistic Visitors," i.e. people who can take the sacrament to shut-ins. The need for this is likely to increase.

Reflections on 2): We need more use of silence in the liturgy. The current arrangement of the pews does not facilitate closeness; on the other hand, it is well to remember that this is "sacred space," not just overall, but for specific people who sit in specific locations. Use of all the senses in worship helps. As we face a transition in musical leadership we'll need variety—which is a good thing.

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Goals from 2)

- Practice the effective use of silence in the liturgy
- Explore pew arrangement—thoughtfully; including where the choir is seated.
- Have a “Flower Coordinator” to coordinate donation of garden flowers, and their arrangement. (Janet O’Neil has volunteered)

Reflections on 3) There is ongoing need for education concerning matters of faith. At the same time, experience is critical; i.e., heart as well as head. Sometimes adversity shapes us—not that we supply it! (Life takes care of that), but that we help people make sense of it. How we carry out ministry matters—the phrase “the least of these my brethren was used.

Goals from 3)

- Provide opportunities for learning. This may include small groups, or even material sent out online.
- Talk with parents about their children’s needs.
- Provide opportunities where faith can be shared appropriately (what is called in other traditions “testimony.” Personal stories are powerful). Small groups are an effective venue.
- Continue to highlight ministries. (Note: from the Catechism: “*Who are the ministers of the Church? Lay people, bishops, priests, and deacons.*” BCP, p. 855).

4) How can we collaborate with the wider community? *To be addressed at the April vestry meeting.*

This is lengthy, but it represents the fruit of much discussion.

Fr Tim

St. Barnabas’

On Sunday, March 16, I went down to Rumford to take a service at St. Barnabas’ and meet with the vestry there. The normal pattern will be to do this once a month, with that Sunday service here being the Liturgy of the Word, usually led by our Deacon. The next time I’ll be going to St. Barnabas’ will be Good Friday evening, when we have an ecumenical service here in Wilton at the Methodist Church. The service in Rumford is also an ecumenical service. I will be here for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter.

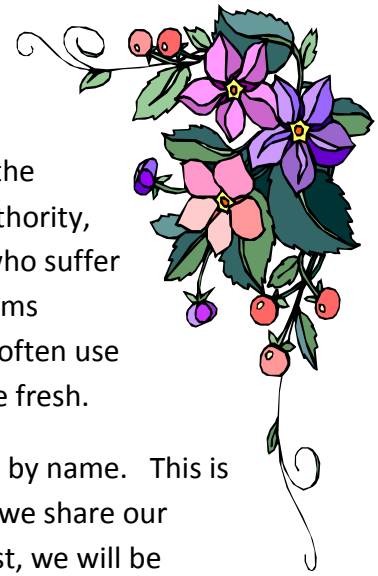
Mentioning the Holy Week services leads me to some Lenten/Easter reflection. I recognize that my being gone one Sunday is a sacrifice on your part. On the other hand our story as Christians is about following our Lord who offered himself in love, so what you are doing with such good grace is, in your own way, participating in Jesus’ self-giving. The rest of the story is that when such offering is done in the right spirit, new life follows, just as Easter follows Good Friday. I believe new life will happen—in fact probably already is happening. May we have the grace to recognize it.

A holy Lent and a blessed Easter be with us all.

The Deacon's Corner

A few notes about the Prayers of the People ; the general topics for intercessory prayer (as noted in the Book of Common Prayer) include the Universal Church, its members and its mission; the Nation and all in authority, the welfare of the world, the concerns of the local community, those who suffer and those in any trouble and the departed. While there are several forms included in the prayer book, use of those forms is not mandatory. We often use other forms (with the same general categories) to keep our prayer time fresh.

We also list those we know of who need God's healing and consolation by name. This is an important part of our life together; we hold each other in prayer as we share our needs with the community. In order to maintain an accurate prayer list, we will be refreshing it at the end of each month. If you would like your prayer request to be continued for the following month, please make a quick note of it on the prayer list sheet provided on Lisa's bulletin board outside her door by March 30. Alternatively, a phone call or email to Lisa will do the trick. Hopefully this protocol will ensure your deacon does not omit anyone by accident or leave someone else on for months on end! Thanks for your patience as we work to keep our prayer list up to date.



Grace Place Update from Dn. Corey Walmer

Grace Place took a well-timed break for the month of January. February's programs so far have included "Jesus growing in wisdom and stature" with a woodworking project led by a Grace Place parent, "God's Love" cooking and valentines, "Jesus the Healer" with Dr. John Sytsma [pretend] office hours and compiling first aid kits, and the Prodigal Son and making signs that said "Welcome Home." Our next several weeks will find us preparing for Holy Week. We follow the RSU 9 school calendar; there will be no Grace Place on Friday, March

21. Thank you for all your support of our kids.

Bishop Lane's Visit

Bp. Lane's visitation will be Sunday, April 27. While I don't have a detailed schedule yet, there will be time for him to meet with the vestry and those being received; and preside and preach at the Eucharist.

This will be a particularly good time to be with the bishop, because he will have just returned from a sabbatical which he used to study mission—what we've been talking about these past two years. It will be good to hear his perspective and wisdom. It is also a good opportunity for the kind of personal, pastoral connection between a bishop and a congregation. It really does make a difference, and we'll have a good deal to share.

LENTEN SERIES



From time to time, I hear someone imply that as a Church we are not sufficiently biblical. I beg to differ; over the course of the three year lectionary cycle we cover large chunks of the Bible. That said, it is also true that we may have a difficult time “seeing the forest for the trees.” So this Lenten Series, “Bible 101,” helps us do just that: get some sense of the flow of the whole thing (while recognizing the tremendous variety within scripture). Along the way I hope to point out what it all has to do with our lives. Come join us: soup and bread at 5:30; Bible 101 at 6:00 or so; and brief evening worship at 7pm. We should be all done by 7:30. **Remaining dates: March 26, April 2 & 9.**

Lent/Easter Calendar Items of Note



- ~ **Church services** each Sunday at 9:30 am and an 8:00 am service on the first Sunday of the month.
- ~ **Wednesday evening Lenten Series: Potluck and “Bible 101”** lesson with Fr. Tim Walmer. 5:30 pm March 19 & 26 and April 2 & 9.
- ~ **Palm Sunday Service** on Sunday, April 13 at 9:30 a.m. @ St. Luke’s
- ~ **Maundy Thursday Service**, April 17 at 7:00 pm @ St. Luke’s
- ~ **Good Friday Services** in Farmington at 12 noon and at 7:00 pm at the Wilton Methodist Church

- ~ **Easter Vigil** on Saturday, April 19 at 8:00 pm at St. Luke’s
- ~ **Easter Sunrise Service** on Voter Hill on Sunday, April 20.
- ~ **Easter Service** at St. Luke’s at 9:30 am followed by a fun Easter Egg Hunt for the children!

Please see the March-April Calendar, located on the website, for more.



PRAYER

This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus. Amen.

~Book of Common Prayer, p. 461

A Story of Haiti: Emily Scribner

We assume that coloring pictures is a natural activity of all children. So when parishioners from St. Alban's Church in Cape Elizabeth, our co-partner of St. Luc's, Trou du Nord, Haiti, visited St. Luc's last spring, they took colored pencils, colorful markers, and paper for the kids. While working with a class one day, the Americans gave each child a piece of paper and some colors. At first the kids had no idea what to do with



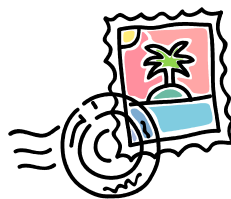
them. They had never just colored pictures before. The Americans demonstrated and encouraged the kids to try it. Very quickly, they caught on and joyfully made beautiful brightly colored pictures.. The St. Albans group took these back to Maine, where they have made note cards from the children's art work, which they are selling to raise money for St. Luc's School.

This is one of several stories told at the Haiti-Maine Companionship meeting that Irene Berry, Tony McLaughlin, and Emily Scribner attended March 8th. We look forward to sharing more stories and informative reports from Haiti.



Sunday School Lenten Project

This year we are reaching out to the homeless community among us. To add 10 more people into the homeless shelter, they need an additional sprinkler system. Our aim is to assist them in this project with a goal of at least \$500. Please open your hearts with prayer and money gifts for this project during the Lenten season. You will find donation cans in the undercroft and in the church. Thank you for helping us to reach our goal!



Stamp Ministry

We are collecting used postage stamps which will be resold to distributors who then sell them to stamp collectors. The stamps are sent to a location in Fort Myers, Fl. where they are categorized and packaged in packets of 500 or 1,000. Funds generated from these stamps support the work of missions. The present project is the ministry of Publicaciones Alianza, a publishing house on Buenos Aires which is dedicated to writing and publishing Sunday School materials in Spanish. These materials are sold in Latin American countries, Spain and the USA. We welcome all stamps, cut with 1/4 inch around them and deposited in a box in the church. ~Justy Nazar



Altar Guild members: Please meet at St. Luke's on Saturday, April 12th at 9:00 a.m. for brass and silver polishing.



Easter Sunrise Service On Voter Hill Sunday, April 20th at 5:35 a.m.

Directions: Voter Hill is in West Farmington, about two miles from Madore's store. Pass the store (on your right) and proceed about half a mile to Morrison Hill Rd (the "ski slope road") on your left. Cross the cement bridge and continue a short distance to Voter Hill Rd. on your right. Continue along Voter Hill Rd. as it turns sharply up the hill. In about a mile, meet at the intersection of Mohawk Dr. and Voter Hill Rd. We meet in the Brittains' driveway, near their house. Dress warmly regardless of how mild the day may seem: suitable footwear, warm gloves, hat, winter coat/jacket.

About the Service: Area Christians first observed Easter on Voter Hill in 1977 and for more than thirty years, Easter has been heralded at sunrise by a fanfare of trumpets, brass ensembles or bagpipes. This year we are pleased to hear the trumpet sounds of Doug Fair who will also accompany the hymns.

We meet, sometimes huddled together among the snow banks, occasionally in the dripping rain, often under clouds and sometimes even under the glorious clear skies with then red colors on the horizon are so bright we almost think them the sun itself. No matter what the weather, we are content in knowing that God treasures us and will be with us "wherever two or three are gathered in my name."

Sunrise worship is intended to be a joyful and relatively spontaneous half hour of Scripture, hymns, readings and prayers. For this brief time we are on a mountaintop with God, with our brothers and sisters in Christ, to acknowledge the assurance of God's love and the promise of eternal life, for in fact Jesus arose from the dead. From this worship return renewed to the mundane affairs of daily life knowing that Christ is Risen Indeed!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR ST. LUKE'S EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE AT 9:30 A.M.

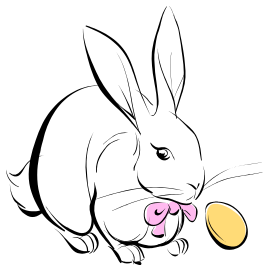


There are two more training classes before summer break:

April 13th: Practice for Easter

May 11th: Practice for Pentecost

Acolyte Commissioning in February with Deacon Corey and Acolyte Mentor, Brenda.



Easter Egg Hunt at St. Luke's!

Children enjoy an egg hunt inside the church immediately following the 9:30 am service 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 **Tuesday, April 15th** for inclusion in the bulletin, thank you.*

Honor/memory of: _____

Honor/memory of: _____

Requested by: _____ Email/phone: _____

HANNAFORD GIFT CARDS!

Did you know that using Hannaford Gift Cards for regular purchases and gifts benefits the church, as St. Luke's receives 5% of every \$1000 purchased? This is an easy way to support valued programs at St. Luke's! *Please see Tony McLaughlin for more information or to purchase.*

Please remember our Food Pantry needs this season!

For the month of **March we will collect TOILET PAPER**

for **April we will collect CANNED BAKED BEANS**

and for **May we will collect TOOTHPASTE**

These collections will be for the food pantries in Farmington and Wilton

Please bring these items to church with you. 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.*

<http://www.stlukeswilton.org>

St. Luke's new website continues to fill out and is current with information and posts of interest. It is very easy to share a post to your Facebook or Twitter. If you would like to "follow" us to be notified of new posts, simply enter your email address in the box located in the upper right of each page.

Let me know if there is an upcoming event or something you want to write about that you would like posted to the website and I can help with that.

~Lisa



SECOND SATURDAY WECO LUNCH – APRIL

Wilton Ecumenical Community Outreach (WECO) is offering a free lunch of soup, bread, and dessert, followed by time for informal socializing. The last lunch of the season will be on **Saturday, April 12th** from 11 am to 1 pm at the Wilton Methodist Church. All are welcome! In addition, the food pantry will be open to Wilton residents during these hours.

Celebrating February – April Birthdays:

February

Brenda Holman
Craig Ouellette

March

Janet O'Neil
Corey Walmer
Kathryn Sytsma
Evan Barrows
Carole Trickett

April

Joy Warren
Cooper Hiltz
John Sytsma



Happy Spring!!

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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207-645-2639

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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:	Kevin Howley	645-4981
Jr. Warden:	~By Committee~	
Clerk:	Irene Berry	
Treasurer:	Dick Condon	

Other Vestry Members:

John Sytsma, Carolyn McLaughlin, Jeannine LeVigne, Janet O'Neil,
Michael Cooper, Rick McKinney

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:	Rev. Corey Walmer	778-5752