

This Month at Saint John's Church
June 2020 Newsletter
Saint John's Episcopal Church
4200 S. Atlanta Pl.
Tulsa, OK 74105-4331

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT # 54
TULSA, OK

THE EVANGELIST

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Need to Contact Us?

While our building is closed, our work goes on! If you need to reach our office staff or clergy, Please call us at (918) 742-7381 or email us at dcarter@sjtulsa.org. We would love to hear from you!

Stewardship Message

Thank you to our members who keep their monthly pledges current and for all the ways each of you supports our ministries. Giving online is fast and easy through the church website: www.sjtulsa.org.



Rowan Waller folded this origami Pentecost "prayer" crane that is similar to the paper birds Carlos Tuttle taught Saint John's Church children to fold. See the story on page 6 inside.



June 2020

News about Our Episcopal Church and Community

In this Issue

A Message from Fr. Sam	1 & 2
Words from the Wardens	3
Music	4
Staff News	5
Member and Scout News	6
Graduates and Milestones	7
Contact Us	8

A Message from Father Sam

Mary Waller shared a quote with me from author, Mark Crosby, from his book entitled, *So Everyone Can Hear*. He said, "Healthy things grow; growing things change." Such wisdom and such simple truth. Change is inevitable and it is through change we become the unique people and faith community God created us to be.

We are in the midst of deep and profound change at this time in our life. Just three short months ago we understood normal in a very different way than we understand it today. Just three short months ago we could come and go as we pleased. Our routines were safe, familiar and comforting. We worked hard to make a living. We played and socialized as we wished and we worshiped God in person. Life was good for most of us.

Then, a small virus that nobody had ever heard about took over. COVID-19 awakened in our world and began to attack our very life and the way we lived it. In very short order we were isolated socially and otherwise. People we know and love, and so many we have never met, became mortally ill. Our leaders were at odds on how to respond. Our scientists made their best guess to develop testing and find a cure and seemingly missed that mark. Our economy crashed and people were and still are hurting. Most importantly, millions were infected...some

didn't know it...some thought they were immune and so many died and are still dying.

Still in the midst of all of this we changed...we continue to change...we are adapting...we are growing. At Saint John's Church when the world turned upside down we didn't skip a beat. When the word came from the diocese that we would no longer be able to worship in person, we were ready. Without missing a Sunday, we closed our building and we offered digital church. Initially we used our personal iPhones and although our first attempts at "virtual worship" were rough, we persevered and we got better. Bill and Janice Chevaillier generously stepped in and donated the resources for us to rent professional grade audio-visual equipment. We grew!

Our staff took on new roles at Saint John's Church, without complaint, to make sure that we raised the bar of excellence in this place. In one short week, we went from four in-person services a week to more than a dozen digital services. (The clergy and staff are grateful to the lay folks who stepped up to make that possible.) We grew!

In response to our parishioners we added online education through Mother Susanne Methven+ and Joseph Arndt. Our incredible youth pastor, Joshua Corsaro, developed Family Fun on Fridays at Four, a creative scriptural learning and activities vlog for people of all ages. We grew!

(Continued on page 2)

(From page 1 – Fr. Sam)

Music at Midday resumed with Joseph Arndt and Adam Pajan leading the way. Diana Carter took the lead on daily e-blasts to make sure we were up-to-date on the latest news, and to make sure we remained connected as a community. We created daily vlogs to pass on insight and wisdom. Hospital visits were made through FaceTime. Our buildings and grounds crew, led by Doug Crews, made sure our plant is up to snuff. Our administrative staff, under Debra Ainley's leadership, kept doing all of the things that are necessary for operations to continue. We grew!

Established ministries continued, as well. Prayers and Squares ministry continued to make and distribute quilts to those who needed our prayers. The Brotherhood of St. Andrew has been meeting regularly. Our scouting program continues to impact the lives of all involved.

You should know that our Building and Grounds Committee, our stewardship leaders, our Finance Committee and our Vestry continued their work, using Zoom, so we could move forward. They are a dedicated and highly competent group of leaders and because of their commitment, we grew!

Through all of it, we grew and are growing! Our worship community has expanded and we are reaching more people than ever before. We are healthy, we are moving forward and a "new normal" is rising with us.

My friends, healthy growth also translates to positive momentum,

and a critical component of positive forward momentum is strong communication. You said that in the Holy Cow survey, and we heard you. It is an ancient truth that Paul wrote about in his letter to the people of Corinth. He said, "But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also." **2 Corinthians 8:7**

The vestry and I believe that we must continue positive and powerful forward momentum, and so we have created a new staff position in the office: Director of Communications.

In early May I extended an invitation to Mary Waller, a long-time parishioner, to join our staff and to lead our communication effort at Saint John's Church. I am delighted that Mary began work as Director of Communications on May 15, joining our leadership team as strategic communications navigator. I applaud the vestry for their prayerful consideration and support in creating this integral post. In the days ahead Mary will share more about her background and experience. As you get to know her I am sure you will find her enthusiasm for our church as contagious as I do. Welcome aboard Mary! I am glad that God has called you to ministry in our midst.

This moment in time, in my view, presents us with an incredible opportunity to serve our existing members and expand our ministry through conventional and innovative ways.

In Matthew 28:19, Jesus calls all of us to "Go into the world and

proclaim the gospel to the whole of creation." In light of the uncertainty of our time, the loss of life and the very real financial hardship COVID-19 has visited on our world, caring for one another and loving our neighbor (and neighborhood) is more vital than ever.

"**Growing**" forward, we must not only nurture the wholeness of our parishioners, we must heed the call to cultivate compassion, communication and Christ-centered caring with all of God's people. Change has come...and we are growing!

On a personal note, I extend my heartfelt thanks for all the well-wishes as I progress in recovering from lumbar disc surgery. In my case, I am growing in humility as Linda cares for me with good humor and loving gentleness, growing in appreciation for the incredible staff who keep the office humming smoothly every day, growing in gratitude for the countless volunteer hours that Carteena gives to Saint John's Church to keep me on track, and growing in anticipation of seeing all of you again in person as soon as it is safe and practical to do so.

I remain your servant in Christ,
Fr. Sam+



The Rev. Samuel Colley-Toothaker



High School Graduates

Nathan Cinocca is a graduate from Jenks High School. He has the honor of being one of the Jenks High School class of 2020 Valedictorians. Nathan is also a Jenks Distinguished Graduate as well as a Jenks Distinguished Service Graduate.

While in high school, Nathan was a member of the Jenks baseball team for three years. He also was a member of National Honor Society, Chinese Club and Drug Free Youth.

Before the pandemic, Nathan worked part time at a Kumon Math and Reading Center. He has served as an acolyte at Saint John's Episcopal Church since 2016. In the fall, Nathan plans to attend Texas A&M to major in engineering.

Olivia Davies is a graduate from Booker T. Washington High School.

Olivia was baptized and confirmed at Saint John's Church, and was a part of the mission trip to Puerto Rico. Olivia is a member of the National Honor Society and participated in the Spanish Club, Pom and Yearbook.

Olivia plans to attend the University of Oklahoma this fall

and is interested in Computer Science.

Adam Davies is a graduate from Booker T. Washington High School (BTW). Adam was baptized and confirmed at Saint John's Church and attended the Puerto Rico mission trip last year.

Adam is a member of National Honor Society, and played in the BTW Jazz Band, as well as being a member of the Green Country Jazz Ensemble.

Last year Adam was part of a student exchange program with Tulsa's sister city, Utsunomiya, Japan.

Until the pandemic, Adam interned at Freese Architecture after school. Adam plans to attend the University of Arkansas this fall and major in Architecture.

College Graduate

Alex Abney was baptized and confirmed at Saint John's Church. She was an acolyte, attended church mission trips, was part of the Youth Choir and was active in the Youth Group. She also assisted in feeding the homeless every month and the distribution of holiday meals. Alex graduated from the University of Arkansas with a bachelor's degree in Communications. She was a member of the Pi Beta Phi Sorority and was very active with Student Government as well as numerous clubs on campus.

She was one of 200 students nationwide selected for an Internship at the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes France in 2019. Her goal is to attend the University of Tulsa Law School.

Milestones

June Birthdays

- 2 Blake Randall
- 3 Michael Murphy
- 4 Justin Boyd, Stephanie Coon, Connolly Rizley
- 6 Betsy Hocker, Richard Medlock
- 7 Ann Byrd, Ann Wilson
- 8 Bill Ford, Gene Schmidt
- 9 Reagan Osburn
- 10 Mary Ann Jarrett, Linda Sackett
- 11 Olivia Haines
- 12 Jim Maske
- 13 Robert Byrd
- 14 Erin Dean
- 16 Pat Carroll
- 17 Clint Johnson
- 18 Quin Lawrence, Jimmy Matheson
- 19 Jay Cline, Kit Ferguson, Devan Lawrence, Kay Timmons
- 20 Daniel Husband, Nick Wilson
- 21 Bill Walker
- 22 Margaret Beesley
- 23 Kay Meyerhof, Allie Mundis
- 24 Michael Farrimond, Charlie Russell
- 25 Vicki Baker, Deborah Kurin, Nellie Gillingham, Mike Morrison
- 26 Danny Gates, Katherine Trantum
- 27 Ellen Frihart

Birth

- April 23 Otis Shane Gilley-Houston

Deaths

- June 2 Ben Belee
- June 3 Kathy Magrini



The Cranes and Colors of Pentecost

The Christian Feast of Pentecost, which is celebrated the 49th day after Easter Sunday (on May 31 this year), commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles. **Acts 2:1-31.**

The main sign of Pentecost in the West is the color red that symbolizes joy and the fire of the Holy Spirit. Priests may wear red vestments, and in modern times, the custom has extended to the lay people of the congregation wearing red clothing in celebration as well.



Mary Waller rocked a red jacket at home last week for Pentecost Sunday.

Another symbol often associated with Pentecost are paper cranes, which are sometimes folded by lay people and imbued with prayers for peace. For many years here at Saint John's Church, our long-time parishioner, Carlos Tuttle, taught the folding of paper cranes to children in Sunday school. Carlos says he does not recall the name of the high school

history student who first taught him the origami method to create the cranes back in 1962, but he did love sharing the lesson "forward."

When asked why, he said, "When you have a talent, share it!" Carlos, now age 87, was a history teacher at Will Rogers High School and Holland Hall. "For a long time I would also fold the cranes and include them in mailed stationery and all sorts of other things," Carlos told Mary Waller on the phone the evening of Pentecost Sunday.

Carlos mailed countless positive spiritual messages to members of the church over the years, so Mary asked him what words of wisdom he would share during this difficult time of the pandemic and civic unrest. Carlos understands social distancing from a very personal perspective because he has been house-bound for five years. He also stays on top of current events in the news, including the past week of protests around our country. "My advice? That's simple," he said. "Follow the Great Commandment. Love God and love your neighbor."

"To me, you need to learn to love yourself first. From that you can truly love your neighbor. And when you can do both, you are able to fully love God."

- Carlos Tuttle

Scout Troop 153



Although many plans have changed for everyone due to COVID-19, the Scouts are adjusting to find ways to continue with activities and rank advancements during this unusual time.

Summer Camp will be an Alternative Summer Camp, which will be determined later and will happen in the latter part of July/early August.

Our June campout is still on, and we will be going to Black Mesa on an Archaeology Dig June 12-14. This may be the last summer for this opportunity as the researchers are trying to complete the dig this summer.

We are experimenting with completing merit badges virtually instead of in person. The instructor meets with the scout in a Zoom call, and the scout performs the duties of the merit badge at home. That way the progress toward their Eagle rank can continue.

Stay safe and healthy, everyone!

A Message from Senior Warden, Jim Hicks



This past Sunday was both Pentecost Sunday and the 99th Anniversary of the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921. In addition, massive demonstrations broke out across the nation to protest the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Father Boyd's sermon on Sunday tied the two events together and urged us to speak with one voice.

As Christians we are called upon to engage with those drawing attention to injustice, wherever it is found. We are also coping with the continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and are cautiously planning for the eventual reopening of Saint John's Episcopal Church. Although the diocese is allowing individual churches to reopen as soon as June 14, the vestry is looking at all options and the reopening will likely be down the road.

Finally, I am very grateful to all the parishioners who have continued their financial support of the church. Because of your generosity, we are in fine shape financially and moving forward. May God's blessings be on each and every one of you.

A Message from Junior Warden, Doug Crews

As most of you have seen by now, the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma has issued guidelines for the re-opening of the Episcopal churches across the state beginning June 14.

These guidelines stress that each individual church shall be able to make their own decisions as to when they are ready to safely bring their community back for in-person worship.

At Saint John's Church, your clergy and leadership feel that we are not quite ready to open on June 14 as many of the smaller churches may. That being said, our church wants you back! We are busy re-working and planning our own set of guidelines, as well as gathering personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning products and procedures.

All this is being done for the promotion of the health and safety of all our parishioners and visitors. Look for a questionnaire coming out soon about your concerns; for your personal safety and when you plan to return to church. We want to hear from you.

Saint John's Church will continue to live stream our services even after in-person worship resumes. The positive responses that have been received have prompted us to reach out and get bids for a more permanent audio/visual system that will greatly enhance the quality and content of what you have been able to watch currently.

Included in this will be an updated hearing-assist system for our in-house worshippers.

The plan is to have all this in place sometime by mid-summer. Pretty exciting and a little daunting as the church moves further into the technological world.

One of the big projects that was put on hold, because of the COVID-19 crisis, was the repair of the tower bells and the installation of a new carillon system.

The Verdin Bell Company of Ohio has been closed all spring, and is just now beginning to bring their workforce back. Almost three months of no progress has placed everything behind schedule. We hope the new system will be up and ringing by mid-August. As stated earlier, your church misses you and wants you back home, but only in a safe and healthy manner—not only for you, but also for your fellow parishioners.

Be prayerful, be healthy and safe, be vigilant and patient, and continue to watch the church's live streaming.



Music at Saint John's Church

Dear parishioners and friends,
The music department of Saint John's Episcopal Church has been working to offer consistent online Evensong services and recitals since we closed to the public in mid-March. Our offerings are watched by people all over the United States and in other parts of the world. The number of views continues to increase. Our last Music at Midday of the spring on May 24 has reached almost 1,000 views.
Evensong will continue on Sundays at 5:30 p.m. and I am pleased to share that we will offer a summer Music at Midday series. These will include at least four Wednesday recitals and a special recital on July 4. You can find a current schedule here (at right). Other events will be added and I hope you will watch for more information.

This has been a challenging time for all of us, yet I think it has been an opportunity to serve God and reach out to each other in new and profound ways. I am honestly very excited about the future of our congregation. Since we have held firm and stable during the COVID-19 epidemic, I believe we will reach new heights when our campus is fully open again.

Lastly, this month is an important milestone for me, as now I have been here for five years as your music director. I am so grateful to this community for supporting music so generously. I look forward to serving five more years and hopefully many more.

Regards, Joseph Arndt

Music at Midday

Music at Midday with Joseph Arndt and Adam Pajan
Streamed Recitals at 12 Noon

Dates and Repertoire for Summer 2020

Wednesday, June 17 - Joseph Arndt performs music of Langlais, Bridge, and Franck

Wednesday, June 24 - Adam Pajan and soprano Meray Boustani perform music of Rheinberger

Wednesday, July 1 - Joseph Arndt (Repertoire TBD)

Saturday, July 4 - Adam Pajan and Joseph Arndt perform patriotic music for Independence Day

Wednesday, July 8 - Adam Pajan (Repertoire TBD)



Adam Pajan (left), Artist in Residence and Joseph Arndt, Music Director



Don't Disappear!

An Update on Our New Database

We are in the final stages of gathering information for our new database. If you have talked to one of our volunteers, thank you! We have your information.

If we were unable to reach you by phone, a letter with a family/personal information form was mailed in mid-April and included a metered postage paid envelope.

Please search your mail. This is a gentle reminder to return your form. If you don't have your copy any longer, call the church office at (918) 742-7381 to request a new form from Carteena.

We want to include you in our new database and we need your permission in writing. We want to communicate and share our news with you. When we transition to our new database, we will be sending mail and email only to those who have given us permission.

Be a saint and help our staff and volunteer team complete this big job.



Hello everyone! I am Mary Waller the new church Director of Communications and so excited to be a part of growing awareness of the amazing ministries led by the members, clergy and staff of this great community!

This month I have three communication topics on my mind. First, please read the twice-weekly emails coming to you about classes, music offerings, worship services, campus improvements and community news. This is your No.1 place for current information and fun updates. In the weeks ahead it will also become a vital channel for us to inform you about details surrounding the re-opening of the church.

Second, I'm wondering if you or your family has experienced any memorable, moving or uniquely positive moments that arose during our time apart. If so, would you like to share with our Saint John's Church family? Please feel free to email your story to me via mwaller@sjtulsa.org. I may just follow up with you in the weeks ahead to ask if your experience or adventure is one we can share with others.

And third, I want to ask you to be thinking about pebbles. A wise woman reminded me this week that every word we write or phrase we turn in this big, beautiful world causes a ripple.

Words have an impact, intended or not. You and I have the capacity to be generators of tremendous good and encouragement with a kind word or well thought through note. We also have the ability to put out negativity, and even harm. That is truly a humble and powerful responsibility. I plan to be thinking about this often during the month of June. I invite you to join me. I'll be looking for the good pebbles to toss in the water, and attuned to the pattern they amplify across the water.

Getting to Know Us

In a new column for the parish newsletter, we are sharing question-and-answer-style interviews with members of our church staff and lay leadership. Getting to know one another better is a big part of becoming a stronger community.

This month Mary Waller chatted with Josh Corsaro, Associate for Youth and Family Ministries at Saint John's Church. We are also sharing two candid photos of Josh, one with what he calls his "Darth Vader mask" and the other with the smile your kids and you have grown to recognize.

Q: Where did you attend college and what is your undergraduate degree in?

A: I went to Oral Roberts University (go Eagles!) and got my bachelor's degree in Ministry and Leadership: Evangelism and

Outreach, with a minor in English Bible.

Q: What are some things you are involved with outside of Saint John's Church?

A: At ORU, I am also a Teaching Assistant. What this means is that I help a professor in teaching classes, grading papers, performing administration work, etc. I also am pursuing my Master of Divinity degree.

Q: Where were you born and where have you lived in addition to Tulsa?

A: I was born in Tacoma, Washington, but I have lived in Colorado Springs, South Korea and even Alabama.

Q: Tell us about your family.

A: I live by myself in Tulsa, and I have a brother, a mother and a father in Colorado.

Q: Do you have a favorite place to visit?

A: I like to visit the mountains, especially during the winter so I can ski!

Q: Is there anything unique about you that parishioners might be surprised to learn?

A: In high school, I was a competitive swimmer and even made it to a state championship. I wish I could say I won, but not so. Instead, we just had a great time.

