



The Steeple

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

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January 11, 2017

ANNUAL REPORTS NOW DUE Annual Meeting is Sunday, February 5, 12:30pm



If you are a member of the Vestry, or the head of a committee, your annual report of activities and results from your areas of responsibilities within the parish in 2016 are due in the office no later than Wednesday, January 18 for inclusion in St. Luke's Annual Book of Reports. Email your report to annbell@episcopalbartlesville.org, or submit your report to the church office. Copies of last years' Annual Report are available in the church office.

Also, if you have been nominated for Convention Delegate or Nominating Committee, you are asked to submit a brief autobiography (maximum 4-5 sentences) of your faith journey & church activities. This information must be submitted by Wednesday, January 18, 2017. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 918-336-1212.

Our Annual Meeting is **Sunday, February 5** at 12:30pm (preceded by an All-Parish Potluck at 12noon) in Metcalf Hall. All members are encouraged to attend.

The Annual Meeting serves as a time of reflection on the past year and also a time to review the 2016 Annual Report and focus on our goals for 2017. We will be voting for our candidates for Vestry, Diocesan Convention Delegates and the Nominating Committee. Everyone in the parish is urged to attend.

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Important Dates To Remember

Monthly Vestry Mtg., Mon., Jan. 16, 7:15pm

Annual Mtg. & All Parish Potluck, Sun., Feb. 5, 12pm, Metcalf Hall

"Souper" Bowl Sunday, Feb. 5, YD collect food for CONCERN

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



All of the Christmas greenery has been taken down, and all that remains is an abundance of lovely poinsettia plants! If you would like one or more plants, you can pick them up in Metcalf Hall sometime this week. Take as many as you want! Thank you!

JEFF BIRK ON MISSION TEAM TO URUGUAY

The Diocese of Oklahoma and the Diocese of Uruguay formed a companion relationship in 2010. This is a partnership that encourages shared ministry and support within the Anglican Communion. Bishop Pollesel of Uruguay has invited our diocese to send a group to Montevideo and Salto to facilitate a Vacation Bible School through two of their childcare programs. Since it is in the Southern Hemisphere, January is Summer Break in Uruguay. So our group will break into two groups and run VBS for elementary age children. Because few speak English in Uruguay, three fourths of the mission team speaks conversational Spanish fluent enough to teach a Bible lesson, converse with students, lead crafts, and sing songs. Most of these kids are completely "unchurched" and have little knowledge of faith or Bible.

Jeff Birk of St. Luke's is one of nine members of the Mission Team for Uruguay. Bishop Ed commissioned and blessed Jeff in the 8:00 Holy Eucharist on Sunday. He will leave Saturday on this adventure and will return on January 21st. Please keep Jeff and the team in your prayers. We will look forward to hearing about his experience when he returns.

From the Rector...



A summary: What a remarkable Sunday at St. Luke's – sacred moments kept happening. The stage was set by the Visitation of Bishop Ed. Six adults were confirmed and received into the Episcopal Church – and more are waiting in the wings. In the early service the Bishop commissioned Jeff Birk for his diocesan mission trip to Uruguay. During the Children's Homily I asked the Bishop to bless the children –

and he did – one by one. They will remember that moment for the rest of their lives. He was also very affirming of our parish in his “adult” homily and expressed gratitude for the church we have become. After explaining and reassuring the church regarding the Rector search-process, he made a special announcement. The beginning of February he will make Fr. Sean Ekberg the “Priest in Charge” at St. Luke's and that he would be staying here until the new Rector arrives. That announcement was very well received to say the least. Then I was surprised by the gift of a “Prism of Christ” made especially for me as my retirement date is approaching – really surprised. I was speechless – humbled and filled with love and gratitude. Then, we shared Holy Communion which brought it all together in the Presence of Christ. What a day! What a holy time. Thanks be to God!

The Poinsettias are gone They were beautiful and seemingly happy to serve. The Poinsettias made it from Christmas Eve to last Sunday for the Bishop – now they have moved on. I'm not quite gone, but I knew with Christmas and the Bishop's visit, my time was getting close to “gone.” There is still work to do. The 2017 Budget has to be completed and approved – and it looks pretty good. I have one more Vestry meeting and I suspect it will be the only one in twenty years I will dread – only because it will be my last – I love our Vestry. Frankly, I am encouraged that the Bishop has made Fr. Sean the Priest-in-charge for St. Luke's. That makes my exit a bit easier. He will do well and so will the parish.

From the “what now” category Most Poinsettias die and are tossed in the trash. “Here endth the metaphor!” Lynda and I plan to take a nice long rest from daily ministry. We will spend much of Lent traveling – first to the Atlanta area. I have some old friends and mentors from my “previous life” I have not seen in many years. Then we will likely go on down to Florida and take a cruise for a few days – not thinking about people back home. Bishop Ed has some possible assignments for me which we will discuss after our trip. I have already been asked to supply in some Tulsa churches this summer. I will still serve on the boards of Family Promise, the Green County Free Clinic, the Transportation Coalition and St. Simeon's. That's enough for now – I have a lot of golf to play!

The countdown continues I managed not to do a countdown until Christmas Eve. Now the days are moving quickly and I plan to get the most out of these last three weeks – hugs everywhere! I have two sermons left, the 15th and 29th, and I have two things I want to say to my friends at St. Luke's. The weather is threatening for this weekend. Rain, snow or ice – the Holy Eucharist will be celebrated twice – but safety first. Take of yourself and don't take risks.

The Prism Sunday was indeed overwhelming when Fr. Sean gave me that beautiful Prism of Christ – wow! What a humbling experience. The image of Jesus Christ – With Arms Wide Open – is stunning and will be a daily reminder of how blessed I am to serve with the people of St. Luke's. Some people have expressed an interest in seeing the Prism. I will have it here this Sunday for everyone to enjoy – it is amazing.

Blessings,
Fr. Lee,

Weekly Activity Calendar

Sunday, January 15, 2017

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

Monday, January 16, 2017

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

Tuesday, January 17, 2017

10:00am Spiritual Discipline Group, library

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

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

Thursday, January 19, 2017

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

Friday, January 20, 2017

Saturday, January 21, 2017

Sunday, January 22, 2017

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

Monday, January 23, 2017

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

St. Luke's Treasure Sale

5th Edition

Feb. 17th & 18th



It's time to unlock all those cabinets, closets, boxes, barrels; it's time to search thru attics,

basements, under the beds, in the hidey-holes; it's time to begin uncovering all those can't-do-without-don't-know-what-to-do-with-them things you've been hanging on to much too long.

St. Luke's 5th Edition Treasure Sale is coming soon!

Bring your treasures to Metcalf Hall next week Monday, Jan. 16th through Thursday, Jan. 19th – 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Need help getting your treasures to Metcalf Hall? Wondering what we consider “treasures”? Call Becky Liehr – 918-327-5987; Kris Bonner – 918-914-9228; Dolores McCreary – 918-336-2197; or the Church Office – 918-336-1212.

YOU hold the KEY that will help us raise much needed funds for St. Luke's Outreach projects.



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.)

Paul, Marty, Jim, Mary Lou, 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 or the church office at
918-336-1212 or
annbell@episcopalbartlesville.org.

PRAY FOR THE NEW RECTOR SEARCH PROCESS

Please continue to pray for our
Search Committee and Vestry during
their discernment process for St.
Luke's next Rector.

Prayer for the Selection of a New 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. Through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Six new members joined St.
Luke's this past Sunday either
by confirmation or reception.
We are so pleased to welcome
them into the St. Luke's family!

Our new members are:

Robert Lonski, Bruce & Frankie
Sievers, Marsha Tibbits, and
Bruce & Nancy Vanduker.



MONTHLY FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	December			2016		
	MTD Actual	MTD Budget	Variance (unfav.)	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance (unfav.)
Income						
Pledge Payments	36,435	32,083	4,351	373,188	385,000	(11,812)
Non-Pledge Payments	8,205	2,250	5,955	36,896	27,000	9,896
Other Income	2,279	3,942	(1,663)	16,724	18,137	(1,413)
Total Income	46,918	38,275	8,643	426,808	430,137	(3,329)
Expenses	45,042	39,705	(5,337)	424,035	431,373	7,338
NET INCOME/LOSS	1,877	(1,430)	3,306	2,773	(1,236)	4,009

PARISH UPDATE – ST. LUKE'S RECTOR SEARCH PROCESS

Bishop Ed Konieczny shared with the St. Luke's congregation at the 8:00 and 10:30 services on Sunday the following highlights about the transition process and where we are going.

Search Process

- The Search Committee is already working with the diocesan office and the new Canon of the Ordinary, Bill Carroll. They are developing lists of potential candidates which are being forwarded to the Search Committee. From those lists, the Search Committee will begin a conversation with the interested candidates. This process takes time because it is a mutual discernment process – for the St. Luke's Search Committee and for the interested candidates.
- Bishop Ed asked that we have patience in the process, trust the people serving on the search committee, our Vestry and the other leaders of our church. We don't want to rush into anything or settle. We are in this for the long haul for good reasons – to make sure that we get the right person in the right place to be our pastor for the long term and not some short-term situation.

Normal Interim Process

- Normally, when a long tenured pastor leaves a congregation, Bishop Ed puts an interim priest in for a minimum of three years to allow the congregation to separate themselves and to be pen to receive a new pastor. Bishop Ed did not feel that was necessary for St. Luke's. We are a healthy, viable congregation with strong leadership. He did not want to put St. Luke's in a holding pattern for three years but wanted us to be moving forward.

Father Sean Ekberg – Priest-in-Charge

- The other good news is that we are going to have a priest when Father Lee retires at the end of this month. Father Sean's curacy ends in June but on the Sunday following Father Lee's departure, Father Sean will be named Priest-in-Charge. He will serve at St. Luke's until we call our new rector – however long that process takes.

Pastoral Care – Short Term and Long Term

- It is true that the retiring priest must stay away from the church for one year but that year does not start until the new priest is installed as rector.
- In the meantime, what Bishop Ed needs from all of us is the following -- if there is a wedding, death, baptism or anything else requiring a priest, in the short term, we should call Father. Sean. And when the new rector is installed for the long term, we should call that priest.
- Whether or not Father Lee participates in any way will depend upon the circumstances at that time. According to Bishop Ed, this can be done in a very healthy way that is not detrimental to the life of the church.

The Search Committee encourages anyone who did not hear Bishop Ed on Sunday to listen to his remarks on St. Luke's website at <http://episcopalbartlesville.org/sermons/>.

SAMARITAN COUNSELING'S DAUGHTERS OF LOT ANNUAL BREAKFAST

Samaritan Counseling Center will host its Annual Daughters of Lot Breakfast on **Saturday, Feb. 4 at 9:00am at Adams Boulevard Church of Christ**. The theme this year is "She Wears Her Hopes Like a Crown." Funds raised from this event are specifically allotted towards the counseling services of domestic and sexual abuse patients. The breakfast features creatively-decorated tables designed by local individuals and businesses. St. Luke's women have supported this event for many years. This year, Jean Mason and Ada Grillot are decorating one of our two tables for St. Luke's. Tickets are \$25.00 each. Contact Susie Clark at 918-519-7580 or susstecda@gmail.com for further information about this event. 12 of the 16 available places are filled so please make your reservations SOON!

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)
Steve Forsythe, Parish Administrator (sforsythe@episcopalbartlesville.org)
Dolores McCreary, Organist/Choir Director (dolores@episcopalbartlesville.org)
Erin Perry, Christian Educ. Dir. (erinperry@episcopalbartlesville.org)
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Amy Borg, Jr. Warden (amy.a.borg@p66.com)
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 1/15/17 through 1/22/17

Volunteers: Please make your own substitutions.

Acolytes
Sunday, Jan. 15
Servers
Nick Olsen, Greta Olsen
Torchbearers
Madelyn Stuart, Charlie Olsen
Sunday, Jan. 22
No Acolytes scheduled today

Layreaders
Sunday, Jan. 15
8:00am
Jim Grillot, Judy Currey
10:30am
Lauren Green, Nick Conner
Juanita Green, Kate Carroll
Sunday, Jan. 22
8:00am
Judy Currey, Nick Conner
10:30am
Kate Carroll, Bob Wesneski
Penny Williams, Juanita Green

Nursery Volunteers
Jan. 15
Barbara Todd
Jan. 22
Diana Crawford
Jan. 29
Travis Sutton

Scripture Lessons for Sunday, Jan. 15
Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42
Music for Sunday, Jan. 15
#124 – "What Star is This"
#515 – "Holy Ghost, Dispel Our Sadness"
GATHER #344 – "Behold the Lamb of God"
#700 (text) – "O Love That Casts Out Fear"
#497 – "How Bright Appears the Morning Star"

Coffee Fellowship Hour
Jan. 15
Blair Ellis
Jan. 22
Volunteers needed
To volunteer, contact Rita Childers, 918-519-8470 or puvey45@gmail.com

Sunday Plate Counter
Jan. 15
Steve Clark
Jan. 22
Jim Grillot
Jan. 29
Jim Grillot

Greeters
Sunday, Jan. 15
8:00am
Monica Martin
10:30am
Carol Murphy
Maureen & Steve Forsythe
Sunday, Jan. 22
8:00am
Sally Canfield
10:30am
D. J. & Jerry Nezam
Jim & Nancy Warring

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, Jan. 15
8:00am
Michael Kemp, Dean Zervas
10:30am
Glenn Bonner, Jim Warring
Sunday, Jan. 22
8:00am
Robert Babcock, Dean Zervas
10:30am
Jim Grillot, Max McCreary

Children's Chapel
Jan. 15
Blair & Chad Ellis
Jan. 22 & 29
Erin & Travis Perry

Agape Mission
2nd Thursday, Jan. 12
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