



The Steeple

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

Volume XXI, Number 3

January 18, 2017



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO ATTEND A RETIREMENT RECEPTION

FOR

Fr. Lee Stephens

Celebrating 20 years of exemplary service to
St. Luke's Episcopal Church and the Bartlesville Community

Saturday, January 28, 2017

2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

with a short program at 3:00 p.m.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Metcalf Hall

210 SE 9th St., Bartlesville, OK

Kindly RSVP to Ann Bell at annbell@episcopalbartlesville.org
or 918-336-1212 by January 25.



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Important Dates To Remember

Retirement Reception for Fr. Lee Stephens,
Saturday, January 28, 2-5pm

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

"Souper" Bowl Sunday, Feb. 5, YD collect food
for CONCERN Food Pantry (see pg. 2)



PLEASE MAKE THE
FOLLOWING CHANGE in
your email address books
for Fr. Sean Ekberg. His
email address is now
seanekberg@gmail.com.

Annual Meeting is Sunday, February 5, 12:30pm

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 Diocesan Convention Delegates and the Nominating Committee. Everyone in the parish is urged to attend.



Father Lee has requested all of his younger friends to be at church this Sunday, if possible. He has a special surprise he would like to share with them right after the 10:30 service this Sunday Jan. 22nd.

From the Rector...



The process seems more than a little strange – taking care of unfinished business as I am now two weeks from retirement. What had seemed a long way off twelve months ago is happening all too fast. I understand why some priests make their announcement and just disappear. Yet, I want to leave things in the best shape possible and I want to enjoy every moment of delighting in parish of friends who have blessed me beyond measure.

So it was an interesting “last” Vestry meeting tonight. There was much to do in tying up some loose ends as well as setting the stage for what is to come. We adopted very positive budget of \$431,600 with a surplus of \$3,469. This included an increase in salary for Fr. Sean as the Priest-in-charge and a 3% raise for the staff. New to the budget is \$10,000 for Outreach and \$30,000 for the maintenance of the church facilities. There was a nice increase for our children and youth as well as the necessities of insurance and supplies. The budget for 2017 is way ahead of where we were twenty years ago when I learned we had a budget with a \$50,000 deficit!

The Vestry also approved the purchase and installation of five new air handlers for the Nave, Chapel and Altar Guild Sacristy. Plus the Vestry authorized the Parish Administrator to proceed with a contract for replacing the tile in the main hallway and adjacent floors. An insurance agreement will cover almost all the costs. Replacing the windows on the south side of the building is in the works and should happen soon. And, the “Adoor” project (the replacement of the outer doors) is well underway.

Dennis Mueggenborg was elected as St. Luke’s next Treasurer. Bob Wesneski has “retired” from his twenty-plus years as Parish Treasurer – he has certainly been a God-send for me over these years. The Vestry also approved several measures to facilitate the change in leadership/administration. We were all of “one accord” as we worked our way through the agenda. The stage is set for the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 5, and life beyond.

This is an amazing Vestry and I am honored to have them as my last Vestry – wonderfully committed and gifted. Plus, each of them agreed to extend their term an extra year as requested by the Bishop. This will help in the transition to a new Rector.

Meanwhile my office is looking a bit bare – or as someone said today – “Lonely.” The books are gone as well as the hangings on the wall. The files and cabinets have been emptied. About all I have left is my desk and it will be finished by the end of this week. The last to leave will be my Alb, Stole and Prayer Book on the 29th. The chairs and coffee table really need to be replaced – and maybe the desk – they were a bit worn when I moved in twenty years ago – but I have loved my office and it served me well.

Fr. Sean will be moving into the “Rector’s Office” soon so he can be more available to the staff and members of the parish. That will bring new life to the parish office! I will leave a few things behind to assist and challenge him – wonder what they might be?

On Sunday I shared what I really “wanted” to say to members of St. Luke’s regarding the possibilities of spiritual growth available for those who are ready and willing. The sermon is online at our website (www.episcopalbartlesville.org)—hope it helps. My last Sunday there are some things I “need” to say – that will happen all too soon – but all will be well – all will be well. And, by the way, my last Sunday will include a Baptism – all will be well indeed.

Blessings,
Fr. Lee+

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY February 5

Our Young Disciples will be collecting food and money for the CONCERN Food Pantry on “Souper” Bowl **Sunday, Feb. 5**. This is a nationwide program for youth organizations that collect non-perishable food and money for local food pantries. 100% of the food/money collected will go to CONCERN. Thank you for supporting our youth and the less fortunate in our community.

Weekly Activity Calendar

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

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

10:00am Spiritual Discipline Group, library

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

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

Thursday, January 26, 2017

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

Friday, January 27, 2017

Saturday, January 28, 2017

2-5pm Retirement Reception for Fr. Lee Stephens, MH

Sunday, January 29, 2017

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

Monday, January 30, 2017

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



Many thanks to Doug Rhett and Dan Droege for some exceedingly helpful volunteer work at the church and on the rental properties.

Ceiling tiles have been replaced in the inner and outer Narthex so it is safe to look up again in those areas!

It seems like time is just racing these days! Thus, I think it is time for me to announce that I will be retiring as Parish Administrator this summer—exact date to be determined as other things occur. I would be glad to talk with anyone interested in the job, in a positive manner of course.

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

CRAFTING OUR PRAYERS

Crafting our Prayers will meet this Thursday (Jan. 19) at 10:00am in the Vestry Rm. Bring a handwork project to tell about and work on. We will share the news about our funds. If you need an idea to work on, two specific projects will be available. Need more information? Call Deacon Lauri Watkins at 918-766-2473. All are welcome.

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.)

Walter, Carmen, 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.

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.** 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 susstecla@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 Treasure Sale◆◆

◆◆5th Edition◆◆

February 17 & 18, 2017

Here is a little history about St. Luke's Bi-Annual Treasure Sale. This will be especially informative for newcomers to St. L's since March, 2015 (4th Edition Treasure Sale was in February, 2015).

In early 2008 it became apparent that a very special member of our parish family was in need of financial assistance because of necessary medical help that might not be covered by insurance. A plan was proposed by several people wanting to help. A quote from the proposal follows: "We have a splendid opportunity to put our *treasures* to good use right here on earth at St. Luke's. Two of our human treasures are in need of our sacramental support. That would be support that is an 'outward and visible sign of the inward and spiritual grace' directing and guiding our lives." As it turned out, the insurance request for important surgery was okayed and the immediate need for a fund-raiser was set aside for another time and purpose.

Once the seed had been planted, though, the Treasure Sale "troop" decided that we should continue with the idea of giving even a little more than our money and our time to help others in need. We agreed that most people have a treasure they are tired of dusting, a treasure that attracts too many moths, a treasure that will probably go to relatives or strangers (think "auction or estate sale") because you definitely cannot take it with you....either to the retirement home or to your heavenly destination! Why not offer these *treasures* to others who would love to give them new homes, new appreciation, new memories, and use the money from selling the *treasures* to offer a special kind of treasure to people in need: the *treasure* of our Christian compassion and concern.

And so, the St. Luke's Treasure Sale was born! Money from the 1st Treasure Sale was given to Agape. Proceeds from the next three sales were given to the Outreach Committee to be allocated to the many helping groups St. Luke's supports. Over \$26,000 has been raised by our first four Treasure Sales. With your generosity of treasures contributed, with your help in inviting others to come to our 5th Treasure Sale, with your enthusiasm for this important fund raiser for Outreach, our 5th Bi-annual Treasure Sale will be an overwhelming success!

Your treasures will be accepted until January 31st. Contact Becky Liehr, Kris Bonner, Kate Carroll, Dolores McCreary for assistance.

ST. LUKE'S PRISM OF CHRIST FOR JANUARY

Barbara Martin

St. Luke's Vestry voted to recognize and thank Barbara Martin for all she has done and is doing for St. Luke's and our community. Even more, who she is as a "Prism of Christ" and Christ's ministry in our midst. She was presented the Prism for January during the 10:30 Holy Eucharist this past Sunday.

Barbara has a servant's heart and quietly goes about serving the parish in a variety of ways. She has served many years in St. Luke's Bookstore, but she has also served on the Vestry, the Altar Guild, a children's teacher and Crafting Your Prayers – just to name a few ways she has actively contributed to the life of our Parish.

In her years as a public school teacher, she considered her work as a calling and ministry. She has served as a volunteer with Martha's Task and has helped with Family Promise at St. Luke's. Over the years she has helped her husband, Steve, in his political endeavors and service.

Barbara is one of the original members of the Tuesday morning Spiritual Discipline Group. This shows in the way she contributes to the life of our parish family and the lives of people in the community – and we are grateful. St. Luke's is a better place and we are better people because of her – a "Prism of Christ's Ministry" for all of us.



Member Photo

DIRECTORIES are here!

Church pictorial directories are here. If you had your picture taken for our new church member photo directory, you may pick up your directory in the church office M-F, or in Metcalf Hall on Sundays. Please be sure to cross your name off the list when you pick up your directory. If you did not have your picture taken for the directory, we ask that you wait to see how many extra directories are available. Thank you!

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@gmail.com)
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)
Kathy Zervas, Sr. Warden (kzerv@aol.com)
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 1/22/17 through 1/29/17

Volunteers: Please make your own substitutions.

Acolytes
Sunday, Jan. 22 & 29
No Acolytes scheduled
Sunday, Feb. 5
Servers
Harald Borg, Robert Boyle
Torchbearers
Kimaya Kindred, Emma Perry

Layreaders
Sunday, Jan. 22
8:00am
Judy Currey, Nick Conner
10:30am
Kate Carroll, Bob Wesneski
Penny Williams, Juanita Green
Sunday, Jan. 29
8:00am
Kate Carroll, Scott Williams
10:30am
Juanita Green, Judy Currey
Nick Conner, Penny Williams

Nursery Volunteers
Jan. 22
Diana Crawford
Jan. 29
Travis Sutton
Feb. 5
Travis Sutton

Scripture Lessons for
Sunday, Jan. 22
Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9;
1 Corinthians 1:10-18;
Matthew 4:12-23
Music for Sunday, Jan. 22
#581 (text) – "Where Charity and Love Prevail"
WLP #757 – "Will You Come and Follow Me"
#653 – "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"
#488 – "Be Thou My Vision"
#473 – "Lift High the Cross"

Coffee Fellowship Hour
Jan. 22
Volunteer needed
Jan. 29
Fr. Lee's Last Sunday,
refreshments provided
Feb. 5
Annual Mtg. Potluck
To volunteer, contact Rita Childers, 918-519-8470 or puvey45@gmail.com

Sunday Plate Counter
Jan. 22
Jim Grillot
Jan. 29
Jim Grillot
Feb. 5
Amy Borg

Greeters
Sunday, Jan. 22
8:00am
Sally Canfield
10:30am
D. J. & Jerry Nezam
Jim & Nancy Warring
Sunday, Jan. 29
8:00am
Gretchen Hoyt
10:30am
Becky & Jim Liehr
Carol Murphy

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. 22
8:00am
Robert Babcock, Dean Zervas
10:30am
Jim Grillot, Max McCreary
Sunday, Jan. 29
8:00am
Don Davidson, Dean Zervas
10:30am
Jeff Birk, Travis Perry

Children's Chapel
Jan. 22
Erin & Travis Perry
Jan. 29
No Chapel Today

Agape Mission
2nd Thursday, Jan. 26
9-11am
Jim Liehr, Fr. Lee Stephens
10:45am-1pm
Jeff Birk, Molly Ferguson,
Glenda Garrison, Darian Kedy,
Jen Peterson
1:00-2:45pm
Carol Murphy, Radomir Petrovich

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