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The Steeple



Aug 10, 2023

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Awe

The dictionary defines “awe” as an overwhelming feeling of reverence and admiration produced by that which is grand, sublime, and extremely powerful. Wonderment is akin to this feeling and as much as that may be the case, I confess thinking about what is emoted when one experiences awe. I can only imagine. And do – thinking back on the times when I have been - “in” - as they say, awe.

We approach an awesome threshold this week as we celebrate our friend and shepherd Dolores McCreary and her forty years of ministry to St. Luke's – indeed to us and the community of Bartlesville and beyond. We will of course pass the time as we love to do – in worship and in feasting. Nevertheless, I would be remiss if I didn't pause and stop to think about what exactly is before us.

Sometimes I pause during pastoral visits to draw awareness to the present moment. For instance, in planning a wedding sometimes it's easy to become carried away by the tasks necessary to pull the celebration off more so than it is to be overcome by the moment. May we as a community pause on the threshold of this moment and give ourselves the permission to be overcome by it. This weekend's celebration is a once in a lifetime chance to say I love you. What better way to do that, than by being all together in worship, praise, and thanksgiving.

As our children return to school this week, I am mindful of the gift they are to us as are their parents. And so rightly we pray for all those returning to school this week.

Let us pray,

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the

courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works.

May that wonder guide them and us in the days before us. Amen.

Every Blessing,

Nick+

Theologian's Corner:



Laurence of Rome

Laurence (or Lawrence) was chief of the seven deacons of the congregation at Rome, the seven men who, like Stephen and his companions (Acts 6:1-6), were in charge of administering the church budget, particularly with regard to the care of the poor. In 257, the emperor Valerian began a persecution aimed chiefly at the clergy and the laity of the upper classes. All Church property was confiscated and meetings of Christians were forbidden. The bishop of Rome, Sixtus II, and most of his clergy were executed on 7 August 258, and Laurence on the 10th. This much from the near-contemporary records of the Church.

The accounts recorded about a century later by Ambrose and the poet Prudentius say that, as Sixtus was being led to his death, Laurence followed him, saying, "Will you go to heaven and leave me behind?" and that the bishop replied, "Be comforted, you will follow me in three days." The legend goes on to say that the Roman prefect,

knowing that Laurence was the principal financial officer, promised to set him free if he would surrender the wealth of the Church. Laurence agreed, but said that it would take him three days to gather it. During those three days, he placed all the money at his disposal in the hands of trustworthy stewards, and then assembled the sick, the aged, and the poor, the widows and orphans of the congregation, presented them to the prefect, and said, "These are the treasures of the Church."

The enraged prefect ordered him to be roasted alive on a gridiron. Laurence bore the torture with great calmness, saying to his executioners at one time, "You may turn me over; I am done on this side." The spectacle of his courage made a great impression on the people of Rome, and made many converts, while greatly reducing among pagans the belief that Christianity was a socially undesirable movement that should be stamped out.

The details of these later accounts have been disputed, on the grounds that a Roman citizen would have been beheaded. However, it is not certain that Laurence was a citizen, or that the prefect could be counted on to observe the law if he were. More serious objections are these:

- (1) The detailed accounts of the martyrdom of Laurence confuse the persecution under Decius with the persecution under Valerian, describing the latter, not as an emperor, but as the prefect of Rome under the emperor Decius.
- (2) We have early testimony that Bishop Sixtus and his deacons were not led away to execution, but were summarily beheaded on the scene of their arrest.

For these reasons, the Bollandist Pere Delahaye and others believe that Laurence was simply beheaded in 258 with his bishop and fellow deacons. On this theory, it remains unexplained how he became so prominent and acquired so elaborate an account of his martyrdom. Lawrence's emblem in art is (naturally) a gridiron.

Please pray for: Liz Green, Michelle Sheffield, Catherine Sheffield, David King, Pris Snow, Ben Baker, Sanawbar, Diana Farris, Joel Hahn, Stacey & Butch Webster, Steve McCraw, Josh Harris, Katie Rolielard, Debbie French, Jody & George Bracken, David Swindell, Norma Perrier, Connie Finch, Dorothy Buchanan, Peggy Kauffman, Ryan Kiesel, Tony Clapper, Bruce Neiswander, Jack & Karla Stoecker, Joseph, Tim, Shania Smith, Terry Grogan, Tyler Roberson, Jerry Nezam, Jim Brooks, Tom Martin, Don Doty, Maria Dawson, Luke Karel, Janice Lonski, Radomir & Miriam Petrovich, Lynette Beebe, J D Brooks, Jim Ellis, Debbie Muegenborg , and Nancy & Joe Norton.

Luke's Place Aug 10th-Aug 16th, 2023

Aug 10th Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
Green Country Eucharist, Rite I, 1pm, GCV
Meditation Group, 3pm, Library
Aug 13th Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, chapel
Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am

Aug 14th Finance Committee, noon, Vestry Room

Vestry, 5:30pm, Vestry Room

Aug 15th Feast Day of St Mary the Virgin Mother Eucharist, 12:15pm, chapel

Aug 16th YD, 6pm, Rodgers



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Concern's current pantry needs: SPAM, cereal, hamburger and tuna helper, cake mix and icing for children's birthday cakes, and any plastic bags.

Homeless needs: single portion proteins (with a snap off lid) and reusable bags.



Happy Retirement, Dolores!!

We will miss you on the bench, but will see you in the pews!

2ND ANNUAL
LIP SYNC
**BATTLE IN
BARTLESVILLE**

September 23 | 2023
Hilton Garden Inn | 6 pm

Great food ... a
night of fun and
laughter ... like a
real concert

Karen Lowe-Alton

**WATCH LOCAL CELEBRITIES
BATTLE HUNGER**

Admission of \$75 includes the
Battle, a festival style buffet and
2 adult drinks.

PROCEEDS BENEFIT CONCERN

www.concerncares.com

918-336-4693



BINGO

BY **CASA HISPANA** *night*

Join us for an evening of Bingo, Raffles, Family Fun, and Hispanic Food
For tickets, call 918.907.1584

Saturday, Aug 19th

5:30 PM

**St Luke's
Episcopal Church**

CasaHispana.Bartlesville@gmail.com



\$12
Ticket

Include:

 **Admission Price &**
 **10 cards**

Games start at 6:00 PM



All proceeds benefit Casa Hispana, a Bartlesville non-profit organization that provides support to local individuals and families by enabling connections to community resources, offering translation services, English and citizenship classes, and providing highly subsidized dental care to under-served communities

Contact Jeff Birk for tickets!

Birthdays and Anniversaries, Aug 13th – Aug 19th, 2023

Birthdays

David Hall (8/14)
Juanita Green (8/16)



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!

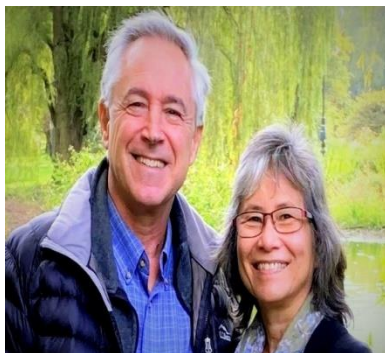


Tuesday August 22nd. 11:30am - 1:30pm

Community Center

Come get your tasting from over 25 restaurants.

Tickets are \$25 either from Steve Clark or at the door



News from Roger and Joanne Green

Hi friends,

Nathan was able to visit his friends in Thailand! Our friend Rick accompanied Nathan to Thailand. They are now traveling back to the U.S.

We were able to have a party for three disabled young men and their families! The young men enjoyed the party. Fifty people were at the party. In the attached photo Rick is pictured making spaghetti in the church's outdoor kitchen.

Thomas has been receiving physical therapy and showed people at the party how he's now able to put weight on his legs for the first time in 20 years!

Because Rick makes excellent food, he also cooked for a neighborhood gathering at our house. It was our first time to invite our Buddhist neighbors to our house, so that was a special opportunity.

A Bible storying workshop is ongoing in a nearby country. One of the speakers of that language attended the Bible study workshop Roger led in September. We are asking God to pierce hearts as His Word is being shared during this workshop.

Roger is working on arrangements for 300 audio players to be shipped to a place in a nearby country, where the pastors requested 600. Please ask God to speedily bring the players and to help the listening group training to be organized easily.

Esther and her boyfriend Noah will be arriving on Friday. Please ask God to bless our time together.

Phoo is pictured in one of the attached photos. He is concentrating on knocking over the plastic jars at one of the game stations at the party. Our current effort in providing resources for Phoo is to look for someone who can teach Phoo how to read Thai. Please ask God to provide just the right person to teach reading to Phoo.

Thank you for partnering with us in prayer!
Joanne





*Once an Eagle,
Always an Eagle*

Celebration for Ryan McIver

Help us celebrate Ryan McIver's rank advancement to Eagle Scout. Eagle Scout Court of Honor to be held in St. Luke's Metcalf Hall on Saturday August 26th at 5:30. Appetizers will be provided.

If you can join us, please RSVP how many in your family will be attending to doug_mciver@hotmail.com or text me at 785-342-4328 so we know how much food to plan for.

Thank you for all your support during his Eagle Scout journey!
Doug McIver

After packing close to 3,000 backpacks, this was the scene of those recipients picking them up on Sunday afternoon





Out with the old and in with the new!



Part 1 of the A/C upgrade has begun!



StEWArDShiP

TOGETHER WE ARE CALLED TO BE STEWARDS OF GOD'S ABUNDANCE
AND CARETAKERS OF ALL HE HAS ENTRUSTED TO US.

... Fellowship ...

This committee works with Fr. Nick to plan social events at St. Luke's. We try to have at least one gathering event per month. Examples include: Manna Meals during Lent Season, Advent meals, Movie night, Bingo, Bunco, Parish Picnic, Shrove Tuesday Pancakes, Blessing of the Animals. We are very open to ideas and appreciate any help with these events or future gatherings.

Laura Birk and Karen Lewey are co-chairs
Cathy Perrier, Shelly Jackson & Margo Proctor.

MY STORY

reminiscences of a southern girl



\$35.00

**Presentation & Book
Signing
August 17th
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Written by

Sarah Armour Woolwine Winn



August Lunch & Learn – “Reminiscences of a Southern Girl”

The Bartlesville Area History Museum is excited to announce our "Third Thursday Lunch and Learn" event will feature guest speaker and author, Sarah Winn. Sarah was History Marker of the year in 2015 and was awarded teacher of the year in 1975. After retirement, Sarah and her husband Gene dedicated their time to cataloging all of the Woolaroc library books while operating Media Futures Book Store. She was a founding member of the Word Weavers, past president of Women's Network, twice past president of Washington County Retired Educators. She was also a member of the OK Education Association, the Washington County Historical Society, Dewe Classroom Teachers Association and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

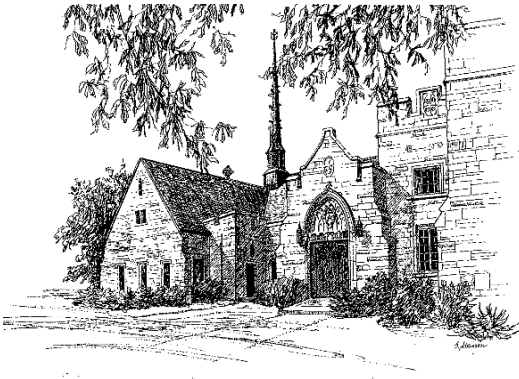
Guests are encouraged to bring their own lunch or enjoy light refreshments provided by BAHM while Sarah recalls her early memories in Bartlesville. Sarah will provide copies of her book "Reminiscences of a Southern Girl" for the cash sell of \$35.00 and will personally autograph each book sold!

This event will be held Thursday, August 17th, from 12:00 p.m. to 1 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to enjoy the museum's new exhibit "A Century of Education," on display from July 5th through September 29th. Tables and chairs will be set up for people who bring a lunch, and little ones may enjoy our school house coloring station.

The Museum is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (closed on weekends and holidays) at 401 S. Johnstone Avenue, 5th Floor. Museum entry is free, but donations are always welcome. No reservation is necessary. If you have questions, you may reach Bartlesville Area History Museum staff at (918) 338-4290 or history@cityofbartlesville.org.

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
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- Josie McIver-



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Dolores McCreary, Choir Director/Organist
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Email: StLukesBartlesville@outlook.com
918-336-1212
Or contact
Penny Williams, secretary 918-766-2157

Bereavement Team 2

Laura Birk, Nancy Megee, Rita Childers,
Sandy Whitson, Margo Proctor