



Saint John's Episcopal Church

November 2020

A Newsletter about Our
Community and Ministries

In this Issue

The Rector's Message	1
Gratitude for Father Sam	2
Rector Search Update	2
Senior Warden's Report	3
Junior Warden's Report	3
Worship Announcement	4
Thanksgiving Outreach	4
Music News	4
Las Posadas	5
Advent Retreat	5
Parishioner News	5
Communications	6
Parishioner Gratitude	7
Youth and Families	8
Lay Ministers	8
Staff Spotlight	9
Daughters of the King	9
Vestry Spotlight	10
Brotherhood Event	10
Milestones	11
Scouts	11
Phone Ministry	11
Treasurer's Report	Insert
Stewardship	Insert

A Message from the Rector

Dear friends in Christ, many of you know by now that I notified our Senior Warden two weeks ago of my decision to withdraw my name from consideration to become the next Rector of Saint John's Church. I have accepted a call to serve as the Dean at Saint James Cathedral in the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin in central California. My last day here will be at the end of November.

I want you to know that my time with you has been incredible and I cherish it. Saint John's Church is a wonderful community of faithful people who are ready to move into future ministry with energy, focus and joy.

As we have journeyed together over these past nineteen months, I must say I did question whether God was calling me to lead you into that future ministry. In all honesty, I also questioned whether my gifts and talents might be better utilized by continuing in interim ministry, in communities that are in transition, much like you are now.

When I have questions about where God might be leading me, my custom is to enter into an unrushed period of discernment. My process of discernment involves much silence and deep listening to what God might be saying. Discernment involves talking, first of all with Linda and then with my mentors, colleagues and friends. Seeking out their wisdom and counsel always gives me clarity.

Finally, for me, discernment involves listening to that voice inside that gives me internal peace... "the peace that passes understanding." I trust that "still small voice." It has never failed me.

My experience has taught me that authentic discernment of God's call risks that the answer to one's question might be unexpected. Still, I have learned to listen to God. This time what I heard was that I am not called to be the Rector of Saint John's Church.

As you move forward, your focus must be to continue engaging in the search process openly and to listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to you about who your next Rector will be. Be confident that in their wisdom Bishop Poulson and Canon Eric have provided a pool of very well-qualified candidates. I know that they will continue to walk with you through the remainder of the search process. Always trust God and I have no doubt that God will send you the priest who is intended to be your Rector.

I am working at this moment to conclude a few of my responsibilities as your "transition" leader. This includes many meetings, being a cheerleader for the final two weeks of the church's All In pledge campaign, and passing the pastoral baton to Susanne+. I will work diligently to ensure the Wardens, directors and staff have as smooth a path forward as I can leave you with. Thank you to everyone who worked together in volunteer service, servant leadership, lay ministries or on the staff to move Saint John's forward during my time with you.

Now, as Linda and I prepare to transition out of Saint John's know that we are grateful for each of you and that we are thankful for our time here.

May God bless you with all peace and joy. You will ever be in our hearts and prayers.

Fr. Sam+

4200 S. ATLANTA PL.
TULSA, OK 74105-4331
918-742-7381
WWW.SJTULSA.ORG
FACEBOOK @SJTULSA
INSTAGRAM @SJTULSA
TWITTER @SJTULSA

Gratitude for Father Sam *by Jim Hicks*

On Saturday, October 17, Father Sam informed me that he was withdrawing his name from consideration to become the next rector of Saint John's Church. Father Sam has accepted a call to serve as Dean of Saint James Cathedral in the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquín, in Fresno, California. Father Sam's last day here will be November 30. Following a meeting with Canon Eric Cooter of the Diocese of Oklahoma, we coordinated the announcement of Father Sam's departure to the general parish on October 23. On Monday, October 26, the Vestry met to discuss Father Sam's impending departure and the continued operations of the parish.



According to the Canons of the Diocese of Oklahoma, the Senior Warden becomes the ecclesiastical authority of the parish upon the departure of the priest-in-charge or rector. The Vestry, with the approval of Bishop Paulson, has voted to have Reverend Susanne Methven continue providing worship and pastoral care to the congregation until a new rector is elected.

Father Sam has been a tremendous asset to Saint John's during our transition process. As our interim rector and later as priest-in-charge, he has brought stability and renewed organization to the administrative staff. He has ushered in an extremely complex narrative budgeting process to more accurately reflect the finances of the parish. He has guided the congregation through the pandemic-related closure of indoor worship and the creation of the outstanding video

streaming of online worship services. As I told him during a recent meeting, he can be very proud of all these accomplishments. He is definitely leaving Saint John's in a much better position than when he arrived.

A reception honoring Father Sam's tenure at Saint John's will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday, November 29 on the labyrinth in the courtyard outside the Common Room. Heaters and social distancing will be provided and it will be a wonderful time to say farewell to Father Sam and Linda. This would be the perfect time for cards, gifts or remembrances. As always, feel free to contact me with any comments, questions or concerns about this process or the future of Saint John's Church in general. My email is jhicks@barrowgrimm.com. Each and every person's input is valuable and important. Peace be with you.

Rector Search Update

The Search Committee continues its work this month via weekly Zoom meetings. Of the original eleven candidates, the committee is conducting personal interviews of six individuals. Chairperson Jeff Baum and Senior Warden Jim Hicks also meet weekly with Canon Eric Cooter to discuss progress. The Committee hopes to present the Vestry with final recommendations in early- to mid-November. The Vestry will then schedule candidates to visit Tulsa and complete personal evaluations. Our Senior Warden notes there is optimism that the new rector will be called by the end of the year and extends his thanks for the discernment and input of all parishioners in the search for the perfect next rector for Saint John's Church.

Get a Clue, Fight the Flu!

The staff of the church office and our own parishioner, Dr. Jim Dean, want to remind you that getting a flu shot now is highly advisable! Being vaccinated for the flu is a good strategy to protect yourself and the people you love from the complications that can arise from catching the flu. And it is all the more important during this pandemic. For a few places you can receive a flu shot, call or check out: a) your primary care physician's office, b) pharmacies, like Walgreens, usually have the shot available and insurance often makes this free or at a low co-pay, or c) visit the Tulsa County Health Department website for a shot appointment at tulsa-health.org/flu.



Senior Warden Report *by Jim Hicks*

Wednesday, November 11, is Veterans Day. Each year I watch from my office windows as the annual Tulsa Veterans Day parade winds south on Boulder Avenue and turns east onto Seventh Street. I take in the seemingly endless line of jeeps, military vehicles, fire trucks, cars, marching bands, floats and of course, the Tulsa Highlanders marching in formation and playing bagpipes!

Since the 1950 founding of Saint John's Church, on a former cotton field, many parishioners and family members have served in the military. Many of those who played a key role in the establishment and construction of our magnificent church were veterans recently returned from World War II.

One of the most significant events of WWII was D-Day, the 1944 invasion of German-occupied France by Allied forces. Code-named "Operation Overlord," the troop landings on the coast of Normandy marked the start of a campaign which led to the eventual Allied victory. Five beaches were utilized in Operation Overlord. From east to west they were: Sword (landing site of the United Kingdom forces), Juno (Canada), Gold (also United Kingdom), Omaha (United States) and Utah (also U.S.). Omaha Beach included the primary villages of Colleville-sur-Mer, St. Laurent-sur-Mer and Vierville-sur-Mer. The term "sur-mer" in English means "on the beach."

In a serene and peaceful setting on a hill overlooking Omaha Beach, there are 9,386 white crosses or Stars of David in the Normandy American Cemetery. A memorial including a twenty-two-foot bronze statue pays tribute to the soldiers at the site where American forces finally broke through the German defenses. I am told that the memorial is inspirational in its simplicity and the chimes of a carillon are hauntingly beautiful when its somber tones peal in the distance. Pointe Du Hoc Ranger Memorial is located roughly halfway between Omaha Beach and Utah Beach, the most westerly of the landing beaches, where two hundred and twenty-two Army Rangers scaled the vertical wall of a one hundred-foot cliff rising above the English Channel, under withering hails of German machine gun fire. There are no beaches to speak of, but looking down from the heights of the cliffs to the small strip of sand below makes one marvel at how the rangers scaled the sheer rock cliff.

Every year we have set aside time to publicly say "thank you" to our brothers and sisters who have served in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Navy and Marines. Here at Saint John's, we collectively say "Thank You!" to all who served, whatever their role, wherever their service took them.

We give our thanks to those who remember their service with fondness, and to those whose time in service still haunts them. We say thank you to those who returned to

us largely intact, who found jobs, started families, and who continue to find ways to serve their communities. And we say thank you to veterans who returned with brokenness so deep that they continue to struggle to find a role or even a home in our communities.

If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life for a veteran is "Thank You," it will be enough.



Junior Warden Report *by Doug Crews*

As you read this, you should be enjoying the enhanced audio and video streaming that the church has been putting in place during the late summer and fall. With the new cameras, lighting and sound system we now have the capability to record and stream our services to you on different digital platforms. It has been a long road to get where we are and we are still learning, but I hope everyone will enjoy.

Along with the audio/visual, the church bells are finally ringing once again. We are still working on all of the programming, but they are tolling on the hour on Sundays and we have been manually playing some songs through the carillon system.

While the church has been unoccupied, we have taken the opportunity to replace the heating and air conditioning units for Powell Hall. Amazingly, these units have been supplying us comfort for over forty-seven years. The job was bid out to several suppliers and Shoemaker Mechanical was awarded the contract. Ironically, we are pretty sure Forrest Shoemaker Companies put in this system in the early 1970s.

This November 2020 marks the seventieth year since our founding. Although the novel coronavirus has prevented us from planning anything special for the occasion, it is a good time for us to take a moment and reflect on where we have been, how we are now, and what we want Saint John's Church to look like in the future. Our seventy-fifth anniversary is coming soon.



We are delighted that outside, in-person services for our church began in mid-October on the labyrinth, with limited capacity as well as safety and social distancing protocols. This spoken-word Holy Eucharist service begins at 8:30 a.m. If you would like to attend, you will need to make a reservation in advance. Although all are invited and welcome, reservations are limited to 30 people. We do ask that you arrive a little early, bring and wear a mask and follow the instructions of the ushers.

To make a reservation to attend, look for the invitation email from the church office. It contains a link for making an RSVP and will direct you to more information you may want to know about attending services during these unusual times. Those who cannot make reservations via email may call Diana in the church office (918) 742-7381 for assistance.

We continue to offer the online 10 a.m. Sunday Holy Eucharist service live on Facebook. We will also continue to offer 5:30 p.m. Evensong and our daily Morning and Evening Prayer services live via Facebook at their usual times.

Sharing Our Blessings

This year for the Thanksgiving outreach project, Saint John's Church will be purchasing shelf-stable grocery items and delivering them to Espiritu Santo Episcopal Mission in east Tulsa.

The vicar of Espiritu Santo, Father Alberto Moreno, shared the following about his parish and volunteers: "The focus of our mission's work is to evangelize and provide discipleship in the formation of a committed community serving the Latino people in need in Tulsa."

At our request, Father Moreno shared a list of the types of sundries and groceries most helpful to the families in his community. Many households in the vicinity of his mission are experiencing food insecurity, especially during the pandemic. Around the third week of November and December, our office will arrange to order and deliver the groceries (with COVID-19 safety protocols) to Espiritu Santo's food pantry.

"Thank you for your love and solidarity to our people and our mission," said Father Moreno. He explained that thanks to our gift, the resourceful mothers in his community will be able to prepare more than 250 healthy meals for families of four.



Exciting Music News

Save the date: Joseph Arndt has a very special live Zoom conversation planned with one of today's most distinguished living composers, Nico Muhly!

On Monday, December 7 at 2 p.m., Joseph will host **"A Conversation with Nico Muhly."** Muhly's opera, *Two Boys*, was premiered at the English National Opera and its Metropolitan Opera premiere occurred in 2013. Register for this talk by contacting Diana Carter at dcarter@sjtulsa.org. Then, join Joseph as he performs Muhly's O Antiphon Preludes for organ on Sunday, December 20 at 5 p.m., before Choral Evensong.

Starting on November 11, join Joseph for a live Zoom offering just perfect for perking up winter evenings. Titled, **"Awaiting the Savior: Theology, Scripture and Music of the Advent Season,"** the four-part class will be held on Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. and continue on these dates: Nov. 18, Dec. 2 and Dec. 9. Joseph will lead us through an exploration of the scripture, hymns and choral music heard in our worship during Advent. Highlights include the O Antiphons as well as the framework of the Advent and Christmas Lessons and Carols services offered by the choir in December. To register, contact Diana Carter.



Las Posadas, Spanish for “the inns,” is a religious festival celebrated in Mexico and parts of the United States, honoring the journey that Joseph and Mary made from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of a safe refuge for the birth of baby Jesus. This new activity for our church starts with the question: “Would you open your door and invite these people in?” If you’d like to say “yes,” sign up for a day between November 29 and December 24. Welcome Mary and Joseph for the night.

Each day during Advent, this “couple” will travel and shelter with our parishioners. Then, individuals or families will share their reflections with our community about having Mary and Joseph visit on their virtual trip to Bethlehem. To sign up for a date, contact Tammie Kolker at tkolker1966@gmail.com or (918) 636-5945. When you sign up, you will receive instructions on how to post your experiences (a video, photo or written post) on our Saint John’s Community Facebook page. And,

you will help deliver Mary and Joseph the following day to a new congregation member. This is a great opportunity for parishioners of all ages to have some fun with Mary and Joseph, to focus on the reason for the season, and to get to know other people (appropriately socially distanced) during Advent. Please be sure you: 1) are a church Community Facebook page follower, or have a close friend or family member who can post for you, and 2) can drive, walk or bike the couple to their next destination.

Save the Date: Advent Virtual Retreat

Susanne Methven+ will facilitate a wonderful half-day retreat on Saturday, December 12. Titled, “**In You, Lord, is Our Hope**,” participants will spend the time together virtually, focusing minds on the life and ministry of Christ, and exploring the practice of hope. The online event will be held from 9 a.m. to noon. You can register by calling (918) 742-7381. Watch for further news about this Advent retreat in the church e-news editions.

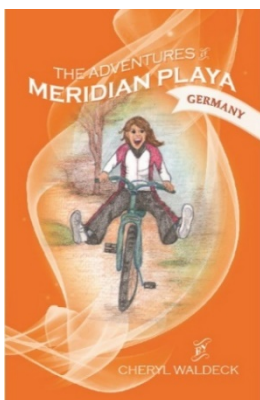


For the Love of Family and Adventure

Saint John’s Church member Cheryl Waldeck has recently published a series of children’s books and we’re pleased to share the news just in time for holiday gifting ideas for the little people in your lives. Imagination, with a bit of inspiration from her granddaughter, are the forces behind Cheryl’s writing: *The Adventures of Meridian Playa*, a series about “a wee but brave little lass who trusts in the mighty wind and travels through time.”

Cheryl has also written two additional books, *The Joy of Food* and *Occasions*, featuring recipes and ideas for parties. Cooking is a creative outlet for the author who also loves to explore new places. Longing to see the world she had spent years dreaming about, her journeys across the globe began after her two sons grew up. *The Adventures of Meridian Playa* parallels her trips taken, sites seen, foods sampled and cultures observed.

Cheryl’s first love is her family. She lives in Tulsa with her husband, Todd, and a Cavalier King Charles canine, Buddy.



Her only grandchild, Coco, lives 700 miles away. Because of their limited time together, Cheryl wanted her young granddaughter to have a way to know her better. The stories became a way for Coco to share some experiences, memories and lessons learned. Cheryl is delighted to share these stories with other young readers.

The main character of the series visits France in 1889, Italy in 1921 and Germany in 1989, along with five other countries through the decades. Cheryl says *The Adventures of Meridian Playa* series is perfect for young readers who are just starting to read chapter books, or who like to read with a grown up. It is also great for more experienced readers with the heart of an explorer. The series is available for purchase on Amazon. If you would like to buy a signed copy, reach out to Cheryl directly at cherylwaldeck.com.



COMMUNICATION CORNER

In this month's column you'll find a few "bite-sized" notes and news items in this that will help keep you caught up on the "goings-on" around the church.

E-News News – The communication staff of the church is keeping "full plates" of notables coming your way through e-mail boxes three times a week for the remainder of 2020. We'll continue to distribute on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Tuesdays we will focus content to lift the spirits during the fall days of chillier temperatures and darker evenings. Friday e-news editions will be chock-full of news and events. And, on the weekend the office sends out the Sunday News: the issue that contains your 8:30 and 10 a.m. worship bulletins as well as other time-sensitive announcements.

Weather Notices – We are entering the season of less friendly weather, so please note that if driving conditions or other adverse forecasts are on the imminent horizon for a weekday, the rector may make the determination to close the church office. This closure may be simply a "late start/early dismissal" plan or a whole day. In those situations, please note that services, meetings or events scheduled in the building will be cancelled. Keep an eye on your e-news and Facebook for last-minute inclement weather changes to operating hours. The answering service answers and routes calls if the staff is out.

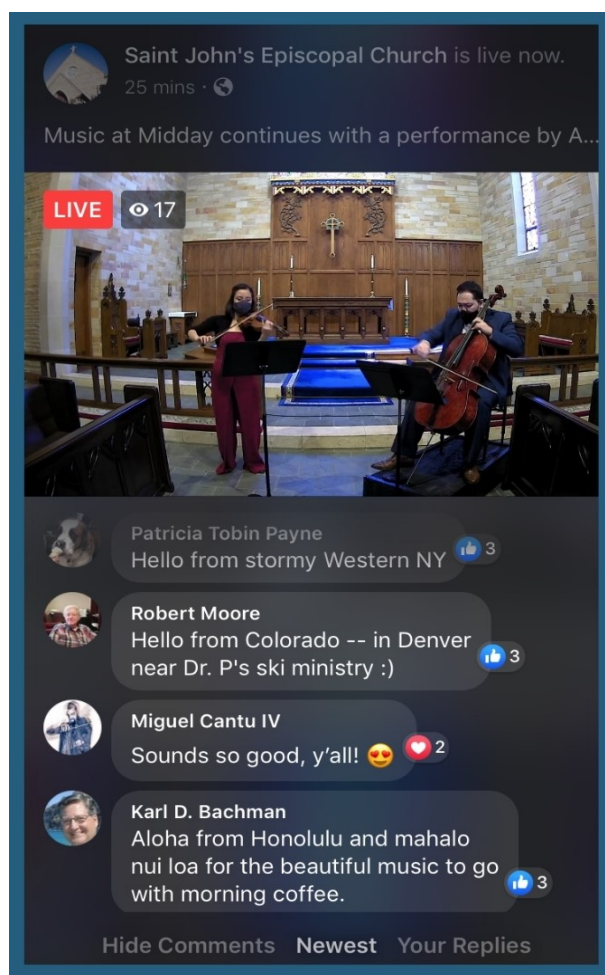
In related news, Father Sam has determined that due to certain weather conditions (very cold or windy or both), the 8:30 a.m. Sunday worship service may be moved into the building. This will be decided on a Sunday-by-Sunday basis.

Social Media – Our church's social media following on all platforms continues to grow as old and new friends participate in concerts, worship, prayer times and more. During one of the October Music at Midday performances (a guest duet planned by Joseph), we had music lovers in the virtual pews from the states of Colorado, Hawaii, New York and more! (See screenshot to the right.) Please continue to "share" online invitations to the wide variety of musical, spiritual and educational offerings of Saint John's Church with your social media friends. Everyone can be a digital evangelist!

Attuned to Attendance – Even though we are not in church every Sunday, the church office is still tracking attendance. These figures become a part of the diocese Parochial Reports. This is not only in the form of the number of people who come in person for the 8:30 a.m. spoken-word Sunday worship (new in October), but also by tracking our online service participation. So, a Sunday's total attendance would be the combination of 8:30 a.m. attendance, 10 a.m. viewership and Evensong 5:30 p.m. viewership.

A reminder: the Facebook "attendees" are those who watch worship via streaming on our official church FB page, and the number represents all those who viewed the services (regardless if they were able to stay with us until the end of the streamed service). The number for FB views may also "grow" over time, as some people share a service or watch the mass at a later date. Recent church Sunday-only participation statistics are:

- ✧ **October 4 = 735 (30/158/547)**
- ✧ **October 11 = 413 (29/131/253)**
- ✧ **October 18 = 806 (28/401/377)**
- ✧ **October 25 = 530 (0/194/336)**
- ✧ **November 1 = 668 (16/373/279).**



Welcoming Others Home



Dwayne and Beverly Edwards first attended St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in Tulsa. Beverly started coming to Saint John's Church Wednesday nights in 1997 for services and our shared meals. She explained feeling then what so many parishioners have said about our church community: a sense of family. Dwayne joined six months later.

They went on to become very involved in the life of our parish. Dwayne is a member of the Brotherhood and currently serves as an usher. Both have been Sunday school teachers. Beverly helped with the Prayers and Squares ministry and was a member of the Daughters of the King.

Beverly shared recently with Betsy Hocker that one of her treasured memories of activities at Saint John's involves a breakfast she planned for the choir between services. She asked Michael Bedford if she could fix a "Jewish" breakfast. She fixed a huge salmon, prepared a fruit platter, cheese, bread, and lots and lots of hardboiled eggs. By the look on the faces of the choir and the empty plates, the meal was a huge success.

One of the things Dwayne and Beverly enjoy is greeting newcomers they see before and after worship. The couple wants to ensure everyone feels welcome at Saint John's Church. They fondly remember how they felt when Lori Van Allen and Roseanne Pasco took them under their wings at a time they were new to this community. Another way they care for their church family is by taking an active role in checking in on older members of the church, and sometimes dropping off meals to those needing a little extra help.

When Beverly was asked what most surprised her about working in a ministry here at Saint John's Church, she shared that she is always happily surprised to see how a chance encounter can result in someone coming to the church. Beverly met Susan Sy at Hancock's Fabric at the Farm Shopping Center one day and the two bonded over an interest in quilting. One thing led to another and the Sys joined the Church!

The Edwards are grateful to all those who came before them and helped build and improve our beautiful church. They specifically expressed gratitude for all the individuals who helped fund the new organ, who designed and sewed the needlepoint kneelers, and who helped cover the cost of the replacement slate tiles. And don't forget, they added, Millie Millspaugh and Rita Bell for the lovely stained glass window additions!

Growing Up with the Church

Mary Deisenroth's roots run deep in Saint John's Church. She was baptized at Grace Church in Ponca City, and in 1956 became part of the church family at a recently established Episcopal parish in "south" Tulsa, when her parents moved here.

Since she was about three years old Mary has been a part of the Saint John's family, and she says she has so many wonderful memories of the church. One of her few points of consternation, however, was always feeling upset that girls couldn't be acolytes when she was growing up. Mary recalls that the church had something called the Delta Guild and she still has the little charm she was given for participating. She guesses that the guild may have been created to help the girls not feel so left out in not being able to serve as an acolyte. During those early years she was a part of the children's choir.

One of Mary's favorite services today at Saint John's Church is Easter Sunday. It is particularly important to her as it marks the conclusion of Lent, and that translates into a rebirth for her spiritually and physically.

Some of her favorite places around the church are the sanctuary and the Resurrection Garden. And as for scripture she finds truly conforming, Mary says that the passages from the *Book of Common Prayer* shared during funerals are particularly meaningful.

Mary gives of her time at this parish because of the remembrances she holds of her parents

doing the same thing. She has served on our vestry twice and currently loves sharing time serving with her friends on the Altar Guild. When asked what three words she would use to express her feelings about Saint John's, Mary said they are: home, peace and renewal. This church has always been her second home.



Youth and Families *by Josh Corsaro*

While our building continues to be closed for in-person worship, did you notice that we have begun outside worship? It's true! And, all youth and families are welcome. To join us, you will need to make a reservation, arrive a little earlier than normal, bring your masks, and follow some simple rules. And, dress for the cooler mornings, because this service starts at 8:30 a.m. We would love to see you!

I hope this message finds you safe and well and perhaps also considering or participating in some of our fun fall family activities online: Family Fridays, Postcards of Praise, and – drumroll please – preparations for the Christmas tableau!

We will not hold a Zoom session for Teen Talk or Kids Chat this month due to the Thanksgiving holiday falling on our normal meeting time. Because this is such a special time for families, I want to encourage all to make this a very special one and to focus on each other. And, remember to look in the mail for this month's postcard. Like October's, these postcards will tie in to a theme of the month. And you guessed it, in November we focus on family.

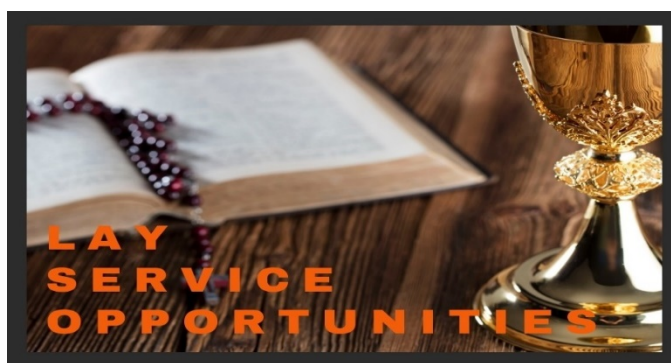
Family Fridays find us continuing our adventures as we explore unexpected areas in our church building and our grounds. Feel free to follow these video treks on our social media page and share them with other friends and families, even if they are not a part of a church. We may not be able to meet in person, but we can always share, through virtual means, the gift of love and joy that comes from Jesus Christ.



Last, but not least, I'm excited to invite all our families to participate in our virtual Christmas tableau! We still don't know the date we can meet inside for all services, but even when we do, we have to be certain to stay socially safe. That would make a traditional tableau gathering very uncertain. But, never fear, just like we know Advent is coming, we also know we can make a memorable tableau for our families to be in, or to watch!

I'd like to ask any interested families to let me know as soon as possible. I will schedule a time to meet in the church with you and film a small segment depicting a portion of the gospel reading. This film will then be compiled with many others, with wonderful music and readings. It will all come together and be presented on Christmas Eve! Your video day will include costumes, props and a lot of fun acting. Family members of all ages are welcome to join in the filming, including parents. You can reach me at my jcorsaro@sjtulsa.org, or by calling the church office, to set up a time that is family-friendly.

Our whole staff hopes you will consider participating in this one-of-a-kind tableau, as well as in many of the other events online at Saint John's Church. Like we have said before: the building may be closed, but the church is open. We are still the church!



Lay Readers and Eucharistic Ministers *by Lynn Kimmel*

As members of Saint John's Church, we each have a very special opportunity to be a part of a church service. During our worship offerings, parishioners may serve as a lay reader or a lay eucharistic minister (LEM). The lay reader is the individual who reads the lessons of the day, also known as the Morning and Evening Prayer lessons, as assigned in the Daily Office Lectionary. When Holy Communion is a part of a service, lay eucharistic ministers are the non-clergy who participate by sharing the cup. This is a role sometimes referred to as a "chalice bearer."

If you are interested, you can be a part of either or both service roles in our church. Training is provided so you know when and what to do and become confident in the role. Saint John's Church is currently in need of more volunteers to help in both of these capacities. If you are interested in learning more, or feel the call to serve, contact me at lynnkimmel71@gmail.com or email Diane Morrow at dmorvoc@att.net. You can alternatively contact the office and Diana Carter can let us know. For me it is a VERY special way to be a part of God's house. Come join us!

Staff Spotlight: Susanne Methven+



We hope you are enjoying getting to know members of the church staff in new ways through our interviews in The Evangelist. We have some of the most interesting people serving God and our parish! This month we caught up with Mother Susanne, who was gracious enough to let us interrupt her many other responsibilities and pursuits.

Q: Where were you born and where have you lived?

A: I was born in Halton, England. I was registered as an Australian citizen at birth and didn't become a United States citizen until 1980. I have lived in England, Canada, and on both coasts and the middle of the United States. I find beauty everywhere I go. I have lived in Australia twice. The first time was in Elizabeth, South Australia for three years as a child and later during the summer of 1979 in Melbourne, Victoria while I did a management internship at Rowntree Hoadley, a chocolate manufacturer. When my father died in 2016, my sisters and I revisited to the Outback in memory of camping and other trips there.

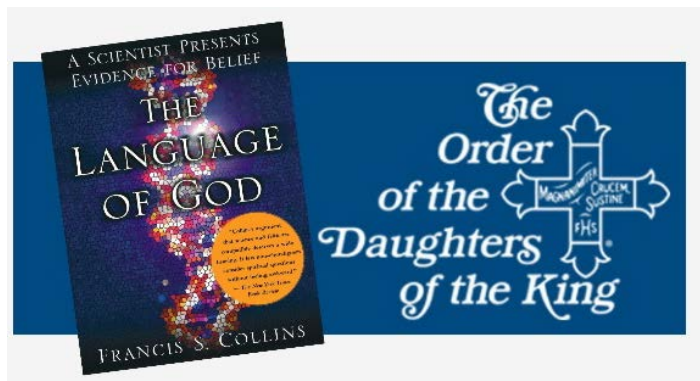
Q: What do you do for relaxation? A: I have a garden and volunteer in the gardens at Philbrook. I love to weed (really!) because the plants then have more space to flourish. My twin sister Andrea and I enjoy going to museums and botanic gardens together. These trips fire my imagination. I read for enjoyment most nights, something light and always about people and their stories.

Q: We understand you are currently taking an educational course. Would you tell us about that and why you were interested in participating? A: During 2020-2021, I am one of thirty students nationwide from various denominations in the Backstory Preaching Mentorship program. I am working to become a more effective preacher by using the story of my life, spiritual practices and various methods to craft sermons. Several parishioners will appraise my sermons as part of my Listening Circle. The parishioners' constructive feedback on my sermons is always welcome.

Q: Please tell us about your pet. A: Busco is my thirteen-year-old fourteen-pound poodle. His name comes from the Spanish verb buscar, meaning "to look for," and he has lived up to his name! Because Busco is so attentive, Andrea and I keep our house picked up. He is known to be a sock thief. He considers the cherry tomato plant in my backyard as his treat tree, so I haven't had a chance to eat many tomatoes this year! He is also very affectionate and savors his walks.

Q: Is there anything unusual about you that new friends might find surprising or funny to learn? A: I used to be embarrassed that I have little sense of direction or spatial ability. Now I know that this connects me to others who have these abilities! The Venture Crew kindly took this into account when I accompanied them on a ten-day hike at Philmont Scout Ranch in 2014. Oh, and I usually dirty at least one container before I find the right size for leftovers.

Q: Would you share a favorite passage that is of help, comfort, healing or inspiration to you during these unusual times (or any time)? A: "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." - Romans 8:38-39



Our chapter of Daughters of the King are excited to continue their "first Thursday" 10 a.m. monthly meetings with a book discussion. This month, the Daughters will begin reading *The Language of God*, by Francis S. Collins. In a review of Collins' work, Bishop Desmond Tutu wrote, "What an elegantly written book...the eminent scientist tells why he is also a devout believer...A real godsend for those with questioning minds, but who are attracted to things spiritual."

All women are welcome to join the discussion, even if you are not a member. The Daughters will be meeting in the home of Janice Ingle, located at 1532 East 36 Place, for socially distanced, in-person conversations. The first discussion was on November 5 and is ongoing. Participants may join in at any time, even if you miss a date. If you have questions or are interested in an evening meeting, please call Janice at (918) 704-1443.

Getting to Know the Vestry

In this column for The Evangelist, we highlight members of the Saint John's Church (SJC) lay leadership. This fall we learn a little bit about the vestry members who will be completing their terms at the conclusion of this year. We're grateful to Alec Moss for his servant leadership to our parish. And, we appreciate him being a great sport and participating in this Q & A session.



Q: Alec, have you served as a vestry member here at SJC before? A: This is my first time on the Vestry! I was elected about one year after I joined the church.

Q: Would you like to share with our readers a little about what you do in your career? A: I am transitioning into the accounting field. I will complete my master of accountancy degree in November.

Q: Have you lived/worked many other places so far in your life/career? If so, tell us about a couple of them. A: I've lived in many places in my life and career. When in the Army I was very fortunate to live across the country and also for a year in South Korea.

Q: Tell us a little about your family? A: I am married to Whitney Moss, who I met at Saint John's! We were married at the church in July of 2019. Whitney is an amazing teacher who is currently teaching Pre-K. We also have two rescue dogs, Kiwi and Gracie.

Q: Do you two have a favorite series to binge-watch on TV? A: Whitney and I both enjoy watching documentaries and the Discovery Channel. Specifically, we enjoy The Great British Baking Show.

Q: We know social distancing has been hard and different for everyone. Is there a particular SJC activity or ministry you are missing? A: I've missed the people, especially the young adults group.

Q: Here is a silly one for you, Alec...if you were stranded in a remote location and could pick one fellow vestry man or woman, who would you select and why? A: Nick Bradford because we'd look stylish and have fun!

Q: I believe your parents attend this church. Did you grow up here? A: I didn't grow up attending, but my parents joined the church and when I moved back to Tulsa, I attended and eventually joined.

Q: Do you look forward to anything in particular in our church's year ahead or farther down the line? A: Raising our family in the church.

Our Brotherhood of St. Andrew to Host National Workshop

This month our Brotherhood chapter will host an online national workshop titled, **"Serving Millennials: Fostering Young Adult Engagement in the Church,"** featuring guest speaker Father Matt Marino. Held in collaboration with the national office of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, the event will be hosted live on Zoom on Wednesday, November 18 from noon to 1:30 p.m. (Tulsa time).

This complimentary event is especially geared to those in adult groups who are concerned with recruiting future members to carry on their longstanding ministries of worship, study, service and fellowship. These organizations may include, but are not limited to: the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, Daughters of the King, Episcopal Church Women, Saint Barbara's Guild and other groups that have long-established memberships.

The Saint John's Brotherhood is excited to host Father Matt Marino to lead this workshop and discussion. Father Matt has decades of experience engaging those "coming of age." After fifteen years on staff with Young Life, Father Matt served as a director of youth and young adults programs and summer camping for the Diocese of Arizona. He next worked with young adults at Saint John the Divine in Houston, before becoming the rector of Trinity Parish in Saint Augustine, Florida.



Father Matt (pictured at left) was a popular speaker at the Brotherhood's national 2018 convention and is scheduled to lead our Saint John's Men's Retreat next spring. During the pandemic, members of the Brotherhood have had the privilege to get to know

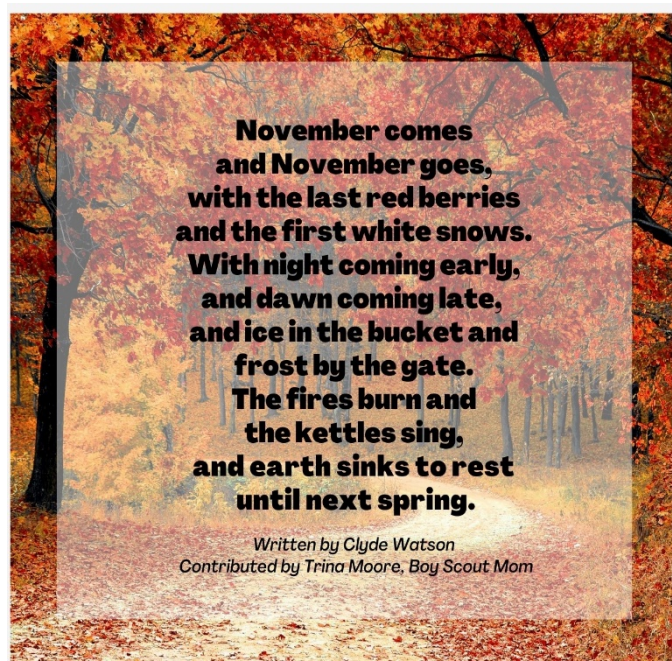
Father Matt's family through his "On the Porch with the Padre" Facebook videos. Connecting electronically keeps us safer and we have the opportunity to reach out across the country to share this workshop to all who are able to attend.

To register, go to: brothersandrew.net and scroll slightly down to the event RSVP prompt. If you are unable to attend the live workshop but care to view at a more convenient time, please register and check the box to "request a link to view the recording."



November Birthdays

- 2 Steve Balman, Taylor Emery, Ashley Martin, John Quesnel
- 3 Phyllis Anderson, Landrey Norwood, Danna Sue Walker
- 4 Grace Randolph
- 6 Sandra Kay Smith, Charles Hocker
- 8 Jim Sicking
- 9 Earlene Gathright, Paula Kempe, Herb Oven
- 10 Aaron Pohl, Phyllis Powell
- 11 Sophia Gillett, Heather Turner
- 12 Marlowe Brown, Evan Dean, Colin Frazee, Andrew Hensley
- 13 Todd Frazee, Steve Taylor, Nadia Wheeler
- 15 Hudson Cox, Margaret Stewart
- 16 Rick Ferguson, Allen Smith
- 17 Harper Graves, Paula McCormack
- 18 Vaughn Graham, Annabel Jones
- 19 Charlene Ballard
- 20 Lexey Cavert, Matt Erwin
- 21 Martha Hauser, Pat Mach
- 22 Mary Alice Marchetti
- 23 Julia Morley
- 24 Lynn Kimmel
- 25 Jeffrey Marlow, Shelton Mason, Dianne O'Hara
- 26 John Pense
- 27 Leta Bell, Sarah Johnson, Noelle Souter, Olivia Vanderyt
- 28 Jim Cavert, Beverly Lewis



Boy Scout Troop 153 *by Trina Moore*

During this continued period of social distancing and COVID-19 activity in our community, our troop is doing what it can to prevent the spread of the virus. For example, campouts are being limited to single patrols and not the whole troop and patrol meetings are being held in person (limiting the amount of people attending).

Troop meetings are held mostly via Zoom and there is only one in-person meeting per month. Merit badges are being worked on virtually and in person. The Eagle District Merit Badge Fair will be held on November 7, with four area councils hosting online merit badge courses. The USA Archery Level 1 training for scouts ages fifteen to twenty will occur on November 13-14.

As always, please see an adult scout leader if you know of any young person that would benefit from being in the scouts. Girls are welcome too. Stay healthy!



November Kudos: Lay Readers

Our church is thankful for the many lay eucharistic ministers who help make every prayer service meaningful and run smoothly. We have more than a dozen committed volunteers who serve in this capacity and they include: Jessica Stowell, Lynn Kimmel, Mark Youngblood, Susan Walker, Betsy Hocker, Nick Bradford, David Smith, Julio Diaz, Charlie Nutter, Sharon Bell, Mary Ann Stewart, Janice Ingle, Carteena Robohm and Mark Lyons. Together they read 173 times between mid-March and early October. Please tell them "thank you" the next time you visit with one of our readers!

Phone Ministry

The church extends our continued thanks to members of the calling ministry, Let's Connect By Phone. We are looking for a few more wonderful individuals to take on the service role of calling an assigned list of parish members each month to check in on them during this time of continued social distancing. It is a great way to serve and you'll enjoy getting to know new church members at the same time! If you have a call on your heart to help with calls, please email our coordinator Kathleen Moss at kathleen.moss@me.com.

This Month at Saint John's Church

November 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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



ALL IN
Saint John's Stewardship



*I give of my
time, my
talents and
my love to
the people of
this
community
because I
want to be
made whole
in Christ.*

*I give because
predictable
income makes
it possible
for our people
and ministries
to come
together
and do
God's work.*



ALL IN
Saint John's Stewardship