



Tidings

St. Luke's Anglican Church, Amherst, NH

Easter 2012

He has risen, just as he said (Mt 28:6)



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we come to the end of Lent and the upcoming celebration of the glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, I greet you in his most Holy Name.

Recently I read (again!) that wonderful passage from Paul's letter to the Philippians, where he states: *"One thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."* (Phil 3:13-14)

How apt this reading is for the people of St. Luke's as we prepare for the Easter feast and the season of new hope and new life. Easter is a joyous time, not only because we can wear our new spring clothing and eat copious amounts of candy after our Lenten fast, but more importantly because we are given this annual reminder of the incredible love and mercy that God showed us in sending us His Son to take away our sins and to give us the power to become His Children! At our 8:30 service on Easter

morning, we will especially rejoice as we bring into God's Kingdom through baptism a new member of the congregation, Preston Wentrup. Be sure to welcome him, along with his parents Hans and Maia and his older brother Connor!

How apt also this reading is for the people of St. Luke's as we prepare for the calling of a new rector for this parish. This man will lead us in new directions for the furthering of the Kingdom of God in Southern New Hampshire. Exciting new opportunities await us as we move forward on this journey. It is good for us to remember that the past is past. We should learn from the past to grow ever deeper into Christ's love and then to let the past go so that we can focus on the future that God has for us, "pressing on toward the goal."

How do we "press on?" How do we know that we are heading toward the goal for which God has called us? The answer to this lies in the understanding we have that we are "new creatures in Christ" whose aim is to bring Him glory and honor. We do this through the offering of our gifts and talents (and, yes, even finances!) to Him for His use in the building up of His earthly Kingdom. This strange concept is called *Stewardship*.

I know that for most of us stewardship is a dirty word, because we focus our thinking on an every member canvass and begging for money. This, though, is far from the truth. Stewardship is *the offering of ourselves, all that we are and all that we have, to God for His use in the Church and in the World, for the building up of the Body of Christ.* Other articles in **Tidings** will go into more detail concerning various aspects of stewardship. Here just let us say that Jesus wants, when we come into His presence on the Last Day, to be able to say

to us: “Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.” (Mt 25:34) This is indeed the “prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

During these last days of Lent, and as we enter the great season of the Resurrection, may we all be greatly blessed with His presence, His power, and His mercy in our lives as individuals and as a parish.

- Fr. Hendy Webb+



Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday – April 1, 2012

8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist with Palm Sunday Liturgy
10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist with Palm Sunday Liturgy and Hymns

Maundy Thursday – April 5, 2012

6:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist and the Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday – April 6, 2012

12:00 noon – Ecumenical Good Friday Service at St. Luke’s
6:00 p.m. – Good Friday Liturgy and Mass of the Pre-Sanctified

Easter Eve – April 7, 2012

6:00 p.m. – Great Vigil of Easter

Easter Day – April 8, 2012

8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist and Baptism of Preston Wentrup
10:00 a.m. – Festive Holy Eucharist

Our noontime Good Friday service this year is very special. For the first time, we are welcoming into our midst the clergy and people of the Milford area Clergy Association and parishes. Many of the other clergy will be participating. Our guest preacher will be the Rev. James Pinard, a Reformed pastor from Lee, NH. As you know, Jim has been worshipping at St. Luke’s for a number of years, as his supply clergy duties allow. Please join us and welcome our visitors as we gather together to recall that day on which our Savior gave

Himself, taking our sins from us as an offering to the Father.

On Easter morning, we have the joy of baptizing and bringing into the fellowship of the Church Preston Wentrup. Preston's family has been worshipping at St. Luke's for the past several months at the 8:30 service. There will be a reception in the Undercroft for Preston and his family following the baptism.



Go and make disciples of all nations (Mt. 28:19)



The Holy Spirit is at Work at St. Luke's

Report from the Search Committee for Tidings

February was a busy and productive month for the search committee which met every Saturday after Bible study. Using the parish responses to the October questionnaire and the expertise of many members of the parish and with the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit, the committee was able to wrap up the writing of the parish profile which has been designed to acquaint prospective rectors with the people of St. Luke's. Included in this document is a church history, a description of our worship and music as well as church properties, and a section on our stewardship and parish finances. We have also written about our hopes for our parish and for our new rector. Pictures and Bible verses enliven the text. We will be able to use the profile to acquaint newcomers with our parish as well. The writing of the profile

was truly a team effort, and the committee is very grateful to all who contributed. The project not only produced a useful document we can all be proud of but also gave us the opportunity to learn more about our parish, deepen our faith, and work together with each other, strengthening the bonds among us.

In March, the committee will be looking at the interview process and selecting key interview questions for our prospective rectors. Once this work is accomplished, we will be seeking candidate names from the congregation and our rector, Bishop Marsh. Now, more than ever, the committee needs the parish's continued prayers for discernment. Please ask for God's guidance and that He send the Holy Spirit to be with us. – Jennifer Coppins, Search Committee Chairman

Some Thoughts on Stewardship

By Mr. Bruce Rockwell, stewardship expert
This article is taken from *The Pastoral Staff*, December 2011

We are God's stewards all the time, whether we are aware of it or not. All that we have and all that we are ... are gifts from God. So, the question is not, will we be stewards, but what kind of stewards will we be? Every breath we take, every word we speak, every deed we do are acts of stewardship. Will our stewardship reflect God's love and generosity, or will our stewardship reflect our own personal insecurities and self-interest

What do we believe about God? Do we believe God is a god of Love? Do we believe God is a god of forgiveness? Do we believe, really believe, that all that we have are gifts from God? Therefore, do we believe God is generous? Do we believe in a god of abundance or a god of scarcity? What we believe determines how we act. If

we believe in a god of scarcity, we will be selfish, perhaps even miserly, holding on to all that we possess. But if we believe in a god of abundance, we will be generous, making generous offerings of thanksgiving to God.

Do we believe we are created in the image of God? If so, we are created to love as God loves us. We are created to forgive as God forgives us. And we are created to be generous as God is generous to us. Even if we believe this, we will never be as loving, as forgiving and as generous as God is. But we can strive to be more loving, more forgiving and more generous each day. When we strive to do that, we become the loving and generous stewards God creates us to be.

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Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread. (Luke 24:35)

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Prayer Shawls to the Rescue

The Prayer Shawl Ministry began at our church in June 2009 and has been an active Ministry since. Some uses for a shawl or lap robe are for individuals undergoing medical procedures, comfort after a loss or given to an individual in times of stress. They can also be used for happy occasions such as birth of a baby, bridal shower, or wedding gift.

All shawls/lap robes are blessed by our Priest before being presented to a recipient. A note and written prayer is sent with each presentation to an individual. Shawls give comfort, solace, hugs, and shelter to the recipient. Recently one of our recipients who is recovering from an illness, gave her shawl to an individual in need, thus

sharing God's blessings to her.

We are also blessed to have individuals who are not members of our church make and donate shawls for our Ministry.

We have patterns for shawls and lap robes for individuals who would like to make this gift. See Lillian Power.



All Things Anglican

Many of you have seen the Anglican Church in America (ACA) lapel pins, ties, belts, etc. You may also have seen the signs about the Grand Opening of All Things Anglican, Inc. *All Things Anglican* is a ministry of our member Lee Garre. Some people were lamenting that we could no longer obtain ACA memorabilia, since the cathedral of the Eastern United States had discontinued this ministry. Lee realized that, even with her health limitations, this was a ministry she could offer to the Church. After much consultation with the Presiding Bishop of the ACA, she undertook this gift of

stewardship for her Lord and His Church. Although *All Things Anglican* is still in its early days, she has received many favorable responses from across our Diocese. Your Vicar will be taking samples to the House of Bishops/Executive Council meeting in April to show the rest of the ACA.

Sometime, take the time to look at her website: www.allthingsanglican.com and discover all the goodies. Note also that the logo for her company is taken from the Rose Window in the sanctuary of St. Luke's Church.



BEWARE!!! Last week, hackers broke into Fr. Webb's email account and hijacked his contact list. They then started sending out VERY QUESTIONABLE emails to that list. Effective immediately, please DO NOT OPEN an email from Fr. Webb unless it has an acceptable title in the subject line. Stay tuned for a completely new email address for your Vicar.



This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name. Those dear tokens of his passion

**Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransomed worshipers:
With what rapture
With what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!**

- Charles Wesley, 1758. #5 in *Hymnal 1940*

St. Luke's Anglican Church

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