The Evangelist

OCTOBER 2026

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SAINT JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

GREETINGS, BELOVED!



The Rev. David Bumsted, Rector

I think it's safe to say our fall ministry is off to a great start! We kicked off the season with a redesigned Rally Day experience, with plenty of food and fellowship to encourage strong connections in the parish. I'm also very proud of our many ministries that created hands-on examples for anyone who might be interested in joining. If you left that day wondering if you have a place to serve, I can say emphatically: your growing parish would be more than blessed by your godly service!

As great as Rally Day was, I think I was most excited by our 75th Anniversary Celebration back at the beginning of this month. It was an incredible event, and I'm so proud of the many hands that joined in putting the evening together. From the incredibly moving music, to the Kids and Families showing up to support Emily Foon, the acolytes, and the choristers, to the evening's celebration outside as envisioned by Amanda Storms, I think it was among the most memorable evenings in my decade-plus of ordained ministry. In my address that evening, I wanted to remind the gathered faithful about the Lord's steadfastness in his care for our parish, that the Lord has indeed been faithful to our parish since its founding. I challenged the congregation to imagine what Saint John's could look like when our smallest acolyte or chorister is the senior or junior warden here. Further, I want Saint John's to imagine what this place might look like for a successor of mine many years down the line, with a healthy and spiritually alive congregation filling up a building that is totally fit for God's purposes and intention for us. If I'm Saint John's seventh rector, imagine what this place might be like for rector number twelve! Of course I pray that is many, many years from now.

But in order for ministry to stay strong, we do have things to address in the short term. Over the next couple of years, we will have to raise the resources to replace the roof. Sadly, the wear and weather have caught up even to our strong building. We certainly want those coming after us to have dry heads when worship and rain coincide! Thankfully, there are other projects that will help our growth in the near term. For example, Kay and Tom Owens have generously gifted the parish a patio extension so that we will have usable patio space from the exterior wall of the patio all the way out to the railing. As you know, Sunday fellowship can be pretty crowded! This will help to give us more places to enjoy one another's company on Sundays and throughout the year.

In looking towards the coming weeks, I am very much looking forward to a visit by Fr. Russ Levenson. Several years ago, you might remember that I referenced a sermon he offered at a conference, and many of you might also remember him as the former rector of St. Martin's in Houston, the largest Episcopal Church. Fr. Russ will be here for some time with leadership, a night of fun and fellowship, a morning of spiritual encouragement, and will cap off his time with us with a Sunday morning launch of this year's stewardship campaign. Please make some time to be with us over that weekend! I know you will be edified by the time. And if you haven't heard me say it to you yet, Happy 75th to you!

Your Brother,

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

Planned Giving Meeting

Discover how thoughtful planning can create a lasting legacy of faith and generosity. All church members are warmly invited to an upcoming informational meeting about planned giving. We will discuss meaningful ways to support the church's mission and ministries through wills, trusts, beneficiary designations, and other legacy gifts.

The meeting will provide practical information, answer common questions, and explain how planned gifts can strengthen the church for future generations. This is an educational gathering only, and there is no obligation to make a commitment. We hope you will join us.

For questions or to RSVP, please contact Amanda Storms at astorms@sjtulsa.org.

12:00 pm on Sunday, November 1st, 2026
In Fox Library

Bill Chevaillier

MUSIC NEWS

With much gratitude in our hearts, thank you for joining our joyful 75th Celebration and Matriculation Evensong. The special guest musicians, all choirs, and our much larger chorister ensemble made for a festive, musical service. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

October marks the return of our Music at Midday series, with noon-time concerts resuming on Wednesdays in the middle of the month. Looking ahead, be sure to ***save the date for our Choral Requiem service on the evening of November 1st***, where we will feature the gorgeous service music of Romantic German composer Josef Rheinberger. Finally, be sure to acquire your tickets for our beloved performances of ***Handel's Messiah on December 4th at 7 pm and December 5th at 3 pm!*** We look forward to seeing you at all our wonderful musical offerings!



Our upcoming Music at Midday dates are October 21st, October 28th, and November 4th.

Lunch Selection: Pasta with Meat Sauce OR Vegetable Pasta with Lemon-Garlic Butter Sauce. All lunches include Caesar salad and a dessert from Oliveto. No substitutions are available. Saint John's will provide coffee, tea, and water.

The cost is $10 per person, and RSVPs are due by Monday evening before the concert. RSVP to Amanda at astorms@sjtulsa.org.

Dr. Zach Malavolti



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 held on the third Thursday of the month at 11:00 am in the Multi-Purpose Room, Basement Level (also known as the Prayers & Squares Room). Bring a sack lunch. Beverages of water and coffee are provided.

Our **October meeting is on Thursday, October 15th at 11:00 am.** We will continue our study of the Book of John with Father David. **Please remember to bring your Bible.**

Want to learn more about St. Barbara's Guild Bible Study and Service Projects?
Contact: Kathleen Moss – 918-633-8881 by phone or text. **Join us!** Kathleen Moss

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Daughters of the King met in the library on October 1st at 9:30 am to exchange prayer requests and conduct business. At 10:00 am, Mother Susanne Methven met with the daughters at the courtyard labyrinth to teach and demonstrate how to use a Labyrinth for meditation and prayer.

Join us during our November 5th meeting; Father David will teach about intercessory prayer. Meetings are always open to anyone interested in the meeting topic. **If you are interested in being part of Daughters of the King and joining our journey of spiritual growth, please know you are welcome.**

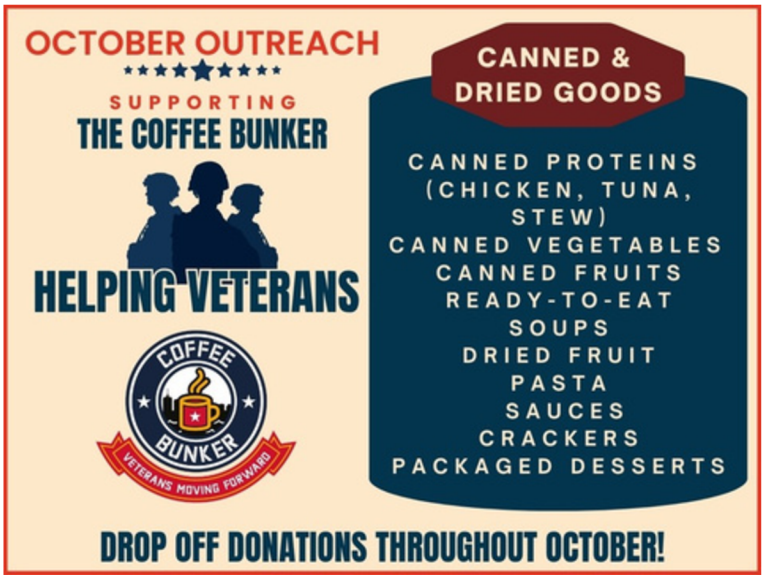
The Daughters of the King is a national organization, and prospective members complete a 12-week study before making a membership commitment. New members are always welcome. Pam Diaz, DOK President

OUTREACH

Thank you to everyone who supported our local schools in August and September. As always, they were so grateful for everyone's generosity!

October brings welcome cooler weather and an opportunity to support local veterans through Coffee Bunker. The organization helps veterans access benefits, employment, mental health and suicide prevention resources, peer support, and food assistance and pantry services.

This month, we're focusing on food assistance. Each month, veterans may receive two bags of groceries, and our goal is to supply the grocery bags with canned and dry goods, such as canned vegetables, soups, fruit, and meats; dried fruit; pastas; sauces; crackers; and desserts. Thanks so much; we can make this a great food drive for our veterans! Janice Ingle



PRAYERS & SQUARES - WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Our Prayers & Squares ministry is sharing the love of God one quilt at a time, but we need your help! We're receiving prayer quilt requests faster than we can fulfill them, and there's a place for everyone who wants to be part of this beautiful ministry.

Help us choose fabrics for requested quilts, cut quilting squares, or attach prayer ties. Love to sew, or want to learn? We would love to have you! And no, you don't have to be a seamstress, or even know how to sew, to make a difference!

Every quilt reminds us of God's love, expresses prayer, and comforts someone who needs it. Come lend a hand and help us share that love with even more people! If you or someone you know needs a prayer quilt, reach out to any member of Prayers & Squares or email landrum.peggy@yahoo.com. Peggy Landrum

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

Wednesday Night Youth Group: Join us for 5:30 Choristers, 6:00 Dinner, and 6:30 Lessons and Fun. This semester we are diving into the Bible and Art. We are rolling up our sleeves to create beautiful, functional pieces for use by the youngest children in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. We'll study a corresponding Bible passage and make 3D sheepfolds, topographical maps, photobooks, and much more!

Pumpkin Carving is Wednesday, October 28th. Forget making a mess at home: BYO Pumpkin and carve your jack-o'-lantern alongside parish friends.



We need volunteers - it's all hands on deck! We're looking for help welcoming the kids, leading crafts, running experiments, preparing snacks, teaching, decorating the parish, and more. There's a place for everyone. Please reach out to me as soon as you can if you're willing to help; we need as many people as possible to make this a great week for our children and visiting families.

Acolyte - Join the team! We're inviting all kids ages 8 and up to serve during worship. Being an acolyte is a special way to grow in faith and leadership. To sign up, reach out to Fr. Thom!

Wednesday Evening Potluck - If you're able to provide or donate a meal for 10–15 people, we would be so grateful. Your generosity helps create a welcoming space where our youth can gather, connect, and be nourished in more ways than one. Questions? Reach out to Fr. Thom.

Monthly Supper and Service Projects - Stay tuned for monthly Supper and Service projects.

ADULT FORMATION & ACTIVITIES

The Rector's Forum Sundays at 9 am in Powell Hall – Fall Study Series with the Book of Isaiah. We will spend the entire fall reading and discussing the prophet with Dr. Lyons. This book is quoted more times in the New Testament than any other prophet, and it is well worth the time we will invest in study. Don't miss this!

Iron Gate – On Saturday, November 7th, at 8:15 am, our Saint John's volunteers will head to Iron Gate with The Brotherhood to serve breakfast to our neighbors with dignity and kindness. Your presence can make a meaningful difference, sometimes more than we ever realize. If you feel called to serve, please reach out to Bob Baker at 918-688-7777 to sign up.

Dead Theologians Society – Join us on **Thursday evenings at White Lion Pub at 6:30 pm**. We're studying St. Cyril of Jerusalem's *Mystagogy*. No theology degree needed; come to read and discuss the ancient wisdom of the Church and how it applies to our lives today. Next meeting dates are November 5th and November 19th.

HOSPITALITY NEWS

Passionate about community? Enjoy delicious snacks? Become a part of our Hospitality Team! It's simple, enjoyable, and a fantastic way to build connections. We rotate Sundays, focusing on teamwork, creativity, and making everyone feel at home. No prior experience required, just bring your enthusiasm! To sign up today and make a difference, reach out to Amanda Storms at astorms@sjtulsa.org.

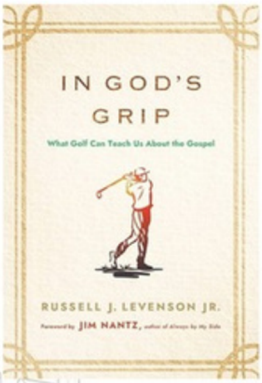
Reminder: No nuts at Hospitality Hour! *Amanda Storms*



AS EACH HAS RECEIVED A GIFT, USE IT TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER, AS GOOD STEWARDS OF GOD'S VARIED GRACE. ~ 1 PETER 4:10

JOIN US IN WELCOMING





THE REV. DR. RUSS LEVENSON
FROM OCTOBER 23-25

Fr. Russ is the former rector of St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Houston, the largest parish in the Episcopal Church. He is a noted speaker and author. As we celebrate our 75th Anniversary, he will join us for a weekend to help us pursue God's call on our parish for the next season of ministry.

Please RSVP for Friday and Saturday.
Fr. Russ' books will be available throughout the weekend.

Friday, October 23 at 6:00 pm

AN EVENING WITH FR. RUSS LEVENSON:

Following a light dinner, Fr. Russ will discuss his recent book:
In God's Grip: What Golf Can Teach Us About the Gospel

Saturday, October 24 at 9:00 am

A LEGACY RETREAT

Fr. Russ and the clergy of Saint John's will lead us through a morning of seeking after God's will, wisdom, and strength for the great ministry ahead of us.

Sunday, October 25, starting at 8:00 am

FR. RUSS TO PREACH AND TEACH

As we look to our fall stewardship, Fr. Russ will encourage us to consider our giving as a part of our spiritual life. He will also give a talk he's entitled "Witness to Belief?"

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH est. 1951

RALLY DAY PHOTOS



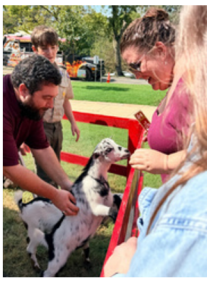






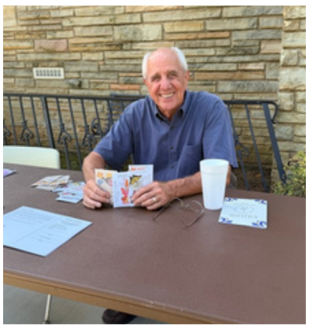













75TH CELEBRATION PHOTOS














Milestones

October Birthdays

1 1 Steve Anderson
Serenity McCaw
B. J. Pohl
2 Greg Gray
Karen Hampton
Minerva Mancini
Christy Pugh
3 Daniel Cottrell
Karen Griffin
Leslie Lake
Catherine McDowell
4 Paige Colpitt
Rosie Halpin
6 Heather Pohl
Joan Scheurich
7 Peggy Davis
8 Andrea Brown
Rosemary Ross
Janie Callahan Wilkins
9 Lise Dean
Tracey Eichenberger
Mary Shivel
10 Edith Coen
Diane Bell
Jill Farquharson
Rob Rainey
11 Aspen Westbrook
Larry Young
12 Terry Lyon
13 Ellen Brausa
15 Mary Husband
Allison Latham
Lauren Weber
16 Claudia Powers
Tom Schooley
17 Jim Dean
18 George Nowotny
19 Dana Weber
20 Todd Bilbrey
Gloria Sicking
21 Emily Murphy
Lottie Smith
23 Lisa Marshall
Jack Troutt
24 Anita Gravender
25 Bobby Byers
Maddie Murphy
26 Jay Burkhardt
Linda Lawson
Maurine Miller
29 Mark Byers
Hannah Ed
Stan Hicks
Lexi Lake
30 George Coen

Births

Leonora Skelton
Parents: Felicity & Skelton





































GARDEN & GROUNDS

Our fall beautification day on Saturday, October 17, from 9:00 am to Noon! Bring gloves and small gardening tools! See you there!



SCOUTING NEWS

Troop 153 Scouts are being inducted into the national brotherhood of cheerful service, known as the Order of the Arrow.



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