

EVANGEL



A Publication of St. John's Episcopal Church—Norman, OK

Worship Schedule

Sunday

Holy Eucharist Rite One
8am

Sunday School
9:30-10:15am

Holy Eucharist Rite Two
10:30am

Livestream (10:30am)

Tuesday

Healing Service
10am (Chapel)

Wednesday

Prayer Service
6pm (Chapel)

Inside this Evangel

Parish Election

page 2-3

Vestry News

page 3

Music

page 4

New BCPs

page 4

Knit Night & Yoga

page 4

Twelfth Night

page 5

Rosary Prayer Meetings

page 6

February: 2023

The Gift Of Memory (by Fr. James Detrich)

Memory is a powerful tool given to us by God. The whole Bible reveals a history that helps to shape our lives as we remember God's plans and purposes. Holy Eucharist each Sunday is an act of "perpetual memory." We remember in that act Christ's "precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again" (BCP, 334).

Memory is a way for human beings to add significance to—to imbue something with sacredness. The brokenness of losing someone you love can be, at least partially, healed through memory. The sheer act of never forgetting them adds a sacredness to their lives.

When I came to St. John's, I was delighted to hear of this special service that was done each month where the names of those lost to death were intentionally remembered. Those names in the current month, as well as those names in the last calendar year, were prayed for. They were remembered in the sight of God, so they weren't forgotten. Not that we really believe that God would forget them, no, the real concern is for us. As time marches on, as the cycles of change turn over, as our attention moves to other things in a world obsessed with "the new," the names of the people who did so much to build this church need to be remembered.

The Memorial service (usually the first Weds of each month at 12:10pm) is a service of memory. However, it seems a lot of folks have forgotten. Over the last few months, it's been Kathleen and me as the only participants. I'd encourage you in this Lenten season to give this service a try. We meet in the Chapel of the Resurrection, which is more commonly referred to as the Columbarium.

Memory is also the theme of two other items I want to place before you. We've been blessed by the ministry of Fr Joe Ted Miller who served this church admirably from 1981 to 2002. The Rose Window project is a way to memorialize his service. We are raising \$7,000 for a new stained glass window to be placed in the parish hall. Since Fr Joe Ted enjoyed roses, the window will feature a beautiful rose as its central feature. We will take contributions of all sizes.

And don't forget about Ash Wednesday—the special day in our church when we remember that we are but dust, and to dust shall we return. Two services are available to pick from that day: noon and 7pm. (Both contain music.)

Parish Election : Now Joining the 2023 Vestry



John Ritz

John is a Norman native who has been married to his wife, Lindy, for 51 years. John and Lindy have been members of St. John's for over 40 years. John has served as an usher, a chalice, a Vestry member, and Senior Warden. He also served as chair of the Usher group and the Stewardship committee.

John is a retired Petroleum Engineer with a B.S. degree from the University of Oklahoma and a M.S. in Aviation and Space Science from Oklahoma State University. He has served on the Norman Public School Foundation, The Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy Board of Visitors, the OU School of Petroleum and Geological Industry Advisory Board and the executive committee, the OU Weitzenhoffer School of Fine Arts board of Visitors, the OU Tip-In Club President, and the OU Chip-In Club Executive Committee.

John was a cradle Methodist, and a member at McFarlin. He was confirmed in the Episcopal Church prior to his marriage to Lindy in Santa Fe, NM. John has found his spiritual home at St. John's and has been strengthened by serving and giving back.

John Harris

John and his family have been attending St. John's since they showed up the first Sunday, shortly after moving to Norman in 2013. Ever since then, it's been a wonderful church home. Over the last decade, John has volunteered with the youth group, been a regular at game-day parking, served as Chair of the Property Development Committee, served as Chair of the Parish Survey Committee, played 3rd base for the St. John's softball team, spoken at the spaghetti dinner events, and enjoyed the Men's Griller—among the many ministries of the parish.

John is passionate about the impact that St. John's makes on the wider community, especially our efforts at creating an inclusive community where all are comfortable taking part in the life and ministry of the church. John is also passionate about youth ministry. Besides volunteering with St. John's Youth, John was also a Youth Minister for a local Episcopal parish in Illinois in the early 2000s. It's there where he learned that youth are not only the future of the church, but the very beating heart of any vibrant parish.

Professionally, John is a professor at the University of Oklahoma in Regional and City Planning. He also helps lead the University's Center for Peace and Development. He works with grassroots organizations in Oklahoma and Uganda which are doing the hard work of improving the everyday quality of life for people in their communities, especially in places where there has been conflict or other difficult circumstances.



Jona Kay Steed

Jona Kay was born and raised in Norman and attended Norman Public Schools and the University of Oklahoma. She has a B.S. in Business Education and a Master's in Educational Technology. Public education was her career for 36 years. Since retiring, she has run a side-line business as a Certified Signing Notary. Besides Norman, she has also resided in California, Texas and Ajijic, Mexico.

Jona Kay attended McFarlin Methodist Church in her youth. But she fell in love with St. John's when she was 18. The liturgy and the open-mindedness of The Episcopal Church greatly appealed to her.

Here at St. John's, Jona Kay has had many different leadership roles. She's been on the Vestry twice (35 years apart), chaired the ECW Bazaar, lead Christian Education, and was part of the Altar Guild. Presently, she is an Eucharistic Minister and Chalice Bearer and a participant in the Santa Ministry. All these positions have given her a broad outlook and a deep appreciation of the many aspects of St. John's.

Besides her participation at St. John's, Jona Kay has volunteered in the community as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, a liaison for a Afghan refugee family, and a Meals on Wheels driver. These activities have given her a broad idea of the needs of the Norman community and a realization that all people have an ability to give.

Jona Kay's main interest at St. John's is Outreach, as well as working hard to see a continued increase in participation in all parts of parish life.

Vestry News (By Deacon James)

The St. John’s Vestry has three new members – the larger arrange- John Harris, John Ritz and Jona Kay Steed – and ments. their first meeting will be at the annual vestry re- As for St. John’s fi- treat on Feb. 17-18 at St. Crispin’s Conference nances, the church Center. faced a year-end short- Parishioners voted for the new vestry members fall of about \$14,000. during St. John’s Annual Meeting on Feb. 5. They However, the vestry will replace Chuck Palm, Greg Taylor and Martha voted to cover the pro- White, whose three-year terms expired last jected shortfall plus 15 month. However, Palm agreed to stay a little long- percent of the exact er to complete the final year of Owen Mills’ unex- amount for the dioce- pired term. The vestry approved the one-year ap- san assessment with pointment during its Jan. 15 meeting. funds from the Special The vestry also approved an action to balance the Revenue Fund. This parish’s 2022 year-end budget, two motions relat- new restricted fund ing to stained glass windows and requests to was created from two spend \$825 to enhance St. John’s re-emerging large recent donations handbell music program. and what was left of the rental property fund – which was The vestry also learned during its January 2023 made obsolete when meeting that nothing more is owed on the church’s St. John’s stopped lighting and security around the property. renting residential properties in Decem- ber. “This is a safety issue, but also a beautification is- sue,” Taylor said of adding lights in his final vestry meeting. “We have a beautiful building, and we want people to see it.” Topping off the financial news was Welch notify- ing the vestry that the long project to replace the church’s roof – some of which dates back to the 1930s – is both complete and paid for. The total cost was \$819,600, all of which is completely paid. There’s even nearly \$7,000 left over and in the bank. Taylor continues to serve on the Resource Devel- opment and Communication committees and is St. John’s point person for security and information technology. So he will continue to check on pricing and package options for additional lighting for the courtyard and other areas of the church campus. The junior warden was very happy to deliver that news. On a related matter that combines safety and beauty, Junior Warden Pat Welch said in her re- port that the welding of ornate metal gates for the courtyard is proceeding and going well. Regarding stained glass windows, the vestry ap- proved a beautiful design in honor of the late Fr. Joe Ted Miller. The window features a single large red rose and will be placed in a Parish Hall wall facing the courtyard. The vestry also approved a new restricted fund that will be used for maintain- ing and protecting all of St. John’s stained-glass windows. On a final beautification note, vestry member Roshni Robert reported the floral arrangements for Sunday services that parishioners pay for in honor or memory of loved ones are looking a little small. She larger arrangements to properly fill the two niches behind the altar would cost \$150, up from \$100. The vestry approved a motion to order

Parish Election Results:

- **Sr. Warden:**
Holly Cole
- **Jr. Warden:**
Pat Welch
- **Bylaws:**
Approved
- **Lay Delegates:**
Robert Finley, Anne Boone, John Harris, Merrie Beard, Gabby Beard, Pam Brown, Jim Beard, and Chuck Palm
- **Alternate Lay Delegates:**
Matt Wilson, Julia Harris, Melissa Busby

Holy-Spirited Yoga (by Susie Laird)

Throughout 2022, St. John's offered basic yoga instruction from a parishioner who has practiced yoga over two decades, Susan Laird, RYT200. Students met her by appointment on Thursdays and Sundays, in an upstairs skylit room in the parish hall, during parish office hours. With Susan's help, beginner students learned basic hatha yoga skills, attitudes, and poses while focused on learning to develop their own home practice suited to their own needs, wants, and situations. In this way, one student reclaimed ability to get down to and up from the floor, three others claimed confidence in their own competence to attend gentle classes regularly from Susie's own yoga teacher at a downtown studio, and yet another more experienced student practiced advanced Flow with Susie. Every class ended with a poetic prayer by Rev. Jan Richardson. Students included both parishioners and parish-guests. Private instruction continues to be offered during parish office hours in the small skylit room (when it's available), by appointment. Contact: slaird@episcopalnorman.org.

Music (by Melody Palm)

During the Epiphany season, many of the anthems and hymn texts are about light, and shining through darkness. The end of February will move us into Lent, and will include changes to our service music. We'll also begin the first Sunday of Lent singing the Great Litany, one of our great Episcopal traditions.

Altar Flowers

If you would like to donate altar flowers for a specific Sunday this year, please contact the office via phone, email, or visit.



Book Of Common Prayer (by Chuck Palm)

There is an opportunity here at St. John's to remember, honor or give thanksgiving for a love done(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 re-place 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.

"Knit" Night (by Melody Palm)

The "Knit" Night gatherings for February will be the 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 2/2 and 2/16, weather permitting. Join us between 6:30 and 8:30 pm in the Commons. Bring any stitching or crafting project you want to work on. Come share your progress, see what others are creating, or try a new skill while we chat. Reminders are sent before each meeting. Contact Melody Palm (309) 825-6963, or through Realm to be added to the email reminder list.



12th Night 2023



Twelfth Night Wrap-Up (by Shannon Conley)

After a hiatus since January 2019, our 12th Night Medieval Feast returned this year in early January 2023 with great fanfare and great success. We fed ~110 people and had a great turnout from the parish and friends. I'm so grateful to all the attendees, donors, and the huge number of (~40) volunteers from our parish. Highlights included wonderful food prepared by Pat Welch and her team of St. John's chefs, wonderful medieval music led by Melody Palm featuring the well-loved kazoo trumpet, and delightfully punny skits written by Deacon James Tyree. The evening ran wonderfully thanks to back-of-house oversight by Walter and Marla Colijn and Greg Taylor. We were excited to welcome Fr. James and LeEtta Detrich as our new King and Queen. Most excitingly, thanks to the wonderful generosity of our parishioners, the event raised \$2,000 for the St. John's outreach program, and enabled us to offer comped tickets to attendees for whom the ticket price was cost-prohibitive, so we could make the event more inclusive and accessible to the whole parish. Mark your calendars for the next 12th Night Feast, to be held January 4, 2025.

St. John's Episcopal Church

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*James Detrich
Rector*

*James Tyree
Deacon*

*Cathy Wilson
Formation Director*

*Melody Palm
Interim Organist/Choir M.*

Vestry

*Mike Abila, Alison Braly, Ulli
Nollert, Chuck Palm, Roshni
Robert, Femi Somade, John
Harris, Jona Kay Steed, John
Ritz, Pat Welch, &
Holly Cole*



Our Mission

*May we restore all people to unity with God and
each other in Christ*

We Exist

To Worship God in the Anglican tradition

To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ

To Serve the Community

To Foster Acceptance and Belonging for all

Nancy Sonleitner and Deacon James Tyree invite you to join us for rosary prayers this Lenten season.

We will meet in the Commons on Wednesday evenings and start around 6:45 p.m., shortly after the Wednesday evening chapel service, beginning March 1. You are invited to pray and fellowship with us in person; however, you may also join us via Zoom.

The rosary is a circle string of beads on which various sets of prayers are said. The practice is often associated with the Roman Catholic church, but the Anglican Communion, of which the Episcopal Church is a member, also has a rosary tradition.

We will pray both styles on alternating weeks, with Nancy leading the Catholic rosary and Deacon James leading the Anglican way. And don't worry – we will have rosary beads available each week for everyone to use and keep.

Our rosary prayers will replace the Zoom Bible discussions we had starting in April 2020, shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic arrived. The Zoom meetings went year-round through the end of Easter season of 2021, and then returned last year for the Lent and Easter seasons.

Praying the rosary can provide a new, spiritually nourishing activity for the St. John's community. Nancy describes the experience as a calming, meditative and deeply spiritual practice that she believes other parishioners would enjoy.

Chili Cookoff Results

*Congratulations to Holly Cole & Pat Welch — The creators
of the best chili at St. John's!*

