

The Steeple

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June 25, 2026



Ordinary Time

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



From Your Senior Warden:

Dear St Luke's Family,

Summertime and the livin' is easy....or so the song says!

However, this summer St. Luke's is tasked with the obligation of securing a replacement for Fr. Nick. As we move forward towards that very goal, we have every intention to keep the congregation abreast of each step in the process.

Last evening the newly formed Search Committee met for their initial gathering. They began in prayer and with shared thoughts on the challenge before them. As Canon Betsy was quick to say...."You won't get another Fr. Nick but you will get someone fit for the season".

The first order of business for the committee is to compose a short but efficient survey to submit to the entire congregation. It will be designed to solicit input, feedback and participation by all members...young and old. They will then be charged with developing a self-study of the congregation. It is their desire to have the survey ready to share either by paper or online by the last two weeks of July.

Having explained the first step in the search process, please know they are also addressing the Parish Profile and the website. Canon Betsy from the Diocesan side, is already at work reaching out to aspirants that might possibly be a fit for the candidate pool. She and Bishop Paulson are responsible for overseeing and safeguarding the entire process.

Your wardens, Vestry and Search Committee are all working diligently in tandem with our incredible staff. Penny, Courtney, Keeli and our accountant Dennis are ever present and ready to assist in any way possible.

As for Sundays and supply priests, we have Fr Thom Crowe from St. John's Tulsa to lead us in worship thru July. While some of our ministries have ceased for the summer others like Pack the

Backpack and Casa Hispana's Bingo night are in full swing. We will strive always to be an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace.

Deep Peace, Karole

At Luke's Place: June 26th – July 2nd, 2026

June 27th Casa Hispana Bingo, 5:30pm, Metcalf
June 28th Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Rodgers
Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
June 29th Ladies Prayer Partners, 11:30am, Metcalf
July 2nd Men's Group, 7am, Metcalf
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV
Office Closed for Federal Holiday- Friday July 3rd

Prayer List

Please pray for: Ben Baker, Steve McCraw, Josh Harris, David Swindell, Connie Finch, Terry Grogan, Tyler Roberson, Jerry Nezam, Lynette Beebe, Danny Clem, David McAtee, Steve Linn, Jean Mason, Mary Wallace, Lynda Stephens, Marcie Zervas, Audrey Harris, Nan Buhlinger, Dionna Cameron, Betty Rogers, Dan & JoAnn Gallery, Kathleen Turner, Steve Clark, Dean Zervas, Frank Molina, Diane Mitchell, Frank Traylor, Steve Hand, Donna Steward, Clay Smith, Penny Johnson, Kim Shipman, Shaina Smith, Ann Morrow, Carrie Washington, Miriam Petrovich, Jason Elmore, Teresa Phares, June Mosley, Marsha Tibbits, Larry Mueggenborg, and Sherry Breitman.

Please add the following to your prayers for this week:

St Mark's, Seminole St. Paul's, Holdenville The Church of South India



Birthdays & Anniversaries for June 28th – July 4th, 2026

Birthdays

Fred Whitson (6/29)
Martha Reyburn (7/1)
Chad Ellis (7/1)
Margaret Holden (7/3)
Katherine Powell (7/3)
Chaz Cervený (7/3)

Anniversaries

Jim & Nancy Warring (6/29)

If your or a love one's name doesn't appear on the list, please email or call the office, and we will add your birthday and/or wedding anniversary.

Concern

Concern's current needs are: adult toothbrush and toothpaste, unisex deodorant, travel size shampoo and conditioner.



Theologian's Corner:

The Rev Dr Pauli Murray

1910-1985

The Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray was a twentieth-century human rights activist, legal scholar, author, labor organizer, poet, Episcopal priest, multiracial

Black, LGBTQ+ Durhamite who lived one of the most remarkable lives of the 20th century. S/he

was the first Black person to earn a JSD (Doctor of the Science of Law) degree from Yale Law School, a founder of the National Organization for Women and the first Black person perceived as a woman to be ordained an Episcopal priest.

Pauli Murray was born in Baltimore, Maryland on November 20, 1910, the fourth of six children to nurse Agnes Fitzgerald and educator William Murray. Agnes Fitzgerald Murray died of a cerebral hemorrhage in 1914. William suffered from depression exacerbated by the long-term effects of typhoid fever and was eventually confined to Crownsville State Hospital where he was later murdered by a white guard in 1923.

After Agnes' death, Murray was sent to live with their* aunt, Pauline Fitzgerald Dame, and their grandparents, Robert George and Cornelia Smith Fitzgerald, in Durham, North Carolina.

After graduating from Hillside High School in 1926 with a certificate of distinction, Murray moved to New York City. S/he attended Hunter College and financed their studies with various jobs, ultimately graduating in 1933 with a degree in English Literature. S/he changed their birth name to "Pauli." Throughout the 1930s, Murray actively questioned his gender and sex. He repeatedly asked physicians for hormone therapy and exploratory surgery to investigate his reproductive organs, but he was denied gender-affirming medical care.

At the same time, Murray worked for the [Works Projects Administration](#) (WPA) and as a teacher at the New York City Remedial Reading Project. S/he wrote fervently; Murray's articles and poems were published in various magazines including *Common Sense* and *The Crisis*, a publication of the [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People](#) (NAACP).

Murray quickly became involved in the civil rights movement. In 1938, s/he began a media and letter-writing campaign to enter graduate school at the all-white University of North Carolina. Despite a lack of support from the NAACP, Murray's campaign received national publicity. During this campaign, Murray developed a life-long friendship and correspondence with the first lady at the time, Eleanor Roosevelt.

Article in Durham's *Carolina Times*, April 6, 1940 titled "Jim-Crow Bus Dispute Leads to Girls' Arrest." Excerpt describes the arrest of Pauli Murray and friend Adelene McBean.

A member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Murray worked to end segregation on public transport. In March 1940, s/he was arrested and imprisoned for refusing to sit at the back of a bus in Virginia. In 1941, Murray enrolled at the law school at [Howard University](#) with the intention of becoming a civil rights lawyer. The following year s/he joined [George Houser](#), [James Farmer](#), and [Bayard Rustin](#) to form the nonviolence-focused [Congress of Racial Equality](#).

Pauli Murray's writing continued to influence and shift the movement for justice. In 1943, Murray published two important essays on civil rights: "Negroes Are Fed Up" in *Common Sense*, and an article about the Harlem race riot in the socialist newspaper, [New York Call](#). Their most famous poem, *Dark Testament*, was also written in that year. The poem was published as a part of a larger

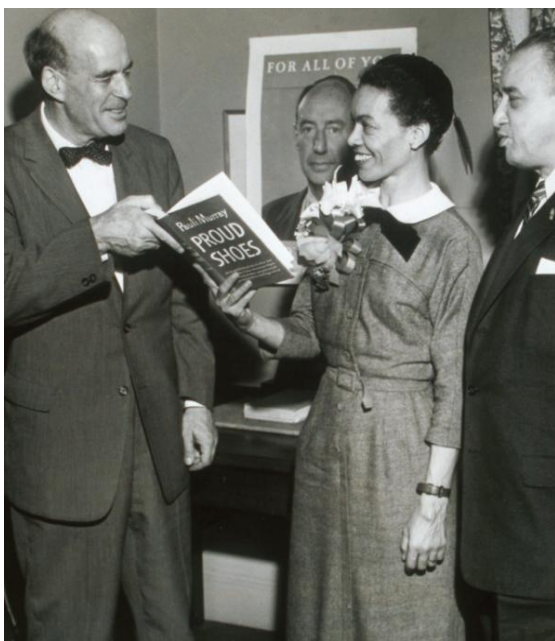
collection of his work in 1970 by Silvermine Press, which was republished in 2018 by W.W. Norton as *Dark Testament and Other Poems*.

Class of 1944, School of Law, Howard University. Courtesy of the Schlesinger Library at Harvard University.

In 1944, Pauli Murray graduated at the top of their law school class from **Howard University**. It was at Howard that s/he also became acutely aware of the oppression s/he faced as a Black person perceived as a woman, coining the term “Jane Crow,” to describe their experience. The Rosenwald Fellowship was awarded to the valedictorian, and previous top graduates had used the fellowship to attend Harvard University. Despite winning the fellowship, Murray was rejected from Harvard Law School due to sexism - echoing previous rejections that Murray experienced. Instead, Murray went to the University of California Boalt School of Law where s/he received an LLM (Master of Laws) degree. Their master’s thesis was titled *The Right to Equal Opportunity in Employment*.

After graduation, Murray returned to New York City and provided support to the growing civil rights movement. Their book, *States’ Laws on Race and Color*, was published in 1951 thanks to the United Methodist Women who **commissioned this work** as a service to the movement and part of their Charters for Racial Justice. **Thurgood Marshall**, head of the legal department at the **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People** (NAACP), described the book as the “Bible” for civil rights litigators.

In the early 1950s, Murray, like many Black citizens involved in the civil rights movement, was suppressed by **McCarthyism**. In 1952, s/he lost a US State Department post at Cornell University because the people who had supplied her references (**Eleanor Roosevelt**, **Thurgood Marshall**, and **A. Philip Randolph**) were considered “too radical.” S/he was told in a letter that they decided to give “one hundred per cent protection” to the university “in view of the troublous times in which we live.”



Pauli Murray presents a copy of *Proud Shoes* to Lloyd K. Garrison, former president of the National Urban League (1956). Courtesy of the Schlesinger Library at Harvard University.

In 1956, Murray published *Proud Shoes: The Story of an American Family*, a biography of how white supremacy and anti-Blackness oppressed their grandparents and their efforts of racial uplift, and a poignant portrayal of their hometown of Durham. Shortly after the book came out, Murray was offered a job in the litigation department at a new law firm, **Paul, Weiss, Rifkin, Wharton, and Garrison**. While working there, Murray met their partner Irene Barlow, the office manager at the firm.

In 1960, Murray traveled to Ghana to explore their African cultural roots and teach law. While there, s/he co-authored a book, *The Constitution and*

Government of Ghana, with Leslie Rubin. When Murray returned, s/he enrolled at Yale Law School where s/he studied for the JSD degree and mentored several young women activists, including **Marian Wright Edelman**, **Eleanor Holmes Norton**, and **Patricia Roberts Harris** who all became leaders in their own right.

President **John F. Kennedy** appointed Pauli Murray to the Committee on Civil and Political Rights as a part of his Presidential Commission on the Status of Women. In the early 1960s, Murray worked closely with **A. Philip Randolph**, **Bayard Rustin**, and **Martin Luther King** but was critical of the way that men dominated the leadership of these **civil rights** organizations. In August 1963, s/he wrote to Randolph and asserted that s/he had “been increasingly perturbed over the blatant disparity between the major role which Negro women have played and are playing in the crucial grass-roots levels of our struggle and the minor role of leadership they have been assigned in the national policy-making decisions.”

Pauli Murray joined Betty Friedan and others to found the **National Organization for Women** (NOW) in 1966, but later moved away from a leading role because s/he did not believe that NOW appropriately addressed the issues of Black and working-class women.

From 1968 to 1973, Dr. Pauli Murray served as a faculty member at Brandeis University teaching an early American Studies program. In 1973, following the death of their longtime partner Irene Barlow, Murray left their tenured position to become a candidate for ordination at General Theological Seminary.

Pauli Murray's ordination (1977). Courtesy of the Schlesinger Library at Harvard University.

In 1977, Pauli Murray became the first Black person perceived as a woman in the U.S. to become an Episcopal priest.

Pauli Murray died of cancer in Pittsburgh on July 1, 1985. Their autobiography, *Song in a Weary Throat: An American Pilgrimage*, was published posthumously in 1987. The book was re-released as *Pauli Murray: The Autobiography of a Black Activist, Feminist, Lawyer, Priest and Poet* in 1987, and was republished under its original title with a new introduction by **Patricia Bell-Scott** in 2018.



Liberating God, we thank you for the steadfast courage of your servant Pauli Murray, who fought long and well: Unshackle us from the chains of prejudice and fear, that we may show forth the reconciling love and true freedom which you revealed in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

June School Supply Item Needed

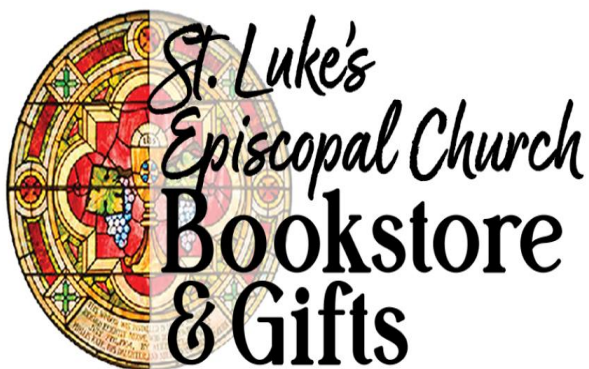


12 Count Box -Colored Pencils



Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

BCP p.818



Summer Hours:

Sundays only after the 10:30am Service

Or By Appointment. Check with the office if you need to shop anytime during the week.

BINGO

BY
CASA HISPANA

night

Join us for an evening of Bingo, Raffles, Family Fun, and Hispanic Food

Saturday, June
27th, 2026

5:30 PM
St Luke's
Episcopal Church

CasaHispana.Bartlesville@gmail.com



For tickets call
918.907.1584

\$12
Ticket

Include:
 Admission Price &
 10 cards

Games start at 6:00 PM



All proceeds benefit Casa Hispana a Bartlesville non-profit organization that provides support to local individuals and families by enabling connections to community resources, offering translation services, English and citizenship classes, and connecting under-served communities with local resources

Church Office will be closed Friday for the 4th of July



To Kate Carroll and family on the loss of her brother, Jack Cherry.

And to the Garrison family on the death of Barbara Garrison.



1776 - 2026

250 Years of Freedom



Pack the Backpacks

Need help with school supplies?



Applications Open

June 15 to July 15



Scan the QR code
to start your application
or learn more!

SCAN ME

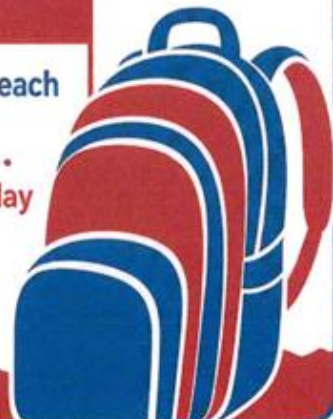
IN PERSON APPLICATIONS

 **Agape Mission**
555 S Cass Ave

.....
Fridays
11am-1:30pm

 **Mary Martha Outreach**
1845 SW 4th St.

.....
Monday-Wednesday
9am-11am
Thursday
12pm-2pm



St. Luke's Vestry Members

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- Becky Liehr – jbliehr@gmail.com
- Chase Almy – chasealmy88@gmail.com
- Lisa Beeman – lisabeeman89@gmail.com
- Steve Heidorn- sgheidorn@yahoo.com
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Bereavement Team 3

Becky Liehr, Cathy Perrier, Kris Bonner,
Mary Jo Peterson

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