



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

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Lenten greetings to you, beloved!

I pray your Lenten disciplines are going well and I hope that Christ will continually make himself known to you throughout this season.

I suspect that March of this year carries with it a deeper solemnity. By the mid-point of this month, we will observe the sad anniversary of COVID-19's most profound effect on human life. Last March was when most people in our country, and across the world, entered into quarantine and lockdown. The intervening year since has been a sobering reminder of human fragility, both in terms of our susceptibility to sickness and our propensity towards division.

Throughout this year, many Biblical texts have swirled through my mind. As I have reflected over the past season, one of Saint Paul's encouragements to the Church in Rome has risen to the top of that churn. In the twelfth chapter of his letter to the Romans, Paul was helping that community to draw together under the Lordship of Christ, even as they faced bitter divisions in the body. The second verse of that chapter is the one that stands out to me:

***"Do not conform to the pattern of this world,
but be transformed by the renewal of your mind."***

The rest of the text around this verse is a reminder that the offering of one's self to the work of Christ's service is an act of sacrifice, and an act of humility that allows for the continued flourishing of God's Kingdom by the faithful work of healthy body. Paul even uses the familiar "body parts" analogy in Romans 12, perhaps more succinctly than his more famous teaching in 1 Corinthians, but still to great effect. In essence, we are reminded that the healthy body is made up of members working in concert. In the spiritual and community life of the Church, the lifeblood of this healthy body is Christ's humility.

By seeking Christ's humility, especially in this penitential season of Lent, we are laying aside the pattern of this world; the pattern of pride, vanity and selfishness. Beloved, I don't want you to read this as an admonishment for your current situation here at Saint John's. As I write this, I will have been here a few fleeting weeks and that would seem quite rude! Rather, this is a consideration that I believe is true no matter the age in which the Church has served.

Therefore, I pray that Christ's humility would be with you and in you as we begin to peer over the gates that the virus has imposed on us. We need only look to the 25th of this month for a clinic in humility through the feast of the Annunciation. In seeking after Christ this Lent, may we be found saying "Be it unto us according to thy Word!"

Blessings,



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share our news!**

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Report from the Senior Warden



My husband and I recently became grandparents. Last summer, as I contemplated impending grandmother-hood, I read *Everything Beautiful In Its Time* by Jenna Bush Hager, granddaughter and daughter of our 41st and 43rd Presidents. It is not at all political, other

than by reference; rather, it is a lovely recollection of her deep affection for her grandparents, on both sides. I wanted to learn what they had done to inspire such an especially loving tribute from their grandchild. Humor, thoughtful notes, an abiding sense of enthusiasm, and clear but short house rules are key details.

The title of the book is taken from the familiar verses in the Book of Ecclesiastes: ***“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”***

It's hard to miss the parallels between these verses and the season of transition that Saint John's has experienced during the past two years. We continue to weather a time of historic change yet have found new means of continuity and connection while waiting with great anticipation to gather safely again in our church home. We bid farewell to former clergy and now have the privilege of welcoming Father David and Beka with enthusiasm and joy. And eight years of strong and steady leadership from our Senior Warden, Jim Hicks, has reached its end. No one can replace Jim's intelligence and commitment to this congregation, for which we will be forever grateful. He now has earned his exit from a job extraordinarily well done.

As you may know, I serve as a Lay Eucharistic Minister, and recognize so many of your faces from the communion rail, or from the chancel as you pass by me singing in the choir. I look forward to getting to know each of you much better. With the help of the Vestry, Father David, and all of you, I will do my best to serve this congregation with the dedication and spirit that you deserve.

We cannot fathom the whole of God's plan for us, but let us move forward into our new season with renewed faith. Please pray for the people of Saint John's Church. Pray for Father David as he listens to what God calls him to do here and leads us into a new era. As he succeeds, Saint John's will succeed. When you eventually return to the church building, take a deep breath when you enter and stop to remember why you love Saint John's. Re-dedicate yourself to ensuring that our church is a place of grace, kindness and community. I am honored to be on this journey with you. – Susan Walker

Vestry & Delegate News

Just as the Great Commission, “Go therefore into the world to make disciples of all nations,” does not go into great detail on how exactly to accomplish that mission, so the canons of the Episcopal Church are not particularly specific about the responsibilities of vestries. What the instructions of the National Episcopal Church do say about the role of a vestry is they “shall be agents and legal representatives of the Parish in all matters concerning its corporate property and the relations of the parish to its clergy” (Canon 14). That's the whole thing.

While a vestry has legal and fiscal responsibilities, and takes them seriously, they are often tasked with many more duties and challenges, depending upon the time, issues or opportunities facing a church. They are not a board of directors for a business or a non-profit. The work of the vestry is grounded in the Spirit. Those on vestries explicitly seek God's guidance in their work.

If you have not already heard, meet the newest members of the Saint John's Vestry: Chris Barber, Marc McCaw, Imona “Mo” Omole and Trent Shores. We are most grateful for their desire to serve this parish. They will each serve a three-year term. We encourage you to look up their contact information in the church directory and get to know each of these new servant leaders (and share with them how YOU might also be willing to help through volunteering at Saint John's).

The candidates who will represent Saint John's Church in the fall 2021 Diocesan Convention are: Bob Baker, Marilyn Bedford, Jean Medlock, David Smith, Fred Stowell and Susan Walker.

You can see all our other Vestry member names on the church website. This month, please lift up our whole Saint John's Vestry in your prayers. Let us give thanks for their time, talents and hearts to serve. ✠



Treasurer's Report



We are witnessing an unprecedented time of chaos due to the COVID-19 pandemic and beginning for us in March 2020 with the closure of our church to in-person worship. All around us, corporations, school districts, universities, non-profit organizations and other churches are all suffering loss and uncertainty.

Almost immediately, Saint John's figured out how to livestream worship and many people began joining in. We made a financial commitment that has paid off. Our livestreamed church services, music programs and classes have been viewed by thousands of people.

And, many members of our Saint John's staff and congregation are bringing incredible creativity and energy to communicate, connect and worship with one another in these unpredictable times.

We need church. We need each other. We are getting through this together.

We ended the year 2020 with a net loss of (\$10,263). A recap of 2020 parish finances include:

Total Pledges & Contributions - \$943,018 Actual / 1,020,900 Budgeted

Total Other Income - \$130,380 Actual / 111,175 Budgeted

Total Income - \$1,073,398 Actual / 1,132,075 Budgeted

Total Expenses - \$1,307,661 Actual / 1,411,565 Budgeted

Net Operating Income - (\$234,263) Actual / (279,490) Budgeted

Withdrawals from Rainy Day Fund - \$224,000 Actual / 279,490 Budgeted

Net Income - (\$10,263) Actual / -0- Budgeted

Our 2020 parishioner pledges and contributions were under budget and expenses were also under budget. Fortunately, we were able to obtain PPP Funds of \$143,000 to help pay staff compensation. Additional funds were used from the Rainy Day Fund last year to cover the shortfall. Media ministry equipment/expenses and education expenses were funded from the Designated Funds.

We remain hopeful for additional pledges and I challenge everyone to increase their 2021 pledge by ten percent from previous commitments. Meanwhile, I remain optimistic about the finances in the coming year.

We must remember that the church is strongest when it has an active, passionate and generous congregation.

— Bill Chevaillier

Youth & Family News

Happy March, friends! I hope you all had a wonderful Valentine's Day and a great start to Lent.

In the month ahead we will be sending out Easter postcards (with a little gift!), continuing Family Friday videos, offering virtual adult education, and even plan a Zoom session to meet the new rector!

Watch your mailboxes for "snail mail," and tune in twice a month on Fridays for new editions of family videos about places and projects around the church. Our adult education discipleship study continues with *The Path*. We meet every Sunday at 11:15 am via zoom. You can find the link in our e-news, or right here (Meeting ID: 813 6549 1884 Passcode: 503187). We look forward to discussing the Bible with you!

Last, but certainly not least, I'll be working with Father David to hold an online forum for all parents of youth and children. Father David looks forward to discussing with you how we will continue Christian education through the coming year, as well as hopes and aspirations for when we meet in person. Look for more information in the weeks ahead on when the Zoom virtual meeting will be offered. We want to give everyone the chance to plan ahead, get the conversation on their calendar, and be part of this important topic for our church and families.

As always, we hope to see you participate in this and all the other events at Saint John's Episcopal Church. As we continue in 2021, I know things will only get better. Like we have said before: the building may be closed, but we are still the church.

Meanwhile, if you have questions don't hesitate to call, text or email me. My email is: jcorsaro@sjtulsa.org.

— Josh Corsaro

Save the Date: March 17
Celebration of New Ministry

On Wednesday, March 17, Bishop Reed will be at Saint John's Church for Father David's installation as the priest to our church and midtown Tulsa community. The office is working on details now. The service will be livestreamed on Facebook. Look for more information in the days ahead (in the church e-news editions) about limited attendance in-person seating (by invitation or reservation). Time 6:30 p.m.

Music News

Midday Concerts Are Back!

We are delighted to share that Music at Midday returns on March 3 and will run through April 28. In-person attendance for up to fifty people will be available with a reservation. To make a reservation, contact Diana at (918) 742-7381 or dcarter@sjtulsa.org. All programs begin at 12 noon.



The midday event dates and programming include:

March 3 - Adam Pajan, organ.

March 10 - John Rush, flute, and Joseph Arndt, organ.

March 17 - Fantasy and Fugue on the chorale "Ad nos, ad salutarem undam" by Franz Liszt, with Benjamin Clark, organ.

March 24 - Joseph Arndt, organ.

March 31 - Stabat Mater by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi, with Meray Boustani, soprano, and Nicholas Garza, countertenor. Adam Pajan will conduct and be joined by a chamber orchestra of period instruments.

Stabat Mater is a 13th century hymn inspired by the experience of Mary seeing her son Jesus at his Passion. This famous setting by Pergolesi will be a powerful addition to Holy Week at Saint John's Episcopal Church.

April 7 - Okna (Windows) by Petr Eben, with Caleb Hudson, trumpet, and Adam Pajan, organ.

Caleb Hudson is Assistant Professor of Trumpet at the University of North Texas and a member of the world renowned Canadian Brass. Petr Eben's work Okna is inspired by stained glass windows at Hadassah Medical Centre in Jerusalem designed by Marc Chagall.

April 14 - Mary Ann Stewart, soprano, and Paul Sweet, piano.

April 21 - Patrick Scott, organ.

April 28 - The King of Instruments by William Albright, with Scott Cantrell, narrator, with Joseph Arndt, organ.

Scott Cantrell is the retired classical music critic for the Dallas Morning News. He continues to write about music and art for leading newspapers and magazines around the country.

Join us in person (with an RSVP), on Facebook live, or catch up on any of the performances after they are offered (each will be archived on Facebook).

More Music Notes

6 p.m., Thursday, March 25 – for the feast day of **The Annunciation of Our Lord**, Saint John's will offer an organ recital by Adam Pajan featuring the music of Marcel Dupré.

At 6:30 p.m. on March 25 - the same evening, the music continues with Choral Evensong.

The Annunciation is a feast day of our liturgical calendar falling on March 25. Nine months before Christmas Day, this feast commemorates the message from the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary that she will give birth to Jesus. We will observe this feast with Choral Evensong at 6:30 p.m.

At 6 p.m. Adam Pajan will offer an organ recital featuring music of Marcel Dupré (1886-1971). This year marks the 50th anniversary of Dupré's death. Adam's recital will feature Dupré's music based on Magnificat antiphons.

The March 25 offerings are online only. Join us on Facebook live for the service, or enjoy the music and worship later at your convenience through the Facebook archive.

– *Joseph Arndt*

Boy Scout Troop 153

We hope this month finds all of you staying warm and healthy. No matter the weather, our scouts in Troop 153 are staying active. Here is what is going on:

In March we will again welcome new scouts on their journey to Eagle. We are seeking incoming Webelos Scouts who would like to join our growing troop. And, on March 6 we will participate in an Advancement Day for existing and incoming scouts to obtain merit badges.

Our campouts this month will be March 26-28 at Camp McClintock. This camp, located in the Osage Hills west of Bartlesville, exceeds 400 acres and hosts year-round opportunities for hiking and canoeing. The property encompasses woods, cliffs, creeks and ponds, providing a wonderful setting to take a unit on a weekend camping trip. Bonus: running water is available throughout the year and picnic tables abound.

As always, if you know a youth who would like to join scouting, please see one of our leaders!

– *Trina Moore*



This month for our “getting to know our Vestry” better column, our questions were posed to Saint John’s brand new Senior Warden. Some of you will know Susan well, whether from choir or Vestry or Stewardship or her assisting with communion during mass. Others among our readers may be new to the church, attend at a different service time than Susan, or have only seen her on Facebook Live reading Evening Prayers on Fridays. We know you’ll learn something fun about Susan here, and we encourage you to reach out to her to get even better acquainted!

Q: Susan, when did you join Saint John’s Church? **A: In 2013, but I had been here many times before.**

Q: What made you decide you wanted to officially join this church? **A: I had drifted away from the tradition in which I was raised, and was drawn to Saint John’s by the beauty of its traditional liturgy, music and architecture.**

Q: Do you have a favorite place in our church to pray or be contemplative? **A: I love to sit by the labyrinth and listen to the water feature.**

Q: Do you have a favorite hymn? **A: Oh, I can’t pick just one! My mother was a choir director and organist, so there are many hymns that I remember from childhood that are so comforting or inspiring.**

Q: How many children do you have; what are their names; where do they live? **A: My husband, Bill, and I have three daughters: Becca lives in Seattle; Claire and her husband KJ are in Philadelphia; and Gracie, who works in Stillwater. Claire and Gracie are twins.**

Q: Did we hear right that you have a brand new (and first) grandchild? **A: Yes!! On Valentine’s Day, Claire and KJ became the proud parents of a baby boy named Dean.**

Q: Do you like to travel? What place is on your “wish list” for after the pandemic? **A: I love to travel. Needless to say, I want to go to Philadelphia as soon as possible and see our grandbaby! Then to Seattle to see Becca. Beyond that, anyplace nice by an ocean.**

Q: What is your “guilty pleasure” food? **A: Anything savory and crunchy!**

Q: Do you have a favorite cause, apart from Saint John’s Church? **A: I am on the boards of Saint Simeon’s and Tulsa Lawyers for Children, so those are two of my current favorites. Our daughter Becca worked for a time at the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, and our daughter Gracie works with victims of domestic violence in Stillwater, so those are two causes that are also important to our family.**

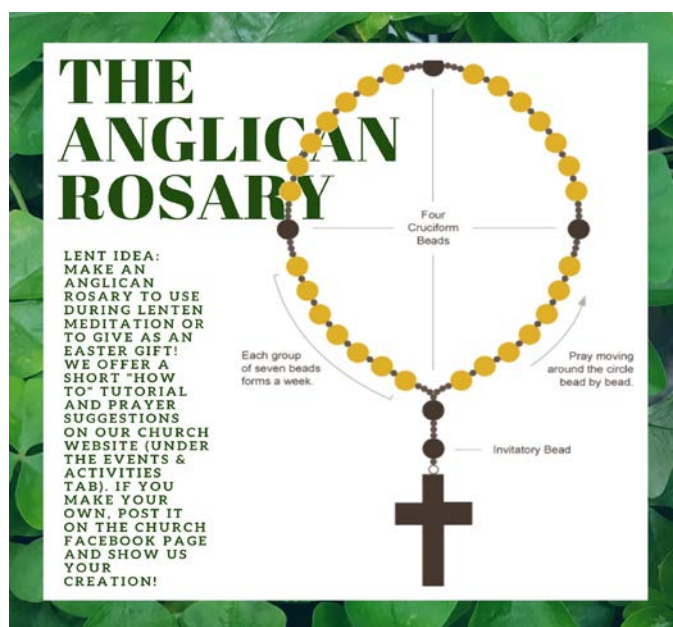
Q: What is the best way for a parishioner to reach out to you with a question, idea or concern? **A: My personal email is best, that’s susaneiwalker@gmail.com. I work full time as an attorney at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma, so may not be immediately available but I will read the message and return it as soon as I can.**

Q: Are you a morning or evening person? **A: Evening. As the person who is always five minutes late to choir on Sundays, I cannot possibly say morning with any credibility.**

Q: Who is a person you look up to (living or passed)? **A: Ruth Bader Ginsburg, for her incredible work ethic and commitment to equality under the law.**

Q: In five years, what two words do you hope new members use to describe our church community? **A: Dynamic and inspiring!**

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. ✕**



Inspired to Help

by Betsy Hocker

Like many parishioners, I have been holed up in my home during COVID-19. My only excursions since October are an occasional trip to Saint John's Church to read at a service or to shop at Reasor's.

After watching the inauguration I was inspired to do more to combat COVID. If possible, I wanted to help in distributing the Pfizer/Moderna vaccines. Channel 6 News highlighted an opportunity to volunteer with the Oklahoma Medical Reserve Corps. I signed up, took several online classes required by FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency), and underwent a background check. Within ten days I was assigned as a nurse's assistant to the Oklahoma Department of Health vaccine distribution site at the Tulsa Fairgrounds. My job is to collect application forms and prepare immunization cards. I also monitor individuals who just received their first or second shots. It has been a rewarding experience and I have received my first vaccine shot because of my work with the Health Department. I engage with people of all walks of life and ages. Many are first responders and medical providers, others are square dancing aficionados born before 1933!

The vaccine site provides 2,000 shots per day at ten different nursing stations. There are few if any complaints once someone arrives at the fairgrounds. The event is so well organized. It has been humbling to feel the gratitude and appreciation from so many for a chance to live a life of hope because of the COVID vaccines. Once an arm is pricked, fear dissipates and smiles abound.

The nurses giving the shots are not only professional and efficient, they are also kind and compassionate. Several hundred times a day I watch these nurses interact and provide attentive and gentle care to the elderly, the frail and many stressed first responders. I am so thankful I have been given a chance to do my part and to support the gallant men and women of the Oklahoma Department of Health. I encourage everyone to do their part as well and get the vaccine. My hope is to worship with my beloved family and friends at Saint John's in the not too distant future! ✕



Betsy in her "uniform."

Reflections on the City of Lights

by Betsy Hocker

Several years ago I heard Randy Spencer mention he used to worship at the American Cathedral in Paris. I was fascinated and vowed to myself I would learn more about his adventures in the City of Lights. I knew Randy Spencer as a former pew-mate and devoted friend to the late Martha Hicks, but I never imagined he had worshipped in such an exquisite space in one of the most romantic cities in the world.

I called him last month to chat and I learned more about his travels. Randy had somewhat of an itinerant childhood growing up in Oklahoma. His father moved quite a bit for work. Randy matriculated at the University of Arkansas and once he graduated he was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army. A fortuitous answer on a pre-screening questionnaire landed him in Paris in the 1960s. He lived the high life, flirting with French mam'selles and dating beautiful German fraüleins.

During our visit, my mind's eye conjured many images: Randy sightseeing at Sacre Coeur in Montmartre, entering the Moulin Rouge with a beautiful companion, or walking on the Isle de la Cite and gazing at the splendor of Notre Dame.

Once his tour of duty ended, Randy returned to Oklahoma where he began his master's degree at the University of Tulsa. He also obtained a doctorate degree in education. I was impressed and amazed by his accomplishments and his subsequent careers with the Treasury Department and Tulsa Public Schools.

Our conversation segued to our common love for Saint John's and how he and his late wife became members. I spent a lovely afternoon reminiscing with a lovely man about a beautiful city and a life filled with beautiful memories. ✕



March Milestones



Birthdays

- 1 Robert Baker IV, Arlo DeKraai, Scampy Rainey, Brock Taylor, Jean Tate
- 2 Kalleb Boston, Jack Kelly, Jim Singleton, Randy Spencer
- 4 John Abney, Grace Coen
- 5 Adam Adwon, Lorraine Kaefer, Susanne Methven
- 6 Dora Barber
- 7 Mark Payton, Barbara Putnam, Carreena Robohm, Baxter Schooley
- 8 Joseph Arndt, Catherine Hoopert
- 9 Jody McIntyre, Kristin Randall
- 10 Ira Phillips
- 11 Barbara Lawson
- 12 Karen Dodson
- 13 Sheri Colpitt, Deborah Tommey
- 14 Janice Cline, Kirsten Hoopert
- 15 Susie Fishe, Trish Lyons
- 17 Mark Youngblood
- 19 Katherine Johnson
- 20 Carolyn Ferguson, Charlotte Gibbens, Floyd Hudson, Jillian Moore
- 21 Amelia Cox, Jane Roegels, Barrett Waller
- 23 Breen Emery, Finley Randall, Travis Termin
- 24 Diane Morrow, Ben Russell, Les Veltman
- 25 John Staedke
- 26 Katherine Barlow, Michaela Blanton, Sidney Lawler
- 27 Nancy Morrison, Meg Perdue
- 28 Roberta Carter, Katie Coon, Katharine Dwyer
- 29 Stacey Clark, Nancy Hicks, Betsy Mayes, Imona Omole, Tom Viuf, Lynne Waters
- 31 Laura Gubser

Gone, but Not Forgotten

- 2/12 Charlie Fergus
2/12 Justin Nichols

News to Note:

#1 The Sunday early in-person worship service time has changed to 8 a.m. Reservations are required. Please honor this safety policy.

#2 The weekly Zoom Bible study has resumed Sundays at 11:15 a.m. Lent is a perfect time to begin attending a class!



Tuning into Attendance. As of February 22, Sunday worship attendance was as follows:

Jan. 31 was 22/305/493 Feb. 7 was 51/470/462
Feb. 15 was 10/308/394 Feb. 21 was 21/267/259.
Numbers are from 8:30 a.m. (in person), 10 a.m. (online), and 5:30 p.m. services (online), respectively.

Super Social in 2020. This month we offer you a snapshot of the social media analysis of several of our church's digital platforms during 2020. Details about our social engagement last year include:

- ✓ Daily engaged FB unique users by quarter = Q1 8,852; Q2 15,987; Q3 8,049; and Q4 6,898. These are very strong numbers for our church as we do not pay for sponsorships. All our views are organic engagement.
- ✓ FB post reach is the number of people who had any content from our Page or about our Page enter their (unique user's) screen. Reach = Q1 59,567; Q2 93,854; Q3 66,351; and Q4 60,044.
- ✓ FB demographics = 60% women by ages 45-54 (13%), 55-64 (13%) and 65 or over (17%). Men comprise 39% of our fans with 9% aged 35-54.
- ✓ Almost 95% of our FB followers are from the United States and we also have fans from Europe, Canada, Asia and Latin America.
- ✓ On Instagram, unique users who saw one of our posts or a story on any given day were 27,336.
- ✓ Top locations for our Instagram followers are Tulsa (60%), Broken Arrow (3%), Oklahoma City (2%), Jenks (1%) and Edmond (1%).
- ✓ Our Instagram followers are almost 66% female, with 25% aged 45-54. The fellas comprise 34% of our fans with 28% in the age range of 35-44.
- ✓ On our Twitter platform, our follower total is 214.

OUR CHURCH FB PAGE "FOLLOWERS" ARE UP MORE THAN 42%. FOLLOWERS (OR FANS) ARE THOSE WHO CHOSE TO "LIKE" OUR WHOLE FB PAGE/CHANNEL. THEY ARE ALSO CALLED UNIQUE USERS.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIDEO-ONLY VIEWS OF THE CHURCH FB PAGE WAS OVER 27,000. A VIEW IS THE NUMBER OF TIMES A VIDEO WAS WATCHED FOR AT LEAST THIRTY SECONDS BY ANY USER (THIS IS A FACEBOOK METRIC).

ALMOST 42,000 UNIQUE USERS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED ON OUR CHURCH FB PAGE. ENGAGEMENT/PARTICIPATION CAN BE LIKING, SHARING, AND COMMENTING OR CLICKING ON ELEMENTS OF A POST BY UNIQUE USERS.

WHILE 49% OF OUR FB PAGE FOLLOWERS ARE FROM TULSA, WE ALSO HAVE FANS FROM DALLAS, HOUSTON, NEW YORK CITY, BUFFALO, EDMOND, SAPULPA, OWASSO, SAND SPRINGS, JENKS AND CLAREMORE.

THE CHURCH SAW A 61% INCREASE IN OUR INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS.


NEW FOLLOWERS TO OUR TWITTER ACCOUNT GREW JUST OVER 11% AND WE REGISTERED MORE THAN 37,500 IMPRESSIONS.



This Month at Saint John's Church
March 2021 Newsletter
Saint John's Episcopal Church
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GIVING WITH GRATITUDE FOR SAINT JOHN'S AND EASTER!

Be on the lookout in your mailbox during mid-March for a letter from Father David. Easter is one of the two biggest times of the year when parishioners show their generosity to the church via plate donations. Since we may not all be able to gather on Easter, please consider mailing your virtual plate offering for Holy Week to the church office (or donate online).



New: Private Visit Times to the Columbarium

Thursdays

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

15 minutes, by reservation

**To make a reservation, contact
Diana in the church office.**