



The Steeple

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
210 SE Ninth St., Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74003
www.episcopalbartlesville.org

Volume XX, Number 43

November 9, 2016

Arms Open to the Future!



This week marks the beginning of the 2017 stewardship initiative, the pledge drive that provides most of the funding for St. Luke's operations – from salaries for the staff to dishwashing detergent for the kitchen. This year's theme, "Arms Open to the Future!", anticipates the changes coming next year as we welcome a new rector.

We want to receive our new rector with a financial plan that is solid and forward-looking. Within the next few days, you'll be receiving a folder, along with your 2017 pledge card, in the mail describing what's involved in the budget for 2017. There's a new format to the stewardship materials this year, one that should allow you to easily understand how your pledge dollars will be used.

The Vestry has recommended that the 2017 budget be increased over this year's in order to prepare for our leadership transition, expand our outreach, and ensure that our beloved church facility receives the maintenance that it deserves. A 10 percent increase in pledging will make that happen.

We need to constantly remind ourselves that St. Luke's only exists because of the regular, predictable support from our congregational family. Over the next few weeks, you'll be hearing more about next year's financial plan at the Sunday services. And, of course, Vestry members are always available to answer your questions.

PLEDGE SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 20. At that time you'll be invited to join other members in bringing your pledge card to the altar with *Arms Open to the Future!*

St. Luke's 2017 Stewardship Initiative

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Important Dates To Remember

- UTO Ingathering, Sun., November 13 (see pg. 4)
- Christ the King & Pledge Sunday, November 20 (see article this pg.)
- First Sunday of Advent, November 27

CRAFTING OUR PRAYERS

The "Crafting Our Prayers" group meets every Thursday at 10am in the Vestry Rm. for prayer, fellowship & working with our hands. Please join us! Questions? Call Deacon Lauri Watkins, 918-766-2473.

From the Rector...



I have attended a lot of conventions over my forty-six years of ministry. The 79th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma had to be one of the best – if not the best. The theme was “First be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift” (Matthew 5:24).

Given the context in which we are living, the theme was both penitential and celebratory. In the address on the last day, our guest preacher, Bishop Wright, said he felt like he had been to a “revival” – even as Episcopalians!

The Right Rev. Robert Wright is the bishop of Atlanta and a dynamic leader and preacher. He was charming, funny, insightful, confessional and challenging. He spoke three times during the convention and I could have listened to more. We will provide links when his talks are posted on the diocesan website.

The highlight of the convention was the annual address by Bishop Konieczny. He started out like usual in talking about the state of the diocese and also what has been accomplished in the diocese since he became our bishop ten years ago. Then Bishop Ed began to share in a very transparent way some recent experiences that were challenging, self-revealing, humbling and penitent. This centered on his journey to Ghana and seeing the sites of the early slave trade. Sharing the story through tears he confessed the remnant of racism in him for which he needed forgiveness and transformation.

Like the shepherd that he is, Bishop Ed drew us together in self-awareness, confession and renewal. His address is worthy of hearing – especially the last half when he talks about his personal experiences. Again, we will post the link for those who want to hear what he said – and perhaps understand a bit of what he experienced.

In terms of the diocese, Bishop Ed was very positive – and for good reason. We are one of the few dioceses in the Episcopal Church that is growing. Finances are stable and the Mutual Ministry Support is being reduced from 17.5% to 17% with a goal of 15%. That means more money at home. We have had two successful church “restarts” with plans for buying property for future churches. Bishop Ed and the diocese have ordained over fifty persons as priests and deacons and thirty more are in the process. The development of St. Crispin’s is going very well – that sacred space is being transformed. Starting in January the diocese will have its own “app.” Those are just some of the highlights.

Once again I had a delightful time with our delegation: Fr. Sean Ekberg, Deacons Doug Freebern, Lauri and Mike Watkins, Kathy Zervas, Steve Clark, Becky Liehr and Jo Baughman (our veteran of many, many years). My wife, Lynda and Nicole Ekberg were there as “clergy spouses” and Kris Bonner as chairperson of the Resolution Committee. I was honored to have them with me for my last convention as Rector of St. Luke’s – another step toward the end of January.

As always, one of the highlights was the celebration of the Holy Eucharist with brothers and sister in Christ from all over the state. Indeed, at one point I was overwhelmed with the significance of time in my journey – and I was profoundly grateful.

Blessings,

Fr. Lee+

Weekly Activity Calendar

Sunday, November 13, 2016

UTO Ingathering

8:00am Rite I

9:15am Sunday School Classes

10:30am Rite II

Monday, November 14, 2016

9:30am Church Staff Mtg.

5:30pm Holy Eucharist

7:15pm Vestry Mtg.

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

10:00am Spiritual Discipline Group,
library

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

6-8pm Young Disciples, RH

7:00pm Choir

Thursday, November 17, 2016

6:45am Men’s Fellowship, MH

10:00am Crafting Our Prayers

12:00pm Holy Eucharist

Friday, November 18, 2016

Saturday, November 19, 2016

Sunday, November 20, 2016

Christ the King & Pledge Sunday

8:00am Rite I

9:15am Sunday School Classes

10:30am Rite II

Monday, November 21, 2016

9:30am Church Staff Mtg.

5:30pm Holy Eucharist

New Study to Begin...

THE NAKED NOW

Learning to See as the Mystics See

By Fr. Richard Rohr

This is the resource Fr. Lee will be using with the **Sunday Discipleship Forum** and the **Tuesday Morning Spiritual Direction Group** starting the week of November 13. The book is available in St. Luke’s Bookstore. The chapters are divided into three parts in the book. Two sessions will be given to each part and participants are asked to read each part in advance twice.

ST. LUKE'S PRAYER LIST

Please keep them 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.)

Becky, Rose, Jim, Mike, Peggy, Jeanne, Kristen, Bob, Ellie, Carmen, Donna, Helen, Mary, Elizabeth, Emma, Bid, Georgia, Glenn, Max, Cory, 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 or the church office at 918-336-1212 or annbell@episcopalbartlesville.org.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR OUR SEARCH COMMITTEE AND VESTRY DURING THEIR DISCERNMENT PROCESS FOR ST. LUKE'S NEXT RECTOR.

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you, does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore, will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

*Thomas Merton,
Thoughts in Solitude*



I am aware that there has been, for the last few weeks, some discomfort because of the lack of cooling/circulation in the Nave and other areas of the older building. This occurs because of the fluctuations of the OAT (old pilot term for outside air temperature) from highs often in the 80's to lows in the 40's and 50's. The controlling unit for the chiller up on the roof is quite sensitive to these temperature variations and tends to shut the chiller down.

Lately we have reset the chiller quite a few times to attempt to maintain a modicum of comfort in the Nave. Our HVAC repair fellow wants to shut down the circulating water system and flush it out with the hope of making the controlling unit less sensitive. This seems like a good idea, thus we are waiting for a few days during the week when it is neither too hot or too cold and not raining to do the flush. Hopefully this will occur this week. Then, if it gets seasonably cool, we can switch the system over to warming and see how that works. Patience is a good thing to have here.

The new main South Entry Doors are just about ready for viewing! If you do not use them regularly, please make a point of checking on them. Not only are they quite nice looking, but they also open and close like new (well almost anyway)! If it is not apparent, I am quite proud of the project. A great big thanks goes to the folks that adopted these two doors! Plaques will be mounted as "adopters" desire. Next on the ADOOR list are the North Entry Doors.

On the subject of church doors, Mr. Harrison recently painted the three metal doors off the alley. It is not a spot I know many of you see, but Hugh's job certainly spiffed up that side of our building!

*Steve Forsythe, Parish Administrator
sforsythe@episcopalbartlesville.org, 918-336-1212*

ST. LUKE'S PRISM OF CHRIST FOR NOVEMBER

Glenn Bonner

St. Luke's Vestry voted to recognize and thank Glenn Bonner for who he is all that he does for St. Luke's and our community. They see him as one of the "Prisms of Christ" and Christ's ministry in our midst. He was presented the Prism for November in the 10:30 service last Sunday – All Saints' Sunday.

Glenn has a gentle and affirming spirit and brings to every responsibility kindness and wisdom in working with others. He is a person who is easy to love and is dependable in every way. Glenn is often one of those persons quietly works behind the scene and yet he has served on the Vestry, Audit Committee and as an usher. He currently serves on the Finance Committee for the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma and was just appointed by the Bishop to another term.

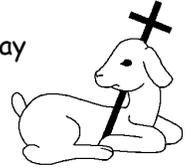
For many years Glenn has served on the Board at Jane Phillips Medical Center. He has been president of the Chamber of Commerce and served over boards in the community like the Bartlesville Public Schools Foundation and Paths to Independence.

There are other ways he has served St. Luke's and the community, but these are some of the highlights. Truly, the life of our parish family and the lives of many others have been enriched because of his personal ministries and leadership. We are grateful for all that he has done, but more importantly for who he is as a Prism of Christ.

A FEW THINGS....

I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE Kassie Reynolds to you all! She has joined our Nursery staff to help Amalie Sutton, especially during her maternity leave.....yes in case you didn't know...Amalie and Travis Sutton are expecting another beautiful girl in January. ☺ Kassie is a nurse at the Family Healthcare Clinic and has 4 children. Her husband is a coach at Bartlesville High School. She started this past Sunday, November 6 and will be here through January. Please say hello and welcome Kassie to St. Luke's!

THE CHILDREN have started rehearsing for their play, "How to Teach a Lamb to Sing." This play will be presented on **Sunday, December 18th at the 10:30 service.** If your child wants to perform, please join us for Sunday School starting at 9:15! We need the children to come as often as possible so they know their parts. Mark your calendars and join us that Sunday to see the play and our adorable kids!



Erin Perry, Christian Education Coordinator

UTO INGATHERING THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

United Thank Offering Ingathering is Sunday, November 13. As you count your blessing each day, save a coin or two in a designated spot, and then bring your offering to church on Nov. 13. Monies collected here will be combined with other parishes across the U.S. and then given as grants to support mission & ministry needs here and abroad. UTO Blue Boxes & envelopes are available in the Narthex and church office.



Examples of Grant Awards for 2016 include:

\$34,600 to the Diocese of Makamba, Burundi to transform the lives of orphans to provide a change of staying in school and contributing to the life of their community with the establishment of Kitchen Gardens. It will allow them to grow vegetables to eat and sell the surplus to purchase school uniforms & supplies.

\$50,000 to Holy Apostles' Sudanese Congregation, Sioux Falls, SD, Diocese of South Dakota to purchase a high-efficiency furnace, a new water heater and the removal of asbestos for a congregation of mostly Sudanese immigrants from refugee camps.

PIES FOR CONCERN THANKSGIVING BASKETS

St. Luke's is supplying the pies for the CONCERN Center's Thanksgiving baskets. We have committed to supply 200 frozen pies (pumpkin, cherry, apple) by Sunday, November 13. Please bring pies to the church and put them in the upright freezer in the closet in the northwest corner of Metcalf Hall. Questions? Contact Tim Simmons, 918-841-1120 or email tzsimmons@cablone.net. Thank you!



Fall Sale in St. Luke's Bookstore

The Bookstore is having a big fall sale. All through November, all crosses, pictures, and jewelry will be **25% off**. There will be a **50% off** table with new items added every week. Also if you check out our back room, our new Christmas items are coming in and being priced. You can get first choice during this sale. Be sure to check us out every week.



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Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74003
(Return Service Requested)
<http://www.episcopalbartlesville.org/>

The Rev. Dr. T. Lee Stephens, Rector (leestephens@episcopalbartlesville.org)
The Rev. Sean Ekberg, Assoc. to the Rector (seanekberg@episcopalbartlesville.org)
The Rev. Douglas Freebern, Deacon (dfreebern@yahoo.com)
The Rev. Lauri Watkins, Deacon (lwatkins@episcopalbartlesville.org)
The Rev. Mike Watkins, Deacon (mike.watkins@sbcglobal.net)
In an Emergency, call 918-397-3683, 580-977-4969, 918-766-2473 or 918-914-0525
Ann Bell, Parish Secretary (annbell@episcopalbartlesville.org)
Steve Forsythe, Parish Administrator (sforsythe@episcopalbartlesville.org)
Dolores McCreary, Organist/Choir Director (dolores@episcopalbartlesville.org)
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Office Phone: 918-336-1212 Office Fax: 918-336-2557
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30am-4:00pm, Fridays 8:30am-3:00pm
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 9th St., Bartlesville, OK 74003

LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE 11/13/16 through 11/20/16

Volunteers: Please make your own substitutions.

Acolytes

Nov. 13

Servers

Ruth Todd, Grace Mitchell

Torchbearers

Keaton Mitchell, Evan Mitchell

Nov. 20

Servers

Nick Olsen, Greta Olsen

Torchbearers

Kyle Peterson, Charlie Olsen

Layreaders

Sunday, Nov. 13

8:00am

Kate Carroll, Scott Williams

10:30am

Juanita Green, Nick Conner

Bob Wesneski

Sunday, Nov. 20

8:00am

Darian Kedy, Kate Carroll

10:30am

Penny Williams, Lauren Green

Nick Conner Judy Currey

Scripture Lessons for

Sunday, Nov. 13

Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 98; 2

Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17;

Luke 20:27-38.

Music for Sunday, Nov. 13

#414 – "God, My King, Thy Might
Confessing"

#679 – "Surely It Is God Who
Saves Me"

GATHER #270 – "God is Love"

GATHER #346 – "One Bread, One
Body"

#436 – "Lift Up Your Head, Ye
Mighty Gates"

Coffee Fellowship Hour

Nov. 13

Chad & Blair Ellis

Nov. 20

Glenda Garrison

Nov. 27

Karen Lewey

To volunteer, contact Rita

Childers, 918-519-8470 or

puvev45@gmail.com

Sunday Plate Counter

Nov. 13

Bruce Ramzel

Nov. 20

Steve Clark

Nov. 27

Jim Grillot, Jim Malone

Greeters

Sunday, Nov. 13

8:00am

Don Doty

10:30am

Debbie & Dennis

Mueggenborg

Sunday, Nov. 20

8:00am

Monica Martin

10:30am

Carol Murphy

Steve & Maureen Forsythe

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.

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!

Ushers

Sunday, Nov. 13

8:00am

Don Davidson, Michael Kemp

10:30am

Brian Ferguson, Glenn Blackburn

Sunday, Nov. 20

8:00am

Michael Kemp, Dean Zervas

10:30am

Glenn Bonner, Jim Warring

Children's Chapel

Nov. 13

Jeanne Julstrom, Travis Sutton

Nov. 20

Blair & Chad Ellis

Nov. 27

Erin & Travis Perry

Agape Mission

2nd Thursday,

Nov. 10

9-11am

Jeanne Julstrom,

John McCollum

10:45am-1pm

Kris Bonner, Rita Childers,

Becky Liehr, Kathy Zervas,

Marcia Zervas

1-2:45pm

Melinda Droege,

Miriam Petrovich

Bereavement Committee

Team 2

Barbara Martin, Laura Birk,

Thelma Blackburn, Sally

Canfield, Debbie Mueggenborg