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The Steeple



Feb 7, 2024



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

YD2NYC



Beloved friends,

I've always appreciated the nuance behind the definition of the word Sacrament. I know that some of you can recite the definition of a sacrament by heart as an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. In community one looks always for outward and visible signs all the time – especially those of support. And I think, comes to know how grace abounds all the more when we find ourselves together. What an outward and visible sign of support was last Sunday night for the youth of St. Luke's.

Before the dinner, the finance committee and vestry allocated an additional 5,000 dollars as means of assisting the youth of reaching their fundraising goal of 10,000 dollars for their trip to New York this summer. With 5,000 left to raise, Y.D.'s first fundraiser of the year was a smashing success.

Here's a breakdown of the cash, checks, and credit card receipts from the YD Valentine's dinner and auction:

Ticket sales (cash) \$1,170.00

Ticket sales (checks) \$2,020.00

Ticket sales subtotal \$3,190.00

Dinner & auction (cash) \$1,360.00

Dinner & auction (checks) \$1,732.00

Dinner & auction subtotal \$3,092.00

Credit Card receipts (gross) \$ 980.00

Credit Card fees (\$ 23.08)

Credit Card receipts (net) \$ 956.92

Total receipts \$7,238.92

Sunday night was nothing less than a homerun! Thank-you. Thank-you. Thank-you to everyone who came out to support our kids. Thank you first and foremost to the Friley family, and of course Chip, in whose memory we find encouragement to follow Jesus into the wider world. Thank-you to those of you who offered items for the auction. Thank-you for those who bid and bought. Thank-you to our youth who served and their leaders who planned and executed a wonderful evening. Thanks be to God who binds us all together and in whom we remain better together.

Nick+

Sunday Morning Snaps

Children's Sermon



Theologian's Corner
Bakhita Monastic, 1947



Josephine Margaret Bakhita, F.D.C.C., (ca. 1869 – 8 February 1947) was a Sudanese-Italian Canossian religious sister active in Italy for 45 years, after having been in a slave in Sudan.

She was born around 1869 in Darfur (now in western Sudan) in the village of Olgossa. Her respected and reasonably prosperous father was brother of the village chief. She was surrounded by a loving family of three brothers and three sisters.

Sometime between the age of seven to nine, probably in February 1877, she was seized by Arab slave traders, who had abducted her elder sister two years earlier. She was forced to walk barefoot about 960 kilometres (600 mi) to El Obeid and was sold and bought twice before she arrived there. Over the course of twelve years (1877–1889) she was sold three more times and then given away.

Bakhita was not the name she received from her parents at birth. It is said that the trauma of her abduction caused her to forget her own name; she took one given to her by the slavers, *bakhita*, Arabic for "lucky" or "fortunate".

In El Obeid, Bakhita was bought by a rich Arab who used her as a maid for his two daughters. They liked her and treated her well. Her fourth owner was a Turkish general, and she had to serve his mother-in-law and his wife, who were cruel to their slaves.

By the end of 1882, El Obeid came under the threat of an attack of Mahdist revolutionaries. The Turkish general began making preparations to return to his homeland and sold his slaves. In 1883 Bakhita was bought in Khartoum by the Italian Vice Consul Callisto Legnani, who treated her kindly and did not beat or punish her. Two years later, they escaped from besieged Khartoum and travelled to Suakin, which was the largest port of Sudan. In March 1885 they left Suakin for Italy and, once there, Legnani gave ownership of Bakhita to Signora Maria Turina Michieli. Turina Michieli. Bakhita's new owners took her to their family villa at Zianigo, near Mirano, Veneto.

When her owners went back to Sudan, Bakhita, on 29 November 1888, was left in the care of the Canossian Sisters in Venice. There, cared for and instructed by the Sisters, Bakhita encountered Christianity for the first time.

On 29 November 1889 an Italian court ruled that Bakhita had never legally been a slave. She chose to remain with the Canossians, and, on 9 January 1890, was baptized with the names of Josephine Margaret and Fortunata (which is the Latin translation for the Arabic *Bakhita*).

On 7 December 1893 Josephine Bakhita entered the novitiate of the Canossian Sisters and on 8 December 1896 she took her vows.

During her 42 years in Schio, Bakhita was employed as the cook, sacristan and portress (door keeper) and was in frequent contact with the local community. Her gentleness, calming voice, and ever-present smile became well known. Her special charisma and reputation for sanctity were noticed by her order; the first publication of her story (*Storia Meravigliosa* by Ida Zanolini) in 1931, made her famous throughout Italy.

Her last years were marked by pain and sickness. She used a wheelchair but she retained her cheerfulness. Bakhita died on 8 February 1947. For three days her body lay on display while thousands of people arrived to pay their respects.

Bakhita's legacy is that transformation is possible through suffering. Her story of deliverance from physical slavery also symbolizes all those who find meaning and inspiration in her life for their own deliverance from spiritual slavery. She is venerated as a modern African saint, and as a statement against the brutal history of slavery. She has been adopted as the patron saint of Sudan and human trafficking survivors.

Together we pray: O God of Love, who didst deliver thy servant Josephine Margaret Bakhita from the bondage of slavery to the true freedom of thy service; Grant to the wounded thy healing grace in mind, body, and spirit and to thy church the zeal to combat exploitation and slavery in all its forms; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 Fifth week after the Epiphany:
St. Christopher's, Midwest City Church of the Redeemer, Okmulgee

Winter Needs

Concern's current needs are: peanut butter, and complete pancake mix (just add water). Homeless needs are single serve canned proteins.

GLOVES, SOCK HATS, AND HAND WARMERS.



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At Luke's Place Feb 8, 2024 -Feb 14, 2024

- Feb 8th Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf
Rector's Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
Green Country Eucharist, Rite I, 1pm, GCV
- Feb 11th Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8am, Chapel
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:30am
Godly Play, after children's sermon, upstairs
Annual Parish Meeting and Potluck Lunch, 11:45am
- Feb 12th Vestry Meeting, 5:30pm, Vestry Room
- Feb 13th Spiritual Discovery, 10am, Library
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 5:30pm-7pm, Metcalf
- Feb 14th Ash Wednesday Services, Noon & 6:00PM
Choir, 5pm, Choir Room

Birthdays and Anniversaries, Feb 11th – Feb 17th , 2024

Birthdays

Nancy Woods (2/12)
Sally Finch (2/17)



Anniversaries

Jim & Cathy Perrier (2/15)
Pam & Tim Hanson (2/16)



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.



URGENT! URGENT! URGENT! We're Running out of time! Get Your Cans in the Van!

Our YD need YOUR help to Fill the Church Van with canned goods and nonperishables for Concern! Food Drive will last till Feb 11th.

We need everyone to bring canned goods to reach the goal! Drop them off by the coat racks in the hall by Metcalf. The kids will move them to the van. Its been a slow start, but lets catch up and help feed those who are hungry! Thank you for giving!

Metcalf Hall
5:30pm-7pm
Donations
accepted

Come and have
Dinner with us on
Fat Tuesday!



Let's celebrate Mardi Gras together!

Collect for Ash Wednesday (BCP)

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

YD'S Valentine Dinner & Auction: SUCCESS!!





**St Luke's Annual Parish
Meeting This Sunday
February 11th, Metcalf Hall
Immediately following the 10:30
service. We will have a potluck
dinner so we are asking that
everyone bring a dish to share,
then we will look at next year's
budget, hear a recap of last
year's activities, elect our new
leaders, and hear goals for next
year.**

Up for Election:

Report of 2023 Nominating Committee
2024 Ballot
Votes by Acclamation

The Nominating Committee consisting of Nancy Megee, Sally Lindsey, Cathy Perrier, Nan Buhlinger, and Shelly Jackson present the following:

Senior Warden – Nancy Woods

Junior Warden – Karole Cozby

Vestry 3-year term – Laura Birk

Vestry 3-year term – Dolores McCreary

Vestry 3-year term – Steve Heidorn

Vestry 1-year term – Robert Lonski

Vestry youth 1-year term – Erin Roper

Convention delegates – Nancy Woods, Darian Kedy, and Jim Perrier

Nominating Committee Chair – Jeanne Julstrom

Nominating Committee – Cheryl Van Aken, Margo Proctor, Judy Chamberlain, and Sara Clements



ST. CRISPIN'S Summer Camp 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!



February Pack the Backpacks
Item is: Pencil Lead 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!



ASH WEDNESDAY

Services: 12:00noon & 6:00pm



Remember you are but dust and to dust you shall return

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
- Steve Roper- sdroper2006@yahoo.com
- Josie McIver-

Bereavement Team 1

Susie Clark, Nancy Woods, Jeanne
Julstrom, Sally Lindsey

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Contacts:

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

Keeli Droege, Choir Director/Organist
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