



The Steeple

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

Volume XV, Number 41

November 16, 2011

CHRISTMAS STAR TREE

St. Luke's Annual Christmas "Star" Tree will be in the narthex on Sunday, November 20. The tree will be decorated with stars, each one representing an area foster child's "wish list" for Christmas. Everyone will have the opportunity to take a star (or stars), shop for the requested gift(s), and return the gift (UNWRAPPED, please) to the church office **no later than Sunday, Dec. 11**. Thank you so much for making this Christmas season a bit brighter for a needy child! This project is coordinated by Steve & Cheryl Van Aken. If you have any questions, you may call the Van Aken's, 333-5570 or the church office, 336-1212.



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✓ Important Dates To Remember

Thanksgiving Day Eucharist, Thurs.,
Nov. 24, 10am. Church Office closed,
Thurs. & Fri., Nov. 24 & 25

Sunday, November 27, 1st Sunday of
Advent

Sunday, December 4, Pledge Sunday

Young Disciples Lock-In, 6pm, Fri.,
Dec. 9 – 7am, Sat., Dec. 10

Joyful Noise Children



*"Sing sweet as the flute, sing clear as the horn,
Sing joy of the children come Christmas, the morn:
Little Christ Jesus our brother is born."*

We've begun learning this beautiful song AND we are also learning how to ring the HANDBELLS we will play while we sing! Hope to see all our wonderful children on Sunday mornings at 9:15!



THANKSGIVING DAY EUCHARIST

The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated on Thanksgiving Day, November 24 at 10am. The church office will be closed Thursday & Friday, November 24 & 25.



A seemingly odd thing happened at Vestry last night. Well, actually I made an odd request of my Vestry friends.

This started with our Sunday morning study and dialogue about the “Emergent Church and Emerging Church.” The first has to do with a broader movement of the Church as a whole as the Spirit of God is “birthing” something authentic and compelling – perhaps as revolutionary as the Reformation. The fruition will likely happen beyond our lifetime.

The “Emerging Church” has to do with churches new and old who are seeking to be the Church in ways that matter and are transforming personally and in society – an incarnation of Christ today. I think this means something new rising within churches that reflects the spirituality of Christ and the early followers. This is true for churches of every kind including the Episcopal Church – and St. Luke’s.

In the course of the years and generations, the emphasis of the church has been increasingly on structure and organization; leadership and authority; programs and budgets; expectations and rules; institution and preservation; and pride and exclusivity. We have become light on spirituality and transformation.

Frankly much of what we “do” as a church is still important. However, the “why” and “who we are” seem to have diminished. Much of what we call “spirituality” is too often relegated to some insignificant part of our lives. Hence, more and more people are suggesting the church has not only lost its integrity and meaning, but also her relevancy in daily life.

We need to turn the focus back to a desire for and nurture of a healthy spirituality – our relationship with God – our transformation in likeness of Christ – to truly be God’s people from the inside out. In part that means under girding all that we do and are with daily spiritual disciplines – progressively allowing Christ to live in and through us as we live in Christ.

I have found the Spiritual Direction Groups very helpful for the parish and my personal journey. The morning group is complete until January, but the evening group will begin again the last Wednesday of November using The Cloud of Unknowing as a resource. Let me know if you are interested.

A new Praying the Hours guide for Thanksgiving and Advent will be available on Sunday. This is a wonderful method of living into God’s presence all through the day.

A monthly three hour retreat will be offered in the new year using Joyce Rupp’s May I Have This Dance? More about this in December.

Meanwhile, I have asked the Vestry to develop a daily spiritual discipline as we seek to keep the focus in the right place – actively and intentionally loving God through every day and loving neighbor as we are loved. I want this to be at the heart of their leadership and ministry as well as mine. The request really isn’t odd at all except that I said it out loud.

What about you? Will you join us? Sunday at Discipleship Forum I will do a “crash course” on spirituality and you – living the Christ life.

Blessings,
Fr. Lee +

3 Calendar of Events

Sunday, November 20, 2011

Christ the King Sunday

8:00am Rite I

9:15am Church School Classes

10:30am Rite II

Monday, November 21, 2011

8:45am Morning Prayer

9:15am Church Staff Mtg.

5:30pm Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, November 22, 2011

10:00am Spiritual Direction Group, library

5:30pm Adult Bible Study, library

Wednesday, November 23, 2011

Thursday, November 24, 2011

Thanksgiving Day, church office closed

10:00am Holy Eucharist

Friday, November 25, 2011

Church Office closed

Saturday, November 26, 2011

Sunday, November 27, 2011

1st Sunday of Advent

8:00am Rite I

9:00am Church School Classes

10:30am Rite II

Monday, November 28, 2011

8:45am Morning Prayer

9:15am Church Staff Mtg.

5:30pm Holy Eucharist

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP FORUM

Sunday Mornings
9:15am, Metcalf Hall

Sunday, November 20 Fr. Lee Stephens will be leading “A Short Course on Spirituality”. Starting on **Sunday, November 27**, the First Sunday of Advent, Mthr. Stephanie Mitchell will be leading us in an overview of the Gospel of Mark. It is suggested that you read Mark’s Gospel in preparation for this class.



“I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving.”

Psalm 69:30, NRSV

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.)

Nancy, Leanne, Jeff, Lynda, Margaret, Vivian, Mark, Crystal, Thelma, Shirley, Joan, Glenn, James, Sydney, Vicky, Chris, Alex, Noelle, Robert, Greg, Linda, Hilary, Marie, Stan, Margaret, Nora, Loren, Jan, Isaac, Bobby, Steve, Charles, Jean, Will, Joseph, Brandon, 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)



TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The next series in Tuesday evening Bible Study will begin in early December.

When: Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:30pm.

What: Stories that include women in the Bible that are often read as a part of our lectionary but are seldom studied or preached on with the companion book *Helpmates, Harlots, and Heroes* by Alice Ogden Bellis.

Where: St Luke's Library

Why: There is much to learn and gain from studying stories with male and female characters - it gives all a chance to get a different perspective and insight depending on which direction you approach the story and is even more enriching with both voices/perspectives in the discussion. Please don't fall into the trap of thinking that looking at stories of women in the Bible is for women only!! Questions? Contact Mthr. Stephanie, 918.336.1212 or smitchell@episcopalbartlesville.org.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	October			October Year to Date		
	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance (Unfav.)	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance (Unfav.)
Income						
Pledge Payments	35,077	26,833	8,244	261,242	268,333	(7,092)
Non-Pledge Pmts.	2,110	1,875	235	10,978	18,750	(7,772)
Other Income	1,516	1,117	400	19,008	16,847	2,161
Total Income	38,704	29,825	8,879	291,227	303,930	(12,703)
Expenses	27,522	29,973	2,451	309,499	310,022	523
NET INCOME/LOSS	11,182	(148)	11,330	(18,272)	(6,092)	(12,180)

MANY GIFTS, ONE SPIRIT

Dear Parish Family and Friends,

Last week we encouraged you to think about what God might be asking you to share with our parish as we prepare to enter a new church year. Maybe you're feeling God's call to give or increase your financial pledge for this coming year. Each one of our gifts of money, time and talents is what helps and enables our church to grow and sustain our many ministries both inside and outside of our church walls.

Our church facilities are only sustained and repaired through each individual member's financial contribution. These contributions are what allow our Parish to continue to positively impact our community and be Christ's love reaching out to our world! What you have to offer may not seem like much, but God can do amazing things with any gift!

Maybe God is asking you to get involved, or more involved in one of our many Parish ministries such as: Spiritual Discipline classes, teaching children's classes, serving on one of our many church committees, helping with Concern, Bridges out of Poverty, becoming a Reading Mentor at Kane, working in our Bookstore, joining the Choir, helping with Coffee Hour following church services, assisting with ECW activities such as the Rummage Sale, helping with our YD program, participating in Men's Fellowship breakfast, helping with the various repairs and mechanical needs of the church building.

Or, just maybe, God may be asking you to help out more with our Back Packs for Kids program, donating frozen pies during the holiday season to complete a meal for those in need or making phone calls to Parish members that are homebound & absent from church who need to know they are loved and missed, or taking a few moments to write a note of encouragement. It could be that He is laying it upon your heart to call friend to invite them to church. Maybe you will be the one God chooses to help meet their unmet need to become part of a church family.

Maybe God is asking you to dig deeper into your personal relationship with Him by intentionally setting aside time for Him each day by reading His Word or having a family devotional time or setting aside time to pray for the specific needs of others within our Parish family, within our community or beyond.

Even though you may feel like Moses did when God asked him to step out in faith and do something new, God NEVER asks us to do anything alone. He promises to lead, guide and help us every step of our life journey! It just takes the contribution of our Many Gifts and One Spirit to make a positive difference in the lives of all! Will you offer up your financial gifts, talents, time and service to support our Parish and its ministries as we enter this next year? With God's help, I will!

The Stewardship Committee

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
210 East 9th Street
Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74003
(Return Service Requested)
<http://www.episcopalbartlesville.org/>

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, Ass't. to the Rector/Chr. Ed. Coordinator (smitchell@episcopalbartlesville.org)
The Rev. Douglas Freebern, Deacon/Parish Administrator (dfreebern@episcopalbartlesville.org)
In an Emergency, call 918-397-3683, 1-405-850-3321 or 918-914-0525
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

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LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE 11/20/11 through 11/27/11

Acolytes
Sunday, Nov. 20, 2011
10:30 a.m.

Servers

Katie Todd
Max Mitchell

Crucifer

Max Mitchell
Torchbearers
Grace Mitchell
Ruth Todd

Sunday, Nov. 27, 2011
10:30 a.m.

Servers

Tom Wiseman
Anneke Borg

Crucifer

Anneke Borg
Torchbearers
Genevieve Miller
Mary Miller

Layreaders
Sunday, Nov. 20, 2011

8:00am

Grillot, Birk

10:30am

Johnson, L. Green
L. Watkins, S. Williams
Sunday, Nov. 27, 2011

8:00am

S. Williams, Kedy

10:30am

Wesneski, Sparks

M. Watkins, Dreiling

Scripture Lessons for
Sunday, 11/20/11

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24;
Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

Music for 11/20/11

#436 – "Lift Up Your Heads,
Ye Mighty Gates"

#487 – "Come, My Way, My
Truth, My Life"

#488 – "Be Thou My Vision"

#312 – "Strengthen for
Service, Lord"

#494 – "Crown Him With Many
Crowns"

Plate Counters
Sunday, Nov. 20, 2011

Steve Clark

Sunday, Nov. 27, 2011

Grillot, Malone

Volunteers: Please make your
own substitutions.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have articles that you
would like printed in
The Steeple to the church office
no later than Tuesdays at
10am. 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, Nov. 20, 2011

8:00am

Sue Glass

10:30am

Maureen & Steve
Forsythe

Sunday, Nov. 27, 2011

8:00am

Sally Canfield

10:30am

D. J. & Jerry Nezam
Frank Karen Rukovena

Church Nursery
Volunteers

Nov. 20 – Natalie Conner

Nov. 27 – Cordy Liggett

Dec. 4 – Zella Simmons

*Volunteers: Please make your
own substitutions. To Volunteer,
or to be a sub, call Tammy
Baughman, 918-440-8088.*

Ushers

Sunday, Nov. 20, 2011
8:00 a.m.

Kemp, Zervas

10:30am

Bonner, Clark

Sunday, Nov. 27, 2011
8:00am

Babcock, Zervas

10:30am

Grillot, McCreary

Children's Chapel
Nov. 20 – Jerry Beal
Nov. 27 – Natalie Conner
Dec. 4 – Rosy Zuklic

ECW Bereavement
Committee
November

Laura Birk, Ada Grillot

December

Sue Glass,
Debbie Mueggenborg

Agape Mission
4th Thursday, 11/24/11

*Thanksgiving Day,
Mission closed*

2nd Thursday, 12/8/11
9am-11am

Cheri Doty, John McCollum
10:45am-1:00pm

Becky Liehr, Rita Childers
Marcia Zervas, Kathy Zervas,
Rusty Hoff

1:00-2:45pm

Sharon Schilling,
Melinda Droege