

In this week's Steeple >>>

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- Funeral Announcements
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The Steeple



August 4,
2021

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Beginning with the End in Mind

...is a curious phrase. I first heard it when I read the book “Living Forward” by Michael Hyatt and Daniel Harkavy. I turned to this slender volume during my senior year at the University of the South at the request of one of my closest friends. The book deals with purpose and mission, both of which are integral characteristics of a life of faith. I was particularly fond of the exercises Hyatt and Harkavy suggested doing, especially the exercise that was titled “Beginning with the End in Mind.”

I couldn't help but think of Living Forward as I prepared the funeral bulletins this week, because perhaps without knowing it, Georgia, Joe, and Dolores lived forward all their lives. They lived with purpose, they loved, and the mission to spread abroad the love of Christ was and certainly has been made manifest in the reflections of those that knew them the best. It is truly an honor to bear witness to what has been born in the hearts of those they love.

Most of the time I hear these deep and powerful reflections as I help plan a funeral service with friends and family members. These are holy conversations, rich with memory, bearing both the pain and joy of love. After listening carefully, I suggest some readings and with Dolores' help, some hymns that hope to capture some of the depth of the moment. What ends up being created is beautiful and that is due in large part to the beauty and solemnity of the liturgies that have been handed down to us for generations.

In my experience, which is limited mind you, the flow of events after death follows a particular pattern. Nevertheless, some of the most profound experiences I have when tending to such matters have been when I have had conversations with folks who chose to live forward. By doing they gave their input on what they would like folks to experience in their funeral liturgy before they entered into the nearer presence of our Lord.

For instance, when it comes to choosing readings there is a suggested list from which to choose from in the Book of Common Prayer. But when someone comes to me and says this is the verse that has carried me through - not those, or this is my life verse, I find myself wanting to know more - to know why. What follows, I assure you, is a remarkable conversation and usually ends up being the verse that is chosen by them to be their last testament to those they leave behind. Words of comfort remain but the emphasis changes a little bit – things are clearer. And, if I may be so bold, I desire to have such conversations with each of you well before it is necessary.

While this subject matter might not be the most pleasant it is profound and coming from your heart leaves a lasting mark on those who hear the words that you've carried in your heart all your life. I encourage you to pray about when we might have this conversation, where you would like to have it, and what it is about your life of faith that is yours alone to tell. Such work is holy and when you are ready, I will be here to listen.

Deep Peace,
Fr. Nick+

FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our sister Georgia Gates' funeral will be on Friday, August 6th at 1 p.m. We will celebrate the life of our sister Georgia using Burial Office, Rite II with Holy Eucharist. There will be a reception to follow. The Rt. Rev. Poulson Reed, Bishop of Oklahoma, will officiate.



Our sister Dolores Theis' funeral will be on Saturday, August 7th at 11:00 a.m. We will celebrate the life of our sister Dolores using Burial Office, Rite I with Holy Eucharist. There will be a reception to follow.



Our brother Dr. Joe Hardin's funeral will be on Monday, August 10th at 10:00 a.m. Dr. Hardin's family will gather graveside in Tulsa for a private service.





A Note About The Choir~

After much consideration and discussion with some of the choir members, it has been decided to wait a few more weeks before beginning choir rehearsals. Given the rapid spread of the Delta variant it does not seem wise nor safe to come together, unmasked in a room that does not allow for adequate social distancing. And so, we wait.

Keep singing, even through those masks, as we come together each Sunday morning! And soon, please God, our beloved choir – including hoped for new singers – will once again take their places in the chancel to sing joyfully!

Members Help Urge Vaccinations at Pack-the-Backpacks Distribution

A big thank you goes out to the St. Luke's folks who passed out the flyer emphasizing need for increased Covid local vaccinations this week during the Pack-the-Backup pick up days. Serving one or two-hour shifts, they met every parent or guardian coming through St. Luke's doors with the message to make sure any unvaccinated person who's eligible take advantage of the free vaccinations available throughout Bartlesville.



Nearly 1,500 backpacks were distributed on Sunday and Monday at the event, which has been hosted at St. Luke's for many years. On Sunday afternoon, the line of waiting parents and children wrapped completely around the north and west sides of the church building.

Among the St. Luke's volunteers who helped out were Pam and Tim Hanson, Wendy Hall, Dan Droege, Nancy Woods, Becky Olsen, Nancy Megee, Karen Lewey, Cathy and Jim Perrier and Becky Liehr. Other church members, including Steve and Susie Clark and Jo Baughman, helped host the many volunteers who came from throughout the community to help the Washington County School Supply Drive prepare for the distribution days. They also help pack dozens and dozens of backpacks.

Thank you all – as well as other volunteers we may have missed – for this outpouring of community compassion and care. Countless compliments were received from the event organizers as well as from the families benefitting from new, well-stocked backpacks.





A Prayer for a New School Year

God of Wisdom we come before you to celebrate the beginning of a new school year. It is a time filled with what we hope will be joy and excitement as well as uncertainty and wonder. We give you thanks for schools, classrooms, and virtual learning spaces and for the teachers, parents, and students who inhabit them each day. We thank you for the gift of making mistakes and trying again. We give you thanks especially for your children and we ask that you bless them with curiosity and understanding. Give them open minds and open hearts to learn and to experience more fully the majesty of the world you have created. May this year be full of promise for them, and for their parents and teachers, as together they experience new beginnings and fresh starts. May they be guided by your love and protected by your never-failing care. Above all keep them safe O God. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, who as a child in the Temple showed his longing to learn about you, and as an adult taught by story and example your great love for us. Amen.

Agape Mission Volunteer Schedule

Thursday, August 12

10:45 am – 1 pm: Fr. Nick Phares, Becky Liehr, Kris Bonner,
Dolores McCreary, Kathy Zervas, Jim Perrier

12:45 pm – 2 pm: Jeanne Julstrom, Peter Julstrom, Wendy Hall

Thursday, August 26

10:45 am – 1 pm: Jeff Birk, Darian Kedy,
Becky Olsen, Dan Droege, Jo Baughman

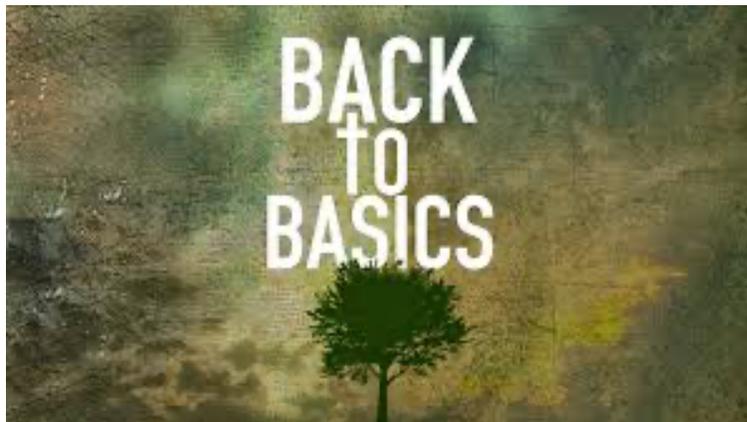
12:45 pm – 2 p.m.: Steve Clark, Steve VanAken, Carol Murphy

St. Luke's Prayer List

The prayer list can be found in
the Sunday bulletin and on
the St. Luke's website.

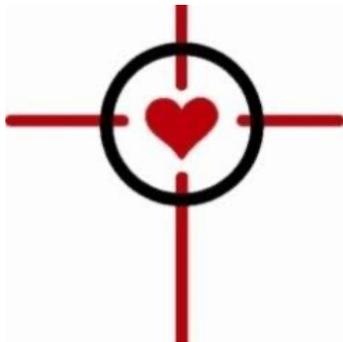
Call or email our office with
prayer requests at
918-336-1212 or
StLukesBartlesville@outlook.com

Summer Faith Forum Series



Sundays from 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. in Metcalf Hall

This Sunday: The Church in America.



CONCERN of Bartlesville Sundry
Needs:

Cans of Rotel Tomatoes

Ramen Noodles

Snack Tuna

Tooth Brush and Toothpaste sets

Pub Theology

Pub Theology is scheduled for the 4th Thursday of each month.

The next meeting will be at **7 p.m. Thursday, August 26th at Crossing 2nd.**

What is 'Pub Theology'? It's a time to gather informally and talk about different subjects around our core values of faith. What feeds your faith? Where did you see Jesus this week?

What literature are you reading that has had some inspiration for you?

A host of topics are brought up and discussed over drinks and appetizers.

(We pay our own tabs). There is usually a facilitator to throw out topics for discussion.

No politics, no gossip, and what is discussed in Pub Theology that is personal stays in the group. Respect the dignity of every person. It's a fun and relaxed time to get to know each

other. Call the church office and let us know if you will be joining us

so we can have enough tables set up at Crossing 2nd.

If you have any questions, contact Fr. Nick, Penny Williams, or Nancy Megee.

We will be happy to share. Let's share some theology!



Regular Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Please note that even during office hours, the doors are locked per COVID-19 protocol. If you need to come in, just ring the north entrance bell or call the office at 918-336-1212.

Bereavement Team 1

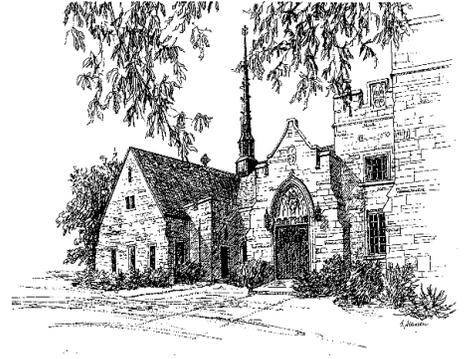
Susie Clark, Nancy Woods, Sally Lindsey, Jeanne Julstrom.

Connecting with St. Luke's

To learn various ways to connect at St. Luke's, visit our website at: <http://episcopalbartlesville.org/>

Alert on solicitations...

Be aware – No one from St. Luke’s will request gift cards or other monetary support through email. If you receive such a message in your email, it is spam. All financial requests/special appeals at St. Luke’s go through normal channels and any special requests will be made by phone or in person.



Birthdays and Anniversaries, August 4th – 12th

Birthdays

Donna Allison, 4th
Bill Bridendoph, 4th
Dax Wolfe, 7th
Carolyn Lawrence, 10th
Evan Tedstrom, 11th
Lillie Franks, 11th
Gretchen Matthews, 12th
Angela Nelson, 12th

Anniversaries

Thomas & Judy Chamberlain, 5th
Jim & Kate Carroll, 6th
Steve & Susie Clark, 9th
Robert & Gretchen Matthews, 11th

If your or a loved one’s name doesn’t appear on the list, please email or call the office, and we will add your birthday or anniversary!

St. Luke’s Episcopal Church Contacts:

The Reverend Nick Phares, Rector
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St. Luke’s Vestry Members

- Dan Droege, Sr. Warden – dbdcomm.2@gmail.com 918-331-7936
- Doug McIver, Jr. Warden – dmciver@susandickcpa.com 785-342-4328
- Jo Baughman – jybokla@aol.com
- Karole Cozby – kscozby916@gmail.com
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- Nancy Warring – newarring@cityofbartlesville.org
- Katherine Powell – kmpbmp48@gmail.com
- Nancy Megee – sc4me81@yahoo.com

Sunday’s altar flowers are given by Gretchen and Robert Matthews:
In loving memory of family members who have passed on to greater glory.