

The Steeple



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October 13,
2021

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Regular Reviews in Mutual Ministry

Over the past year and half I've come to realize, in ways I couldn't possibly have imagined, just how important it is for us to stay connected on as many levels as we can. I am reminded of a quote from the Swiss philosopher Henri-Frederic Amiel that gives a sense of urgency to that realization. It goes, "Life is short. We don't have much time to gladden the hearts of those who walk this way with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind." You'll recognize that one, I hope?

As we all emerge from transition, I am looking forward to the ways that we will be able to deepen our connections with one another. It's true we do not have much time to travel this road together and I want to make the most of the time I have with you. In honoring that desire, a review committee has been selected to reflect on and develop strategies to strengthen and deepen our mutual ministry.

Please take a moment to digest the Review Committee's Schedule. In addition to that, if you would like to contact any of the committee members please do so. I'm interested in hearing from everyone and so are they. One of the intentions of this process gain as much feedback as possible and your word matters – know that.

Ideally the outcome of this review will include future planning to include short- and long-term goals. For many of us this past year helped provided clarity about what is most important to us. It is my intention to take that clarity, along with the feedback I receive and create an outline of how we might move forward together by continuing to honor the call to love with arms wide open. We are in this together and I am so grateful to serve God's people alongside you.

Every Blessing,

Fr. Nick+

Review Committee Schedule - 2021

Review Committee

(Becky Liehr, Doug McIver, Kris Bonner, Dan Droege, convener)

Tuesday, Oct 5 – 12 noon-1 pm *(Done)*

First meeting of Review Committee to develop review documents and begin review process. Out of this meeting, three documents developed, based in part from evaluation documents provided by Diocese:

- Review Committee – Rector’s Evaluation
- Rector Review – Self-Evaluation
- Rector Review – Vestry & Congregation Support

Thursday, Oct. 7 *(Done)*

Blank copies of Rector’s Self-Evaluation and Rector’s Evaluation of Vestry & Congregational Support delivered to Fr. Nick. Committee members begin filling out Rector Evaluation forms individually in preparation for second meeting on Oct. 18.

Monday, Oct. 18 – 12 noon-1 pm

Second meeting of Review Committee to coalesce their comments on Rector’s Evaluation. Following meeting, Dan provides Evaluation to committee by email for final signoff before providing to Fr. Nick on Oct. 21.

Thursday, Oct. 21

Review Committee delivers Rector’s Evaluation to Fr. Nick. Likewise, Fr. Nick delivers to the committee the completed Rector’s Self-Evaluation and the completed Rector’s Evaluation of Vestry/Congregational Support.

Monday, Oct. 25 – 12 noon-1 pm

Review Committee meets to review all documents.

Friday, Oct 29 – 3 pm-5pm

Review Committee meets with Fr. Nick to go over all documents. Out of this discussion will come assessments and recommendations to be undertaken over the next 12 months by the rector and by the vestry as representatives of the congregation.

Tuesday, Nov. 2 – 12 noon-1 pm – List of assessments and recommendations developed at Oct. 29 meeting provided to Fr. Nick and the Review Committee with opportunity to comment/fine-tune. Finalized list distributed to all parties via email.

Mon. Nov. 8– At vestry meeting, convener of the Review Committee (Dan) and Fr. Nick will summarize the above review process and outline major recommendations involving both the rector and the vestry.



Art by Josie McIver

Hurry! Race Ends Oct. 25!

Do you have a pair of shoes that's falling apart? Or a pair that hurts your feet? Maybe shoes the kids have outgrown. Or a dressy pair you wore a few times and they've been sitting idle in a closet ever since.

It's time to kick off the dust and make some good things happen.

St. Luke's Young Disciples are collecting shoes to redistribute to those who can use them right away for everyday use, job interviews, school, sports, church and more.

Those old soles too far gone to wear much longer... you know those favorite, completely thrashed sneakers... YD has a plan for those too.

Instead of throwing them away and creating more waste, why not reduce your carbon footprint and recycle them? Nike Grind takes old, worn-out shoes and turns them into play surfaces, courts, tracks, floor, playgrounds and much more. They even recycle them into new shoes! YD will make sure your big stinkers get to the right place to make this happen.

So hurry! Run, don't walk, to the YD Shoe Drive. The clock is ticking! Race ends October 25!

Afghanistan Zabuli Girls' School

Bartlesville Daybreak Rotary supports Razia's Ray of Hope Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of women and children in Afghanistan through community-based education. Focused on the village of Deh'Subz, the organization was founded on the belief that education is key to positive, peaceful change for current and future generations. The foundation provides opportunities to learn and grow in a safe, nurturing environment, empowering girls and women through education and resources so that they may work toward brighter futures.

Their flagship project is the Zabuli Education Center, a humanitarian endeavor led by Razia Jan, an Afghan native who has worked since 2005 to raise funds to establish the school for girls in Afghanistan. The mission of the school is to provide free education for girls in the village of Deh'Subz, outside of Kabul. And there are big plans for 2021 and 2022 at the school AND Several of our members sponsor a girl (per the Foundation, we are their largest group of sponsors through one organization). For more details on sponsoring a student, please check out Razia's page: [Donate – Razia's Ray of Hope](#)

Our pictures (from top to bottom): 1st Graders with their English teacher in March 2021, Daybreak's Casino Night in October 2019....Razia had never played BlackJack and yet she was the big winner that night through coaching by Dealer Aly (granddaughter of our 2019-2020 President), and the Graduating Class in early 2021 under the banner provided by Daybreak Rotary.

Please watch our Facebook page for postings about our support and events related to Razia's Ray of Hope. We kicked off on May 8, 2021 an effort to raise \$25,000 to name a room in the new building at the school! Afghan we can is scheduled for October 29th. Please see Steve Van Aken for more details.





Annual Family Promise Fundraiser

Tour de Bville Raises \$6,770

A big thank you from Family Promise for St. Luke's support of its annual Tour de Bville fundraiser. Through sponsorship and participant registrations, Family Promise raised \$6770 to help families get back on their feet and into sustainable housing.

St. Luke's was an event sponsor (displayed on every event T-shirt) and provided door prizes. A rainy Saturday morning didn't discourage some 35 riders from braving the wet streets to ride the route that covered several of the city's downtown landmarks.

About Family Promise...

Family Promise is St. Luke's way to help local families transition from homelessness to self-sufficiency. We were one of the first churches in Bartlesville to participate in the program since its start several years ago.

We've continued to provide evening meals and other food supplies despite the challenges of the Covid pandemic, which temporarily curtailed in-church housing of homeless families. **St. Luke's is scheduled to provide meals for the last time this year the week of Nov. 14-20.**




Tour de Bville riders head out on a wet Saturday, Oct. 2

Since early 2020, families benefiting from the program have been staying overnight at the limited living accommodations are Anchor House, with supporting churches providing evening meals and household necessities. While at Anchor House, the adult members of the family are counseled in goal-setting, finding employment, furthering their education, budgeting, job retention and assistance with other issues that have contributed to their current situation. School-age children attend local schools.

Currently St. Luke's is making its garage apartment rental property available to a graduate of Family Promise who otherwise would not have found suitable, affordable housing for herself and her young daughter.

Weekly Words of Wellness



The trees are
about to show
us how
beautiful
letting go can
be.

LIVING
COMPASS

OF PERMANENCE AND CHANGE

BY: REV. SCOTT STONER

The autumnal equinox, one of the days we experience equal amounts of darkness and light, occurred this week, ushering in one of my favorite seasons. I love the season of fall and not just because I enjoy football, apple picking, the stunning colors of the changing leaves, the World Series, Halloween, and Thanksgiving. I also love fall because it is a time when I find myself turning inward, reflecting on the changing nature of life in general, and my life in particular. The poet Bonaro Overstreet says that autumn is "a symphony of permanence and change." Turning inward to reflect on what has changed, or what is changing, also provides the opportunity for me to focus on that which is changeless, that which is permanent.

Fall is a time of transition. It's not just the trees that are transitioning here in the northern hemisphere; the geese and other wildlife are also preparing for the coming winter months. The geese as well as other animals, move great distances, making an external, literal transition of place. Trees and other animals that don't migrate, create an internal transition as they shift their energy from external growth and creation to various internal protecting and stewarding expressions.

I find that I too benefit from doing a similar kind of internal transitioning in the fall, as I both let go of what has been, and hold fast to what remains, learning to be appreciative of both. As the quote in the box above conveys so well, "The trees are about to show us how beautiful letting go can be."

Our lives indeed are comprised of equal parts light and shadow, a balance of day and night, an ongoing "symphony of permanence and change." As we begin the transition of this season, may we embrace the wisdom of knowing that even in letting go we can find beauty.

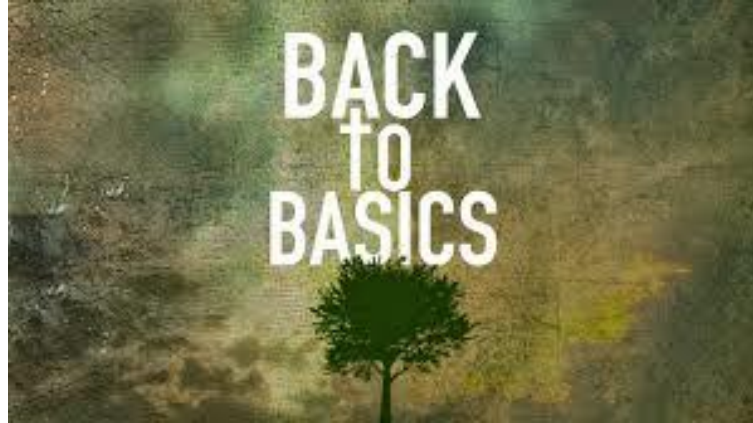


CONCERN Needs

CONCERN is in need of the following items: Ramen Noodles, Sugar, Tea Bags, Complete Pancake Mix, Jiffy Mix, Toothbrush Kits, and Deodorant.

Also, believe it or not, Thanksgiving is just around the corner. Please consider offering a contribution towards our annual fundraiser for Thanksgiving Pies. Please make your check out to St. Luke's and in the memo write Thanksgiving Baskets.

Summer Faith Forum Series



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

Rector's Bible Study



Thursday October 14th 9:00 a.m.

This Sunday's altar flowers are given by Kris and Glenn Bonner:
"In loving memory of Patricia and Richard Fentem,
Faye and Seaborn Bonner, and Macoy Bonner."

Birthdays and Anniversaries, October 13 - 20

Birthdays

Lynda Stephens 13th
Brian Olsen 20th

Anniversaries

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 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

Agape Mission Volunteer Schedule

Thursday, October 14

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, October 28

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 Episcopal Church Contacts:

The Reverend Nick Phares, Rector 269-788-7063; RevPhares@outlook.com

Dolores McCreary, Choir Director/Organist 918-397-4828 dolomc37@gmail.com

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

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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.

Connecting with St. Luke's

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

Pub Theology

Please join us on October 28th !!!

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

The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, October 28th 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!



St. Luke's Vestry Members

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