



# 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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## UGANDAN ORPHAN SPONSORSHIP GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS - ONLY \$400

The 2017 school year in Uganda begins in February. Now is the time to step up once again to sponsor at least six orphan students in Uganda. With a sponsorship gift of \$400, the student is provided tuition, room, board and clothing for the year. Matching gifts from employers can make this two for one for sponsors. This is managed through BARHD (Bushenyi Alliance for Rural Health & Development in Southwest Uganda). The schools are Anglican and were started over twenty years ago in this rural and impoverished district in Uganda.

Pictures and letters of two students are on the bulletin board in the main hallway. This is also where you can sign up to be a sponsor. One can sign up for the full sponsorship or just half – or even less. Together we should be able to sponsor at least six. To date St. Luke's has sponsored at least 174 students. If you have any questions or are ready to be a sponsor, contact Fr. Lee.

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### Important Dates To Remember

Star Tree Gifts Due Back Sun., Dec. 11
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



## Crafting Our Prayers Bazaar & Bake Sale Sunday, December 11, Metcalf Hall

There will be a mini-bazaar this Sunday, December 11 between services and after the 10:30 service. The Crafting Our Prayers group is serving up goodies! We are also providing homemade treats and crafts for purchase. Our "St. Luke's "Come to the Table" Cookbooks will also be available for purchase – already wrapped! Proceeds will go to the continued support of the needs of the Metcalf Hall Kitchen. Come and enjoy the goodies and the wonderful gifts!



## St. Luke's Annual Christmas Star Tree

All Stars on the Tree have been taken! Thank you so much for your willingness and generosity in helping foster children in our community. If you have not already done so, please 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. Thank you so much!

## From the Rector...



As I sit here in our den listening to Christmas music, sipping wine and reflecting on Sunday, my mind is swirling. So much happening right now – and I am grateful.

First, I just posted a video on Facebook of Georgia Gates ringing the bell after finishing her last cancer treatment. As I noted, she is wearing my favorite hat and Bob's favorite smile. They have been through so much together. May they be blessed with many more years of happiness. The joy of the moment is hard to beat. Thanks be to God.

I love presenting the Prism of Christ to members of the parish as a way to thank them not only for all they do in the church and community, but more importantly who they are – Christ in our midst. What a joy it was on Sunday to present the Prism to Dolores McCreary. The Vestry could not have made a better choice. She is one of those people who consistently shines with the Light of Christ. At the presentation, the congregation gave a standing ovation for this gifted servant of our Lord. I made the announcement during the Children's Homily and when Dolores came to the front, the children seemed to sense the importance of the moment and gave her a group hug. What a moment – and a complete surprise for Dolores.

On another front, the Stars are gone! The Christmas Star Tree has lights but no stars. This may be the quickest all the stars have been taken. Each one represents gifts for Foster Children in our community. I am absolutely delighted! The presents are stacking up in a wonderful way in the office. These will make some children and their Foster Parents happy – and perhaps give them a glimpse of God's love.

The Nativity Crèche is on display again – a beautiful addition to our Advent, soon to be Christmas, experience. Inside the church we get the wonderful visual of the Advent Wreath. I never tire of the simple building of anticipation in lighting the candles. One of our newest families lit two purple candles on Sunday – The Ingrams: David and Nicki with Elliott and Ezra.

The Advent Meditations are fresh, personal and inspiring. Thank you for sharing your experiences and insights for everyone on our website and the bulletin board.

Now that we are in December, I am remembering that it is time to sign up sponsors for at least six orphans in Uganda. We have been doing this annually for many years – I am guessing about eighteen or nineteen years. For \$400 people can provide room, board, tuition and clothes for an orphan in an Anglican school in Uganda. If the donor is related to COP or Phillip 66, you can sponsor two for the price of one with a matching grant. Check the bulletin board for more information or give me a call.

If you cannot tell, being your priest is very rewarding and fulfilling. What a privilege to celebrate with you every Sunday and serve with you week by week. What Paul said in "Romans" on Sunday is reflected in our parish – look it up and read it for yourself if you missed Sunday – 15:4-7.

Blessings,  
Fr. Lee+

## Weekly Activity Calendar

### Sunday, December 11, 2016

*Third Sunday of Advent*

8:00am Rite I  
9:15am Sunday School Classes  
9:15 & 12:00pm Crafting Our Prayers Bazaar & Bake Sale, MH  
10:30am Rite II  
12-4pm Bookstore Christmas Open House

### Monday, December 12, 2016

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

### Tuesday, December 13, 2016

10:00am Spiritual Discipline Group, library

### Wednesday, December 14, 2016

6-8pm Young Disciples, RH  
7:00pm Choir

### Thursday, December 15, 2016

6:45am Men's Fellowship, MH  
10:00am Crafting Our Prayers  
12:00pm Holy Eucharist

### Friday, December 16, 2016

### Saturday, December 17, 2016

10:00am Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, nave

### Sunday, December 18, 2016

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

8:00am Rite I  
9:15am Sunday School Classes  
10:30am Rite II

### Monday, December 19, 2016

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

## Bookstore News

### "The Door"

It has come to my attention that the Bookstore was once called "The Door". St. Luke's Bookstore was started in the 80's by Mickey Harrison, according to the plaque on "The Door". Where the special "Door" came from is debatable. Anyway, it is unique and special to our parish. Thanks to Ada and Jim Grillot for that bit of history.

*Connie Freebern*



## Christmas Open House

**Sunday, Dec. 11, 12-4pm**

*Serving Hot Cider and Cookies!*

This Open House is in addition to our regular hours, being open between services and after the 10:30 service.



## Christmas Tree Ornaments

Special Sale for **Sunday, December 11 only!** Look for new specials each week!!!

### 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.)*

Thelma, Peggy, Mike, Lynette, Rose,  
Jenny, Joseph, Trudi, Patty, David,  
Kristen, Elizabeth, Mary, Jeanne,  
Max, Emma, Helen, 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](mailto:TPBGEN@aol.com) or the church  
office at 918-336-1212 or  
[annbell@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:annbell@episcopalbartlesville.org).*

## St. Luke's Supper Clubs



St. Luke's Supper  
Clubs will start up  
again after the New  
Year. The Clubs were

quite successful last year and many  
have asked when we will start them  
up again. For those who did not  
participate and aren't sure what  
Supper Clubs are all about, here it is  
in a "nutshell". After those interested  
sign up on sheet in the main hallway  
at the church, the Vestry Fellowship  
Committee will put together groups  
of 8, both couples and singles.  
These groups, once formed, can  
plan to have "supper" once a month,  
usually at one of the participants'  
homes, but not mandatory-- some of  
the groups decide they want to go to  
a restaurant. It is up to the group. If  
you wish to participate again or for  
the first time, please put your  
name(s) on the sign-up sheet on the  
bulletin board in the hall. If you have  
any questions, give either Rita  
Childers (918-519-8470) or Tim  
Simmons (918-841-1120) a call.



*With Sympathy*

**Sincere sympathy and prayers**  
to Mike & Lauri Watkins (1118 S.  
Dewey Ave., 74003) on the death of  
Mike's brother, Jim Watkins, on  
Friday, December 2 in Columbus,  
KS. Funeral services for Mr.  
Watkins are in Columbus on Wed.,  
Dec. 7.

## COME SING IN THE CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS!

Christmas Eve Choir is open to all who love to sing! Would you enjoy singing with our choir for the late Christmas Eve Eucharist? We would love to have you come and sing with us. There will be one special rehearsal for the music for the Christmas Eve 11:00 p.m. Eucharist. It will be Wednesday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 p.m. If you read music, if you can sing most of the familiar Christmas carols, and if you want a really, really good "front-row" seat for the service you should come sing with the choir! And, yes, your presence in the choir would be a gift to all of us!

## NEW RECTOR SEARCH PROCESS- PARISH UPDATE

The Search Committee wants the parish to know that Canon Bill Carroll is now actively involved in our search process. He contacted Jim this week to let us know that several priests have visited the Office of Transition Ministry website and are looking at St. Luke's. While we are very encouraged by this interest, no candidate has submitted a formal application for our rector position.

We want to remind the parish what Bishop Ed shared with us a few weeks ago:

- Historically, this is a slow time of the year for the rector search process.
- St. Luke's has great leadership both Lay and Clergy. Fr. Sean will be here after Fr. Lee's departure to make sure there is pastoral and sacramental presence.

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

## SCHEDULE OF CHRISTMAS EVENTS & SERVICES

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

The Children's Christmas Pageant "How to Teach a Lamb to Sing" will be presented during the 10:30 Eucharist.

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, CHRISTMAS EVE

5:30pm Holy Eucharist, with the baptism of Cate Mueggenborg, granddaughter of Debbie & Dennis Mueggenborg.

10:30pm Pre-Service Music

11:00pm Midnight Mass. Fellowship will follow this service in Metcalf Hall with homemade goodies. Please bring a plate of goodies to share. Leave them in the kitchen as you come in for the service. Hot cider and eggnog provided.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, CHRISTMAS DAY

One service today: 10:30 Eucharist

*Please Note: The Church Office will be closed Friday, Dec. 23 & Monday, Dec. 26 for the Christmas Holiday, and Monday, Jan. 2, 2017 for the New Year's Holiday.*

## THE BISHOP IS COMING – THE BISHOP IS COMING!

**Look Busy!**

**Sunday, January 8, 2017**

Bishop Ed (The Rt. Rev. Dr. Edward Konieczny) will make an episcopal visit on the eighth of January. This visit will be of particular importance for Confirmation, but also for this time of transition in our parish. Everyone will want to hear what he has to say about the process and the future of St. Luke's. He will also join us in commissioning Jeff Birk for his mission trip to Uruguay.

This will be a time for Confirmation and Reception. A list is being generated for children (sixth grade and above) and adults who are joining St. Luke's. If you want to experience Confirmation or Reception, please contact either Fr. Lee or Fr. Sean. They will help with preparation for this sacramental experience.

**St. Luke's Episcopal Church**  
**210 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74003**

(Return Service Requested)

<http://www.episcopalbartlesville.org/>

The Rev. Dr. T. Lee Stephens, Rector ([leestephens@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:leestephens@episcopalbartlesville.org))  
The Rev. Sean Ekberg, Assoc. to the Rector ([seanekberg@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:seanekberg@episcopalbartlesville.org))  
The Rev. Douglas Freebern, Deacon ([dfreebern@yahoo.com](mailto:dfreebern@yahoo.com))  
The Rev. Lauri Watkins, Deacon ([lwatkins@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:lwatkins@episcopalbartlesville.org))  
The Rev. Mike Watkins, Deacon ([mike.watkins@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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 ([anbell@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:anbell@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 9<sup>th</sup> St., Bartlesville, OK 74003

**LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE 12/11/16 through 12/18/16**

*Volunteers: Please make your own substitutions.*

**Acolytes**  
**Dec. 11**  
Servers  
Ruth Todd, Grace Mitchell  
Torchbearers  
Keaton Mitchell, Evan Mitchell  
**Dec. 18**  
Servers  
Nick Olsen, Greta Olsen  
Torchbearers  
Kyle Peterson, Madelyn Stuart

**Scripture Lessons for**  
**Sunday, Dec. 11**  
Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7;  
Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12  
**Music for Sunday, Dec. 11**  
#76 – "On Jordan's Bank the  
Baptist's Cry"  
#67 – "Comfort, Comfort Ye, My  
People"  
#455 – "O Love of God, How  
Strong and True"  
#61 – "Sleepers, Wake!"

**Greeters**  
**Sunday, Dec. 11**  
8:00am  
Don Doty  
10:30am  
Debbie & Dennis  
Mueggenborg  
**Sunday, Dec. 18**  
8:00am  
Monica Martin  
10:30am  
Carol Murphy  
Steve & Maureen Forsythe

**Ushers**  
**Sunday, Dec. 11**  
8:00am  
Don Davidson, Michael Kemp  
10:30am  
Hugh Harrison, Brian Ferguson  
**Sunday, Dec. 18**  
8:00am  
Michael Kemp, Dean Zervas  
10:30am  
Glenn Bonner, Jim Warring

**Layreaders**  
**Sunday, Dec. 11**  
8:00am  
Jim Grillot, Judy Currey  
10:30am  
Lynda Stephens,  
Penny Williams, Juanita Green  
**Sunday, Dec. 18**  
8:00am  
Judy Currey, Jeff Birk  
10:30am  
Nick Conner, Kate Carroll  
Penny Williams

**Coffee Fellowship Hour**  
**Dec. 11**  
Crafting Our Prayers Christmas  
Bake Sale & Bazaar  
**Dec. 18**  
Young Disciples  
To volunteer, 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**  
**Dec. 11**  
Jeanne Julstrom, Travis Sutton  
**Dec. 18**  
Chad & Blair Ellis  
**Dec. 25**  
No Chapel today

**Nursery Volunteers**  
**Dec. 11**  
Natalie Conner  
**Dec. 18**  
Barbara Todd  
**Dec. 25**  
No Nursery today

**Sunday Plate Counter**  
**Dec. 11**  
Bruce Ramzel  
**Dec. 18**  
Steve Clark  
**Dec. 25**  
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!

**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

**Bereavement Committee**  
**Team 3**  
Wendy Hall, Connie Freebern,  
Glenda Garrison, Gretchen Hoyt,  
Becky Liehr, Carol Murphy