



The Steeple

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

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November 30, 2016

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Important Dates To Remember

- ✓ Star Tree Gifts Due Back Sun., Dec. 11 (see article this pg.)
- Crafting Our Prayers Christmas Bazaar & Bake Sale, 12pm, Sun., Dec. 11, Metcalf Hall
- Monthly Vestry Mtg., Mon., Dec. 12, 7:15pm
- Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, Sat., Dec. 17, 10am, nave
- Children's Christmas Pageant, Sun., Dec. 18, during 10:30 Eucharist

ONE-DAY SALE IN BOOKSTORE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 ONLY!

Advent Calendars - 50% off
Boxed Christmas Cards - 25% off
Visit the Bookstore for many new Christmas decorations and gift items. *The Bookstore will be open Tuesdays Dec. 6, 13 & 20, 10am-12pm and is open Sundays between the two services & after the 10:30 service.*



ST. LUKE'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS STAR TREE

The Annual Star Tree, decorated with stars, is now in the narthex. It is decorated with stars, each star representing an area foster child's "wish list" for Christmas. Please take a star (or stars), shop for the requested gift(s), and return the gift (UNWRAPPED with the star firmly attached) to the church office no later than Sunday, December 11. If you have any questions, please call Steve or Cheryl Van Aken, 918-333-5570, or the church office, 918-336-1212 or email annbell@episcopalbartlesville.org. Thank you for making this Christmas a bit brighter for a child in need!



Advent 2017 Reflections on our Website

Daily Readings and Reflections by Members

As part of your daily discipline for the season of Advent, check out our website, www.episcopalbartlesville.org for daily meditations written by our members. It's easy to find – the link to the meditations is at the top of the homepage. Also, the meditations are printed each day and displayed on the bulletin board in the main hallway.

Reminder...

YOUR 2017 PLEDGE

Thank you to all who have turned in their Pledge Cards for 2017. If you have not yet turned in your pledge for 2017, please do so at your earliest convenience. Additional cards are available in the narthex and church office.



From the Rector...



I have always loved biblical and theological studies. My personal library illustrates with the many books I have collected over the years. In the second half of my ordained life I have gravitated toward books on spirituality based on personal experiences and stories. Life stories of others help us to see and experience what is also available to us.

This is even true when you get some of the “back stories” of many respected theologians. Thomas Aquinas for example is one of the greatest theologians in Church history, but he also wrote poetry revealing deep experiences of God in his life. Marcus Borg was the same way. As a contemporary theologian, he shared personal stories about mystical experiences of God that were transformative for him and hence his writing.

On a more personal level, I love hearing people’s spiritual experiences – those thin places. For example, that happened a few weeks ago when Lauren and Dolores played Massanet’s “Reflections” after the sermon – God’s presence enveloped all of us. Later someone wrote to tell me that Eucharist was healing experience for her.

Last Sunday someone shared story that was obviously important to her – and then to me. This was a God moment I turned it into one of my “Gratitude Notes.”

Gratitude Note: For a surprise hug in Walmart. For nineteen years St. Luke’s has provided reading mentors at Kane Elementary School. The test scores each year show what a difference this ministry is making for students who struggle with their reading. The experience has also been good for our volunteers – just ask them. This morning, the First Sunday of Advent, one of our reading mentors told me she had a story she needed to tell me. My friend said she had only met with her nine year old student three times and wasn’t sure how it was going. Students often have additional life challenges in addition to reading. Progress can be hard to judge. She went on to tell me she was in Walmart on Friday and saw her student and her Mother. My friend’s face brightened as she said, “When she saw me, she came running and gave me the biggest hug. Then she took me to meet her Mother. I think maybe I am helping.” What a great story for the beginning of Advent! Keep giving beyond self. Let the love flow freely. This is the way of Christ. Thanks be to God!

I am delighted by the work of Fr. Sean in asking lay people in the parish to write a devotion for each day of Advent. These can be found daily on our website (printed copies are posted on church bulletin board). I think we will find people primarily sharing stories of life experiences that helped shape their lives. We clergy people are expected to share faith stories – and the more personal the better. However, we all have stories that need to be heard – stories that often reflect the heart and soul of our faith.

All of these in Advent lead us again to THE Story of God’s love incarnate in Jesus. And, that Story then is to become incarnate in us fresh and new again. I love Advent and Christmas. Keep the stories coming!

Blessings,
Fr. Lee+

Weekly Activity Calendar

Sunday, December 4, 2016

Second Sunday of Advent

8:00am Rite I

9:15am Sunday School Classes

10:30am Rite II

Monday, December 5, 2016

9:30am Church Staff Mtg.

5:30pm Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

10:00am Spiritual Discipline Group,
library

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

6-8pm Young Disciples, RH

Thursday, December 8, 2016

6:45am Men’s Fellowship, MH

10:00am Crafting Our Prayers

12:00pm Holy Eucharist

Friday, December 9, 2016

Saturday, December 10, 2016

Sunday, December 11, 2016

Third Sunday of Advent

8:00am Rite I

9:15am Sunday School Classes

10:30am Rite II

12:00pm Crafting Our Prayers

Bazaar & Bake Sale, MH

Monday, December 12, 2016

9:30am Church Staff Mtg.

5:30pm Holy Eucharist

7:15pm Vestry Mtg.



The “great leaf chase” is underway around the church and Hugh is the main “chaser”! If you get a chance, please thank him for the effort!

Plaques are going up today on the three restored exterior doors, thus you can begin to know who the “door adopters” are, or for whom the “adoption” was done. Thanks to these folks is appropriate here also.

The Sacristy Door restoration work is scheduled to begin this week. Also, don’t forget that the YD are still accepting donations to restore the Rogers Hall entry doors. You can drop off a check at the office with the door name on the memo line.

Steve Forsythe, Parish Administrator
sforsythe@episcopalbartlesville.org

918-336-1212

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.)*

David, Trudi, Patty, Joseph, Joyce,
Jenny, Karl, Lily, Thelma, Becky,
Rose, Jim, Lynette, Mike, Peggy,
Lynette, 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.*

PRAYER FOR THE 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.

Father,

*It is time to find a new spiritual leader
to guide us. We pray individually and
together to further this search
process. We know that you have
already chosen a path for St Luke's.
We pray earnestly for your guidance
in seeking out Your plan for us. We
ask You to send the Holy Spirit to fill
each of our hearts and minds, keep
our arms wide open, and guide us to
find the new Rector who will lead us
on this path.*

*Father, we ask that You bless the
hearts of our Rector candidates and
each member of our parish family to
ease this transition for them.*

*All this we ask through our Savior,
Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Got Stock?

Did you know that you can donate stock to St. Luke's as a way of paying your pledge? Well, you can and it's easier than you might think. Some folks routinely donate stock to satisfy their pledge annually and there may be tax advantages, depending on your situation. When you make a stock donation, the amount of your contribution is calculated based on the average of the high and low prices on the day that St. Luke's takes ownership.

Here's the procedure for making a stock donation. After you've submitted the necessary paperwork to your broker, please contact St. Luke's so we can be on the lookout for it.

The donor is the person who initiates the transfer. The securities firm that currently is the custodian of the stock typically has a form that the donor needs to fill out; St. Luke's cannot initiate the transfer. The donor will fill out the form, which varies with every firm. In virtually all cases, the donor will want to make an "in-kind" donation of securities to a non-profit. The key piece of information that the donor needs is the target location for the securities themselves which is shown below:

Recipient:
St. Luke's Episcopal Church of Bartlesville
210 E 9th St
Bartlesville, OK 74003

Securities Firm: Vanguard
DTC Brokerage No.: 0062
Brokerage Acct No.: 17512887

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FANTASYLAND IN JOHNSTONE PARK



St. Luke's is going to be the volunteer group working Fantasy Land of Lights on **Thursday, December 8!** Fantasy Land is the drive through Christmas lights display in Johnstone Park. The volunteers gather outside the gingerbread house, greet cars, take donations, and pass out candy canes. The candy canes are provided, and there's also free coffee and hot chocolate in the house. It's a lot of fun for adults and children. It's cold, you're bundled up and dancing around trying to keep warm...fun, fun, fun! (You can go inside the heated house, but it's so small only 1 or 2 can fit at a time.) We can do this in shifts, but the more people per shift, the more fun it is! I've created 1-hour shifts that overlap a little. Each shift has 6 sign up slots, which is just a random number. Any number of people is fine as long as no one is working alone.

If you would like to join in on the fun and volunteer, the night is divided into shifts and there is a sign up sheet at this link:
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b45abaa2ea1fa7-fantasy> OR you may contact Nancy Warring at 918-766-2580 or newarring@cityofbartlesville.org.

What's Happening in the Land of the Children...

Sunday School has been going well. We just finished up our 3rd set of volunteers and we are grateful for their time! We have begun our last few weeks focusing on Advent. The children are excited for the Christmas play and we hope you are too. If your child is in this play, remember to mark your calendar for our rehearsal on Saturday, Dec. 17th at 10:00 a.m.



A Glance into our Classrooms...

Godly Play 1: We changed our colors to purple and they are anticipating the Countdown to Christmas using our Liturgical Calendar. We told the 1st part of our Advent story and learned about the prophets pointing to the City of Bethlehem.

Godly Play 2: We are blessed to have Deacon Lauri be the storyteller for this class. We combined Junior High with GP2 because this story is very advance. Lauri is telling The Mystery of Christmas.

Senior High: They have just finished up their discussion and study of the different religions that make up our world. They have taken off the past two weeks (due to many traveling for Thanksgiving) but will start back up this Sunday.

**We will continue to have Sunday School on December 4 and 11th. On the 18th, we will be doing last minute play details. There will be no Sunday School on Christmas Day, Dec. 25 and New Year's Day, Jan. 1, 2017.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
210 East 9th Street
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)
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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 12/4/16 through 12/11/16

Volunteers: Please make your own substitutions.

Acolytes

Dec. 4

Servers

Harald Borg, Robert Boyle

Torchbearers

Kimaya Kindred, Emma Boyle

Dec. 11

Servers

Ruth Todd, Grace Mitchell

Torchbearers

Keaton Mitchell, Evan Mitchell

Scripture Lessons for

Sunday, Dec. 4

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7;
Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

Music for Sunday, Dec. 4

#59 – "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is
Sounding"

#75 – "There's a Voice in the
Wilderness Crying"

#53 – "Once He Came in Blessing"

#66 – "Come, Thou Long Expected
Jesus"

#57 – "Lo! He Comes With Clouds
Descending"

Greeters

Sunday, Dec. 4

8:00am

Don Davidson

10:30am

Glenn & Thelma Blackburn

Sunday, Dec. 11

8:00am

Don Doty

10:30am

Debbie & Dennis

Mueggenborg

Ushers

Sunday, Dec. 4

8:00am

Dean Zervas, Steve Forsythe

10:30am

Tim Simmons, Hugh Harrison

Sunday, Dec. 11

8:00am

Don Davidson, Michael Kemp

10:30am

Glenn Blackburn, Brian Ferguson

Layreaders

Sunday, Dec. 4

8:00am

Nick Conner, Kate Carroll

10:30am

Bob Wesneski, Juanita Green

Judy Currey, Lauren Green

Sunday, Dec. 11

8:00am

Jim Grillot, Judy Currey

10:30am

Lynda Stephens, Penny

Williams

Juanita Green

Coffee Fellowship Hour

Dec. 4

Barbara Todd

Dec. 11

Crafting Our Prayers Christmas

Bake Sale & Bazaar

Dec. 18

Young Disciples

To volunteer, contact Rita

Childers, 918-519-8470 or

puevey45@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.

Children's Chapel

Dec. 4

Heather Boyle, Bob Tedstrom

Dec. 11

Jeanne Julstrom, Travis Sutton

Dec. 18

Chad & Blair Ellis

Agape Mission

2nd Thursday, Dec. 8

9-11am

Jeanne Julstrom, John McCollum

10:45am-1pm

Kris Bonner, Rita Childers,

Becky Liehr, Kathy Zervas,

Marcia Zervas

Nursery Volunteers

Dec. 4

Travis Sutton

Dec. 11

Natalie Conner

Dec. 18

Barbara Todd

Sunday Plate Counter

Dec. 4

Amy Borg

Dec. 11

Bruce Ramzel

Bereavement Committee

Team 3

Wendy Hall, Connie Freebern,

Glenda Garrison, Gretchen Hoyt,

Becky Liehr, Carol Murphy

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!