



# EVANGEL

St. John's Episcopal Church | Norman, OK

## St. John's Episcopal Church

235 W. Duffy St.  
Norman, OK. 73069  
405-321-3020

### Sunday Services Holy Eucharist

Rite I: 8:00 AM

Rite II: 10:30 AM

(Live Stream/ In Person)

### Nursery

10:00 - 12:00

### Rector's Forum

9:30-10:15 (Commons)

### Children's Sunday School

9:30-10:15

### Youth Groups

Fledglings K-5<sup>th</sup> &  
The 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Group

5:00pm to 7:00pm

### Wednesday

10:00am (Chapel)

10:30am Bible Study

6:00pm (Chapel)

### Thursday

9:30am Bible Study

## From the Pile on Fr. Kirk's Desk...

Change is in the air 🎵🎵

There is an upcoming change in our music department. David Conley, our organist and choir master, has been accepted to Harvard for a special public sector program to prepare him for federal service. Harvard is not the university down the block, so David will be headed back east to fulfill his pursuit.

Change and transition brings with it mixed emotions. I'm holding this change with both sadness and joy; sadness that David's last Sunday will be June 14<sup>th</sup> and joy that he has this opportunity to further his career in this chosen path.

It has been a fantastic working with David these past 10 months as he and the vocal and bell choirs have filled our ears, hearts, and worship space with their sacred music. I am truly grateful for the beauty of their ministry.

David has given me a few leads in finding a qualified replacement for our future. Please hold David in your prayers as he makes this transition, and lift up a prayer or two that God will connect us with the right person to lead St. John's music department after David departs.

# Upcoming Events

## Weekly Events

- Sunday - Worship: Rite I at 8:00am & Rite II at 10:30am  
Sunday - Children's Sunday School - 9:30 - 10:15am  
Sunday - Rector's Forum (9:30am)  
Sunday - Youth Programs (4:00pm)  
Wednesday - Holy Eucharist (10:00am Chapel of the Beloved Disciple)  
Wednesday - Lectionary Study (10:30am Commons)  
Wednesday - Beloved Readers Book Study (1:30pm Library)  
Wednesday - Holy Eucharist (6:00pm Chapel of the Beloved Disciple)  
Thursday - Bible Study (9:30am Library)

## Upcoming Events

- May 2 - St. John's Booth at the Pride Festival (9:00am Andrews Park)  
May 3 - St. John's in the Pride Parade 6:00 p.m.  
May 6 - Monthly Memorial - (12:10pm Chapel of the Resurrection)  
May 7 - Knit Night (6:30pm - Library)  
May 8/9 - Wedding  
May 10 - Parish Potluck Picnic 5:00pm at Andrews Park (Shelter #5)  
May 13 - St. John's Peace and Justice League (Commons 6:30 - 7:30pm)  
May 15 - Men's Griller (6:30pm - Parish Hall)  
May 16 - Mahjong/Poker (7pm - Parish Hall)  
May 17 - Honors Sunday!  
May 21 - Knit Night - (Library 6:30 - 8:30pm)  
May 25 - Office Closed  
May 26 - Cimarron Opera Summer Operetta 2026 Begins  
May 29/30 - Wedding

## The Lessons

### Lectionary Year A

#### May 3rd

##### *Fifth Sunday of Easter*

- Acts 7:55-60
- 1 Peter 2:2-10
- John 14:1-14
- Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

#### May 10th

##### *Sixth Sunday of Easter*

- Acts 17:22-31
- 1 Peter 3:13-22
- John 14:15-21
- Psalm 66:7-18

#### May 17th

##### *Seventh Sunday of Easter*

- Acts 1:6-14
- 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
- John 17:1-11
- Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36

#### May 24th

##### *Pentecost*

- Acts 2:1-21
- 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
- John 20:19-23
- Psalm 104:25-35, 37

#### May 31st

##### *First Sunday after Pentecost*

- Genesis 1:1-2:4a
- 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
- Matthew 28:16-20
- Psalm 8

# Upcoming Events

## "Knit" Night

"Knit" Night gatherings will be May 7 and 21, the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of May. Drop by and join us anytime 6:30-8:30 pm in the library at St. John's. These are opportunities to work on any portable needlework or craft project you wish. That might be knitting, or crochet, cross-stitch, applique, beadwork, sketching, latchhook, small loom weaving, or anything else. Projects are optional, as we enjoy sharing being together and supporting each other. All skill levels are welcome. If you're a beginner or looking for help with a new skill, there's probably someone who can help.

For questions, or to be added to the email reminders sent a day or two before each meeting, contact Melody Palm, [mpalm@episcopalnorman.org](mailto:mpalm@episcopalnorman.org)

Thanks!  
Melody Palm

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## St. John's Peace and Justice League

Meeting May 13th, 6:35 p.m. to 7:35pm

Striving for Justice and Peace among all people is part of baptismal covenant. There are many ways to fight injustice. Come to the next Peace and Justice League meeting and find something that is the right fit! If you have questions, email [Kirk@episcopalnorman.org](mailto:Kirk@episcopalnorman.org).

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## Mahjong & Poker Anyone!

Saturday, May 16th, 7-9pm

Mahjong & Poker Night is the perfect blend of strategy, laughter, and a little friendly competition. Whether you're building a winning hand of tiles or going all-in with a great set of cards, the night offers something for everyone—from beginners to seasoned players.

New to Mahjong?

Instructors will be provided to help beginners learn the game and feel confident at the table. Gather around, enjoy great company, and savor snacks and drinks as the games unfold—it's less about winning and more about the shared moments and fun.

Look for sign up sheets at both services OR click/scan the QR code:



St. Johns Episcopal Church | Norman, OK



# Parish Picnic May 10th



**St. John's  
Parish Picnic**  
May 10th 5-7pm  
Andrews Park

Join the St John's community in fellowship at the Annual Parish Potluck Picnic on May 10th from 5-7pm.

The picnic is at Andrews Park Shelter #5, on the south east corner near the playground.

The church will provide paper plates, napkins, and utensils. (A rumor is circulating the Senior Warden will bring fried chicken).

Please bring a food or beverage to share and an open heart ready to strengthen our bonds as a church family!

## St. John's Foundation

### Did you know?

The Foundation received its certificate of incorporation on August 27, 1997. The Name of the Corporation is *St. John's Episcopal Church Foundation, Inc.* Distributions from the Foundation shall be used "solely in aid of the religious and charitable objectives of the church."

The Foundation has four endowment funds.

- **The Harry Holland Legacy Fund** – Restricted to the maintenance and improvement of the facilities.
- **Sonia Seabrook Gans Music Fund** – Restricted to enhance the music programs of St. John's.
- **Charles Standley Seminarian Fund** – Restricted to assisting the church in support of seminarians.
- **The Rector's Challenge Fund** – Restricted to respond timely to unique opportunities and challenges which cannot always be anticipated.

The Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors who are all members of St. John's Church. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to any of the board members listed below.

**Bill Hetherington - Kevin McGehee - Lindy Ritz - Mike Muncy - Stephanie Abla - Craig Hall**

*For more information and to obtain a copy of the St. John's Foundation Policy and Bylaws Document, scan or click on the QR code to the right.*



# Nice to Know

## OU/St. Johns Big Event Day

The Big Event is the University of Oklahoma's official day of community service! Volunteers participate in this event to show their appreciation to the surrounding community by completing service projects such as painting, yard work, and visiting with the elderly.

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, members of the OU Staff Senate Community Outreach Committee (Imelda Aldava, Kirk Wilson, Quinn Floch, and David Rankin) joined a handful of St. John's parishioners who came out, to make St. John's a nicer place.



## Altar Guild Could Use Your Help



Have you ever arrived for a worship service at St. John's, settled into your seat, greeted familiar faces, and then realized the altar wasn't ready—no candles, no wine, no host, none of the things needed for the celebration of eucharist are visible? It could bring everything to a screeching halt.

Well, you need never worry about it, because St. John's Altar Guild is on the job...all two teams and we haven't missed a Sunday. A handful of committed volunteers will never let you down.

But, there is always room for more. We would love to have you step up and take part in one of the most important responsibilities in our church. It doesn't take a lot of time..but it does require dedication and commitment.

To seek more information about how you can be a member of the Altar Guild speak to Fr Kirk and/or Altar Guild head Carol Upp ([carolupp65@gmail.com](mailto:carolupp65@gmail.com) or 405-831-8992).

Join us...be part of something special!

# Join us for St. John's VBS 2026

**We are ready for another week of VBS at St. John's!  
VBS is open to kids in K-5th grade this summer!**

Our theme this year is **"Let Your Light Shine!"** During the week we will explore love, joy, kindness, and faithfulness and how we can embody these fruits of the spirit through stories, crafts, and small group activities.

We will meet for VBS each day at 9am, with eucharist at 11:45 and lunch at 12. From 1-5 we will have large group games, activities, and trips to the pool.



**Dates: July 13-July 17**

Time: 9am - 5pm with optional early pick-up after lunch

Cost: \$50/child (full day 9am-5pm) or \$30/child (VBS only from 9am - 12); scholarships are available through the church.

Payment can be made with cash or check on the first day or through the following link: <https://onrealm.org/StJohnsEpiscopa87669/give/VBS2026> and indicate "VBS 2026" in the drop down memo field or scan the QR code above.



Questions? Please call St. John's at (405) 321-3020 or email Catherine Wilson at [cwilson@episcopalnorman.org](mailto:cwilson@episcopalnorman.org)



# Help Wanted – VBS 2026 is July 13-17, 2026

We will offer a full-day VBS for the St. John's and greater Norman community. Last year we welcomed 40 children into our church each day for activities, crafts, and worship. We expect this year to be just as big!

We are looking for volunteers to lead small group activities, supervise large group activities, and help prepare and serve lunch.

Please contact Catherine Wilson at [cwilson@episcopalnorman.org](mailto:cwilson@episcopalnorman.org) if you would like additional information.



**Sign up to help by scanning the QR code:**

**Save the Date – VBS 2026 is July 13-17, 2026.**

## St. Crispin's Summer Camp Registration is Open!

Camp registration is open with sessions for kids in K – high school. Camp sessions are divided by age group, with ABC camp for K-3rd grade children and a parent, Intermediate Camp for 4th – 6th graders, Junior High for 7th – 9th graders, Senior High for 10th – 2026 graduates, and a shortened Mini Session for 2nd – 5th graders.

In addition, this year St. Crispin's is offering several intensive sessions focused on different hobbies/interests, including Adventure, Arts & Crafts, and Musical Theater. These sessions are open to camper in 6th – 2026 graduates.

Scholarships for camp are available through the diocese and through the church. Please contact Catherine Wilson at [cwilson@episcopalnorman.org](mailto:cwilson@episcopalnorman.org) for more information.

You can learn more about St. Crispin's and register for camp at [www.stcrispins.org/camp](http://www.stcrispins.org/camp)



# Nice Stuff to Know....

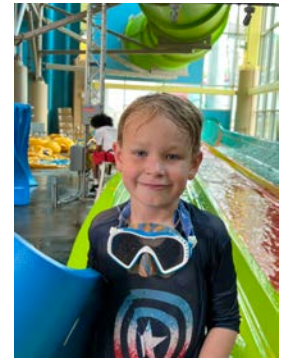
The St. John's Youth Group, guided by the dedicated leadership of Cathy and Matt Wilson, is a vibrant community of young individuals who actively engage in various church activities. Cathy and Matt, known for their "enthusiastic approach," ensure that each member is supported and encouraged to grow both spiritually and socially. The kids are frequently spotted participating in church services, community events, and fun outings, creating a lively atmosphere filled with laughter and camaraderie. Under the Wilsons' mentorship, these young members not only deepen their faith but also build lasting friendships, making their time at St. John's both meaningful and enjoyable.

Let's face it...look at the pictures and asked yourself if you had that much fun in April.

## Family Trip to OKANA Resort and Water Park



St. John's Youth traveled to OKC on Saturday, April 25 and spent the day at Okana Resort and Water Park. The kids look like they had a great time.



## Youth Trip to the Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial



# Twelfth Night WILL Return



Hear ye, nobles  
And common peasants:  
From young to olde  
We request thine presence  
At the sumptuous feast  
To commence at St. John's  
It is dubbed "Twelfth Night,"  
'Tis way more cool than The Fonz.

A fine time will be had by all  
When Christmastide takes a bow  
With medieval decor, music and prose  
You'll hear many a "thee" and "thou."  
Comedy and music will entertain  
The Royal Court and subjects present  
A laugh, guffaw, or even a snort  
May release as you dine on pheasant.

We won't really serve pheasant.  
That was written for the rhyme.  
But all will enjoy a fancy meal served  
Over several courses, all in due time.  
So plan to attend Twelfth Night  
For its food, entertainment and mirth  
If you're undecided, we guarantee,  
Your time and attention it is worth.



Twelfth Night is scheduled on January 9  
In nine months, this baby is due.  
In St. John's Parish Hall, you'll see  
Our church tradition return anew.  
But much must be planned, attained and done  
With food, costumes, music and more.  
To make the event an exciting success  
And not a desolate Dark Ages bore.

So if you have ideas or wish to help  
You are welcome to join the fray  
Just convey your interest to Deacon James  
And do so without delay.  
We're starting early to make planning smooth  
And to build anticipation.  
The call to support and attend Twelfth Night  
Goes out to all of St. John's Nation!

If you have ideas or want to take part in  
Twelfth Night at St. John's in any way, contact  
Deacon James Tyree at 405-820-1851 or  
[deaconjames17@outlook.com](mailto:deaconjames17@outlook.com). +



# Book Review

## AN EXTREME POLITICAL MAKEOVER FOR JESUS

**JESUS AND JOHN WAYNE: HOW WHITE EVANGELICALS CORRUPTED A FAITH AND FRACTURED A NATION**, by Kristin Kobes Du Mez (Liveright, W.W. Norton & Co., 2020). Available in e-book, audible, hardcover, & paperback formats, \$9-30.

When several Episcopal clergy recommended this book to me a few years ago, I listened to it and found it disturbing. This bestseller presents careful documentary research on white evangelical Christian nationalism's U.S. history. Its clearly nuanced narrative addresses responsible thinking readers, especially self-examining Christians. Why is this fraught history important for Episcopalians to understand? The Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty founded *Christians Against Christian Nationalism* in 2019 with the Episcopal Church's endorsement from then-Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry: "The violence, intimidation and distortion of scripture associated with 'Christian Nationalism' does not reflect the person and teachings of Jesus Christ, and so I stand with fellow leaders in the Christian community and call for a better way."

The author, Kristin Kobes Du Mez, a "reformational" theology professor's daughter and a Notre Dame PhD, is a history professor at Calvin University. She explains that white evangelical Christian nationalist culture's post-WWII political project has given Jesus an extreme makeover by means of entrepreneurial preachers, blockbuster movies, self-help books, presidential politics, and war-making. Debunking their familiar claims to "biblical literalism," she finds this radical theology at sharp odds with Jesus's biblical call to care for "the least of these" and to act with "kindness, gentleness, and self-control." She shows how that popular culture's leaders have drawn from the "world beyond faith" to substitute "a vengeful warrior Christ" for the Gospels' Jesus.

Their made-over Christ embodies a militant macho manhood constructed by a series of popular secular white he-man idols, most notably John Wayne. Divinizing domination and violence, this nationalist Christ embodies scorn for our church's Jesus as a "drag-queen Jesus," as "a meek and gentle milk-toast character" with effeminate long hair who turns the other cheek.

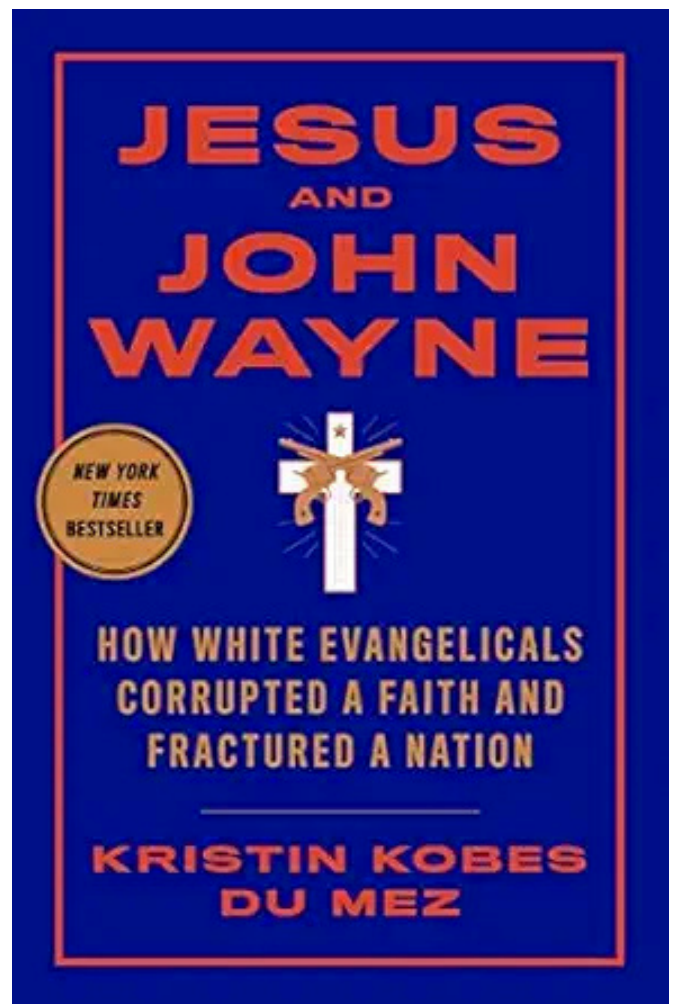
Not just a news sidebar, Jesus's extreme makeover has transformed both Christianity and U.S. culture since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century as white evangelical Christian nationalists have moved millions of American believers. They have promoted many other falsehoods also, to inspire bigotry against sexually, racially, culturally, and religiously diverse human targets, and to influence popular opinions about almost everything from foreign affairs and political elections to childrearing and family life, from sensual intimacy and sexual aggression to sports and military education. Jesus and John Wayne can show St. John's Peace and Justice League how Christian Nationalism has promoted seemingly disparate, diverse injustices that concern them.

## Book Review (cont)

This detailed history bears documentary witness to evangelical controversies about Jesus's extreme makeover and to conscientious skeptics who defected from the project. Having previously authored a biography of 19<sup>th</sup> century Methodist activist Katherine Bushnell, Du Mez also emphasizes that some other evangelical expressions of Christianity "have disrupted the status quo and challenged systems of privilege and power." Although she does not mention that former Presiding Bishop Curry exemplifies that historical fact, she does mention Sojourner's founding editor, prominent anti-racist evangelical leader Jim Wallis, and names many other recent U.S. evangelicals who do too. One clear aim of *Jesus and John Wayne* is to bust popular myths that demonize evangelicals categorically. This emotionally challenging, must-read book sounds an urgent wake-up call to all who follow Jesus's Way of Love.



**Kristin Kobes Du Mez**



# EVANGEL

St. John's Episcopal Church | Norman, OK

*Restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.*

Address Service Requested

## Weekly Schedule

### Sundays

Holy Eucharist 8a & 10:30a  
[Livestream: 10:30]  
www.episcopalnorman.org

Children's Sunday School  
9:30-10:15

Youth Groups Fledglings K-5<sup>th</sup>  
6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Group  
5:00pm to 7:00pm

### Wednesdays

Holy Eucharist 10a (Chapel).  
Followed by Bible Study.  
Holy Eucharist 6p (Chapel)

### Thursdays

Bible Study 9:30-10:30

1st Wednesday of Month  
Memorial Service 12:10pm  
(Columbarium)

## Staff

The Rev. Kirk Woodliff  
Rector

The Rev. James Tyree  
Deacon

Catherine Wilson  
Christian Formation Director

Matthew Wilson  
Youth Minister

David Conley  
Choirmaster/Organist

Greg Taylor  
Communications

## ONLINE CHURCH SERVICE OPTIONS

### Sunday Mornings Live Stream

(Click or Scan the QR Code on the right)



#### Address:

235 W. Duffy,  
Norman, OK 73069

#### Phone:

(405)-321-3020

#### Website:

www.episcopalnorman.org

#### Email:

staff@episcopalnorman.org

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 10am-2pm

## 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: [evangel@episcopalnorman.org](mailto:evangel@episcopalnorman.org)

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