



Saint John's Episcopal Church
January 2021
A Newsletter about Our
Community and Ministries

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Glad Tidings and Joyful News *by Jim Hicks, Senior Warden*

Welcome to 2021! The promise of the New Year is especially meaningful given the "wild ride" of 2020 and the worldwide pandemic. But new opportunities abound and God's promise of new life has never been greater at Saint John's Church since its founding seventy years ago. While the threat of COVID-19 has kept in-person worship to a minimum, the implementation of Saint John's state-of-the-art audiovisual system has allowed parishioners to maintain their connection to worship and has opened the virtual doors of the church to many new individuals. The pandemic caused Saint John's to respond beyond the usual, to bring the gospel to an entire new audience, and to profile our unique liturgical style to those beyond our beautiful campus.

However, the most exciting news for 2021 is the call of the Very Rev. David S. Bumsted as the seventh rector of our parish! Father David and his wife, Beka, are moving from Orlando, Florida very soon and will reside in Saint John's House. Father David's call to Saint John's is the result of a lengthy process of self-examination and reflection concerning the vision and mission of this parish for the next ten years. The Parish Profile Committee did an excellent job in not only describing Tulsa and our parish, but also in studying the surrounding community and recognizing the outreach



opportunities in our neck of the woods. Next, the parish survey conducted by Holy Cow articulated the top three priorities for our congregation's mission as:

- to make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church,
- to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church, and
- to create more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships, such as small groups or shared meals.

The Search Committee began its work in earnest last September. Kudos to the members who put in long hours of research and investigation into the eleven candidates. Kay Owens, Lise Dean, Susan Walker, Jace Pavlik, Trent Shores, Marc McCaw and Jeff Baum went above and beyond the call of duty! Everyone owes them a deep expression of thanks. As a result of their exemplary work, the Vestry made the call to Father Bumsted as rector to Saint John's Episcopal Church following prayerful discernment and expressions of the visions for the future of our parish.

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Father Bumsted is especially well suited to meet the goals identified in the congregational survey and as articulated by the Vestry. He served as youth minister at Church of the Redeemer, a large Episcopal church in Sarasota, Florida, for several years before being called as the rector to Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Orlando in 2015. There, he started a successful youth ministry from the ground up and engaged with the surrounding community. A graduate of Nashotah House Theological Seminary in Wisconsin, Father Bumsted literally fits the profile developed by our parish of the vision and mission for Saint John's in the years ahead. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to Father David and Beka Bumsted. And, happy New Year! ✕

A Message from Susanne+

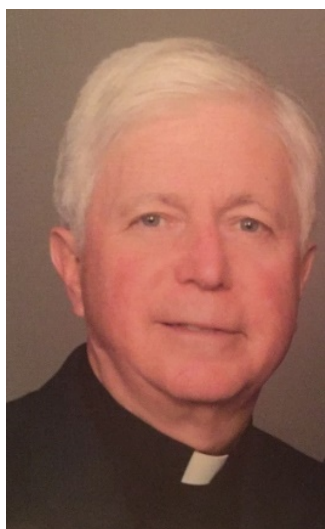
By now you will have learned through mail, or via email, or during one of our livestreamed worship services, that I accepted the position as Chaplain at Saint Simeon's Senior Living Community in December and began my duties and ministry there as 2020 wound to a close. Over my years in Tulsa I have visited various parishioners who spent time at Saint Simeon's. I have always been impressed by how their loving staff and wonderful campus support their mission. I look forward to seeing some of the people from Saint John's who reside there, and sometimes members of this church as you visit friends and family at the living center. I anticipate that I will have a lot to learn in my new role and appreciate your prayers as I transition to this new calling.

While I am very excited for this new opportunity for ministry in Tulsa, I am sad that I will be leaving Saint John's Church. I have loved being here with you. I am most grateful for all my wonderful years here, first with the Rev. Irv Cutter and most recently with the Rev. Sam Colley-Toothaker. We have shared so many special moments: my ordination to the priesthood, the many worship services, Bible study classes and retreats, and times of crisis and celebration. I am thankful, too, to the many lay leaders and the staff at Saint John's for their support. You are the gift that has prepared me for my new ministry and continued journey. I thank you all.



With the help of Father Bob Scott, you will be in good hands as you await your new rector. I wish you the happiest of days as we advance through the Advent season and into the New Year. In parting, I am privileged to say, along with Paul: **"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."** (Philippians 1:3-6). ✕

Re-Introducing Father Bob Scott



With the departure of Mother Susanne, our parish is fortunate to be able to call upon the service and wisdom of the Rev. Robert Scott in the New Year in an interim capacity. Father Bob will preside and celebrate for worship and some activities as we transition between full-time rectors. He will be a familiar face and voice to some Saint John's Church parishioners, but new to those who have joined our parish in just the past few years.

He returns to us after having served here as a postulant, deacon and priest for nearly two and a half years. He was also ordained at Saint John's Church in February 2018. He was called to St. Luke's in Tulsa for one year in 2018-2019. From there, he was called to St. Michael and All Angels in Dallas, Texas as associate rector, where he remained until recently. Due to the unexpected death of his son-in-law in August, he and his wife Jann made the decision to relocate to Tulsa to support their youngest daughter and her two children this past November.

Father Bob's forty-plus-year professional career has primarily focused on the operations and finance for several companies around the country. Most recently, he served as the executive director of OSU-University Multispectral Laboratories, where he was responsible for the reorganization of the company and oversaw all operations. He graduated from the Iona School of Formation (Diocese of Oklahoma) in June 2017 and holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and MBA from the University of Arkansas.

Married to Jann for 51 years, the couple have two daughters and four grandchildren. We are very grateful for their willingness to assist our parish family beginning in January. ✕

Last Call: Vestry Nominations

January 4 will be the last date a parishioner can nominate another Saint John's Church member to be considered as a candidate for the new cohort of our church's vestry members. The final candidates will be voted upon in winter of 2021 during the annual meeting. If you know someone who might make a great leader in this role and has demonstrated a servant's heart, please email Jim Hicks right away. The Senior Warden will verify that all recommended candidates qualify to "stand" for vestry prior to releasing a final nominee ballot. Contact Jim with suggestions at jhicks@barrowgrimm.com. ✕



Treasurer's Report by Bill Chevaillier



As I sat down to write this update on church finances, I could not help but think back upon the history of Saint John's Church; a history which notably spans a few wars, 9/11, several economic collapses, and a whole host of concerning natural disasters and world events. Through it all, Saint John's has persevered. Through this pandemic, I see the same strength. When the challenges at hand have come to pass, parishioners will once again gather to worship fully at 41st and Atlanta.

In the interim, we can all consider ourselves fortunate for the wonderful staff and clergy at Saint John's. They have adapted quickly and without interruption: feeding our collective spiritual needs via modern technology; streaming church services and Sunday school gatherings hosted via Zoom. I can't help but think how far we have come as a society since the Yellow Fever in 1862 or Spanish Flu in 1918, and what it must have been like for church parishioners during those pandemics. They were completely cut off from one another, their churches and the outside world, in the midst of widespread disease and mortality. Given this context, we are blessed indeed and have much to be thankful for!

In furtherance of that perspective, I am pleased to report that Saint John's remains on sound financial footing, which has allowed us to keep the church operating and offering its ministries during this period. As of December 15, we have received pledge income and contributions of \$808,000. Coupled with other revenue sources we are below budgeted income by \$70,000. Overall, we are tracking slightly behind on revenues and below budget on expenses, year-to-date. We need your continued support as we are still short of our 2020 pledge goal. If you have not made a pledge, please do so as you are able. Additionally, despite wonderful technology, we will not have a normal December Plate Offering. If you support the church via the offering plate, please consider sending an offering to Saint John's via mail or through our website donation portal. If you made a 2020 pledge, please continue to fulfill it by making regular payments as you are able. We are appreciative of your continued stewardship and support.

Lastly, Saint John's is here for you. You can count on your church family to be there for you through these trying times. ✕

"All In" Pledge Reminder:

We are so grateful for the opportunities that we know 2021 will bring to Saint John's Church in the year ahead. Don't forget to send in your pledge, if you have not already. Be a part of building the fabulous future of this parish!



Youth and Families *by Joshua Corsaro*

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We miss you and pray that you are doing well, staying safe, learning a lot and having fun! As our building continues to allow limited access, we just want to say that we really hope to see you online during our family activities: Family Fridays and Postcards of Praise. Drop in anytime!

I encourage our children and teens to look in the mailbox to see what postcard they will receive this month. Like before, these postcards will show the theme of the season. This January we will focus on the New Year. Feel free to respond and write back!

Family Fridays will continue with our adventure theme as we explore areas in our church and grounds. There will also be activities you can do throughout the coming New Year. Feel free to follow these on our social media page and share them with other friends and families, even if they are not a part of a church.

Are you sixteen years old or older and have spare time and a curious mind? If so, we would like to ask for your help with the AV/Tech crew at the church. If you saw our video about the sound system, you know it is fun to use. If you want to be a part of this ministry, please reach out to me (with your parents' permission, of course).

We hope to see you participate in this and the many events at Saint John's Church. As we have said before: the building may be closed, but we are still the church. I look forward to hearing about all the fun activities you have been up to over the holiday break! ✖



Music News

The Epiphany – Joseph, a limited choir and Choral Evensong return on Wednesday, January 6, at 5:30 p.m. for a very special livestreamed offering in honor of the historical arrival of the three kings.

Choral Evensong – this beautiful Sunday evening service also continues throughout the month of January livestreamed on Facebook at 5:30.

Invite your online friends and family to worship with us!

Boy Scout Troop 153 *by Trina Moore*



“There is a superhero inside all of us. We just need the courage to put on the cape.” - Author Unknown

Troop 153 finished 2020 strong with a new record! A total of eleven Eagle ranks were awarded for the year, which is two more than the previous record. Our troop is alive with opportunities for our youth! Please speak with a troop leader to get your youth involved in Scouts (also known as “superheroes in training”).

January 9 brings two opportunities for our Scouts: The Frontiersmen patrol will be exploring the J.M. Davis Gun Museum in Claremore. This is a favorite trip of our troop and is a wonderful jaunt back through the history of ammunition and weaponry. Later that night, the Order of the Arrow banquet will commence to recognize the achievements of these scouts for 2020.

We all pray that 2021 will be full of promise and void of disease and hardships. Here's to a new year! ✖

Prayers and Squares *by Jessica Stowell*

If you have been wondering about the Prayers and Squares quilt ministry, please know that we have not slowed down since the pandemic hit in March. We continue to make quilts and take requests for quilts regularly. We have averaged blessing and delivering three to four quilts per month. The only difference is that not all the knots will be tied when you receive it – you can ask family and friends of the recipient to do that. So, if you or a friend or loved one needs a quilt due to illness or a crisis, please call me, Jessica, at (918) 639-6340. ✖





This month we offer a few reminders to keep you “in the know” for the month ahead:

Office Holiday Closing Reminder – The church office will be closed between December 27 and January 2 to give the staff a well-deserved few days off with family and friends. The answering service will pick up calls and will route any emergency as appropriate.

MLK Day to be Observed – The church office will also be closed on Monday, January 18 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Worship with the Bishop – Bishop Reed declared December 27 to be a “clergy holiday” to give our hard-working priests across the state a much-deserved weekend off. For that day, the Bishop pre-recorded a worship service. We will post it on our Facebook page in place of our usual morning services that day. We encourage all of you to tune in online to participate in the Bishop’s offering at a time when it is convenient for you and your family.

Attuned to Attendance – Though the church has not fully reopened for worship, the office still tracks attendance for the diocesan Parochial Report. The report data represents the number of people who come in person on Sunday as well as online service participation.

Sunday’s total attendance is the combination of 8:30 a.m. attendance (inclusive of staff), Holy Eucharist 10 a.m. viewership and Evensong 5:30 p.m. viewership. Facebook “attendees” are those who view worship on our Facebook page. Recent church Sunday participation (as of Dec. 21) was: Nov. 29 = 467 (20/183/264); Dec. 6 = 661 (20/150/491); Dec. 13 = 726 (12/223/491); and Dec. 20 = 513 (21/158/334). ✕

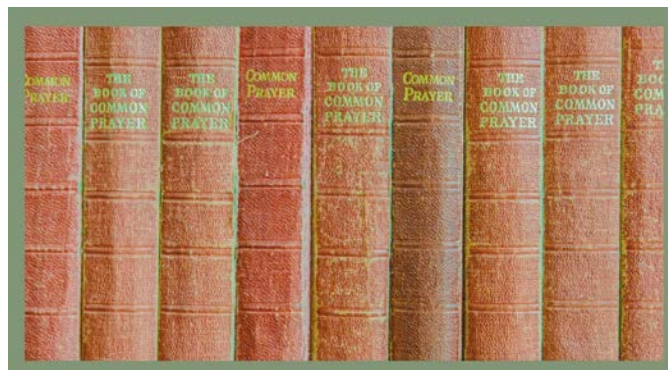
The Daily Office Updates

Resuming January 4, during the Epiphany season we will offer livestreamed Evening Prayer at 5:30 p.m.

The Morning Prayer will be offered via Forward Movement resources during this period. This schedule will be in effect from January 4 through February 16. This temporary schedule change will allow our lay members to continue to serve, but on a schedule that is sustainable between the departure of the Rev. Susanne Methven and the arrival of our new rector, the Very Rev. David Bumsted.

Morning Prayer – Weekdays at 8:30 a.m. – Look for a Forward Movement resource posted on Facebook each morning.

Evening Prayer – Weekdays and Saturdays at 5:30 p.m., livestreamed on the parish website and Facebook. ✕



Calling All Valentines

If you know of a parishioner “love story” you think might be delightful for highlighting in our February edition of The Evangelist, please email that suggestion – with a photo of the couple and seventy-five-word or shorter explanation about the sweet “Valentine” couple – to Mary Waller at mwaller@sjtulsa.org. We will share stories as space permits next month. ✕

***"And now these three remain:
faith, hope and love. But the
greatest of these is LOVE."***

I CORINTHIANS 13:13



We had a blast interviewing Vestry member Meghan Joiner, who joined the vestry in 2017 to fill a vacancy and was re-elected in 2018 for a three-year term.

Q: Meghan, thanks for participating! To start, did you grow up Episcopalian? A: I grew up United Methodist. My husband, Eric Estes, a cradle Episcopalian, asked me to convert before we got married.

Q: In what cool places around the country or world have you lived? A: I spent a semester in London, England during college. As an Anglophile, it was an amazing experience.

Q: How long have you lived in Tulsa? A: I've been here for five years and came for a career opportunity.

Q: We understand you are an attorney. Where did you go to undergraduate and law school? And, what is your favorite legal area of study? A: I went to Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas for undergrad, where I studied politics, and the William H. Bowen School of Law at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. I really enjoyed Civil Procedure and the First Amendment.

Q: You and your husband, Eric, have a daughter, Ellie. What does she enjoy the most about Saint John's? A: In the Time Before COVID, Ellie loved playing in the nursery and on the playground with friends.

Q: What church activity, besides worship, do you most look forward to when we fully re-open? A: I love being an usher. My team has a lot of fun and we really enjoy welcoming parishioners and visitors to the services.

Q: When you have time for TV, what are your favorite shows or genres? A: We love British crime dramas. We're fans of Grantchester, Sherlock and Dr. Who.

Q: Who is the better cook in your household? A: Eric contemplated culinary school before law school, and I regularly burn water. Needless to say, I am the dishwasher in our household.

Q: Do you have a spiritual practice that has been helpful during these challenging months? A: Meditation has become a life-saver for me this year. ✕

Getting to Know Us: Lay Readers

We recently caught up with new-ish lay reader Mary Ann Stewart, who was born in Tulsa, christened at Saint John's Church and also confirmed here!

Q: Mary Ann, you grew up at Saint John's. Who were your parents? A: Charles and Margaret Stewart are my parents, and I attended here regularly with them alongside my siblings, Dorothy Jean and George.

Q: What places around the world have you lived? A: If you count the places where I have worked temporarily, this includes Asia, Europe and North America. My favorite places have been Ithaca, New York, Bilbao, Spain and Berlin, Germany. Ithaca is where I first began to study music in a serious manner and discovered who I was on many levels.

Q: What brought you back to Tulsa? A: I moved back to Tulsa in January, 2020, to care for my mother, who has dementia. She is in the photo with me (below).

Q: We understand that your partner, Philip, is a musician. Tell us about him. A: Philip and I have been together for fourteen years and met in New York City on a church job where we were both singing. He is an amazing bass-baritone.

Q: Do you and Philip have a favorite style of music? A: I can safely say that we both enjoy music that is well done. I love classical music and grew up listening to Musical Theater (I wanted to be Shirley Jones). I also enjoy music from other genres. Freddie Mercury will always be one of my favorite musicians.

Q: Do you have passage of scripture that you find especially applicable today? A: The one that sticks in my mind is Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 which begins, "To everything there is a season." It is easy to feel that life is passing me by at the moment, that we are stuck in time and that I am personally losing ground. These verses remind me that inactivity also has a purpose and has made me realize what is truly important to me. I hope that whenever the world gets back to "normal" I will remember the lessons I am learning now.

✕



Flowers for Your Valentine, Anniversaries, Gratitude & More

Honoring God through beauty is a treasured part of worship tradition at Saint John's Church. The Altar Fund provides a way for members and friends of the church to celebrate love, special occasions, blessings, or remember dear ones no longer with us. If you would like to request a special floral tribute arrangement, call or email Diana at the church office. If you would like to make a donation to the fund, simply mail a check to the office made out to Saint John's Episcopal Church and note "altar flowers" in the memo line. This is a great way to celebrate your Valentine between now and February 14!



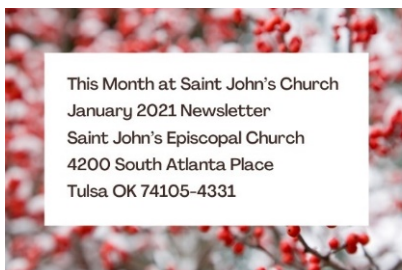
Milestones: January Birthdays

- 1 Jenna Byers, Tammie Kolker, Michael O'Shea
- 2 Linda Arrington, Dutch Prather
- 3 Barbara DeKraai
- 4 Jon Cinocca
- 6 Jack Coon
- 7 Mary Mason, Linda McAninch
- 8 Chris Fields, Jim Mulcahy
- 9 Clark Phipps, Nancy Westfall
- 10 Anne Gillingham, Jan Schweiger
- 11 Conor Cummings
- 12 Nick Bradford, June Marie Campbell, Meghan Joiner, Jim Landrum
- 13 Susan Lyons
- 14 Christine Payne
- 17 Suzanne Pierson
- 18 Emma Cinocca, Nancy Paul
- 19 Paul Gates, Bard Moss
- 20 Betty Briney, Paul Schroedter
- 22 Gayla DeLay, Jerry Lee, Harper McIntyre, Morgan McIntyre, Don Perry
- 23 Molly Baker, Jo Anna Dossett-Barber, Nathan Cinocca
- 24 Chris Osburn
- 25 Jo Farrimond, Emily Termin
- 26 Jeanette Hughes-Willey, Cheryl Lieberman, Bill Moore, Will Phipps, Ainsley Redinger, Susan Slattery
- 27 Nina Lipe, Robert Reed
- 28 Kenna Mitchell
- 29 Jane Cowdery, Dianne Schroedter
- 30 Doug Burgess, Susan Walker
- 31 Ellen Atkins, Kelsey Burgess, Owen Cowdery, Robert Johnston, Courtenay Tetrick

Prayer for a Birthday

Watch over thy child, O Lord, as his days increase; bless and guide him wherever he may be. Strengthen him when he stands; comfort him when discouraged or sorrowful; raise him up if he fall; and in his heart may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of his life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer



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ANNUAL MEETING

The Vestry and church staff are formulating details for the 2021 annual parish meeting. With guidance from the Diocesan office, the meeting will be held "virtually" via the Zoom online platform. A date will be set in the weeks to come. Please keep an eye on our weekly e-news editions and more information by mail.