



Light in the Shadows



OCTOBER 2020

"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Matt. 5: 16

Wandering In The Wilderness During Covid-19

Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." And he [the LORD] said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you...But...you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." [Exodus 33:18-20]



How quickly time flies, it seems. October of this year marks the sixth month since the outbreak of COVID-19 that led to the suspension of all indoor worship in our places of worship. This news last March from Bishop Shannon left us unprepared and wondering what to do now.

Perhaps it is no coincidence that our Sunday lectionary Readings in the Old Testament have dwelt so far with the Israelites wandering in the wilderness as they wait for the LORD to lead them into the Promised Land. It's not like they had to wait a week or a month or two before entering into God's promise for them. Their journey was forty years long!

"Here at St. Luke's, we find ourselves in the middle of the desert not knowing when we might return to our "promised land" (worship inside the Church in this case). The pandemic has us going around in circles much like the circuitous path of the Israelites."

— Rev. Heidi L. Edson

Here at St. Luke's, we find ourselves in the middle of the desert not knowing when we might return to our "promised land" (worship inside the Church in this case). The pandemic has us going around in circles much like the circuitous path of the Israelites.

Though we still wander (and wonder!) these days, we know we do not travel alone. God goes before us! But, as with Moses who was forbidden to look upon God's face, we, too, cannot fully know or

see what God may have in store for us here at St. Luke's and for the church as a whole. Though only aspects of God are

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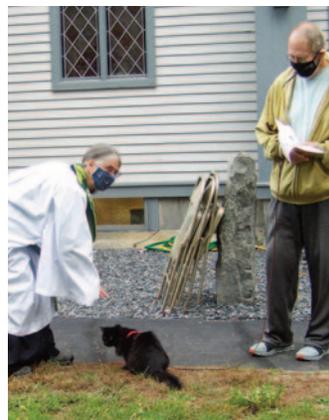


A Bernese Mountain Dog, named "Faith," arrived along with her owners for the Animal Blessing on Saturday, October 3.

A Small Turnout For St. Luke's Annual 2020 Animal Blessing

A small but enthusiastic group of pets along their owners participated in the annual Animal Blessing held on the side lawn of St. Luke's on Saturday morning, October 3. There were two large dogs and Heidi & Doug's very brave cat, Thundarr, on the scene. The humans were all properly "masked" and the pets on their best behavior (for the most part!) Note: (There were no participants for the Sunday afternoon session.)

Below: Rev. Heidi bestows a blessing upon "Thundarr."



Above: The Widger's dog, "Boston," a 7-year old Goldendoodle, happily accepts a doggie treat from Rev. Heidi.

REFLECTIONS

Add Love

*Owe no one anything,
except to love one another; for the one
who loves another has fulfilled the law.
—Romans 13.8*

God,
help me this day to add love to the world.
Not fear, not anxiety
about what I owe or am owed, but love.
Help me know my freedom—
not to do what I please,
but to fulfill my call to love,
my only goal not that I prevail
but that others receive love.

In calm interactions,
or in moments of anxiety or conflict,
let me contribute love.

In silence or in confrontation,
in public endeavor or quiet prayer,
in heroic action or mundane chores,
let me add love to the world.

O God of Love,
let your love overflow:
fulfill your love in me.
Amen.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes,
Unfolding Light www.unfoldinglight.net,
September 2, 2020

A Prayer Attributed to St. Francis

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

—from the BCP

Wandering In The Wilderness
During Covid-19

(continued from page 1)

visible for us, we can be assured that God is listening to our prayers. I think what we do best as the people of St. Luke's is to care and to pray for each other. What a wonderful expression of "doing Church!"

Though our path these days may seem a bit dry and barren when it comes to events and activities, one thing taking place this month will be the annual Diocesan Convention that brings the Church in Vermont together. The Convention this year will take place on All Hallows' Eve (31 Oct.) by Zoom. Our own Lay Delegates to the Convention are Colleen Garvey, David Carey, and Belinda Whipple Worth who is stepping in for Janet Hunter. Let's pray for them and for our Diocese that the Church in Vermont may discern her way forward as we seek to follow God who leads us.

Blessings,
Heidi+

Latest Update On Reopening
Indoor Worship at St. Luke's

Since my last report in September's "Light in the Shadows," there has been little new development to report with regards to the reopening process of our churches and places of worship. An updated "Reopening Guidelines" report that initially came out in June of this year has just been released and can be found on the Diocesan website, www.diovermont.org. Simply scroll down a bit on the Home Page and you will find the link on the right-hand column.

To date we are still in **Phase 3** of the Diocesan Reopening Guidelines which allow us to gather together outdoors for worship. The updated Guidelines show little change except that we are now allowed up to fifty people outdoors for worship or other ministries. Thankfully, the weather has been

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Latest Update On Reopening...

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cooperating with us here in Chester. So far we have not had to cancel any of our Sunday outdoor Services to date which is quite a blessing.

Now heading into October that brings with it colder weather, our goal is to continue meeting outdoors for as long as it is feasible so to do and people are willing to come. One or two of you have asked me what we would do for worship when we could no longer meet outside. The solution I can think of for us at this time would be to hold Zoom Morning Prayer worship online. The question I have for you is what time would work best for you. I would welcome your thoughts concerning this option for worship. Aware that many of you are already engaged in online worship either through our Diocese or other locations, I would like to know what time on Sundays for our own Zoom worship would work best for the most of us. Do let me know either by email or phone.

As already said, there are many opportunities outside St. Luke's for online worship either via Zoom, Webinar, or YouTube and by other means. I am aware that several of you are regularly engaged in an online worship site that seems to be meeting your spiritual needs for the time being. If you are one of these, you have my blessings to continue your practice of worship. The Church of God cannot be contained in one location (or website!), but is instead found wherever our hearts and minds may lead us.

My belief is that these days of the COVID-19 pandemic encapsulate for us the many other "ills" present in our society and world these days. We, as Christ's Church have this wonderful opportunity to "bring Church" where there is need. Let us not shy away from being God's Church out in our communities and world where we are called to be in Christ's Name. —Heidi+

It is not easy for us to ask for something—we so often feel ashamed to be in need. But articulating a need is a way for our brothers and sisters to be blessed in their giving.



Church Musician, Anne Goodreau enhances the 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning outdoor prayer service with some lovely clarinet music.

A Sharing of Life & Worship During These Times

Submitted by John & Sally Hoover

It has now been more than 6 months since we've worshipped with our faith community at St. Luke's and we miss greatly the folks with whom we used to gather on Sunday mornings. We have not been without worship, however. One of the few pluses of this pandemic is that we have been able to join in virtual worship with our son's church, St. James Episcopal in Birmingham, Michigan where he is the rector. In fact we've seen more of him recently that we have in quite a few years.

It is interesting to us that due to the fact that we're retired and introverts, our day to day life has not changed all that much. We miss going out for a "sit down" meal but we've been able to pick up take out from our favorite restaurant thereby having some contact with the folks who work there. We go grocery shopping, of course, but not much else outside the home. We spend time on crossword puzzles, reading, and chores about the house and yard as most of you probably have as well. Sally has also kept busy with making a variety of jams and canning some of the bounty of her vegetable garden. A book that John found particularly enlightening during this time was "The Great Emergence" by Phyllis Tickle. In it Tickle speaks of Christianity's historic penchant for major change at approximate 500 year intervals and how it is changing today.

We were able to make a couple of trips away from Vermont, one to the Outer Banks of North Carolina where we gathered with both of our sons and their families, and one to Pennsylvania where we participated in the wedding of our grandniece. Looking ahead we are planning another trip to the OBX to participate in another wedding. Each time we've traveled we've made every attempt to remain safe: wearing masks and disinfecting surfaces and hands wherever we've been. Each time we've returned to Vermont we've self-quarantined for at least 2 weeks prior to venturing out again.

We've had in person contact with Bonnie and Lew Watters at their home in June, Janice Fielder at the Springfield Coop and Marcia Clinton here in Windham so we're not totally cut off from St. Luke's, however we look forward to the day when we can feel safe returning to worship at St. Luke's. In the meantime we continue to worship virtually and are praying that all of you remain safe.

NOVEMBER LITS Deadline:

OCTOBER 30th

Send all articles, announcements, photos, etc. to:
Pat Fromberger, 180 Gates Rd., Andover, VT 05143
Email: panjoe@vermontel.net

Highlights From The September Vestry Meeting

Again the monthly Vestry Meeting was held—this time on September 9—by Zoom or phone because of the Covid-19 lockdown and strict social distancing.

- **Focus Topic:** Stewardship. Pledge cards need to be designed, printed, and mailed by someone other than the Treasurer. Marti Assenza's name and address need to be included on the mailing and any LITS notice, so pledges may be recorded and acknowledged. One comment was that it was difficult to solicit money when there was no Phase IV proposed by the Bishop. Heidi and Vestry members will think about how this campaign can be done and who will take the lead since no one offered at the meeting.

- **Treasurer's Report.** John DesLauriers reported that \$600 in outreach funds were paid out in September, plus expenses for PINS (\$522 in expenses were covered by a combination of \$175 in new donations and a dedicated balance from past funding). However, the deficit is growing each month that regular pledges don't cover costs. By the middle of October, St. Luke's will have used up all of the PPP money from the government for salaries and will apply for the money to be given as a grant. In December we should receive another quarterly rectory payment. Meanwhile, because we are not meeting in church the Sexton has been paid at the lesser winter rate, and printed bulletins may be canceled if there is no Phase IV proposed by the Bishop. In terms of budgeting, that bulletin expense is hard to predict since the materials are ordered in advance. The Fuel Oil Contract has been signed, and the church will get a credit for next year if we don't use the balance.

- **2021 Budget Preparation.** John may prepare two budgets since we don't know if we will be allowed to meet upstairs or at all. **Audit.** Due by September 1, it will be done in October after David Carey returns from vacation and Gene Garvey is through with census work.

- **Rector's Report.** The Diocesan Convention will be October 31. In her written report that was emailed to the Vestry, Heidi reported that twice-monthly Zoom Clergy Meetings will resume online on September 16, that she had requested the Clergy discuss reopening, and that Bishop Shannon agreed to that discussion.

- **Old Business. Outdoor Worship.** 8:30 a.m. now offers Morning Prayer Rite I. 10:00 a.m. has hybrid Morning Prayer Rite II. The question remains of what to do when the weather gets too cold—perhaps have one 10:00 a.m. service alternating between Rite I and Rite II? Meanwhile an E-Blast will be sent out at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday if any Sunday service is to be canceled because of bad weather. The greater question is whether to offer a Zoom Morning Prayer

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when the weather gets impossibly cold. While not appealing to some, many felt that a Zoom service was better than nothing and that it is very important to offer something from St. Luke's. If there were a Zoom service at 10:00 a.m., people could go online to services from the Diocese, National Cathedral, or other churches at 11:00 a.m.. Heidi will ponder.

- **New Business. Animal Blessing.** This annual event will take place on Saturday, October 3 at 11:00a.m. and Sunday, October 4 at 4:00 p.m.. If Marti cannot make dog biscuits to hand out, Janet Hunter will do it. **Wreath-Decorating Workshops.** Lillian Willis will offer more sessions with half the number of participants at each and abide by State guidelines regarding masks and social distancing, but no food may be served per the Bishop. The sessions will take place before Thanksgiving with set-up and sessions November 18-21. Information will be sent to Marti for the website and to Pat Fromberger for LITS. Lillian will also order wreaths for the red doors, but none for inside because church tragically is unlikely. **Christmas Event.** A potential event to replace the Holiday Tea and Craft Sale will be investigated for a potential set-up on Friday, December 4 and the event on Saturday December 5. The event will likely focus on frozen take-away foods and some Christmas crafts. Lillian will supply more details after meeting with interest volunteers. (See article on page 5.)

- **Next Vestry Meeting:** Tuesday, October 13, 2020.

—Lillian Willis, Clerk

Prayer for People Facing Great Uncertainty

God of the present moment,
 God who in Jesus stills the storm
 and soothes the frantic heart;
 bring hope and courage to all
 who wait or work in uncertainty.
 Bring hope that you will make them the equal
 of whatever lies ahead.
 Bring them courage to endure what cannot be avoided,
 for your will is health and wholeness;
 you are God, and we need you.
 Amen.

*Taken from A New Zealand Prayer Book
 —He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa' (adapted)*

God Is In Control

We can only be expected to witness from our lives and experiences, sharing in turn the love that has been given to us. By divine right, others enjoy the full agency and dignity to make their own choices. And we can rest assured in the confidence that God is in control and can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. —Forward Day By Day, 10/12/15

A Christmas Market Event: Culinary Classics & Crafts To Go

On Saturday December 5th of this year, from 10:00-2:00, St. Luke's will be holding a new event in place of the usual Christmas Tea & Craft Sale. A small group met recently at Lillian Willis's house and outlined a plan of action. Everyone felt it important to offer a safe event that would allow people to get out and experience some joy during this holiday season and help keep St. Luke's Church visible in the community. The event will be called "A Christmas Market" and will offer culinary classics and crafts to go.

The prime focus will be on offering take-out (or to go) culinary classic foods and holiday baked goods since frozen soups, main dishes, preserves, and other foods offered at the 2019 Christmas Tea were the biggest draw. But we will also offer a table with handcrafted items, such as ornaments, pet gifts, and other items people have made in keeping with the focus on Christmas. Customers will be able to pre-order food items, if so desired, and a special pre-order pick-up time 9:30-10:00 a.m. will enable them to get in and out quickly.

We need your help to make this event happen and boost holiday spirits! What can you provide?

- **Foods:** Soups, Quiches, Chili or Stews/Casseroles, Jams & Jellies, Candies, Pies, Cakes, Christmas Cookies/Holiday Bars, Breads, Quick Breads, Coffee Cake, Your Specialty or Famous Something, and more. Some items can be made and frozen ahead of time, some brought fresh, but all should be wrapped and pre-packaged for sale. We are asking for firm commitments now from those making food, so we know where we have gaps to cover, can advertise what will be available on our website, and can take orders in advance. We'd also like the frozen foods to get to Lillian Willis ahead of time, so we can inventory them and organize the display and cold storage for easy, quick ordering and purchasing.

Please contact **Lillian Willis** at (802-875-1340) or lbwillisct@comcast.net) or **Eileen Widger** at (802-875-4604) or twidger@sbcglobal.net – to let them know what you would like to provide.

- **Crafts:** We are also asking for donations of handcrafted items, especially those which are holiday oriented, pet related, or perfect as Christmas presents. Please let **Pat Fromberger** at (802-875-3548) or panjoe@vermontel.net – know what you can make.

- **Evergreen Sprays.** We usually have additional evergreens available after the Wreath-Decorating Workshops. If you are willing to help make some, please let Lillian Willis know. The time to do that will likely be Saturday, November 21 in the afternoon at Willard Hall.

Other Supplies:

- **Coolers, especially large ones.**
- **Quart-size Plastic Yogurt-type Containers with Lids.** These are needed as soon as possible so cooks can take advantage of harvest supplies and get to cooking and freezing

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early. Containers may be left at Willard Hall. Please let Lillian know if you need help in getting them to her or to the church.

- **Bags, plastic and paper.**

Safety Precautions. To make sure this is a safe event in light of Covid-19, we will limit the number of persons inside Willard Hall at any one time, have one-way traffic, and encourage social distancing. Facial masks will be required, and hand sanitizers will be available.

Communication. We look forward to hearing from you and hope you will answer our call to help make the Christmas Market a success! Please let us know if you have additional ideas or wish to become more involved with this new project.

— *The Christmas Market Event Committee*



Wreath-Decorating Workshops November 19 through 21



2019 Workshop: On the left is Penny Trick a first-timer who was enticed to come by Paula Felt (shown on right.) Paula has been attending these workshops for many years.

This year, more than ever, people need joy. For many—parishioners, friends, and neighbors—the Wreath Workshops at St. Luke's Church are an annual tradition that gives them a delightful start on the holidays. This year, because of the coronavirus, the number of workshops will be expanded, but the number of participants at each session will be cut in half to allow for safe, social distancing. All participants will need to register early to be

assured of a place and will need to wear masks.

More information will be coming in the November LITS, but right now we ask you to spread the word about this opportunity to decorate a beautiful pre-made evergreen wreath with especially collected natural materials. As always, a huge selection of natural decorations and fabric for bows, plus all necessary equipment, will be provided to make the decorating easy, fun, and successful. Open to the public, as well as to friends and parishioners, the workshops will take place in Willard Hall and once again benefit both the church and the Chester Conservation Committee's Student Environmental Scholarship Fund. The number of wreaths ordered is always limited; so if you know you'd like to participate and want a wreath reserved, **please contact Lillian Willis** at 802-875-1340 or lbwillisct@comcast.net as soon as possible.



OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS

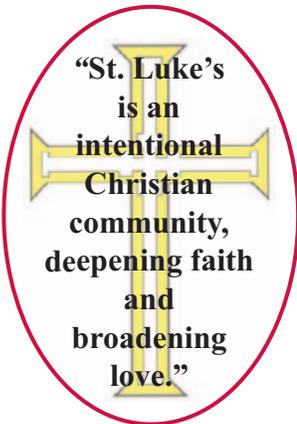


Birthdays:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Kat Meyer | 20 Brian Anderson |
| 10 Ruth Harrison | 21 Cyrena Goodrich |
| 11 Sally Hoover | 30 Amy Jones |
| 18 Daniel Loraditch | |
| 19 Moser Worth | |

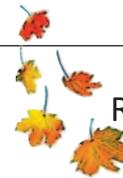
Anniversaries:

- 2 Doc & Annemarie Sexton
- 7 Malcolm & Ann Summers
- 14 Joe & Pat Fromberger
- 28 Tom & Eileen Widger
- 31 Walter & Sandra Rich



What matters to Jesus is people engaging with him, not agreeing with him. Engaging is the core of relationship. And relationship is the very essence of faith.

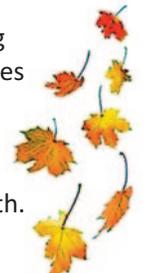
—Forward Day By Day, 8/17/14



Relief and Re-leaf

by Jane Davis

A single maple leaf
 Hangs among the millions
 Shaping a tree of unequalled grace,
 Crimson, green and golden
 In the dappled sunlight,
 Upright, old and proud,
 Arms outstretched to welcome in
 The frequent robin or squirrel.
 The leaf,
 Is an integral part,
 The perfect piece.
 She knows no myopic self-inspection
 To discover her tragic flaws,
 No worry over wormholes
 Or the fraying of a wind-torn edge.
 Perhaps, there is even pride
 In beauty sacrificed
 For the nourishment of another
 creature,
 Or another generation,
 Or for simply
 Having survived the storm.
 Leaf culture knows no dread
 Of approaching Autumn,
 Nor pays homage
 To the flawless green of fleeting youth.
 There is no shame
 In the drying and wrinkling
 That unburdens and enables
 Her wind-blown pirouette
 Into death.
 No fear of flying,
 No doubt of Spring's rebirth.
 Relief
 And Re-leaf



St. Luke's Financial Information

	August 2020	YTD 2020	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget
Pledge/Plate Income	\$ 4,038.00	\$ 39,429.64	\$ 56,724.00	69.5%
Other Oper. Income	\$ 43.06	\$ 17,038.69	\$ 33,150.00	51.4%
Restricted Income	\$ <u>175.70</u>	\$ <u>1246.70</u>	\$ <u>2,095.00</u>	59.5%
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 4,256.76	\$ 57,715.03	\$ 91,969.00	62.8%
Regular Expense	\$ 6,739.04	\$ 62,786.21	\$ 107,374.00	58.5%
Restricted Expense	\$ <u>522.22</u>	\$ <u>845.22</u>	\$ <u>2,340.00</u>	36.1%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 7,261.26	\$ 63,631.43	\$ 109,714.00	58.0%

Net Ordinary Income/(loss) \$ (3,004.50) \$ (5,916.40) \$ (17,745.00) 33.3%

Note: Budget deficit figure does not include principal payments on the Butterfield loan.

At eight months, all things being equal we would be at 66.7% on income and expense. As you can see overall income is slightly above with expenses 8.7% below YTD budget as might be expected. September will be slightly positive however we should expect losses in October and November with limited other income. December will be better due to the final Raymond James (rectory sale income) payment. —*John DesLauriers, Treasurer*

OCTOBER WORSHIP

We will continue to hold outdoor Sunday Morning Prayer Services as the weather permits. These services begin at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on the back lawn of the church. Read the article on pages 2- 3 for more information.

Please feel free to contact Heidi+ anytime either by phone or email with any need or simply to chat. She is in the Church Office on Tuesdays -Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. – Noon. During these days of physical separation, a phone call or message can help to bring us closer together in spirit and heart.



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Heidi L. Edson, Rector

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