The Evangelist 7

The Evangelist
April 2021
A Newsletter for
our Parish and
Church Family

In this Issue:

Rector's Message-1 Sr. Warden's Letter - 2 Treasurer's Notes - 2 In-Person Worship - 3 Bible Study - 3 Music News - 4 Vestry Note - 4 Family & Youth News - 4 Chat with Cat - Insert A Parish Pets - Insert B Reader Q&A - 5 LEM Recruitment - 5 You & YouTube - 5 Communication - 6 Boy Scouts - 6 Milestones - 7 Staff Story - 7 Easter Services - 8 Pet Blessing - 8



Christ is Alive!

New life abounds around our beloved parish! The relatively early date of Easter this year means that our grounds, while certainly stoic and regal during the winter of Lent, begin to burst forth with the stunning color of new life and growth. I pray that what God reveals to us in the change of seasons would be emblematic of our time in ministry together!

In considering the spring with its attendant Eastertide, I often reflect on the fact that while Lent is made up of forty (or so) days, Easter is adorned with a Great Fifty Days. If Lent is a season wherein the faithful spend more time in solemn reflection and penitence, Easter is yet a longer season of celebration and proclamation. The Christian life requires all of these things, certainly, but I've always delighted that "Alleluias" of Easter last just a touch longer than the "Lord have Mercies" of Lent.

Eastertide also brings back the opportunity for the faithful to observe the Lesser Feasts, to recall the saints more fully without the penitential veil of Lent. My favorite feast of the season is Ascension Day, but I'll write to you more fully about that in May. On April 25, the Church will remember Saint Mark the Evangelist. His day falls on a Sunday, and with Bishop Reed's permission we can observe his day that weekend. One of the many fascinating features of the New Testament's shortest Gospel is Mark's sense of momentum and purpose. The word "immediately" is found many times throughout the text, and even cursory readers are often drawn into the quick pace of the narrative. I cannot help but consider a youthful enthusiasm in the work attributed to John Mark, an enthusiasm for Christ's messianic ministry I find irresistible.

As we head into the Great Fifty Days of Easter, I pray that sense of immediacy and enthusiasm would be with you as you pray, care for one another, and serve Jesus. As you seek to follow Jesus in the season that follows the Great Day of the Resurrection, may your words be quick to bless and your deeds be fervent in service!

Christ is Alive, brothers and sisters! Let us rejoice in his life among us!

(At left) The Rev. David Bumsted, Rector



Senior Warden's Letter

My husband and I were looking at the bunnies and robins in our yard the other day and I realized that I have never in my life been more overjoyed simply at the arrival of spring. The colors, the light, the warmth. We can put away the dark and heavy things of cold weather and turn toward longer days, fresh air, and sunshine with renewed optimism, especially as our COVID numbers become more promising. It is truly the season of renewed vitality.

Several Vestry members and I recently virtually attended the 2021 Diocesan Vestry Academy. One of the main topics of discussion was congregational vitality. Vital congregations work to strengthen three relationships: spiritual, with God; relational, with one another; and missional, with their communities and the world. Spiritual and relational vitality builds health, both individual and community. Spiritual and missional vitality creates sustainability — the capacity to be the Church. And relational and missional vitality leads to renewal and a holy transformation, allowing the congregation to adapt to challenges and respond to context.

There are four characteristics of a vital congregation. First, a discipleship mindset toward worship, ministry, and programming - strengthening formation, outreach, communications and stewardship. Second, strong and knowledgeable leadership. Third, a commitment to deepening relationships with God, self, and others, both inside and outside our community of faith, through spirituality, small groups, fellowship, and intentional listening. And finally, congregational adaptability, drawing on our congregational life and culture, tradition, reason, and scripture to respond to context and adapt to challenges.

We have been given a rare opportunity to revitalize our congregation. We can commit anew to improving our relationships with God, with one another, and with the community outside our walls. When we do, we will see increased congregational health, sustainability, and holy transformation. I hope you will join me in making this commitment, and in praying for the vitality of our congregation.

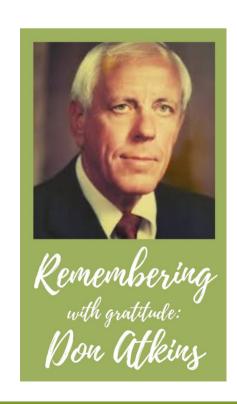
I wish all of you a blessed and happy Easter season. - Suyan Walker

A Note from the Treasurer

Last month, after I spoke at the Annual Meeting about Jim Hicks and his outstanding efforts as Senior Warden, it made me think of my predecessor as treasurer, Don Atkins. As many of you know, Don passed away in August of 2020. Don served as treasurer of Saint John's Church for over forty years. So, I visited with his daughter and son, Leslie and Blake, recently about this amazing fact. They remember, from childhood, him always attending Vestry once a month as treasurer. It is unbelievable to me to think that someone committed forty years of service to a single organization. Don obviously loved this parish and was passionate about its mission.

I served several years as assistant treasurer under Don and learned so much from him. I know there are many other members of this church who have committed a substantial amount of their time and energy to Saint John's Church. We should always let each and every one of them know how much their efforts are appreciated!

— Bill Chevaillier





Expanding In-Person Worship Opportunities

Father David was excited to be able to announce on March 18 that Saint John's Church would be expanding in-person worship in a deliberate and phased approach beginning March 21. As a first step, the church leadership added a second in-person worship option for Sundays: the 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist.

Along with the lay leadership and staff, he welcomed back parishioners and invited visitors into our treasured church on Sundays for the second service of the day. This mass is accompanied by the organ and four well-distanced singers, uplifting us in the way that only music can enrich our worship. (Though, at this time we have no congregational singing.)

The 10 a.m. Sunday service, and all events in the main worship space, are limited to the attendance of no more than fifty. This number is exclusive of the altar party, musicians and AV teams in the balcony, which remain around ten or fewer persons.

Reservations are required for all in-person events at the church at this time.

Father David reminded the parish that coming together as a community, lifting prayers and sharing the Holy Eucharist are all fundamental aspects of our lives together and followers of Christ. With guidance of the Diocese, and in consideration of the novel coronavirus numbers declining in Tulsa, he — along with the Senior and Junior Warden — began leading Saint John's in this next step toward opening up our church with joy and humility.

And, our Rector emphasized that if parishioners feel ready and feel safe to return to in-person worship, they can be assured that at Saint John's the staff and volunteers are being as careful as possible as we move toward hosting more people.

The ushers and staff continue to employ safety practices as we gather, including limiting seating at each event, offering generous spacing in the pews, requiring mask wearing, taking temperatures at the reservation check-in stand, sanitizing high-touch areas, and other measures to keep our parishioners, visitors and staff as safe as we can.

Father David also gently reminded all of us that this is still a time to proceed with care. He suggests that if a congregant has not received his or her full dose of virus vaccine, that perhaps the best plan would be to join the church family online just a bit longer — until an individual's vaccine becomes fully effective. And of course, if anybody or their household member is feeling unwell, please rest up and wait to join us in a couple of weeks.

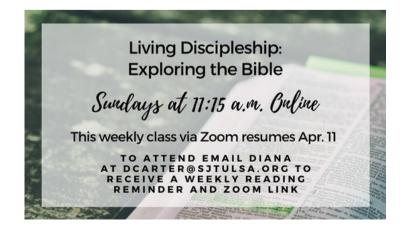
Many parishioners do not feel this is the right time for them or their family to come back into the church. Father David extends his understanding and reassures everyone in the Saint John's family that, of course, this is okay! When you join us online for the sharing of the sacraments, you are still participating fully and with our community.

The church staff encourages everyone to follow updates on the Saint John's website and through our email communications, where you will find the latest news of when each additional ministry or aspect of our church life will resume or expand. At this time, and for the immediate future, anyone desiring to come to a worship service or music event in the building MUST register for each event you desire to attend, so that we do not exceed our safe capacity maximum. Look for invitation emails from the office team to RSVP. You can also call or email Diana Carter directly to register.

Also, if you have young children, please communicate with our staff about your interest in nursery services. While nursery services will not be available during the initial phase of reopening, understanding the level of interest will help us to prepare for the future time when this family option can again safely be made available.

As the virus situation in Tulsa continues to improve, we'll look toward resuming small groups, so please watch for updates in our e-news and on the website. It may take many more months, but we will return to normal routines and activities in the life of this beloved church.

Lastly, know that whether you come to mass in the building or by participating in worship or events from home, God is continuing to weave our parish family together in a community of love and discipleship.



Music News

Music at Midday continues in April with wonderful staff and guest performances!

These will be livestreamed on Facebook. They may also be attended in person as capacity is available (the limit is 50 attendees) and with a reservation. Call or email Diana to check for available seats and to make a reservation. Please bring and wear a mask while in the building. Each concert begins at noon.

April 7

Okna (Windows) - Petr Eben Caleb Hudson, trumpet 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 Paul Sweet, piano

April 21

Patrick Scott, organ

Scott is Director of Music at Grace - St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Memphis, Tennessee. He won First Prize in the American Guild of Organists National Competition in Improvisation. His recital will feature improvisations on submitted themes.

April 28

The King of Instruments - William Albright
Scott Cantrell, narrator
Joseph Arndt, organ
Scott Cantrell reviews art and classical music for the Dallas
Morning News. He has served as chair of the jury for the
Pulitzer Prize in Music.



Vestry Meeting Note Moves...

FYI, meetings of the Saint John's Vestry will now be held generally on the fourth Sunday of each month at 7 p.m. Meetings will continue to be held via Zoom until on-site meetings resume, consistent with reopening plans for the church.

Family & Youth News

Happy Easter! We are moving forward with virtual activities, but now with our building slowly reopening we have some more exciting announcements.

This spring we continue: themed postcards for kiddos, Family Friday videos, adult education class, and we will have a Zoom session to meet the new rector!

I wish to encourage our children and teens to look in the mail for their personalized postcards. Like before, these cards have a theme of the month and in April we are focusing on The Resurrection moving toward Pentecost. Also, feel free to respond and write back!

Our adult education continues with *The Path*, and we plan to meet every Sunday at 11:15 a.m. via Zoom. Look in the enews for days we will not meet. You can find the link in our e-news, or right here (Meeting ID: 813 6549 1884 Passcode: 503187). On April 28 we will be hosting a guest speaker: Dr. James Shelton! Please join to hear from him about Luke-Acts. We look forward to discussing the Bible with you.

Last, but certainly not least, we are going to have a Zoom session for all parents of youth and children to discuss how we will continue Christian education through the coming year, as well as hopes and aspirations for when we meet in person.

Father Bumsted and I will be hosting this meeting on April 9 at 7 p.m. You can find the link here (Meeting ID: 858 6961 6669 Passcode: 736952) and in the e-news.

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

- Josh Corsaro

An Interview with Cat the Dog

Hi! My name is Cat. My dad and mom, Father David and Beka, gave me the very cool and long name Catlyn Stark Bumsted. Sometimes they also call me Cat the Dog, or simply, Cat Dog. But I mostly just go by Cat.

Thanks for the opportunity to be in the Evangelist and help highlight National Pet Day and Blessing of the Animals — both are on April 11. I can't wait to be out on the church labyrinth that Sunday at 3 p.m. My human dad pets me on the head a lot, but on THAT day he will "bless" me. Isn't that cool!? He can bless your pets, too.

My mom and dad adopted me from the Sarasota Humane Society in Florida in 2014, and I'm enjoying getting to know how to be an Okie. I have gotten used to the cold, but I don't think I'll ever really like lightning. I am settling in at St. John's House nicely. The things I find most interesting about the house and churchyard are stairs and squirrels. Both make me want to run and bounce.

Some things that are important to know about me: in anthropomorphic terms, I am an introvert. So that means I need to get to know people and places before I get really relaxed. If you greet me at the church, on the grounds, or out and about in Tulsa, the best thing to do is say "hello" and then simply talk to my family for a while. I'll decide when I feel confident enough to interact with you.



Also, I've been through some health challenges and my family has been amazing in their care and determination to keep me strong and happy. One of the ways they do that is by giving me a special diet because I am allergic to some kinds of protein. I had surgery on my leg in July, but I'm really feeling much better now (see: stairs and squirrels!).

A perfect day for me looks something like this — sleeping on mom and dad's bed all day, barking at car doors I hear outside (it's my job!), and getting plenty of "skritches" from mom and dad. So far my favorite treats are Miss Diana's (at the church office) peanut butter biscuits.

My family loves animals and we encourage you to think about adopting or rescuing your next pet. I am a pound puppy, so having my family come home to me every day is really special.

In Praise of Parish Pets

Did you know that the Episcopal Church has long called for the responsible care of wild and domestic animals? At the 76th Convention it was reaffirmed that "the Christian Tradition holds that God has created the earth and all that lives herein. It teaches that all God created is 'good,' and further, that we are held accountable for the right stewardship of God's creation."

National Pet Day is on Sunday, April 11, and in honor of the day the church is hosting a Pet Blessing for our church families, neighbors and our broader parish community. If you know a friend with a pet (come on, ya'll, we all do!), invite them to attend too. Father David will lead a service on the labyrinth in celebration of the lives of our pets and the families who bring them, as well as offer individual blessings to each and every animal.

Pet owners will receive a pet blessing "certificate" for each animal they bring and a complimentary cat or doggie treat bag will be provided to the church's new furry friends. The event will run about 30 minutes to one hour, depending upon attendance. Reservations are not required, though signing in upon arrival will be requested as a part of the church's ongoing safety protocols. All guests over the age of two years must wear a mask and social distancing will be observed. The church will accept donations during the service and all monies collected will be given to the Oklahoma Alliance for Animals.

While family pets come in all sizes, shapes and types — from finned and feathered to furry or smooth — they hold special places in the lives and hearts of their humans. On the next page of the Evangelist, we share a few photos and stories about dogs and cats submitted by members of our Saint John's family.

The Evangelist Insert Side A

Oliver Waller, age six, lives with three more furry housemates and two humans. Much to his chagrin, sometimes he has to suffer the insult of sharing his residence with what Mary and Barrett call "the grand-cats." He was adopted through a pet rescue program at an area vet's office. He loves to play catch with mom, snuggle with dad, and makes super loud "murrppy" sounds when he is content.



"Chessy" is the nickname Mark Youngblood gave this pretty girl because she was chestnut like the color of a horse. She will be eleven years old on July 4. Mark was afraid he was destined to lose her a few months ago due to a debilitating ruptured disc. Blessedly, she's mostly recovered and dad describes her as "happy as a lark."



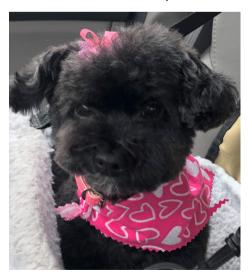
From Allison Warning: I knew I'd adopt a feline for my next pet. Then I saw a TV spot about a shelter featuring a fluffy gray and white baby. I thought of the name Miss Pansy Gale Tuddles. When I got to the shelter there were many darling kittens, but this one cat who was a year old kept meowing at me. Long story short, I adopted the older cat. Looking nothing like what I had first envisioned, I brought home MY Miss Pansy Gale Tuddles on Christmas Eve day two years ago.



This is Hank. He's ten years old, handsome and charming. But, he's also easily bored with his "hoomans," as evidenced by him running away from home and hitching a ride on a UPS truck, (the one with the driver who ALWAYS gives him treats). According to Candace Frates, the adventure ended well. "Thirty minutes later, the doorbell rang and the driver says to moi, 'Is this your good boy? He's been riding around with me, front seat, enjoying the breeze!"



Lola is an eleven-year-old toy poodle who thinks she's a puppy! Barbara Burke says she is the best little companion and a constant shadow. Lola is a great car traveler and loves to go on brisk walks with Barbara's grandkids in Tennessee. Fun fact: Lola attended vestry meetings with Barbara when she served on the Vestry!





Fifteen-year-old Coey lives with her human, Lynn Kimmell. If her green reflective gear looks like it makes her highly visible, it does. She is so prone to blending into the carpet, the accessory helps her not to be stepped on! When not underfoot, she loves to burrow under blankets. Coey unfortunately has been diagnosed with cancer. Please keep Coey and her "mom" in your prayers.



This is Cheryl and Gene Melton's precious CeCe. She's a nine-year-old tri-color Yorkie who still plays like a puppy. CeCe loves people and has a lot of friends at Montereau where she lives. The Meltons said the pandemic lockdown was much easier thanks to having this furry family member. "She keeps us going!"



A true story poem from Jessica Stowell: Unwanted kitten, refused three times. Now old and rickety.
Caterwauls in the night.
Reminds us God sent her as companion, comforter, entertainer, but mostly to find the tumor that might have killed (me)... but didn't, because she warned me.



The Evangelist Insert Side B

Q&A with Saint John's Readers

Mark Youngblood joined Saint John's Church in 2011 and has been a reader at our church for about two years. We conversed with him recently via email ...

Q: Mark, did you have to take any special training to become a reader? A: Previously no, but being a singer perhaps helped with confidence in speaking. I began reading in a previous congregation in 2000.

Q: What other activities are you involved in? A: At Saint John's I am a member of the Chancel Choir and Brotherhood of St. Andrew. In the community I volunteer with Clarehouse, as an Eleventh-Hour volunteer. I'm also an officer on the Will Rogers High School Community Foundation as well as secretary and incoming president for the Tulsa Will Rogers Rotary.

Q: Do you have a favorite avocation? A: That would be music. I have a Bachelor of Music, Voice degree and love vocal solos and choral music. I've sung bass one and baritone in many Tulsa churches and sang with Tulsa Oratorio Chorus for twenty years.



Q: Tell us a little bit about your career. A: I was brought to Tulsa as a retail manager/buyer in 1988. I've worked in merchandising, buying and management. I was a realtor between 2000 and 2019. Currently I am semi-retired, working various part-time gigs.

Q: You said work brought you here. Where else have you lived? A: I'm from Waynesboro, Mississippi, near the Gulf Coast, and went to college at Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi. I also lived in Baton Rouge.

Q: Tell us about your family! A: I've one sibling, a sister, Amy Youngblood, who lives in Stuttgart, Arkansas. I have two daughters — Sarah Youngblood and Hannah Jacobs — and a son-in-law, Evan Jacobs. They all live in Tulsa.

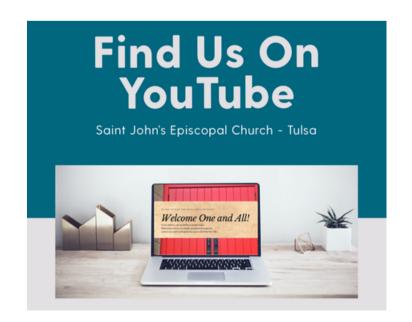
Q: Have you a recommended spring read? A: Yes, a series in fact, called the Hinges of History by Thomas Cahill. My favorite in the series is How the Irish Saved Western Civilization, about Western civilization history and religion.



LEM is short for Lay Eucharistic Minister(s). These are the volunteers who wear the robe and serve the cup during worship. Some LEMs are also lay readers (who don't wear a robe unless they are also assisting with the cup). Both forms of service to our parish can be deeply meaningful. Additionally, this is a great way to get to know better the Bible, the Book of Common Prayer, and other volunteers in the parish (like other readers and the tech crew) as well as the clergy.

Currently, Saint John's has about a dozen active members in these roles, but we very much need more, especially as we are beginning to offer more in-person worship and prayer opportunities. If you have an interest in learning more about the commitment to become a lay reader, please contact Diane Morrow. This group reads for Evening Prayers, during Sunday services, and for some events midweek (think Holy Week and Feast Days). Diane is happy to work with you on a schedule or rotation that matches your availability. If you would like to discuss becoming a Lay Eucharistic Minister, contact Lynn Kimmel.

Saint John's Church needs you!





Tuning into Attendance

As of March 22, Sunday worship service attendance last month was as follows: Feb. 28 was 22/281/437, Mar. 7 was 38/287/368, Mar. 14 was 31/251/565, and Mar. 21 was 32/170/211. Index: these numbers respectively are #1 from 8:30 a.m. (in person), #2 from 10 a.m. (online), and #3 from 5:30 p.m. services (online), respectively. In May we will begin adding a statistic for the in-person worship at 10 a.m.

Super Social Saints

Most months we offer a highlight of popular posts on Facebook and/or Instagram. In March on FB, Music at Midday on Wednesday, March 10, featuring flutist John Rush and organist Joseph Arndt attracted 321 guests online. Evensong on March 14 was viewed online by 656 parishioners and passionate choral music followers! And, on Friday afternoons, Father David's walk through the Stations of the Cross viewing has been a wonderful added worship opportunity for Lenten meditation. As always, these are saved if you want to re-watch any video or view them for the first time.

Polishing up Playlists

If you are a regular "saved video" watcher on our church's official Facebook page, you will recall that we organize saved events and services that we have livestreamed on FB by category, or, "playlists." In March we began to organize our awesome growing inventory of archives in a new way: by the liturgical week. Beginning the week of IV Lent, every livestreamed offering — mass, concerts, Evening Prayer, Bible class, Rector's message, etc. — that was streamed during the week (starting with Sundays) will appear in the playlist of the week that it took place in. This is a fun new way to get to know the liturgical calendar better.

Time for YouTube

If you have not already, consider subscribing to the church YouTube channel and find/follow/like/share Saint John's videos. YouTube is handy because you can view a video there from any smart device on the app without being a subscriber. However, if you do subscribe (it is easy), then you can "like" our videos and help us build our following. Once we hit a minimum number of fans and videos, we can receive a unique URL to the page...something that helps our online marketing.

Search online for "Saint John's Episcopal Church — Tulsa." When you see the results, scroll down to the "church only" page. And, while you are there and if you love the music of our church, subscribe to the "Music at Saint John's..." page, too! It will probably appear as the first option in the search results.

Hopping into April

This month the church has so many special offerings to participate in online or to make a reservation to join in person.

Please be sure to peruse the whole newsletter and look for the graphics that may highlight events/dates and time that are not in other articles in the Evangelist. It is so exciting to see our Saint John's family and church springing with energy!



- "April hath put a spirit of youth in everything."
- William Shakespeare

Ah, the giddy days of spring have returned, and boy, our scouts (Troop 153 and Venture) are ready to be outside and camping! We start out the month strong with a Hiking Merit Badge session on April 3. We will be meeting at Turkey Mountain to go full speed ahead to finish this Merit Badge. April's campout will be held the weekend of April 16-18 at Heyburn Lake - Sheppard Point, west of Kellyville. Sheppard Point is an excellent destination for access to Oklahoma's Heyburn Lake and for taking advantage of hiking and sightseeing on the multi-use nature trail.

We have an exciting new fundraiser for our Troop that takes the place of popcorn this year: we are taking orders for American flags! Please be on the lookout for specific fliers and consider supporting our scouts.

Adult Outdoor and Leader Trainings are resuming and there are some great options if you would like to learn more about becoming an Adult Leader, like NRA Shooting Sports Instructor, Certified Angler Instructor, Certified Climbing Instructor...we could really use YOU! Please see an adult leader if you are interested.

— Trina Moore



Birthdays

- 1 Whitney Moss
- 2 Laura Burgess, Janice Chevaillier, David Nierenberg, Lawson Prather, Sheryl Smith
- 4 Dena Nowotny, Aidan Pohl
- 5 Riley Lawson
- 6 Ralph Brown, Sarah Hesterlee
- 7 Mindy Cox
- 8 Matthew Barlow
- 9 James Turner, Michael Turner
- 10 David Merifield
- 12 Don Niemeyer, Jane Romine
- 14 Elizabeth Brown, Pam Diaz, Pete Eichenberger, Joe Perdue, Bill Wheeler
- 15 Jenna Slattery
- 16 Ellie Estes, Dian Peacock
- 17 John Duvall, Allison Warning
- 18 Jean Medlock
- 19 Rick Garren, Caren Lawrence
- 20 Anne Cleveland, Truman Prather
- 21 Ben Lawson
- 22 Chris Fields
- 23 Robert Baker III, Otis Houston-Gilley, Hazel Pavlik, Chase Smith, Sarah Scott
- 24 Kay Garland, Dee Maguire, Sheppard Miers
- 25 Mary Mancini, Tom Owens, Ed Rigney
- 26 Sharon Bell
- 27 Virginia Monk
- 28 Patsy Miller, Elaine Burkhardt, Joe Morris
- 29 David Lawson, Paula Smith, Kay Young
- 30 Jim Hicks, Kathy Niemeyer, Gene Starr



Planting Seeds, Sowing Change

Our communications director, Mary Waller, shares a little about herself and her passions outside of the office in this month's "get to know our staff" column.

In southwestern Oklahoma near Antlers, one of the special signs marking the arrival of spring was the first-reported spotting of a migrating adult monarch butterfly on March 7 by a friend of mine. I am sharing this news with you because here in the northeastern part of the state, as we see multiple warm days and feel the southerly winds of April, you might want to keep an eye on the sky or your garden to see if you can spot a monarch on his or her way to Canada.

The count of the central population of monarchs in their Mexican winter forest roosts was down again 26% in 2020-2021. Overall, the species has declined more than 80% in the last two decades. But we still have reason to be optimistic. We can help preserve this species for our kids or grandchildren to experience in years to come. Bonus: anything we do to support monarchs, which travel through our state twice a year, also helps all pollinators — native bees, moths, other butterflies and even hummingbirds!

I have a heart for nature and my last career project was for a statewide conservation consortia committed to helping pollinators. I am an advocate for public lands, the leave no trace initiative, and the rewilding movement, as well as the benefits of spending time outside...the wilder the place, the better. One of the ways I have learned to help butterflies, bees and other imperiled insect and bird species is through planting Oklahoma-specific wildflowers in patio pots, gardens, urban "islands," pastures and more.

Did you know that one-third of all food we consume is benefited in some way during the process of creating it by a pollinator? One in three forkfuls! It is not just our moral responsibility to care for God's creations, but it is vital to our state's economy and the food security of our nation. Speaking of food, wild creatures need native plants for solid food, liquid fuel and places to raise their young. Oklahoma has many native trees and some serve up to dozens of species, including pollinators. A native wildflower plant can serve up to 46 separate species during its season, from soil-living organisms to birds that eat the seeds (think: Maximillian sunflower).



I have a good stash of mixed native wildflower seeds (see photo). If you would like a package, or just some advice on what to add to your garden this year to help out pollinators, hit me up. For seeds, simply email mwaller@sjtulsa.org with your address and I'll drop a small package in the mail to you.

If you want to learn even more about helping pollinators, visit www.okiesformonarchs.org. If you want to learn more about the Episcopal Church and protecting natural resources, go to

www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/office-government-relations/creation-care/. To learn more about the Episcopal Church and the super cool Good News Garden program "Plant, Pray & Proclaim," visit

https://www.episcopalchurch.org/good-news-gardens/. Bishop Michael Curry has a great video on this website page. As he says, "We can all help the earth and the entire human family."



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



