

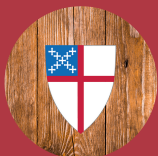
The Evangelist

February 2022

A Newsletter
for Saint John's
Episcopal Church
Friends & Families

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John's Episcopal
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4200 S. Atlanta Pl.
Tulsa, OK 74105
(918) 742-7381

Greetings!

I first wrote to you in this space one year ago! The past twelve months have been some of the fastest in my priestly ministry. I think that speed is a good sign that we're having a good time, don't you? It has been such an amazing year, and even with the various strains of a novel coronavirus nipping at our heels, this has been among my favorite years of service as a priest. That is, of course, due in no small part to your welcome, faithfulness, patience, and good cheer. Thank you for a wonderful first year! Beka and I are so grateful for you and for the honor of serving at Saint John's.

My first liturgy with you was offered on the second of February, which is the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. If we read the second chapter of Saint Luke's account of the Gospel, we find Jesus' pious family fulfilling Israel's initiation rites for male children. In essence, Jesus' family was offering Jesus' very life for the purposes of God's calling. He would be set apart, as all Israel's males were, for a distinct vocation to extend the blessing of Israel's God. And Mary knew, along with Joseph, the shepherds, and wise men, that Jesus' own holy life would be marked not only by his participation in Israel's common call, but by his Messianic ministry. Jesus' young family met a holy man named Simeon at that visit to the Jerusalem Temple and there he first sang the song we sing every time we offer our Evening Prayers: the Nunc dimittis. The final line of the poem proclaims that the Messiah, Jesus, will be a "light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of [his] people, Israel" (Luke 2:32). In this short text, Simeon has beautifully summarized the scope of Christ's ministry as well as given us the origin of the informal title of the feast of the Presentation, "Candlemas." Candles are a wonderful reminder of Christ's light, after all!

The Presentation is a feast wherein we can reflect on setting our own lives apart for the glory of God in Christ. To that end, we will offer a sung celebration of the Eucharist for the Presentation on Wednesday, February 2 at 5:30 p.m. I am so delighted to mark my anniversary with you with such a meaningful liturgy! Bishop Poulson has also allowed us to observe Candlemas on Sunday, February 6, and we will invite any children among us to participate in a brief candlelight procession to the Boyhood window in the Nave. My prayer is that even this small liturgical act will help build lasting memories and help the young among us to consider their own calling in Christ!

Yours,



The Rev. David Bumsted, Rector

A Message from Our Senior Warden

Please make plans to attend Saint John's Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 20 at 9:15 a.m. in the Nave. The general purpose of an annual meeting is to inform the members of the parish's state of affairs.

Members also receive an annual report and hear reports from the Treasurer. Finally, members are asked to elect representatives to the Vestry and to the Diocesan convention. Every baptized member of Saint John's in good standing and age sixteen and older is eligible to vote. You will be receiving additional materials in the mail about ten days prior to the meeting.

It isn't possible to overstate appreciation for the Vestry tenure of the five individuals whose terms will end as of the Annual Meeting: Bill Chevaillier (whose Vestry term is ending but who will remain as Treasurer), George Dotson, Meghan Joiner, Tom Schroedter, and Junior Warden Doug Crews. This is the Vestry class that bore from beginning to end the changes unique to the last three years: Father Irv's departure mere weeks before their election, the search and call of an Interim Rector, management of the interim period, the effects of a hundred-year pandemic, the modernization of our digital media capabilities, the search and call of our new Rector, and finally guiding us during the first year of Father David's tenure.

All members of the Vestry are deeply devoted to the welfare of Saint John's congregation and operations. These five departing individuals bring unparalleled wisdom, generosity, creativity, patience, grace, and good cheer to all of our challenges. Additionally, no Junior Warden in the history of Saint John's has served in that role longer than Doug, and he has poured heart and soul over the last six years into keeping our building and grounds gorgeous, leading the special installation of the new organ and pews, assuming responsibility in a myriad of ways to support our church wherever he was needed, and generously sharing his institutional knowledge with Father David and me as we assumed our new roles after last year's Annual Meeting.

We are greatly blessed to have all five of these individuals in our midst. Even though they will be leaving their vestry service later this month, I have no doubt that all of them will generously continue to move our parish forward toward even brighter days ahead. For now, again to each of you – thank you!

I'm very much looking forward to seeing each and every one of you on February 20!

- Susan Walker



Treasurer's Update

My report this month is a thank you note for the commitment the members of our parish have made to Saint John's Episcopal Church for this upcoming year. Your donations make a difference to Saint John's, and without your support this church would simply be unable to execute on its mission. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of your generosity.

Here is where we stand:

As of mid-January, our total pledges were \$935,041 based on 156 pledging units. We had seventeen pledging units that made an annual pledge for 2021 but have not yet renewed their annual commitment for 2022. Of those households that have pledged their financial support of Saint John's in the year ahead, these pledges reflect \$82,929 in increases from the prior year, and this is fantastic. At the same time, \$4,480 is the total amount of decreases from 2021 pledgers.

If you have yet to pledge, please do so. I feel so encouraged about the support so far. I had set a mental goal of reaching \$1 million in annual support commitment and we are so close to meeting that.

To the parishioners who have donated and pledged, I extend a most sincere thank you!

- Bill Chevaillier



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 smartphone over this QR code and follow the easy instructions.

Music News - Joseph Arvutt

The Saint John's music ministry team has prepared a wide range of outstanding offerings for the winter and spring of 2022 during worship times and in the setting of stand-alone concerts. Please mark your calendars to save these dates to attend as well as to invite your friends!

in February...

Howells Canticles at Choral Evensong

The Chamber Choir is in the midst of a two-year project learning the complete evening canticles of English composer Herbert Howells (1892-1983). They will be offered in a special series in 2023. This month, the featured canticles will be the ones Howells dedicated to Westminster Abbey in London. In his compositional process, Howells was inspired by a church's choral forces and the architecture.

Later this year, I will offer forums on Howells and a history behind his compositions.

Sunday, February 6 at 5:30 p.m. - The Canticles dedicated to Westminster Abbey in London.



Saint John's Chamber Choir

On Friday, February 25 at 7 p.m. the Saint John's Chamber Choir will present "Romantic Impressions: Works of Beach, Franck, and Vierne" featuring the Saint John's Chamber Choir. Zach Malavolti will conduct and I will accompany on the organ.

Our program will include:

- Oh Praise the Lord, All Ye Nations - Amy Beach
- All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name - Amy Beach
- Prière - César Franck (organ solo)
- Messe Solennelle - Louis Vierne

Admission will be free.

in March and April...

Music at Midday

Our midday music series begins its seventh season on March 9 and runs through April 27. These free concerts - some choral, some instrumental, and some both - are always offered on a Wednesday and begin at noon and are followed by a light lunch at 12:30 p.m.



We will again offer boxed lunches from Queenie's. The cost is \$12 per person and reservations are due on the preceding Monday at 12 noon. RSVP to Diana Carter.

(more in column two)

Music at Midday seventh season highlights include:

March 30 - Recital by Charles Tompkins, Professor of Organ at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina.

April 13 - Vivaldi's Stabat Mater featuring countertenor Nicholas Garza.

April 27 - The Ezra Duo, a viola and piano duo based in Toronto, Canada.

Oklahoma Bach Choir

On Friday, April 29 at 7 p.m. the Oklahoma Bach Choir will present "Cantatas for the Easter Season" with baroque trumpet and strings. Admission will be free.

Adam Pajan and I will conduct. Our soloists will include: Meray

Boustani, soprano; Caleb Hudson, trumpet; Nicholas Garza, countertenor; Keith Lathrom, tenor; and Edmund Milly, bass.

We will perform three cantatas: Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen, BWV 51; Christ lag in Todes Banden, BWV 4; and Meine Seel erhebt den Herren, BWV 10. This concert is being generously underwritten by the DeKraai family.



Looking Ahead: Dates to Know

- Monday, Feb. 14 - Valentine's Day
- Monday, Feb. 21 - Presidents Day (church closed)
- Thursday, Feb. 24 - St. Matthias Feast Day
- Sunday, Mar. 13 - Daylight Savings Time (spring ahead)
- Thursday, Mar. 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- Saturday, Mar. 19 - Feast of St. Joseph
- Friday, Mar. 25 - The Annunciation
- Sunday, Apr. 10 - Palm Sunday
- Thursday, Apr. 14 - Maundy Thursday
- Friday, Apr. 15 - Good Friday (office closes at noon)
- Saturday, Apr. 16 - Easter Vigil
- Sunday, Apr. 17 - Easter
- Monday, Apr. 18 - Easter Monday (office closed)
- Friday, Apr. 22 - Earth Day
- Monday, Apr. 25 - Feast of St. Mark
- Monday, May 2 - Feast of St. Phillip and St. James
- Sunday, May 8 - Mother's Day
- Thursday, May 26 - Ascension Day
- Monday, May 30 - Memorial Day (office closed)
- Tuesday, May 31 - Visitation of the Blessed Virgin
- Sunday, June 5 - Pentecost



Monthly Meeting Date Change

FYI, the Vestry will begin meeting on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

Children & Family News

Summer Camp

St. Crispin's is a summer camp operated by the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma and runs different sessions for different age groups throughout the summer. its goal: teaching youth and children the joy and community found in Christianity. If you wish to sign up, please follow this link:
<https://stcrispins.org/camp/#camp-dates-section>.

Acolytes

Our acolyte program continues to go strong, but we would like to ask for other members to join. This program is something for adults, children, and teens. If you are interested in helping out during the service as an acolyte, please contact Josh Corsaro at jcorsaro@sjtulsa.org.

Children's Chapel and Sunday School

Children's Chapel will continue with our Storymakers curriculum adventures through creativity. Activities will focus on crafts that help children realize they are a part of God's story. To learn more, visit <https://www.storymakersnyc.com/> or email Josh.



Choristers

Calling all singers, we are looking to restart our Choristers group on February 9! This will be for kids in second grade and up, and will meet Wednesday evenings from 5:30-6 p.m. If you want your child to be a part of this, please email Joseph or Josh. We are so excited to get this off the ground again!

- Josh Corsaro

For Everyone: Shrove Tuesday

A church tradition returns on March 1 in the Common Room with Shrove Tuesday (sometimes called Fat Tuesday). Please join us at 5:30 p.m. (or at 5:45-ish if you'd like to attend Evening Prayer first). All are welcome, no reservations are needed. Yummy pancakes are on the menu. Have questions? Contact Josh at the church office.

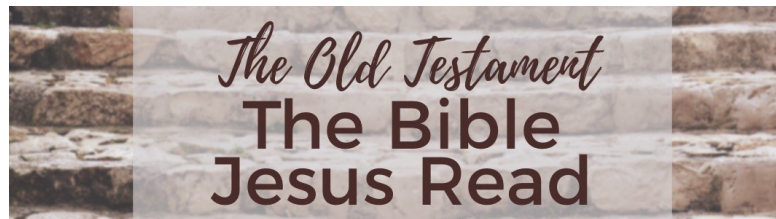


For the Adults! - Josh Corsaro

New Classes in Adult Formation

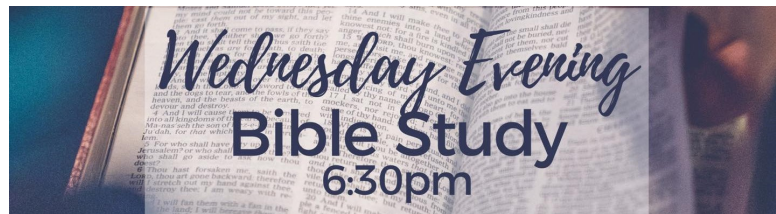
Our Adult Formation courses in February continue with several options:

1) Dr. William "Bill" Lyons will lead us through an introduction to the Old Testament called "The Bible that Jesus Read." Dr. Lyons' class explores this ancient component of our Bibles and the foundation of the New Testament. Join your parish friends any Sunday at 9 a.m. in the Common Room for this focused study and a bit of coffee. This is a great offering to invite friends to!



2) Learn about the women of the Bible by joining the Daughters of the King as they discuss key female figures in scripture with Father David. (See page 6 for details.)

3) Wednesday night walk through the Gospels with Father David. Meet in the Common Room and read through the Gospels, beginning with Luke with running commentary and teaching by Father David.



Young Adults' Brunch

The popular Saint John's Young Adults' Brunch meets the last Sunday of each month (this month on February 27). Please let us know if you want to join by emailing Josh Corsaro or Joseph Arndt at jcorsaro@sjtulsa.org or jarndt@sjtulsa.org. Feel free to invite friends and family!

Bible Study Recommendation:

Looking for a good book for Bible study now or during Lent? Father David recommends *You Are What You Love* by James K.A. Smith.



Iron Gate

We would like to thank every volunteer who has given time to help at Iron Gate these past several months, especially members of the Brotherhood. If you wish to join with us in 2022, we will meet the first Saturday of every month at the church around 7:45 a.m. and then carpool to Iron Gate. After we are finished serving, we usually go to Hurts Donut Company. If you want to sign up to be a part of this great community service opportunity, email Josh at jcorsaro@sjtulsa.org.

Getting to Know: Our Singers

This month we had the chance to catch up with Zach Malavolti, singer (tenor) and choirmaster whom you have no doubt seen or heard during our worship services and concerts. To meet him is to remember him for his sense of humor, generous smile, and positive energy. We know you'll enjoy getting to know more about Zach in this newsletter.

Q: Where were you born? **A:** *I was born in Tulsa and grew up here. My first experience at Saint John's was as a Holland Hall student.*

Q: What is the farthest place from Tulsa that you have lived? **A:** *It would definitely be when I did my master's studies for conducting in New York, where I attended the Bard Conservatory of Music. I lived in the Hudson River Valley, in a small town called Red Hook, and would often commute into NYC. During that season, I was always traveling back and forth between busy city life and the incredibly peaceful upstate counties.*

Q: What book(s) are you currently reading? **A:** *I am secretly a huge theology nerd and my current project has been to slowly work through Dante's Divine Comedy. Academically, I read a lot about American classical music, specifically about the Colonial era and the early twentieth century, since that's where my research topic resides.*

Q: What other languages do you know? **A:** *I studied Spanish through all of my time at Holland Hall. In my graduate program we had to study Italian, German, and French diction in order to work with singers so I can technically "speak" all of those. We also had to demonstrate fluency in one of them and I chose German. Unfortunately, I didn't keep it up much after school. I can still read it but my skills using it in conversation are quite rusty. I also taught myself a very basic knowledge of Biblical Greek and Hebrew.*

Q: When did you know you wanted to study to conduct music (and why did you select sacred music)? **A:** *I was a late bloomer to music and got into composition because I was interested in film scoring. I originally wanted to write music for movies since I loved producing and directing films while growing up with my friends. My undergraduate degree in music composition and film scoring is from The University of Tulsa. I quickly learned that if I wanted my music to be played, I needed to conduct it as well, and that was how I fell in love with conducting. Some of my favorite music to conduct is sacred choral works, but I mostly have performed these works in concert halls. It is wonderful to be at Saint John's where we can offer choral masterpieces, both large and small, for the purpose of beautiful worship.*

Q: Tell us about the degree you are currently working on and how far along in your program are you? **A:** *I am finishing my dissertation at The University of Oklahoma to complete a Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting. My course work is completed and my General Exams are passed so I would say I am over halfway there. The dissertation itself is a considerable task that is practically half of the degree. I am writing on American composer named Henry Cowell (1897-1965) who resourced choral materials from the American Revolutionary period.*

Q: Would you share a favorite passage that is of help, comfort, healing or inspiration to you? **A:** *I know this isn't from the Episcopal tradition, but I believe the First Question and Answer of the Heidelberg Catechism is one of the most comprehensive and yet beautiful pieces of Christian writing outside of Scripture itself. It is a summary of so many encouraging verses that I often return to these first lines...*

The Lord's Day 1, first question: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

Answer: That I am not my own, but belong - body and soul, in life and in death - to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Q: Do you have a favorite composer or period of sacred music? **A:** *My favorite composer is certainly J.S. Bach. His music is the culmination of compositional technique married to an incredible emotional intensity. However, if I was to pick a larger period of sacred music, it would definitely be the Renaissance. The works are often cathedral-like with incredible structural details on both large and small scales while creating an enveloping musical space that you can truly get lost in.*

Q: What part of the world would you most like to visit? **A:** *This is a hard one. I collect busts of famous composers from their main towns. I have a Mozart bust from Salzburg, and a Haydn bust from Eisenstadt, so I need to visit Bonn or Vienna for Beethoven and definitely Leipzig for Bach. However, if I were not hunting for composer heads. I would love to visit really remote places. For example, I have always been fascinated by Easter Island (it has some very different heads!).*

Q: What is an unusual fact about you that your Saint John's friends might find surprising to learn? **A:** *I am very self indulgent about being an old soul. I love discovering old books, hobbies, and traditions. I really enjoy the sociability of old card games, like Cribbage, and currently have an extended set of matches running with Joseph!*

Q: If there were three words you would use to describe this church community, what would they be? **A:** *Warm, generous, and astute. It is a joy to sing and serve at Saint John's - the worship and the people are ever-inspiring!*



Zach & his Bolonoodle, Sergio



Communication Corner

In this column, we help our readers stay on top of other events and opportunities happening in the life of the parish. Plus, we'll share other news items from across the parish and in church business.

Confirmation Class 2022

Father David is working on details for the 2022 Confirmation and Reaffirmation Class. If you have an interest in a family member attending (or you!), please reach out to Diana in the church office and ask to be placed on the email list for further information.

Office Closures

Please note that the church office will be closed to observe a federal holiday on Monday, February 21. Also, a reminder as we enter the winter season: the church will follow the "closed for inclement weather" policies of Tulsa Public Schools. You can find timely news about the office status by following the Saint John's community Facebook page.

Evening Prayer Invitation

The Daily Office is once again offered at 5:30 p.m. in addition to 8:30 a.m. All are welcome to join readers and staff for those prayerful opportunities



The Sounds of Saint John's

We are super excited that Saint John's Adult Formation (Sunday School) and Father David's sermons will now be available for everyone to hear via three additional online channels.

If you enjoy listening to a homily without the video (Sunday morning sermons are already offered via our Facebook feed archive) or you like the convenience of the Sunday Bible lessons from Saint John's teachers while you work, bike, hike or drive – we've got you covered!

Simply download one of the three optional handy apps – Soundcloud, iTunes, or Spotify – on your smart device, select "follow" or "subscribe" to YOUR Saint John's Episcopal Church, and enjoy! You can also access this information on our SJC website. Under the Get Connected tab, select the "Class & Sermon Audio Offerings" page.

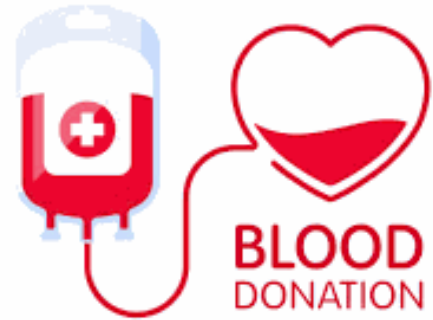
We hope you'll enjoy this new way to access food for your soul and brain (and your ears!).

Prayers & Squares

Reminder: the Prayers & Squares ministry meets the first Wednesday of every month at 1 p.m. in the Prayers & Squares room on the lower level, north end. Anyone with an interest in this ministry is welcome.

Daughters of the King

Are you interested in learning more about the women of the Bible? Would you like to know more about their continued influence on our lives today? If so, we invite you to please join us February 3 in the library at 11 a.m. for a discussion of Rahab led by Father David.



February Outreach

Saint John's will host the Oklahoma Blood Institute as it offers a whole- and double-donation blood drive on Saturday, February 12 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

All are welcome to participate and walk-ins are welcome. However, you should register in advance to guarantee an appointment time. There are twenty-two (22) donation times. Follow this link to the OBI website from our church webpage for this activity to make a reservation to donate.

Please note:

- During this event, attendees must wear a mask at all times in the church.
- The blood drive will be in the Common Room. Enter through the east red door nearest the bell tower.
- All donors must bring a photo ID.
- The minimum age to donate is sixteen years. Sixteen-year-old donors must weigh at least 125 pounds and provide signed parental permission.
- Seventeen-year-old donors must weigh at least 125 pounds but do not need parent permission.
- All donors eighteen years and older must weigh at least 110 pounds.

Have questions? Contact our parishioner project leader for this outreach, Nick Bradford, at: tulsamasterstylist@mail.com.

Sale!

VISIT THE SAINT JOHN'S BOOK & GIFT STORE FOR BIG SAVINGS ON HOLIDAY INVENTORY.

COME SHOP ON SUNDAY DURING COFFEE HOUR!



Boy Scout Troop 153 News

Winter Camp was a hit! Our Scouts put many hours into their work on merit badges and rank advancement in between shooting sports, game tournaments, movie night, and hanging out with other Scouts. Our Scouts enjoyed a time of fun, friends, and accomplishments.

We continue to have a steady stream of Webelos visiting us from area Cub Scout packs, and already have boys signing up to join our troop next month when they complete their Arrow of Light program. Troop 153 shines bright through our boys in leadership who are supported, as always, by our adult volunteers working tirelessly to maintain the high level of excellence we are known for. We are so thankful for our partnership with Saint John's Episcopal Church enabling us to help shape the future of these Scouts.



Birthdays

Hugh Barber, Larry Mancini
Chris Barber, Chuck Blue,
Tom Frisch
Pat Armstrong
Bob Baker
Anne Clark
Lauren Houston
Jessica Stowell
Sam Hines
Ann Butler, Richard Harris
Heather Graves, Sally Jones,
Logan Osburn
Bill Boston
Alec Moss, Michael Smith
Mary Dotson, Mark Lyons,
Eryn Taylor
Pet Merifield,
Mary Ann Stewart
Robert Cleere, Beth Dunkin,
Chuck Steil
Grant Byrd, Allison Cotton
Jim Hardwick, Betsy Tidwell,
Laria Underwood
Zac Cox, Beverly Staedke
Harrison Graves,
Todd Waldeck
Stephanie Jackson,
Beth Latham
Duncan Gravis,
Tom Schroedter



A Scout is reverent. Scouts across the country are celebrating the significance of religion in Scouting this month. Troop 153 will be celebrating this special day with many of our Scouts joining in the service at Saint John's on Sunday, February 6.

Mark your calendars and come hungry to our upcoming Troop 153 Chili Cook-Off on Friday, February 18 from 5 to 7 p.m. Tickets will be sold in advance. We hope you will join us for a fun evening with plenty of food and a great time of fellowship. Grab a bowl, have a taste, and cast your vote. May the best recipe win!

- Carolyn Davis

Caring Through Common Sense

As we continue to love each other by caring through thoughtful actions during the pandemic, we offer these simple reminders:

- Consider getting all COVID-19 vaccinations you're eligible for.
- If you or a guest is unvaccinated, wear a mask in the building at all times.
- Before coming to church, wash your hands.
- Use the sanitizer stations at the church often.
- Respect that not everyone wants to hug hello or shake hands.
- Be mindful of distance in pews between non-family/same-household members.
- Remember that not all our precious kiddos are "jabbed" yet.
- Don't bring children to the nursery with running noses, fever, etc.
- If you've been potentially exposed, stay home and get tested.
- For some at-risk parishioners, avoiding crowds during variant surges is wise.
- If you or a close family member is ill, enjoy worship from home (with hot tea!).

Wash Up - Wear a Mask - & Consider the Option to Watch from Home

Do you need weekly pledge/giving envelopes for your contributions to the church? If so, please contact Debbie in the church office at dainley@sjtulsa.org.

This Month at Saint John's Church
February 2022 Newsletter
Saint John's Episcopal Church
4200 South Atlanta Place
Tulsa OK 74105-4331

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND!

Annual Meeting

FEBRUARY 20, 2022

AT 9:15 A.M.

You are invited:

**Wednesday Evenings,
come for the
service, stick
around and we'll study
the Gospels with
Father David!**