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The Steeple



April 21,
2021

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Living Rooms



Thank you all for keeping me in your prayers during my time away. I've missed the energy at church, seeing you all out and about in our beautiful town, and of course our time together on Sunday mornings. My heartfelt thanks also to Father Bob. You know, Bob+ has been there for me in many ways since my arrival a few months ago – as a shepherd, friend, colleague, and mentor. We are all blessed by his presence. I know you know this. Nevertheless, driving across the country by myself provided me a substantial amount of time to thank God for Bob's life and for yours.

I found myself reminiscing quite a bit on the drive from Michigan to Kansas and then from Topeka to Bartlesville. Last week I found myself going down memory lane more than once as my sisters and I cleared out the only "home," we have ever known. I spent the last week in the house I grew up sleeping in my old room and spending time in conversation at the end of the day in the room which our mom left this world in. After five days of at least 12 hour shifts we had 40+ years of treasures packed into the back of a 26-foot Penske truck. With the house empty, there was a strange silence... and in that silence the rooms began to speak.

The language of memory is powerful and often sobering. It has a weight to it none of us ever suspects and at times it catches you unawares. After listening to each other's memories my sisters and I found that each of us provided a unique perspective to the ones we shared together. We'd listen to one another often laughing and crying as a fuller picture emerged of an incident each of us remembered in a different way. All of that emotional energy came rushing back to me as we buried mom on that snowy April morning last week next to her mom.

One of the things I noticed that morning is that saying the prayers graveside is quite different than leading them. I could barely feel my hands, but the words, the same words that I have said over some of your loved ones, comforted me that day despite the cold. We picked a simple wood urn for her – the color of the corduroys she loved. And just as I did for my father, I placed her in the ground, peeling back the fake grass the cemetery puts down so that you don't see the dirt.

As we recited Psalm 23, the shepherd psalm, I realized that the last words my mom spoke to me were the words of Jesus. In the final chapter of the Gospel of Matthew Jesus tells his disciples that he will "be with them, even till the end of the age." Just before mom passed, she looked at me and said, "I go with you always." A shepherd to the end.

The way we say goodbye is important my friends. Thank you for letting me say goodbye the way I needed to. And while this trip closed a chapter of my life, I was reminded that the day my mom let go was the day Dan and the Vestry introduced my family to you. So, it is true you see, when one door closes another one opens. And, the door that opened for me was you.

Deep Peace,

Father Nick+

2021 Bishop's Cup Golf Tournament May 15

The Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma's mission is to transform lives in the love of Jesus Christ. One impactful way we do this is through the vital work we do with our youth. The Bishop's Cup (TBC) utilizes the funds raised during the golf tournament to assist St. Crispin's Conference Center and Camp. St. Crispin's is an inclusive camp where we strive to meet all physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Campers leave St. Crispin's forever changed by the beauty, joy, and friendships found at camp.



This year, on Saturday, May 15, we will be holding the 6th Annual The Bishop's Cup at **Buffalo Rock Golf in Cushing, OK**. TBC allows us the opportunity to gather as a community in support of our beloved St. Crispin's Summer Camp. Whether you're a pro or a novice, all skill levels are welcome in this friendly tournament. Registration closes May 5th. All participants will receive a swag bag and the top 3 teams will receive top-notch golf gear. Lunch IS included!

The Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma understands the importance of investing in and empowering the youth of our region. Your participation is vital to making this event a success. We are thrilled about this event and ask you to sink a winning putt by joining us as a sponsor. Enclosed is a sponsorship form detailing the 2021 levels and benefits. Please register below or send in a check by mail to 924 N. Robinson, Oklahoma City, OK 73102. Please put "The Bishop's Cup" or "TBC" in the memo line.

A foursome is \$360; tee box sponsor \$250; hole sponsor \$1,000; driving range and putting green sponsor \$1,500; cart sponsor \$2,500; birdie sponsor \$5,000; mulligans \$5. For additional sponsorships and to register, visit the Diocese website at <https://www.epiok.org/eventcalendar.aspx> and scroll down to 2021 Bishop's Cup Golf Tournament or call the diocese at 405-232-4820.

Veterans Connection Organization Golf Tournament
Title Sponsor - JO ALLYN LOWE FAMILY



Friday, May 14, 2021
Adams Municipal Golf Club
5801 Tuxedo Blvd. Bartlesville, Ok

Proceeds benefit: Veterans Connection Organizations
LTJG Jo Allyn Lowe Scholarship Fund

Registration 10:00 am
Lunch and Ceremony 11:30 am
Shot-Gun Start 1:00 pm

\$100 - person or \$400 - team
(includes green fee, cart, range balls, lunch, and prizes)
Mulligans are 4 for \$20 (Limited to 4 per person)



www.vcobville.com

For more information and/or Sponsorship Opportunities Please call the Tournament Chair
Charlie Pilkington at (918) 688-4002 or cpilkington@bankregent.com

Diocesan Congregation COVID-19 GUIDELINES

On Pentecost, May 23rd, we will remove all mandatory COVID protocols for congregations in the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma, except for

- 1 Mask wearing 
- 2 Sanitizing hands 
- 3 No common cup 
- 4 No indoor eating 

Everything else is permitted including outdoor meals, nursery care, singing, use of books, in person meetings, and removing the social distancing requirements.

These protocols expire July 17th.

Churches may use discretion for their own guidelines

EPIOK.ORG/COVID-19



martha's TASK

Martha's Task is holding an online auction of items as part of its annual fundraiser, Purse-N-Ali-Tea 2021. Funds raised support their programs. Participate in the online auction at:

<https://www.32auctions.com/MarthasTaskPursenalitea21>

Emily, the divorced mother of two shown in the article below, began the sewing instruction program at Martha's Task in Nov. 2020. Many of the sewn items on the St. Luke's donation table were made by Emily utilizing the skills she learned at Martha's Task.

Established in 2000 in Bartlesville, Martha's Task helps empower low income women through supportive seamstress training and crafting programs.



Emily Update: April 19 Emily was awarded \$1,000 in attorney's fees, which will be used to cover ongoing legal fees. The next hearing is 9 a.m. May 24, when the judge will decide on a motion to remove the ex-husband's attorney due to a conflict of interest. **There will be a yard sale this Sat., April 24, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.,** at 1328 S. Cherokee Ave. Items for the sale can be left on the screened-in porch. Emily thanks everyone for their prayers and donations at the table at St. Luke's where Emily's sewn items are.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

After a year of serving take-out meals, Agape Mission has reopened its dining room for inside dining. This reopening is a tremendous blessing to its clients since they once again can eat in a restaurant like setting with a sense of dignity. For the past year, we have been able to get along with a skeleton crew to make the take-out meals. Now it is time for us to "reopen" our commitment to serving those individuals who struggle in their daily lives and volunteer to give the diners a warm welcome and fill their plates with delicious food. We need volunteers to work serving meals and help with clean-up on the fourth Thursday of each month. Specifically, we need three volunteers for the 12:45 to approximately 2:00 shift. If you are interested, please email Becky Liehr at jbliehr@gmail.com <mailto:jbliehr@gmail.com> or call her at 918-327-5987. The blessings abound in this ministry as you become the hands of Christ to those individuals who otherwise may not have a well-balanced meal that day. Their smiles and gratitude for this service will warm your heart. Please prayerfully consider joining the St. Luke's team in this wonderful ministry.



Easter Faith Forum Series

Resurrecting Wounds

No Faith Forum April 18th

Session Two: April 25th Erasing Wounds.

Session Three: May 2nd Touching Wounds.

Session Four: May 9th Surfacing Wounds.

Session Five: May 16th Discovering Wounds.

Session Six: May 23rd Communal Afterliving.

Flower Donations: The Altar Guild Team and Flower Fund Chairmen would like to give our sincere appreciation and thanks to all who made contributions for the gorgeous Easter Lilies that adorned St. Luke's, not only on Easter but the following Sunday. We also thank you for the additional money that allowed us to place the bowl of fresh spring flowers on the Chapel Altar. Hopefully, most of you saw these in person or were able to see the beautiful sanctuary on Facebook or your iPhones.

Now it's time to select a date that has special meaning for you to honor or remember loved ones on the remaining Sundays this spring. We always place fresh flowers on the High Altar except during Lent and Advent. (COVID did cancel flowers during the early pandemic when there were no services in the church). This is a great opportunity to make your remembrance known to God and also our Parish Family.

Please select a Sunday from now through the end of June, and notify either Jo Baughman via email at jybokla@aol.com or Cheryl Fregin via email at cherylfregin@yahoo.com; and then send a check to the office or place it in the offering basket, **noting the exact wording you choose for the Sunday bulletin**. The suggested amount is \$45 but we are happy with any extra that you might donate. If it's easier, just give it to Roseanne in person in the office at your convenience or drop your check in the north locked mailbox by the parking lot doors. Or simply mail to St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 210 East Ninth, Bartlesville, OK 74003. Please don't forget to note Flower Fund on the bottom corner of your check.

Many thanks for keeping fresh flowers on our High Altar.

Cheryl and Jo
Flower Fund Co-Chairmen.

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.



St. Luke's Prayer List

The prayer list can be found in the bulletin enclosed herewith at the end of the bulletin.

Call or email our office with prayer requests at 918-336-1212 or office@episcopalbartlesville.org.

Agape Mission Volunteer Schedule

Thursday, April 22

10:45 am – 1 pm: Darian Kedy, Becky Olsen, Jeff Birk

Thursday, May 13

10:45 am – 1 pm: Becky Liehr, Kris Bonner, Kathy Zervas, Dolores McCreary

Bereavement Team 1

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

Planning to attend the upcoming Sunday service?

If you have a standing reservation, there's no need to call. However, if you've not been attending regularly in-person – Reserve your spot by emailing to office@episcopalbartlesville.org or by calling 918-336-1212.

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, April 21 – 28

Birthdays

Marsha Tibbits, 21st
Karen Walters, 22nd
Kathy Zervas, 23rd
A. J. Clem, 23rd
Rita Childers, 25th
Melissa Thurman, 26th
Dorothea Ketchum, 26th
Sue Glass, 28th

Anniversaries

Fr. Bob & Georgia Gates, 26th
Jim & Sheila Taylor, 29th

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
269-788-7063; RevPhares@outlook.com

Dolores McCreary, Choir Director/Organist
918-397-4828; dolo37@cableone.net

Roseanne McKee, Secretary; 918-336-1212;
office@episcopalbartlesville.org

Keeli Droege, Christian Education Coord.;
918-697-8509; keelidroege@gmail.com

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
210 East 9th St., Bartlesville, OK 74003

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
- Penny Williams - oklaborn@sbcglobal.net
- Nancy Woods - Nancywoods120@gmail.com
- Steve Van Aken - scvanaken@sbcglobal.net
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- Nancy Warring - newarring@cityofbartlesville.org
- Karl Franks - ktdfranks@gmail.com
- Katherine Powell - kmpbmp@cableone.net
- Karole Cosby – kscozby916@gmail.com
- Chad Ellis - w.chadwick.ellis@gmail.com
- Nancy Megee - sc4me81@yahoo.com

Connecting with St. Luke's

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