

In this week's Steeple >>>

- Message from Fr Nick
- Young Disciples
- Free Books
- Theologian's Corner
- Wall Photos Opportunity
- Book Signing
- Check out new merch
- Blessing of the Animals

The Steeple



Sept 28, 2022

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Looking Ahead

Of all the Saints I learned about when I was growing up, none was more revered than St. Francis of Assisi. You couldn't pass by a house in the neighborhood without seeing a garden statue of him next to someone's bird bath and come Christmas, each Nativity traced its lineage back to him. On October the fifth we will remember St. Francis with a small service in the memorial garden at 6:00 p.m. As you plan to be here, please consider bringing along your pets if have those that like to travel. We will have a blessing of the animals as a part of our time together. And, come hungry – we will have some sandwiches ready as well as treats for our faithful companions.

Next week also is Diocesan Convention. A few weeks ago, the theme of convention appeared in the Steeple: ***“Like Trees Planted By Streams”*** harkening back to Psalm 1. Below are the sessions featured this year:

SESSION I:

THE WAY OF LOVE: AGRARIAN MINISTRY, CHURCH LAND STEWARDSHIP & CARE OF CREATION (Brian Sellers-Peterson) Conference Room D

This workshop will share best practices, ideas and inspiration for individuals, congregations, and ministries that want to share the Way of Love through God's good creation and abundance. Our orchard and field of exploration will be agrarian ministry, church land stewardship, and creation care and in the Episcopal Church, Anglican Communion and beyond. It will also provide liturgical resources for food, agriculture and stewardship of creation. It will provide examples of agrarian work and prayer - ora et labora.

DEVELOPING SERMON-BASED SMALL GROUPS (the Rev. Everett Lees) Lounge

"The ultimate goal of a sermon-based small group is simply to Velcro people to the two things they will need most when faced with need-to-know or need-to-grow situations: the Bible and other Christians. The sermon focus keeps people rooted in the Bible; the small group aspect guarantees that we'll be close enough to other Christians to benefit from their

knowledge and support." In this breakout, Father Everett will discuss how to start a program of discipleship using the sermon as a launching point for creating engaging conversations in a small group setting.

VITALITY AND MISSION (Canon Steve and the Ministry Partners Team) Conference Room A

Mission for a vital congregation is neither merely the generation of a corporate-style motto, nor is it a plan for increasing church attendance or budgets. Vital mission does not belong to a board, a vestry or a bishop's committee; nor does a vital mission serve the Church. Instead, the mission is God's mission and we serve that mission. How can you help your congregation be grounded in mission? What spiritual practices promote this discernment? Come and see. (Note: May move to Session II)

ENVISIONING CREATION CARE IN OKLAHOMA: A Panel Discussion Featuring Oklahomans Engaged in Environmental Stewardship Conference Room B

We are called to care for God's creation and Oklahoma's Episcopalians and our community have responded in a variety of unique ways. During this panel conversation we will hear stories of individuals and some organizations that offer opportunities for environmental stewardship at both the individual and collective levels. In addition, we hope you will walk away with ideas for how our congregations, and individually, we can more actively engage creation care in Oklahoma.

The Rev. Sarah Smith, St. Paul's Cathedral
Magdalena Vinson, St. Andrew's Stillwater
Nicol Ragland, Regenerate Oklahoma

SESSION II:

THE WAY OF LOVE: AGRARIAN MINISTRY, CHURCH LAND STEWARDSHIP & CARE OF CREATION (Brian Sellers-Peterson) Conference Room D

ALL THINGS NEW: A Panel Discussion Featuring Experimental Grant Recipients Conference Room B

In 2022, the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma and the Ministry Partners Team launched three new granting opportunities. The most ambitious was an experimental grant program intended to encourage congregations to find new models and opportunities for community engagement. Almost \$10,000 has been awarded in experimental grant funds around the Diocese and we are seeing God's spirit at work in these new opportunities for ministry. The panel conversation reflects a cross-section of ideas and experiments undertaken by some of the experimental grant recipients. We hope you will walk away with some new ideas and be inspired to try your own experiment.

Donna Horton, St. Bede's Westport
The Rev. Therese Starr, Trinity Eufaula
The Rev. Kathrin Radach, St. Paul's Holdenville
Mary Susan Whaley, All Saints' Miami
Jennifer Ratliff-Towner, Trinity Tulsa

HOW VITAL IS OUR DIOCESE? (Kate Bond and the Ministry Partners Team)
Conference Room A

Since we began last year, we are learning much about what makes for a vital congregation in our diocese. In that time, 80% of our congregations have taken the Congregational Vitality Assessment and half of those congregations have taken specific steps toward vitality based on this process. Kate Bond and members of the Ministry Partner Team will share some preliminary results of this data and experience, alongside some recommendations for first steps and opportunities for engaging congregational vitality in 2023. (Note: May move to Session I).

Convention will not just be business this year, but a time of Sabbath rest, learning, and celebration. I hope that if one of these sessions looks particularly interesting to you that you would consider reaching out to one of our delegates and partnering with them in learning and reflection. I wonder what wonderful things could come from such a community centered experience.

Please keep us in your prayers: Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



AT ST. CRISPIN'S CONFERENCE CENTER
OCTOBER 7TH-8TH 2022

In Hope,

Nick+





Young Disciples Explore a Parable

Seventeen young disciples showed up last Wednesday night at St. Luke's Rodgers Hall. They gave thanks and then promptly eviscerated a bountiful feast prepared by Cody Lay's parents. After dinner (with outside temperatures still in the triple digits), YD enjoyed St. Luke's crisp air conditioning with inside games and skits. The highlight was reenacting Luke 16, sometimes known as the "Parable of the Shrewd Manager." A head-scratcher for even seasoned theologians, the young thinkers reveled in the freedom to act it out and interpret as they wished.





If you were unable to get your pictures taken recently we will be adding another date in October!

PLEASE

email Nancy Woods and she will add you to the list and let you know times available.

Thank you!

nancywoods120@gmail.com

FAITH FORUM resumes on Oct 2nd
Sundays 9:15am-10:15am, Metcalf Hall

**Women's Fellowship is coming up October 13th, 5:30pm, Metcalf
JOIN US!**



Theologians Corner:



Francis of Assisi

Friar, 1226

Francis, the son of a prosperous merchant of Assisi, was born in 1182.

His early youth was spent in harmless revelry and fruitless attempts to win military glory.

Various encounters with beggars and lepers pricked the young man's conscience, and he decided to embrace a life devoted to Lady Poverty.

Despite his father's intense opposition, Francis totally renounced all material values and devoted himself to serve the poor. In 1210, Pope Innocent III confirmed the simple Rule for the Order of Friars Minor, a name Francis chose to emphasize his desire to be numbered among the "least" of God's servants.

The order grew rapidly all over Europe. But, by 1221, Francis had lost control of it, since his ideal of strict and absolute poverty, both for the individual friars and for the order as a whole, was found to be too difficult to maintain. His last years were spent in much suffering of body and spirit, but his unconquerable joy never failed.

Not long before his death, during a retreat on Mount La Verna, Francis received, on September 14, Holy Cross Day, the marks of the Lord's wounds, the stigmata, in his own hands and feet and side. Pope Gregory IX, a former patron of the Franciscans, canonized Francis in 1228 and began the erection of the great basilica in Assisi where Francis is buried.

Of all the saints, Francis is the most popular and admired but probably the least imitated; few have attained to his total identification with the poverty and suffering of Christ. Francis left few writings; but, of these, his spirit of joyous faith comes through most truly in the "Canticle of the Sun," which he composed at Clare's convent of St. Damian. The version in The Hymnal begins:

Most High, omnipotent, good Lord,
To thee be ceaseless praise outpoured, —
And blessing without measure.
Let creatures all give thanks to thee
And serve in great humility.

Together we pray: Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, grant thy people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may, for love of thee, delight in thy whole creation with perfectness of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

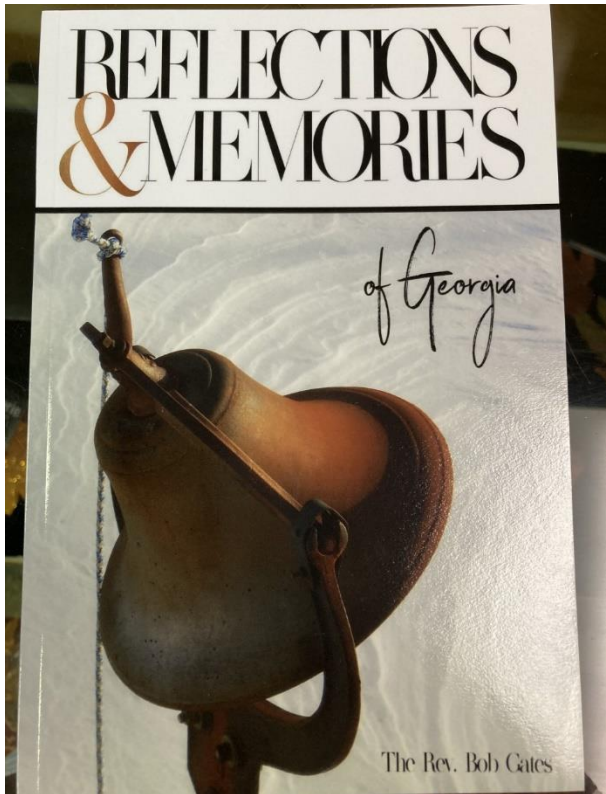


Luke's Place Sept 29th- Oct 3rd , 2022

- Sept 29th - Men's Breakfast, 7-8:30am, Metcalf**
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, Green Country Village (Feast of Saint Michael And All Angels)
- Oct 2nd – Eucharist Rite I, 8:00am, chapel**
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
Children's Programming, 10:15am, upstairs
Eucharist Rite II, 10:30am, nave
- Oct 4th -Spiritual Discovery Forum, 10am, Library**
Oct 5th - YD, Rodgers, 6pm

Blessing of the Animals, 6pm, Courtyard, light supper, Metcalf
Choir rehearsal, 7:00pm, Choir Room
Oct 7th & 8th- Diocesan Convention at St Crispin's

Morning Prayer is held every Monday- Thursday at 9am, Chapel,
Evening Prayer is held every Monday-Thursday at 4pm, Chapel, on Facebook



Book Signing Oct 2nd In the Bookstore

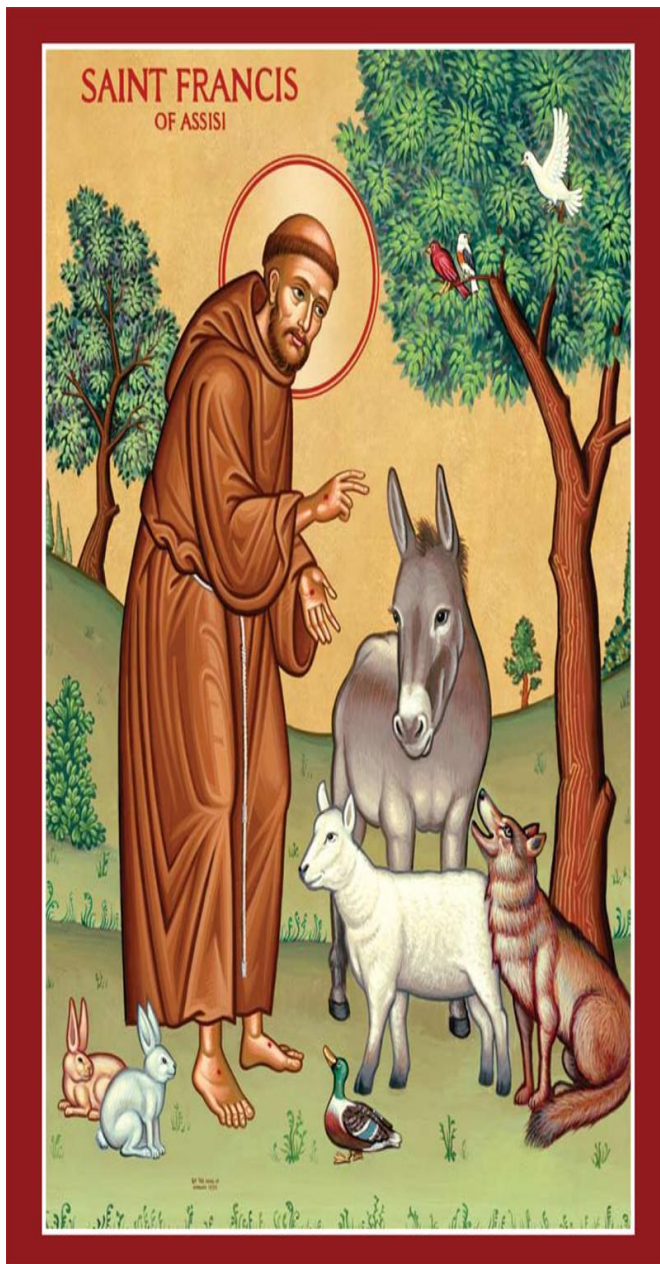
Fr Bob Gates will be in the Bookstore after the 10:30am service to sign his book "Reflections & Memories of Georgia". Books are \$20 each.



Free Books

We still have free books in Metcalf! Two tables are piled with wonderful books to take. Browse and give them new homes. No Limit!

AGAPE volunteer needed! 4th week of the month on Thursdays 12:45pm- 2:00pm! See Becky Liehr if you are willing to help this ministry!



Blessing of the Animals

OCT 5, 2022 6:00pm
Courtyard

St Luke's will be holding a Blessing of the Animals, Oct 5, 2022 at 6pm. A light supper will be served for those humans attending. Our furry friends will have biscuits to chew on. Maybe even some bird seed or lettuce for the more discreet pets. So bring the two or four legged extended members of your family and lets celebrate them!

Blessing
- of the -
ANIMALS





ST. LUKE'S BOOKSTORE

New Merchandise in Stock!

Order your St Luke's swag from the Bookstore!

St Luke's Bookstore is in need of volunteers to help! From selling merchandise to stocking to organizing, see Cathy Perrier if you are interested in this ministry. Cathy is hoping to open additional days and longer store hours if there are enough volunteers. All profits from the Bookstore go to

Outreach. This month store hours are Sundays 11:30am-12:30am with featured new merchandise in stock. Come in and shop your St Luke's Bookstore!





Coffee Hour is looking a little thin for the next two months! Need some folks to sign up for October and November. Sign up is in Metcalf kitchen. Thank you so much!

There are many ways to get involved here at St Luke's:

Help

In the Bookstore
With Children's programs
With YD
With Fellowship events
With Agape
With Family Promise
With the Rummage & Treasure Sale

Become

A Layreader
Sunday Usher
A Lay Eucharistic Visitor
A Homebound Visitor
A Greeter
A Coffee Hour Host
A Godly Play teacher
A Nursery Helper

Join

Altar Guild
Choir
Women's Fellowship
Bereavement Team
Men's Fellowship
A/V Team
A Faith Forum, Bible Study, or Spiritual Discovery class

And much more.....



Birthdays and Anniversaries, Oct 2nd – Oct 8th , 2022

Birthdays

Greta Olsen Gardiner 10/2
Oliver Ellis 10/3
Cheryl Van Aken 10/3
Madelyn Stuart 10/6

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 Vestry Members

- Doug McIver, Sr. Warden -- dmciver@susandickcpa.com 785-342-4328
- Nancy Woods, Jr. Warden – Nancywoods120@gmail.com
- Jo Baughman – jybokla@aol.com
- Karole Cozby – kscozby916@gmail.com
- Chad Ellis – w.chadwick.ellis@gmail.com
- Karen Lewey – kgrammy07@yahoo.com
- Laura Birk – lpbirk73@gmail.com
- Mark Peterson- m_mpeterson@hotmail.com
- Steve Van Aken – scvanaken@sbcglobal.net
- Katherine Powell – kmpbmp48@gmail.com

Bereavement Team 3

Wendy Hall, Darian Kedy, Kris Bonner, Debbie Mueggenborg, Mary Jo Peterson

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

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
210 East 9th St., Bartlesville, OK 74003
Office Hours: 9am-4pm, M-F
Email: StLukesBartlesville@outlook.com
918-336-1212
Or contact
Penny Williams, secretary 918-766-2157

**SCAM
Alert**