



Saint John's Episcopal Church
February 2021
A Newsletter for Our
Community and Ministries

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 4200 S. Atlanta Pl.
 Tulsa, OK 74105
 (918) 742-7381

Greetings in the name of Jesus!

It is hard to believe it is February already! For Beka and myself, the wonderful memories of our first trip to meet and greet the wonderful leadership of Saint John's Church are fresh in our minds. We are deeply grateful to the Vestry, wardens, search committee members, and staff for their hospitality. They showed us such a great time at the parish and gave us just a little tantalizing taste of Tulsa. We felt immediately at home when we came to see you! Despite the great experience we had during our interview weekend, little butterflies crept into our stomachs. We soon realized how disappointed we would be if we weren't called to Saint John's! By the time Jim Hicks phoned to extend the call, both Beka and I were ready to pop with anticipation. I could not hide my excitement and enthusiasm when I called Jim back to accept the call! Please know that we are delighted to join you here in Tulsa and look forward to many years of ministry with you.

As I write this, the Church across the world is well into the season after the Epiphany. It is a season of the church year wherein the faithful are reminded Sunday by Sunday, week by week, that God came into the world in Christ to manifest his glory and love to all nations. If we pray through the Daily Offices and pay attention to the lessons on Sunday, we might find some of our favorite examples of Jesus' teachings and miracles in this season. As faithful readers of the text, we are meant to prayerfully consider how each movement within Christ's ministry declares the love of God to a needful world. Beloved, we are meant to consider Christ's ministry carefully so that we may enact that same ministry here in Tulsa and to the ends of the earth. We are meant to be little epiphanies, little manifestations, of Christ's great love.



I think it's fair to say that the world around us could use a few manifestations of love, wouldn't you? If the news is any measure, the entire Church has a lot of work to do. I pray that as I begin my rectorate here at Saint John's Church, I can help you in that regard. It is not lost on me that Beka and I come to you during Epiphanytide, a season of manifesting Christ's love. Perhaps God is preparing our hearts, feet and hands for the remarkable work of making Christ known, worshiped and obeyed, as the collect for II Epiphany bids us. I can't wait to begin that work with you in earnest! ✕

— *Father David*+

Going Back to T-Town *by Jim Hicks*

As the one-hundredth anniversary of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre approaches, the PBS series "American Experience" will broadcast a 1993 documentary "Goin' Back to T-Town" at 8 p.m. on February 8. Written by Tulsa native Carmen Fields, the film provides an overview of the rise, destruction and resurrection of the north Tulsa neighborhood that earned the title "America's Black Wall Street." The story-tellers point out that a true legacy of Greenwood was not the destruction visited upon the community, but how the community managed to thrive before and after the massacre.

Born of a dream to establish parochial missions, Saint John's Episcopal Church has thrived since its founding seventy years ago. In 1949, Trinity Episcopal Church purchased a five-acre cotton field in far south Tulsa. The completion in 1950 of a vicarage, now known as Saint John's House, heralded the construction of a Parish Hall which was completed later that year. This structure is the north wing of our present facility. The first services at Saint John's were held on November 18, 1951. (*The Vestry is in the initial stages of planning a seventieth anniversary celebration of the first service.*)

The Reverend Calvin Clyde Hoggard (married to Mary Helen), who had been our vicar from the beginning, became our first rector. A graduate of Southern Methodist University (SMU), Father Hoggard served as an Army chaplain in



Europe during World War II and was a Methodist minister for fifteen years prior to being ordained an Episcopal priest in 1949. Ground was broken for the larger church in 1956 with the dedication held on June 19, 1957. The magnificent stained glass windows over the altar were installed in November, 1958. Father Hoggard left in 1959 to become a canon at Grace Cathedral in Kansas and was succeeded in February of 1960 by a young former Princeton football player, Father John Vruwink. During this time Charles Connick Associates designed, created and installed the rest of the windows in the nave using a unique blue color and shards of stained glass from European churches destroyed in World War II (some dating to the twelfth

century!). The center portion of our facility was completed in 1962.

As we were able, in 1964 our church helped raise funds to buy the land to establish Saint Dunstan's Church, the first area parochial mission. These were tumultuous times, with the assassination of John Kennedy in 1963 and other political and social upheaval surrounding civil rights and the Vietnam War. In February of 1968, the Tet Offensive in Vietnam brought a shift in American public opinion toward the war and nationwide demonstrations for peace. On April 4 that year, Martin Luther King's assassination led to another level of grief. Then waves of rioting swept American cities. Two months later, an assassin ended Robert Kennedy's life. The nation was numb and coming apart at the seams. All eyes were focused on the Democratic Convention in Chicago that August. Antiwar protesters flocked to Chicago and clashed with police in bloody conflict.

Father Vruwink, with wife Emma, led our parish through these times with strong sermons and thoughtful pastoral care. In December of 1968 Father Vruwink was replaced by Father William Weldon, who had been the church music director. On his way back to Tulsa from Oklahoma City the evening of Tuesday, March 30, 1971, Father Weldon was tragically killed on the Turner Turnpike while going to the aid of victims of an automobile accident. With no family, his ashes sat in the church office until the dedication of the columbarium in 1988.

Father William Maxwell, a graduate of SMU and Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, had been dean of the Cathedral of Saint James in Chicago before being called as rector to our parish. He served from February 1972 until his abrupt termination by the Vestry in January of 1978 over issues of divorce and remarriage in the church. Saint John's fifth rector called was David Fox who served twenty-five years, from March of 1979 until retiring at the end of 2004. A voice of calm and reason, Father Fox, along with his wife Lynn, helped establish Saint John's Church as a viable presence with the Tulsa Metropolitan Ministries. During his tenure, Saint John's established a companion relationship with the Anglican Diocese of West Ankole, Uganda, and many medical and educational mission trips were completed. Father Irving Cutter, married to Andrea, served as rector from October of 2006 until the end of 2018 and helped focus Saint John's on reestablishing children and youth ministries, issues of inner spirituality and installation of the magnificent Schoenstein organ.

Our seventh rector, the Reverend David Bumsted, has accepted the call to lead our parish. He and his wife Beka have just moved from Orlando, Florida and will be residing in Saint John's House. Today, there is a general feeling of optimism and hope for the future. We look forward to many years of his spiritual guidance and formation during life's inevitable ups and downs. Welcome Father David and Beka, to T-Town. ✕

Treasurer's Report *by Bill Chevaillier*

We will be holding an annual meeting later in February to review the church's entire Year 2020 financial report. Until then, I share with you these preliminary numbers for the past year:

Looking at operating revenue and expenses from January through December 2020, our total income of \$1,297,397.86 was <\$114,167.14> under budget for the year to date. Our total pledges are under budget for the year by <\$78,859.61>. Contributions (gifts other than pledges) and plate (primarily between January and March when we met in person) income of \$133,977.22 are \$977.22 over budget for the year to date. Miscellaneous income and bequests of \$354,380.25 are <\$36,284.75> under budget.

The 2020 expenses of \$1,307,660.93 are <\$103,904.07> under budget for the year to date. We incurred additional expenses of \$142,925.71 that were paid by PPP (Cares Act) funds which are not included in the total expenses above.

The result is a net loss of <\$10,263.07> vs. budgeted net income of \$0. ✕



Help us close the gap between our pledge drive commitments and our operational needs. Contact Debbie Ainley in the church office, dainley@sjtulsa.org or (918) 742-7381, to increase your pledge or make a one-time gift dedicated to the Saint John's Church 2021 budget. And, online giving/pledging via our website is always "open" at [@sjtulsa.org](https://www.sjtulsa.org). Thank you!



Music News *by Joseph Arndt*

On Tuesday, February 2, the Saint John's Chamber Choir will offer a livestreamed Evensong at a special time of 6:30 p.m. in celebration of the feast day of The Presentation of Our Lord. In the Episcopal Church the liturgy on this day is also often called Candlemas, referring to the use of candles symbolizing the light of Christ entering the world.

While often overlooked, The Presentation commemorates a significant event in the early life of Jesus (Luke 2:22-40). His mother Mary brought him to the temple as an infant forty days after his birth for her ritual purification (the traditional offering being two doves).

At the temple, the prophet Simeon acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah and foretold Jesus' future suffering as well as Mary's. Some of Simeon's words at the temple are known as the "Nunc dimittis," one of the canticles traditionally sung at Evensong (the other being the "Magnificat," Mary's song of praise in response to the angel Gabriel).

From my observations, this seems the first time Jesus is acknowledged as the Messiah in a public space. The Gospel of Luke goes into the most detail about Jesus' birth and infancy, and many of our most cherished liturgical texts come from these passages.

It is traditional for music on February 2 to highlight Mary and the special role she plays in the story of salvation. The Chamber Choir will sing "Ave Maris Stella" by British composer Judith Weir. Composed in 2019, the piece is inspired by the ancient Marian hymn of the same name.

In addition, I am so pleased to announce that the Reverend David Bumsted, our new rector, will be with us to officiate at this February 2 Evensong. Please mark your calendars! ✕

Youth & Family News *by Joshua Corsaro*

Happy February everyone! Because we are still socially distancing, we are going to continue the activities we already have underway: Family Fridays, Postcards of Praise and AV/tech team. Plus, we introduce a great new Oklahoma Episcopal children's chapel offering.

I encourage our children and teens to look in the mail and see what postcard they will receive this month. Like before, in these postcards I will share a theme and for February we are focusing on love because of Valentine's Day. I hope your family will write back and tell us how you made the day special.

On Family Fridays we will continue exploring unexplored areas in our church and on our grounds. Feel free to follow our family video twice a month 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 or older and want an interesting new challenge? If so, we'd like to ask for your help on the Saint John's AV/tech team. If you saw our video about the sound system last month, then you have an idea how fun it is to use. And, it develops skills you can use in other jobs or on school stage crew. If you want to learn more about becoming a part of this ministry, please reach out to me (with your parent's permission of course). ✕



I'm excited to share with you that the diocese is promoting a new young people's education offering available every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Thanks to the folks at Saint Patrick's Episcopal Church (Broken Arrow), "Children's Chapel Online" is being offered weekly for children in grades pre-kindergarten through five (but it is entertaining for all ages!).

Tune into a lesson on your own or with your parents on the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma's YouTube channel or on the Saint Patrick's YouTube channel. Both can be found by typing those names in the YouTube search bar or by linking via either organization's website YouTube icons. ✕



Travis Termin has been reading for a couple of months during Morning or Evening Prayers. We can't thank him, and all our volunteer readers, enough for their gift of time and supporting this daily ministry. While you might not recognize him under the mask on Facebook during livestreaming, we hope the accompanying photo helps. He was a great sport and participated in the question and answer session so that others in the congregation can get to know him a bit more. Travis lives in Tulsa with his wife, Emily, and their daughter, Harper.

A: Travis, did you grow up Episcopalian? A: No, I didn't. I was raised in the Southern Baptist tradition and journeyed through Pentecostalism on my way to the Episcopal Church. When I went to seminary, I fell in love with several Anglican authors and ultimately began exploring the tradition and found a home.

Q: How long have you lived in Tulsa and what brought you here? A: We have lived in Tulsa for a little over a year. I grew up in Texas. We moved here because I was offered an opportunity to be trained for the priesthood in another communion. Even though that ended up not being the right fit for us, we have loved Tulsa and want to stay! (I've also started having conversations about pursuing Holy Orders in the Episcopal Church.)

Q: Do you have any hobbies, and if so, what is your favorite one? A: I'm a "Crossfitter." And yes, if you know many Crossfitters, you know that we'll force it into any conversation -- the stereotype is true!

Q: What church activity, besides worship, do you most look forward to returning to when we fully re-open? A: Honestly, I deeply miss passing the peace before coming to the communion table. Being able to display (even briefly) our unity as a community through hugs, handshakes, and speaking the peace of Christ to one another has always been so meaningful to me. ✕

(The Owens, story continuation from the insert.)

She notes that they even started binge-watching television series that they might never have checked out before. Kay and Tom both acknowledge that having a strong relationship before the pandemic, and a deep faith, has made maintaining a healthy relationship possible while in closer quarters. (Gardening and golf also help!)

Recently Tom found a prayer he liked very much on the topic of love and commitment, and then edited it a little. They were kind enough to share it with our readers, as it is a wonderful message for other couples in and beyond our church family:

"Dear heavenly Father, thank you for this life together, for the gift of our love, and the blessing of our marriage. We give you praise and thanks for the Joy you've poured into our hearts through this bond of love we share with each other, and our family. Allow our love for each other to be an example to others. Amen." ✕



Barrett Waller joined the Vestry in January of 2020 for a three-year term, helped write the new church profile, and played an active role in the recent all-parish pledge campaign planning committee. This time around is his third tour of duty as a vestryman. We hope you'll learn something new about this long-time parishioner from this conversation.

Q: We understand you grew up down the block on Atlanta Place. Do you recall your age when you started attending church here with your parents, Jo and Bill Waller, and sister, Sarah? A: We started going to Saint John's when I was five or six years old. My mom and dad would walk us up the block every Sunday morning in our church clothes whenever the weather was good and drive us if the weather was uncooperative. I loved growing up so close to the church and hearing the bells chime.

Q: What activities did you participate in at the church as a youth? A: I started singing in the choir early and was also an acolyte through high school. I especially enjoyed acolyting for the Christmas Eve and Easter services.

Q: Youth group was a bit more "free range" when you were growing up. What was the most interesting place you got to see during games here? A: When we played sardines, we found several good closets on the main level and had a few great places down in the boiler room. Can you believe they let us roam there? Before Powell Hall was renovated, you could also climb up into a small crawl space next to the stained glass windows on the west end and hide.

Q: As an adult, what are some additional ways you have been involved at Saint John's? I've been lucky enough to serve in several ministries – in addition to singing in the choir and the groups you already mentioned, Mary and I also served as the high school youth group leaders for several years.

Q: If you could have a superpower, what would it be? I actually already have one, but it's not impressive and won't stop a runaway train. When I want to find a specific page number in a book or hymnal, I can open it up to the exact page most of the time. It's strange, but handy.

A: Do you have a specific place at the church you find to be especially contemplative? I enjoy going out to the church's memorial garden. It's so beautiful out there, always so peaceful. I have a nice conversation with Mom and Dad and just enjoy being still for a while.

Q: We understand you have been developing a love of cooking. Do you have a favorite culture or style you are working on this month? I'm still a beginner but am trying to be fearless in the kitchen. I've tried several Asian and curry dishes the last few months, but I'm open to suggestions and recipes!

Q: Do you have a favorite all-time hymn? A: We get to sing so many great ones in the choir it's hard to pick just one. But if I had to choose, it would probably be "We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing," the hymn we sing every Thanksgiving. It's just so comforting and has been a fav since I was a kid. ✕

The office has received a limited supply of Day by Day devotional booklets from Forward Movement (Feb.-Mar. 2021). We have put several in the wooden box hanging on the fence gate by the church kitchen. Help yourself. They are complimentary, though one per household, please.



Hello fellow parishioners! Here is the spot to get caught up on several short news briefs from the multiple church departments.

Sunday Education Opportunity

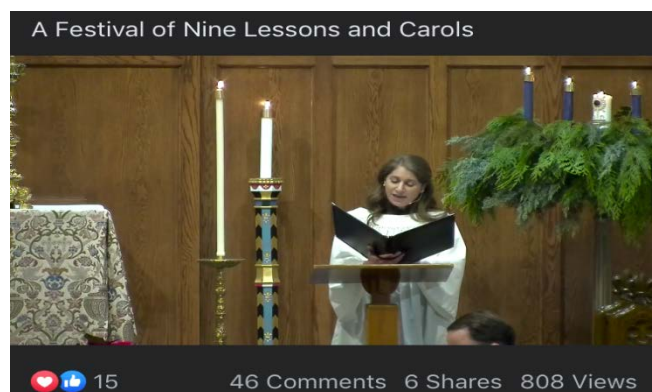
The Sunday coffee-hour-time adult formation course, Living Discipleship, continues in February following the 10 a.m. worship service. Contact Diana at dcarter@sjtulsa.org to receive the Zoom invitation link or the weekly course syllabus prior to each class. The class is live via the Zoom platform on Sundays, but is also saved to the church website archive (go to the events tab) on the following Wednesdays if you want to catch up any time at your convenience.

Call for 2021 Diocesan Delegates

Wednesday, February 3, is the final day to contact the church if you would like to be considered to fill a Saint John's Church representative spot to the annual Diocesan Convention (to be held in November). Please contact Diana if you wish to be on the slate for candidates offered in late February to the parish for voting (by mailed ballot as part of the annual meeting).

Fan Favorites on Facebook

The special December 27 Lessons and Carols service that Joseph Arndt, Father Scott, the choir and organist Adam Pajan offered via livestream on Facebook received fantastic online viewership! We are very blessed by this and all the livestreamed Sunday worship services. This night was a standout.



Another thoughtful creation from the church staff last month that received a wide variety of views was the Family Friday video lesson from Josh Corsaro on January 8. During a week of much national confusion, our associate for youth and family ministry provided some welcome words of ways to seek calm through prayers. So far, 410 Facebook friends have watched his message!

Tuning into Attendance

As of our last review, Sunday worship attendance (in-person and online) was as follows. This data reflects 8:30 a.m./10 a.m./Evensong services: Dec. 27 = no service/Bishop's service recording/808, Jan. 3. = 19/385/522, Jan. 10 = 25/320/355, Jan. 17 = 26/248/383 and Jan. 24 = 30/178/483.

Website Calendar for Music and More

Be sure to check out the church website calendar (returning to the site in March) for updates on group events (hosted via Zoom), classes and musical offerings such as music recitals. And, the church is excited to note that **Music at Midday** returns for spring on Wednesday, March 3 featuring Joseph Arndt and Adam Pajan. Look to the Saint John's website calendar for details on these March recitals as they are firmed up! ✕

ANNUAL MEETING

The church leadership is finalizing details for the 2021 annual parish meeting to be held on Sunday afternoon, February 21. Please keep an eye on our weekly e-news editions, as well as your mailbox, for more information. Ballots for Vestry and convention delegate selection will be mailed in the first half of this month. The 2020 Annual Report and the revised 2021 Narrative Budget will be made available on the church website, through email distribution, and via U.S.P.S. mail (upon request) in mid-February.



- 1 Hugh Barber, Larry Mancini
- 2 Chris Barber, Chuck Blue, Tom Frisch
- 3 Pat Armstrong
- 5 Bob Baker
- 8 Nikki Rycroft
- 10 Anne Clark
- 11 Jessica Stowell
- 12 Lauren Houston
- 13 Sam Hines
- 14 Ann Butler, Richard Harris
- 15 Nathan Breau, Heather Graves, Sally Jones, Logan Osburn
- 16 Bill Boston
- 17 Alec Moss, Michael Smith
- 19 Mary Dotson, Mark Lyons, Eryn Taylor
- 20 Pet Merifield, Mary Ann Stewart
- 21 Beth Dunkin, Chuck Steil
- 22 Grant Byrd, Allison Cotton
- 23 Louie Culley, Jim Hardwick, Betsy Tidwell, Laria Underwood, Zak Wagner
- 24 Zac Cox, Beverly Staedke, Dalton Wyrick
- 25 Harrison Graves, Teresa Hockett, Todd Waldeck
- 27 Stephanie Jackson, Beth Latham
- 28 Duncan Gravis, Tom Schroedter

Boy Scout Troop 153

February 1 brings new leadership positions to Troop 153 as the 2021 spring patrol leader elections occur. A patrol leader for each patrol and the senior patrol leader will all be elected for six months in order to hone their leadership skills. This meeting will be on Zoom. On Saturday, February 6, the troop will hold an "advancement" Saturday to work on merit badges at the Jack Graves Scout Reservation in Broken Arrow.

If there are any girls who would like to join our venture crew, step up! The crew is newly revised and ready to grow. Please seek out an adult leader if interested.

Camping returns! February 20-21 will be a one-night campout at Camp Garland/Mabee Scout Reservation in Locust Grove, where the scouts will work on rifle shooting sports.

Next month we will focus on new Scoutmaster Ben Davis. With change comes new opportunities, and the troop is excited to welcome Ben (that is, as Scoutmaster...he's been one of us for a while now)!

Last but certainly not least, the troop would be remiss if we didn't send out a heartfelt "thank you!" to Dow and Deanne Hughes. As of December 31, the Scoutmaster and committee chair couple vacated the positions that were held for nearly a decade in service to the young men and families of this troop. Their examples of kindness, guidance and enrichment will be the guideposts by which we carry on as a troop. Thank you both for devoting so much of your time for our sons. You've made a huge difference in their lives! ✕

— Trina Moore

**February 1 is the lesser feast day
of Brigid of Kildare, Monastic,
circa 451-525 AD.**



Prayer for Saint Brigid, Rite II
*O God, whose servant Brigid, kindled
 with the flame of your love, became a
 shining light in your Church, grant that
 we also may be aflame with the spirit
 of love and discipline, and walk before
 you as children of light; through Jesus
 Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns
 with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and forever. Amen.*

This Month at Saint John's Church
February 2021 Newsletter
Saint John's Episcopal Church
4200 South Atlanta Place
Tulsa OK 74105-4331

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
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TULSA, OK

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Join Us In
Celebration!*

THE REV. DAVID BUMSTED
WILL LEAD HIS FIRST SUNDAY HOLY
EUCARIST SERVICES
FOR SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH
AT 8:30 A.M. (IN PERSON)
AND 10 A.M. (ONLINE)
ON FEBRUARY 7, 2021.



DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST,

you are so loved!

Happy Valentine's Day
from your church staff and clergy