

THE EVANGELIST

Summer 2023



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SAINT JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WARM GREETINGS, BELOVED!

With July behind us, it's given me the opportunity to reflect on our truly wonderful experience with this year's Vacation Bible School. Josh Corsaro and his crew of staff and volunteers chose the theme "Love thy Neighbor" and we spent the week of July 17-21 teaching our students about who Jesus is and how he taught us to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. I was so proud as the kids learned Scripture and even some theology all while hearing encouragement to be kind to everyone around them.



The Rev. David Bumsted, Rector

My job was to lead the musical worship with my new beach blue guitar. I was delighted at how quickly our students learned the songs, and how enthusiastic they were in learning a hymn for VBS Sunday. There are so many amusing and inspiring moments from the week that I could fill this section quite easily! Better, I think, is for you to ask one of the many volunteers about their experience during that exciting week.

I think having so many children and families around during VBS once again strengthened our resolve to build yet more robust and vital ministries for kids and their families. I felt that was especially true when seeing the commitment of our adult volunteers coming together from several age groups and being myself encouraged by their zeal for the week. They worked hard to transform parts of our beautiful parish church into a place that would welcome the kids' classes and activities. It is hard not to feel a sense that the parish is indeed being transformed in ways beyond the week of VBS, transfigured into a place that continues to shine forth Christ's glory and goodness.

On Sunday August 6, we will get a great opportunity to celebrate what God is doing in and among us by observing the Feast of the Transfiguration. A principal feast of our Church's calendar, it's a day when Christians all across the world remember when Jesus brought his disciples up to a high place and there he was transfigured before them, showing forth the radiance of his divine presence. For us at Saint John's, it offers us a day to live into our own transformation as we set forth on the next stage of the campaign to raise funds for a lower-level renovation. I hope you'll join us that evening for Evensong and a reception following where you can come together with fellow brothers and sisters as we all look forward to how our own beloved parish will be transformed and transfigured to better serve our many ministries, including our kids and families. The Transfigure Campaign for Saint John's starts soon, my friends, and I'm so excited to work with you this coming season of light and flourishing!

Yours,

GET TO KNOW... *Thom Crowe*

We recently had an opportunity to ask parishioner Thom Crowe to share a little bit about his family and life. Thom's been around the building a lot lately as a committee member and volunteer. We hope you enjoy getting to know Thom and the Crowe clan a bit better and perhaps will strike up a chat the next time you see him during coffee hour!

Thom, tell us about your family. I am married to Christine and she owns the shop downtown called Made. Our daughter, Ellie, is seven years old, attends Holland Hall, and loves to read, write, and sing. We share our home with two dogs, a nine-year-old rescue named Buddy (after Buddy the Elf) and an almost one-year-old goldendoodle named Luna (after Luna Lovegood from Harry Potter).



Christine, Ellie, and Thom Crowe

Story continued on page 4.



You're Invited

Sunday, August 6
after Evensong

Join us for wine and cheese and learn
about our Transfigure Campaign

Our Transfigure Campaign reflects our parish's deep commitment to serving our community and sharing the love of Christ more abundantly. The plan is to unlock the potential of our currently unused basement, opening it up by bringing natural light to the space, breathing new life into and creating a vibrant hub for expanded ministry and activities for our entire parish. With your help, we will begin renovations this year, channeling incoming resources towards unveiling the space's full potential.

- SUSAN WALKER
Senior Warden

TREASURER'S REPORT

In the memorandum I provided to members of the Finance Committee and the Vestry last month, I shared the summarized information (below) on the present financial status of Saint John's Episcopal Church. The fiscal details I shared were for -

Operating Revenue & Expense through May 31, 2023
Analysis of Investment Accounts through May 2023
Statement of Fund Balances as of May 31, 2023.

In addition, I included the following comments regarding the church's financial statements:

For the Operating Revenue and Expense through May combined, the total income of \$597,206 is <\$123,765> under budget for the year to date. Total pledges are under budget for the year by <\$12,096>. Contributions and Plate of \$121,731 are \$21,064 over budget for the year to date. Miscellaneous Income of \$63,528 (which includes transfers from our Investment Account) is <\$132,734> under budget. Expenses of \$616,535 are \$91,731 under budget for the year to date. Our Net Loss is <\$19,329> vs. budgeted Net Income of \$12,706. And lastly, our Operating Fund Cash had a balance of \$13,047 as of May 31, 2023.

Bill Chevillion

GARDEN AND GROUNDS

Our volunteers have been busy with major projects this summer, some of which were unanticipated. A boiler room water leak created a landscape issue in the south lawn which led to evaluation problems associated with the boxwood hedge that has since been removed. A record-setting windstorm revealed the weakness and hazard of the west lawn oak tree. Plans are underway for its removal.

Work is in progress for revision and repair of the irrigation system. The carved wooden eagle has been restored and its "nest" area has been cleaned up as well. Dwarf Alberta spruce trees have been planted near the Memorial Garden. The garden itself is undergoing renovation and will have new turf once temperatures are moderate. The Narthex church entrance area will have topsoil applied and ground cover planted. Please take time to enjoy the magnificent looking caladiums which are in full color in front of the stone wall! I am confident that we are getting control over all landscape issues and am grateful for the dedicated work of all our volunteers.

Mike Reif

JUNIOR WARDEN'S NEWS

Greetings all! I hope this letter finds you not too hot during these dog days of summer. As I mentioned last month, we formed a Steering Committee for our basement remodel. After careful consideration, the committee has decided to expand the scope of this project beyond just the basement to include a remodel of the kitchen and Flower Guild/LEM room, some exterior work on stairs and walkways, and associated drainage upgrades for our facility.

This scope was determined after reviewing the "domino" impacts of each move to the other areas, and prioritizing what our greatest immediate needs are. As our project has expanded beyond just the basement, the committee has decided to name this effort "The Transfigure Campaign: Transforming Our Community."

We will be launching The Transfigure Campaign parish-wide on Aug 6, fittingly enough the same day as the liturgical Feast of the Transfiguration. You will soon see some further information about the campaign in a dedicated brochure for this transformational project. This is an exciting development for us as we move into this next major phase of the project and towards the start of transforming our parish for the future.

Marc McCaw

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY NEWS

Children's Chapel – Children's Chapel meets Sundays at 10 a.m. Parents are welcome to drop off children, ages five and older, in the youth room on the lower level before heading in for worship. The children will be led to the Nave to join their families for Communion during the time of the Peace blessing.

Youth Group – We are continuing Youth summer hours. The next Youth meetings will be August 16 and August 30. During these days, we will be doing a lot of games and activities, as well as eating dinner together. As always, we start at 6 p.m.! Following Rally Day, we'll resume our normal schedule. If you have questions about our teen ministry programs, please email me at jcorsaro@sjtulsa.org.

Choristers – Our Choristers program had a great year of activity! Some of the highlights were the great offerings during service and the fun games after practice. It was truly a joy, and we are definitely excited to resume after Rally Day.

Tech Team – We are very grateful for the commitment several teens have made to Saint John's and our capacity to livestream offerings. Working in shifts, they "run tech" for Sunday and Wednesday worship, events such as Music at Midday, choir concerts, and other special events. This month, we wish to honor three of them who are graduating high school: John Ruskin Bell, Joseph Dunkin, and Andrew Silvestri. Their work has been nothing short of stellar in keeping the streams up and making sure the audio quality is amazing. We wish them the absolute best as they go from high school to college and jobs.

Acolytes – We have a fun and meaningful Acolyte ministry at Saint John's. Contact me if your youth or family want to know more!

The Young Adults (and family) Pool Party plus Backpack Blessing are on the horizon. The Pool Party will be held at the Hicks' residence on August 19. This is a fun evening of playing lawn games, wonderful food, and of course swimming! If you want to attend, let me know! The Backpack Blessing on August 20 is a special Sunday when students and school staff are invited to bring their bags to receive a blessing at the 10 a.m. service.

Vacation Bible School – VBS 2023 was a hit! As you can see by the photos, the kids had a wonderful time and learned how to love God and love their neighbors as themselves. Highlights of the week included the games such as Captain Midnight, water balloon fights, water slides, and even the classic: musical chairs. We were honored to host a VBS this year and we are very much looking forward to the next one! Special thanks to all those who volunteered to make this such an amazing event.

Josh Corsaro



Where is your hometown and what brought you here? I grew up in Houston and came to Tulsa to study New Testament and Church History at Oral Roberts University. While here, I met Christine, and I also fell in love with Tulsa.

Tell us about your career? I work at Vercel as the Director of Digital Experience. We are a frontend cloud platform that gives teams a toolkit to securely build, deploy, and scale a better web experience with any framework.

What was your faith journey prior to finding Saint John's? While at ORU, I joined the Orthodox Church, which was my home for about twenty years. I got my master's degree in Orthodox Theology and was ordained a deacon. I worked with the youth and served actively at our parish, co-chaired our diocesan parish life conference, and helped run our annual Lebanese food festival called Hafli. I felt called to serve Christ during my teenage years. I learned to chant to help support during services and was given an opportunity to serve at the altar. As I served my church and continued my studies, we decided the need for a deacon was something I could fill, assisting our priest with services, taking communion to those who couldn't attend service, and to serve as a leader within our community.

I understand you are now an "aspirant." What does that mean and what will that entail? As an aspirant, I'm preparing for reception to the Episcopal Church as a deacon and ordination to the priesthood (God willing!). Over the next year, I will pray (and ask for your prayers), we'll form a parish discernment committee that will work with me through aspirancy, I'll get to know our Vestry, I will have a representative from the Diocesan Committee on Ministry who I'll meet with, and I'll enroll in an Anglican studies program to learn more about our Church and liturgical practices in an official way. I will do all this while working closely with Father David and serving Saint John's.

What's something that might surprise your fellow parishioners to learn about you? I am a complete nerd. I love all things fantasy and Christmas. Our family is really into Harry Potter and I love Lord of the Rings, Cosmere, Wheel of Time, and countless other fantasy series. I've also been co-hosting a weekly, year-round Christmas podcast that has been going on six years this month.

What is your fav spot to go on vacation? We love going to Santa Fe. It's a favorite for our whole family. We love the opportunity to disconnect and unwind, the churches are amazing (they have some relics from saints going back to the second century), it's a vibrant arts community, the food is out of this world, and everything is so relaxed.

Do you have any favorite shows you are streaming/watching right now? We just started The Bear. Not sure what I think yet, but I'm interested in where it goes. Ellie has gotten us all into Is It Cake? (And now that's a slightly embarrassing guilty pleasure of mine!)

What three words would you use to describe Saint John's to someone who doesn't attend our church? Family, warm, tradition.

ADULT FORMATION AND ACTIVITIES

Sunday Bible Study - Join us for Sunday morning formation "Sacred Spaces" at 9 a.m. in the Common Room! Father David leads us in learning about the unique and important places in our church.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study - Our study time with Father David focused on the Book of Acts begins at 6:30 p.m. Come for Holy Eucharist at 5:30 p.m. and stick around for the learning.

Dead Theologians Society - The Saint John's Dead Theologians Society is committed to the study of early theologians (think third or fourth century church fathers). The group meets on Wednesdays or Thursdays and alternates between mornings and evenings. Presently the group is studying Irenaeus of Lyons' "On the Apostolic Preaching." If you want more information on dates, times, or joining this group of deep thinkers, reach out to Zach Malavolti at zmalavolti@sjtulsa.org.

Iron Gate - A volunteer crew from our church serves at Iron Gate on the first Saturday of each month. This is a feeding ministry in downtown Tulsa for our neighbors with food and housing insecurity. Our team meets at Iron Gate at 8 a.m. and serves until 10:30 a.m. We hope to see you the first Saturday in August. If you want to sign up to be a part of this, email me at jcorsaro@sjtulsa.org.

Josh Corsaro

MUSIC NEWS

I am pleased to share that our much-enjoyed Music at Midday series will return this fall for Season 9! I am working on the details now and encourage you to get ready to save your Wednesday lunch hours for a variety of performances here at the church. We will commence with the recitals around the first week of September. As is our recent tradition, we will offer box lunches (pre-ordered and for purchase) in the Common Room at 12:30 p.m. after each program. Look for more details coming in the weeks ahead in the e-news, bulletins, and September Evangelist. I hope you are looking forward to our fall season as much as I am!

Joseph Arndt



You are invited to join us every weekday
at 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. as we pray...

The Daily Office

HOSPITALITY NEWS

Hospitality Team – I wish to extend a huge “thank you” to all who serve on our Hospitality Team and the ministry groups that also stepped up to provide outstanding Sunday Snacks for our fellowship time on Sundays in June and July. I know we are all grateful for the delicious food, the generosity of time and contributions, and the wonderful way Sunday Snacks enhance our fellowship time.

Team Assist – We are continuing to grow our Hospitality Team Assist volunteer roster. What is Team Assist? Simply put, a team member is anyone who would like to help with Sunday Snacks occasionally. Does this sound like a service opportunity you would enjoy? Could we call you to make a casserole, bring fruit, cookies, or a tasty dip one Sunday? Our primary Hospitality Team members would certainly appreciate the backup! To learn more or sign up, see me, Kathleen Moss, in the Common Room after church services. Alternatively, you can call, text, or email me at (918) 633-8881 or kathleen.moss@me.com.

The Greeting Team – We are excited to share a new way Saint John's is focusing on hospitality to all who join us for worship! We are forming a Greeting Team and looking for some amazing parishioners to join this ministry.

Kathleen Moss



DAUGHTERS OF THE KING



With the passing of Mary Hammons in June 2023, our chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King lost a true servant leader. Mary K. Test was born in July 1943 and raised in Pennsylvania. In 1966 she married Jack Boyd Hammons, then a naval officer. The couple eventually settled in Tulsa, and Mary taught in Tulsa Public Schools. The Hammons had one daughter, Julie, and two grandsons. Jack died in 2017 after fifty-one years of marriage.

Mary joined DOK on August 24, 2020. She was always the first to volunteer for any DOK activity. She was co-teaching the most recent DOK membership class when she was admitted to the hospital, then to hospice care for her final illness. Mary would have been eighty years old on her next birthday. Her fellow members of DOK remember Mary as kind, thoughtful, faithful, generous, and dependable. We will miss her sweet smiles and beautiful hugs. Mary's leadership gift was to be present, willing, and helpful. She was a valued member of Daughters of the King. She requested burial with her DOK cross.

Sharon Bell

“PRAISE BE TO THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE FATHER OF COMPASSION AND THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT, WHO COMFORTS US IN ALL OUR TROUBLES, SO THAT WE CAN COMFORT THOSE IN ANY TROUBLE WITH THE COMFORT WE OURSELVES RECEIVE FROM GOD.”

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

On Sunday, June 26, 2023, Father David inaugurated the first group of Lay Eucharistic Visitors since the Diocese discontinued the program during the pandemic. Jane Cowdery and I are returning LEVs, and new members joining us are Marilyn Bedford, Marguerite Chapman, Jim Halpin, and Joe Wilkerson.

Training for LEV involves a two-hour training session with Father David, plus a computer self-study program on Safeguarding God's People. LEVs then receive a license from the Bishop. At the end of a Communion service, LEVs are charged to take Communion to the shut-ins of Saint John's congregation. An LEV will visit one or two shut-ins per month, every month. Service as a LEV is an opportunity to get to know fellow parishioners who helped to create the church we now know as Saint John's. Taking communion is a privilege for both the LEV and the parishioner who is visited. If you want to learn more about the LEV program, talk with Father David. If you or someone you know would like to be seen by a LEV, please get in touch with Diana Carter in the church office.

Sharon Bell





TOTAL \$2 MILLION

LOWER \$1.6 MILLION

KITCHEN \$250 THOUSAND

FLOWER ROOM \$12.5 THOUSAND

SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS \$65 THOUSAND

OUR GOAL

OUR TIMELINE

Our Transfigure Campaign reflects our deep commitment to serving our community and sharing the love of Christ more abundantly. It aims to unlock the potential of our currently unused basement, opening it up by bringing natural light, breathing new life into the space and creating a vibrant hub for expanded ministry and activities for our whole parish. Our goal is to begin renovations this year, channeling incoming resources towards unveiling the space's full potential.

AUGUST 6, 2023

St. John's Transfigure Campaign kick-off

AUGUST 6 - SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

Transfigure Campaign fundraising period

SEPTEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 21, 2023

505 Architects finalize the architectural

DECEMBER 21, 2023 - JUNE 6, 2023

Transfigure building and renovation period

JUNE 7, 2024

Celebration in our newly transformed space!



**SAINT SIMEON'S FOUNDATION
WESTERN DAYS**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023
COX BUSINESS CONVENTION CENTER**

Grab your boots and pearl snaps! Following the heel steps of the most important, most successful Western Days ever, we are gearing up for another ride. Join us for Western Days 2023 on Thursday, September 14, as we wander to the Treasure State for Western Days: Yellowstone. For sixty-three years, Saint Simeon's has pushed senior care with big and bold ideas. Thank you for continuing to support this big, beautiful organization. Due to your generosity and support, we can continue providing compassionate care, the best in senior care practices, technology-enhanced therapies, innovative training, and exceptional hospitality.

As in years past, gifts to Western Days support Saint Simeon's Foundation's mission to enhance through philanthropy and stewardship the physical, social, and spiritual well-being of the residents of Saint Simeon's and their families. You can register online by visiting <https://saintsimeons.org/foundation/western-days/> from any device. For questions, please get in touch with Tyler Davis, Executive Director of Saint Simeon's Foundation, at (918) 794-1977 or tylerdavis@saintsimeons.org.

Milestones

Birthdays

Karen McCartney
Mary Spangler
Janice Bidgood
Jace Pavlik
Tyler Breaux
Teresa Burkett
Tim Wilson
Donna Allison
Mary Deisenroth
Donald Wyrick
Paula Bryant
Barbara McFall
Dona Morris
Etta Walker
Kathy O'Kelley
James Blanton
Phyllis Dotson
Janice Ingle
Dan Prather
Christopher Short
JoAnn Swan
Kimberly Butler-Talmon
Keith Clark
Natalie Fischer
Babs Harrill
Tony Jezek
David Smith
Gerene Adwon
Dave Collins
Julie Allen
Corbin Boston
Abby Kurin
Parker Souter
Lori Van Allen
Amy Young
Foster Gillingham
Deane Oven
Anson Pohl
Justin Gassaway
Kay Owens
Candace Merifield
Joe Gold
Kimberly Souter
Rick Ballard
Ashton Pohl
Whitney Westbrook
John Byers
Diana Carter
Carolyn Hart
Linda Wilson
Barbara Van Hanken
Peggy Schroedter
Anne Brown Eidson
Glen Gravender
George Marchetti
Jesse Pavlik

Passings

Walter Allison
Mary Hammons



BSA TROOP 153 NEWS

Troop 153 recently recognized our Scouts at the spring Court of Honor, where we awarded seventy-three merit badges, ten rank advancements, and multiple special awards. We are proud of the hard work and dedication of Scouts and adult volunteers that these awards represent.

It's a busy summer for Troop 153! We had twenty-four Scouts, and several adults, attend Camp Arrowhead in Marshfield, Missouri. They had a great week of climbing, shooting, biking, hammocking, swimming, and other fun, with some advancement and merit badges thrown in. We also had a Philmont Trek with six scouts and four adults making memories in New Mexico!

Summer brings leadership training courses, and our troop always sends several Scouts to local events as well as courses elsewhere. As a troop of leaders, we often have Scouts on staff at training courses as well. This summer we had two Scouts staffing National Youth Leadership Training at Mabee Scout Reservation in Locust Grove, and two on staff at National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience, one at Philmont, and one at Summit Bechtel in West Virginia. We are proud of our Scouts who take the next step and learn to lead well.

Recently we were honored to lead a flag ceremony at Saint John's Independence Day celebration and helped in the kitchen with brunch afterward. We are always happy to give back to our family at Saint John's. In closing we are proud to announce our newest Troop 153 Eagle Scout, Eli Thomas!

Carolyn Davis

ST. BARBARA'S GUILD

Saint Barbara's Guild is a group of women dedicated to the study of the Bible, service projects, fellowship and support of each other and Saint John's Church. Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 11 a.m. in the second floor Conference Room. Please join us! Simply bring a sack lunch and your Bible. Beverages of water and coffee are provided. Our next meeting date is August 17.

During the summer we will be meeting for lunch, conversation, and fellowship and will resume Bible study with Father David in September. If you would like more information about our meetings, please look for me, Kathleen Moss, in the Common Room after church services. Alternatively, you are most welcome to call, text, or email me at (918) 633-8881 or kathleen.moss@me.com.

Kathleen Moss

OUTREACH NEWS

Our outreach efforts for July through August are benefiting both Tulsa Day Center and Espiritu Santo Episcopal Church. Espiritu Santo (Holy Spirit) Episcopal Church is the only exclusively Spanish-speaking Episcopal parish in the Tulsa area. Their church building was previously St. Peter's Episcopal Church. After St. Peter's closed, this mission church was reopened in 2019 as Espiritu Santos under the leadership of a Vicar, Father Alberto Moreno.

Both Tulsa Day Center and Espiritu Santo are in need of gently used clothing. Tulsa Day Center needs men's clothing and athletic type shoes, and Espiritu Santos needs very gently used clothing and shoes for all ages. And, many thanks to those who have already contributed clothing for the Tulsa Day Center. Now, let's help our sister church whose parishioners need our help!

Janice Ingle





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

