



St. Luke's Episcopal Church Newsletter

Early Pentecost/Summer 2015

A Note from the Office



Dear People of St. Luke's,

As most of you know, I broke my wrist about six weeks ago and am still mostly typing one handed. I apologize for the delay in getting out the newsletter. I have received several great updates from our fellow parishioners which I am grateful for and have shared in this newsletter. There are articles on the labyrinth, the new heating system, and the search for a new priest.

While Fr. Tim has retired, St. Luke's is not exactly quiet. We have a variety of pellet furnace-related contractors here, volunteers in for lobster roll lunch prep, as well, as my children, Toby and Nora. Enough said! I am keeping the kids busy with summer activities like tennis and swimming lessons. We miss Fr. Tim dearly. Nora would run up the stairs to his office with handmade gifts or just to say "Hi" and Toby caught him up to speed on the

latest superhero movie or book. I learned so much from him both spiritually and about the workings of the church and diocese. I feel fortunate to have worked with Fr. Tim for two years and am really quite happy to hear of kayaking adventures and some downtime.

I have begun to do my homework on what is available to our youth. The diocese has a great resource in Jane Hartwell and we are discussing, among other things, middle and high school events that we can get our kids involved in. More on that in the near future.

Please feel free to call or stop by the office with questions or concerns and I'll do my best to help out. We are here most weekday mornings. I hope you are enjoying a healthy and carefree summer. I will see you for Lobsterama Parts I and II.



Peace and love,
Lisa



LOBSTER LUNCHESES ARE BACK!

Farmington Summer Festival: July 24th & 25th

Wilton Blueberry Festival: August 7th

Farmington's Summer Festival returns on the fourth weekend of July. St. Luke's will provide lobster roll bagged lunches on Friday, July 24th by delivery and on Saturday, July 25th in the park. On Friday, August 7th, St. Luke's will both deliver and sell lunches out on High St. as we did last year.

The cost of a bagged lunch this year will be \$12.

We need volunteers for the following tasks (thanks to all who have signed up):

- *Advertising help (deliver flyers)
- *Drivers
- *Driver Helpers (to ride with driver and help run lunches inside)
- *Kitchen help: Stuffing bags, stuffing rolls, bagging lunches
- *People to work the tent (selling lunches) on both July 25th in Farmington and August 7th at the church.
- *Someone(s) to organize delivery routes
- *And last not but least, donations of 1,000 cans of Coke, Diet Coke, and Iced Tea. We also need 2,000 (yes, 2,000) brownies (cut in 3 x 3" squares).

These sales are St. Luke's biggest fundraisers. We are asking for help from everyone who is able. Sign-up sheets are up on the undercroft wall. Thank you for all you do!

Folks are welcome to call the office anytime now. Order slips are at the ready!

SEARCHING FOR A PRIEST

Most of us have been wondering "what next?" The Rev. Canon Michael Ambler, from the Diocese, has visited with the vestry and congregation several times. He has given us a five and a half page overview, "The Clergy Transition Process in the Diocese of Maine", and it is available for anyone to read. If you cannot find a copy in the undercroft, please call the church office to get one.

In a nutshell: Fr. Tim is not to have anything to do with our religious lives for a year. However, he will continue his responsibilities with St. Barnabas in Rumford, and will also continue as a chaplain at the hospital. Deacon Corey will remain as our deacon. Kevin Howley is our Sr. Warden who will keep the Vestry, as our leaders, on its toes. And, of course, we have our very capable secretary in the office, so questions and comments can be funneled through there.

A major concern is that we will be looking for a half-time person, and these are difficult to find. For the present we will continue with the practice we have followed for vacations: the senior warden, Kevin Howley, has already signed up "supplies" for most of the summer, and will continue to do so into the fall when we hope to find an interim priest (by December).

Wait!! Don't stop reading until you learn the old-fashioned "search committee" is now the "discernment committee". Preferably members of the vestry will not be on that committee, so here is where you can volunteer. However, the Vestry charges this committee, states the results desired, and chooses a chair and co-chair.

Prayerfully,
Irene Berry, Clerk



NOTES ABOUT TOTES... and other food for thought

Hunger does not take vacations. St. Luke's is continuing to support the ecumenical effort to provide weekend meals for at risk families over the summer. This month, we will be collecting oatmeal (boxes of individual packets) and cold cereal (no sugary cereal please) for Teresa's Totes. The bags are filled and picked up from the Dryden Baptist Church during the summer months. In August, we will collect packaged rice mix, pork and beans.

The community of Wilton, in cooperation with the Dept. of Education and the USDA, is also supporting a feeding program at Kineowatha Park from June 29 - August 6th (Monday - Thursday) from 11:45 - 12:15 pm. Meals are available free of charge for all children 18 years and under (adults \$3.00). Please spread the word!

~Dn. Corey Walmer

New Heating System



“To heat or not to heat” was never the question. The how, when, where, and why occupied the minds of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church for several years. The price of heating oil rose with the price of gas at the pumps and the price was nearly exorbitant. We had three choices basically: to continue with a budget-shaking price of heating oil, or change the method of heating, or change when the building would be heated for comfortable occupation. Just what kind of furnace would be the most efficient and suit our volatile budget?

We were constantly faced with leaking pipes which watered our undercroft ceilings and floors in an unscheduled manner. The price to repair was constantly a strain on our budget. The 60+ year-old system was due for reconsideration. Would the new system be steam or hot water or hot air? So, armed with those possibilities, we were attracted to a new venture which was proving to be successful in private residences, but gaining interest in larger establishments. The pellet boiler systems were getting to be a very standard way to heat buildings of many types, not just industrial types, so several of us members.

And a good crowd from other churches attended a demonstration one evening a few months ago of a gorgeous pellet boiler system at Old South Church in Farmington which was installed by A.A. Maurais and Sons Plumbing and Heating of Jay. Phil Maurais was there and showed us his company’s fine work after a talk by Northern Products Center, et al, in one of the church’s assembly areas. Snacks were included.

The Kedel Boiler System was fully engineered in Sweden for this sizable church building complex in Farmington which had three boilers, used in tandem or logically alternating, making for very efficient heat production, firing each in turn, or in combinations, automatically, utilizing clean and sizeable pellet siloes. The principal and the workmanship were self-evident as we took a guided tour by Phil Maurais. We were fortunate to have been a part of a well-developed conversation about the growing use of wood-byproducts, set in motion by Northern Products Center based in New Hampshire. We thank Maura Adams and Gabriel Perkins of that consortium for their instructive input of information, and eventually, *over \$9000 of grant aid toward the heating project.* (Thanks again, folks!)

We are in a section of the country where under-utilized wood refuse and irregular shapes and sizes are near at hand, unusable for paper-making and lumber production, but ready to “mine” --to gather up to produce an efficient heating product, instead of leaving such potential to rot in the forests. Producing pellets is a relatively simple manufacturing process. Pellets are distributed from warehouses in bulk via special trucks which will not degrade the pellets by knocking them around in transit, thus affecting their firing efficiency. (Smaller pieces burn quicker and uncontrollably with less efficiency.) Studies by the experts have measured our church’s volume, square-

footage, and any draft losses. Our new boilers, one larger and one smaller, as well as the bulk product siloes can be seen in our furnace room now. We will continue to ameliorate draft loss and cold penetration conditions throughout the church building.

The heating system will continue to utilize the fin-type radiation system. All other piping from the old steam system will be removed. The old #2 fuel oil system furnace and its tanks have been removed. The zoning will remain as defined from previous years. We will save as much as \$5000+ a year in heating costs. The expense of the change-over has, in part, been offset by trust funds, etc., and our continuing support of our ongoing church life, both spiritually and with our practical generosity. This positive move, the replacement of a very old, inefficient steam boiler and distribution system to a hot water system, and planned weather-proofing of the church building, will put “smiles on our faces from sunshiny places” for many years to come.

~ Rick McKinney

NOTES FROM THE DEACON...

At this writing, we at St. Luke’s are heading into a busy time. We are preparing for the Holy feast of the Lobster Rolls, are watching as our new pellet heating system is materializing and this week, the vestry will meet with the Rev. Michael Amber, Canon to the Ordinary, to discuss next steps in our transition and discernment. You have given Fr. Tim a lovely send off, and we are greatly enjoying the new kayaks given us by all of you. Thank you.

Last year, Bishop Lane challenged some of us to walk our neighborhoods to observe what was going on there, to see how we might join with what others might be already doing, and to pray for our neighbors. Jeanine and I walked pretty infrequently (Tim and John S. were also walkers), but what we did observe is that there is a lot of foot traffic in Wilton. Many folks walk to Kineowatha Park via High Street – right by our church. As we talked about this, a question emerged: could we provide an outdoor space that could be used by the community for prayer and worship? Could we

design such a space that would utilize the assets of our grounds with minimal upkeep? What could this look like?



Mike Monahan (owner of SignWorks) was contacted as he has a labyrinth at his home on the Fairbanks Rd. He measured, did the math, and suggested we consider constructing a modest labyrinth on the south side of our building, incorporating the trellis and roses. (Note: the design to the left is similar but larger. This is just to give you an idea.) Our vestry has recently approved this project, to be funded with a memorial grant and other donations. So, what the heck is a labyrinth anyway?

The labyrinth is a winding circular pathway that leads one from the edge to center and back out again. Unlike a maze, the labyrinth has no tricks or dead ends. It is designed to calm that part of ourselves that is constantly on alert, analyzing which way to go, what to do next. The labyrinth invites its guests to simply follow the path, one step at a time, to shed rational thought and be still. Many with no particular religious background have found connection with the Divine through walking the labyrinth.

The design Mike has suggested for us would consist of brick pavers forming the edges of the pathway. They would be dug into the ground so as to be level with the grass; this would permit a lawn mower to maintain the turf. In order to have the necessary space, a portion of the hillside would be levelled and a retaining wall and steps installed for access from High Street. The weary evergreen bushes would be removed and new topsoil brought in for construction of a prayer garden around the edge of the labyrinth. Landscaping, benches and a sign would complete the installation.

Bids are currently being taken for the site preparation; the pavers have been purchased, and once the site is ready, Mike will help with laying out the design and instructing us in how to install the bricks. This is a project that would benefit from lots of willing hands, including, hopefully, those who use our building and our friends and neighbors. It can also be worked on a little at a time. There will be additional opportunities for donations of trees, bushes, benches etc. to complete the space.

I am excited about the possibility of St. Luke's providing a public space that invites connection with the Divine, even if a person does not ever walk through our front door. It is taking non-used space and making it an asset for God's glory.

Be careful what you pray for when walking the neighborhood! God is on the loose!

~Dn. Corey Walmer

PRAYER (for the good use of leisure)

O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace; and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds, that our spirits may be opened to the goodness of your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

~Book of Common Prayer, p. 825



Celebrating July – August Birthdays:

July

Sunny Parry
Scott Lindsay

August

Carolyn McLaughlin
Cady Pillsbury
Toby Lindsay

HANNAFORD GIFT CARDS!

Do you know someone who could use convenient gift certificates?

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



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.*

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.**

Summer church schedule note

Of course, Sunday Eucharist Services continue throughout the summer, with the exception of third Sundays when we celebrate a Liturgy of the Word service. We have left adult bible study on the calendar, but for now they are group-led. Vestry Senior Warden Kevin Howley will keep us posted on supply priests as the information becomes available.

July 26th we have Rev. Nancy Platt supplying

August 2nd, 9th, & 23rd, we have Rev. Elizabeth Miller supplying

August 9th Blueberry Festival weekend--there will be a 9:30 am Eucharist Service at St. Luke's with Rev. Elizabeth Miller followed by an 11:00 AM ecumenical service at the Methodist Church.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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St. Luke's Who to Contact

Rector:	TBD	
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, Tony McLaughlin, Elecia Pillsbury,
Michael Cooper

Secretary:	Lisa Lindsay	645-2639
Altar Guild Directress:	Sue Staples	441-8163
Eucharistic Ministers:	Rev. Corey Walmer	778-5752
Church School:	Justy Nazar	645-2783
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