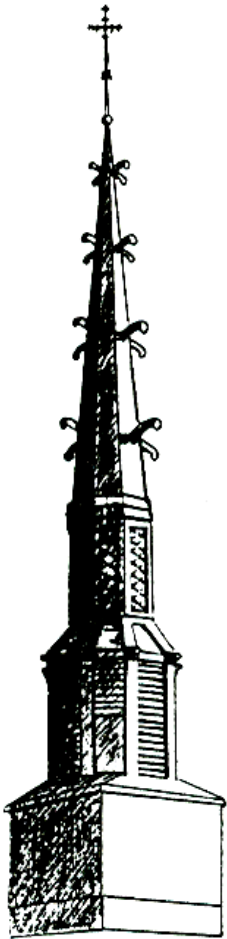


The Steeple

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
210 SE Ninth St., Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74003
www.episcopalbartlesville.org

Volume XV, Number 1

January 5, 2011



ATTENTION:
All Vestry Members,
Committee Chairs &
Nominees

If you are currently a **vestry member and/or committee chair**, you are asked to submit a report of activities of your area of responsibility for 2010. Reports are due in the church office no later than **Monday, January 24**. Your report will be included in St. Luke's Annual Report which will be available at our Annual Meeting on Monday, January 31.

As **nominees**, you are asked to submit a brief (4-5 sentence) autobiography of yourself, family and church activities. These autobiographies are due in the church office **no later than Wednesday, January 19**.

Please submit your reports to annbell@episcopalbartlesville.org (preferred method) or you may bring your report it to the office, or mail it to 210 SE 9th St., 74003, Attn: Ann Bell, or fax to 918-336-2557. Thank you! (*Extra copies of the 2009 Annual Report are available in the church office.*)

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY 7:00pm, Thursday, January 6

Join us at 7:00 p.m. January 6 as we observe the Feast of the Epiphany with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. There will be a reception immediately following the service in Metcalf Hall.



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Important Dates To Remember

Monthly Vestry Mtg., Monday,
January 10, 7:15pm

Spiritual Disciplines Morning
Group, starts Tuesday, January 11,
10am (*see pg. 3*)

All Parish Potluck & Annual
Meeting, Monday, January 31, 6pm



Should I say, “Happy New Year!” to everyone? Seems like we have done that already – at least in the Church. (Can the “seasoned” Episcopalians figure that out?)

Christmas was glorious and I enjoyed every moment of the five Eucharists in three days. I am grateful to all the contributors to the context for celebrations – the Altar Guild, Ushers, Layreaders, Acolytes, Choir, Staff, Greeters – and Ann Bell for all the service leaflets. By the time you receive this newsletter the Christmas Season will have concluded with the Feast of the Epiphany and a new season will have begun.

Meanwhile back at the new year, the Liturgical Year and Calendar Year are not in the same rhythm – and that is a good thing. Liturgically we started a “new year” on November 28th with the First Sunday of Advent. In my view that gives us a running start in preparing not only for the birth of the Christ Child but January First. Could it be that spiritual resolutions (awareness, preparation, anticipation, etc) are, or should be, the foundations of New Year’s resolutions?

Ok, what did you expect from an old priest who just got back from a week away? Or, could this juxtaposition of two new years events be the key to resolutions that actually matter and are kept? This is similar to what people “give up” for Lent – what they should be giving up (changing) anyway – knowing that post-Easter life will go back to normal again.

Some people make a big deal out of New Year’s resolutions. Others don’t bother because they know they won’t keep them anyway. And, as much as we enjoyed the holidays, there is a strange comfort in getting back to the routine of life in January with or without resolutions.

What if God had that kind of attitude towards us?

Is there anything really routine for God? We are reminded in Advent that God is continually coming toward us with an outpouring of grace. Grace that nurtures, heals, empowers, shapes, guides – and so much more – according to our willingness. The Feast of the Incarnation is a validating experience that has the potential to take us ever deeper in Life – in Christ – in God.


Should not this reality of “God With Us” be the basis for resolutions – change – visioning – for a new “routine” – for the next chapter? Perhaps this will give us deeper reasons for seeking and maintaining the change and growth we need.

Seems that God is willing. The season of Epiphany provides yet another opportunity to go deeper. Indeed, this year Epiphany is much longer than usual – don’t waste the time.

See the articles in this “*Steeple*” on the Discipleship Forum and the Morning Spiritual Discipline Group for hints and assistance on the journey.

Blessings,

Fr. Lee+



Calendar of Events

Sunday, January 9, 2011
8:00am Rite I
9:15am Church School
10:30am Rite II

Monday, January 10, 2011
8:45am Morning Prayer
9:15am Church Staff Mtg.
5:30pm Holy Eucharist
7:15pm Vestry Mtg.

Tuesday, January 11, 2011
10:00am Spiritual Disciplines Group, library

Wednesday, January 12, 2011
6-8pm Young Disciples, RH
7:00pm Choir

Thursday, January 13, 2011
6:45am Men’s Fellowship
12:00pm Holy Eucharist

Friday, January 14, 2011

Saturday, January 15, 2011

Sunday, January 16, 2011
8:00am Rite I
9:15am Church School
10:30am Rite II

Monday, January 17, 2011
8:45am Morning Prayer
9:15am Church Staff Mtg.
5:30pm Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, January 18, 2011
10:00am Spiritual Disciplines Group, library

The CONCERN Center Needs Volunteers!

We need volunteers on Wednesday and Thursdays from 11:00 AM until 2:45 PM to work in the pantry filling food orders for clients. Volunteers may work two hour shifts or all 3¾ hours - whatever meets your schedule. The work is not too strenuous.

If you are interested in helping please call Maureen Forsythe at 918.914.3320. Thank you for your help.



ST. LUKE'S PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following persons in your prayers...

(Names on the Prayer List will be rotated off every 4 weeks. If there is a need for continued prayers, please let us know.)

Betty, Don, Dennis, Lindsay, Marlo, Sadie, Jason, Steve, Charles, Scott, Lynn, Kim, Judie, Marvin, Loise, Eilene, Cheryl, Chad, Edress, Krista, Jonathan, Shelby, Marjean, Nathan, Jean, Elizabeth, Will, Moon, Laurel, Joseph, Brandon, Greg, Jeremy

If you have a prayer request, please call or e-mail our Prayer Ministry Coordinators:

Thelma Blackburn (333-7902,

TPBGEN@aol.com) or

Richard Chamberlain (333-5591,

Deaconrc@sbcglobal.net)

GOD the what?

Discipleship Forum for Epiphany

Sundays at 9:15, Metcalf Hall

The Discipleship Forum for the Season of Epiphany will be based on Carolyn Jane Bohler's book, God the what? The subtitle is "What Our Metaphors for God Reveal about Our Beliefs in God."

From the introduction: *People have always tried to explain their experience of God in words. Although we know that God is not fully describable and our metaphors for God are not formal descriptions, there is no way for us to think of God without them. When we limit our personal images of God, we limit our potential experience of God. But if we expand our metaphors for God, our potential for more lively, multidimensional faith grows.*

This study will challenge you to:

- Consider how your current God metaphors align with your beliefs about God.
- Explore how your beliefs about God might open doors to new metaphors.
- Find new ways of thinking about God that are intellectually, spiritually and emotionally satisfying.

Books will be available in class for \$13. Having a textbook will be helpful, but not required for participation.

GOT MOVIES?

We're putting together the pieces of our curriculum for the upcoming winter and spring term for youth in the 6th-12th grades. The curriculum we're using, "*Making it Real & Relevant*", is an innovative Christian formation program that is a multi-media enhanced Bible study for middle and high school youth. The program incorporates popular music and movie clips into each lesson, along with discussions and other activities designed to help participants discover that God, Christ, the Bible and one's faith and values are all real and relevant to everyday life.

To that end, we're asking for help collecting the necessary DVDs to use in the upcoming weeks. If you have any of the following DVDs and are willing to let the class use them, please contact Mthr Stephanie through the church office, 336-1212 or via email at smitchell@episcopalbartlesville.org. We need them by January 9th and will be returned to you soon after the Sunday they are used.


Movies Requested:

The Nativity Story, The Mask of Zorro, The American President, Hook, The Mummy Returns, The Last Holiday, The Matrix, Galaxy Quest, Take the Lead.

MORNING SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE GROUP

Starts Tuesday, January 11, 10am

Practicing His Presence

The Morning Spiritual Discipline Group will begin a new series on Tuesday, January 11th, with Brother Lawrence of the 17th century and Frank Laubach of the 20th century. This spiritual classic will help us go deeper in our relationship with Christ. New people are invited to share in the experience on Tuesdays at 10:00am in the Church library. Copies of the book are available through the parish office. Questions? Call Fr. Lee or send an email leestephens@episcopalbartlesville.org. 

St. Luke's – Transforming Hearts & Lives

What Saint Luke's Episcopal Church Means to Me

When I first visited St. Luke's, I knew it was the church for me. After attending different churches, as well as religious schools and seminary, I felt as though I had finally come home. The Eucharist, the vision of Jesus in stained glass, the attention given to the reading of the Scriptures, but most of all the Love of Christ shining through each and every person in the Church were exactly what my heart needed. St. Luke's is a place where we can be loved when we don't feel so loveable, accepted when there are parts of us we fear others might reject, and redeemed when in our hearts we feared we were not redeemable. Thank you, St. Luke's for your unconditional love.



Rachel Gurule

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Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74003
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www.episcopalbartlesville.org

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The Rt. Rev. Edward J. Konieczny, Bishop of the Diocese of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City
The Rev. Dr. T. Lee Stephens, Rector (leestephens@episcopalbartlesville.org)
The Rev. Stephanie Mitchell, Curate/Chr. Ed. Coordinator (smitchell@episcopalbartlesville.org)
The Rev. Douglas Freebern, Deacon/Parish Administrator (dfreebern@episcopalbartlesville.org)
In an Emergency, call 397-3683 or 1-405-850-3321 or 914-0525
Ann Bell, Parish Secretary (annbell@episcopalbartlesville.org)
Dolores McCreary, Organist/Choir Director (dolores@episcopalbartlesville.org)
Darian Kedy, Sr. Warden (dariankd@aol.com)
Jim Liehr, Jr. Warden (jimliehr@yahoo.com)
Office Phone: 918-336-1212
Office Fax: 918-336-2557
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:00pm
Holy Eucharist: Sunday 8am & 10:30am
Monday 5:30pm, Thursday 12pm



The STEEPLE is a weekly publication of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 210 SE 9th St., Bartlesville, OK 74003

LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE 1/9/11 through 1/16/11

Acolytes

Sunday, Jan. 9, 2011
10:30 a.m.

Servers

Jack Wiseman
Tom Wiseman

Crucifer

Tom Wiseman
Torchbearers

Dave Wiseman
Hayden Harlow

Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011
10:30 a.m.

Servers

Jack Wiseman
Katie Todd

Crucifer

Katie Todd
Torchbearers

Grace Mitchell
Max Mitchell

Scripture Lessons for Sunday, 1/9/11

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts
10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

Music for Sunday, 1/9/11

#449 – "O Love, How Deep,
How Broad, How High"
WLP #767 – "Baptized in
Water"

#124 – "What Star is This?"
#490 – "I Want to Walk as a
Child of the Light"

#139 (text) – "When Jesus
Went to Jordan's Stream"
#497 – "How Bright Appears
the Morning Star"

Plate Counters

Sunday, Jan. 9, 2011

Jim Malone

Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011

Steve Clark

*Volunteers: Please make your
own substitutions.*

Sunday Coffee Hour Treats

Jan. 9 – Lauren Green

Jan. 16 – Wesneski

*Call Maureen Forsythe,
914-3320, to volunteer*

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have articles that you would
like printed in *The Steeple* to the
church office no later than
Tuesdays, 12 noon. Thank you!

St. Luke's Bookstore

*The Bookstore is open
Sundays between the two
services and after the
10:30 service. All proceeds
from sales go to St. Luke's
Outreach Projects.*

**To volunteer, you may call
Melinda Wesneski,
333-7758 or
Barbara Martin, 336-8445.*

Greeters

Sunday, Jan. 9, 2011

8:00am

Don & Cheri Doty

10:30am

Truly Johnson

Carolyn Lawrence

Sunday, Jan. 16, 2010

8:00am

Sue Glass

10:30am

Betty Hardin

Maureen & Steve

Forsythe

Church Nursery

Volunteers

Jan. 9 – Barbara Todd

Jan. 16 – Natalie Conner

Jan. 23 – Cordy Liggett

*Volunteers: Please make your
own substitutions. To Volunteer,
or to be a sub, you may call
Tammy Baughman, 440-8088.*

Ushers

Sunday, Jan. 9

8:00 a.m.

Kemp, Gardner

10:30am

Blackburn, Ferguson

Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011

8:00am

Kemp, Zervas

10:30am

Bonner, Clark

Children's Chapel

Jan. 9 – Amy Borg

Jan. 16 – Tracy Harlow

Jan. 23 – Tim & Zella Simmons

*Volunteers: Please make your own
substitutions. To Volunteer, or to be
a substitute, call Mthr. Stephanie
Mitchell, 336-1212 or 405-850-3321.*

ECW Bereavement

Committee

January 2011

Canfield, Liggett

February 2011

Volunteers needed.

*Contact church office, 336-1212
or Sharon Schilling, 337-2107*

Agape Mission

2nd Thursday (1/13/10)

9am-11am

Cheri Doty, Karen Rukovena

10:45am-1pm

Becky Liehr, Rita Childers,

Marcia Zervas, Kathy Zervas,

Rusty Hoff

1-2:45pm

Sharon Schilling,

Melinda Droege