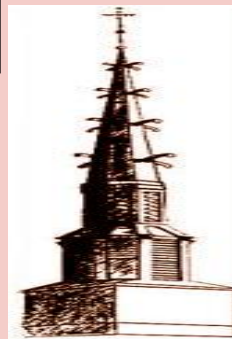


*In this week's Steeple >>>*

# *The Steeple*

- Christmas Message - Presiding Bishop Rowe
- Concern needs
- Remembrance Tree
- Office closed
- Christmas Services
- Friends in Deed
- No Steeple Next Week



December 23,  
2024



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

## Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe's Christmas message



The Most Rev. Sean Rowe, the 28th presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church.

Dear People of God in The Episcopal Church:

Among the Christmas Gospels, Luke is surely the crowd pleaser. Nearly our entire visual vocabulary of Christmas—the manger, the shepherds, the angels—comes from the second chapter of Luke. Thanks to Luke, we all know the answer to the trivia question, “Who was Quirinius?”

But if you go to church on Christmas morning, or if your congregation's custom is to read a last Gospel on Christmas Eve, you will hear the beginning of [the Gospel of John](#), which includes other words we all know: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us..." Christmas does not truly begin for me until I hear those words.

While Luke paints us a picture of a noisy and chaotic birth, in John we encounter the powerfully quiet mystery of the Incarnation. John brings us the astonishing truth that God lived among us as a person, "full of grace and truth," ready to share the pain and sorrow of being human.

Especially this year, our hurting and divided world is desperate for the Incarnation. We live, as have many generations before us, in a time of fear, division, and instability. The Enemy has turned us against one another, sometimes in our own families and communities. The land of Jesus' birth is torn apart by violence and tremendous suffering, and across the globe, we have hardened our hearts against the strangers among us. All too often, we hear voices that claim the mantle of Christianity calling most loudly for exclusion and conquest.

As Episcopalians, we must resist the urge to retreat from this broken world. Instead, we have been called to model our life together on a different vision of God's kingdom. Contrary to the world's expectations, we have bound ourselves together in a global community, following the Risen Christ together despite our differences. We know that death, suffering, and enmity are not the last word, and we proclaim it every time we gather at God's table.

At Christmas, we can make our unity a witness to the world. Every day, in congregations and communities across our church, you are feeding the hungry, binding up the brokenhearted, caring for the vulnerable, and transforming lives through the power of the gospel. We can also proclaim God's presence by giving to our church's historic ministries that are working to alleviate suffering at home and abroad:

- [Episcopal Migration Ministries](#), which is working to resettle refugees and create welcoming communities for migrants in the face of fear.
- [American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem](#), which brings hope and healing to vulnerable families across the Holy Land.
- [Episcopal Relief & Development](#), which advances lasting change in communities affected by injustice, poverty, disaster, and climate change.

Most of all, we can commit our lives to creating a world that is more just and more loving, in which the grace and truth that came down to us at Christmas is kindled all year long. Especially this year, as we begin our ministry together, I am grateful to be working toward this vision with you.

May God bless you and all those you love this Christmas and always.

+ Sean

The Rt. Rev. Sean W. Rowe  
Presiding Bishop

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## CONCERN NEEDS For December

Concern is very low on homeless food items - individual serving-size of pudding cups, fruit cups, and individual type crackers and cereal. Concern also needs spaghetti, macaroni and boxes of cereal.

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### *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, Jack Smith, Danny Clem, David McAtee, Shawn, Stephanie Gallegos, Pat Sare, Jim Carroll, Kate Carroll, Steve Linn, Chuck McCarty, Bob Baughman, Jean Mason, Adam Thomas, Bob Lambert, Jack Bridendolph, Tom Oakes, Bill Pendley, Mary Wallace, Connie Freebern, Lynda Stephens, Jim Perrier, Marcie Zervas, Margaret Holden, Audrey Harris, Peggy Rockey, Lauren Barlowe, Ken Harvey, Mary Gillette, Luke Karel, and Marty Burke.

**Please add the following to your prayers this Fourth Week of Advent**

**St Paul's, Clinton          Whirlwind Mission, Watonga**

**The Church of the Province of Uganda**

**The Diocese of Kumasi- The Church of the Province of West Africa**

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**At Luke's Place : Dec 24<sup>th</sup> – Jan 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Dec 26<sup>th</sup> Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV**

**Dec 29<sup>th</sup> Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel**

**Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf**

**Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave**

**No Events Dec 26<sup>th</sup>- Jan 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Birthdays and Anniversaries Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> – Dec 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Birthdays**



Debbie Mueggenborg (12/24)  
Sheila Taylor (12/24)  
Mark Wright (12/28)

**Anniversaries**



Doug & Connie Freebern (12/23)  
Bill & Chryl Bridendolph (12/28)

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!

**Please bring your ornament(s) for the Remembrance Tree! The tree will stay up through the 5<sup>th</sup> of January.**



**Church office will be closed Dec 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and Jan 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Penny will be on vacation Dec 26<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>. Happy Holidays!**

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## Friends in Deed, Inc.

*Invites you to join the festivities and*

**Free Christmas Day Dinner**

**11:30am to 2:30pm**

**Location: Adams Blvd Church of Christ**

**3700 Adams Blvd**

**(a non-denominational event by community volunteers)**

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**After the Christmas Eve service, join us in Metcalf Hall for egg nog and wassail. AND if you have any extra or leftover Christmas goodies from parties or baking, please bring them to share!**

## St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Nancy Woods, Sr. Warden – [Nancywoods120@gmail.com](mailto:Nancywoods120@gmail.com)
- Jo Baughman – [jybokla@aol.com](mailto:jybokla@aol.com)
- Karole Cozby, Jr Warden – [kscozby916@gmail.com](mailto:kscozby916@gmail.com)
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- Steve Heidorn- [sgheidorn@yahoo.com](mailto:sgheidorn@yahoo.com)
- Dolores McCreary – [dolomc37@gmail.com](mailto:dolomc37@gmail.com)
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### Bereavement Team 2

Laura Birk, Nancy Megee, Wendy Halll, Karen Lewey, Debbie Mueggenborg

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918-336-1212  
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Penny Williams, secretary 918-766-2157

No Steeple Newsletter the week of Dec 30<sup>th</sup>- Jan 5<sup>th</sup>

Epiphany will be celebrated Jan 5<sup>th</sup> at the regular services