

The Evangelist



August 2021 A Newsletter for our Parish and Church Family

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John's Episcopal
Church-Tulsa

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Greetings!

For so many of our families, the turn from July to August is "go time." It's time to go get the most out of the waning days of summer vacation. It's time to go shopping for the return to school. And for our college students, perhaps even time to go off to campus.

In ministry, I often think of August as "go time" as well. As our families send their kids back to school for their academic formation, so do opportunities for Christian formation come back into our parish life. We've got a busy schedule ahead of us, and I am excited to encourage greater activity and growth for our programs for all ages!

While Beka and I were away, the importance of robust and active Christian education came into focus in a new way for me. We have a habit of visiting churches wherever we go, and we came across a Vespers service being offered at a local English-speaking Eastern Orthodox congregation. Having only read about Eastern Orthodoxy history and practice in books, I was genuinely excited to participate in what is roughly analogous to that great tradition's Evensong. What we found in that service was absolutely beautiful, but also completely alien in terms of its rhythm and idiom. Many of the texts used by the officiants were familiar but deployed very differently than we would be used to as Western Christians. I could tell that the journey towards proficiency in this tradition would take time, effort, and discipline; a process that I remembered fondly in that moment as I recalled all the time it took for my mentors to walk me through the prayer book tradition.

But what I found genuinely moving was the care that parents had for showing their children how they could participate in the service, how the children could make their parents' practice their own. Watching a young girl reverently light a candle in the sandbox and say a prayer with her father was humbling and sweet. As a newcomer to this liturgical world, I dare say that for a brief moment, I longed for that same kind of mentorship as I stumbled awkwardly through the rest of the liturgy.

I am deeply grateful for the experience, even as it confirmed my deep love of the Book of Common Prayer and the familiar patterns of English spirituality present in our tradition. And I came away excited for backpack blessings, children's chapel, rector's forums, newcomer classes, and all the great formation offerings to come. Therefore, I pray that we would greet with zeal the program year to come, seeking after Christ to make him known within our walls, within our families, and to all peoples who would hear the Gospel anew or afresh. It's going to be great and I'm very much looking forward to it!

Your friend,



The Rev. David Bumsted, Rector

Senior Warden's Message

- Susan Walker



Recently, I read an article entitled "There's a Specific Kind of Joy We've Been Missing," by Dr. Adam Grant, a professor at the Wharton School and well-known author. While most people view emotions as internal and personal, Dr. Grant argues that they are inherently social, and that peak happiness lies mostly in collective activity. He points to something called "collective effervescence," a concept coined in the early twentieth century to describe the "sense of energy and harmony people feel when they come together in a group around a shared purpose." One passage particularly struck me: in cultures where people pursue happiness socially – "through connecting, caring and contributing – people appear to be more likely to gain well-being." Dr. Grant says that, as we emerge from the isolation of the pandemic, now is a perfect time to think of flourishing as a collective endeavor. In his words, "joy shared is joy sustained."

I have been having a lot of conversations lately about what is at the core of the Saint John's community – who we are, what we value most, and what we want the outside world to know about us as we move forward from the transitions of the past few years. Resoundingly, I hear that Saint John's builds and sustains relationships – our personal relationship with God through Christ, the fabric of our treasured relationships with one another in this beautiful place, and the relationship of our church with the larger Tulsa community.

As summer winds down and the new beginnings of fall are on the horizon, I invite you to renew your relationships here at Saint John's with fresh intention. Connecting and contributing with us can strengthen not only your own well-being, but that of all of us together.

Simple Giving by Smartphone

It's easier than ever to make a donation to Saint John's, especially on those days when you don't have cash in your wallet, forgot to write a check, or simply want to give fast but also get a receipt. To donate by scan, hover your smart phone over the QR code to the right and follow the steps.



Treasurer's Report

- Bill Chevraillier



Planned Giving will be a primary focus for Saint John's Episcopal Church for 2021.

A beneficiary designation is one of the simplest ways to make a gift to Saint John's Church. It's literally as easy as filling out a form. You can specify the individuals and charities you want to support and you can also specify the percentage of the assets you want each beneficiary to receive. Beneficiary designations are available when giving the following assets:

Retirement Assets

An alternative to a bequest gift is to designate Saint John's Church as the beneficiary of your retirement assets. This gift is simple because you can control the transfer of these assets at your death without changing your will or living trust. All you need to do is request (and complete) a new beneficiary designation form from your plan administrator. There is no need to modify your will or living trust.

A gift of retirement assets has the added advantage of being among the most tax-wise ways to make an estate gift. This is because your retirement assets, if left to individuals, will be subject to income tax when they receive distributions and, in the case of most non-spouses, those distributions must take place within ten years, potentially pushing designated beneficiaries into higher tax brackets. With a gift to a non-profit such as Saint John's Church, 10 percent of the funds are available for its charitable purposes. If you want to remember us in your estate plan, it is often better to leave other types of assets – cash, securities, real estate – to your heirs and give the more heavily taxed retirement asset to Saint John's Church.

Life Insurance

Life Insurance policies can also be used to make a gift to our church. Complete and return to the insurance company a form designating that the Saint John's Church receives all or a portion of the death benefit associated with your life insurance policy. As an alternative to naming the church as the beneficiary, you can transfer ownership of the policy. Transferring ownership results in an immediate income tax charitable deduction and potential income tax savings in the year of the gift.

(continued on page 3)

Other Assets

Commercial Annuity Contracts – a commercial annuity will sometimes have a remaining value at the end of the annuitant's lifetime. You can name Saint John's Church to receive all or part of this amount by designating it as a beneficiary (sole or partial) on the appropriate form from the insurance company.

Bank Accounts – you can instruct your bank to pay Saint John's Church all or a portion of what remains in a checking or savings account. Your bank can provide you with the appropriate beneficiary designation form.

Investment Accounts – you can instruct your investment company to transfer to Saint John's Church some or all investments held in the account at the time of your passing. Your broker or agent can let you know the process for doing this – it may be as simple as adding "T.O.D. to Saint John's Church" (which means transfer on death), after your name on the account.

Getting to Know...Our Vestry

This month we asked another of our newer Vestry members, Trent Shores, to share a little about himself and his family. We hope you enjoy reading this Q&A as much as we enjoyed learning about Trent.

Q: Tell us about your journey to Tulsa. **A:** I was born in Texas and raised in Oklahoma. I feel like a longtime Tulsan because I grew up here since 1983. But I've also lived in Houston, Edmond, Nashville, Norman, OKC, Washington, DC, and Muskogee. I returned to Tulsa from DC in 2007 to serve as a federal prosecutor at the United States Attorney's Office.

Q: Where did you go for collegiate studies and what were your favorite classes? **A:** I graduated from Vanderbilt University with a degree in political science. Then I attended the University of Oklahoma where my favorite classes were Constitutional Law, Criminal Procedure and Federal Indian Law.

Q: Did you grow up in the Episcopal tradition? **A:** Yes, at Trinity Episcopal Church in Tulsa. My wife, Caitlin, and I joined the Saint John's family six years ago. We love the liturgy, music and people. And we are most excited about the future of Family and Children's Ministry here in the church.

Q: You recently changed work roles. Tell us more. **A:** I spent nearly eighteen years in public service at the United States Department of Justice, most recently as the Presidentially appointed and Senate confirmed United States Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma. Because the U.S. Attorney serves at the pleasure of the President, when the administration changed I moved into private practice at GableGotwals. I now advise clients regarding complex litigation, Native American law and policy, cybersecurity, and high stakes government and corporate investigations.

Q: You shared that Caitlin also has a career outside of the home. Tell us a little about her. **A:** Everything about Caitlin amazes me. She is an incredible wife, mother and business owner. She is the co-founder of W/S Commercial, a full-service, independent retail real estate firm specializing in landlord and tenant representation.



Q: Please share a news nugget about each of your boys. **A:** Rowan, age two years, is an accomplished Strider bike rider who has competed in an out-of-state bike race. Riley, age one year, is an accomplished walker who, as of last week, walked all by himself from the couch to the kitchen...a chip off the ol' block.

Q: What does an ideal family vacation look like for your crew of four? **A:** Anywhere without cell phone reception.

Q: Who is your favorite musician? **A:** Johnny Cash.

Q: What is your favorite "go to" food? **A:** Tacos.

Q: If you had to make a cross country road-trip with one member of the Vestry, who would you select and why? **A:** There is no way any answer to this turns out well. As such, I will exercise my right to remain silent!

Editor's Note - bonus news: During the third week in July, Trent was confirmed and sworn in as a Tribal Supreme Court Justice for the Kaw Nation. Congratulations, Trent!



Music News - Joseph Arndt

Choral Evensong for the Feast of St. Mary the Virgin

Sunday, August 15 at 5:30 p.m.

The Virgin Mary, Jesus' mother, is honored with a feast day of August 15 on the liturgical calendar. When August 15 falls on a Sunday (as it does this year), the feast is moved to Monday the 16th. We will celebrate St. Mary the Virgin with a special Evensong on Sunday evening at 5:30 p.m. on the eve of the "moved" feast.

Concert: Musikalische Exequien by Heinrich Schütz

Friday, October 22 at 7 p.m.

Heinrich Schütz (1585-1672) was the most significant German composer before Bach. He spent most of his career in Dresden, his musical life greatly impacted by the Thirty Years War. His work Musikalische Exequien was composed for the funeral services of Count Henry II of Reuss-Gera. It is thought to be the first Requiem in the German language, set in three parts. There will be an educational forum offered in advance of the concert – details will be announced.



The concert will be performed by Adam Pajan, conductor; Sherezade Panthaki, soprano; Alissa Ruth Suver, soprano; Nicholas Garza, countertenor; Jeanise Wynn, alto; Steven Soph, tenor; Keith Lathrom, tenor; David Grogan, bass; Jason Awbrey, bass; Joseph Arndt, organ; Eric Smith, cello; and Michael Leopold, theorbo.

Admission is free thanks to the generous underwriting by Arlo and Barbara DeKraai.



Music at Midday Season Seven

Mark your calendars: Music at Midday resumes on September 15. These free half-hour recitals will be offered on Wednesdays at 12 noon through the month of October. Possibilities for offering lunch again are currently being considered, and more information is forthcoming.

The first recital on September 15 will be a return visit by The Ezra Duo, featuring violist Jacob Clewell and pianist Sasha Bult-Ito. Learn more about these performers at www.theezraduo.com.

Meet Noah Smith, Our New Organ Scholar

During the 2021-2022 academic year Noah will be doing an internship as Organ Scholar at Saint John's, being mentored by Joseph Arndt in various aspects of a career in church music.

Noah is a third-year undergraduate student at the University of Oklahoma pursuing degrees in organ and piano performance. He is currently a technician at the Red River Pipe Organ Company.

Noah grew up in Russellville, Arkansas where he attended All Saints' Episcopal Church. Noah is a National Merit Scholar, and he is the recipient of a number of music scholarships at OU. He was named OU's Outstanding Undergraduate Organ Student for the 2021–2022 academic year.



He won both the OU Young Artist Competition and the OU Rising Stars Competition in 2021. In 2020, he was awarded prizes by the Little Rock Musical Coterie, the OKC Ladies Music Club, and the Hyeckha Club of Tulsa.

SAVE THE DATE



SAINT SIMEON'S FOUNDATION PRESENTS

WESTERN DAYS

A Starry Night Saluting Our Servers!

25th ANNIVERSARY

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Cox Business Convention Center
Grand Ballroom



Western Days Co-Chairs: Beth and Scott Brown & Melissa and Mac Stallcup



Thanks to all who voted for Western Days 2020!

Getting to Know...Our Readers

A member of Saint John's Church for two decades, lay Eucharistic minister and reader Leanne Barlow participated in our Q&A this month.

Q: Leanne, were you raised Episcopalian? A: My mother was a cradle Episcopalian, and my father was a Baptist. There was no Episcopal church in the small town of 2,500 people that I grew up in, so they compromised and my siblings and I were raised in the Methodist church.

Q: Tell us something about your kids. A: My children, Katherine and Matthew, were baptized and confirmed at Saint John's. Katherine is the best cook in our house, closely followed by Matthew, who cooks the best steaks. And we are going to go on summer vacation to Cabo in a few weeks.

Q: Where do you work and what do you do there? A: I was an estate planning attorney for twenty-five years, first in Texas and then in Oklahoma. For many years I was a solo practitioner, which gave me a lot of flexibility to pick up the kids from school. In 2017 I took a position with BOK Private Wealth as a trust advisor. In this role I act as the administrator of trusts when BOK is named as a corporate trustee. I am responsible for carrying out the terms of the trust document and making discretionary distributions. I love my job and the people I work with. It is challenging, fascinating and rewarding.

Q: What are your favorite hobbies? A: Playing tennis, scrapbooking, reading and traveling.

Q: What did you last read or most enjoy? A: My grandmother gave me an Agatha Christie book when I was 11 years old, so if someone doesn't die in the first few pages, I don't like it! This year's favorite mysteries are *Ocean Prey* by John Sandford, *Dark Sky* by C.J. Box, and *Devil's Hand* by Jack Carr.



*Saint John's Night
@ FC Tulsa*

7 p.m. Saturday, August 28

Join Father David and other Saint John's friends for a night to cheer on Tulsa's very own professional soccer team, FC Tulsa! Email Diana Carter to reserve a ticket - dcarter@sjtulsa.org.

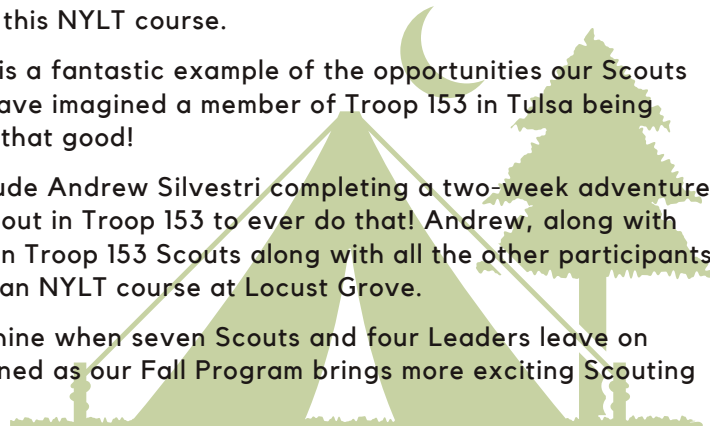
What's New with the Scouts?

Our August newsletter submission begins with an incredible testimony to not just one of our Scouts but to the overall quality of ALL our scouts. Ruskin Bell, an Eagle Scout in Troop 153, has traveled to New York to be the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader of a National Youth Leadership Training Course (NYLT) at Alpine Scout Camp in Northern New Jersey, one of the Scout Camps of the Greater New York City Scout Councils. Ruskin had finished up a staff position just a few days before at National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE) at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico and was asked by one of the older staff members to come to New York for this NYLT course.

We are very proud of Ruskin and what he has accomplished! This is a fantastic example of the opportunities our Scouts have because of the training we have given them. No one could have imagined a member of Troop 153 in Tulsa being asked to staff NYLT in New York/New Jersey, but our Scouts are that good!

Some additional accomplishments of our older Scouts for July include Andrew Silvestri completing a two-week adventure at Philmont known as the O-A Trail Crew Trek. He was the first Scout in Troop 153 to ever do that! Andrew, along with Ruskin and Nelson Stewart, were on staff at NAYLE, guiding seven Troop 153 Scouts along with all the other participants to complete the course. Matt Moore and Jonah Davis also staffed an NYLT course at Locust Grove.

August brings more opportunities for our Scouts and Leaders to shine when seven Scouts and four Leaders leave on August 1 for a nine-day wilderness adventure at Philmont. Stay tuned as our Fall Program brings more exciting Scouting and Venturing news!



Holey Stitchers

The Holey Stitchers will resume meeting on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. starting on September 7. They will gather in the conference room on the lowest level of the church. When asked how she would describe "who" the stitchers are and "what their mission is," Dianne Schooley, group coordinator, shared the following. "We often say we have no grand purpose. Our meeting time is an opportunity to get together, work on our own stitching projects, and enjoy one another's company. The projects vary: knitting, cross stitch, sewing, embroidery and needlepoint. It's always fun to see what everyone is working on. We usually stay a couple hours, although that's not set in stone. Stitchers come and go as their schedule allows. We don't really have a membership per se but invite anyone to join us on Tuesday mornings. I know this sounds very loosey-goosey but that's what we are!"

We think that sounds fun, relaxing, and low pressure! Anyone is welcome to join any week. Bring a friend! And, gentlemen, don't be shy. If you have a knitting or needlework project you are working on, they'd love to see you! If you would like to know more ahead of attending, email Dianne at dianne.schooley@cox.net.

Volunteer Appreciation Night

**Sunday
September 19**

**5:30 p.m. Choral Evensong
6:30 p.m. Reception**

The clergy and staff of Saint John's Church are planning a dinner-mixer to thank our wonderful volunteers.

Food and beverages will be provided with catering from The Palate!

If you are a volunteer from any ministry or initiative, save the date! Look for invitations to be mailed to volunteers (and their "plus one") later in August.

If you have questions, email Joseph Arndt at jarndt@sjtulsa.org.



**WE LOVE TO SEE
YOUR SMILE...BUT
SOMETIMES IT IS
SMART TO WEAR
A MASK!**

AS TULSA COUNTY IS REPORTING AN INCREASE IN NEW COVID-19 CASES, WE ENCOURAGE ALL OUR PARISHIONERS TO FOLLOW THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES -

- IF YOU ARE NOT VACCINATED, WEAR A MASK AT ALL TIMES WHILE IN OUR CHURCH BUILDING
- IF YOU ARE VACCINATED, THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO CONSIDER IF WEARING A MASK IN THE CHURCH ONCE MORE IS AN ADDED PRECAUTION YOU'D BENEFIT FROM
- IF YOU ARE NOT VACCINATED, PLEASE DISCUSS IT WITH YOUR PHYSICIAN AND CONSIDER THIS OPTION NOW
- IF YOUR CHILD IS SICK, DO NOT BRING THEM TO THE NURSERY
- PLEASE SUPPORT AND BE COURTEOUS TO THOSE WHO MAKE THE CHOICE TO WEAR A MASK
- PLEASE PLACE SOCIAL DISTANCE BETWEEN YOURSELF AND NON-HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS WHILE AT CHURCH.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HELPING US CARE FOR ALL OUR SAINT JOHN'S FAMILY AND FRIENDS. LET'S HELP KNOCK THIS VIRUS DOWN IN TULSA!

*Register for the
Brotherhood of Saint
Andrew's*

Golf Classic

Details:

8 a.m. Saturday, August 21,
Battle Creek Golf Course
Foursome \$400
Silent auction
BBQ lunch follows tourney
Check-in from 7-7:45 a.m.

Go to Saint John's web page
for forms & payment details

Sponsorships:

Sponsors at many levels
welcome! To learn more,
contact Doug Crews at
dlcrews@cox.net/918-605-
5558



Benefiting:

New Hope Oklahoma South Tulsa
Community House, Boy Scouts of
America Troop and Crew 153, and The
National Brotherhood of St. Andrew



Communication Corner

Sunday Refreshments & Nibbles: Adopt a Sunday

With a modest budget and facilitated by volunteers, the church is pleased to resume offering light breakfast treats on Sunday mornings before and after services. This helps those who fast prior to mass, folks who would like a nibble with their coffee, and is a great excuse to invite a new visitor to the Common Room after worship. We are grateful to the staff members who graciously offered their personal time to make this happen in June and July.

And, we are delighted to thank Kathleen Moss for offering to spearhead the new monthly plan for parish groups or individual volunteers to buy and bring Sunday morning snacks going forward. If you would like to donate to the food fund, please contact Debbie Ainley at dainley@sjtulsa.org. If you or your ministry group would like to commit to "adopt a Sunday" and handle the hospitality treats, please contact Kathleen at (918) 633-8881.

Register Your Ministry for a Rally Day Booth

Calling all Saint John's ministry, guild or group leaders: it is time to reserve a table at the September 12 Rally Day ministry fair. The church office will be creating the layout for tables that you will turn into fun information and/or activity "booths" for your specific group. We'll assign the placements on a first-come, first-served basis.

We will be arranging food for this lunch-time event. We will also provide sign-up sheets for every booth so that we can record information about those who may sign up to join your meetings and/or volunteer for your group's future activities.

Once you have registered your group to participate, please:

- secure two representatives who can "staff" your table from 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.
- have materials to hand out about your group/mission
- if you want to provide complimentary "treats" at your table, please stick to candy or cookies that are individually wrapped
- consider a table-top game to offer at your table to win the treats you bring
- develop a decoration theme for your table/booth! We will have prizes for some of the most colorful, educational and imaginative concepts you showcase on Rally Day
- plan to be able to decorate and stock your table on Saturday afternoon, September 11, between 3 to 5 p.m.

Start making your plans today! The neighborhood and broader community will be invited to our ministry fair. Let's share all the awesome fellowship and opportunities with everyone who attends. We want to help you grow your ministry!



Daughters of the King

- Janice Ingle

The Daughters of the King have begun training for new members in preparation for admission into the Order. Five new members will be initiated into the Saint John's chapter of Daughters of the King in September. They are: Laura Burgess, Judy Cairl, Linda Chambers (a transfer from her previous church), Pat Elsberry and Charlene Fabian.

The three-month preparation for membership is a time of study, reflection, and discernment for these women. During this time, they will learn what is asked of them in their commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ and how important prayer and service is for the spread of the Kingdom.

The Daughters' three-fold mission of Prayer, Service and Evangelism is a lifetime goal of members. For more information regarding the Order, or to ask for prayer, please call the chapter leader, Janice Ingle, at (918) 704-1433.



Family & Youth - *Josh Corsaro*

Here's a look at what is coming up for families and children in our fall programming:

Back to School Blessing

We will be having a Back-to-School Blessing on August 15. Any student is welcome to join at the 10 a.m. service. During announcements, we will invite students, teachers and school staff to come up to the front of the nave.

Children's Chapel

Children's Chapel resumes September 19! This weekly chapel time will begin after the Sequence Hymn during the 10 a.m. mass. Kids return to the nave during the Peace. Children's Chapel will follow the Gospel lesson in our lectionary and is geared for children ages five to twelve.

Sunday School

After the 10 a.m. service beginning September 19, we will have a Sunday formation time that consists of games, activities, and learning. Unlike Children's Chapel, these lessons will focus on the other Sunday lectionary readings. Sunday School lasts about thirty minutes and will also be for kids ages five to twelve. We are finalizing details now.

Sunday School Volunteers

We are recruiting volunteers for children's ministries this month. If you want to help, please reach out to me soon via my email (at jcorsaro@sjtulsa.org) or the office phone.

Acolytes

We begin this program on September 19, so we ask that anyone already signed up, or interested, meets after the 10 a.m. service on August 15 in the Common Room to firm up teams. Youth ages ten years and up (or younger if you have already been an acolyte) are welcome to join. Want more information? Contact me at jcorsaro@sjtulsa.org. Parents are welcome (we need team captains).

Trunk or Treat

Our Trunk or Treat festival will be Saturday, October 30. In order to pull off this event, we are asking for adult volunteers. We will have games and activities for all ages, so save the date and come on down the day before Halloween and enjoy the festivities! If you'd like to volunteer, email me. We'd love your help!

Just for Adults - *Josh Corsaro*

This month we continue several offerings, and more fun events are planned!

Adult Formation

Turning Points: A Walk through Church History with Father David Bumsted will continue on Sundays at 9 a.m. in the Common Room. Classes follow the book *Turning Points* by Mark Noll. Anyone is welcome to join.

Starting next month, Turning Points wraps up and we will be diving into the Bible and its content. Unlike our last class, this course will take a more detailed look at the individual books of the Bible. Class will held at 9 a.m. each Sunday, be in the Common Room, and lasts about thirty minutes.

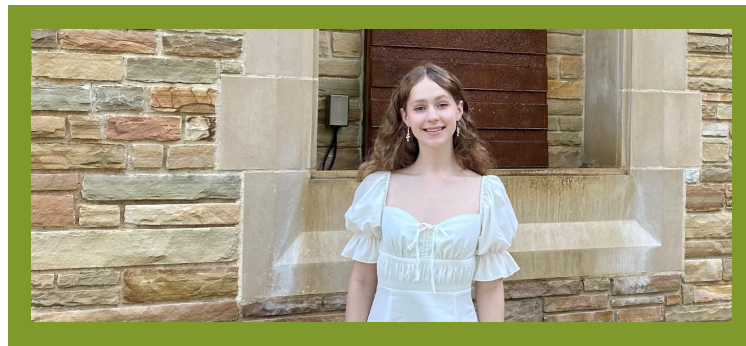
(cont. in next column)

Young Adult Brunch

Our Young Adult's Brunch resumed in July and will continue to be offered the last Sunday of the month at a restaurant close to the church. We meet after the 10 a.m. service. All are welcome to join, we just ask that you RSVP to me at jcorsaro@sjtulsa.org, or through a call to the office, by the preceding Thursday so we can secure a reservation. Not sure if you are a "young adult"? Give Josh a shout!

Young Adult Pool Party

Jim and Nancy Hicks will be hosting a pool party at their house on August 20 at 7 p.m. Please RSVP to me if you'd like to attend. The Hicks will provide hamburgers and chicken. Young adults or couples are asked to please bring a side dish or a drink to share. Please email with the dish you plan to bring and I'll get you the address. In case of rain, we will move the date to August 27 at the same time. Hope to see you there! Questions? Just give me a shout.



Getting to Know...Our Acolytes

This month Saint John's member Emma Cinocca is our spotlighted acolyte of the month. This junior at Jenks High School has been serving our church as a youth acolyte since she was approximately ten years old. She is the daughter of Hillary and Jon Cinocca and sister to Nathan. In the last year she has earned her driver's license and been confirmed.

Emma shared that her favorite academic subjects are English, history and biology. When not in school, she enjoys taking photos – especially in the Philbrook gardens due to the wonderful flowers and architecture – and she loves to dance. She is a member of the Tulsa Dance Company where she primarily dances ballet (she started at age three), but also enjoys contemporary, modern, jazz and character dance.

We asked Emma if she could have one super-power, what would it be and why? She said it would be to have perfect luck. She explained that with a dash of great luck, one might have many new opportunities come up and she'd be excited for those chances to try to accomplish wonderful things.

Emma shared that she would highly encourage other young people in the church to try being an acolyte. "Personally, it has been a good experience and is a good way to get involved with the church!"



Happy birthday to all our August babies (of all ages). The birthday list returns in this edition of the Evangelist with full names and dates. In order to continue to keep everyone's personal information less at risk of compromise, we will move forward with details in the printed newsletter, but edit dates and last names from the online edition of the Evangelist.

Gerene A.	George M.
Julie A.	Karen M.
Walter A.	Barbara M.
Donna A.	Candace M.
Rick B.	Dona M.
James B.	Katherine O.
Corbin B.	Deane O.
Paula B.	Kay O.
Teresa B.	Jace P.
John B.	Jesse P.
Diana C.	Anson P.
Leigh C.	Ashton P.
Keith C.	Dan P.
James C.	Sarah R.
Craig C.	Peggy S.
DeDee C.	Christopher S.
Chuck D.	David S.
Mary D.	Kimberly S.
Phyllis D.	Parker S.
Bill D.	Mary S.
Jacob F.	JoAnne S.
Abby F.	Carlos T.
Jeanne F.	Lori V.
Justin G.	Barbara V.
Foster G.	Etta W.
Joe G.	Tim W.
Glen G.	Linda W.
Babs H.	Don W.
Janice I.	Amy Y.
Tony J.	

Getting to Know... Our Altar Guild

In July the Evangelist staff caught up with Debbie Hensley. We know you will enjoy getting to know her better as much as we have.



When asked about her Episcopal journey, Debbie shared that her father, Thomas Swan, was raised Episcopalian in Kansas City. Her mother, JoAnne, met Thomas and converted to the faith before they were married. Her parents were living in Tulsa by the time Debbie was born and she was baptized at Saint Luke's Episcopal Church. When the family later moved to the 41st Street and Harvard area, Saint John's became their new church home.

Her three grown children, Anna, Adam and Andrew, were all baptized and confirmed here. Growing up, they attended Sunday School and the boys also served as acolytes.

During her years volunteering for Saint John's Church, Debbie has worn many hats: as a member of many committees, Sunday School teacher, Vestry member and Senior Warden. She has been a member of the Altar Guild for almost twenty years. Debbie said, "The Altar Guild has taught me so many important things about the Episcopal church...like the history along with customs, ceremonies, what order to light candles, what silver to use, the seasons of the church year, the sacred areas and much more. It is an honor to serve our church."

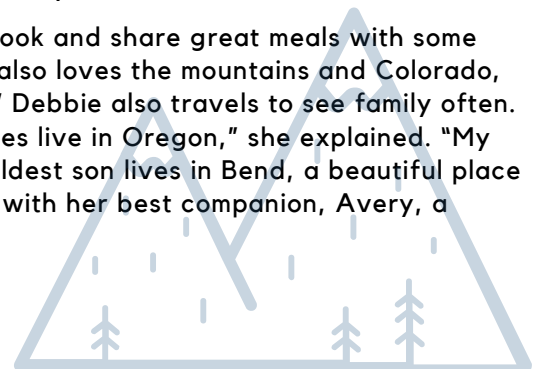
"When I first joined the Guild, I had incredible training by Betty Swindle and Jean Tate was my mentor. They both taught me what an important and special place the Altar Guild has working in God's House!"


The most recent two decades of her career have been in hospice healthcare, a mission she is very passionate about. Debbie explained that her background is in human resources, but hospice care has a special place in her heart.

We asked Debbie if there was anything that might surprise people to learn about her. Giving it some thought, she shared this wonderful story:


"I wear a precious necklace that my dad wore all during World War II in Europe. It is a medallion with Christ on the front and the words 'Jesus Christ Our Savior Be With Me.' And on the back is the message, 'In Case of Emergency Please Notify An Episcopal Priest.' It is as priceless to me and Christ was to my Dad and always with me now!"

In her spare time, she likes to cook and share great meals with some dear lifelong friends. And, she also loves the mountains and Colorado, calling them "her Happy Place." Debbie also travels to see family often. "Two of my kids and their families live in Oregon," she explained. "My daughter is in Eugene and my oldest son lives in Bend, a beautiful place to visit." She also loves to walk with her best companion, Avery, a shepherd/collie mix.





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



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Rally Day & Ministry Fair

11 a.m. Sunday, September 12

Come learn more about all our ministries!
Sign up for groups, events or to volunteer!
Register kids for Sunday School!

Food trucks will be on site for savory & sweet
treats. Games and activities, too!

To reserve a table for your Saint John's ministry
group, email Mary Waller at mwaller@sjtulsa.org.



Backpack Blessing

During the 10 a.m. mass on
Sunday, August 15

Join us as Father David blesses the
backpacks for students
and lifts prayers for teachers and
school staff members as all are
beginning their new academic year.