



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 / Holy Eucharist

Rite I: 8:00 AM

Rite II: 10:30 AM

Youth program: 4:00pm

Tuesday:

10:00am (Chapel)

Wednesday:

6:00pm (Chapel)

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Youth/ Fright Night

Thank you!

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JDOK

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Crop Walk/ Outreach

Heard around the church last month from the pulpit...

“If we want our life as a church to grow, we need to work constantly on our witness. Others must see us care for each other. They need to hear us speak kindly of one another and they need to see us forgive and ask for forgiveness. It’s not always easy, and we won’t always do it. But as we try to live... as we are CALLED TO LOVE, Let us remember and be encouraged by Jesus’ words, ‘...where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.’”

“As you know, 2023 has been an interesting and challenging year for us here at St. John’s. There has been a lot of pain and confusion over what has happened, what was believed to have happened, where we are now as a parish and where we are heading. And in that pain and confusion, some hurtful things have been said and done among friends.....Which means we are fortunate. We have the opportunity, today and going forward, to strengthen and flex our forgiveness muscles.

That’s right, friends, whether we are reeling from sharp differences of opinion or from hurtful words or actions aimed at us or friends in the church, we can resolve to forgive and regain our true -Christian selves..... We also will warmly realize that it if not one thing that makes St. John’s our home, it’s 10 others.”

Flexing Our Forgiveness Muscles (aptly said by Deacon James) seems to be a holy invitation for us this fall. Right now. How might you flex your forgiveness muscles this month? What might that look like?

With love in Christ,

Mother Nancee & Deacon James



photo by Chuck Bacon

Wednesday Eucharists & Saints

October 4,

Francis of Assisi, Friar and Deacon, 1226

October 11,

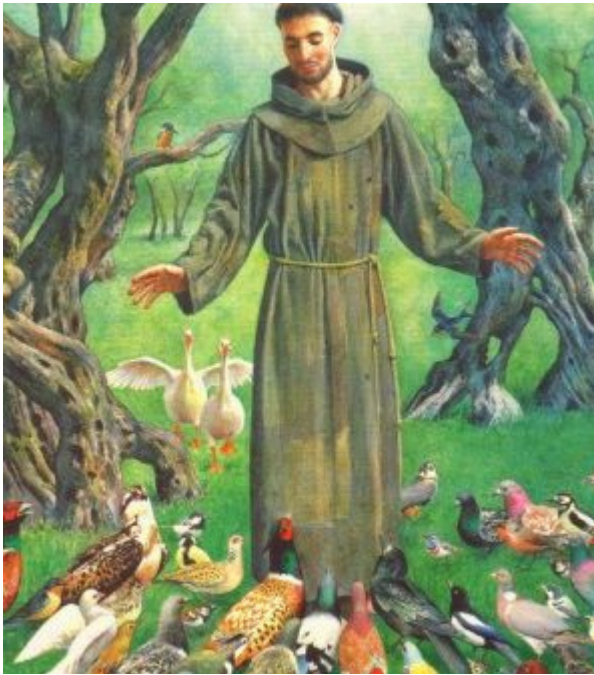
Philip, Deacon and Evangelist

October 18,

Saint Luke the Evangelist

October 25,

Tabitha (Dorcas of Joppa)



October 1st & St. Francis of Assisi

As the October edition of St. John's Evangel arrives, we will be reflecting upon the life of Saint Francis of Assisi at our Wednesday night mass at 6 in the Chapel.

The following Sunday will be our St. Francis Blessing of the Animals at 5 p.m. (*Leashed or Contained Animals are Welcome as well as pictures of beloved pets!*).

Children are invited to bring their beloved "stuffedies" (stuffed animals) at the 10.30 Holy Eucharist for a blessing during the announcements.

-Mother Nancee

A Little Slice Of Our Thursday Bible Study

'We may think we have very little to offer, but that is not really true. We have more love in us that we could ever possibly give away in one lifetime. We have enough compassion in our hearts to embrace the whole world, if only we could reach that far. We have a million chances to spend time with a child or with an elder, a million kind words we could say to lift up another soul. We are abundant in mercy, rich in understand, gifted at listening which is so often all that people need for us to do. We are all more than able to support justice, bring peace, embody hope. We have so much to offer, so much to give in making this life a joy for others' The Right Reverend Stephen Charleston, July 18 Reflection.

The words above were shared recently as a part of our Bible Study reflection time by **Bishop Charleston** of OKC. Join us on Thursdays at 10 am in the Commons if you want to hear more of reflections.

-Mother Nancee



Baptisms on All Saints Sunday November 5th at St. John's

Upcoming Baptism Class Set for
October 29th at 9:30 AM
For Baptism on All Saints
Sunday – November 5th at 10:30 AM



The Episcopal Dictionary of the Church defines baptism this way:

...full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body, the church. God establishes an indissoluble bond with each person in baptism. God adopts us, making us members of the church and inheritors of the Kingdom of God (BCP, pp. 298, 858). In baptism we are made sharers in the new life of the Holy Spirit and the forgiveness of sins. Baptism is the foundation for all future church participation and ministry. Each candidate for baptism in the Episcopal Church is to be sponsored by one or more baptized persons. Sponsors (godparents) speak on behalf of candidates for baptism who are infants or younger children and cannot speak for themselves at the Presentation and Examination of the Candidates. During the baptismal rite the members of the congregation promise to do all they can to support the candidates for baptism in their life in Christ. They join with the candidates by renewing the baptismal covenant. The water of baptism may be administered by immersion or affusion (pouring) (BCP, p. 307). Candidates are baptized "in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit," and then marked on the forehead with the sign of the cross. Chrism may be used for this marking. The newly baptized is "sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever." When all baptisms have been completed, the celebrant and congregation welcome the newly administered within the eucharist as the chief service on a Sunday or another feast.

Furthermore it is noted that:

The Catechism notes that "Infants are baptized so that they can share citizenship in the Covenant, membership in Christ, and redemption by God." The baptismal promises are made for infants by their parents or sponsors, "who guarantee that the infants will be brought up within the Church, to know Christ and be able to follow him" (BCP, pp. 858-859).

If you are interested in Holy Baptism, speak with **Mtr Nancee**.

-Mother Nancee

Youth

Sunday School

Sunday school has started for children in **preK-8th** grade.

Godly Play is offered for pre-K through first grade. Using a Montessori approach, children work through stories of God's work and explore themes from the Bible.

Children in 2-5th grade are working with the Episcopal Children's Curriculum developed by Virginia Theological Seminary.

Middle school students are learning more about the Episcopal Church through Confirm Not Conform. Sunday school is from 9:30-10:15.

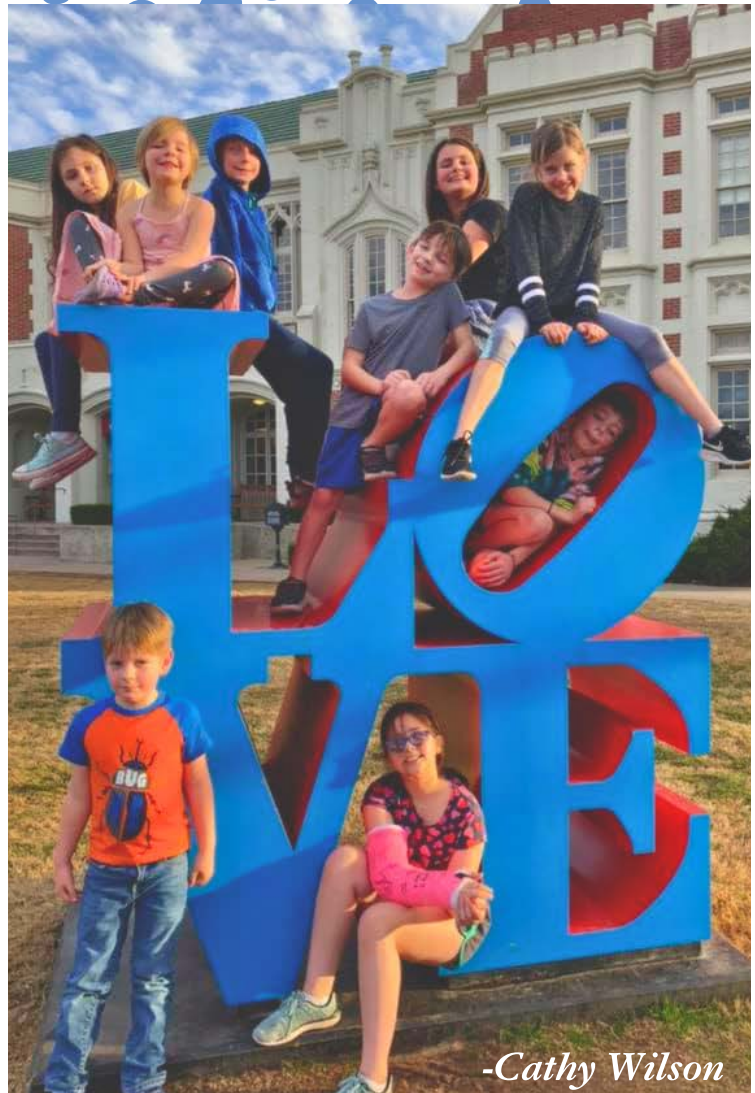


Children's Chapel

Children's Chapel takes place during the 10:30 service for children in **preK-3rd** grade.

During Children's Chapel, children interact with the gospel through discussion, crafts, and games.

Children come in for communion and reunite with their families after the service.



-Cathy Wilson

Fledglings and Youth

Fledglings is our Youth Group for pre-K through 5th grade. They meet from 4-6 pm Sunday afternoons. **Youth Group** is for 6 through 12th grade and meets 5-7 pm Sunday evening. Both groups meet for fellowship, participate in Evening Prayer, and share a meal.

Both groups kicked off the year on Sept 10 and we were thrilled to have 18 Fledglings join us for fun!

The Youth Group discussed plans and intentions for the year over ice cream and committed to nurturing relationships with each other.

The Youth Group is headed to Six Flags over Texas on **Saturday, October 14**
Youth members attending this trip need to **RSVP by Saturday October 7**

Oct 1	Building bird feeders	Capture the Flag Laser Tag
Oct 8	No Fledglings/Fall Break	No Youth/ Fall Break
Oct 15	Pumpkin Patch	Oct 14 SIX Flags Over Texas (9am – 12 am)
Oct 22	Halloween Craft	Jack o'Lanterns (BYOP)
Oct 28 (Sat)	Fright Night/ Trunk or Treat	Fright Night/Trunk or Treat

If you would like more information about our Children's Ministries, please contact **Catherine Wilson**:
cwilson@episcopalnorman.org



Fright Night

It's time to start planning your Trunk Decorations and Halloween Costume for Fright Night!

On **October 28th** we will celebrate Halloween with a Trunk or Treat and Spooky Casserole Cook-Off.

**Trunk or Treating begins at 6PM, the Casserole Cook-off begins at 7PM
AND the fun is all night!**

Prizes will be awarded for Favorite Children's Costume, Favorite Adult Costume, Favorite Couple/Family Costume and Kid's Choice Favorite Trunk.

Don't miss this chance to dress up and celebrate with your church family!

**Need some Trunk or Treat inspiration? Google "Trunk or Treat ideas" and check out Pinterest!*

Fright Night
Oct 28 from 6-8:30pm!



Cathy Wilson



Youth Minister

We are pleased to announce that **Matt Wilson** is our Youth Minister!

He has been serving in this capacity as Interim since late 2022.

Acolyte Master

Hi! I'm Gabby Beard. I was baptized at St. John's when I was 4 months old and have been an active member ever since. I've been a member of many ministries including Acolytes, Layreaders, Prayers of the People, Ushers, Greeters, and Junior Daughters of the King.

I'm at senior at Norman North High School with plans to go to college and major in Biology of some form.

As the new Acolyte Master I'm starting recruitment again. Anyone in grades 3rd-12th who are interested in serving the church are welcome.

If your child is interested they have to complete a mandatory training period with me.

If interested me find me at church or email me at sjacolyte@gmail.com . I'm so excited to be the Acolyte Master!



Thank you

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to **Susie Laird** for her dedication and hard work in blessing our Parish with the weekly stocking of water bottles in the Parish Hall as well as sending out Lay reading and Prayers of the People reminders.

Susie has also taken on the challenging task of updating our Lay Ministry Guide! Her efforts have not gone unnoticed and have made a significant impact on the comfort and well-being of those who attend events and gatherings in our Parish.

Thank you again to Susie for taking time out of your week to help out.



Office Volunteers

Thank you to
Macalan Taylor & Toni Allen
for continuing to volunteer your time in the Office.
You both are greatly appreciated!

Thanks to our creative
office volunteer,
Stephanie Abl,
who spruced up our
bulletin board!





Thank you **Femi Somade** for your devoted leadership on the vestry –nearly three terms of service—and your presence at St. John's these past 35 years.

**Giving thanks for those who
helped with hospitality
on Welcome Home Sunday:**

- **Roshni Robert** who organized the morning so gracefully and gathered the food
- **Robert Finley** who made dozens of delicious pancakes
- **Martha White** who warmed the meats
- **Kevin McGehee** and **Les Flannagan** for filling in everywhere!



*It was a beautiful morning full of
helping hands and love for the St.
John's community.*

We give thanks for **Clois Gordon**, who is always making sure there is coffee and tidying up after church. Some call her the Kitchen Queen!



BCP Donations

Several months ago I presented a need to the Vestry. That there was a need for getting several new BCPs to replace some in bad shape and provide enough for all the pews in the nave. The vestry approved the purchase of 50 new books.

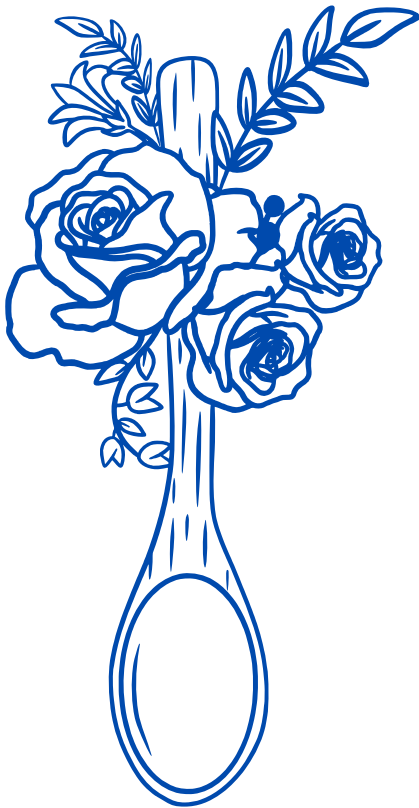
When they arrived an offer was made to the parishioners to sponsor the books. Through your generosity all 50 have been sponsored.

Now each pew in the nave has 6 BCPs and 6 hymnals. There are also 5 large print BCPs in the back of the knave for those who might need them. If you use a large print BCP please return it after the service.

On behalf of the vestry, I thank you all for helping with this need.



-Chuck Palm



-Roshni Robert

Welcome Home Sunday

Thank you to all our generous kitchen helpers for making Welcome Home Sunday a success! Robert Finley made dozens of giant pancakes, Martha dealt with warming meats,

We set up with help from Jeffery, Robert T and Taylor. Deacon James helped move tables and we had clean up help from Kevin and Les, to name a few!

It was a beautiful morning full of helping hands and love for St John's.

If you've ever thought about helping in the kitchen, reach out to Roshni Robert or just sign up on our next Sign Up Genius (Maybe Fright Night??!! Think about it!), we will **always** love your help!

Ministry Help Needed



Eucharistic Visiting

Please consider being a Eucharistic Visitor.

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

Food and Shelter

October 17, 2023

December 19, 2023

Please email or call Andrea Marler to confirm your attendance.

aamarler@me.com (405-808-4435)

Acolyte

You're asked to prayerfully consider whether you might be called to serve in the ministry of Acolytes, chalice bearers, thurifer and Altar Guild, yes Altar Guild members are acolytes too. Reach out to the church office if this is a ministry is something you would like to do.

Adult Sunday School Refreshments

Please contact Roshni Robert at wovenfingers@gmail.com if you would like to help with coordinating refreshments.

Youth

Please contact Cathy Wilson at cwilson@episcopalnorman.org if you are interested in helping with any Youth and/or Nursery.

Football Parking

Please contact Robert Terry or Robert Finnley (rffinley325@sbcglobal.net) if you would like to help with game day parking!





SAVE THE DATE

For The WOMEN'S CHILLER

In the tradition of ECW (Episcopal Church Women), we would like to invite ALL church women, or persons who identify as women, to come together for fellowship, friendship and ~TO CHILL~. We guarantee a goodtime with old friends & new friends to eat, drink and ~CHILL ~!!!

TIME: FRIDAY, **OCTOBER 27th**, at **7PM** IN THE COMMONS.

Please be on the lookout for emails, Facebook posts as well as announcements in church. We hope to see you there!

- Please feel free to bring your favorite beverage &/or snack.
- Childcare will be available



-Becky Smith

Joe Ted Miller

A date has been set for the Joe Ted Remembrance!

After much communication with the family and the arrival and installation of the beautiful Rose Window the Remembrance is set to take place **December 28th!**

Mark your calendars and be on the look out for more information in the coming months!



Empty Nesters

If you would like to join us please contact the Parish Office to be added to the event list as well as to be included in future invitation emails!

Parish Office: 405-321-3020
(ext. 101) or send an email to tredden@episcopalnorman.org

Make sure to include the subject (Empty Nesters).

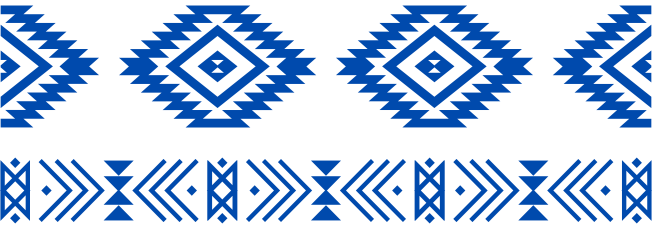


Stay in Touch!

Coming Soon....a weekly email communication to inform you of what is happening at St. John's and to help us keep you informed. Please let us know your email and phone number.

Contact the office at **405.321.3020**
or email us at staff@episcopalnorman.org

On Sunday, September 3rd, St. John's celebrated the life of Saint David Pendleton Oakerhater.



Thanks to all who worked so hard to make this day a special event. Special thanks to **Fr. Dwight Helt** for sharing such an inspiring and emotional homily of the life and deeds of Saint David Pendleton Oakerhater. An additional thank you to **Pam Brown** for sharing her words as a member of the Oakerhater Community.

Please enjoy a few of the images from this special day.

-Mother Nancee



Giving Thanks for the Life and Faithful Service in Christ of *Betty Ruth Jackson*

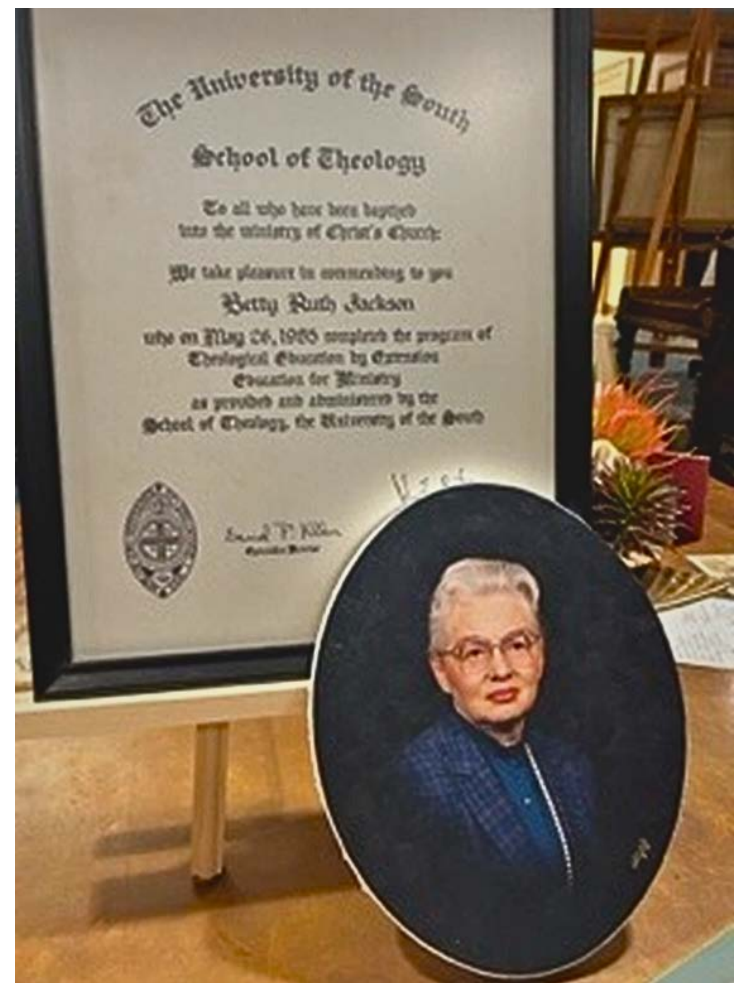
Betty Ruth Jackson born Jan 5, 1927 in Pawhuska, OK to Fred and Ruth Daniels Jackson. The family moved to Norman when she was 12. Betty graduated from University High; then pursued her passion for architecture and engineering at the University of Oklahoma where she earned her BS in architectural Engineering and Masters of Civil Engineering (one of the first Women Civil Engineers at OU).

Throughout her career (from graduation in 1950 until her retirement in 1988), Betty Ruth worked for Hudgins, Thomson, and Ball Architects and Engineers in OKC. During her time there, she played a pivotal role in designing and constructing various notable projects, including Will Rogers World Airport. She also contributed to the development of numerous military and civilian airports across the United States. Betty Ruth's dedication and expertise led her to become a vice-president of HTB. Betty Ruth was recognized as the Oklahoma Woman of the Year by The Journal Record in 1985.

She was active in social service through membership in Altrusa International (for 60 years). She served as various officers in the Norman club and as Governor of District Eight. When the Norman Club disbanded, Betty Ruth became a member emeritus through the Stillwater Club. In retirement she worked as a consultant, engaged in travel and club activities and continued her service in Christ at church here at St. John's. She was a beloved member here at St. John's, finding solace and strength in her faith. Fr. Dwight reports that she was elected as Senior Warden in 1990—the 2nd woman to hold that post here. She was admitted into the DOK in the Martha Chapter in 1995. She was part of the Cloister Committee in 1982 and served on the Art and Architecture committee actively for many years as the church physical plant evolved. She served on the current committee to outline the needed renovations and improvements for the future of St. John's.

She was installed as the Director of Lay Readers in May 1998 and served with distinction in recruiting, training and licensing lay readers and chalice bearers for Sunday and weekday worship until her retirement in 2013. She was active in the worship committee in designing liturgy and movement in worship. Fr. Dwight says Betty Ruth was always efficient and always cheerful, never drawing attention to herself, but serving the common good with steadfast faith.

She died on Tuesday, 29 August at the age of 96 at Luxe Life Memory Care. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.



Our St. John's Kitchen

We are extremely fortunate at St. John's to have an incredibly special kitchen facility and coffee bar. The money to remodel the old kitchen and coffee bar was from an extremely generous gift from **Gerry Mayes**.

As we use the kitchen, we need to be careful about cleaning it up after each use, so it is ready for the next person or persons that are there to enjoy using it. Listed are things that each of us needs to do:

- Only use water, Dawn soap, and a microfiber cloth to wash down the granite counter tops, island, and any spills on the wood cabinets. **NO SPRAYS OR SPONGES** should ever be used in a commercial kitchen. Sponges harbor germs. Wipe out the sinks. Hang the cloth in the laundry room to be washed. There is a new supply of microfiber cloths in the apron drawer.
- If you use the convection ovens wipe them out and leave the doors ajar.
- The trays in the warming oven should be rinsed off in the washroom.
- Put away all food items.
- If you bring food in a container, please take your container and any left-over food home the same day.
- Place dirty dishes in a blue wash tray to be washed. Do not leave dirty cups and/or dishes on the washroom table for someone else to clean up.
- Turn on the disposal and run water in it, so food is not left.
- Be sure the righthand door of the fridge is closed tightly.

Enjoy using our wonderful kitchen! It is a great place for fellowship and fun.

KITCHEN & COFFEE BAR SOAP DISPENSERS

New bottles will be placed under the cabinets attached to each soap dispenser. The bottles should never be removed. To fill, simply pull the chrome top up and use the funnel in the hole to fill the dispenser. Watch closely so it does not run out on the counter.

SLOWLY POUR THE LIQUID SOAP IN THE FUNNEL. Replace the chrome pump top.

Yeah! Wash your hands!



-Junior Warden, Pat Welch

HOPE AS A SPIRITUAL LIFE-PRACTICE FOR THE WORLD-WEARY

Jake Owensby, *Looking for God in Messy Places: A Book about Hope (How to find it. Practice it. Grow in it.)*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2021. Available in paperback, e-book, and audible formats, \$10-17.

Reading *Looking for God in Messy Places* is heart-warming and thought-provoking, something like sitting and talking face to face with our most beloved, wisest, story-telling pastor who never fails to offer truly helpful insights. Thanks to Mother Nancee for recommending this deeply practical, comforting book's author, Bishop Jake Owensby of Western Louisiana. Sewanee's Chancellor and a past university professor of philosophy, he's now also a prolific writer of spiritual best-sellers, a blogger at jakeowensby.com, and any seeker's friend on Facebook. His clear, deeply felt writing in *Looking for God...* projects a spiritually intimate voice attentive to readers' own thoughts and feelings amid struggles with "discouragement and despair."

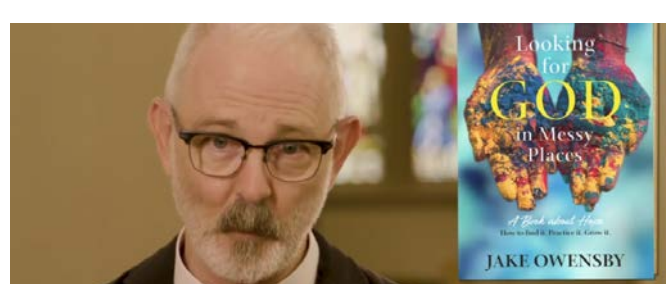
Who among us is stranger to such "messy places"? This poignant, not-preachy book tells riveting true stories about messy places, lived experiences upon which Bishop Owensby turns his scriptural lenses. His messy places include emotionally vivid childhood experiences of family homelessness in exile from domestic violence and of learning from his mother's survivor testimony concerning her teen-aged incarceration in the Nazis' brutal, deadly Mauthausen-Gusen Concentration Camp. His messy places also include a newborn daughter's life-threatening medical crisis, a longed-for sister's sudden death before birth, and existential struggles occasioned by his priestly professional work. In such messy places, Bishop Owensby hears spiritual challenges to confront what he calls "Ecclesiastes Moments," when living seems suddenly all for naught, haunted by the desperate question, *Why go on living?*

He responds to that question with lessons learned from his mother: "to look for God in the here and now," to sense the divine presence in love and in wonder—which make life worthwhile. Dutiful assent to creeds, principles, and doctrines that parents, teachers, and preachers taught us will not be enough without our embarking upon "soul-stretching" effort to

befriend Christ risen, to become open to never-imagined, altered lives. Recall that, before his death, Jesus could only be in one place at a time, but his resurrection makes him present even in a presumed "nobody" stranger, challenging us to see, hear, and respond to the stranger as "somebody" instead.

Bishop Owensby expresses discomfort with churchy dogmatism and impatience with religious stock-phrases that promote faith as wishful thinking. Instead, facing painful realities as they are, while questioning our assumptions and broadening our perspective, we can become "Jesus-y" in our own actions, conveying love, loving what God loves, and loving "all of us" with generous resilience. He calls readers to this "worldly mysticism"—not contemplative living in the cloister, but contemplative living in everyday anguish and despair, where active friendship with God inspires hope.

Sadly, I could not hear Bishop Owensby's deftly written heart-to-heart voice in this book's audible version, read by William Sarris. But if we at St. John's will read *Looking for God...* and gather with one another using its helpful discussion guide through all ten chapters, we will be able to hear both his written voice and his actual voice: Mother Nancee has offered to try to arrange our discussion about it with him on Zoom! Let's do it!



Reviewed by Susan Laird

St. John's Norman Blood Drive 2023 Vein Drain

Hey guys, we've got some absolutely amazing news! Our St. Johns 2023 Blood Drive has just wrapped up and we're thrilled to announce that it was a success! We couldn't have done it without the incredible generosity of all of our donors, and we want to give a special shoutout to the wonderful Carol Upp for her unwavering support!

Thanks to all of you we were able to make a real difference in people's lives. So let's all give ourselves a big pat on the back and keep up the amazing work! Together, we can achieve anything!



Julia Harris- PHoD

On Sunday, September 17, President of the House of Deputies (and St. John's parishioner) Julia Ayala Harris toured the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville, Kentucky. The KICC will be the site of the 81st General Convention next June. Many thanks to the Convention Center for hosting the tour and the General Convention Office (GCO) for meeting Julia and her team there to discuss floor plans, accessibility, meeting rooms, and more.



Find out more about GC81 here:

<https://www.generalconvention.org/gc81>

Follow Julia on social media! Scan this QR code for links:



Music



-Melody Palm

The anthem for October 1 is a recently published text by Annemarie Kidder, with music composed by Carol Muehlig. Choir members found it moving from our first rehearsal. I thought I'd share a portion of it with you.

*Share with the hungry your bread, take to the lonely your heart,
Strengthen the weak as in weakness you give, daily allow for
fresh starts.*

*Live in the moment as moments do come.
Live out the calling begun.*

Choir rehearsals are Weds. evenings, 7-8 pm and Sunday mornings at 9:15. If you enjoy singing, we'd love to have you join us.

"Knit" Night

No knitting required!

If you enjoy small group conversation, come join us! Feel free to bring along any portable project you want to work on, or you're welcome to come for the fellowship. Relax surrounded by needles, hooks, yarn, thread, fabric and the joy of creating. There are even folks who can help you get started in your choice of several needlecrafts.

The group meets 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 pm in the St. John's Library. Drop by and join us Oct. 5 and Oct 19th.

If you'd like to be added to the reminder list, for an email sent out a day or two before each meeting, contact **Melody Palm -- mpalm@episcopalnorman.org**



-Melody Palm

Thanks to **Norman Cultural Connection** our Parish had the amazing opportunity to yet again welcome the *Sacred Arts of Tibet!*

This yearly week long event brings people from all over the area to our parish to witness the monk's creation of a sand mandala and more. We greatly appreciate the respectful use of our building and cherish the pleasure of being able to meet and watch these wonderful people work!



October Birthday Blessings

- Katherine Boone
- Sarah Boone
- Kay Christiansen
- Shirley Crosby
- Robert Finley
- Steven Foster
- Emily Goat
- Kathleen Haynes
- Mary Jane Hulin
- J.L. Jacobs
- Jill Karcher
- Ally Kasulis
- Doris King
- Alicia Maisano
- Melissa Maisano
- Joel Martin
- Maria Mendoza
- Luke Mills
- Marshall Pierson
- Dolores Scheffer
- Russell Schneider
- Becky Smith
- Rhonda Snodgrass
- Femi Somade
- Jona Kay Steed
- Peggy Stockwell
- Pam Talley
- Alice Walters
- Darrin Walters
- Ginger Welch
- Carol Winters-Briscoe
- Melissa Young

Online Faculty Lunch & Learn:

A History of Women in Christianity to 1600

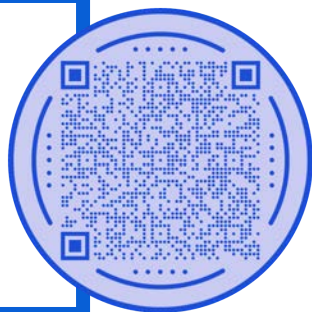


Join Hannah Matis, associate dean for academic affairs and associate professor of church history as she discusses her recent book, *A History of Women in Christianity to 1600*, in a lunch-hour webinar.

This session will explore several of the remarkable women whose lives have shaped the nature of the church, as well as how the church has responded to the lives and vocations of women.

All are encouraged and welcome to attend this session, which will take place Thursday, October 5, at 12:00 p.m. (CDT). Use this link or scan the QR code in this posting to learn more and register.

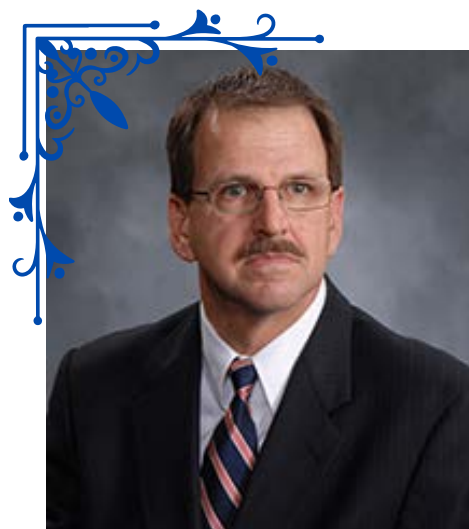
<https://theology.sewanee.edu/continuing-education-workshops/faculty-online-lunch-learn-series/>



Vestry Elections

During the Parish Annual Meeting on January 28, 2024, we will elect three new Vestry members to serve a three-year term and one member to serve the remainder of a one-year unexpired term. We will also elect Lay Delegates to the Diocesan Convention to be held in October 2024. Per the Bylaws for St. John's, Vestry members must be confirmed members in good standing and at least 18 years of age. Lay Delegates to Diocesan Convention must be members in good standing and at least 16 years of age. A member is in good standing if he or she has received Holy Communion in the Church at least three times during the preceding year and has otherwise been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and has been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God. Please contact a member of the Nominating Committee, Uli Nollert, Roshni Robert or Holly Cole for more information or to be placed for consideration as a nominee in these important services to St. John's.

-St. John's Nominating Committee



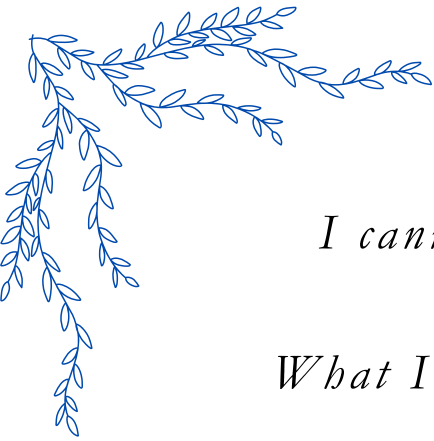
**Thank you Greg Taylor for
stepping up as our Interim
Vestry Clerk!**

Junior Daughters of the King

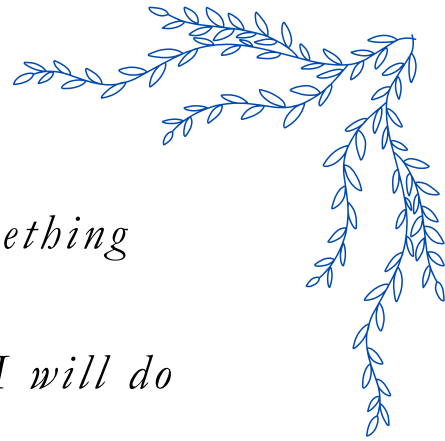
On Sunday September 17 the Junior Daughters of the King had a pool party at the home of Pam Brown. It was a **splash!!** 5 girls, 2 parents and 2 sponsors attended. We also had a prayer service and a planning meeting.

We will be going to **Sunshine Shelly's Pumpkin Patch on October 22** and we are **inviting all girls from the church, ages 7-21 to join us**. We will have lunch together after the 10:30 service. Afterwards, we will "road trip" to Shawnee and Shelly's Pumpkin Patch, planning to be **back at the church before 4:00PM**

Motto of the Order of Daughters of the King and Junior Daughters of the King



*For His Sake
I am but one, but I am one
I cannot do everything, but I can do something
What I can, I ought to do
What I ought to do, by the Grace of God I will do
Lord, what will you have me do*



Please RSVP to Pam Brown at pamitajbrown@gmail.com or email if you have any questions.

-Pam Brown



Outreach



Sharing God's Love

Throughout last year, parishioners selflessly supported the ongoing efforts of St. John's Outreach Ministries by sharing God's Love with our neighbors in need. St. John's Outreach Office continues to partner with Food and Shelter for Friends (FSFF) and provide donations that assist our neighbors in need in a variety of ways. Last year, our Care & Share donations enabled FSFF to provide 36 families (45 adults and 121 children) with life-changing rent and/or utility assistance, including Shaun, a local veteran who lost his job. St. John's funds were used to pay his rent of \$300 until he found new employment, enabling him to remain housed. In addition, St. John's funds provided 217 Identification Vouchers to those seeking employment and services; and 15 bicycle repair vouchers. There are so many more examples of the impact of your generous donations that happen daily. **Every dollar given to last year's annual Care & Share Campaign provided the funds that assisted these neighbors in need.**

Help Us Meet Our 2023 Campaign Goal of \$8000

So far, we've raised \$1,000 but we need your support to help us reach our goal of \$8,000. The mission of St. John's Outreach Office is to provide resources to our local friends who have experienced unfortunate and unforeseen circumstances.

These include underemployed families trying to make ends meet to avoid losing their homes; families that are trying to facilitate new opportunities to improve their situation through obtaining education or new jobs; and those who are homeless in Norman. **Every person is unique with a different situation but extending the grace and mercy that God calls us to give results in smiles, tears, and a renewed dignity and spirit.** This year's goal will allow us to fulfill hundreds of requests. We prayerfully have set a goal of \$8000 to support our annual operating budget of \$10,000.

Thank you for your generosity!

Our Care & Share Campaign funds also support St. John's Outreach Ministries throughout the year. In addition to supporting our partnership with FSFF, for over a decade, St. John's parishioners have delivered the joy of Christmas to over 100 schoolchildren and their families, and to seniors at two local medical nursing homes. Last year, our Santa Ministry and Blood Drive reached over 200 individuals making their Christmas brighter! We also prepared and served lunch at Food and Shelter for Friends to over 600 people last year!! There are many ways to get involved, just check the Evangel for information!

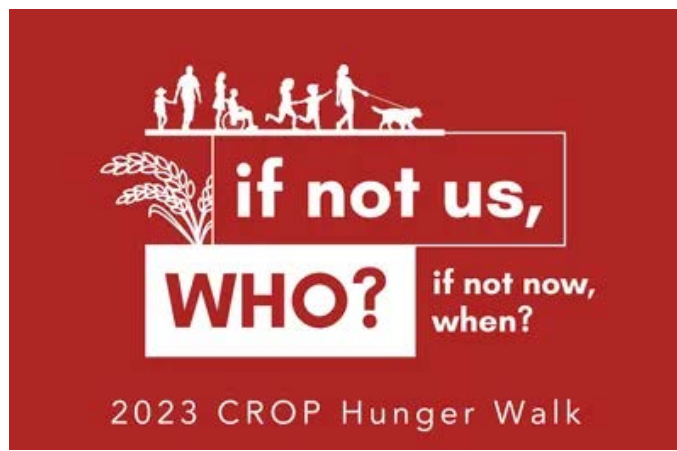
Multiple Ways to Give

This year's annual campaign offers multiple ways to share God's Love with those recovering from crises, experiencing homelessness, and those searching for hope. **All funds for St. John's Outreach Ministries are solely raised through your generous donations.** Give now through our website at <https://onrealm.org/StJohnsEpiscopa87669/give/outreach> or donate by cash or check in the church office.

When we love our neighbors as we love ourselves, we help restore faith in those who have nowhere else to turn.

Thank you for prayerfully considering your gift to this year's campaign!

In God's Love,
St. John's Outreach Committee



Few things in life are as pleasant as making a positive difference in people's lives and spending time outside in perfect October weather. With the Cleveland County CROP Hunger Walk, St. John's Beloved Walkers get a great opportunity to do both.

The 27th annual event will begin and end at **Andrews Park on Sunday, Oct. 15. Check-in will start at 1:30 p.m. and the walk will begin at 2 p.m. with a children's musical send-off.**

There is a three-mile main walking route and a shorter two-mile loop and the weather in mid-October is almost always spectacular, making the fundraising walk that much more enjoyable. (Let's hope that last sentence won't bring storms this year.)

CROP stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty. Most proceeds support the international hunger-fighting, disaster relief and development projects of Church World Service, though 25 percent of local proceeds will go to Food & Shelter Inc., which provides housing for homeless families and individuals, free meals and other vital services to those in need.

Our parish goal is to raise at least \$1,500 to fight hunger locally and worldwide, and the Cleveland County CROP Hunger Walk organizers have set an overall fundraising goal of \$40,000. St. John's also sponsors the event each year.

You can join the St. John's Beloved Walkers team by walking with us on October 15th and/or joining the team's fundraising effort for the CROP Hunger Walk.

You can donate by visiting our team page at:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/st-johns-beloved-walkers>.

If you have questions or want to learn more, visit our team page or <https://clevelandcountycropwalk.org>, or contact Deacon James Tyree at deaconjames17@outlook.com.



-Deacon James Tyree

September 2023 Vestry Highlights

Great news – St. John’s is not going broke.

That is the message parish treasurer Robert Terry delivered to the St John’s Vestry and Resource Development Committee when the groups had their monthly meetings on Sept. 18.

Terry addressed concerns brought up last month about drastically reduced revenue due to some parishioners canceling the pledge giving. After reviewing the most recent financial data, he said it’s very hard to know exactly what the final revenue numbers will be at year’s end and that giving in summer months always lag behind. However, Terry said pledges are still coming in, **the parish is financially solvent and it has the resources to remain so throughout the year.**

Among other matters, Greg Taylor, who oversees St John’s security and information technology, said **two new 75-inch televisions and sound equipment have been installed in the parish hall.** The new purchases will allow church services to be livestreamed into the hall and for classes and presentations to be shown on the TVs. A **“Spruce Up Saturday” for the fall is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. on Oct. 14.** Junior Warden Pat Welch invites everyone who is interested to join the flurry of lawn and garden maintenance activity to make the church look beautiful.

Gameday parking for OU football is \$30 per vehicle – which is in line with neighboring parking places – and is expected to generate about \$31,000 in revenue this fall. **Volunteers, even for one day, are needed** to make the events go smoothly. Please contact Robert Finley or Robert Terry to learn more and sign up.

The vestry had well wishes for **Femi Somade, who resigned from the vestry due to increased international travel,** and longtime clerk **Grant Spencer, who is stepping away from the role** after nine years to devote more time to his young family’s increasingly busy schedule. Conversely, Mother Nancee Martin informed the vestry that she has **appointed Gabby Beard as acolyte master** and **Matt Wilson as permanent youth minister.** Wilson previously served in that role on an interim basis.

And last, but very, very far from least, the Rev. Canon Stephen Carlsen, the Canon for Congregational Vitality for the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma, sat in on the vestry meeting and told the group about the Congregational Vitality Assessment that the St. John’s vestry and clergy is taking.

Canon Steve said vitality is not directly linked to the size of a church’s membership or bank accounts, but rather the spirit and active engagement the members have in church life and its impact on the community.

The St. John’s Vestry will have its next monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 16.

Spruce up Saturday

-Deacon James Tyree

For those of you who were not able to participate in the July Clean up day, Fall Spruce up Saturday will be held **October 14th at 9am!**

Adult Sunday School

Fellowship Time after Both Our Sunday Services

Adult Sunday School resumes after the Labor Day weekend and will be focused on sharing stories of our life in Christ. Given the transition in leadership and coming out of the pandemic, it seems important to provide good and holy spaces to come together to visit and talk about our life in Christ. How did Christ speak to you when you first came to St. John's? When was that? What was it about the fellowship encountered that made you realize this was to perhaps be a home? Where has Jesus showed up in your life? How has your life in Christ/your relationship with Jesus been strengthened at St. John's? We will encourage all to wear nametags. So let us know if you need a new one or an updated one. And because conversation is enhanced by food and beverages – especially coffee, we will enjoy light refreshments while we share our stories with one another. Please contact Roshni Robert at wovenfingers@gamil.com if you would like to help with coordinating refreshments. A more typical adult Sunday School (as was before the pandemic) will resume in the season of Advent –more on that later!

Memorial Service

Chapel of the Resurrection

The September Memorial Service will be held on:

October 4th, at 12:10 PM.

This is a monthly service which lasts approximately thirty 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 love but see no longer.

Bible Study

Tuesdays at 10:30am & Thursdays at 10am

Did you realize we have **two** Bible study groups at St. John's that gather to pray, read God's holy word, discuss, share, and be guided and influenced by the upcoming lessons for Sunday? Both groups meet in the Commons.

The Tuesday group meets at 10:30 following Holy Eucharist, and the Thursday group gather at 9:30 for fellowship and refreshments and Bible study at 9:30. The Thursday group includes a spiritual reflection from Bishop Steven Charleston, retired and beloved bishop of the Episcopal Church, resident Oklahoman.

2023 Football Parking

Our parking lot is available again for the OU football 2023 season parking, and volunteers are needed!

If there are any specific dates you would be available to come out and help please Call the office at **405-321-3020** or send us an email staff@episcopalnorman.org.

For more Information contact Robert Terry.

St. Johns Episcopal Church | Norman, OK



Address Service Requested

Weekly Schedule

Sundays

Holy Eucharist 8a & 10:30a
[Livestream: 10:30]

Join us for fellowship following
both services. Children's Sunday
School 9:30a-10:15a

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

Holy Eucharist 6p (Chapel)

Thursdays

Bible Study 9:30-10:30 1st
Wed of Month Memorial
Service 12:10pm
(Columbarium)

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 Minister

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>.

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OFFICE HOURS

Mon 10am-2pm

Tues, Wed, Thurs 10am-3pm

Evangel Submissions

Please feel free to submit articles for new and upcoming
Evangel. If you would like to submit something to be
included in the future, please send a copy of your article to
evangel@episcopalnorman.org.

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