



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)

Rite III: 5:00 PM

(Parish Hall)

Nursery

10:00 - 12:00

Rector's Forum

9:30-10:15 (Commons)

Children's Sunday School

10:30am

Youth Groups

Sunday 5:00pm

Wednesday

10:00am (Chapel)

10:30am Bible Study

6:00pm (Chapel)

Thursday

9:30am Bible Study

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

Dear St. John's Family,

We have had lots of new folks in the past year who call St. John's home. Because of this, I want to share the following important information that many of you might remember from last year.

Each essence of the Holy Trinity is different, yet through each of them we experience the holiness and vastness of God. If the parts of the Holy Trinity did not exist as we know them, we would be missing out on important aspects of our relationship with God.

Like with each essence of the Trinity, we too are all a little different; and this is a good thing. Our vast differences are like windows into the holiness of God. The unique balance within the triune God is where the "goodness" is found. I believe this to be true within St. John's as well. It is through the sharing and embracing of our differences that "goodness" is experienced to its fullest. I also believe the perspectives and "goodness" St. John's has to share are important to Norman, and we should do more than simply continue to exist, we should thrive!

Since we have all been created in some aspect of the uniqueness of God, we perceive and connect to things differently. With this in mind, I want to present to you three different, yet valid, ways to explain why we should all make an annual financial pledge to the Church; the Church that feeds us through life's sacraments from Holy Baptism to Holy Burial.

An Old Testament Perspective: The giving of first fruits

Some of us spiritually connect better with the understanding that tithing, or the giving of 10% to the Church, is commanded by God. In ancient Israel the tithe was very important in the lives of the people to keep all things in balance. The First Fruits, or the first 10% of all things gained, were given to the Lord. In the book of Numbers, beginning with verse 21, God tells Aaron, "To the Levites I have given every tithe in Israel for a possession in return for the service that they perform, the service in the tent of meeting. From now on the Israelites shall no longer approach the tent of meeting, or else they will incur guilt and die. But the Levites shall perform the service of the tent of meeting, and they shall bear responsibility for their own offenses; it shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations." God knew that his people needed places to gather and these places would need financial support from those who gather there.

St. John's Episcopal Church | Norman, OK

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

A New Testament Perspective: Responding to God's grace

Jesus healed people in many different ways. Sometimes he went to those in need and sometimes they came to Jesus. Sometimes Jesus touched the sick and sometimes they touched him. Sometimes Jesus healed because of the faith of another, and sometimes Jesus healed the faithless who didn't even ask, nor did they want it. Through the vast healings Jesus performed we have learned that God's Grace surrounds us all, no matter who or what we are. In the 17th chapter of Luke's Gospel we experience the difference between those who truly appreciate God's gift of Grace and those who choose not to respond: "As Jesus entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!'" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well." The Good News is that Jesus heals us anyway and that we have the free will to choose how to be thankful. Only one of the lepers responded and offered himself to Jesus in Thanksgiving. The ministries of St. John's Church could not function if only 1 in 10 of us offered thanks to God's Grace.

A No Bones About It Perspective: Funding for operations and upkeep

The "No bones about it perspective" is cut and dried. The budget committee cannot make an accurate budget unless we all fill out and return a pledge card. If the finance committee is unable to create a fairly accurate budget, the church would have to assume the monies needed for the daily life of the church would be given. It is through working on assumptions that parishes get into financial trouble.

Keeping the doors of St. John's open takes money, as does simply keeping the doors in place. Without funding for operations and upkeep, St. John's would one day cease to exist. If we want St. John's to exist, making a financial pledge is simply the right thing to do.

In a Nutshell

Some of us experience the joy and spiritual growth of tithing our first fruits. If this is you, I am grateful and hope this practice will continue. Others of us are unable to tithe, but are faithful givers working each year to increase our giving level while striving towards the tithe. If this is you, I offer many thanks. Keep up the good work. Priorities and life circumstances prevent some of us from working towards the tithe, though we give what we can, when we can. If this is you, each offering you make is sacrificial and sacrificial gifts create the most spiritual growth. Thank you for your trust in God and in the work St. John's is doing.

You will soon have the opportunity to fill out and submit your financial pledge for the 2026. Every financial pledge, no matter the amount, is important for our spiritual health and for the life and work of the Church. Thank you for prayerfully considering what your offering will be.

A Prayer For the Right Use of God's Gifts:

Let us pray,

Almighty God, whose loving hand has given us all that we possess: Grant us grace that we may honor you with our substance, and, remembering the account which we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *The Book of Common Prayer, page 827*

Gratefully,



Upcoming Events

Weekly Events

- Sunday - Worship: Rite I at 8:00am & Rite II at 10:30am
- Sunday - Rector's Forum in the Commons (9:30am)
- Sunday - 5 O'Clock Service in the Parish Hall
- Sunday - Youth Programs (6:00pm)
- 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

- Oct. 1 - Knit Night (6:30pm - Library)
- Oct. 2 & 3 - Diocesan Convention
- Oct. 4 - Lector and Chalice Training for the Rite II Service (9:00 a.m.)
- Oct. 4 - **NO** Rector's Forum (Back NEXT Week)
- Oct. 4 - Confirmation Reception Class (3:00pm Commons)
- Oct. 4 - St. Francis Day Pet Blessing Service (5:00pm)
- Oct. 4 - First Sunday CASSEROLE Potluck (5:50 Parish Hall)
- Oct. 7 - Monthly Memorial Service (12:10pm Columbarium)
- Oct. 10 - Parish Hall reserved for International Students (10am)
- Oct. 11 - Twelfth Night Meeting (12:00pm)
- Oct. 11 - Confirmation and Reception Class (3:00pm Commons)
- Oct. 12 - OFFICE CLOSED (Columbus Day; Indigenous Peoples' Day)
- Oct. 12 - Peace and Justice League (6:00pm)
- Oct. 13 - Good Futures Meeting (6:30pm)
- Oct. 15 - Red Bud Food Coop (6:30pm - Parish Hall)
- Oct. 15 - Knit Night (6:30pm Library)
- Oct. 16 - International Students' Luncheon (11:30am)
- Oct. 16 - Men's Griller in the kitchen (6:30pm)
- Oct. 17 - OU Home Game TBD
- Oct. 18 - Bishop's Visitation 8:00am and 10:30am
- Oct. 18 - Reception after Services
- Oct. 18 - CROP Walk event (2:00pm)
- Oct. 19 - Resource Development Meeting (6:00pm)
- Oct. 19 - Vestry Meeting (7:00pm)
- Oct. 20 - Cooking and Serving Food and Shelter Lunch (9:30am)
- Oct. 23 - International Students' Luncheon (11:30am)
- Oct. 24 - Fright Night (5:00pm to 7:00pm)
- Oct. 25 - Junior Daughters of the King (3:30pm)
- Oct. 25 - Organ Studio Recital (6:30pm)
- Oct. 26 - Speaker: Scriptural Reflections on AI & the Power of Language (6pm)
- Oct. 28 - "In Memory of" Memorial (6:00pm)
- Oct. 31 - OU Homecoming Game TBD
- Oct. 31 - Parent's Night (6:00pm)
- Nov. 1 - All Saints' Day

The Lessons

Lectionary Year A

October 4

19th Sunday after Pentecost

- Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20
- Psalm 19
- Philippians 3:4b-14
- **Matthew 21: 33-46**

October 11

20th Sunday after Pentecost

- Exodus 32: 1-14
- Psalm 106: 1-6, 19-23
- Philippians 4: 1-9
- Matthew 22: 1-14

October 18

21st Sunday after Pentecost

- Exodus 33: 12-23
- Psalm 99
- I Thessalonians 1: 1-10
- Matthew 22: 15-22

October 25

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

- Deuteronomy 34: 1-12
- Psalm 90: 1-6, 13-17
- I Thessalonians 2: 1-8
- Matthew 22: 34-46

Does the Bible Form Our Faith, or Does What We Believe to Be True Rewrite the Bible to Fit What We Want?

Here is a little Bible Trivia for your reading pleasure.

Sayings that are NOT in the Bible, but you might think are:

- All things are possible for those who believe
- God helps those who help themselves.
- Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime
- People get what they deserve
- If you follow Jesus, life will be easy
- If you had more faith, God would answer your prayers
- Here is how you can get to heaven
- God will answer your prayers on your terms
- Money is the root of all evil (it's actually the love of money)
- This too shall pass
- Cleanliness is next to godliness
- God works in mysterious ways
- Love the sinner. Hate the sin.
- Be in the world, but not of the world
- God will not give you more than you can handle
- Heaven must have needed another angel (please don't say this to someone)
- The eyes are the window to the soul
- Everything happens for a reason
- Everything is a part of God's plan
- Jesus never said, "Worship me." (He did say worship and serve God alone...yes, but the whole Trintiy thing)
- The Trinity (it's not in the Bible, either)

Other things that are not in the Bible:

- An apple in the garden of Eden (it just says forbidden fruit)
- The Holy Family being visited by three wise men (three gifts, yes, but it doesn't say how many magi, and they were not kings)
- A whale in the story of Jonah (it says big fish)
- Mary Magdalene being a prostitute (This first appeared in a sermon by Pope Gregory the Great.)
It does say she was the first person to share news of the resurrection of Jesus, so she was the first Evangelist.
- That Satan was a fallen angel. (nope, it's not in the bible)

Kirk⁺

CROP Walk 2026

Fight Hunger With St. John's at the CROP Hunger Walk

Now that the summer heat is finally over, let's get out and walk in beautiful weather to fight hunger locally and around the world. The St. John's Beloved Walkers team will assemble to participate in the 2026 Cleveland County CROP Hunger Walk.

This year's event is scheduled Sunday, Oct. 18, at the Norman Adult Wellness and Education Center, 602 N. Findlay Ave. The two-mile course takes, on average, about 40 minutes to complete, but participants – including friendly, leashed pets – are free to walk at their own pace.

Seventy-five percent of funds raised will support the Church World Service's hunger-fighting efforts, and the remaining 25 percent will stay in Norman to support Food and Shelter, Inc. With rapidly rising inflation and major cuts to federal hunger and safety net programs, the threat of hunger is a growing reality in our community.

Last year, the Cleveland County CROP Walk met its goal of raising at least \$45,000 to fight hunger here and abroad. St. John's had a walking team of 12 humans and one dog, and parishioners raised \$750. Our goal this year is to raise at least \$1,500, which does not include St. John's church sponsorship of \$250 for the CROP Hunger Walk

Parishioners and their friends can join our 2026 efforts by signing up as a donor and/or team member at the St. John's Beloved Walkers' webpage. To visit the webpage, click this hyperlink: 2026 CROP Hunger Walk - St. John's Beloved Walkers - Norman, OK if reading online. Otherwise, visit <https://clevelandcountycropwalk.org>, click on "register/donate" and then the "the list of teams" hyperlink on the next page. Look for St. John's Beloved Walkers and click on that link.

Whether you donate funds, join the walking team, pray for our efforts or any combination of those acts, your support for St. John's and the wider CROP Hunger Walk event is appreciated. If you have questions or want more information, contact Deacon James Tyree at deaconjames17@outlook.com.



A Garden for Creation Care

Some of you may be wondering what is happening on the south side of our building. The students on their way to OU, the professors, the commuters all may be wondering as well. The lawn is bare and dug up in places. When it rained in the spring, dirt rushed over the sidewalk creating a muddy pathway into our sacred spaces. I've been thinking and reading about what we could do better. How could we show this community that we care, that we are indeed, good stewards?

We've spoken a lot, recently, about what being an "outward facing church" looks like. We've made Pride committees, the new Peace and Justice League, we've participated in marches and protests, we've sent Eucharistic visitors... but how about our grounds? Some have suggested laying down sod for a new lawn, maybe removing trees to create sun-filled green to welcome guests and parishioners. But what about summer and all that South facing brick? I can see the air conditioning bills now, as the Oklahoma summer sun pushed our temps higher and higher.

I've spent time this past few weeks at Duke studying a new-to-me concept called "Creation Theology" which connects us as humans with the land, plants and animals. Creation Theology makes one great division: there is one Creator and all that is created by the one Creator is Creature. This puts us into the category of created beings, right along with trees, butterflies and beetles, reading in Genesis that God considers the creation "good!" All of us who didn't create the universe are the created ones! So we can think of all the parts of this created world as our siblings, all children of the one creator God.

All this makes me think of St. Francis. He saw the natural world as a sibling, calling the sun "brother" and the moon, "sister." It's difficult to care for those we don't love, or even more, that we don't even know. By reorienting our perspective toward our communal creatureness, we can learn to love this planet as our sibling, caring in a more invested way, as we would for a family member. With Creation Theology as our basis, we can strengthen our family ties.

By creating a new garden, we honor the land we are on and thus we honor God for creating and entrusting it to us to steward and share. We celebrate the creatures that buzz and plants that grow uniquely in our state and reorient ourselves in the greater creation, experiencing the seasons, the weather, the growth and life that create a beautiful space. The words we pray weekly, "of thine own have we given thee," might begin to hold new and specific meaning when we give back this small portion of land to honor God.

With joy and hope of butterflies,
Roshni

**PS: Do let me know if you want to get your hands dirty,
planting will begin in fall!**





Choir Practice Update

Choir practice times have changed! We will still hold practices on Wednesday nights, but we have moved up the time. We are now meeting from 7:00pm - 8:30pm.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the new time!

Fright Night Volunteers Needed!

Put on your costumes and join us in celebrating Halloween on Saturday Oct 24th from 5-7pm. We'll have carnival games, costume contests, and a spooky casserole cook-off!

Prizes will be awarded for the Favorite Kids Costume, Favorite Adult Costume, Favorite Couples/Family Costume, and Favorite Casserole.

Volunteers are needed to run the carnival games and bring casseroles.

If you would like to volunteer to supervise a carnival games, please sign up at the link below or contact Catherine Wilson at cwilson@episcopalnorman.org

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094AA5A622A20-66182507-fright#/>



Guest Speaker Matthew Beasley at St. John's: October 26th 6:30 p.m.

Vis Sermonis: Scriptural Reflections on AI and the Power of Language

The rapid development of artificial intelligence raises new worries about the future of work, power, and consciousness. What might our ancient tradition have to tell us about how we can adapt to this modern technology while still continuing to pursue lives formed by love? Please join us at St. John's on October 26th at 6:30 p.m. for a guest lecture by Matthew Beasley, philosophy PhD candidate, computer engineer, and Head Pastor of Hope Community Church. Together, we hope to provoke further discussion about our curiosities, fears, and hopes for AI and perhaps to find some peace in the philosophical and theological resources of scripture.

Peace and Justice League

Do you feel called to issues that pertain to Peace and Justice? What is that you say and how is it different than Outreach ministry? Well, think of it this way. In the Hebrew scriptures, the Egyptian pharaoh ordered that all male babies born to the Israelites were to be thrown into the river. Outreach ministries are the ones who are down river pulling out those babies and making sure they have what they need, food, shelter, etc. Peace and Justice ministries are the ones who go up river to find out why babies are being thrown in the river in the first place, and then fight to change the broken, unjust system.

St. John's Peace and Justice League meets in the parish Library on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 6:00 p.m. If you feel like you want to know more, come and join us. If you have questions, email Ronda Elliott at rcainelliott@gmail.com or contact the parish office, 405-321-3020.

Save the Date for Peace and Justice League Events!
Here is one.

Guest Speaker: November 1st 6:30 p.m.

Dine & Learn with Allen D. Hertzke

**Why Religious Freedom Matters:
Human Rights and Human Flourishing**

Dine & Learn with lecturer Allen D. Hertzke, author of *Why Religious Freedom Matters: Human Rights and Human Flourishing* on Sunday, November 1, 2026, 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Join us at the 5:00 service, eat some pizza at 6:00, enjoy the lecture at 6:30.

Come, share in a meal, a lecture, and engaging conversation.

All are welcome.

Allen D. Hertzke is David Ross Boyd Professor Emeritus of political science at the University of Oklahoma. He is author or editor of ten books, including *Freeing God's Children* and *The Future of Religious Freedom*. He served a ten-year term on the prestigious Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences at the Vatican.





St. John's Altar Guild Needs You!

St. John's Altar Guild is looking for new members. Recent "retirements" from the Altar Guild has dropped our membership levels to new lows and we are looking for fresh faces to join us in caring for the church's altars, vessels and vestments.

This is a great ministry for those that like to work behind the scenes. The Altar Guild does the invisible work of making sure everything is ready, that the "dishes" are set out and ready for use, the altar area is dusted and vacuumed, and small glasses of water are provided just in case.

The Altar Guild works in teams and rotates each weekend. Teams typically meet for an hour on Saturday morning to prepare for the early Sunday morning service. After the service, one member of the team - usually the one who prefers the early service - will wash and dry sacred vessels and reset for the 10:30 service. After that service other members of the team clean up and take care of the altar.

While the people who take care of "the big church" are dedicated to serving there is a tremendous need for additional help.

If you are someone who wants to serve the church and you prefer serving in the background St John's Altar Guild is the sacred service for you.

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 or 405-831-8992).

Your Attention Please!

Rite II Lector and Chalice Training and Refresher

Sunday, October 4, 9:00 a.m. in the Nave

If you are currently, or would like to be a Lector or Chalicifer at the 10:30 service, please come to this training and refresher on October 4th at 9:00 a.m.

If you have questions contact Melissa Busby at
melissabusby@outlook.com

September Blood Drive Results

Thank you to everyone who came and donated blood at our drive in September. While we fell just short of our goal of 12 donors, we were able to collect 9 blood products. The donations received will save up to 27 lives. If you could not donate in September, we will host another blood drive in December.

Join us on Sunday, December 13, as we host the Oklahoma Blood Institute for another drive. Come help us meet our goal and save lives. For questions please contact Carol Upp at carolupp65@gmail.com



“In Memory of” Memorial Service: October 28th

There are often times when we are unable to attend the funeral or memorial service of a friend or family member. There are also times when there is not a public service at all. When we are unable to attend such a service, we may struggle to find a sense of closure or allow ourselves to begin the healing process.

On Wednesday, October 28th at 6:00 p.m. we will have an “In Memory of” memorial service. During this Rite II Burial service, we will remember and celebrate those family and friends. We will have a special table for pictures or other memorabilia if you would like to bring some for that service.

If you would like to include someone in this memorial service, please contact the parish office at
405-321-3020 or Fr. Kirk at Kirk@episcopalnorman.org.

Friends of the Library Used Book Drop Off

St. John's is now a used book drop off for the Friends of the Library. The Friends of the Library holds Used Book Sales at different times of the year, with all proceeds going to help support the quality of our local library. Books can be dropped off in the old “outreach” office just inside the main east entrance.

Peace and Justice League Doings



Members of St. John's participating in the Norman “Out of the Darkness” Suicide Prevention Walk. Thank you Peace and Justice League!

"Knit" Night



"Knit" Nights, Thursdays October 1 and October 15

You are invited to join us for "Knit" Night on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM in the library at St. John's. Our upcoming dates are Thursday, October 1, and Thursday, October 15.

Please bring any portable craft or needlework project to work on while we chat and catch up. All skill levels and craft types are welcome, including beginners, and you are free to come and go as your schedule allows. It is a great opportunity to learn new skills and connect with others who share your craft interests.

An email reminder will be sent a day or two before each meeting. If you have any questions or would like to be added to the email list, please reply to this email or contact me at mpalm@episcopalnorman.org.

All Saints' Day is November 1st

This is a time when we remember our family and friends who have died.

During our services that day we will read the names of our "saints" simultaneously from different parts of the nave creating a cloud of witnesses.

If you would like to have the names of your deceased loved ones included in this special day, do one of the following:

#1 Email their names to Becky, our office administrator at rblount@episcopalnorman.org and include which service you would like their name read: 8:00am or 10:30am or 5:00pm

#2 Complete an All Saints' Day Card located in the back of the church (Narthex) and drop it in the All Saints' Day Box.

Please clearly print the full names of those you wish to remember on that day.

The deadline to have names included in the All Saints' Day services is Monday, October 26th.

St. Francis Day Pet Blessing Service and Casserole Potluck after the Service

October 4th 5:00 p.m.



*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.*

Refrain of “All Things Bright and
Beautiful”

The Five O’Clock Service on October 4th will be the St. Francis Day Pet Blessing. Please be sure to bring out any of your family members with fur, feathers, fins, or scales to be blessed!

It’s also a wonderful time to invite someone who is a pet owner, but not a member of our parish, to come along with their beloved animals....and don’t forget about the casseroles!

Men’s Griller

This month’s Men’s Griller is on October 16th at 6:30pm. A time for food and fellowship is always appreciated. Please plan to join us in the church kitchen! Bring a cold beverage, something to throw on the grill, and a side dish to share.



Opportunity to Volunteer!



Food and Shelter

You are invited to participate in a long-running tradition of St. John's that happens neither in church nor on Sunday.

That rich tradition is cooking and serving a spaghetti lunch at Food and Shelter, which St. John's leads in doing on the third Tuesday of February, April, June, August, October and December.

Parishioner Andrea Marler said about 200 people are served the lunch that includes spaghetti, salad, bread and ice cream. She invites and welcomes St. John's members to share in the feeding any time their schedule allows.

There are two ways to volunteer: meal preparation that begins at 9:30 a.m., and serving the meal, which starts at 11 a.m. Volunteers can choose to do one or both tasks.

"For meal prep," Marler said, "we have people who chop tomatoes and bell peppers, slice and butter bread, make the spaghetti, cook the meat and steam the veggies."

"Or you can serve on the line by taking a station or scooping ice cream and going into the dining area. I'm going around giving out ice cream because the line is so long, and people love ice cream!"

The late Dick Marks, a longtime and beloved parishioner, started the St. John's rotation at Food and Shelter at least 40 years ago, maybe longer, Marler estimates. He joyfully led St. John's participation well into his advanced years, and she would like to do the same.

"I have such an incredible amount of respect for Dick Marks and his legacy," Marler said, "and I made a commitment to keep doing this as long as I am physically able. When taking on a new job, I always say I have to be able to do (the Food and Shelter feeding) or I can't work there – and that is through three jobs."

St. John's next spaghetti lunch day at Food and Shelter is:

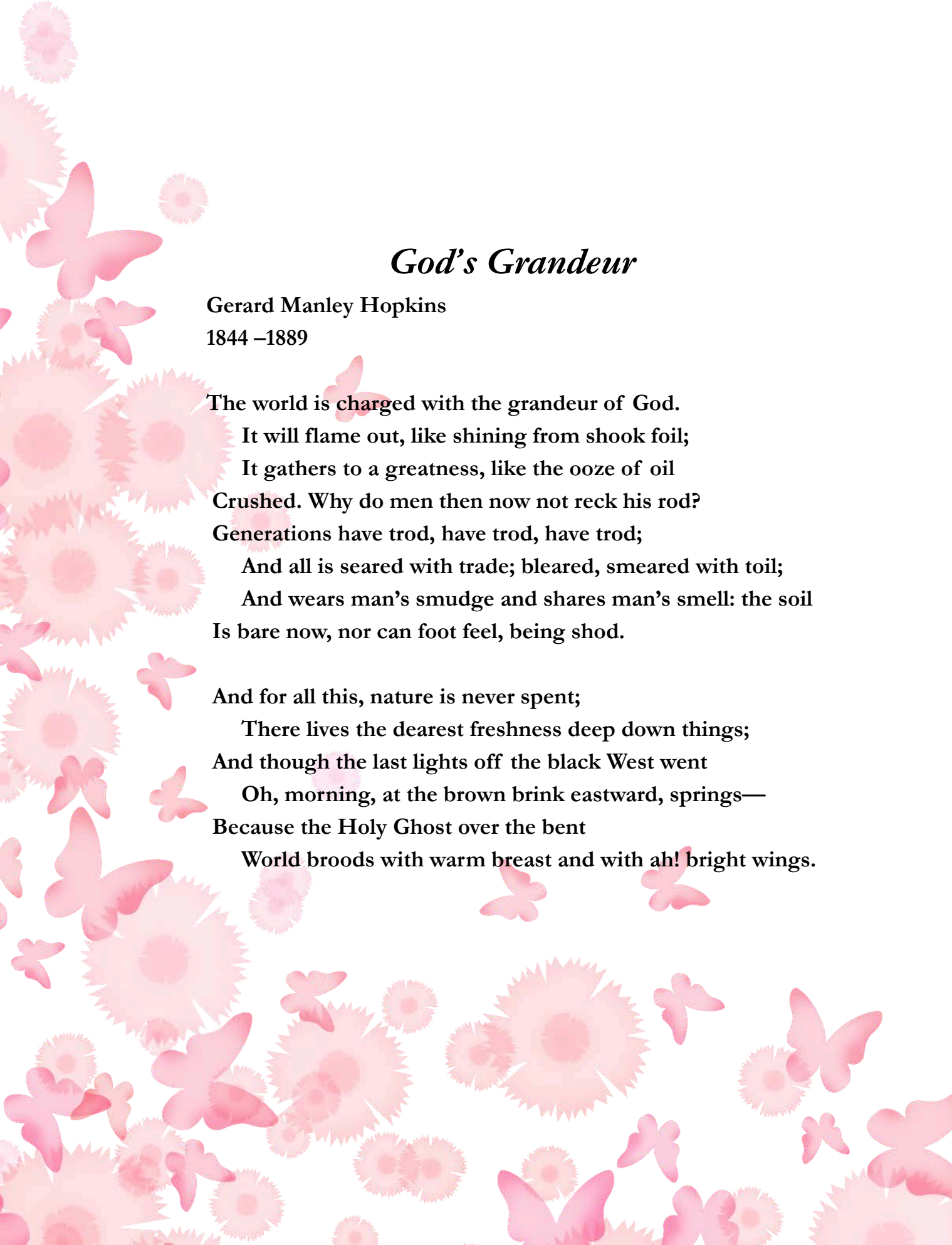
Tuesday, October 20th

To pitch in and join the fun, contact Marler at aamarler@me.com or just show up at 201 Reed Avenue.



Contact:

Andrea Marler
aamarler@me.com
405-808-4435



God's Grandeur

Gerard Manley Hopkins

1844 –1889

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not reck his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs—
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

You're Invited to a GREENSpeak Event



WHERE: University Lutheran Church
914 Elm/Norman / Parking behind the church

WHEN: Tuesday, 10/13 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENTER: Dr. Charles Marshall, an applied environmental scientist with extensive experience in Air, Land and Water pollution. He has specialized in Industrial Hygiene, a field dedicated to **therecognition, evaluation and control of health and safety hazards**

WHAT: Citizens in the northeast OK town of Inola have successfully banded together to defend their families, farms, and the environment from a \$4 Billion aluminum smelter, the largest investment made in U.S. aluminum history, from being developed in farmland near Inola. **We can learn a LOT about grassroots action from the work done in Inola to be used -- when, not if -- unhealthy environmental influences attempt to infiltrate the Norman area!**

This promises to be an empowering evening, along with the hospitality GREENSpeak always offers, in the company of Caring for Creation friends!

BRING A FRIEND & STYROFOAM TO RECYCLE!

Come and be part of a movement toward sustainable congregational practices and robust community resilience! Let's inspire and support each other in acts of faith that care for creation and advocate for climate justice!

GREEN THINGS ON THE CALENDAR . . .

Every week – “Densifier Dudes/Dudettes” meet weekly in the ULCSC parking lot to densify foam. New volunteers are invited and trained on the spot! Dates vary according to the weather. Call Doug 405-831-9951 for more info!

NEW LIAISONS WITH OU COLLEGES!

Fall semester 2025, ULCSC collaborated with Dr. Allison Quiroga’s College of Engineering students who designed a prototype outdoor foam collection bin we’ve nicknamed “Big Bin.” Our foam recycling service is now 24/7! The collaboration has been renewed for Fall 2026 during which time fabrication of a permanent metal bin will be initiated.

We have committed to a similar program with a professor in OU’s Price College of Business. His students are developing strategies to further the foam program’s sustainability.

2026 Midterm Elections

Tuesday, November 3, 2026

As the November 3, 2026 Midterm Elections approach, we would like to share a few helpful resources and reminders regarding voting in Oklahoma.

Early Voting

Oklahoma voters may vote early at their designated early voting location during the following times:

- Wednesday, October 28: 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, October 29: 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Friday, October 30: 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, October 31: 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Early voting is available to all registered Oklahoma voters.

Voter Information & Voting Locations

The Cleveland County Election Board or Oklahoma State Election Board websites provide information about:

- Your designated voting location
- Check voter registration and voting status
- Election dates and deadlines
- Early voting
- Absentee voting
- Other voter information

<https://www.clevelandcountyelectionboard.com>

<https://oklahoma.gov/elections.html>

Researching the Ballot Measures

If you would like to learn more about the measures appearing on the November 3 ballot, including background information and arguments surrounding the measures, you may visit:

https://ballotpedia.org/Oklahoma_2026_ballot_measures

We encourage everyone to review the available information to make their own informed decisions.

Peace and Justice Event: Helping St. John's Members Get to the Polls

Do you need a ride to the polls?

If you would like assistance with transportation to your polling location, please reach out to Ronda Elliott, Betsy Johnson, or the church office. We will be happy to help coordinate transportation and pair you with a driver.

Ronda Elliott: rcainelliott@gmail.com

Betsy Johnson: betsyj30@gmail.com

Church office: rblount@episcopalnorman.org

When submitting a request, please provide your name, email, phone number and if you can receive text messaging. We will follow up and schedule.

We hope these resources are helpful as you prepare to participate in the General Election through these various methods.

Early Voting Locations :

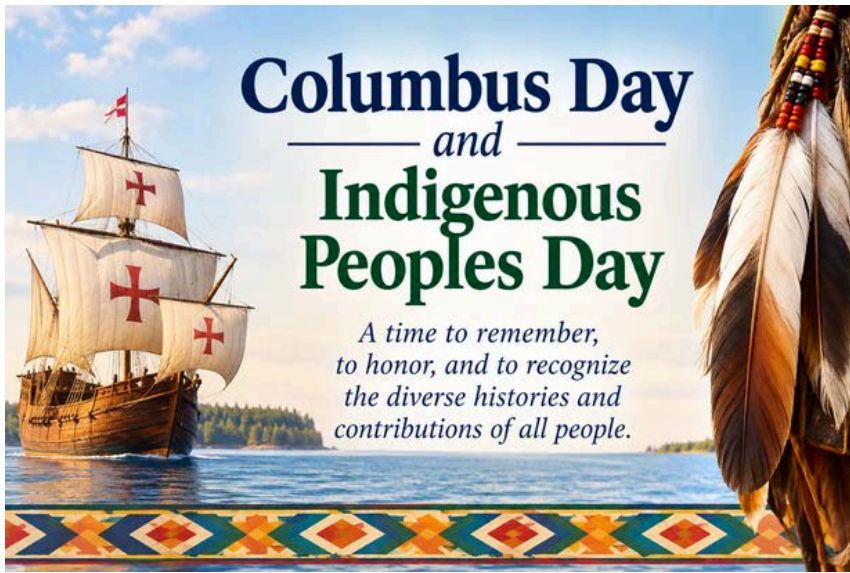
- The Cleveland County Fairgrounds
615 E. Robinson St., Norman
- Sooner Mall
3301 W. Main St, Norman
- The Moore Norman Technology Center
3301 S. Penn, Oklahoma City
- The Noble Public Library
204 N. 5th Street, Noble
- The Moore Public Library
225 S. Howard Ave, Moore
- Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System Resource Center
1970 156th Avenue NE, Norman

You may vote at ANY of these early voting locations as long as you're registered in Cleveland County!



St. Johns Episcopal Church | Norman, OK

Reminder!



The Parish Office will be closed
October 12th in recognition of
Columbus Day and
Indigenous Peoples Day.

Deadlines

- Submissions for All Saints Day are **Monday, October 26th.**
- Information for eMinistry items preferred by Tuesday of the week it is going out.
- Evangel deadline is the 20th of the month.
- Emergencies occur but please try to meet the deadlines if at all possible.

Would you like to be part of Twelfth Night?

What is Twelfth Night?



Hear ye, hear ye! Preparation for yon 2027 Twelfth Night Feast is afoot and requireth thy attention. The frolicking feast to close the Christmas season with Medieval merriment will take place on Jan. 9. Everyone who attends will be treated to Christmas songs from the choir and comedy skits between sumptuous servings of a multi-course meal fit for royalty.

Though laughter, music and comedy will abound that evening, planning and delivering a successful Twelfth Night is a serious venture that relies on many volunteers in several areas. In addition to the Royal Court consisting of King Kirk, Queen Tricia and choir members, the feast will need shoppers, cooks, food and drink servers, wine stewards, ticket designer and takers, actors, costumers, dishwashers, post-event laundry help and people to set up and/or tear down the Parish Hall seating, tables and décor. And, of course, we need you -- anyone and everyone who wants to attend Twelfth Night and have a great time. Ticket prices will be announced soon, though everyone who desires to attend will have an opportunity to do so.

A Twelfth Night planning meeting will take place about noon on Sunday, Oct. 11, after the 10:30 a.m. service, in the Commons or Parish Hall. Please attend if you have an interest in volunteering in any capacity. You can also look for Deacon James Tyree at church or email him at deaconjames17@outlook.com to let him know of your interest.

This will mark the first Twelfth Night feast for Fr. Kirk and Tricia Woodliff, our new music director Keri Kelly and for newer members of St. John's. In years past, the St. John's tradition of Twelfth Night happened every other year, but this will mark the parish's first Twelfth Night feast since 2023 and only the second since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fare thee well, and please consider joining the team effort to make our next Twelfth Night a grand event, indeed.



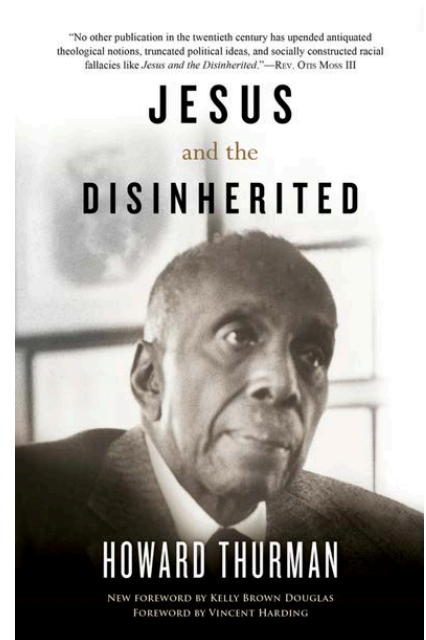
St. Johns Episcopal Church | Norman, OK

BELOVED READERS meet Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30 pm in the Commons. All are invited!

Our text for OCTOBER:

**Howard W. Thurman, *Jesus and the Disinherited*.
Boston: Beacon Press, 1949/1976/1996, with Foreword by
Vincent Harding. Hardcover \$20; paperback \$13; ebook
\$13; audiobook \$16.**

For the privileged and underprivileged alike, if the individual puts at the disposal of the Spirit the needful dedication and discipline, he can live effectively in the chaos of the present the high destiny of a son of God. (p. 99)



Jesus and the Disinherited is an American theological classic by Howard W. Thurman (1899-1981), who mentored Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a major influence on the US civil rights movement over a half-century ago. This Gospel-grounded portrait of Jesus is nourishing Episcopalians' spiritual growth in the Jesus Movement and its "way of love" today.

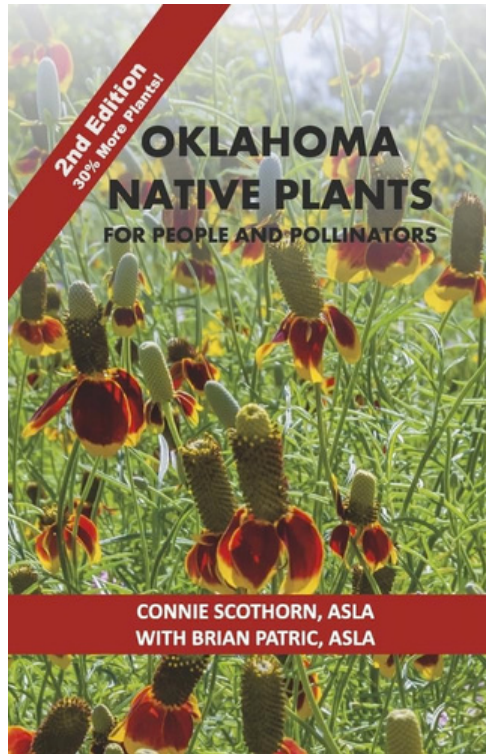
Dr. King took this book with him everywhere. It was the core theological text of Sacred Ground, The Episcopal Church's recent fascinating and inspiring national online course on race and faith. Short, practical, basic, and very reader-friendly, this is a theology of "those who stand with their backs against the wall." Thurman is centrally concerned with how Jesus chose to live and what we might learn from him about living our own lives: "for what he did all men may do."

Thurman presents Jesus as a Jew, specifically a poor Jew without Roman citizenship, and a member of a minority group dominated by Romans and without protection from them. Jesus taught revolutionary insights into his people's survival challenges, into the evil of reviling others because one has been reviled, as well as into the evil of capitulation to the powerful. Jesus taught the saving inner life of the soul. Sadducees were Jewish elites who preserved their privileges at the expense of poor Jews by standing against all who resisted Roman tyrannies. But resistance may be either overt or mental and moral, according to Thurman who explains that overt resistance can be "a tragic last resort."

Jesus's way of life exemplified resistance through finding the Kingdom of Heaven within ourselves: a basic spiritual survival technique for the oppressed.

Book Review

“TO CARE FOR CREATION HERE AND NOW”



OKLAHOMA NATIVE PLANTS: For People and Pollinators, by Connie Scothorn, ASLA, RLA, with Brian Patric, ASLA, RLA. (Oklahoma City: RoadRunner Press, 2019, 2026) Available in paperback through Oklahoma Native Plant Network (clsokc.com) @ \$34.59.

As Christians, we delight in the created world that God called good. One way we demonstrate our love for God and our neighbors is to care for the physical environment in which all living things exist. We do this in many ways, whether by planting community gardens, advocating for environmentally just legislation, or working toward carbon neutrality. In all we do, we seek to be good stewards of God's bountiful gift of creation.

(<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/who-we-are/ministries/creation-care/>)

The Episcopal Church has thus introduced online in 2026 its new approach to creation care and environmental justice, which involves “partnering in new eco-region networks to support local eco-justice initiatives.” The Oklahoma Monarch Society is such an eco-region network with a statewide monarch conservation plan. You may have heard about or even have participated in Norman’s annual Monarch Festival at Ruby Grant Park at the end of last month, celebrating monarch butterflies’ twice-annual migration through Oklahoma. Our parish seminarian Roshni Robert chairs our parish’s Godly Garden Guild, and her expertise is a great gift to new creation-care ministry growth at St. John’s: gardening explicitly to attract and nourish pollinators, including monarchs. She has recommended this handy little book, OKLAHOMA NATIVE PLANTS, to educate us so that we can contribute to this timely ministry, whether by gardening at home or by helping her expand the garden on St. John’s south side over the coming year.

This book’s authors Scothorn and Patric, landscape architects, explain the extreme difficulty of gardening in Oklahoma, “where we have wind, cold, heat, wet, and dry—sometimes all in one week, sometimes all in a single day. Only plants that have evolved to handle such unpredictable, fluctuating weather conditions can flourish here.” Native plants can help sustain native pollinator species now declining and sometimes even facing extinction. Such species’ sustenance is vital to human life, since “One out of every three bites of food that we eat depends upon the pollination of a plant.” Pollinators also eat pests (mosquitoes!) and enrich our lives with beauty. According to the Oklahoma Monarch Society, monarchs pollinate key crops supporting the state’s livestock industry and fostering biodiversity. They regard monarchs as the “canary in the coal mine” because protecting them can help other endangered pollinators, birds, bees, and butterflies too. Their migration is happening here this month and will happen again in spring.

OKLAHOMA NATIVE PLANTS can guide our creation care ministry to support the Oklahoma Monarch Conservation Plan by nourishing those monarchs on their way. With beautiful photographic illustrations and instructive descriptions, this little paperback presents selected forbs (herbaceous flowering plants) and grasses, with both common names and scientific names, but is much less daunting for beginners than Steve Dobbs’s popular encyclopedic (400+ pages!) OKLAHOMA GARDENERS’ GUIDE. Scothorn and Patric write in an easy conversational style about basics like tools and ways of finding and acquiring the plants and with honesty about gardening challenges native plants can pose. They include an Oklahoma Hardiness Zone Map. As landscape architects, they take the view that “all gardening is landscape painting,” so they also offer helpful advice about “keeping the neighbors happy” in a place where complaints about “messy” native plants are possible. —Susan Laird



**Connie Scothorn (l) and
Brian Patric (r)**





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
Rite I 8:00am
Rite II 10:30am
Rite III: 5:00pm (Parish Hall)
[Livestream: 10:30am]
www.episcopalnorman.org

Rector's Fourm 9:30a Commons

Children's Sunday School
during the first half of the
10:30 service

Youth Group & Fledglings
Sunday 6:00pm

Wednesdays

Holy Eucharist 10am (Chapel)
Followed by Bible Study
Holy Eucharist 6pm (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

Youth Director
Isbelle Harris

Keri Kelly
Choirmaster/Organist

Rebecca Blount
Parish Administrator

Greg Taylor
Communications

ONLINE CHURCH SERVICE OPTIONS

Sunday Mornings Live Stream

(Click or Scan the QR Code on the right)



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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

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