



# St. Luke Anglican Church

P.O. Box 131 ~ 3 Limbo Lane  
Amherst, NH 03031

## "St. Luke's Tidings" - Advent 2006

Dear Friends:

Advent is a season of hope and expectation. We prepare for the coming of our Lord and enjoy holiday warmth with family and friends.

There is, however, a balance that must be struck. Christmas is a religious celebration and not a secular holiday. Advent is the time set aside for preparing for Jesus' coming. The Sundays in Advent are important because we participate in the Eucharist and hear in the scriptures the mighty acts by which we are redeemed.

I look forward to celebrating Advent and Christmas with you.

Blessings,

Fr. Swayze

1. **Christmas Services** - This year the Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 24<sup>th</sup> falls on Christmas Eve. We will observe our normal Sunday schedule of 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM services.

Then at 7:30 PM we will have a service of Lessons and Carols. This is a wonderful liturgy, during which we sing carols and hear of the birth of our Saviour in scripture.

Then at 9:00 PM we will celebrate the Christmas Eucharist. Christmas is one of the great feasts of the church and because of the solemnity of the occasion, incense will be used at the Eucharist.

2. **Christmas Plants** - The Altar Guild has made arrangements to purchase red poinsettia plants to help decorate the Church, for the Christmas Eve Service. The poinsettias are \$10.00 each and may be taken home with you after the Christmas Eve service. They may be ordered or by “signing up” at the Church for the next two Sundays or by contacting Cynthia Kilian at 222-1070. Please advise the Altar Guild of what you’d like to have appear in the Christmas Eve Church Bulletin, by filling in the form located in the rear of the church!

3. **Annual Meeting** - The Annual Meeting of St. Luke Anglican Church will be held on Sunday, January 21 at 9:15 AM; following our 8 AM worship service and before the 10:00 AM service starts. This gives everyone an opportunity to sit down in the Undercroft, have a cup of coffee or tea and listen to the presentations regarding the operation of our church and elect members of the Vestry. An item of discussion will be the status of a proposed addition to the church building.

John Leslie, our Church Secretary, has requested that all reports be given to him no later than Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. This permits him to prepare the Annual Meeting Report and to have it available on January 14<sup>th</sup>, for everyone to read and consider prior to the actual meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

4. **Our New Bishop Suffragan** - On Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>,

The Rev. Dr. Brian Marsh will be consecrated Bishop Suffragan for the Diocese of the Northeast at St. James Anglican Church in Elmhurst, Long Inland. Archbishop Louis W. Falk, President of the House of Bishops of the Anglican Church in America, our own Diocesan, The Rt. Rev. George Langberg and The Rt. Rev. David Moyer will all participate in the consecration service.

Bishop Marsh lives in Belchertown, MA and serves both the Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd in Charlestown, NH and Trinity Anglican Church in Cornish,

NH. He has been a good friend of St. Luke's ever since our beginning back in the early 1990s.

Bishop Langberg has been elected by the House of Bishops of the Anglican Church in America to succeed Archbishop Falk as President of the House of Bishops. Bishop Marsh will assist in the duties of coordinating the parishes within the Diocese of the Northeast and help maintain the growth that the Diocese has experienced over the past five years.

## 5. Bits and Pieces -

- **Have you met** Jim and Joanne Pinard from Lee, NH? They have been attending the 10AM service faithfully for the past several months now. Please take a moment and introduce yourself to them.

Another couple that has been attending our 10 AM service for several weeks now is Vinoy and Carol Laughner from Greenfield. Please introduce yourself to them too!

We were also visited by the Pease Family from Amherst about a month ago. They had two lovely daughters.

- **The Christmas Fair** was a great success financially. We have received \$799 to date. When Lil Power was offered another dollar by the Editor to make it \$800, she said, No, No! I'm making several items for someone and that will put us over the \$800. To the entire Committee who worked on this and made the event possible, **THANK YOU!**

- **Bible Study** continues to flourish every Saturday morning at 11:00 AM. Under Fr. Swayze's leadership the program continues to have an average of at least twenty participants each Saturday morning. Everyone who attends speaks highly of the session and all parishioners are welcome to attend even if they can't commit to attending each and every Saturday morning.

- **Anglican Church Calendars** are somewhere between Phoenix, AZ and Amherst, NH as this is being written. They were ordered several weeks ago

and are expected soon. In fact, they may be available this Sunday. Price is \$5.00 for each calendar. Please give the money to our Treasurer, Charlie Dodd. The \$5.00 just covers our cost. They make nice Christmas presents too!

- **Church envelopes** will be available this Sunday in the rear of the church. You're more than welcome to take a box you and your family. It helps our Treasurer to give you a correct year end receipt of your contributions.