



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Newsletter

Late Pentecost: Sept. – Nov. 2014

Letter from our Rector



Back to School: Blessing of the Backpacks

Dear People of St. Luke's,

We are currently in the midst of those “doesn't get any better than this” September days: clear skies, cool at night, seventy or so degrees during the day. Sitting here at my desk makes me want to get outside and go for a walk—which brings me to a related topic.

Folks from several congregations around the Diocese have been asked to participate in what Bp. Lane is calling “a mission experiment.” This “mission experiment,” which is also a form of spiritual practice,

involves walking. Those who care to participate will spend some time weekly walking around the neighborhood. In our case that could mean a variety of neighborhoods, but I think we would begin with the area within walking distance of St. Luke's. This is *not* intended to be a “ring doorbells and see whom we could recruit,” kind of effort. It is intended instead to be an opportunity, over time, to begin to see. What is going on out there? This period of observation is designed to lead to regular prayer for our neighborhoods and from there, to discernment. We will not *do* anything for at least a year. Again, the point is to see and pray.

This is a very different approach than deciding, “Let's do a program to address such and such an issue.” It will take time, patience, and (I expect) some significant perseverance. Frankly, it's a bit of a stretch. But hidden in this practice is the hope and faith that, over time, we begin to see differently; to perceive *what God is already up to*.

We're at the very beginning stages of this endeavor. Tonight I'll be participating in a web conference to learn more. I recognize that this sort of thing is not everybody's cup of tea, and it does not imply that the vital and important “in-house” ministries (see below) are somehow second fiddle. But this “mission experiment/spiritual practice” does offer the hope that we will emerge after a year or so with our eyes seeing more clearly.

Even if you don't want to be a walker, you can participate by praying for us. Thanks in advance for your prayers.

Faithfully,

Fr. Tim

From the Deacon's Corner...



The past several months we have been experimenting with some different kinds of music. In the absence of an organist and choir director, we have, by necessity, had to try some new music as many of our traditional hymns are not designed for guitar. Kathryn has graciously offered to play piano on occasion, and John, Rick, Elecia, Joy, Dick, Chris and Cady have also shared their musical gifts for the glory of God over the past several months. Thank you all for making a joyful noise! We are continually looking for additional musicians, so if you or someone you know, would like to join in, please let it be known. The more, the merrier! We usually meet around 8:30 on Sunday morning to practice; this is a good way to learn new music as well; voices welcome!

Thanks also to those who have quietly provided meals, company, cards or support to each other over the past few months. As The Rev. Jim Lowe remarked recently, "You folks really care about each other."

Thanks to Scott Lindsay for his faithful lawn mowing over the summer, Justy, for her ongoing care for our building and property, Jim Blood for power washing and painting the back outside wall, Rick for painting clean up, Brenda for seeing that the bushes were trimmed, Kevin for hauling away branches. Thanks also to John and Dennis O'Neill for their many hours of work re-glazing the windows to make us more energy efficient. These efforts send a positive statement to the community. Stay tuned as additional maintenance-type projects may be coming up soon!

Special thanks to Justy for volunteering to convene our children's Sunday School again this year.

I'm sure there are many others I've missed so, to everyone who works to support our common life together at St. Luke's – THANK YOU!



Grace Place Update

The past two years at this time we had been gearing up for another season of Grace Place. After a good deal of thought and reflection, we decided to not continue with it. I do think much was accomplished. Over the course of two and a half years we were able to serve a number of young children. In accordance with our mission statement we fed them with healthy food, and with healthy spiritual food as well in the form of Bible stories and themes told, acted out, expressed in crafts, etc. The kids themselves enjoyed it. I want to thank everyone who in the last two years pitched in—whether to make a snack, participate in a skit, tell a story, help with a craft project, or lead music.

All of that said Grace Place was very time consuming. The hours of participation were exceeded by the hours of preparation, and the primary leaders both came to the conclusion that they simply could not continue.

We learned a lot, were blessed by the children and one another, and I hope blessed their young lives in return. ~Fr. Tim and Dn. Corey



Lobsterama 2014!



Thanks to many volunteers and donations, St. Luke's raised a net profit of a record \$6,000 between the three lobster lunch sales. Drivers covered a larger area for deliveries than ever before. The weather really cooperated for the Wilton Blueberry Festival and the line started early, with folks driving up to the tent and lining High St. at 10:00 am. Great job, everyone! Rest up for next year.

Sunday School at 8:45am



This year we are using the Intermediate Cross year of the Episcopal Children's Curriculum.

In the first Unit we are studying the Psalms, Job, Proverbs and some of the Apocrypha. We knew Psalm 119 was long but 117 is the shortest. Did you know there are five ways to use the Psalm reading on Sunday? We are all learning some interesting facts about the hymn book of the Hebrews.

In Unit two the focus is on the New Testament from John the Baptist to the birth and teachings of Jesus. ~Justy Nazar

Eucharistic Visitors

"May you carry the prayers of all of us as you take this sacrament of Christ's presence." This congregational response marks the sending out of Lay Eucharistic Visitors to people who, for various reasons, are not able to make it to Sunday services.

Eucharistic visitors carry with them not only the bread and the wine from our service of Holy Communion, but also represent the rest of us. In a very real sense they bring the church to the person, when the person cannot come to the church. They also provide pastoral and spiritual support, as visits over time often create deeper relationships.

Currently our Eucharistic Visitors are: Janet Morris, Rick McKinney and Sue Staples. I am grateful to them for extending the ministry of us all.



All God's
Creatures

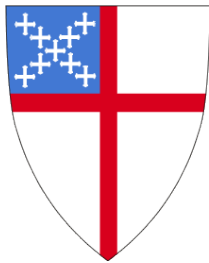


St. Luke's Annual Blessing of the Pets Service

Please join us on the front lawn of St. Luke's on

Sunday, October 5th

for the annual blessing of the pets, prior to the 9:30 service.



The annual 195th Convention of the Diocese of Maine

will take place Friday, October 24 and Saturday, October 25. This year we will be going "up to the county," as the Convention will be held in Presque Isle. We will use the facilities of the University of Maine, Presque Isle.

It's a long way up there! Of course, the same distance applies going south, as many County people have done for many Diocesan meetings in the past. So this gives us an opportunity to, "boldly go where some of us have never gone before." Given the distance the Diocese is providing bus transportation for any who want to use it.

On the agenda will be several matters. As usual, we'll approve a budget; but we're now moving firmly into a time of structuring our Diocesan budget so that it reflects clear mission priorities. We've already begun to do this, but the results will be even clearer this time around. We'll hear from a committee established last year to study the desirability, or not, of holding Convention every other year.

In addition to Corey and I who go as clergy representatives from St. Luke's, our delegates this year are Tony McLaughlin and Lisa Lindsay.

Of course Convention is a good time to see folks again, and greet old friends. But over and above the fellowship its great value is seeing the Episcopal Church in Maine functioning together. The whole is greater than the sum of the parts. Keep Convention, our delegates, and our bishop in your prayers as we prepare to gather.

Prayer for the Beauty of the Earth

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and for ever. Amen.

~The Book of Common Prayer, p. 840

HANNAFORD GIFT CARDS—FUN FOR FALL!

Do you know someone who could use convenient gift certificates? It's not too early to think about Christmas stocking stuffers or give a certificate to your favorite college student!

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. Luke's.*

Please see Tony McLaughlin for more information.



Please remember our Food Pantry needs this fall!

For the month of **September**, we will collect **TOILET PAPER—Sunday School Students have challenged us to build a TP Pyramid in front of the Altar!**

for **October**, we will collect **CANNED PUMPKIN**

and for **November**, we will collect **SALTINES**

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

Please bring these items to church with you. Thank you!

THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Bake and Buy Sundays: Every Second Sunday after the 9:30 service. Please consider donating (and purchasing!) homemade baked goods. Tell your friends and family! Please contact Brenda Holman if you can assist this ministry.



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

9 – 12 am, Wednesday, November 26th –Pre-Order Only

**Pies available for pre-order: Apple, Pumpkin, Mincemeat
Special orders possible on request.**

FMI: See Carolyn McLaughlin

Thanksgiving Donations Needed for Food Pantries

Although it is early to be thinking about Thanksgiving, we at the food closets are already preparing in any way that we can. In previous years we have needed to request funds to purchase turkeys since our numbers of those in need have increased dramatically while federal funds have dwindled. We don't have a lot of space to store frozen turkeys so our request would be to give/mail a checks so we can purchase them at the time they are needed. Please make checks payable to St. Luke's Episcopal Church and make the note, "turkey challenge." Funds are needed by November 21st. Thank you for your support! ~Carolyn McLaughlin

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.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:	Janet Morris	778-6019
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