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LENTEN GREETINGS!

As you read this, the holy season of Lent has begun. In the weeks that run up to Ash Wednesday, I always look forward to hearing how people are planning on observing Lent. As you might imagine, there's a remarkable range of practice out there! I hear about everything from people giving up their evening sweet to feats of asceticism fit for the ancient practice of the earliest Christian monks. However you might locate your own practice, hopefully somewhere in that wide spectrum, keeping some holy practice in Lent grounds us in



The Rev. David Bumsted, Recto

the reality of our human (and therefore mortal) nature. Being human on this side of Eden and God's Eternal Habitations means that we must deal with the sorrow of our sins and the fear of our oldest enemy, death.

If that were the end of the Christian story, Lent would be, in theological terms, a "super bummer." But Lent points us towards Christ's comfort in our sins and his defeat of death through his cross and passion and by his resurrection from the dead. Lent, therefore, is only a bummer if Easter didn't happen. "But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep," St. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 15:20. Since Christ is alive, all the things we begin and end in him shall not result in futility, for "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose "(Romans 8:28)." Therefore, my friends, I might challenge us to consider the Lenten project, individually and as a community, as a seasonal experiment wherein we expect the Living God to work in us in small ways like avoiding the sweets so we can be healthier and in larger ways where we ask God to give us strength to amend our bad habits, banishing from us besetting sins that alienate us from one another and from God. For me, I am asking God for an increase of peace in my heart, so I am mindful of Psalm 37:8: "Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil."

This coming Lent, I hope you will join me in that sort of prayer as we seek our continual transformation in the Living Christ. There are myriad ways for the faithful to observe a Holy Lent this year, and I hope you will take the call to participate seriously. I am especially excited about our visit from Dr. Garwood Anderson on March 22-23. He will be leading us in a quiet day, a short retreat, here at the parish and will give us insight into Jesus' teaching on prayer in the Gospel according to Luke. Please make plans to join us. I know his ministry with us will bear much fruit by God's grace. Whatever your plans for observing Lent, I look forward to seeing you throughout this holy season!

Your brother.

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER CARSON

I have a confession to make. I love penitential seasons. They recall the gentle, lavish love of our God. This Lent, I find myself meditating on some of the beautiful images from the traditional Confession in the Daily Office (BCP, pp. 41-42).

The Confession begins with a bidding that invites us to prepare our hearts and minds for worship by kneeling in silence, confessing our sins "with penitent and obedient hearts ... that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy." Our bodily posture mirrors the posture of our hearts as they ready themselves for absolution. We're praying with our bodies as much as with our lips. And we begin, "Almighty and most merciful Father, ..." Part of the greatness of our God is that omnipotence and mercy meet. As the Psalmist writes, in God "righteousness and peace have kissed each other" (Ps. 85:10).

Even our sins are described with pastoral gentleness. "We have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep." In the Confession, I'm not a vicious wolf but a tender sheep. I'm not in need of a list of seemingly arbitrary, arduous rules. Wayward sheep that I am, I need a shepherd who leads me in the ways that best suit my created nature, even when instinct—a sheepish fear, perhaps, or a herd mentality, so many "devices and desires of our own hearts"—might cause me to become lost in the wilderness. We wander off to our detriment, when the Good Shepherd only ever desires our flourishing.

And thus we contritely ask for God's mercy and restoration according to the promises declared to us in Christ, which includes God's help in living a "godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name." God's mercy is so extravagant as to go well beyond merely wiping the slate clean. It leads to amendment of life, that we may rejoin the flock of God's people in the lushest pastures.

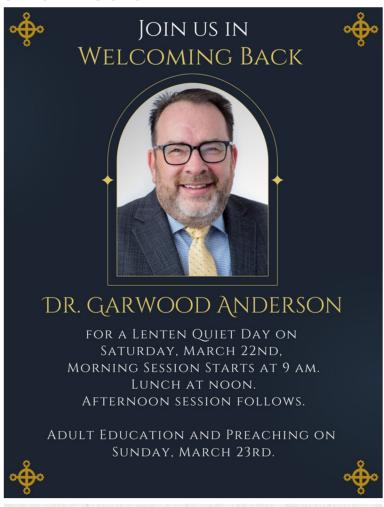
This clement beauty is echoed in our sacrament of The Reconciliation of a Penitent (often called "Confession"), one of Christ's greatest gifts to the Church, where "the priest gives such counsel and encouragement as are needed and pronounces absolution" (BCP, p. 446). The confessional in our English spiritual tradition is less about juridical exactitude than merciful pastoring and forgiveness of souls, which I have benefited from greatly as a penitent myself. I encourage you to consider making Reconciliation (or Confession) with a priest a part of your Lenten discipline this year. Your priests are happy to help you! And may we all hear the Lord's familiar voice this Lent steadily guiding us out of our wilderness wanderings back into a land of Edenic abundance.

MUSIC NEWS

Lent is a wonderful time for our music department. Some of the most moving and austere sacred music comes from this reflective season. Choral evensong will feature many of these beloved settings, including a special early Baroque styled evensong on March 30th. We are also offering a choral service for the Feast of the Annunciation on Tuesday, March 25. We are very excited for a special anthem on the morning of April 6th, when we will feature Dr. Michael Bedford's setting of "As the deer longs for the waterbrooks." This work was commissioned by Tulsa Symphony's Principal Oboist, Lise Glaser, who will join us as a guest artist for our presentation of this piece. I also finished a new setting of Ubi Caritas for Holy Week, and Hank composed a new Agnus Dei for our choristers. Our department is always very proud to have three active composers on staff. We also have a new intern in our choral program. Please warmly welcome Ms. Ella Fillmore. Ella is from Collinsville High School and is joining us in preparation for beginning a music degree at UCO in Edomund. Our department is thrilled to provide her with an opportunity to prepare for her studies as a professional musician by learning our church's rich musical tradition. Finally, one seasonal tradition we are restoring is congregational plainchant for singing the psalms corporately during worship. Gregorian psalm tones are an incredible devotional tool, and we encourage everyone to join the choir in our recitation as we all participate together in this Lenten season.

Dr. Zach Malavolti





LENT AT SAINT JOHN'S

Lenten Devotions

MONDAY-FRIDAY
MORNING PRAYER - 8:30 AM
EVENING PRAYER - 5:30 PM

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT
ROSARY PRAYERS - 12 PM
THE SACRAMENT OF
RECONCILIATION - 12:30 PM
THE HOLY EUCHARIST -5:30 PM
LENTEN SUPPERS
AND MEDITATIONS - 6:00 PM

THURSDAY EVENINGS
SCHOLA SUNG EVENING PRAYER - 5:30 PM

FRIDAY EVENINGS IN LENT
STATIONS OF THE CROSS - 5:30 PM

LENTEN QUIET DAY
WITH DR. GARWOOD ANDERSON
SATURDAY, MARCH 22 - 9:00 AM



LENT AT SAINT JOHN'S

Searching the Psalter: Wednesday Meditations

MARCH 12 - WHAT ARE THE PSALMS LED BY DR. BILL LYONS

MARCH 19 - FINDING WORSHIP IN THE
PSALMS
LED BY DR. ZACH MALAVOLTI

MARCH 26 - FINDING OURSELVES IN THE PSALMS

LED BY FR. CARSON WEBB

APRIL 2 - FINDING GOD IN THE PSALMS
LED BY FR. DAVID BUMSTED

APRIL 9 - FINDING SACRED SPACE IN THE
PSALMS
LED BY DN. THOM CROWE

The Evangelist



To the Congregation of Saint John's Episcopal Church,

Attached, you will find the 2024 financial statements and 2025 Annual Budget. I would like to thank all of those who have assisted me in presenting the financial statements including our chief of operations, Debbie Ainley, the finance committee members, Tom Schroedter, Debbie Luthey, George Dotson, John Brock, Marc McCaw, Father David, and our senior warden Susan Walker.

You will see that our 2024 pledges and contributions were under budget. Fortunately, our expenses were also under budget. Additional funds were used from the Unrestricted Ministry Support Fund for the shortfall.

The Finance Committee and Vestry have both unanimously approved a budget for 2025 that reflects actual pledges and projected contributions at almost \$1,495,241 with other revenue and funds from designated endowments of \$226,866 which together totals \$1,722,107. However, we still project a shortfall as our expenses are budgeted at \$1,928,319. We can utilize our Unrestricted Ministry Support Funds against the projected deficit to create a balanced budget. However, we are going to have a campaign titled "Fill the Gap" to help offset this deficit. We are hoping to raise an additional \$300,000 in pledges. This campaign will be presented to the congregation in the next few weeks. If we are successful, we can reduce the draw from our Ministry Support Fund.

We need your help! Please, if you have not pledged, please fill out the pledge card or contact me.



In 2025, we will continue developing our legacy programs. We have created and approved the Saint John's Legacy Endowment. We have almost \$200,000 already in our endowment. We currently have planned giving commitments that exceed \$4,000,000. My goal is to get our planned giving commitments to \$10,000,000. Late last summer, we had a special dinner and honored those who made commitments to our endowment. We plan on having another celebration this year to hopefully recognize new commitments. You will hear more about this during the upcoming year.

I am pleased to report that Saint John's remains on sound financial footing, which has allowed us to retain our staff and keep Saint John's operating and offering its ministries during this period.

As I have expressed in the past, our biggest challenge is to continue to seek pledge revenue from multiple members rather than always counting on our small, loyal group of highly dedicated parishioners. We must continue to educate new members as well as long standing members to help everyone understand how important it is to make a pledge to St John's rather than to just contribute. We cannot continue to grow the Church without understanding what our upcoming revenue looks like.

Our accountants, Briscoe, Burke & Grigsby LLP, performed a full audit of the Church last year and will do so again this year. I have included the audit report and balance sheet from this report. Their previous year's audit is available for review.

As in previous years, I will be available to meet in person following the Annual Meeting to discuss any details.

William C. Chevaillier, Tr., Treasurer

THE DAUGHTS OF THE KING

The Daughters of the King met on February 6.

- * Fr. Carson joined us and led a discussion on the Book of Common Prayer as part of our unit on Anglican Prayer Beads.
- * DOK authorized that \$100.00 be sent to the Ronald McDonald House.
- *The Order signed up for the Hospitality Ministry for the following Sundays: July 2, October 5, and January 4.
- *The Order decided that we will prepare a Lenten Soup offering on March 12.
- *The Daughters prepared Birthday Cards for March Birthdays on February 11,

On Sunday, February 16, two new members were admitted to Daughters of the King: Pam Diaz and Gail Dodson. We celebrated this occasion with a lovely cake from Merritts Bakery. The Oklahoma President of Daughters of the King. Vicky Reynolds joined us for this service. DOK has grown from three members in 2021 to today's fourteen members!

The Oklahoma Spring Assembly is scheduled for April 26 at St. Mary's, Edmound.

As a personal note, the chair would like to recognize the efforts of Janice Ingle who led the Order and completed the training sessions required for our recent new admissions during my three-month health leave of absence. Also, many thanks to Fr. Carson for developing a theological course for our study of Anglican Prayer Beads.







OUTREACH

Thank you so much for everything you contribute to make our Outreach efforts a success!

After a bitterly cold February. March has finally arrived—hopefully bringing some warmer weather! With the new month comes a renewed drive to support our local schools, particularly Edison Middle and High School. After speaking with the school counselors, here are the most pressing needs:

- Juice boxes, fruit cups, and pouches Many students have Type 1 diabetes, and fluctuating adolescent hormones can make blood sugar management challenging.
- Shelf-stable milk or powdered milk A frequent request from students
- Ladies' underwear Needed in all sizes.
- Hoodies
- Socks
- Popcorn kernels & cooking oil (in bulk) The counselor prepares around 50 bags of popcorn each morning to distribute as snacks throughout the school.

Your generosity makes a real difference in our Outreach efforts. Thank you for your continued support! \mathcal{T}

Tanice Ingle



CHILDREN. YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

Discovery Lab Day - On Saturday, March 29th, we are planning to have a Family Day Out at the Discovery Lab. If you want to be a part of this, please reach out to Joshua Corsaro for some free tickets.

Youth Trip - From July 6 to July 11, we are planning a youth trip to Dallas! While we are in Dallas, we will serve the homeless. We hope to partner with the Church of the Incarnation, which has terrific relationships with many different service centers throughout the city. This trip is for children entering 6th through 12th grade. If you wish to volunteer or sign up your child for the trip, please contact Joshua Corsaro. We are excited to be able to serve!

Choristers meet in the choir room on Wednesdays from 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm. This is for children in 2nd grade through 12th, who will prepare songs for the 9 am service on Easter. If you were not a part of this group last semester, you are more than welcome to sign up! We will be meeting on March 12 and 26. Please reach out to Zach or Hank for more information.



Youth Group and Kids' Night meets on Wednesdays from 6 to 7:30 pm. We will have dinner, Bible study, and games/activities. Our Youth Group will start studying the Ruth, while our Kids' Night will start reading about Creation. We will not meet on March 19.

Sunday Formation follows the 10 am service and goes through noon. This month we are looking at The Ten Commandments. Feel free to let your children grab a snack from the Common Room as they make their way to the basement!

Calling all Acolytes! If you or your child are considering being an acolyte, please feel free to join! Children can become acolytes as early as 8 years old. If you have any questions please reach out to David Stibbs at dstibbs@sjtulsa.org.

Join us for Nursery Care every Sunday! Our wonderful nursery team can't wait to welcome your little ones, ages 0 to 4, starting at 9 am.

Children's Chapel is for PreK through 5th graders and meets on Sundays at 10 am. Join the fun - we can't wait to see you there!

ADULT FORMATION & ACTIVITIES

Wednesday Evening Potluck: One of the things we love to provide for our Wednesday evening programs is dinner. This is something we wish to continue throughout the year, and we are asking for your help. Plan for about 10-15 mouths to feed. Thank you for helping us provide the best experience for our families at Saint John's Episcopal Church, and we look forward to continuing in excellence for these programs and more. If you are interested in helping provide for this, please reach out to Josh.

Wednesday Night -Wednesdays at Saint John's start with the Holy Eucharist at 5:30 pm. This brief yet uplifting service might be just what you need to get through the middle of the week! We encourage you to stay for Fr. David's Bible Study, where we will continue our deep dive into the book of Exodus. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday night!

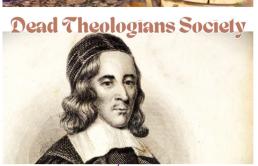
Iron Gate - Our volunteer team gathers at Iron Gate at 8 am and serves until 10:30 am. Iron Gate is a feeding ministry located in downtown Tulsa. Iron Gate aims to provide assistance to our neighbors who are experiencing food and housing insecurity. We would love you to join us on the first Saturday of April. If you're interested in being a part of our team, please send an email to jcorsaro@sjtulsa.org.

Dead Theologians Society - The Dead Theologians Society (DTS) meets on Wednesday mornings or Thursday evenings. Currently, we are learning about the life of George Herbert. Follow our E-News to find out which day we will be meeting, and contact Dr. Zach if you have any questions.

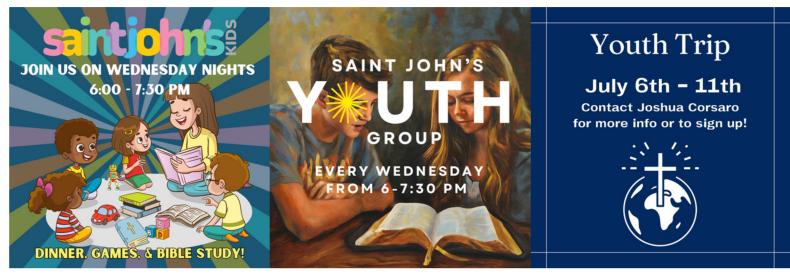
The Rector's Forum - Dr. Lyons will continue classes on the Old Testament at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings in the Common Room. These classes will be going through the Prophetic Books. If you wish to join, show up on a Sunday morning!

Young Adult Events - We are working on rescheduling our our Young Adult Event last month. Details coming soon!





Josh Corsaro



ST. BARBARA'S GUILD

St. 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 Episcopal Church.

Meetings are the third Thursday of the month at 11:00 AM in the Common Room. Bring a sack lunch and your Bible. Beverages of water and coffee are provided.

Want to learn more about St. Barbara's Guild? Contact Kathleen Moss at 918-633-8881 by phone or text. Join us! Kathleen Moss

Join us on March 20th at 11:00 am for Bible Study! Bring a sack lunch, and we will have fellowship followed by our Pew Partners Service Project.

LEM

We are seeking volunteers to serve as LEM-Lay Eucharistic Ministers at our church. This vital role includes reading lessons, sharing the cup during Communion, and assisting at the altar.

If you're interested in serving, please contact Diana Carter in the office or Lynn Kimmel at 862-202-9874 or Lynnkimmel71@gmail.com. Thank you for being part of our Saint John's family - we look forward to hearing from you and sharing in this special ministry together!

FISH FRY FRIDAY



BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

Golf Classic

The sponsorship forms and team registration forms for the Brotherhood of St. Andrew's Charity Golf Classic are available in the hallway near the flower room. Alternatively, you can scan the QR code to download the forms.

The golf classic will take place at Battle Creek Golf Club in Broken Arrow on June 7th, 2025.





PRAYERS & SQUARES

The Prayers & Squares quilt ministry has moved to the Multipurpose Room in the newly remodeled church basement. We are excited about our new space and would like to share a new offering with you: the "Prayer Square." This is a quilted square, approximately 8 to 12 inches, designed for situations where a larger prayer quilt may not be suitable or where the need is urgent. Just like our larger quilts, knots, and prayers are made on Prayer Squares. Fr. David, Fr. Carson, and Deacon Thom each have a supply of Prayer Squares that they would be happy to bless and provide to anyone in need.

Please feel free to request a prayer quilt for someone you know who is facing medical issues.

To fulfill a prayer quilt request, we ask that three commandments be followed:

- 1. It's not about the quilts; it's all about the prayers.
- 2. The recipient must agree to receive their quilt along with the prayers that accompany it.
- 3. We do not accept any payment for quilts. Quilts cannot be purchased; however, our ministry is always grateful for donations of cotton fabric, worsted-weight yarn, or financial contributions.

To request a quilt, please email Landrum.peggy@yahoo.com or contact any member of the P&S team: Judy Cairl, Pam Diaz, Gail Dotson, Beverly Edwards, Pat Elsberry, Karen Hampton, Cathy Hoopert, Abby Kurin, Peggy Landrum, Cheryl Melton, or Jessica Stowell. Be sure to provide enough detail to help us select an appropriate quilt for the recipient, as well as the information needed to include in the Sunday bulletin.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 19th, at 1:30 PM. We would love for you to join us!



HOSPITALITY NEWS

Our Hospitality Team Vision - To provide a space of fellowship and delicious food that nourishes the body and spirit through Christian love and generosity.

Please join me in saying "thank you" to our Hospitality Team Leaders -Nick Bradford, Janice Ingle, Jim and Nancy Hicks and their dedicated volunteers, including my own team's volunteers. We share a common purpose and joy in building community through a shared meal, coffee and conversation.

Hospitality also thanks Daughters of the King, the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, St. Barbara's Guild, the Altar Guild, the grill team Trolls and our own Waffle Chefs Bill and Janice Chevaillier and Tom and Peggy Schroedter. They each volunteer to provide, serve and clean up after Sunday Hospitality meals throughout the year. St. John's staff also keeps the wheels turning for us.

Hospitality is comprised of and supported by volunteers. Please prayerfully consider sharing your time, talent, recipes and donations of basic ingredients for meals. There is room for everyone who is interested joining us to the extent you can. The number of parishioners and guests being served is growing and we are excited to see that! Text 918-812-3169 or speak with one of the Team Leaders to get started.

Gail Dodson



THE DAILY OFFICE

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US EVERY WEEKDAY
AT 8:30 AM AND 5:30 PM AS WE PRAY.

Milestones

March Birthdays

- 1 Katherine Christian Arlo DeKraai Scampy Rainey Brock Taylor
- 2 Kalleb Boston Randy Spencer
- 4 John Abney Grace Coen
- 5 Adam Adwon
 Joshua Cornell
 Jenny Earle
 Lorraine Kaefer
 Susanne Methven
 Raphael Skelton
- 6 Dora Barber
- 7 Mark Payton Baxter Schooley
- 8 William Gorbet Catherine Hoopert
- 9 Jody McIntyre Kristin Randall
- 10 Ira Phillips
- 11 Barbara Lawson
- 12 Karen Dodson
- 13 Sheri Colpitt
 Deborah Tommey
- 14 Janice Cline Luke Gambill
- 15 Susie Fisher Trish Lyons
- 18 Andrew Abercrombie

 John Shivel
- 19 Katherine Johnson
- 20 Carolyn Ferguson Charlotte Gibbens Jillian Moore
- 21 Barrett Waller
- 23 Finley Randall
- 24 Jim Halpin
 Diane Morrow
 Les Veltman
- 25 John Staedke
- 26 Katherine Barlow Michaela Blanton Sidney Lawler
- 27 Paul McDowell
 Nancy Morrison
- 28 Katie Coon
- 29 Stacey Clark Nancy Hicks Imona Omole
- 31 Laura Gubser



BSA TROOP 153 NEWS

We want to start off with a huge, thank you to our St. John's family for once again, showing up and giving full support at the annual chili cookoff! We had a great time of food, fellowship, and fun! We also celebrated national Scout Sunday this past month and were honored to present a flag ceremony that morning at St. John's

Troop 153 Arrowmen were honored at the recent Order of the Arrow banquet. Seth Holmes and Scoutmaster Davis both received the Golden Arrow Award for service to the lodge, and Jaxon Davis received the prestigious Founder's Award for outstanding service at the Council level. Congratulations to these Arrowmen!

Advancement and merit badges are always a focus for our troop. Following the fire station visit last month many of our scouts had the opportunity to complete the fire safety merit badge at a recent meeting. We are looking forward to recognizing all these accomplishments and many more at our upcoming court of honor.

In closing, we are thrilled to announce two new Troop 153 Eagle Scouts, John Robert Waldo and Owen Claxton! Congratulations gentlemen!

Carelyn Davis











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