The Evangelist

NOVEMBER 2026

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SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

GREETINGS, BELOVED!



The Rev. David Bumsted, Rector

By the time you receive this newsletter, I hope you've begun prayerfully discerning your annual giving to Saint John's. Many of you enjoyed Fr. Russ Levenson's visit at the end of October, as he encouraged us to consider our generosity as offering our "first fruits" rather than leftovers. That message resonated deeply with me, not only in terms of my own financial resources, but with the quality of my labor. I wouldn't say that I'm the type of person who likes to "coast" in my work in the vineyard, but Fr. Russ' message certainly encouraged me to keep both hands on the plow!

I wanted to hear from a voice like Fr. Russ who is a tested leader with a long ministry as we celebrate our 75th anniversary. He was amazed by his visit among us, at the beauty of our worship, the depth of our fellowship, and the legacy of faithfulness he could see in action. So many of us get so locked into the blessed rhythms and busyness of our life together, that having an outside perspective helps us more deeply appreciate the many gifts God has bestowed upon us. For 75 years, God has been so good to us at this great parish, I can't help but laud his works and meditate on them.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, my own meditation has brought me back to the text of Exodus, especially Exodus 31:12-18, when the Lord commanded the observance of the Sabbath as a perpetual celebration and a lasting aspect and mark of the Covenant. Ever since, Sabbath keeping has been a part of Jewish and Christian practice. Many people are surprised to learn that the idea of a "weekend" is a relatively modern innovation, partially inspired by the idea of Sabbath. Ancient peoples were suspicious of Sabbath keeping, as taking a day off from work to rest meant a risk to the health and flourishing of a household. But as it turns out, that risk is part of the wisdom of the Sabbath. Keeping the Sabbath was never just about hanging out in your jam jams on a Saturday, eschewing work and resting up for the week ahead. Rather, Sabbath was about resting in God's presence and purpose. Sabbath was about making space for worship. Perhaps most importantly, Sabbath was about making a sacrifice of a day's worth of productivity to fully rely on God's provision, healing, and restoration of all things.

As Christians, we believe that Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath. We believe that he is our rest, that in his body the purpose of the sabbath is fulfilled. His mighty salvation for us allows for us to rest in him, and therefore, to learn to trust that he will provide for us. Parish stewardship often feels like the opposite, especially when we priests are found preaching and writing about how the faithful should give so we can keep the lights on. But I think the Scripture suggests something a little different, perhaps even stewardship as Sabbath, where our giving of our first fruits is a spiritual reminder of God's faithfulness among us. Thus the offering plate that comes by on a Sunday is a way to remember Jesus as our rest, the fulfillment of the Sabbath, and Savior of our souls. Thus a pledge is a way to rest in God's purposes with our annual finances. Thus the Lord's gracious generosity is magnified in the generosity of his people.

As I close, thank you for the honor it is to preside over our 75th year as your seventh rector. May we ever be found telling each generation to laud the Lord's works to another and declaring his mighty acts.

Your Brother,



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

One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.
Psalm 145:4

Saint John's Pledge 2027

I/We pledge to extend our support to Saint John's Church in 2027 with the following commitment:

Total Annual Pledge of $_____
Required

☐ **Renewing my 2026 Pledge, plus 5% more**

☐ **Renewing my 2026 Pledge, plus 10% more**

☐ **Renewing my 2026 Pledge, plus ___% more**

_____
Full name(s) of pledger(s) - Required

_____
Address - Required

_____
City/State/Zip

_____
Daytime Phone Number - Required

_____
Email

PLEASE SELECT ONE

☐ I/We will donate through the church's website at sjtulsa.org.

☐ I/We will CONTINUE to give through the automatic bank account transfer (ACH).

☐ I/We would like to START giving through the automatic bank account transfer (ACH) via the church office. Please contact me to set this up.

☐ I/We would like to receive details about **Planned Giving** to Saint John's Church.

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

I am deeply grateful for the faith, generosity, and spirit that makes Saint John's such a vibrant community. Saint John's is much more than a building where we gather on Sundays. It is a community of people united in faith, hope, and love. Our parish is a place where individuals and families come together to worship God, support one another, celebrate life's blessings, and find comfort during difficult times. Each parishioner plays an important role in the life of our church. The friendships we build, the ministries we support, and the generosity we share help create a welcoming environment where faith can grow and lives can be transformed.

Together, we are not simply members of a congregation. We are a family of faith. By serving one another and reaching out to our community, we continue Christ's mission of love, compassion, and hope. Throughout the year, I witness countless examples of parishioners giving of themselves to support our mission and one another.

As we prepare for the coming year, I ask you to join me in considering your annual financial pledge to our church. Your commitment provides the resources needed to sustain our ministries, maintain our facilities, support outreach efforts, and continue serving all who seek a spiritual home here.

Thank you for being part of this parish family and for the many ways you contribute your time, talents, and treasures to strengthen our community. May God continue to bless our church and guide us as we grow together in faith.

Operating Revenue and Expense thru September Combined
Total income of $1,320,583 is <$172,715> under budget for the year to date. Total pledges of $869,720 are under budget for the year by <$90,579>. Contributions & Plate of $138,404 are <$45,346> under budget for the year. Miscellaneous Income of $312,459 is <$36,790> under budget. Expenses of $1,331,529 are $160,519 under budget for the year to date.

Bill Chevaillier

HOSPITALITY NEWS - PLEDGE SUNDAY

Waffle Sunday is back on November 15th! Bring your Pledge Cards, then join us after the 10:00 am service for one of Saint John's favorite traditions. Our own Chevaillier and Schroedter Team, better known as Bill and Tom, "the waffle guys," will be serving up their famous hot-off-the-griddle waffles with sausages on the side.

Amanda Storms



MUSIC NEWS

Our music department has a busy fall, with November especially full. Thank you for joining us for our Choral Requiem service on November 1st, where we offered Rheinberger's Requiem; it was a truly beautiful evening. Upcoming, we have two especially unique **Evensong services on November 15th and 22nd at 5:30 pm.** At the first service, we will feature early Baroque music by German composer Heinrich Schütz; at the second, we will feature living American composers for Christ the King Sunday. Also, save the date for our candlelight **Advent Lessons and Carols on December 13th at 5:30 pm.** Festive reception to follow.

Finally, be sure to acquire your tickets for **Handel's Messiah on December 4th and 5th.** This year, we are excited to collaborate with the Oklahoma Baroque Orchestra. For tickets, visit our website or scan the QR codes below. We hope to see you there!

Dr. Zach Malavolti



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

In October, our youth learned about many of the different styles of crosses found in our faith. They went on a cross hunt all over the building in groups, looking for both intentional crosses and "accidental" crosses, i.e. those found in nature or created unintentionally. Either way, reminders of Christ are all around us!

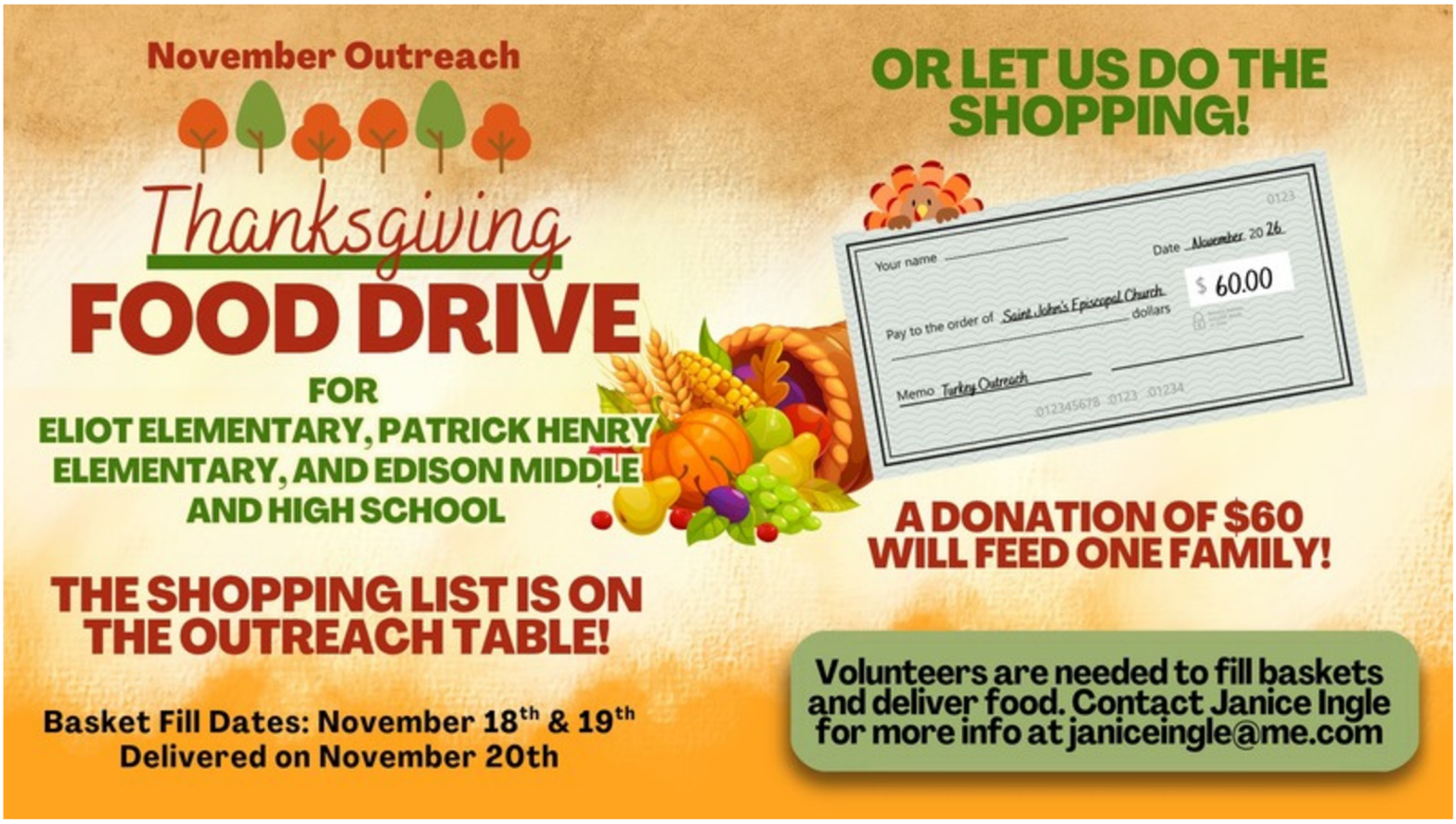
In Children's Chapel, we continue to work through the story of Exodus, learning about God's faithfulness even when things seem to be going very wrong. You might have encountered our little ones wandering on a long journey through the desert (hallway), whining and complaining the whole way. Luckily, they were able to hit a rock (a water fountain) with a staff and get a cool drink of water.

November is another busy month in Children's Ministry. Our youth will be making blessing bags for the homeless on November 18th. Please keep an eye out for them. All are welcome to take as many as you'd like to keep in your car and pass out to those in need.

Make an Advent Wreath on Sunday, November 29th at 9 am. It will be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about Advent and to create your own wreath to use during the month of December. Advent is the beginning of the Liturgical year. It is the four weeks before Christmas and a time of preparation as we wait for Christ's nativity. Lighting a new candle every week reminds us Christ is the Light of the World! This will be a fun activity for all ages. Everything you need will be provided.

Emily Foon





OUTREACH

A huge thank you to all who contributed to the success of our Coffee Bunker drive in October. Our Veterans appreciate the donations!

This November, our outreach efforts are dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of children at three local schools: Eliot Elementary, Patrick Henry Elementary, and Edison Middle and High School. The holidays are tough for families dealing with food insecurity, and we can help provide support.

To address this need, we are organizing a Thanksgiving food drive. Everyone is encouraged to participate by donating the following food items. Your contributions will help us put together holiday meal baskets, ensuring that children and their families can experience the warmth and spirit of Thanksgiving.

Please consider donating the following items (in the size indicated) that can be used to create Thanksgiving meals. Each basket will contain the quantity indicated.

2 Stuffing Mix, turkey, 2 pack (Stovetop)
1 Mashed potatoes, instant, family size, 8 oz pack (Idahoan)
1 Mac and Cheese, Kraft, family size box
2 Jiffy corn muffin mix, 8.5 oz box
2 Jiffy Pie crust mix, 9 oz box
2 Cranberry sauce, jellied, 14 oz can
2 Turkey gravy mix, 0.87 oz packet
2 Cream of mushroom soup, 10.5 oz
2 Whole kernel corn, 15.25 oz can
2 Green beans, cut, 14.5 oz can
1 French Fried Onions, 6 oz bag
1 Yam, cut sweet potatoes in syrup, 40 oz
1 Easy pumpkin pie mix, 30 oz
1 Apple pie filling, 21 oz can

OR, if you would like to help but prefer that we shop for you, a $60 check will cover one basket. Please make the check payable to Saint John's Episcopal Church and write "Outreach Thanksgiving Drive" on the memo line.

The deadline for donations is Wednesday, November 18. You are welcome to assist with assembling baskets on Thursday, November 19 beginning at 9:00 AM.

Janice Ingle

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. We provide water and coffee.

In October, we enjoyed a meaningful examination of the 23rd Psalm, led by our fellow members.

Our November meeting is on Thursday, November 19th 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*

BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

We've welcomed some new Brotherhood members over the past church year, especially Mark Zimmerman, Beau Selby, and Tim Hager, and we look forward to Saint Andrew's Day on November 30th and the new church Year B starting in December. The Tuesday BStA group will be heading up the Sunday Brunch on November 8th. *Bob Baker*



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, December 5th, 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. Join us at our next meeting on November 19th.





THANKSGIVING DAY WORSHIP

Please join us for our Thanksgiving Day Worship at 10 am on Thursday, November 26th, 2026. Celebrate God's abundance with us and stay for a delicious traditional Thanksgiving meal. We welcome friends and family to join us! We plan to have a 30-minute social time before the meal so we can set the food out after the service. That will give all a chance to visit, have a mimosa, and relax before eating.

If you'll be attending, please let Rob Hutton know by Monday, November 24, by text at (918)231-9860 or by email at roberthutton1955@gmail.com. We'll provide Thanksgiving staples, but please consider bringing any of the following: **hors d'oeuvres, veggies, yams, desserts, or your favorite Thanksgiving side. T**he sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

Please note that the Church Office will be closed on Nov. 26 and 27 so our team members can spend time with their loved ones. We look forward to seeing you there!



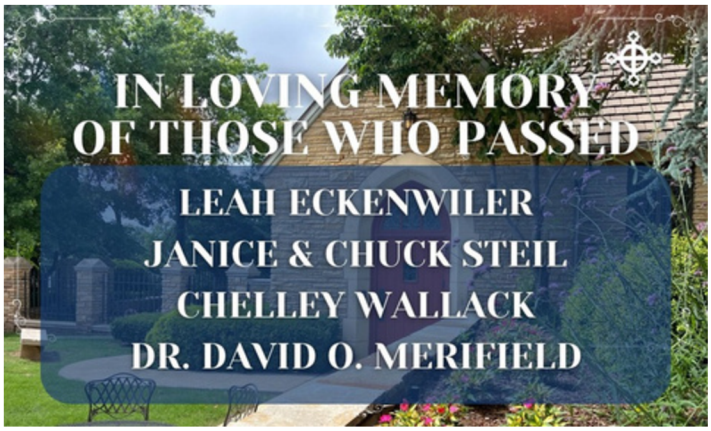
PHOTOS FROM FR. RUSS' VISIT























Milestones

October Birthdays

2 Steve Balman
John Quesnel
Beth Rainey
3 Phyllis Anderson
Marty Hutton
4 Bill Ivy
Grace Randolph
6 Sandra Kay Smith,
7 Gary Callahan
Charles Hocker
Olivia Westbrook
8 Rob Hutton
Jim Sicking
9 Earlene Gathright,
10 Aaron Pohl
Phyllis Powell
11 Sophia Gillett
Heather Turner
12 Marlowe Brown
Evan Dean
Colin Frazee,
13 Todd Frazee
Steve Taylor
Nadia Wheeler
14 Robbie Baker
15 Hudson Cox
16 Rick Ferguson
17 Harper Grave
18 Vaughn Graham
Annabel Jones
Jimmy Matheson
19 Charlene Ballard
Myles Coen
20 Lexey Cavert
Richard Hall
Henry Moss
21 Pat Mach
24 Lynn Kimmel
25 Emmett Bergquist
Jeffrey Marlow
Shelton Mason
Dianne O'Hara
27 Judy Hall
Sarah Johnson
Noelle Souter
28 Jim Cavert
29 Elizabeth Westbrook
30 Matt Christian

Marriages:

Zoe Malavolti-Nunley & Alex Nunley

Baptism:

Jack Warren Stuart

PHOTOS FROM FR. RUSS' VISIT

















SCOUTING NEWS

Our Scouts at the recent Pine Tree youth leadership course.





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Upcoming Closures

The Church Office is closed on:
Wednesday, November 11th
Thursday, November 26th
& Friday, November 27th

