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The Steeple



Jan 25, 2023

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Well Done

Dear St. Luke's

This month I had the chance to celebrate with your vestry after the successful completion of a lot of hard work. Almost a year ago three major projects kicked off: a bylaw review, an employee handbook update, and the formation of a parish discernment committee. Along with approving the 2023 budget, the vestry took some time not only to welcome Dr. White to Bartlesville, but to reflect on just how much administrative work was accomplished in 2022. Please join me in thanking them when you see them out and about. They did a good job.

I am pleased to announce that under the advisement of the parish discernment committee the vestry enthusiastically voted to support Jeff Birk in continuing with his formal discernment process. A lot of hard work lies ahead for Jeff and Laura and I know that we as a community will do everything we can to support his call to ministry. Congratulations Birk's!

Updating the bylaws was a tedious process. And many thanks go to our senior warden, Doug McIver, and to the venerable Jo Baughman, who whipped those bylaws into shape - getting them done just in time to go before the last meeting of the diocesan council in 2022.

The current update reflects a seamless alignment with diocesan policy and closely resembles that of their model set of bylaws. The changes that will make the most difference here at Luke's Place will allow for the placement of a youth representative on the vestry, the ability to expand as well as contract the number of appointed vestry members for a given year, and in removing some ecclesial barriers that were in place in order for a member to obtain a position of leadership within the church. I hope you will take time to read them when you can.

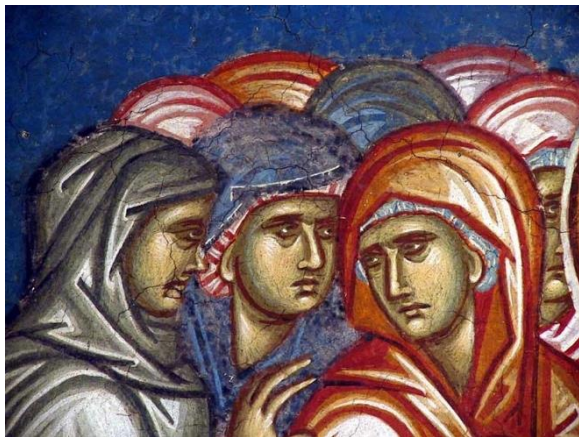
When it came to the employee handbook, well... you don't know what you don't know. When we approached the diocese about updating our handbook, we were referred to a consulting firm, New Focus H.R., the same firm the diocese was using to update their handbook. As of this week the handbook is in the process of final review, and I am so thankful to Doug McIver who led the charge once again.

It may come as no surprise that these were essential projects that needed attention. Along with a renewed focus on adult formation, a major AV project, forming a deeper partnership with Family Promise, increasing our giving to CONCERN, and rehabilitating a robust pastoral care network, 2022 was productive year for us.

With that programming in place, I hope you will join with me in putting some creative energy towards the following projects in 2023: succession planning at every level of ministry especially with Y.D., how we recast the vision for sustainable children's ministry and then building it, hiring nursery workers, celebrating the life and ministry of Dolores McCreary and welcoming a new music director. It's a lot, but a lot can be done with arms wide open.

Nick+

Theologians Corner:



Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe
Witnesses to the Faith

The commemoration of these three devout women follows directly on the observance of three of Paul's male co-workers in the Lord. It is a reminder that though the first century was a patriarchal time from which we have very few women's voices, the apostles and indeed the whole early church depended on women for sustenance, protection, and support.

Lydia was Paul's first European convert. She was a Gentile woman in Philippi who, like many others, was attracted to Judaism. As what the Jewish community called a "God-fearer" she was undoubtedly accorded respect by the Jewish community, but still would have been marginalized. Paul encountered her on a riverbank where she and a group of women had gathered for Sabbath prayers. Undoubtedly Paul preached to them and Lydia "opened her heart" and, together with the whole household of which she was head, was baptized.

Lydia was a prosperous cloth-merchant and a person of means. She was able to lodge Paul, Timothy, and their companions in her house, which Paul used as a local base of operations (Acts 16:11-40).

Phoebe was the apparent patroness of the Christian community in Cenchreae near Corinth. She is the first person mentioned in the long list of Paul's beloved associates in Chapter 16 of Romans. Paul refers to her as a "sister," as a "deacon," and as a "patroness" or "helper" of many. In other words, Paul includes her as part of his family in Christ and infers that she has housed and provided legal cover for the local church. Paul's use of the word "deacon" should be regarded with caution, since the diaconate as an order had not yet developed in the Church, but it does suggest the kind of ministry out of which the notion of ordained deacons developed. It would not be too much to call her a "proto-deacon."

Dorcas (Tabitha in Aramaic) was a revered disciple in Joppa who devoted herself to "good works and acts of charity." When she fell ill and died, the community sent for Peter, who came and, after prayer, revived her (Acts 9:36-42).

Though we have no record of the words of these three women, the apostolic testimony to their faith and their importance to the mission of the early church speaks for itself.

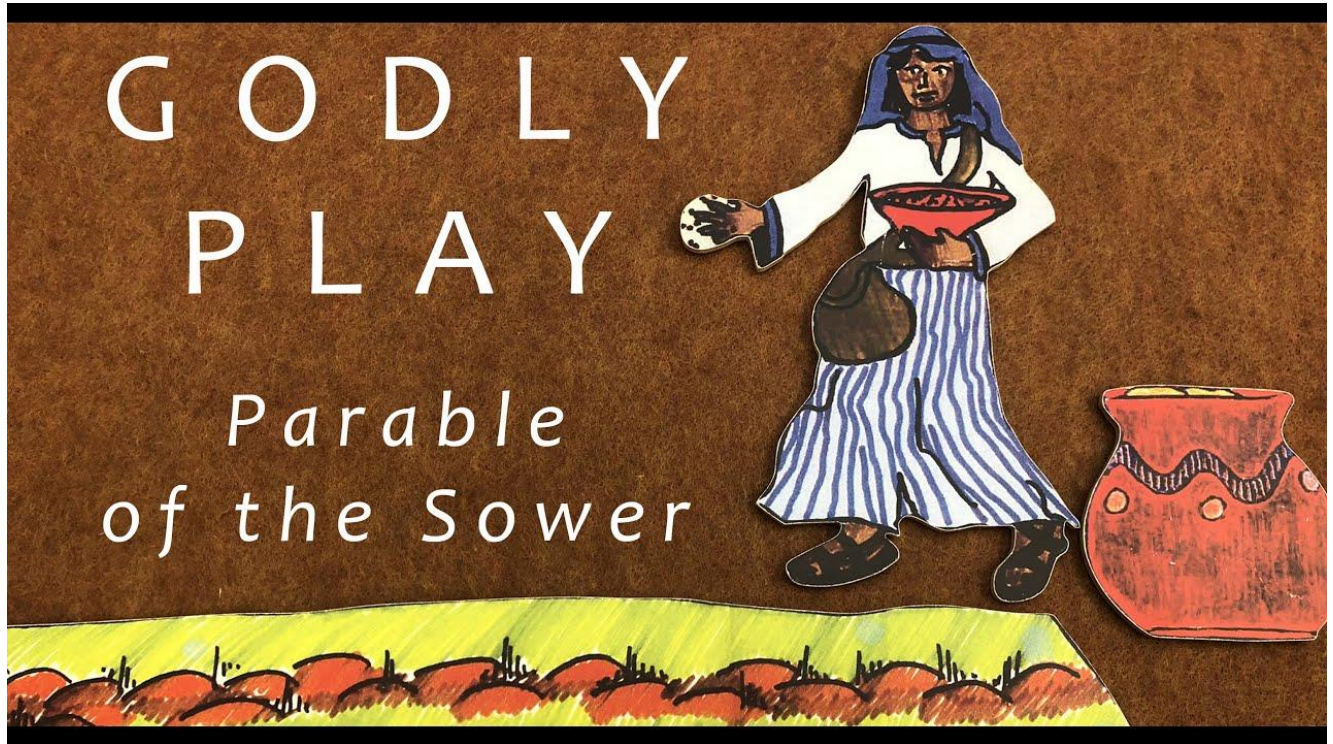
Together we pray: Filled with thy Holy Spirit, gracious God, thine earliest disciples served thee with the gifts each had been given: Lydia in business and stewardship, Dorcas in a life of charity, and Phoebe as a deacon who served many. Inspire us today to build up thy Church with our gifts in hospitality, charity, and bold witness to the gospel of Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



Join us for Pub Theology, Jan 26th, 6:30pm, at Tumbleweed's. Topic of discussion this month is : the Holy Spirit.

Children's Ministry

This Sunday, we will hear the Parable of the Sower. Bring your children to the Godly Play room upstairs at 10:15 am.



Birthdays and Anniversaries, Jan 29th – Feb 4th, 2023

Birthdays



Scot Williams	1/29
Evan Mitchell	1/29
Ada Grillot	1/29

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!



Sunday Brunch will be February 5th after the 10:30am service. Our Sunday Brunch Bunch will be our hosts so come hungry!



future!

St Luke's Annual Parish Meeting will be Sunday February 12th, after the 10:30 service. Come ready and come hungry! We will have a catered meal and get down to our business. The top things on the agenda will be the passing of the 2023 Budget, Elections, reflections of the pass year, and plans for the coming year. Mark your calendars for Feb 12th and lets look to the



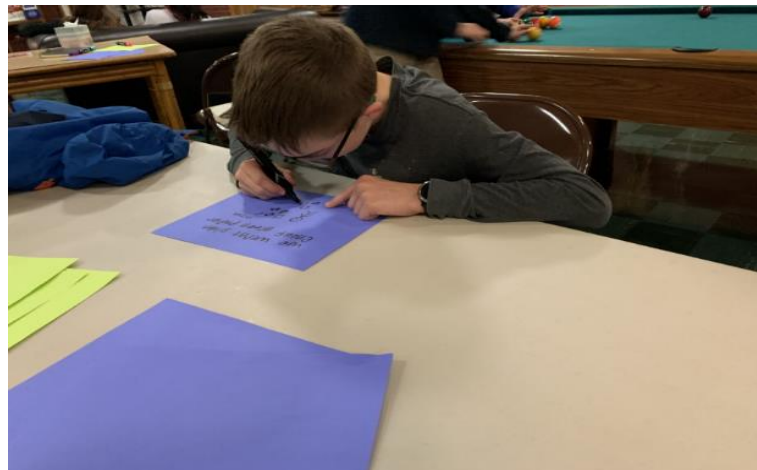
Sadly after the 12th of February, Coffee Hour may go away. We have been struggling to get folks to sign up to host Sunday's Coffee Hour for a few months now. The sign up sheet is always out and ready for someone to commit to bringing cookies or treats, but just a few have said yes. This Sunday there is a blank slot. The next two Sundays are Brunch Sundays but after that, there are nothing but empty dates. If they do not fill up, then the decision to discontinue will be made. Thanks to those who have hosted in the past. It was enjoyed!

Writing on the Wall

The new year gave the Young Disciples a chance to open up about what their group does well and what they could do better. They spent time writing down their thoughts and taping them to the wall for all to see and to discuss with Father Nick.

Many kids praised the dinners prepared each Wednesday by YD parents. They also appreciated the inclusiveness of YD and the various community service projects.

Areas for improvement? They want to bring back open mic night. And... brace yourselves parents... a lock-in! (A few brave adult volunteers will need to step forward to help with that.)



Please pray for: : Linda & Terry Piper, Liz Green, Michelle Sheffield, Catherine Sheffield, David King, Pris Snow, Ben Baker, Sanawbar, Diana Farris, Cindy Moffitt, Joel Hahn, Stacey & Butch Webster, Steve McCraw, Josh Harris, Katie Rolielard, Debbie French, Jody & George Bracken, Janice Lonski, David Swindell, Norma Perrier, Connie Finch, Dorothy & Elmer Buchanan, Diana Schremmer, Peggy Kauffman, Colleen, Shawn, Ryan Kiesel, Jason Carroll, Tony Clapper, Merry Lou & Bruce Neiswander, Jack & Karla Stoecker, Joseph, Tanis Reyburn, Tim, Mindy, Beth, Kay Boman Harvey, Shania Smith, Luke Karel, Jeri Wilson, Jeretta Amburn, Terry Grogan, the Maxwell Family, Tyler Roberson, Jerry Nezam, Jim Brooks, and Don Doty.

Luke's Place Jan 26th– Feb 1st, 2023

Jan 26th Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf

Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf

Green Country Service, 1pm, GCV

Pub Theology, 6:30pm, Tumbleweed's

Jan 28th CMT Character Breakfast Fundraiser, 2 sessions, Metcalf (tickets req.)

Jan 29th Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, chapel

Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf

Children's Programming, 10:15am, upstairs

Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:30am

Jan 31st Spiritual Discovery Group, 10am, Library

Feb 1st YD, 6pm, Rodgers Hall

Choir, 7pm, Choir Room



ANNUAL REPORTS DUE FEB 3rd

FAITH FORUM

Sundays 9:15am-10:15am, Metcalf Hall

The Great Awakening (1740-76)



won't want to miss it!

Souper Bowl Challenge

The Young Disciples are once again teaming up with Concern this winter to make sure the food pantry has plenty of the items that are needed most. Those items include: toothbrushes, toothpaste, ramen noodles, bar soap, canned pinto beans, canned carrots and canned mixed veggies.

Please bring items to St. Luke's by Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 12. Watch your email for details about YD's exciting "Souper Bowl" challenge. You



This is what we want



This is what we got so far

HELP US ACHIEVE OUR GOAL!
SOUPER BOWL 2023



Its BUNCO Night at St Luke's! Feb 8th, 2023, 6:30pm, Metcalf Hall.

What is Bunco? It's a dice game for every age
What if I don't know how to play? We will teach you!

Why Bunco? Its easy, fast, fun, and a fund raiser for the YD Souper Bowl

What do I have to do? First off- Come!

Attend! Support our Youth! And bring a snack or drink to share. What does it cost to play? \$5 or 5 canned goods at the door. All proceeds will go to Concern Food Pantry. Prizes will be awarded at the end for those with the most Buncos, Mini Buncos, Most Wins, and Most Losses. Yes, even losers are winners! There's no strategy to the game, you simply 'roll the dice' and any age can play. Come and enjoy this multigenerational evening of FUN!

SAVE THE DATE

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 4

Becky Liehr, Jo Baughman, Karen Lewey, &
Cathy Perrier

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210 East 9th St., Bartlesville, OK 74003
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Or contact
Penny Williams, secretary 918-766-2157

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



Let's BUNCO

HOW TO PLAY

1. Gather all players and break into tables of 4 players each. The players who sit opposite each other are partners for the first round.
2. Tables are numbered and labeled Table 1 (Head Table), Table 2, Table 3, Table 4, and so on.
3. One Head Table player rings a bell to signal the beginning and end of each round.
4. Players at each table take turns to roll 3 dice to earn points. All tables play simultaneously, and each player keeps their own score.
5. During each round, players attempt to roll the same number as the number of the round. For every number rolled that matches the round number, the player receives one point.
6. If the 3 dice match the number of the round being played, it's called a BUNCO and the player rolling earns 21 points. The player must call out "BUNCO" to receive the points.
7. If a player rolls 3 of a number that doesn't match the number of the current round, the player rolling earns 5 points instead. This is known as a "mini BUNCO".
8. Players keep rolling until they score no points, then they hand the dice to the next player.
9. When the head table has earned 21 points, the bell is rung again to signal the end of the round. Partners with the highest total score are the winners; those with the lowest are the losers. Players then change partners and tables. Losing partners stay at their table. Winning partners go to the next highest table (table 3 moves to table 2, etc), while losing partners at the Head table go to the last table.
10. After all the rounds are done, each player counts up all the wins and losses on their score sheet and writes the totals on the lines at the bottom of their score card.
11. At the end of the game, there can be multiple winners. The player(s) with the most BUNCOS, minis, wins and losses earn prizes. HAVE FUN!!!

