



MMXXII: 9 : SEPTEMBER : 2022

EVANGEL

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - NORMAN

Keeping the Sabbath

Holy Eucharist

SUNDAY

Rite I: 7:30 a.m. (9/5)
8:00 a.m. (9/11)
Rite II: 10:30 a.m.

TUESDAY

10:00 a.m. (Nave)

WEDNESDAY

6:00 p.m. (chapel)

Last Sunday I preached on the famous episode where Jesus heals the crippled woman on the Sabbath. Our Lord humanizes the woman, calling her “a daughter of Abraham,” just as much a part of the covenantal community as any man. This followed his act of healing her, which demonstrates to us what Sabbath is all about. It was for this woman a day of rest—a day where she received release from the physical condition that had placed her in a bent over position for eighteen long years.

Sabbath for us at St. John's means gathering together to worship our great God on the day his Son rose from the dead. It's a day of spiritual resting which begins another week. It's a day to get the “cup filled” so you can face what the coming week will bring. And it's also a day where we receive release from the anxieties, disorders, and trials which afflict us. Going to church doesn't magically take any of those things away, but it hopefully provides the reminding comfort that the God who sent his Son for you is the same God who chooses to be with you, even when the storms of life close in.

I've been thinking about Sabbath a lot recently in regard to our current staff transition. One of the common things that happens in churches, and it even happened to LeEtta when she served as a church administrator years ago, is parish administrators get asked a lot of questions when they come to church on Sundays. It can be difficult being both worshipper and administrator.

With Merrie leaving her position to pursue another opportunity, we have the obligation to think through this situation with a fresh lens. In the future, we won't have “Sunday hours” for the parish administrator. Instead, I'm going to challenge us to think a little differently. Let's come to church on Sundays to worship! Church business can wait! That's why God created the other days of the week! Let's focus on what's most important. Let's keep the Sabbath. And let's do our darndest to keep it holy.

Inside

Blood Drive

Care & Share

Book Review

Youth Schedule

THE LESSONS

Lectionary Year C

SEPTEMBER 4

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 18:1-11
Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14:25-33

SEPTEMBER 11

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
Psalm 14
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

SEPTEMBER 18

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
Psalm 79:1-9
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

SEPTEMBER 25

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31

Join the men of St. John's for September griller

The men of St. John's will gather for a griller on Friday, September 16. During the griller, the group enjoys cooking out on the patio and gathering for fellowship. We invite you to bring something to throw on the grill, a side, or beverages. The griller begins at 6:30 p.m. Please contact Robert Finley if you have questions at rffinley325@sbcglobal.net.



Knit Night in September

"Knit" Night meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday each month, September 1 and 15, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, in the Commons at St. John's. Bring any portable craft project you want to work on. All experience levels are welcome, including complete beginners. Whether you enjoy making gifts for loved ones or charities, "Knit" night is a great appointment to make with yourself to set aside a bit of stitching time.

Make a Difference!

Are you interested in helping those in need? Join our Outreach Committee! Whether it's chairing our Santa Ministry activities, delivering gifts, or working with the team at Food and Shelter, there are many ways to get involved! Learn more at our meeting on September 15th at 6:30 pm. RSVP to attend by emailing Lisa Schade at laneconsult@yahoo.com or 405-570-7187.



A Note from the Parish Administrator

Symmetry...my first *Evangel* as editor was the September 2019 edition—and that edition announced Fr. Helt's retirement. Talk about jumping into the deep end!

Three years later, the September 2022 newsletter is my final as editor. These three years have been extraordinary in all ways, including deeply painful and deeply joyous. In August of 2020, I became your parish administrator and combined three previously separate jobs (front desk, communications, and finance) into one.

It's time for me to move on, and while I am so excited and grateful for new opportunities and new adventures, I am also so sad to leave. The parish administrator position was a dream come true for me, and I have loved (almost) every minute of it. From writing articles to scheduling the Tibetan monks, from mopping up rainwater (roof leaks!) to managing the logistics of parish-wide mailings and annual meetings—it has been a lot of fun and a lot of work!

I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Stephanie Abla, the senior warden at the time that I started serving as PA, and to the vestry of 2020 who took a chance on me and my vision of the role of a parish administrator at St. John's. Many thanks also to Holly Cole, our current senior warden who took the torch from Stephanie before we hired a full-time rector, and who has been supportive of my dream of an open, welcoming church office.

Mostly, though, thank you to all my fellow parishioners who made this job fun—I will miss seeing you in the church office, but I'll still be in the pews!—Merrie Beard, *Evangel editor and parish admin*

St. John's Altar Guild Looking for New Members



The Altar Guild ministry is concerned with providing a place for worship in which we can all develop our spiritual side. We prepare the space for worship services, baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

As the name implies, our main focus is on setting the altar for the celebration of the Eucharist. We are responsible for the entire setting for worship throughout the nave on Sundays and the Chapels during the week.

St. John's was blessed with a spirited and dedicated altar guild for many decades. The last few years we have gradually experienced a loss of membership due to retirements and COVID. We have continued to do the work with fewer and fewer people, but now find ourselves with just eight members.

New members to the Altar Guild will find a group of lively, friendly, tolerant people committed to their ministry and eager to welcome and train anyone who also feels called. We think of ourselves as the ministry behind the scenes of worship services – rarely seen, but always there. We welcome new members of any age and gender.

If you feel called to the ministry of the altar guild, please contact the church office or email Carol Upp at carolupp65@gmail.com.



ST. JOHN'S OUTREACH

CAMPAIGN TO CARE AND SHARE

Sharing God's Love

Throughout last year, parishioners selflessly supported the on-going efforts of St. John's Outreach Ministries by sharing God's Love with our neighbors in need. Last year, services offered at St. John's Outreach Office transitioned to Food and Shelter for Friends for the foreseeable future. **Since that time, our partnership has provided over 450 individuals with life changing financial support**, including Max, a local veteran who was able to remain in his home after he fell short of rent following a needed surgery. He didn't qualify for federal or local assistance but was able to be assisted through St. John's ministry. **In addition, your support provided 47 people with life-saving prescriptions; 325 Identification Vouchers to those seeking employment and services; and almost 40 bicycle repair vouchers.** There are so many more examples of the impact of your generous donations. *Every dollar* given to last year's annual Care & Share Campaign provided the funds that assisted these neighbors in need.

2022 Campaign Goal - \$8,000.00

The mission of St. John's Outreach Office is to provide resources to our local friends who have experienced unfortunate and unforeseen circumstances with no other place to turn. These include underemployed families in poverty that are 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 that 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 support St. John's Outreach Ministries throughout the year. In addition to our Outreach Office, for over a decade, St. John's parishioners have delivered the joy of Christmas to over 100 school children and their families, DHS homebound seniors, and seniors at two local medical nursing homes. **Last year our Santa Ministry, Blood Drives, and Ringing the Bell activities 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 the pandemic, experiencing homelessness, and those searching for hope.

All funds for St. John's Outreach Ministries are solely raised through your generous donations. You can give on-line through our website at <https://onrealm.org/StJohnsEpiscopa87669/-/form/give/now>, by designating your gift to Outreach, or donate cash or check in the church office.

When we love our neighbors as we love ourselves, we help restore faith in those that have nowhere else to turn. Thank you for prayerfully considering your gift to this year's campaign!



St. John's to Host Blood Drive

September 25th St. John's will host the Oklahoma Blood Institute for a blood drive. Donating blood is a great and appropriate way to minister to the sick.

Every two seconds, someone needs blood, a product that has no substitute and must be donated from volunteers. No matter the donation made the life of a neighbor in need is saved.

While there are different forms of blood donation, whole blood donations are the most common form. In it, you will donate a pint of blood in a process that takes about an hour, in total. This donation can save up to three lives.

After donation, the pint of blood is tested and processed to make sure it's ready for a local patient. The blood can be given to a patient, or processed into more specialized products like red blood cells, plasma and platelets.

In whatever form it's given to patients, a whole blood donation represents health and healing for trauma victims, women in childbirth, cancer patients and more.

While people of all blood types are encouraged to donate whole blood, those with negative blood types are especially asked to make this type of donation.

Sign up to donate at

https://www.yourbloodinstitute.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/387260

Blood Drive September 25 from 8:30am – 12:30pm in the parish hall

For questions please contact Carol Upp at carolupp65@gmail.com

Holy-Spirited Yoga

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? 1 Corinthians 6:19

The practice of yoga proposes to teach us to love all aspects of ourselves—not just the nice stuff that we're proud of but also the things we struggle with. We are to learn to love ourselves completely because God loves us completely. God doesn't love some perfected version of us that we might become one day. God loves us right here and right now—as we already are. Once we have embraced this fact (and, in doing so, have embraced

ourselves), the next step is to love others even though they aren't perfect yet either. ...This process isn't easy, and we need practices that can help guide us. Luckily, yoga traditions provide a wonderful structure to embrace and build our practice of loving God, ourselves, and others. ...There is no pressure or need to succeed—we have the freedom to practice all we want. The more we practice, the more these newly formed habits will become second nature. Almost before we realize it, we begin making the same changes on our mats and in our real lives. We come to shed self-defeating behaviors. We see obstacles to our progress more clearly and learn to gracefully navigate around them. That is simply the way yoga—and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit—works. *Hillary D. Raining & Amy Nobles Dolan, Faith with a Twist (Forward Movement, 2018)*



Choir Returns!



September sees the return of the choir to the organ loft to lead music during the 10:30 Sunday worship service. If you enjoy singing, we'd love to have you join us. The choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday evenings, 7-8 pm, and Sunday mornings at 9:30. All singers, teen through "unlisted number" ages are invited. Not sure? Join us for a rehearsal to check it out.

Make a Difference!

Are you interested in helping those in need? Join our Outreach Committee! Whether it's chairing our Santa Ministry activities, delivering gifts, or working with the team at Food and Shelter, there are many ways to get involved! Learn more at our meeting on September 15th at 6:30 pm. RSVP to attend by emailing Lisa Schade at laneconsult@yahoo.com or 405-570-7187.

Birthday Card Ministry

Beloved St. John's parishioner Joan Knudsen heads up our birthday card ministry. Joan hand-writes and addresses birthday cards each month to members of our St. John's family. Please call the church office if you would like to add your birthday or that of your loved one to the list to receive a card!



St. John's Name Tags

The church office will make name tags for you and your family members! Let's be welcoming to all new folks and kind to forgetful folks like me. Please wear your name tag, and either put your name down on the name tag sheet in the narthex or email the church office at staff@episcopalnorman.org to request one.

Serve Others!

Volunteer to prepare and serve a meal at Food and Shelter for Friends next month on Tuesday, October 19th from 9:30-12:30. For more information, contact Andrea Marler at aamarler@me.com or 405-808-4435.



Volunteers from St. John's Serve at Food & Shelter in August.

Resurrection Memorial Service Moves in September

The monthly memorial service held in the Chapel of the Resurrection will move to the second Wednesday at 12:10 p.m. for September *only*—Fr. Detrich will be on vacation! The service will move back to the first Wednesday in October. See you then!

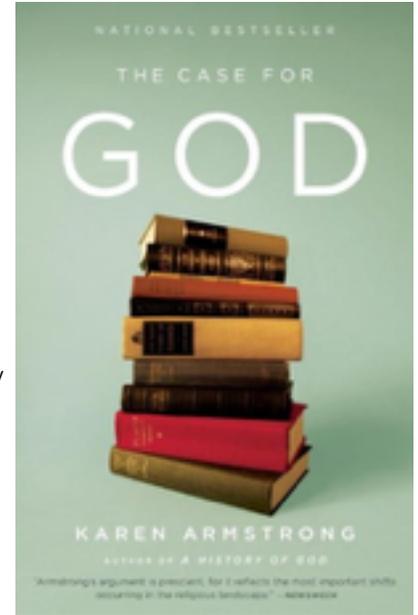
Youth Group Returns!

Kids grades 6-12 are encouraged to join St. John's youth group for fun and fellowship! Youth meets Sundays evenings from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. here at the church. Questions? Email our youth minister, Emma Brown, at ebrown@episcopalnorman.org. The fall 2022 youth schedule is below:

September 3	Football Parking - 10:30 am
September 4	No Youth - Labor Day
September 10	Football Parking - Time 2 pm
September 11	Back to Youth!
September 18	Campus Scavenger Hunt
September 24	Football Parking - Time TBD
September 25	Ultimate Frisbee
October 1	Football Parking - Time TBD
October 2	Movie Night
October 9	No Youth - Fall Break
October 16	Campfire w/burritos and s'mores
October 23	Escape Room
October 28-29	Halloween Lock-in
October 30	Halloween Party
November 5	Football Parking - Time TBD
November 6	Laser Tag
November 13	Ornaments/Float Prep
November 19	Football Parking - Time TBD
November 20	Chili Night
November 27	No Youth - Thanksgiving
December 3	Christmas Parade TBD
December 4	Santa Ministry Shopping
December 11	Caroling
December 18	Christmas Party
December 25	No Youth - Christmas

Karen Armstrong, *The Case for God*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2009. Available as e-book, as audiobook, or as hardcover or paperback (new or used) @ \$1.50-60

Online encounters with two colleagues—a militant-rationalist atheist and a Jewish philosopher writing about his “apophatic” faith—prompted me to listen to Karen Armstrong read aloud *The Case for God*, her interfaith history of humanity’s search for sacred reality, from the Paleolithic age to the postmodern. My colleagues’ commentaries differed profoundly, but both responded to deep cultural anxieties likely familiar to all of us, which keep some neighbors away from church while inspiring others’ Christian devotion. For me, their comments recalled rich memories of discussion groups at St. John’s on Armstrong’s *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* and at St. Anselm’s (with St. John’s beloved saint Deacon Kay Greenshields) on several other Armstrong books.



An Englishwoman who left her profession at the (Roman Catholic) Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus convent in 1969 while still a doctoral student at Oxford, Armstrong now identifies as an unaffiliated monotheist of Christian mystical faith. Pursuing scholarship in comparative religion, she has written as a prolific public intellectual for readers worldwide and served as consultant to policy-makers in the US, the UN, the World Economic Forum, and other influential groups concerned about religious conflicts. A national bestseller, *The Case for God* tilled fertile ground both for her *Twelve Steps* and for the interfaith Charter for Compassion (www.charterforcompassion.org) she founded in 2008 as a TED Prize winner.

The Case for God is not a contentious argument. Armstrong testifies “that quarreling about religion is counterproductive” and “makes authentic religious experience impossible.” This book is her urgent, gifted plea for wide-open, welcoming, self-emptying, honest, compassionate curiosity about deep, wondrous complexities in diverse human-divine relationships. For her, religion is profoundly akin to arts, especially music, with “a mode of knowledge that defies logical analysis and empirical truth.” Skillful, disciplined, persevering practical action makes religious truth more accessible than theories do: “Those who do not apply themselves will get nowhere at all.” Practice of silence and unknowing—“contemplation of the insoluble”—characterizes faith she calls “apophatic,” itself “a source of joy, astonishment, and contentment,” whose faith-diverse advocates figure prominently in this history.

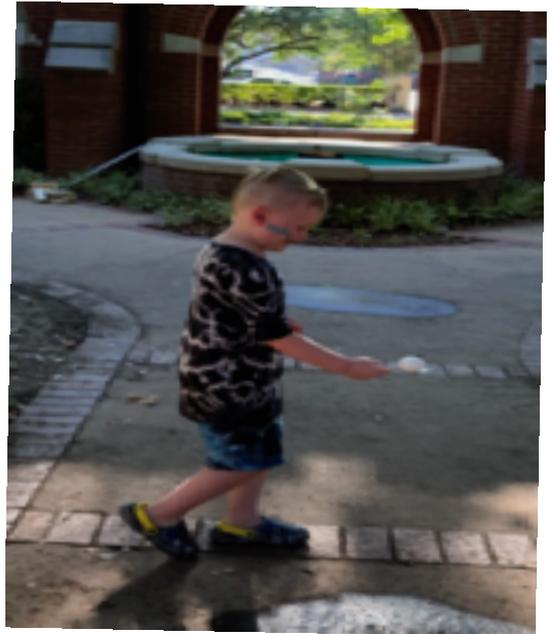
Between introduction and epilogue, its twelve chapters journey from religion’s poetic roots in “mythos” to many landmarks of scientific history’s modernizing “logos”: “Homo religiosus,” “God,” “Reason,” “Faith,” “Silence,” “Faith and Reason,” “Science and Religion,” “Scientific Religion,” “Enlightenment,” “Atheism,” “Unknowing,” and “Death of God?” This journey shows religion never meant to answer questions within reason’s reach, but instead has helped us “live creatively, peacefully, and even joyously with realities for which there were no easy explanations and problems that we could not solve: mortality, pain, grief, despair, and outrage at the injustice and cruelty of life.” Yet Armstrong cautions that “facile, false, idolatrous, or self-indulgent” religion cannot accomplish this vital task, as she considers various ways of engaging holy scriptures. Her historical exploration includes meetings with Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, ancient yogic and Chinese traditions, as well as assorted fundamentalisms and atheisms, but this timely journey is Christian. *The Case for God* will leave you hungry for discussions with others. —reviewed by Susan Laird

Back to School Bash Fun

Back to School Bash was a smashing success! Families came, played games, enjoyed sno cones, and said goodbye to summer as they prepared for another school year. Thanks to all who came and participated, and extra thanks to our wonderful volunteers who made it happen!



Catherine Wilson headed up face painting for excited kiddos.



Balancing an egg on a spoon takes careful concentration!



LeEtta Detrich helps a young archer aim her bow and arrow.

St. John's at a Glance

Online Church Service Options

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

ADDRESS: 235 W. Duffy, Norman, OK 73069

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

PHONE: (405) 321-3020

WEBSITE: www.episcopalnorman.org

EMAIL: staff@episcopalnorman.org

OFFICE HOURS: Mon, Tues, Thur 9am-4pm

Wed 9 am-6pm

Prayer Requests

Prayer requests may be submitted to the church by calling the office, sending an email to staff@episcopalnorman.org, or online at www.episcopalnorman.org/prayer-request. Requests will be added to the Prayers of the People, unless you would like your request kept private.

Pastoral Care

The church is committed to the well-being of its members through caring relationships and kind actions. The Congregational Care committee has resumed home Eucharist for parishioners unable to attend church. The rector is also available for pastoral care via phone or email. If you or someone you know needs care from the Congregational Care committee, please contact the church office at 321-3020, or staff@episcopalnorman.org.

Online Giving

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

STAFF

The Congregation

Ministers of the church

The Rev. Dr. James Detrich

Rector: (405) 321-3020

The Rev. James Tyree

Deacon

Catherine Wilson

Christian Formation Director

Melody Palm

Organist/choirmaster

Emma Brown

Youth Minister

VESTRY

Holly Cole

SENIOR WARDEN

Pat Welch

JUNIOR WARDEN

Martha White

Chuck Palm

Greg Taylor

Ulli Nollert

Owen Mills

Roshni Robert

Femi Somade

Alison Braly

Mike Abla



ST. JOHN'S

Episcopal Church

235 W. Duffy, Norman
405-321-3020

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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staff@episcopalnorman.org • www.episcopalnorman.org

**The Church Office will be closed Monday,
September 5, in observance of Labor Day**

COMING UP AT ST. JOHN'S

**Knit Night, September 1, 6:30 p.m*

**Theology & Mysticism Discussion Group, noon, in
Commons, September 7, 14, 21, 28*

**Sunday School Begins, September 11*

**Resurrection Memorial Service, September 14,
12:10 p.m.*

**Knit Night, September 15, 6:30 p.m.*

**Men's Griller, September 16, 6:30 p.m*

**Vestry Meeting, September 19, 7 p.m., in Library*