



## *St. Luke's Episcopal Church Newsletter*

### Late Pentecost – Christmas 2015

#### **A Note from the Office**

Greetings. I am sure we all hope that next year at this time, this cover letter will be from St. Luke's new rector rather than your humble secretary. The Discernment (Search) Committee, is working hard to make that happen. You will find an update from the chairwoman in this newsletter. In the meantime, we have a lot of church members doing their best to provide some consistency and to keep us moving forward. We can do this! I would like to begin this newsletter with a prayer for St. Luke's...

*Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

~For the Parish—BCP p. 817



Since the last newsletter, a lot has been happening at St. Luke's. We have had numerous supply priests come to worship with us, Sunday School returned from summer break, pets and hands were blessed, the diocese held convention, trick-or-treaters were welcomed, the labyrinth project was funded and started, and a new pellet furnace was

installed. From the office, I hear the comforting, gentle sound of the dropping of wood pellets into the furnace. We have heat and not a moment too soon!

I want to mention the 196<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine. This was my second year as delegate and I attended with Dn Corey. I heard and overheard many attendees saying what a great convention it was and I agree. We had a variety of worship services,

including a Celtic Eventide Compline lead by St. Albans of Cape Elizabeth. This is a weekly service they have at their church and has become progressively more popular and drawn people from outside the parish. We heard from Bp. Steve that next year, the format of the convention will change. Between the two-day commitment, the expense, the workload on diocesan staff...he would like to try holding one day of business, one day of workshops, and one day of worship—all split up over the course of a year. An announcement will be made by next April regarding locations, etc.

You will find several updates from Dn. Corey below. I would like to give her a shout-out. Without a priest, I rely on her for bulletin and scheduling input. Corey continues to plan and play the music each Sunday, lead services when we do not have a priest and works with them when we do, volunteer in various ministries including pastoral care, and motivate us in all kinds of opportunities to offer our time and talents to the church and community. I'm grateful to Corey and others, especially Kevin Howley and all the vestry members, for being present.

~Lisa Lindsay

### *From the Deacon's Corner...*

#### **Labyrinth...**

As most of you know by now, St. Luke's received a New Initiatives grant from the Diocese to help us get the labyrinth project started. We are very excited about the possibility of providing a public prayer space for ourselves and the community. By press time, I suspect we may even be



done with Phase One of this project. Phase Two will be completed in the spring after the snow melts. This will include landscaping and installation of benches to complete the prayer garden along the south side of the building. Please take a moment to check out the work and if it is not covered with snow, spend a few minutes walking the path. Most find it to be a peaceful, prayerful experience. Thanks to our diocese for supporting us in this new ministry.

**Alcohol Awareness Sunday is November 22th:** Our guest preacher will be the Rev. Nancy Platt. Nancy has been active on both the diocesan and national church levels, educating on the dynamics of addiction. She is co-author, along with Bishop Chilton Knudsen, of ***So You Think You Don't Know One? Addiction and recovery in clergy and congregations.*** Area AA groups will be invited to join us for this service.



### **Advent Offering...**

During the season of Advent, we will be offering a simple vespers service on Wednesday evenings at 6 pm. The candlelight service will include simple music, prayer, and a time of silence. Come and enjoy a peaceful time in the midst of the season's busyness.

### **Convention notes...**

Lisa Lindsay and Deacon Corey attended Diocesan convention, held in Portland the 23-24th of October. Besides approving the budget for the coming year, several resolutions were debated and voted upon. Highlights included a resolution sponsored by the Episcopal Peace Fellowship of Maine to encourage learning about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and participating in peacemaking through political action. A new alcohol policy for the Episcopal Church, adopted by the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church was also ratified. Other resolutions addressed lay and clergy compensation for 2016, establishing full-time clergy minimum guidelines based on an average of local teacher and school administrator salaries.

In addition to the business of the larger Church, several educational workshops were offered as well as great worship with unusual music and new liturgical material. A highlight of convention was Bishop Steve's address to convention. In this address, he again challenged Maine Episcopalians to pay attention to what may already be happening in our communities, to think creatively, and look for ways to join in God's mission. Our own parish was referenced by the Bishop in his address as he described the New Initiative grant-funded labyrinth project. He cited this effort as an example of new ways of being church - serving the community and thinking outside



(literally!) our doors. He also challenged the convention to focus on faith formation and promised the Diocese would be offering new resources for faith formation, worship planning, volunteer development, to name a few. "We need these opportunities for growth and development so that we can learn from each other's best practices, firm up our foundation, and step out in faith," states Bishop Steve. So, stay tuned; God is on the move!

NOTE: If you are not receiving the Dialog, our electronic diocesan newsletter, you can subscribe by emailing [hshott@episcopalmaine.org](mailto:hshott@episcopalmaine.org) and your name will be added to the mailing list. This is a great way to stay connected and learn what is happening in our diocese.

~Dn. Corey Walmer

## The Discernment Committee

The Discernment Committee has been meeting every Tuesday since September 9, 2015. We prepared a survey for our parish to use to define the present reality of our congregation. October 25<sup>th</sup> was the deadline for completing those surveys. At the present time we have discerned the information from the surveys and are ready to begin the process of writing the Parish Profile. The Profile is the means by which we introduce ourselves to potential candidates. At the same time we prepare the Profile we will prepare answers to essay questions posed by the Office of Transition Ministries in their on-line portfolio. These two projects will take a while to develop as we want to be as inviting, spiritual, succinct, and honest as possible. As soon as we have a draft of our Profile it will be sent to Michael Ambler for comment and once approved it will be posted on our web site as well as the Diocesan site. Our goal is to complete these two tasks by the end of November! Pray for the work of the Committee and for the priest whose name is known to God alone. If you don't have a Discernment Prayer at home please pick one up at the church office. Blessings!

~Brenda Holman

## Our Haitian Partner, St. Luc's Trou du Nord

Something St. Luke's in Wilton and our partner St. Luc's in Trou du Nord have in common: the experience of losing a priest and getting a new one. But they are ahead of us. Pere Louis Rosanas was reassigned to a church in southern Haiti, and Pere Sadoni is now in charge at St. Luc's. Sara Merrill of St. Alban's, our co-partner, has talked with him on the phone and says his English is quite good.

Sara introduced us to Pere Sadoni by email, and he promptly sent a greeting to us. He says "It is a great honor for me to be introduced to you and the Parishioners of St. Luke's church. I am looking for a close partnership like it was with Pere Louis between our two churches." He also says "My dream is to see St. Luc be one of the best schools in Trou du Nord."



The school started the new year in September with 150 students. One of Pere Sadoni's goals is to improve the quality of instruction through teacher training. They have not been able to serve lunch to the children since the World Food Program stopped providing food. St. Alban's is trying to raise funds for school lunches and water purification (their well has been contaminated). St. Alban's is organizing a trip to St. Luc's, Trou du Nord, in January 2016. I am eager to hear their impressions from that visit.

~Emily Scribner

**Wait! It's not Advent yet! We are still thinking about  
Thanksgiving Pies...**



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

**9 – 12 am, Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> –Pre-Order Only**

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

**Special orders possible on request.**

**FMI: See Carolyn McLaughlin or Lisa Lindsay**

**WILTON DAY EXTENSION CRAFT FAIR AT ST. LUKE'S**

The WDE craft fair will be held at St. Luke's on **Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>** from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. St. Luke's has decided to participate at this fair this year instead of the one at the Legion Hall in December. WDE has widely publicized their fair and we hope to have a successful day of sales. Set-up is the afternoon before. It is not too late to contribute a craft. Please stop by early for best selection!

**Santa's Workshop**



Our annual outreach through Santa's Workshop will be here on **Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 11:30 am**. Every year we gather a large quantity of items which we make available at dime store prices for children to buy as Christmas gifts for their parents. The items are arranged on tables according to price—including a “free” area—and kids come in while their parents wait out in the kitchen. It is a lot of work, and gets hectic, but seeing the kids with their bags for their families makes it worthwhile. Please sign up in the undercroft if you

can help the day of and/or with set-up on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. Please see Justy FMI.

**Angel Tree:** Again this year, there will be a tree with tags on it representing items for a family in need. Putting out the **angel tree** is a longstanding custom at St. Luke's. The tags will disappear and packages appear by Dec. 20, when they will be delivered. Thanks to all for your constant generosity.





On Saturday, December 19 at 4 pm, we're going to **carol around the neighborhood**. We'll gather at St. Luke's a little before for soup & bread and to choose the songs we'll use. We had a great time last year and picked up some singers along the way. The consensus was that folks truly appreciated our visit. And we, as Episcopalians, have been challenged to get outside the walls of the church to be a part of our community. Join us and feel free to invite others!

Note: Headlamps work better than flashlights for finding your way around and reading the lyrics at the same time. You can't dress warmly enough!



### **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.*



### **Attention Youth Acolytes & Crucifers:**

**Brenda Holman will be providing training on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:45 a.m. in preparation for Christmas Eve.**

### **Coat Closet at St. Luke's**

The winter jackets from Salvation Army are here and going fast. Dn. Corey has also taken several bags to Care and Comfort where they are in demand. In seeing an increased need, we have accepted gently used warm clothes (including boots, hats, mittens, etc.) from friends and community members. **If you have kids or grandkids who have outgrown snow pants, jackets, etc. we would gladly accept them. Just please wash them before dropping them off.**



*First Snow, by Mary Oliver*

The snow  
began here  
this morning and all day  
continued, its white  
rhetoric everywhere  
calling us back to *why, how,*  
*whence* such beauty and *what*  
the meaning; such  
an oracular fever! flowing  
past windows, an energy it seemed  
would never ebb, never settle  
less than lovely! and only now,  
deep into night,  
it has finally ended.

The silence  
is immense,  
and the heavens still hold  
a million candles, nowhere

the familiar things:  
stars, the moon,  
the darkness we expect  
and nightly turn from. Trees  
glitter like castles  
of ribbons, the broad fields  
smolder with light, a passing  
creekbed lies  
heaped with shining hills;  
and though the questions  
that have assailed us all day  
remain — not a single  
answer has been found —  
walking out now  
into the silence and the light  
under the trees,  
and through the fields,  
feels like one.



*Celebrate Christmas Eve at St. Luke's*  
*Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm*  
*Full Communion Service*  
*Chancel Drama by Michael Cooper*

# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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

## St. Luke's Who to Contact

<b>Deacon:</b>	Rev. Corey Walmer	778-5252
<b>Sr. Warden:</b>	Kevin Howley	645-4981
<b>Jr. Warden:</b>	~By Committee~	
<b>Clerk:</b>	Irene Berry	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Dick Condon	

## ***Other Vestry Members:***

John Sytsma, Tony McLaughlin, Carolyn McLaughlin, Elecia Pillsbury,  
Michael Cooper

<b>Secretary:</b>	Lisa Lindsay	645-2639
<b>Altar Guild Directress:</b>	Sue Staples	441-8163
<b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b>	Rev. Corey Walmer	778-5752
<b>Church School:</b>	Justy Nazar	645-2783
<b>Acolyte Mentor:</b>	Brenda Holman	778-3397
<b>Newsletter:</b>	Lisa Lindsay	645-2639
<b>Episcopal Church Women:</b>	Carolyn McLaughlin	645-2312
<b>Lectors/Lay Readers:</b>	Rev. Corey Walmer	778-5752
<b>Search Committee Chair:</b>	Brenda Holman	778-3397