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Nov. 13,  
2019

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 210 SE Ninth St., Bartlesville, OK 74003

# The Steeple



## current topics >>>

### Christmas Star Tree Giftgiving Opportunity

*Gifts accepted through Dec. 15.*

The Christmas Star Tree will be in the narthex on Nov. 24 for Bartlesville area foster children.

Please take as many stars as you like and return the gifts to the church office by Sunday, Dec. 15. (Star colors identify caseworker assigned.)

The gifts should be unwrapped with the stars firmly attached. If you have family or friends who would like to purchase gifts, please take stars for them.

**Have questions? Call Steve Van Aken at 918-914-9041 or Cheryl Van Aken, 918-914-0257.**



### *A word from Father Steve*

Phone: 918-330-6108 email: fathersdhood@gmail.com

#### **Lens of scripture is lens of love**

During my sabbatical summer in 2013, I visited a lot of churches and I heard a lot of sermons. The most memorable sermon I heard was preached by Fisher Humphries, retired professor at Beeson Divinity School at Samford University. Dr. Humphries was the guest preacher at The Baptist Church of the Covenant in Birmingham, Alabama, the day I visited. On that Sunday morning Dr. Humphries began preaching about economics and politics and within about five or six minutes I began to wonder how he was going to untangle himself from a line of argumentation I perceived was headed in a very controversial direction. But no sooner did I think he was taking the side of full-blown Scandinavian socialism, he made a turn and began defending a vision of capitalism that would make the Chamber of Commerce proud. In defending the socialists' impetus, he discussed the Christian responsibility to care for the widow, the orphan, the poor, and the weak. He talked about the communal sharing of Jesus and his disciples, and he made note of Jesus' contempt for the rich and the powerful. When Dr. Humphries switched gears and began arguing for a capitalist position, he talked about the freedom of Christ, and he argued that above all things Christianity breaks the bonds of Caesar and undermines the power of the state—which is a necessity for socialist economies.

I really enjoyed Dr. Humphries' sermon

because he didn't go where I thought he was going to go. He made strong and nuanced theological arguments for two seemingly contrary positions and showed how a simplistic reading of scripture without thoughtful theological reflection is often misleading, if not dangerous.

Ultimately, the thesis of his sermon was that our loyalty to God must inform our political and economic positions and that moral and ethical positions are often ambiguous, especially when filtered through the lens of scripture.

Dr. Humphries argued that there are times when Christian theology is in tension with itself, which is why Christians can hold seemingly opposite positions with integrity.

As an Episcopal priest, I strive to create an atmosphere in our church where we can hold contrary positions with integrity. There are times when it can be frustrating to argue with the same curmudgeon or to step in the middle of an uninformed diatribe. Yet, the messy business of community is worth it—at least for me. Jesus calls us to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves—even when the neighbor voted for the wrong candidate or came down on the opposite side of your pet issue. The church is a school of discipleship where our first loyalty is to the God of love, and where we can learn to love one another. We will not always get it right, but we will not get it at all if we do not make an effort to learn.

More news >>>

## Volunteer for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Family Promise Hosting

St. Luke's Family Promise hosting is Nov. 17-24. Signups are after the Sunday 10:30 a.m. service in Metcalf Hall.



If you know where and when you'd like to serve, don't wait -- contact Jen Peterson directly with your preferred role and time slot at [918-397-7779](tel:918-397-7779) [jenrpet1971@gmail.com](mailto:jenrpet1971@gmail.com).

As usual, we will need volunteers in each of these main areas:

- 1) prepare and share a meal with families;
- 2) spend two hours in the evening after dinner with the families and plan games/activities with the kids;
- 3) bring your sleeping bag, pillow and sleep overnight at the church;
- 4) supply donations - bring supplies and groceries for families to use throughout the week at Anchor House.



New to St. Luke's? Interested in learning more about how you can make a significant and lasting difference in the lives of homeless families in Bartlesville? Attend a training session, and come volunteer for Family Promise at St. Luke's! Contact Jen Peterson for more information at 918-397-7779 or at [jenrpet1971@gmail.com](mailto:jenrpet1971@gmail.com).

### Stewardship Campaign Begins

Next Sunday marks the beginning of our stewardship initiative for 2020, the pledge drive that provides most of the funding for St. Luke's operations -- from salaries for staff to dishwashing detergent for the kitchen.

Our continuing stewardship theme -- *The St. Luke's Way* -- captures the forward-looking, Christ-driven attitude that has made St. Luke's such a meaningful part of our lives and the life of our community. Next week you'll receive a flyer summarizing what's involved in the budget for 2020 and how your generosity underpins the many good works of St. Luke's. Please take the time to read this brief flyer.

The Vestry has recommended an expense budget for 2020 that is just slightly over this year's spending needs. Even though some expenses beyond our control (such as property insurance) are expected to rise again next year, we've been able to hold down other costs, especially in the area of staff expenses.

However, because of some faithful members have moved out of town this year, the number of families pledging to support the church has declined somewhat. The stewardship flyer will explain how this shortfall can be made up if we all participate.

We should 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.

### More volunteer opportunities>>>

#### *Volunteer at Jane Phillips School Santa Shop*



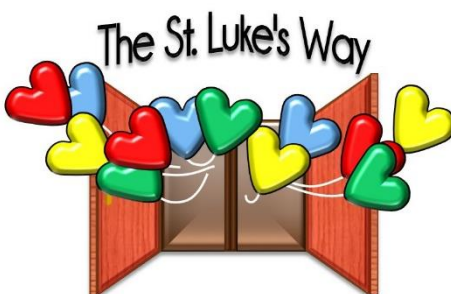
**December 10** -- Help us wrap the Gingerkid's presents in Jane Phillips Elementary Gym at 4:30 p.m. -- 7 p.m.. Pizza provided!

**December 13** -- Help us set up for the wonderful event, from 2:30-8:30 p.m.

**December 14** -- The Day of Santa Shop! The best day of the season!

Shifts are 8:30 a.m. -- 11 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. -- 1 p.m. Call 918-336-9479.

**Pledge Sunday is set for December 8.** At that time, you'll be invited to join other members in bringing your pledge card to the altar to affirm and celebrate *The St. Luke's Way*.



### St. Luke's Fall Music and Godly Play Schedule

Prior to church, parent(s) sign child(ren) into to Sunday School at table in narthex.

10:30 am -- Children enter sanctuary carrying the cross and banner after choir for opening hymns and children's homily.  
10:40 am -- Children walk out after homily.  
10:45 am -- Children walk upstairs with volunteers/teachers to music room for music time.

10:55 am -- Godly Play I and II begins. (separated by age)

11:15 am -- Children return to sanctuary after sermon during the peace to meet up with parent(s). (Activity bags will be available in Narthex.)



# Reading Tutors sought at Kane Elementary

After St. Luke's adopted Kane Elementary School 20 years ago, we have had much success in the reading program for students that were falling behind in their skill level. Our team of tutors/mentors has meant much to so many Kane Kids over the years. Because of moving, poor health and other personal issues, we have seen a great drop in those St. Luke's members who can assist our Kane Kids this year.

The good news is that our tutoring times have become more flexible.



The deepest sympathy of our parish is extended to the Family of Don Davidson who died on November 12, 2019. The funeral service will be held Monday, Nov. 18 at 10 a.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church with a reception following.

Here are the possible times to help: Wednesday, Thursday or Friday at 9 a.m. (finished at 10 a.m. helping two students) and 9:30 a.m. (finished at 10 a.m. helping one student).

Tutors can volunteer during the lunch hour on any weekday (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday) from 11:50 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. (only 25 minutes as they go straight to lunch) or 12:50 - 1:30 p.m. (hopefully beginning almost on time from their lunch break). To volunteer, please email Jo Baughman [jybokla@aol.com](mailto:jybokla@aol.com) and Vanessa Wallace, Kane Specialist, [wallacevd@bps-ok.org](mailto:wallacevd@bps-ok.org) if you can help this year. Vanessa will have you sign the paperwork and go over what you need to know individually before you begin tutoring. New tutors do need to go to the Education Service Center to go through the vetting process.

Many thanks,  
Jo B., Kane Reading Chairman  
for St. Luke's



## St. Luke's Prayer List

Please keep the following persons in your prayers:

Elizabeth, Jenny, Georgia, Diana, Millie, Bryson, Sydney, Ed, Evelyn, Toni, Milton, Joyce, Joseph, Lyndee, Alan, Bill, Karen, Ethan, Elaine, Marjean, Helen, Mark, Cynthia, Steve, Barbara, Brent, Katie, Ruth, Lu, Suzanne, Glenn, Marsha, Jerry, D.J., Sarah, Mary, Emily, Whitney, Lloyd, Rex, 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 [office@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:office@episcopalbartlesville.org). (Names on the Prayer List are rotated off every 4 weeks. If there is need for continued prayers, please let us know.)

## Nov. 17 volunteers

Lay readers: Jim Grillot, 8 a.m.; Kyle Peterson, 10:30 a.m.;

Intercessor: Lauren Green, 10:30 a.m.

Greeters: Monica Martin, 8 a.m.; Carol Murphy, 10:30 a.m.

Ushers: Dean Zervas 8 a.m.; Glenn Bonner and Jim Warring, 10:30 a.m.

Nursery Volunteers: Joshua Wolfe

Sunday Plate Counter: Glenn Bonner



## Agape Mission Volunteer Schedule

### Thursday, November 14:

9-11am: Jeanne Julstrom, Becky Liehr  
10:45am – 1pm: Kris Bonner, Rita Childers, Becky Liehr, Kathy Zervas, Dolores McCreary  
1:00 – 2:45pm: Peter Julstrom, Miriam Petrovich, Wendy Hall

### Thursday, November 28:

\* Agape closed for Thanksgiving \*

### Thursday, December 12:

9-11am: Jeanne Julstrom, Becky Liehr  
10:45am – 1pm: Kris Bonner, Rita Childers, Becky Liehr, Kathy Zervas, Dolores McCreary  
1:00 – 2:45pm: Peter Julstrom, Miriam Petrovich, Wendy Hall

### Thursday, December 26:

\* Agape closed for Christmas \*

# final thoughts...

- Sunday's 8 a.m. services will continue to be held in the chapel.
- Be aware -- Father Steve will not request gift cards or other monetary support through email. All financial requests/special appeals at St. Luke's go through normal channels and any special requests will be made by phone call or in person.
- Sunday verses: Isaiah (49:5-13), Psalm 98, Ephesians (3:1-12), Matthew (28:16-20).
- Sunday sermons may be accessed at our website: <http://episcopalbartlesville.org/>

**Announcement:** the property owned by St. Luke's Episcopal Church, located at 821 Osage Ave. in Bartlesville, is under contract and is expected to close escrow on or before Dec. 1.

After being deposited in the church account, the proceeds of the sale will be transferred to the Vanguard Investment account.

The details of the transaction will be announced after closing.

A special thanks to Keeli Hand-Droege for her work as the real estate agent on behalf of St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

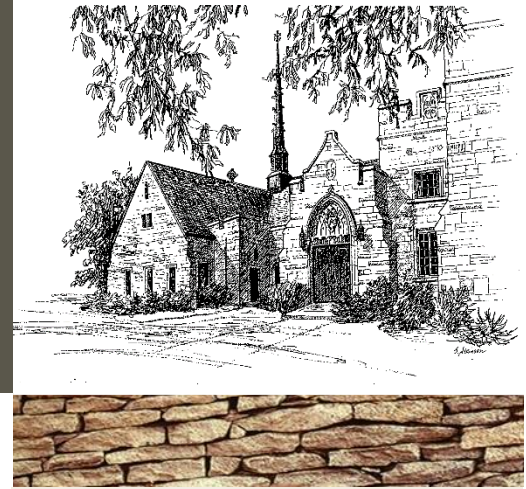
#### **Bereavement Committee**

##### **Team 2:**

Laura Birk, Thelma Blackburn, Sally Canfield,  
Rita Childers, Debbie Mueggenborg

Contact us at **918-336-1212**

<http://episcopalbartlesville.org/>



St. Luke's Episcopal Church contacts:

The Rev. Stephen Hood, Rector

[fathersdhood@gmail.com](mailto:fathersdhood@gmail.com) 918-330-6108

The Rev. Douglas Freebern, Deacon

[dfreebern@gmail.com](mailto:dfreebern@gmail.com) 918-914-0525

In an Emergency, contact any of the clergy listed above.

Roseanne McKee, Parish Secretary

[office@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:office@episcopalbartlesville.org)

Dolores McCreary, Organist/Choir Director

[dolores@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:dolores@episcopalbartlesville.org)

Dan Droege, Sr. Warden

[dbdcomm.2@gmail.com](mailto:dbdcomm.2@gmail.com)

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[dmciver@susandickcpa.com](mailto:dmciver@susandickcpa.com)

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