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The Steeple







The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Lent Is Upon Us

My friends,

As we begin the solemn season of Lent, I am filled with a sense of reverence and anticipation. Lent is a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal—a period set aside for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as we prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of Easter. It is a time to draw closer to God, to deepen our relationship with Him, and to grow in faith and love.

The season of Lent is a gift—a precious opportunity for us to journey together as a community of faith, supporting and encouraging one another along the way. It is a time to let go of distractions and to focus on what truly matters, to seek forgiveness for our sins, and to open our hearts to the transforming grace of God. Lent challenges us to examine our lives, to confront our weaknesses and failings, and to strive for holiness and wholeness.

During this holy season, we are called to emulate Christ in his selflessness and sacrifice, to follow in his footsteps as he journeyed to the cross. Just as Jesus spent forty days in the desert, fasting and praying, so too are we invited to enter into a period of self-denial and spiritual discipline. Through fasting, we learn to rely on God for our sustenance and strength. Through prayer, we deepen our communion with God and seek his guidance and wisdom. Through almsgiving, we reach out to those in need and share God's love and mercy with others.

As we embark on this sacred journey together, let us be mindful of the words of the prophet Joel: "Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love." Let us approach this season with humility and contrition, with a willingness to let go of our pride and selfishness, and to be transformed by the power of God's love.

I invite each and every one of you to join me in observing a holy Lent, to set aside time for prayer and reflection, to fast from those things that distract us from God, and to give generously to those in need. Let us support one another in this spiritual journey, praying for each other, encouraging each other, and lifting each other up in times of weakness and temptation.

May this season of Lent be a time of profound spiritual growth and renewal for all of us, a time of drawing closer to God and to one another, a time of deepening our faith and trust in the one who gave his life for us. May God bless you abundantly during this holy season of Lent, and may His grace and peace be with you always.

Peace,

Nick+



Theologian's Corner: Bishop Charles Todd Quintard

Charles Todd Quintard was the second bishop of the Diocese of Tennessee and the first Vice Chancellor of The University of the South at Sewanee.

Quintard was born in 1824 in Stamford, Connecticut. In 1847 he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine from the Medical College of New York University and worked at New York City's Bellevue Hospital. After a brief episode of practicing medicine in Athens, Georgia, Quintard became the professor of anatomy and physiology at Memphis Medical College and an editor of the Memphis Medical Reporter. In 1848, Quintard married Katherine Isabella Hand, a native of Roswell, Georgia, and together they were the parents of three children.

It was while he was in Memphis that Quintard came to know Bishop James Hervey Otey, the first bishop of Tennessee. Under Otey's personal tutelage, Quintard prepared for holy orders. He was ordained to the diaconate on New Year's Day, 1855, and to the priesthood on the Feast of the Epiphany, 1856. He served as rector of the Church of the Advent, Nashville, until his election as the second bishop of Tennessee in October 1865. He served as bishop until his death in 1898.

During the Civil War, Quintard played dual roles in the Confederate Army as both chaplain and surgeon. Following the war, he was instrumental in bringing together the previously divided factions and extending the reach of The Episcopal Church, particularly among African Americans.

Bishop Quintard was a strong advocate of education at every level and played a major role in the establishment of schools. Perhaps his greatest accomplishment was the rebuilding of The University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, after its destruction during the Civil War. He made several successful trips to England to raise the funds to secure the future of the University. From

February 1867 to July 1872, Quintard served as the reconstituted University's first Vice Chancellor. Quintard believed that a great Episcopal university was essential, not just to the church in Tennessee and the southeast, but to the whole church, and thus devoted much of his ministry to Sewanee.

Together we pray: Mighty God, we bless thy Name for the example of thy bishop Charles Todd Quintard, who persevered to reconcile the divisions among the people of his time: Grant, we pray, that thy Church may ever be one, that it may be a refuge for all, for the honor of thy Name; through Jesus Christ, who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Please pray for: Liz Green, Michelle Sheffield, Catherine Sheffield, David King, Pris Snow, Ben Baker, Diana Farris, Joel Hahn, Steve McCraw, Josh Harris, 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, Luke Karel, Miriam Petrovich, Lynette Beebe, Nancy & Joe Norton, Jack Smith, , Sarah Winn, Danny Clem, David McAtee, Molly Ferguson, Tim Curry, and Peggy & Joe Duncan.

Please add the following to your prayers this Last week after the Epiphany: Emmanuel, Shawnee St. Andrew's, Mission Church, Tacuarembo, Uruguay





Concern's needs for the month of February: canned green beans and peanut butter; homeless needs are single serve oatmeal and cereal.

At Luke's Place Feb 15, 2024 - Feb 21, 2024

Feb 15th Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf Rector's Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf

Feb 18th Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8am, Chapel Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:30am Godly Play, after children's sermon, upstairs

Feb 19th President's Day-Office Closed

Feb 20th Spiritual Discovery, 10am, Library

Feb 21st Choir, 5pm, Choir Room

YD, 6pm, Rodgers

Midweek Manna & Light Supper, 6pm, Metcalf

Birthdays and Anniversaries, Feb 18th - Feb 24th, 2024



Anniversaries

Mary Ann Clem (2/18) Stefanie & Bob Tedstrom (2/19)

Tom Droege (2/18) Doug Rhett (2/18) Everett Ellis (2/20)

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!



Handbell Choir Starts Soon!

As a result of the positive response to the handbells featured at Christmas, we are forming a handbell choir to serve on special occasions. Our first presentation will be on Easter. Practices will begin the week of Feb. 18th. If you read music and have an interest in joining us, please contact Keeli Droege at keelidroege@gmail.com or 918-697-8509.



Burning of the Palms- Dear people of God, holding these palms we remember that we are dust and ashes; yet, by God's grace, we have died in Baptism and put on the Lord Jesus Christ. Eachyear we keep the 40 days of Lent with prayer, penitence, and the practice of charity so that we may come to the Easter feast ready to renew once more, the commitmentof our Baptism which gave us life. Throughout this Lent we shall gather to hear the word of God and to intercede with

the Lord for the needs of the world.





Thank you to EVERYONE who donated canned goods!!!

Worship Time





H Genten Prayer

Lord, help us to grow in faith and love over these next forty days, and may we be brought even closer to you in our lives. Lord, you are our God and we are your people, may we never veer from the perfect path which you have set before us. Be our rock and our strength Lord Jesus. Amen.

St Luke's Annual Parish Meeting

Congratulations to Steve & Susie Clark and Steve Van Aken for being recognized for their gifts of ministry by receiving the St Luke's Cross.









February Pack the Backpacks Item is: Pencil Lead refills for mechanical pencils, HB 0.7 MM. You can find this wherever school supplies are sold! We are shooting for 50. Can you help? Basket is in the Narthex!





Services: 12:00noon & 6:00pm



Remember you are but dust and to dust you shall return





ST. CRISPIN'S



SUMMER 2024

EACH PERSON IS A UNIQUE CREATION OF GOD, WITH GIFTS TO BE AFFIRMED.



STCRISPINS.ORG/CAMP

Contact Fr Nick if you know a child who wants to go!

Red, Red Rose by Robert Burns



My love is like a red red rose That's newly sprung in June; O my Love's like the melodie That's sweetly play'd in tune; As fair art thou, my bonnie lass, So deep in love am I; And I will love thee still, my dear, Till a' the seas gang dry; Till a' the seas gang dry, my dear, And the rocks melt with' the sun; And I will love thee still, my dear, While the sands o' life shall run. And fare thee well, my only Love And fare the well, a while! And I will come again, my Love, Tho' it were ten thousand mile.



How Do I Love Thee? By Elizabeth Barrett Browning



How do I love thee? Let me count the ways. I love thee to the depth and breadth and height My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight For the ends of being and ideal grace.

I love thee to the level of every day's Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.

I love thee freely, as men strive for right.

I love thee purely, as they turn from praise.

I love thee with the passion put to use
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.

I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
With my lost saints. I love thee with the breath,
Smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God choose,
I shall but love thee better after death.



St. Luke's Vestry Members

- o Nancy Woods, Sr. Warden Nancywoods120@gmail.com
- o Jo Baughman jybokla@aol.com
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- o Chad Ellis <u>w.chadwick.ellis@gmail.com</u>
- o Karen Lewey kgrammy07@yahoo.com
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Bereavement Team 2

Laura Birk, Nancy Megee, Sandy Whitson, Margo Proctor

Happy Valentine's Day St. Luke's Episcopal Church Contacts:

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