

*In this week's Steeple >>>*

# The Steeple

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January 9, 2025



## The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



I can't remember who said, "Find an author, just one, and read them deeply." I think the person suggesting this had read quite a bit of C.S. Lewis and remarked how Lewis's writings provided within themselves a rich liberal arts education. I've been intrigued by that idea since I came across this advice several weeks ago and wondered about which author I might choose to follow more closely.

Then I came across this prayer for a New Year. It reads:

Grant that I may pass through  
the coming year with a faithful heart.  
There will be much to test me and  
make weak my strength before the year ends.

In my confusion I shall often say the word that is not true  
and do the thing of which I am ashamed.  
There will be errors in the mind  
and great inaccuracies of judgment...

In seeking the light,  
I shall again and again find myself  
walking in the darkness.  
I shall mistake my light for Your light  
and I shall drink from the responsibility of the choices I make.  
Nevertheless, grant that I may pass through the coming year with a faithful heart.

May I never give the approval of my heart to error, to falseness, to vanity, or to sin.  
Though my days be marked  
with failures, stumblings, fallings,  
let my spirit be free  
so that You may take it  
and redeem my moments

in all the ways my needs reveal.

Give me the quiet assurance  
of Your Love and Presence.  
Grant that I may pass through  
the coming year with a faithful heart.

- The Reverend Howard Thurman

Simple. Honest. Profound.

I am reminded, as we embark on a new year, that we too find ourselves at the threshold of renewed opportunities and challenges. Howard Thurman's prayer for the New Year reminds us that it is the time to start fresh, to make a new beginning, setting a tone of hope and commitment. Maybe he is my guy this year?

All I really know is that Thurman's timeless words remind us of the continual need for God's presence and guidance as we navigate the unfolding days. Thurman's blessing invites us to embrace each moment we have with gratitude and trust, making it a spiritual compass for the year ahead.

God bless us all this year. May we pass through with a faithful heart.

Nick+



**The poinsettias from the Christmas services need new homes. If you would like one, they are located in Metcalf Hall. Take as many as you like.**

**At Luke's Place : Jan 9<sup>th</sup>- 15<sup>th</sup>**

- Jan 9<sup>th</sup>** Men's Fellowship, 7am, Metcalf Hall  
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf Hall  
Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV
- Jan 12<sup>th</sup>** Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel  
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf  
Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
- Jan 13<sup>th</sup>** Ladies' Prayer Partners, 11:30am, Classroom
- Jan 15<sup>th</sup>** Choir, 5pm, Choir Room  
YD, 6pm, Rodgers Hall



## Theologians Corner: *Julia Chester Emery* Lay Leader and Missionary Founder of the United Thank Offering

Julia Emery is a 1994 addition to the Episcopal Calendar.

Her father was a New England sea captain. Two of her brothers became priests. One sister, Helen, cared for another sister who was ill, and made a project of providing hospitality in her New York City home for missionaries on leave. Another sister, Mary, was National Secretary of the Women's Auxiliary of the Board of Missions for its first four years, from 1872 to 1876. At this point, Julia took over, and was National Secretary of the Auxiliary for forty years, from 1876 to 1916.

She visited every diocese in the United States, coordinating and encouraging work in support of missions. She traveled to London as a delegate to the Pan-Anglican Congress. She traveled to Japan, inland

China, Hong Kong, and the Philippines to advance missionary work there, and to be able to report on it to the Episcopal women in the United States.

It was Julia who invented the United Thank Offering (UTO). This works (or used to work -- my political instincts tell me that not everyone today would be comfortable with the original arrangement) by giving each woman a small box with a slit in the top (a cardboard piggy bank), and encouraging her to drop a small contribution into it whenever she feels thankful about something. Once a year, the women of the parish present these at the Sunday service, and the money is sent to national headquarters to be used for missions.

Together let us pray: God of all creation, who dost call us to make disciples of all nations and to proclaim thy mercy and love: Grant that we, after the example of thy servant Julia Chester Emery, might have vision and courage in proclaiming the Gospel to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

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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, Nan Buhlinger, Bill Birk, and Marty Burke.

**Please add the following to your prayers this Second Sunday after Christmas**

St James, OKC      The Episcopal Church      St Andrew's, Stillwater  
St Augustine Canterbury- OSU Campus Ministry      All Saints', Miami  
The Diocese of Kwoi-The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)  
The Church in Wales

### Birthdays and Anniversaries Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> – Jan 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025

#### Birthdays



Josh McCraw (1/3)  
Kyle Peterson (1/5)  
Lexi Phares (1/5)  
Courtney Leach (1/6)  
Kim Breedlove (1/11)  
Sally Lindsey (1/11)  
Sherri Aggas (1/12)  
Charlie Olsen (1/14)  
Fr Lee Stephens (1/14)  
Karen Lewey (1/15)  
Dean Zervas (1/15)

#### Anniversaries



Bryan & Nancy Megee (1/3)

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!

## ANGLICAN HERITAGE PILGRIMAGE

Pilgrimage to England & Scotland - June 22-July 3, 2025

\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE \*\*\* \*\* PLEASE NOTE \*\* \*\* PLEASE NOTE \*\*

This pilgrimage replaces the "Pilgrimage to England" previously announced.

The destinations, travel dates, cost,  
and registration deadline have all changed.

\*\*\* [Please click here for the updated information.](#) \*\*\*

**The following is an invitation from The Rev. Dion Crider, Dean of the Iona School for Ministry, Diocese of Oklahoma.**

I am thrilled to share that Fr. Nathan Carr and I are joining forces to combine our individual pilgrimages into one incredible journey to England which I will be leading June 22nd through July 3rd. This unified pilgrimage will not only celebrate our rich Anglican heritage but also include an expanded list of destinations that promise to inspire and deepen our faith.

A pilgrimage is so much more than just a trip - it's a sacred journey. As we visit these historic sites, their stories, beauty, and holiness will invite us to experience God's presence in new and profound ways. Together, we will walk in the footsteps of those who have gone before us, worship in spaces steeped in centuries of prayer, and reflect on what it means to follow Christ in our time.

Here's the great news: **Spaces are still available, and the deadline to register has been extended to February 1!**

I would love for you to join us on this transformative journey. If you're interested, please feel free to reach out to me for more details. For a full itinerary, pricing, and information on the amazing places we'll visit, click the link below.

**If you have any questions at all, [please contact The Rev. Dion Crider at dcrider@epiok.org.](mailto:dcrider@epiok.org)**

\*\*\* [Please click here for the updated information.](#) \*\*\*



## YD Christmas Party Group Photo



## January Pack the Backpacks Item

12 count colored pencils, any brand will be the item for January 2025.

Wal-Mart prices

Pen + Gear \$0.97

Crayola \$1.97

Cra-Z-Art \$1.22





## Altar Flowers

All Sundays between Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> and Ash Wednesday on March 5<sup>th</sup> are open for flowers placed on the High Altar.

Please let me or the office know as soon as possible those that you would like to honor/memorialize on any of these Sundays. Fresh flowers always look so special on the High Altar and your message is noted in the bulletin.

The cost remains \$50 minimum for each Sunday and if you have special requests for colors, tell us so we can let the florist know.

Many thanks,  
Jo Baughman, Flower Fund Chairman  
jybokla@aol.com

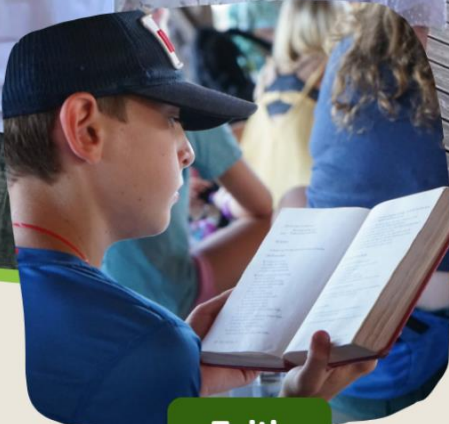


**In this extreme cold, check on your neighbors and check on each other.**

*From the Church office:* Hope you and your schedules are settling in for the winter. The season of Epiphany is here and so is the wrap-up of 2024. And it had plenty of highlights and low-lights. We lost several of our beloved patriarchs and matriarchs of our parish. They will be dearly missed. Of course, let's mention the 'flood' of summer 2024- but look how beautiful the church looks with all the new fixtures, floors, walls, and updates! Sadly, our dear Margaret retired, but now we have Courtney! If you really look around St Luke's there are new sights AND sounds that have enhanced our beautiful building. I don't want to take any thunder away from the ministry reports, so I will stop there. St Luke's is a beloved church within the community because of you all. Thank you for the love. Penny



Fun



Faith



Friends



# ST. CRISPIN'S SUMMER CAMP

At St. Crispin's Summer Camp, our mission is to form our campers and encourage a passion for Jesus in a safe and inclusive environment with no barriers to experiencing God's love – because we are all God's children. We seek to accomplish this through prayer, study, daily worship, meaningful relationships, play, and an established rule of life.



**EARLY BIRD RATE ENDS APRIL 1ST! | [STCRISPINS.ORG/CAMP](https://STCRISPINS.ORG/CAMP)**



# Province VII 2025 Forma Gathering @ St. Crispin's

Hope you can join us January 27-30 for the Forma regional gathering at St. Crispin's!

You can register here:

<https://onrealm.org/epiok/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=MTJmYTI4NmMtMDE1MS00MzYyLTliYmYtYjlxODAxNDY2OTUy>

**Monday Jan 27 (12:00 pm) to Thursday Jan 30 (4:00 pm), 2025**

[St. Crispin's Conference Center + Camp](#)

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Monday Jan 27 (12:00 pm) to Thursday Jan 30 (4:00 pm), 2025

[St. Crispin's Conference Center + Camp](#)

Join us for an in-person gathering during the 2025 FORMA Conference, Come Away Together, Jan. 27-30. Enjoy attending the online conference with fellow formation leaders from other Province VII dioceses. We will have conference rooms available to watch different workshops, spend time together collaborating on what we learned, and share fun and fellowship in the evenings.

We look forward to gathering together for the FORMA annual conference and sharing what we learn and ideas that are sparked.

All meals and lodging while you are at St. Crispin's are included in the cost. The conference registration is NOT included in this cost.

**\*Be sure to ALSO register yourself for the online conference [here](#).**

CONTACTS



Teresa Phares

Contact

Registration is NOW OPEN for the Diocesan Acolyte & Chorister Festival!

Join us at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in Oklahoma City for an unforgettable two-day event filled with training, fellowship, and worship. Whether you're an acolyte, chorister, or simply curious, everyone across the diocese is welcome to be part of this inspiring experience!

Registration  
OPEN!



Join  
US!



World-Class Training & Expertise

This festival offers an incredible opportunity to learn from renowned leaders in liturgy and music who bring foremost knowledge and unmatched skill to every session. Whether you're looking to refine your craft, deepen your understanding, or gain new inspiration, this is your chance to train with the best of the best! Don't miss this rare opportunity to grow and thrive alongside peers from across the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma.

Don't miss out—scan the QR code and secure your spot today! Let's come together, grow, and celebrate in faith and community.

## St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Nancy Woods, Sr. Warden – [Nancywoods120@gmail.com](mailto:Nancywoods120@gmail.com)
- Jo Baughman – [jbokla@aol.com](mailto:jbokla@aol.com)
- Karole Cozby, Jr Warden – [kscozby916@gmail.com](mailto:kscozby916@gmail.com)
- Chad Ellis – [w.chadwick.ellis@gmail.com](mailto:w.chadwick.ellis@gmail.com)
- Karen Lewey – [kgrammy07@yahoo.com](mailto:kgrammy07@yahoo.com)
- Laura Birk – [lpbirk73@gmail.com](mailto:lpbirk73@gmail.com)
- Mark Peterson- [markandmarypeterson@gmail.com](mailto:markandmarypeterson@gmail.com)
- Steve Heidorn- [sgheidorn@yahoo.com](mailto:sgheidorn@yahoo.com)
- Dolores McCreary – [dolomc37@gmail.com](mailto:dolomc37@gmail.com)
- Steve Roper- [sdroper2006@yahoo.com](mailto:sdroper2006@yahoo.com)
- Erin Roper-
- Robert Lonski- [rjtazski@yahoo.com](mailto:rjtazski@yahoo.com)

### Bereavement Team 2

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

#### St. Luke's Episcopal Church Contacts:

The Reverend Nick Phares, Rector  
269-788-7063; [RevPhares@outlook.com](mailto:RevPhares@outlook.com)

Keeli Droege, Choir Director/Organist  
918-697-8509 [keelidroege@gmail.com](mailto:keelidroege@gmail.com)

St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
210 East 9<sup>th</sup> St., Bartlesville, OK 74003  
Office Hours: 9am-4pm, M-F  
Email: [StLukesBartlesville@outlook.com](mailto:StLukesBartlesville@outlook.com)  
918-336-1212  
Or contact  
Penny Williams, secretary 918-766-2157