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The Steeple



October 9, 2024



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Dear St. Luke's,

Many of you have inquired about Margaret recently. Your concern for her and your love for her are deeply felt. As of this writing, Margaret is recovering from a back injury and is being treated by a wonderful team that is encouraging her to rest and heal.

This moment has given us time to pause to reflect on Margaret's care for us and the way we should care for her. What does life and work look like for her after so many wonderful years of service? I approached her with this same question just over a week ago. Through the tears that sometimes come from telling each other hard truths we both recognized that it is time for Margaret to pass on her duties to a new sexton and take some time to enjoy retirement.

The job of the sexton is hard work and we all know that Margaret takes great pride in that work. Due to its great demand on her body, we will continue to encourage her to listen to the doctors and nurses who are caring for her. For the most part, I am happy to report that Margaret is being a good patient.

I assure you that Margaret's love for St. Luke's has not diminished in the slightest nor ours for her. Rather this love has intensified in her absence as she misses us and we miss her. During this time, however, between work and healing and through conversation we both have come around to the realization that we want nothing but the best for St. Luke's and for Margaret's future.

Following that hard conversation, I encouraged Margaret to take some time and think about a day in October where we could celebrate her and all that she has done for us.

The next morning at men's group she told me that it was time to start looking for another sexton. And so, we will - while also celebrating Margaret and honoring her fine legacy of stellar service to St. Luke's.

As part of that celebration and given her love for all things breakfast, we would like to hold a retirement brunch in Margaret's honor on Sunday, October 27th after the 10:30 service. Please make every effort to join us as we honor our friend.

Yours in Christ,
Nick+

YD

Last Wednesday night was a nice night to be outdoors





Theologians Corner: Philip Deacon and Evangelist

In the sixth chapter of Acts, we read that the Apostles commissioned seven men in the congregation at Jerusalem to supervise the church's ministry to the needs of its widows and other poor. (This is generally considered to be the beginning of the office of Deacon in the Church, although the Scriptures do not use this term in referring to the original seven men.) Two of these have gained lasting fame. One was Stephen, who became the Church's first martyr. The other was Philip, whose story we find in Acts 8:5-40; 21:8-9. After the death of Stephen, there was a general persecution of the Church at Jerusalem, and many Christians fled to escape it. Philip fled to Samaria, where he preached the Gospel to the Samaritans, a group who had split off from the Jewish people about six centuries earlier, had intermarried with other peoples, and were considered outsiders by most Jews. They received the message with eagerness, and soon Peter and John came to Samaria to bless the new converts.

After this, Philip was sent by God to walk along the road from Jerusalem southwest to Gaza, where he met a eunuch (a term meaning literally a castrated man, but also used to mean simply an official of a royal court) of the Queen of Ethiopia (probably meaning Nubia -- what we now call the Sudan), returning home after worshipping in Jerusalem. The man was reading from Isaiah 53 ("He was wounded for our transgressions"), and Philip told him about Jesus, and persuaded him that the words were a prophecy of the saving work of Jesus. The man was baptized, and went on his way rejoicing, while Philip went north to Caesarea, the major seaport of Israel, and its secular capital.

When Paul (accompanied by Luke) was going up to Jerusalem for the last time, he paused at Caesarea and spent several days with Philip. (This may be the source of some of the information Luke used in writing the early chapters of Acts.) We are told that Philip had four daughters who prophesied. (This is relevant to discussions of the role of women in the Church.)

Was Philip the Deacon the same person as Philip the Apostle (see 1 May)?

No, they were different. There were Twelve Apostles, and they said, "Our work is to preach the Gospel, not to administer the budget. Choose seven men to administer the budget." Obviously they meant seven men other than themselves.

Moreover, when Philip went to Samaria, and preached and made converts, he baptized them, but none of them received the Holy Spirit. It was not until Peter and John came from Jerusalem and

laid hands on them that they received the Spirit. Surely this means that Philip was not an Apostle--not one of the Twelve.

Yes, they were the same person.

We have ancient testimony identifying them. Papias of Hierapolis, a second-century writer who had spoken with some of the apostles, speaks of the Philip of Acts 21 as one of the Apostles.

Polycrates, a second-century bishop of Ephesus, says that Philip, "one of the Twelve", was buried at Hierapolis along with two aged virgin daughters of his, and that a third daughter, a prophetess, was buried at Ephesus. It seems unlikely that two Philips would both have unmarried daughters of whom at least one was known as a prophetess.

If eleven of the Twelve Apostles refused the work of administering the church's welfare program, but one, for special reasons, accepted it, it is not clear that Luke would have felt bound to point this out. The Jerusalem community may have thought it desirable to have one man serve both as one of the Twelve and one of the Seven, so as to provide a link, a liason, between the two groups. Philip, who specifically named in John's account of the feeding of the Five Thousand (John 6:5), is likely to have had special abilities in organizing the feeding of the hungry, and related matters. Moreover, the Seven were originally appointed because the Greek-speaking Jews complained that their widows were being neglected. Philip had a Greek name ("lover of horses"), which at least suggests some kind of Hellenistic element in his background. Even more to the point, we note that earlier, when a group of Greek-speaking Jews wanted a chance to speak with Jesus, they went first to Philip (Jn 12:20f). Clearly Philip was a good choice for dealing with Hellenists.

As for the objection that Philip's Samaritan converts receive the laying on of hands, not from Philip, but from Peter and John, it must be noted that Peter and John were there specifically as representatives of the Apostles gathered at Jerusalem. It may very well be that Philip wanted to make sure that the receiving of a group of Samaritans into the Church, a gesture certain to stir up violent emotions in some Christians, had the official support of the College of Apostles.

by James Kiefer

Together we pray: O God, who hast made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent thy Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that we, following the example of thy servant Philip, may bring thy Word to those who seek thee for the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Pack the Backpacks monthly request

For October

For October please bring either small packages of 8 to 12 count pencils or large packages of 16 to 24 count pencils. Either size needs to be number 2 pencils with the eraser. Don't spend the extra money for sharpened pencils. The pictures are Walmart or Staples brands of the large packages. Price should be about \$0.50 for the small packages and \$1.00 for the large.



Prayer List

Please pray for: Liz Green, Michelle Sheffield, Catherine Sheffield, Ben Baker, Steve McCraw, Josh Harris, David Swindell, Norma Perrier, Connie Finch, Tony Clapper, Terry Grogan, Tyler Roberson, Jerry Nezam, Miriam Petrovich, Lynette Beebe, Joe Norton, Jack Smith, Danny Clem, David McAtee, Shawn, Stephanie Gallegos, Pat Sare, Jim Carroll, Steve Linn, Chuck McCarty, Bob Baughman, Jean Mason, Estelle Sams, Ron Adams, Adam Thomas, Bob Lambert, Carla Curry, Jack Bridendolph, Tom Oakes, Bill Pendley, Mary Wallace, Connie Freebern, Lynda Stephens, Jim Perrier, Marcie Zervas, Margaret Holden, and Roberta Johanssen.

Please add the following to your prayers this Eighteenth Week after Pentecost

St. Luke's, Bartlesville People and Clergy of the Anglican Diocese of Uruguay

At Luke's Place : Oct 9th – Oct 16th, 2024

**Oct 10th Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf
 Green Country Service, 1pm, GCV
Oct 13th Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel**

Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
Oct 14th Ladies' Prayer Partners, 11:30am, classroom
Oct 15th Spiritual Discovery Study, 9:30am, Library
Oct 16th Choir, 5:00pm, Choir Room

Birthdays and Anniversaries, Oct 13th – Oct 19th, 2024

Birthdays



Doug McIver	(10/13)
Jim Perrier	(10/13)
Lynda Stephens	(10/13)
Andrea Jones	(10/15)

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!

CONCERN NEEDS

Pantry needs are macaroni and cheese, 15 oz canned tomato sauce and homeless – canned single serve proteins and vegetables and reusable bags with handles.



Margaret's Retirement Brunch

October 27, 2024

After the 10:30am Service

Let's celebrate Margaret!

YD Fundraiser

Stay cozy and show your St Luke's spirit! Order your sweatshirt and or long-sleeved tee today. Proceeds will go to support YD. Payment is due on delivery. Please make checks payable to St Luke's. Contact Laura Birk 918-914-1013 if you have any questions. **October 13th is the last day to order.** Thanks for your support.

The Bookstore will be reordering the Rose Window black tees if you would also like one of these. Please contact Cathy Perrier about them.

[Luke's Place Clothing Order Form](#)



All come in grey or navy blue

Order your St Luke's swag today!

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(918-336-1212)



ST. LUKE'S BOOKSTORE

The Bookstore will be ordering the 'Rose Window' tee shirts at the end of October. There are 2 different images: One with HOPE and one with JOY on the front of the shirt. These will be black long sleeve tee shirts, sizes S-XXXL

and will be \$40.00. Short sleeve black tees are \$35.00 Please order through the Bookstore or call Cathy Perrier 918-336-7974. (the image on the right is not the actual shirt- but lets you see the image logo)





Walk in Love

The Offertory

Our Stewardship Committee is encouraging online giving through a QR code that is on our website and in our Sunday bulletin. This is easier for the accounting warden to keep more accurate records as well as other practical reasons to collect pledges.

But still, the ushers go throughout the congregation passing the brass plates for parishioners' donations. Fewer and fewer people put their envelopes in the plates as they are moving towards donating online.

Something is lost here. An empty plate, subtly ignored by many is carried by members of the congregation awkwardly through the congregation. What was an actual way of placing one's gift – oneself – in a collective contribution no longer means the same thing. Our treasures being taken up to the altar and being acknowledged was a moment of God's blessing. The plates were closely followed by the most important gift of all, bread and wine becoming Christ's body and blood. This is a walk of love!

Maybe something is missing in our service. Giving online is a private action. It does not involve your very self in the worship. We used to fumble for our envelope or search for that dollar to put in your child's eager hand. The online transaction now is between you, your phone, and your bank and this has replaced a sense of collective and humanly-felt giving.

The human emotions that are engaged on Sunday morning as we rush at home to find the checkbook or nod our head sheepishly at the passing plate saying "not today" and all the other human manifestations of our incarnation are lost in the QR code. | tens.org



Questions for Reflection:

What are options that we can share to take the next step in the ritual of the Offertory to bring our humanity to stewardship, a challenging and changing expression of our relationship to God?



Phoebe Griswold is the Stewardship Chair at St. Luke's in Germantown, Pennsylvania and has been leading people in the walk of love for many decades.

Concern is needing 300 pies for the Thanksgiving Baskets this year and St Luke's has been asked to supply them. We could use some help with funds to purchase them. If you can help, just mark your check or envelope 'Concern Pies' and make the check out to St Luke's. Thank you in advance. St Luke's folks are always so generous and giving.



[Hurricane Relief](#)

Episcopalrelief.org

To donate to victims of Hurricane Helene and Milton

Please pray for all those in Hurricane Milton's Path

Special Sundays coming up.....

Watch for information on: Margaret's Retirement Brunch, All Saints' Day, Stewardship Sunday, Bishop's Visit and Confirmation Sunday, Christ the King Sunday, and the beginnings of the new Liturgical Year with Advent.

St. Luke's Vestry Members

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Bereavement Team 2

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