



EVANGEL

St. John's Episcopal Church | Norman, OK

St. John's Episcopal Church

235 W. Duffy, Norman
405-321-3020
MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. Box 2088
Norman, OK 73070

Services

Rite I:

8:00 AM

Rite II:

10:30 AM

Youth program:

4:00pm

Tuesday:

10:00am (Chapel)

Wednesday:

6:00pm (Chapel)

Inside This Month

Food and Shelter
Book Review
Julia Harris
Tuesday Chapel
Eucharistic Visiting
Vestry Election
Youth
St Michael's Retreat
Music/Knit Night
Memorial Service
BCP/ Football

Greetings in Christ's friendship!

With the advent of this August edition of the Evangel, I begin serving as your interim rector. It is an understatement to say that I am excited to join you--the beloved community in Christ at St. John's, Norman. For I feel such open heartedness to Christ's Spirit in this place already. Let me name a few examples of this.

In looking at past issues of the Evangel and in reading your parish history, I hear faithful hearts that desire to serve Christ.

I hear listening hearts, hearts that are moved into service when there is a need. Like a couple of weeks ago when there were not enough adults to lead Vacation Bible School, and folks stepped up, and the number of VBS participants nearly doubled past the expectant number!

As I ponder my interactions already with Senior Warden Holly, Deacon James, your Security Officer Greg, the altar guild, and countless others when I was your supply priest in June, I hear warm, loving, and generous hearts in their welcome and hospitality.

I hear curious, devoted, and hard working hearts in the vestry, especially in various conversations—not only the interview process but meeting with them when I was your supply priest in June.

The personal mission and ministry statement below is one pondered, prayed about, and that I have tried to incarnate these last 23 years since I was ordained to the priesthood in Colorado:

To live life fully with Christ at the center, being a faithful and joyful witness by word and deed to my knowledge of Christ crucified and risen, inviting others into relationship with our Lord and into our Christian family.

Continued on next page...

It is still vital to me today and I am eager to see what God is up to as I join this loving community in Christ as your interim rector.

I look forward to getting to know you as individuals and a community and anticipate sharing with you about myself. For now, let me offer a recent photo that was taken at a family reunion in Colorado last month. I have so loved being not only a mother of four children and a grandmother (Nana Bear!) as well as a mother in the church. I pray that Christ will richly bless my presence with you all, use me to his glory, and help us all grow in Christ's love and friendship.

Nancee+

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It is comforting to know that Jesus' first miracle was a generous act of hospitality when he turned water into wine at the feast of Cana! **After the 10:30 service on August 6th**, we will continue to practice St. John's style of hospitality with a reception for Mtr. Nancee as we warmly welcome her to the St. John's family. Please join in the **Parish Hall** for light refreshments and fellowship.



EYE Episcopal Youth Event



L-R:- Gabby Beard, Nancy Scott, John Putnam, Elliot Riden, Eric Craig, Emma Royal



On July 4th I went to College Park Maryland for EYE. EYE stands for episcopal youth event. It is an event that occurs every three years and gathers youth from all over the country and outside the country to worship, gather, and learn. The delegation from Oklahoma was 4 kids and 2 chaperones from all over the state. I had so much fun!

There were workshops everyday with a variety of different topics and interests. I attended one about renewable resources and energy. It was fascinating to hear about people's experiences with renewable resources in their communities. I made so many new friends from all over the country. At EYE there's a tradition that every diocese brings stickers or anything from their diocese to give to people. I got so much swag from all over!! This event was also a great opportunity to bond with the Oklahoma delegation.

All of us kids already knew each other from St Crispin's but on this trip the four of us bonded really well. The worship was wildly different than what I'm used to. For one it was at least two hours long twice a day but other than that all the readings were in English and Spanish. The only traditional hymn that I remember is "Come thou fount".

All in all I'm so glad I got the opportunity to go on a wonderful trip and learn truly amazing things and meet awesome people!

-Gabby Beard

Food And Shelter

Interested in Volunteering?

Did you know that St. John's has been serving a spaghetti dinner at Food and Shelter for Friends for over 50 years! Dick Marks, a long time St. John's parishioner that has since passed, started it and now for the last 15 years **Andrea Marler** has taken over the coordination of this event.

Your help is needed on the **third Tuesday of every EVEN month**. Let's keep this tradition going! **Meal prep from 9:30-11:00 and/or serving lunch from 11:00-12:00**. Feel free to come work the entire time or pick the time that works best for you.

Either way your help is appreciated!





**Food & Shelter
for Friends
201 Reed Ave|Norman**

**August 15, 2023
October 17, 2023
December 19, 2023**

Please email or call Andrea
Marler to confirm your
attendance.

**aamarler@me.com
405-808-4435**

St. Johns Episcopal Church | Norman, OK

Book Review

LISTENING TO YOUNG SEEKERS

Barbara Brown Taylor, *HOLY ENVY: FINDING GOD IN THE FAITH OF OTHERS*. Harper One, 2019. Available in hardcover & paperback new & used, also e-book & audible formats, @ \$10-18 new.

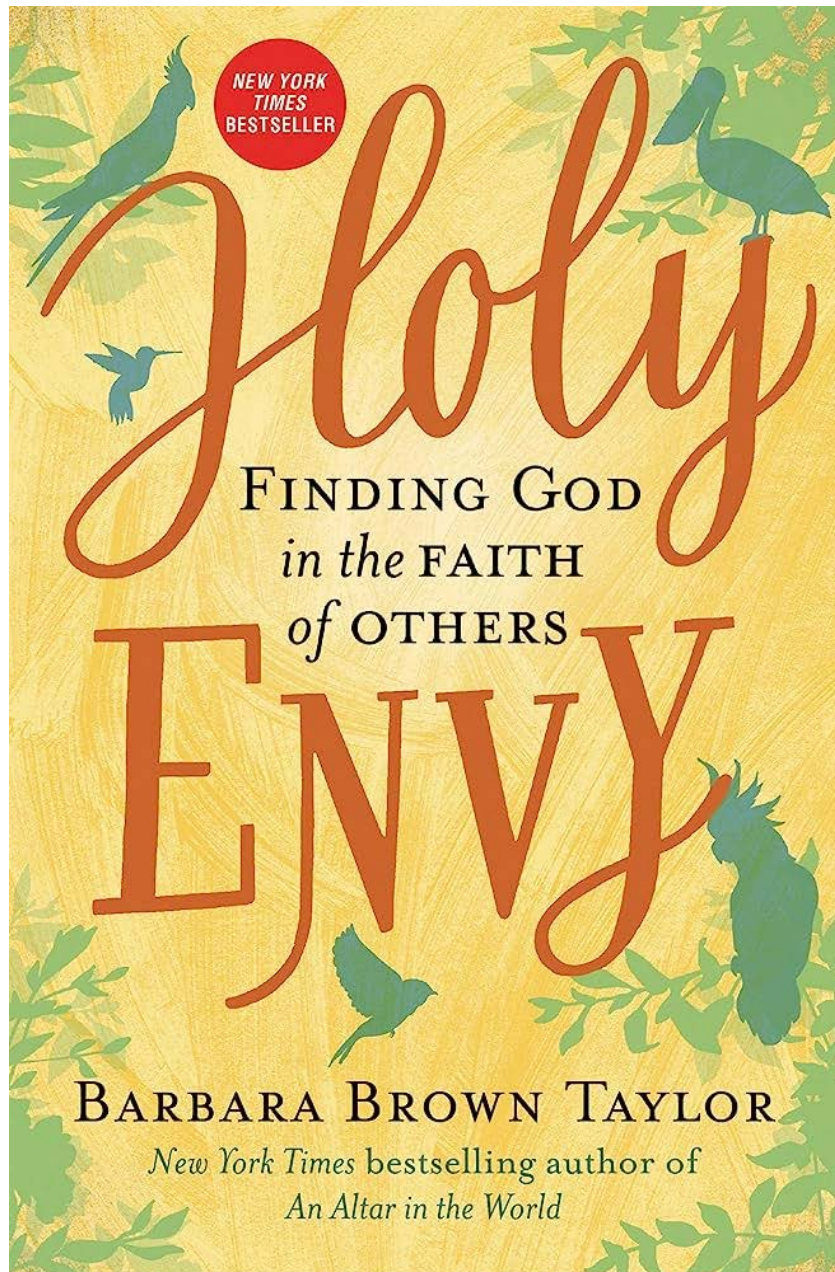
An adventurous Episcopal priest known for poetic preaching, Barbara Brown Taylor left urban parish ministry to live on a working farm, teach undergraduates and seminarians in Georgia, and become an awards-winning author of bestselling spiritual-exploration narratives. In that dark first year of the COVID19 pandemic, *Evangel* (November 2020) reviewed her *Learning to Walk in the Dark* (2014), but her popular preaching guide and her influential *The Luminous Web: Essays on Science and Religion* (2001) are more famous. Reading *Holy Envy*, we meet a faithful spirit devoted to “welcoming the stranger” preoccupied with spiritual struggles and longings. This work of “creative nonfiction” bears witness to her welcoming undergraduates’ powerful questions while exploring world religions together through reading their wisdom and visiting their local places of worship.

She witnessed students’ searches, discoveries, confusions, and conversions, expressing concern about how little their elders have helped them think about what it means to be a person of faith in a community of people of other faiths or no faith: “No preacher has suggested to them that today’s Good Samaritan might be a good Muslim or a good humanist. No confirmation class teacher has taught them that the Golden Rule includes honoring the neighbor’s religion as they would have the neighbor honor theirs.” (However, Sewanee’s Education for Ministry program, offered at St. John’s before the pandemic, does teach that, as did our parish’s annual hospitality to Tibetan monks.)

Taylor testifies that such exploratory encounters have aroused her students’ and her own envy of other traditions, which became “holy envy” by offering “the chance to be born again within my own tradition,” to reimagine it. She recounts her own transformation from “fearing that Jesus will be mad at me for smelling other people’s roses to trusting that Jesus is the way that embraces all ways,” though she can only walk one way at a time! *Holy Envy* is therefore a theological concept. She recalls Swedish biblical scholar Krister Stendahl’s proposed three rules of religious understanding: to consult a religion’s own adherents rather than its enemies, not to compare your own best to their worst, and to leave room for ‘holy envy.’ Seeking here to understand that concept he never explained, Taylor reports her students’ and her own many different forms of Holy Envy—as “spiritual shoplifting,” as new awareness of neglect of our own faith tradition’s spiritual practices (such as centering prayer) that resemble those of our neighbors’ traditions (such as Buddhist meditation), as new awareness of ways in which different religious traditions welcome strangers and may not always even be comparable. Taylor records her (mostly Christian) students’ testimonials of holy envy focused on Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism.

This narrative can inspire and educate parishioners wondering how best to welcome young people or adults whose spiritual journeys have left them feeling distant from church, but still longing for a loving God. Herself a child never churching, Taylor came of age with that same seeker spirit. Of course, the Episcopal Church attracts and welcomes many like them.

—Reviewed by Susan Laird



Barbara Brown Taylor

St. Johns Episcopal Church | Norman, OK

Julia Harris- PHoD

President Ayala Harris visited St. Paul's within the Walls in Rome in June.

Below is a short article by Julia and her communications director, Adia Milien.



L-R: Maleah Rios, The Rev. Austin Rios, President Julia Ayala Harris, John Harris, and Izzy Harris.



Saint Paul's Within the Walls Episcopal Church

President Ayala Harris honored World Refugee Day with a visit to the Joel Nafuma Refugee Center (JNRC), a ministry of Saint Paul's Within the Walls Episcopal Church in Rome, Italy. At the Joel Nafuma Refugee Center, President Ayala Harris witnessed firsthand the remarkable work being done to support and empower refugees from various backgrounds.

St. Paul's Within the Walls, located in the heart of Rome, provides a safe haven for those fleeing conflict, persecution, and hardship. It offers essential services such as language classes, legal aid, medical assistance, and psychological support, enabling refugees to rebuild their lives with dignity. "I am inspired by the dedication of the staff and volunteers to find ways to not only meet the basic needs of their guests with clothing, hygiene products, and education but also to connect their guests to nature, the wider community, and meaningful relationships." The visit to St Paul's Within the Walls JNRC highlighted the Episcopal Church's commitment to social justice and compassion for all people. President Ayala Harris emphasized the importance of ecumenical collaboration in addressing the global refugee crisis, recognizing that it is a shared responsibility transcending religious boundaries.

After visiting the JNRC, President Ayala Harris met with Anglican Communion leaders at the Anglican Centre in Rome, including Archbishop Ian Ernest, The Archbishop of Canterbury's Representative to the Holy See. Their meeting focused on strengthening the partnership between The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion, exploring ways to work together. Both leaders expressed their shared commitment to promoting peace, justice, and reconciliation in a world marked by division.

Tuesday Morning Chapel

These ladies are some of the regular attendees of the chapel service held every Tuesday morning at 10:00 am.

Historically the service has been Eucharist with prayers and anointing for healing upon request. However as there has been no priest at St. John's since the beginning of March the service has been Morning Prayer.

Even with the lack of a priest and Eucharist these ladies remain faithful and the attendance ranges from 4-10 people. Everyone is welcome and are invited to join these faithful ladies on Tuesday morning.



Eucharistic Visiting

I have had the pleasure of participating in the Eucharistic Visiting ministry since 2014. It all started because a friend of mine at St. John's was no longer able to physically attend church. I had been visiting him regularly at home when another dear friend of mine, Trish Frazier, suggested I become a Eucharistic Visitor so I could take him communion. That terrified me as I had never done this before and had no idea what to do.

Thankfully she was an angel and said she would just come with me a few times and we would do it together until I felt comfortable enough to do it on my own. I found the experience so gratifying. I was doing something that was providing so much joy to someone else. The isolation can be depressing to someone who is used to coming to church regularly and then is no longer physically able to attend. Thankfully we now have online services but not receiving communion can leave a big hole in their spiritual connection.

Since starting with this ministry in 2014 I have taken communion to other friends as well as those I did not know. I wholeheartedly believe that the small amount of time it took out of my day brought so much joy to that person's day. The thankfulness, the smile and sometimes the tears said it all.

Please consider being a Eucharistic Visitor.

Contact Shannon Conley at 405-626-5664 for more information.

St. John's VBS 2023: Love and Serve

During the week of July 17-21, 40 kids participated in our Vacation Bible School. Exploring the themes of love and service, kids discussed what love and service are, the stories of Jesus feeding the 5000, Esther, and the Good Samaritan. We made crafts, played games, celebrated Eucharist, went swimming, watched a movie, connected with old friends, and made so many new friends!

I would like to give a HUGE SHOUTOUT and my profound gratitude to all of our volunteers:

Ayn Wilson	Cathy Pierson	Jennie Smith	Nancy Sonleitner	Elyse Rabasa	Joe Upp
Tiffany Spencer	Jeff Smith	Molly Rieger	Robert Terry	Kathleen Haynes	Owen Woods
Marla Colijn	Jo Ann Dysart	Shirley Crosby	Dolores Larison	Pam Brown	Ren Giusti
Debby Williams	Emily Layman	Andrea Conway	Don Whitworth	Izzy Beard	Fr. Dwight Helt
Jona Kay Steed	James Tyree	Jimmy Conway	Mary Carter	Madison Smith	Fr. Blake Woods
Melody Palm		Chuck Palm	Vickie Wright	Brilee Lane	Laura Woods





Children/Youth Programs Start in September!

Sunday School, Fledglings, and Youth Group will start up again in September! St. John's offers Sunday School for ages pre-K through 12th grade. Sunday School volunteers are needed for all classes!

Fledglings is our afternoon youth programming for kids in pre-k through 5th grade. Fledglings meets from 4-6 pm to play games, make crafts, and work on building the kingdom of heaven right here in Norman, Ok! Our Youth Group serves kids in 6th - 12th grade and meets from 5 - 7:30 pm for fellowship and fun!

AUGUST 13th is a BUSY DAY!

Blessing of the Backpacks, School Supply Drive, and Back to School Bash

Our School Supply Drive concludes on **Sunday, August 13th** with the Blessing of the Backpacks during the 10:30 service. Students and teachers of all ages are invited to bring their backpacks and briefcases to be blessed as we head into a new school year.

Later that afternoon, celebrate the end of summer with us at the Back to School Bash from 6-8 pm. We'll have carnival games, face painting, an inflatable water slide, burgers, hot dogs, and LOTS OF FUN!

School Supplies:

Hand sanitizer	#2 Pencils	Pink Erasers
Ear buds w 3mm jack	Crayola Crayons	Highlighters
Kleenex	Prang Watercolors	Colored Pencils
Glue Sticks	Elmer's School Glue	Pocket Folders with Brads
Dry Erase Markers	4 pack Play Doh	(red, orange, yellow, green, blue)
Crayola Markers	Composition Books	Pencil Box
	Wide Ruled Notebook Paper	

Our Back to School Bash is Sunday Aug 13 from 6-8 pm. We'll have carnival games, a bounce house, a water slide, hamburgers, hotdogs, and a cake walk!

We had so much fun last year, we hope you'll join us this year!

Sign up to supervise one of the games or to donate a baked good for the cake walk here:





BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

AUGUST 13

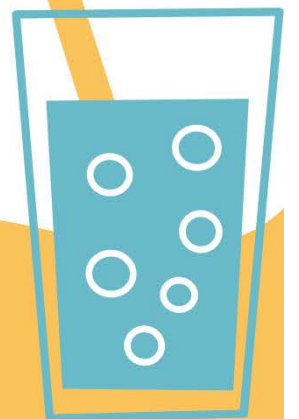
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**SNOW CONES, WATER SLIDE,
GAMES, AND MORE!**

6:00 - 8:00PM

235 W DUFFY ST, NORMAN, OK 73069

**QUESTIONS
CATHY WILSON AT
CWILSON@EPISCOPALNORMAN.ORG**



St. Michael's is Offering The Retreat in Daily Life

Retreat in Daily Life is the study of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. The spirituality he developed places great emphasis on the affective life: the use of imagination in prayer, discernment and interpretation of feelings, cultivation of great desires, and generous service. Ignatian spiritual renewal focuses more on the heart than the intellect. It holds that our choices and decisions are often beyond the merely rational or reasonable. Its goal is an eager, generous, wholehearted offer of oneself to God and to God's work.

The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius continue to offer some of the most accessible and insightful guidance for going on retreat. Based on the rich fruit of St. Ignatius' own meditations and practice, this guide for spiritual fulfillment has been treasured and faithfully used for centuries by members of the saint's Jesuit order and by millions more. Divided into four weeks of reflections and four key meditations -- on the Kingdom of God, the Two Standards (of Christ and Satan), the Three Classes of Men, and the Three Modes of Humility -- the whole retreat has at its center the emulation of Christ. The Exercises have been universally recognized as a brilliant and inspired guide to the development of a deeper Christian spirituality ever since St. Ignatius completed them in 1533. Great saints -- as well as countless religious and lay people -- have been spiritually shaped through their dedicated use. This four-week system of meditation and prayer continues to be the very backbone of Ignatian retreats, where earnest seekers come to examine their lives, contemplate the future, face decisions, and revitalize their souls. Both religious and lay people make Ignatian retreats to renew their Christian dedication and enthusiasm, but even those who cannot make such retreats have profited greatly from a careful reading of the Exercises.

The Retreat consists of entering into a commitment of daily prayer and meeting as a group twice monthly beginning in October and continuing through the next May. There is also a requirement that you obtain and meet with a Spiritual Director. The Spiritual Direction Program of the Diocese of Oklahoma will help you find one. There is a yearly cost of \$300 for the Retreat in Daily Life plus the cost of seeing your Spiritual Director monthly. You will also need to purchase the books *The Ignatian Adventure* by Kevin O'Brien S.J. and *The Poverty of Spirit* by Johannes Metz.

At St. Michael's, Amy Gardner and Deacon Ann Murray will be team leading the Retreat. Classes will occur the second and fourth Sundays of each month beginning in October and continuing through May. If you have any questions regarding the retreat or if you are interested in participating, you may contact Deacon Ann through her email which is deaconann18@gmail.com or by phone at (405) 919-8533.

The process for registering for the Retreat should be available in mid-July. If you are interested, let Deacon Ann know and she will make sure that information is relayed to you once it is decided.

CARE OF CREATION OUTREACH

Mark your calendars now! Here's Cathy Bowden's invitation to St. John's beloved, to come to this event hosted by NORMAN CHURCHES CARING FOR CREATION at University Lutheran Church & Student Center and to participate actively in this lay ministry.

GREENSpeak will be on Thursday night, September 14th at 7:00 p.m. Our presenter is Sherrie McNall who heads up the "OK Bags Away" project with the Sierra Club. You recall that Norman's effort to enact a ban on single use plastic bags several years ago was "sidetracked" when the state legislature passed a bill stating that cities couldn't have stricter laws than the state. Well, this group is gearing up to take on this legislation in order to let cities determine their own ways of work. Plan on learning more about single use plastics and what we can do together to get more of them out of the landfill!

And a sidenote, did you know . . . that about 900 million laundry jugs are tossed out annually. It's estimated that only 30 percent of these plastic jugs are recycled. That means 630 million plastic jugs are finding their way into North American landfills, beaches and oceans each year. We'll talk about this, for sure, at GREENSpeak. There is an alternative! This fits well with a suggestion that was made at our last GREENSpeak meeting in which we decided it was time we worked together on something big! We need to discuss this in September.

Hope to see you at GREENSpeak!

Vestry Elections

(It's nearly that time of year again!)

In just a few short months it will be time to elect new Vestry members (3) and delegates to Convention. To be a vestry member one must be a confirmed member of St. John's in good standing and at least 18 years of age. To be a delegate one must be confirmed and a member in good standing and at least 16 years of age. A member is in good standing if he or she has received Holy Communion at least three times during the previous year and been faithful in corporate worship unless good cause has prevented it. Vestry terms are three years, meeting once a month on average unless special or urgent issues arise.

If you feel that this is something you might be called to do, pray about it and then mention it to a current vestry member.

Save the Date

St. John's to Host Blood Drive

September 24, 2023
8:30am - Noon in the parish hall
Link to sign up to donate coming soon!

St. Johns Episcopal Church | Norman, OK

Music - Melody Palm

Two of our services in July were blessed with special musical offerings. Cameron Wilcox shared a trombone arrangement of Amazing Grace in a fun light jazzy style, accompanied by Carmen Wilcox at the keyboard. Matt Wilson offered a trio of favorite church camp songs, encouraging congregants to sing along.

Thank You Cameron, Carmen and Matt for sharing your talents with us.

Choir will be returning in September, and will happily welcome new members. If you're middle-school to adult age, and enjoy singing, we'd love to have you join us. The choir rehearses Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings between services, to sing at the 10:30 service. Talk to Melody Palm, or any choir member for more information.



"Knit" Night

In August, the "Knit" Night gatherings will be August 3rd and August 17th. These are the first and third Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 pm.

Bring along any type of portable needlework or craft project, or just come to join the conversation, which might be about almost anything.

All are welcome, including beginners wanting to learn to knit or crochet. Please contact Melody Palm to be added to the email reminder list, or for more information.



Memorial Service Chapel of the Resurrection

The August Memorial Service will be held on:

August 2nd, at 12:10 PM.

Fr. Dwight will be officiating along with Rev. Dr. Nancee Martin. This is a monthly service which lasts approximately 30 minutes and is a time to pay tribute to and remember all those who have died in that month, no matter the year, and all those who have died in the current year. Each name is spoken aloud.

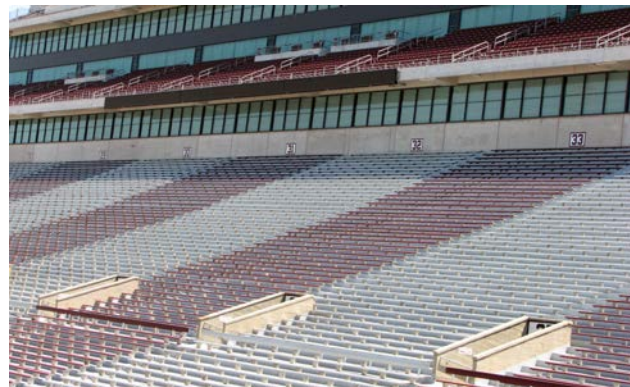
The service is a reverent one with Holy Communion that honors those we loved but see no longer.

2023 Football Parking

Our parking lot will be available again for the OU football 2023 season parking, and volunteers are needed! Please scan the QR code below for access to the Google reservation form.

If there are any specific dates you would be available to come out and help please leave a short description in the comments portion of the reservation form.

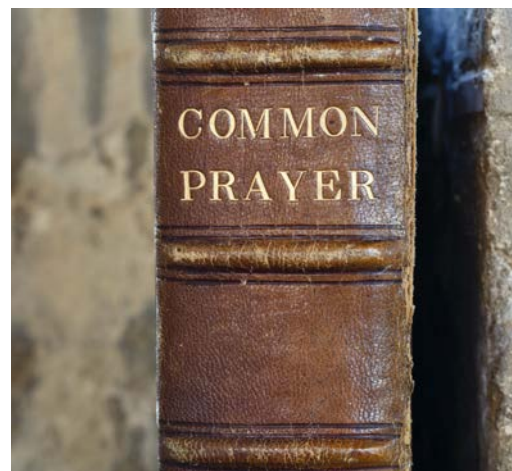
For more Information contact Robert Finley.



Book Of Common Prayer

There is an opportunity here at St. John's to remember, honor or give thanksgiving for a love one(s). After a check on condition and a count of how many were needed, the Vestry approved the purchase of fifty (50) books of Common Prayer. (Pew edition)

Some will replace badly worn books while others will be placed in pews where there are insufficient numbers of books. If you would like to "sponsor" one of these BCPs, a label will be placed on the inside cover with the name(s) of whoever you are honoring and your name(s). Please call or stop by the church office if you would like to do this, the cost of sponsorship is \$22.50.



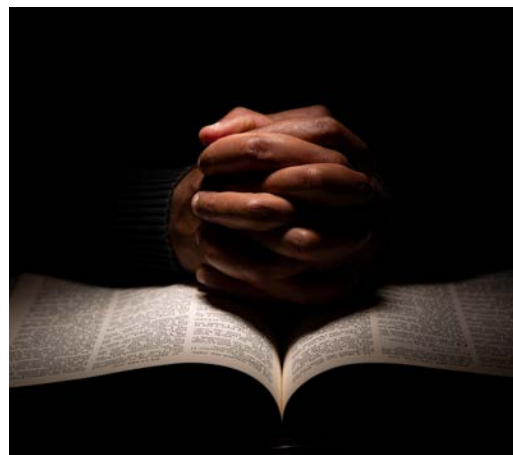
St. John's at a Glance

Prayer Requests

Prayer requests may be submitted to the church by calling the office, sending an email to staff@episcopalnorman.org, or online at:

www.episcopalnorman.org/prayer-request

Requests will be added to the Prayers of the People, unless you would like your request kept private.



Online Giving

Many of you have recently taken advantage of the ease of making pledge payments online. If you are interested in doing so as well, go to episcopalnorman.org and click on the [DONATE](#) button in the upper left corner. There is a simple form to complete; be sure to also complete the memo with what the donation is for. You can use this to pay for altar flowers, make memorial donations, etc. We use a secure program facilitated by our bank. Questions? Contact the office at 321-3020.





Postage

ST. JOHN'S Episcopal Church

235 W. Duffy, Norman
405-321-3020
MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. Box 2088
Norman, OK 73070

OFFICE HOURS

Monday

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tues, Wed, Thurs

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Nancee Martin
Rector

The Rev. James Tyree
Deacon

Catherine Wilson
Christian Formation Director

Taylor Redden
Parish Administrator

Melody Palm
Interim Organist/Choir M.

Matthew Wilson
Youth Director



Online Church Service Options

Sunday Mornings: Live stream is here! The videos are available on the St. John's website, <http://episcopalnorman.org/livestream.aspx>.

ADDRESS: 235 W. Duffy,
Norman, OK 73069

MAILING

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2088
Norman, OK 73070

PHONE: 405-321-3020

WEBSITE: www.episcopalnorman.org

EMAIL: staff@episcopalnorman.org

OFFICE HOURS

Mon 10am-2pm

Tues, Wed, Thurs 10am-4pm

Evangel Submissions

Please feel free to submit articles for new and upcoming Evangels. If you would like to submit something to be included in the future, please send a copy of your article to evangele@episcopalnorman.org or submit by scanning the QR code and filling out the Submission Form.