

# The Steeple

St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
210 SE Ninth St., Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74003  
[www.episcopalbartlesville.org](http://www.episcopalbartlesville.org)

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July 12, 2017



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School 2017 is in full swing! It began this Monday, July 10 and those who have participated are having a great time.

On Thursday, July 13, we are inviting all parents and friends and parishioners to join us in sharing and celebrating what we have learned this week. Our celebration will begin at 6:15 in Metcalf Hall. Everyone is welcome to join us! During VBS this week, we have focused on learning about our Companion Diocese of Uruguay by looking at their geography, their culture and our shared roles in living the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our daily lives.

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### Important Dates To Remember

VBS Family Night Thursday, July 13,  
6:15pm, Metcalf Hall (see article this pg.)

Monthly Vestry Mtg. Monday, July 17,  
7:15pm

All-Parish "Hopluck" Dinner for Fr. Sean  
& Nicole, Wed., July 19, 6:30pm, Metcalf  
Hall (see article this pg.)

## Words from the Warden

"HOPLUCK" DINNER SCHEDULED  
Wednesday, July 19, 6:30pm, Metcalf Hall



With everyone's busy summer schedule, it seems hard to find the time to get together with good friends. However, on **Wednesday, July 19 from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** we are having a "hopluck" dinner to reconnect with each other and especially be able to visit with Nicole and Fr. Sean before their departure. In order to do that, they will be table "hopping" during the meal so that they get a chance to visit with everyone. So, bring your favorite dish and the rest of your family (children included) and enjoy a festive dinner with your church friends! Drinks will be provided. See you then!

Faithfully,  
Kathy Zervas, Sr. Warden

## Thoughts from Fr. Sean



The sermon that almost was...

Last Sunday, I talked to you about the worthy path Jesus calls us to walk. What you don't know is that I almost talked to you about being 'prisoners of hope'. Zechariah, in his recognizable passage from Palm Sunday, prophesies the coming of the first 'Jesus Movement'. He tells of a mighty King who will come into the land and set the people free, claiming the

world as His. Zechariah's last lines to us from this passage are powerful, as he writes, "As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double."

Zechariah is writing during a time of return; the many people who were exiled to Babylon have started to return—or have returned—to their land, and the building of the second Temple has begun. The call to these 'prisoners of hope' is one that laments the past treatment of God's people yet extolls God in the same breath, proclaiming that He will unite the land and restore the people to their former place, doubly. The reason for the double? The people were exiled and punished doubly for their sins, according to the earlier writings. In essence, these people were prisoners of hope. They'd already been enslaved for centuries, but then set free. They had been conquered, done conquering, and back again, so they knew that God would show up, again, in their darkest hour.

Sometimes we live in those moments of the 'darkest hour'. We have periods in our life that seem hopeless and infinite; but due to our faith, we are able to also be labeled 'prisoners of hope'. This is a good thing. We are prisoners, much like our faithful ancestors because—by virtue of our faith in Christ—we know that these darkest hours are finite, and that God's power and love is infinite. Sister Joan Chittister—a Benedictine Sister of Erie—encapsulates this theology of being a prisoner of hope in many of her writings, but one sticks out to me as the most powerful. She writes:

*"Hope is not a matter of waiting for things outside us to get better. It is about getting better inside...it is about allowing ourselves to believe in the future we cannot see...about trusting in God...then we can hope because we have no reason to hope. Hope is what sits by a window and waits for one more dawn, despite the fact that there isn't an ounce of proof in tonight's black, black sky that it can possibly come...Hope is the last great gift to rise out of the grave of despair."*

This is the hope we ought to hold tightly when life's light seems to be wicked away—the hope that the unforeseeable dawn will still come, and that with it, comes the same everlasting Father who cares for us today in the dark will take care of us tomorrow in the light. Be hopeful. Be hope-filled. Know that you are loved.

Faithfully,  
Fr. Sean+

## WEEKLY

### ACTIVITY CALENDAR

#### Sunday, July 16, 2017

8:00am Rite I  
9:15am Clergy Forum, MH  
10:30am Rite II

#### Monday, July 17, 2017

9:30am Church Staff Mtg.  
5:30pm Holy Eucharist  
7:15pm Vestry Mtg.

#### Tuesday, July 18, 2017

10:00am Spiritual Discipline  
Group, library

#### Wednesday, July 19, 2017

3:30pm Green Country  
Eucharist  
6:30pm All Parish "Hopluck"  
for Fr. Sean & Nicole, MH

#### Thursday, July 20, 2017

6:45am Men's Fellowship, MH  
12:00pm Holy Eucharist

#### Friday, July 21, 2017

#### Saturday, July 22, 2017

#### Sunday, July 23, 2017

8:00am Rite I  
9:15 Clergy Forum, MH  
10:30am Rite II

#### Monday, July 24, 2017

9:30am Church Staff Mtg.  
5:30pm Holy Eucharist

#### Tuesday, July 25, 2017

10:00am Spiritual Discipline  
Group, library



E. Y. E.

### (Episcopal Youth Event)

Please keep the E.Y.E. in your prayers this week as nearly 1,500 people from diocese all across the United States, Europe, Dominican Republic, Micronesia, and more, are gathered at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond from July 10-14.

## ST. LUKE'S PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following persons in your prayers:

*(Names on the Prayer List are rotated off every 4 weeks. If there is need for continued prayers, please let us know.)*

Robert, Hugh, Lee, Steve, Rita, Ed, Sydney, Jaycee, Evelyn, Justin, John, Samantha, Bev, Don, Kris, Max, Carl, Jamie, Jim, Sue, Pam, Jack, Jenny, Elizabeth, and all members of our armed forces and their families.

*If you have a prayer request, contact our Prayer Ministry Coordinator Thelma Blackburn 918-333-7902 or [TPBGEN@aol.com](mailto:TPBGEN@aol.com) or the church office at 918-336-1212 or [annbell@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:annbell@episcopalbartlesville.org).*

## It Takes a Bit of Money to Buy All of Those School Supplies!



It's "Pack the Backpack" time and if you look in Rodgers Hall, you'll see tons of supplies already on the tables. But we'll be buying tons more in the next few weeks. We spend about \$60,000 each year on the supplies. If you are able to help with the purchase of supplies, you can put a check in the offering plate (with a note in the memo line) or you can send your donation to:

**Washington County School Supply Drive  
PO Box 2031  
Bartlesville, OK 74005**

Or, you can go to: <http://packthebackpacks.org> and click on the "Donate Now" button.



**If you are moving or changing your mailing address, please notify the church at**

**[stlukes@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:stlukes@episcopalbartlesville.org) or 918-336-1212. Thank you!**

## PRAYER FOR THE NEW RECTOR SEARCH PROCESS

We ask you to pray for the rector candidates, Search Committee, and Vestry during our mutual discernment process for our next rector.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries. All this we ask through our savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Favorite Hymns 🎵🎵🎵

Have you noticed the same names appearing in the "favorite hymns" being sung so far this month? That is because: (1) everyone is so very happy with all the music selections that you don't want anything to change; or (2) many people have not let Dolores in on the secret information called "my favorite hymns are....." (it must be a secret because many of you are not telling!)

Sunday's hymns are chosen from the "Favorite Hymns" list covering 2000 – 2016 and include hymns suggested by Kris Bonner, Diana Farris, Steve & Maureen Forsythe, Becky Liehr, Dolores McCreary, Debbie Mueggenborg, Carol Murphy, Bryson & Suzanne Read, and Lauri Watkins.

**St. Luke's Episcopal Church**  
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The Rev. Sean Ekberg, Priest in Charge ([seanekberg@gmail.com](mailto:seanekberg@gmail.com))

The Rev. Douglas Freebern, Deacon ([dfreebern@yahoo.com](mailto:dfreebern@yahoo.com))

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In an Emergency, call 580-977-4969, 918-766-2473, 918-336-1430 or 918-914-0525

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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30am-4:00pm, Fridays 8:30am-12:30pm

Holy Eucharist: Sunday 8am & 10:30am; Monday 5:30pm, Thursday 12pm

"The Steeple" is a weekly publication of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 210 SE 9<sup>th</sup> St., Bartlesville, OK 74003

**LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE 7/16/17 through 7/23/17**

*Volunteers: Please make your own substitutions.*

**Acolytes**

**July 16**

**Servers**

Nick Olsen, Greta Olsen

**Torchbearers**

Emma Perry, Madelyn Stuart

**July 23 & 30**

**No Acolytes Scheduled**

**Scripture Lessons for**

**Sunday, July 16**

Genesis 25:19-34;

Psalms 119:105-112; Romans 8:1-

11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

**Music for Sunday, July 16**

#390 – "Praise to the Lord"

GATHER #190 – "Spirit of God

Within Me"

GATHER #291 – "Here I Am, Lord"

GATHER #339 – "Life-Giving

Bread"

#427 – "When Morning Gilds the

Skies"

**Greeters**

**Sunday, July 16**

**8:00am**

Monica Martin

**10:30am**

Carol Murphy

**Sunday, July 23**

**8:00am**

Sally Canfield

**10:30am**

D. J. & Jerry Nezam

Jim & Nancy Warring

**Ushers**

**Sunday, July 16**

**8:00am**

Dean Zervas

**10:30am**

Glenn Bonner, Jim Warring

**Sunday, July 23**

**8:00am**

Robert Babcock, Dean Zervas

**10:30am**

Jim Grillot, Max McCreary

**Layreaders**

**July 16**

**8:00am**

Jim Grillot, Kate Carroll

**10:30am**

Nick Conner, Bob Wesneski

**July 23**

**8:00am**

Scott Williams, Darian Kedy

**10:30am**

Juanita Green, Kyle Peterson

**Sunday Coffee Fellowship Hour**

**July 16**

Mark & Cheryl Fregin

**July 23**

Jeanne Julstrom

**July 30**

Becky & Jim Liehr

**Volunteers needed**

*There is a sign-up sheet in the*

*Metcalf Hall kitchen or*

*contact Rita Childers, 918-519-*

*8470 or [puvey45@gmail.com](mailto:puvey45@gmail.com)*

**St. Luke's Bookstore**

*The Bookstore is open*

*Sundays between the two*

*services and after the*

*10:30 service. All proceeds*

*from sales go to St. Luke's*

*Outreach Projects.*

**\*To volunteer, contact**

Melinda Wesneski,

918-333-7758 or

[mcwesne@gmail.com](mailto:mcwesne@gmail.com).

**Children's Chapel**

**July 16**

Blair & Chad Ellis

**July 23**

Erin & Travis Perry

**July 30**

Erin & Travis Perry

**Agape Mission**

**4th Thursday, July 13**

**9-11am**

Jeanne Julstrom, John McCollum

**10:45am-1pm**

Kris Bonner, Rita Childers, Becky

Liehr, Kathy Zervas, Marcia Zervas

**1:00-2:45pm**

Melinda Droegge, Miriam Petrovich

**Nursery Volunteers**

**July 16**

Barbara Todd

**July 23**

Diana Crawford

**July 30**

TBA

**Sunday Plate Counter**

**July 16**

Steve Clark

**July 23**

Jim Grillot

**July 30**

Jim Grillot

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Please have articles that you

would like printed in

*The Steeple* to the church

office no later than

**Tuesdays at 10am.**

*Thank you!*

**Bereavement Committee**

**Team 3**

Wendy Hall, Connie Freebern,

Glenda Garrison, Gretchen Hoyt,

Becky Liehr, Carol Murphy