



“BEHOLD, I BRING YOU GOOD

tidings

of great joy”

St. Luke's Anglican Church, Amherst, NH

The Reverend Richard L. B. Sutter, Rector

ancient worship...

...timeless faith

May 2005

From the Rector

Dear People of God:

May is one of those gorgeous months, when those of us who have a fondness for old movies and especially old musicals may embarrass ourselves, as I do on occasion, by being overwhelmed by the beauty of God's creation and uncontrollably burst into song—like “tra-la, it's May....”

The month begins with a celebration related to the good things of creation. Rogation Sunday is the fifth Sunday after Easter, and the three days following it are the Rogation Days. The theme for these days is found in the opening of the Collect, where God is described as the source of all good things. The good things of creation are the especial focus here, of course. In an agrarian society, planting time was important to the survival of the community, and appealing to God for his blessing was an important practice. In our modern supermarket everywhere, shrink-wrapped and freeze-dried world, it is even more important to remember who is the source of our blessings.

The practice of blessing the fields is ancient, and on Rogation Sunday it has been customary since early mediæval times to “beat the bounds” of a parish by processing around the borders of the parish with incense and sprinkling the fields with holy water. In modern times, it is usual to bless the parish gardens and plantings, and skip the “beating of the bounds,” especially in America where parishes tend to cover large geographical areas. On this Sunday we'll be following tradition and processing outdoors at the begin-

ning of each service to bless the grounds and gardens.

Thursday the fifth is Ascension Day, the day we mark the corporeal return of our Lord to the right hand of the Father in heaven (Acts 1, Luke 24), from whence he promises to send his Holy Spirit to guide his Church. This is one of the few days in the Christian year that is a day of obligation, when the Church expects all Christians to be present at the Holy Eucharist. I hope to see as many there as possible!

Pentecost, of course, marks the end of the great fifty days of Easter (it's very name means “fiftieth”), and the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and the Blessed Virgin in a company of 120 followers. This is the birthday of the Church, and we'll mark the day accordingly.

The following Sunday is the feast of the Holy Trinity, the only feast we have celebrating a doctrine, and the occasion when I once had my most disastrous preaching experience ever ... embarrassing details are saved for that day, so come and find out more!

Affectionately, your rector and friend,

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Signs and Wonders

On Wednesday, April 20, Father Sutter and two vestrymen, Don Skillins and Walter Kilian, under the supervision of the state highway department, put up a new sign of the times on highway 101.

The original sign had been damaged last fall by an unidentified driver, and a new one needed to be ordered. The new sign is located on the northbound side of 101 just south of the Baboosic Lake Road exit. This sign helps to lessen the problem of St Luke's invisibility, helping to make us easier for visitors and newcomers to notice. ❖



State of NH proves it—St Luke's is on the level!

Franciscan Milestone



Some of the New England Franciscans come for the investiture. (From left, Sister Hildegard, Brother Baldo-Zacchaeus, and Father Richard-Giles.)

Saturday, April 16th saw brown habits throughout the nave and chancel at St Luke's. On that day, Father Sutter became a novice in the Franciscan Order of the Divine Compassion (FODC).

The ceremony took place in the context of the Mass, when after the sermon, Fr Richard accepted a rule of life and was clothed in the habit of a novice, which consists of the cord and a brown scapular, ❖

with the Franciscan Crown, which is a Franciscan adaptation of the traditional, or Dominican, rosary. Bishop Edward Ford, TOR, of this diocese, was the celebrant of the Mass and officiated at the service on behalf of the FODC, and several members of his Franciscan community joined in the celebration, together with Dom Dean Steward, OSB, graciously sharing his Benedictine spirituality with a room of Franciscans! The day had been chosen by Fr Richard purely for reasons of convenience and only later did he discover that April 16th was the old calendar's feast day commemorating the Profession of Saint Francis. Fr Richard was given the name in the Franciscan Order of Fr Richard-Giles.



A tertiary may be any Christian, whether clergy or lay, married or single, who feels called to share in the devotional life of a religious order. The FODC rule of life includes certain daily prayers and prayers of preparation and thanksgiving before and after celebrating the Holy Eucharist. The FODC is a traditional Anglican religious order, with friars, nuns, tertiaries, and companions in North America, England, Africa, Australia, and the far East. As a member of Forward in Faith, the FODC is a communion partner of the worldwide Traditional Anglican Communion. ❖

Bible Study Adds Guide

Our Wednesday evening Bible Study has received a more structured format. We are following the LifeChange Bible study guide published by the Navigators, a guide that emphasizes personal discovery of God's Word, application to our daily lives, scene-setting historical insights, and perhaps most importantly includes stimulating discussion questions. Having finished the book of Exodus, we move on to Joshua. Our plan for the Wednesdays of May are:

- May 4: Reconnaissance in Jericho (2.1-24)
- May 11: Jordan Crossing (3.1-4.24)
- May 18: Final Preparations (5.1-12)
- May 25: Jericho (5.13-6.27)

We've purchased extra guides, so feel free to drop in as your schedule allows. ❖

SHARE News

Kathleen Sutter

What a wonderful turn out for the sock drive! We collected 99 pairs of socks; this was a tremendous success. For the month of May we are collecting new underwear for both children and adults. A box will be available in the undercroft. We are still collecting items for the food pantry; needed are: dry milk, canned meat, soups, saltines, pasta and pasta mixes, and canned vegetables. Picking one or two items each Sunday adds to the collection. We thank all who donate to this vital ministry—God's blessings on you. ❖

Timbrel & Song

Many thanks to John Leslie for his continued commitment to excellence in worship. His faithfulness to provide us with wonderful music each Sunday fills the church with joy and wonder.

One role of music in worship helps the congregation feel more prayerful and worshipful. Great job; we appreciate you! ❖

Home & Hospital

Anne Becker has recovered sufficiently from her back surgery that she is now able to visit All Saints' in Concord with her daughter. She hopes to be able to drive again soon and return to St Luke's, but in the meantime I'm sure a visit would be welcome. Vernal Watts has joined her husband Earl in Greenbriar Terrace, in Nashua. They are in room 224 and would be happy to see some friends from St Luke's. Deacon Larry and Jane would also be glad of visitors. They're still at their home at 30 High Street in Milford. Pat Jackson was hospitalized the end of April, but is presently back home. ❖



Hospitality

Thank you, Betsy Edgell, for your devotion to coffee hour! Your faithfulness is truly rewarded from God above.

We still need people to sign up for Sunday morning goodies. Plus, on a monthly basis, we need three cans each of regular and decaf, not to mention our weekly need for creamer, wet or dry.

We thank all the people who share their baking talents and time to make coffee hour a welcome time of fellowship. ❖

Gardens & Grounds

Spring is busting out all over! The grounds around the church are no exception! The flower gardens are beautiful and well maintained. Our thanks go out to Joy and Doug for all the love and care lavished on them. ❖

Sunday School News

Kathleen Sutter

In Sunday School we have been studying the Easter lessons:

Radical—Crucifixion and Resurrection
Guess Who's coming to dinner—Road to Emmaus
Are you real?—Doubting Thomas
Reruns—Worship

For the month of May:

May 1: Children's garden—Rogation Sunday
May 8: Holy smoke!—Ascension
May 15: Building blocks—Pentecost
May 22: Three in one—Trinity
May 29: No Sunday School

We have a growing group of faithful students eager to learn and grow.

We also are in need of new Bibles. The ones we have are broken and ripping. Father Sutter has located suitable Bibles for the Sunday School. If you'd like to donate for the purchase of a Bible, please see him or write "Sunday School Bibles" in the memo line of your check. The price per Bible is \$11.55 (we need eight). ❖



Alpha

One of the most successful outreach programs in the Church today is the Alpha Course. Originally developed at Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Brompton, London, the course has been fine-tuned for over twenty years and is used in many protestant denominations and Catholic parishes world-wide with phenomenal results.

In April, Charlie Dodd, Frank Williams, and Lil Powers met with Fr Sutter to learn more about the Alpha Course and consider whether and how it might be implemented here at St Luke's. The course involves a weekly meal followed by a short video presentation and then a small group discussion. To run Alpha, we will need several volunteers in different areas. See Fr Sutter for more details. ❖

Sunday Adult Christian Ed

The Sunday morning Adult Christian Education class has been focusing on great heroes & heroines of the Old Testament. So far we've looked at Abraham, Isaac & Rebecca, and Jacob & Esau.

For the month of May we'll consider:

May 1: Joseph
May 8: Moses
May 15: Deborah, Gideon, & Samson
May 22: Elijah & Elisha
May 29: No Adult Christian Ed.

The class meets downstairs in the undercroft from 9:10-10:45 –bring lots of questions!. ❖

Care-Net

The Care-Net Pregnancy Center of Manchester & Nashua is having their annual Walk for Life on May 7th at 10:00 am at Veterans Park in Manchester.

Our collections for Care-Net continue. They need diapers, formula, baby food and other baby items. The collection basket for Care-Net is downstairs. ❖

Outreach, In-Reach, and Fundraising

At a special parish evaluation meeting on April 19th, the vestry created three new positions for structuring the way we live our life and do our ministry together at St Luke's. These three positions are chairs of Outreach, In-Reach, and Fundraising.

The In-reach Chair will focus on the ministries we perform for—or to—ourselves: phone lists, prayer chains, fellowship activities like pot-lucks, picnics, and seasonal Saturday suppers. The Outreach Chair will tend to the ministries we reach out to others, tending to their needs, needs for material assistance and needs for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Fundraising will take care of, well, fundraising. ☺

Junior Warden Peter Hambleton has volunteered to be the point man for Outreach. Volunteers for the other two positions are still being sought...is God speaking to you to serve this way? ❖

may 2005

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
1 SS. PHILIP & JAMES 8:00 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Christian Ed. 10:00 Sung Eucharist ¹ 11:15 Vestry Meeting	2 <i>St Athanasius, B.C.D., 373</i>	3 <i>Finding of the Holy Cross</i>	4 <i>St Monica, W., 387</i> 6:30 pm Mass 7-8 pm Bible Study	5 ASCENSION DAY (Day of Obligation) 6:30 pm Mass	6 <i>St John</i> <i>before the Latin Gate</i>	7 <i>St Stanislaus, B.M., 1079</i>
8 SUNDAY AFTER THE ASCENSION 8:00 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Christian Ed. 10:00 Sung Eucharist ¹	9 <i>St Gregory of Nazianzen,</i> <i>B.C.D., 390</i>	10 <i>Of the Octave</i>	11 <i>Of the Octave</i> 6:30 pm Mass 7-8 pm Bible Study	12 <i>Octave Day of the</i> <i>Ascension</i>	13	14 <i>Vigil of Pentecost</i>
15 PENTECOST 8:00 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Christian Ed. 10:00 Solemn Mass ^{1,3}	16 <i>Monday in Whitsun Week</i>	17 <i>Tuesday in Whitsun Week</i>	18 <i>Ember Day</i> 6:30 pm Mass 7-8 pm Bible Study	19 <i>Thursday in Whitsun Week</i>	20 <i>Ember Day</i>	21 <i>Ember Day</i>
22 TRINITY 8:00 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Christian Ed. 10:00 Solemn Mass ^{1,3}	23	24	25 6:30 pm Mass 7-8 pm Bible Study	26 CORPUS CHRISTI 6:30 pm Mass	27 <i>Of the Octave</i> <i>(Comm. St Venerable Bede)</i>	28 <i>Of the Octave</i>
29 1 ST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 8:00 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Christian Ed. 10:00 Sung Eucharist ²	30 <i>Of the Octave</i>	31 <i>Of the Octave</i>	<p>Note 1: Musical setting will be the Second Communion Service at the 10:00 (1st – 22nd).</p> <p>Note 2: Musical setting will be the First Communion Service at the 10:00 (29th).</p> <p>Note 3: Incense will be used at the 10:00 on Pentecost and Trinity Sundays (15th & 22nd).</p>			

Some Saints of May

May 1: Pip & Jim

All right, so it's really not Pip & Jim, it's Saints Philip and James! James, the stepbrother of our Lord, served as the first bishop of Jerusalem. Philip, one of the earliest apostles, brought Nathanael to Jesus. They share the same day because their relics were deposited in the basilica of the Apostles in Rome in the sixth century.

May 2: St Athanasius

There are three points we ought to remember about St Athanasius, whose name means "immortal." First, a letter of his to his diocesan clergy is the oldest list of New Testament books that we have. Second, the so-called Athanasian creed is a succinct summary of the Church's teaching about the Trinity. Third, St Athanasius was a bishop at a time when the heresy of Arianism was afflicting the Church so strongly that at one point in time he was the only orthodox bishop left, indeed a model for our day.

May 7: St Stanislaus

The great patron of Poland is St Stanislaus, bishop of Krakow in the 11th century. He rebuked the king for his vicious cruelty, and in return was martyred by the king himself, during Mass, in 1079.

May 9: St Gregory of Nazianzen

St Gregory of Nazianzen is usually referred to in a group, with the brothers St Basil and St Gregory the Great, as "the Cappadocians," and was a steadfast defender of orthodox teaching of the Trinity.

May 27: The Venerable Bede

The greatest scholar of his time, Bede was a monk at Jarrow, in England. He is best remembered for his *Ecclesiastical History of England*, but he wrote commentaries on the Scriptures based on patristic sources, and a treatise on chronology. His history remains the primary source we have for the sixth through eighth centuries in England.

st luke's

anglican church

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Address Correction Requested