



# This Month at Saint John's

News about Saint John's Episcopal Church

April 2013

## WITH TRULY THANKFUL HEARTS

By the Rev. Irv Cutter, *Rector*

Momentum is building for the campus improvement projects we'll be undertaking soon!

At January's Annual Parish Meeting, parishioner Ben Latham told us about four specific projects we'll be taking on:

- An addition to the Common Room that will house much-needed restrooms.
- Renovations to the Common Room, making it more attractive and usable.
- Transformation of the West Lawn into a landscaped courtyard that will feature a permanent labyrinth.
- Renovations to the Lower Level, updating the Youth Room, reconfiguring the Nursery, relocating our Prayers and Squares ministry, and creating a new meeting room / classroom.

Conceptual drawings for these projects are available in the Common Room, and they've certainly provoked some good conversation.

The theme for our campaign is "With Truly Thankful Hearts." This phrase comes from the Book of Common Prayer's General Thanksgiving (p. 101). This prayer reminds us that God is the source of all our blessings, and it calls us to be generous as give thanks for what we've received from God.

Our beautiful campus is certainly a blessing for which we can be thankful. Our buildings house a great variety of liturgies and ministries and classes. We

can give thanks for God's abundant blessings, as well as for the commitment of people who have gone before us, who offered so much so that we can enjoy what has been entrusted to us.

As we give thanks, I hope all of us will be excited about supporting these projects, all of which will enhance our campus and help us minister in the future.

Tony and Kelly Jezek are chairing the Fundraising Committee for our "Thankful Hearts" campaign. They're making plans for several forums in April, so that everyone will have a chance to learn more about these and other projects. You can look for an invitation soon to one of these forums. In the meantime, if you have questions, Ben Latham or the Jezeks or I would be very happy to talk to you. Other committee members include Tom Owens, John Duvall, Peggy Woods, and Tom Schooley, and they also would be happy to visit with you.

If all goes well, we can look forward to beginning construction at the start of summer. That's not very far away. Please keep the campaign in your prayers. I look forward to embracing with you this chance for us to make some important improvements to our beloved buildings and grounds.

IRV +

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## BELL LECTURER AT SAINT JOHN'S

### "Making the Reformation Visible: art in the Church of England after 1550".

Clare Haynes is this year's William H. and Rita Bell Lecturer in Anglican and Ecumenical Studies at the University of Tulsa. She delivered the annual Bell Lecture at TU in February. And she'll be offering another presentation at St. John's in April!

Dr. Haynes will speak on Sunday, April 14, at 9:00am in Powell Hall. Her presentation will fit in with the series that our own Dean Luthey has been teaching, although even if you haven't been attending Dean's class, you'll enjoy Dr. Haynes' presentation very much. The Reformation changed the relationship of art and religion in very significant ways. In this class, we'll explore how images were first destroyed and how, gradually, new forms of art were introduced. Against this background, we'll look at some modern English church interiors too, and consider the ways art is used in worship today.

Please join us on April 14 as we welcome Dr. Haynes to St. John's!

## OUTREACH NEWS

### April 21:

**Outreach Forum: New Hope.** Stay after the 10am service for a brunch and forum with New Hope's NEW Executive Director Lindsay Fry-Geier. New Hope provides a summer camp experience for almost 200 children of incarcerated parents from across the state every summer, as well as, an ongoing after-school programs in the Tulsa area.

The **Hunger Ministry Team** continues to volunteer at Iron Gate on the FIRST Saturday of every month, 8:15am-10:30am. **APRIL 6<sup>th</sup>** is the next one. Contact Fr. Tim for details, [tbaer@sjtulsa.org](mailto:tbaer@sjtulsa.org).

**April Item of the Month is: *Beans and Rice*.** Please continue to deposit items in the red shopping baskets in the Narthex and Bell Tower.

## YOUNG ADULT EVENTS IN APRIL

**Family Night April 13<sup>th</sup> – 5pm** – All families are invited to come out with the kids to Andy B's for bowling, dinner, and community. We have lanes reserved until 6:30 and folks are free to play other games and activities afterwards. *You must RSVP to Fr. Tim by April 7<sup>th</sup> to be sure we have enough lanes.*

**Everyone's A Theologian** – every Third Thursday of the month young adults in their 20s-40ish gather to E.A.T. We gather at a restaurant, eat, talk theology, and connect in a casual and fun environment. Stay tuned for details about April 18<sup>th</sup> and see Fr. Tim if you are interested.

## APRIL 27: AN INTRODUCTION TO PRAYERS AND SQUARES

Prayers and Squares is looking forward to welcoming helpers in the coming months! Please watch for our upcoming "Happening" to be held on April 27, 9am – noon. We will be teaching how to cut out quilt tops, pin quilts with batting and backing, sew bindings on quilts, etc. We are hoping to interest some new members who do not need to sew but could assist in selecting colors and laying out quilts as well as placing the ties on quilts. Please let us know of any interest in the upcoming "Happening". If you are in need of a quilt, requests are to be made to Betty Bilbrey at 918.491.9911. If you are interested in the happening, please contact Barbara Lawson at 918.583.7051 or Betty Bilbrey.

## MILESTONES

### April Birthdays

- 2 Laura Burgess, Janice Chevaillier, Margaret Deer, Luke Hydrick, Ben Latham, David Nierenberg, Lawson Prather, Sheryl Smith
- 3 Linda Butler, Rolla Pritner
- 4 Dena Nowotny
- 5 Paul Kane, Riley Lawson
- 6 Franklin Fisher, Sarah Hesterlee, Derek Johnston, Jim Niemeyer
- 7 Mindy Cox
- 8 Matthew Barlow
- 9 Donnie Brock, Lauren Landrum, James Turner
- 10 Don Bradshaw, John Eagleton, David Merifield
- 11 John Michael Cavert, Paul Compton, Matilda Webber
- 12 Kaitlyn Bates, Robert Dodson, Larry Miller, Don Niemeyer, Jane Romine, Judy Shook
- 13 Nancy Meinig
- 14 Elizabeth Brown, Pam Diaz, Pete Eichenberger, Pat Lovely, Cash Walker, Claire Walker, Bill Wheeler
- 15 John Davis, Frances Martin, Jenna Slattery, Tom Wilson
- 16 Vanessa Masucci, Dian Peacock
- 17 John Duvall, Allison Warning
- 18 Jean Medlock, Jill Norris
- 19 Carey Baker, Caren Lawrence, Rick Garren, Darcy Waller
- 20 Anne Cleveland, Will Farrior, Truman Prather, Jana Shilling, Glenn West
- 21 Ben Lawson

- 22 Chris Fields
- 23 Robert Baker, Christy Johnston, Ian Kargl, Chase Smith, Sarah Scott
- 24 Malcolm Deisenroth, Kay Garland, Dee Maguire, Sheppard Miers
- 25 Mary Mancini, Tom Owens, Ed Rigney
- 26 Sharon Bell, JoAnn Wyly
- 27 Virginia Monk
- 28 Lizzie Bender, Patsy Bowers, Elaine Burkhardt, Frank Cochran, Marian Hockett, Joe Morris
- 29 Charlie Fergus, David Lawson, Paula Smith, Kay Young
- 30 Caitlin Cavert, Evie Gassaway, Jim Hicks, Kathy Niemeyer, Gene Starr

### Transitions

#### Death:

Andy Robinson 3/24

#### Directory addition:

Jan and Brandon Jackson,  
Baron and Grant  
4717 South Victor (05)

## COMMUNION INSTRUCTION FOR CHILDREN

A Communion Enrichment Class will be offered for children ages 5 – 8 this spring. Parents may consider this series if they want their children to receive instruction before they begin to receive Holy Communion, or as a resource for children who already receive Holy Communion, to help them understand better what it means. After the class is completed, we'll recognize on a Sunday morning all the children who participated. If you're interested, please contact Diana Carter, Director of Children's Ministries, [dcarter@sjtulsa.org](mailto:dcarter@sjtulsa.org), and she will provide schedule information.

## BLESSING BAGS FOR THE HOMELESS

Let's create "blessing bags" for the homeless. We want to deliver the bags to people on the street. Here's what each bag will contain: water bottle, toothbrush, toothpaste, packet of tissues, hand sanitizer, bar of soap, bag of chips or pretzels, fruit cup, plastic spoon, wrapped peppermints or other hard candy or mints. Please bring small or travel sizes of the items and place them in the basket under the Youth banner in the Common Room. We will need about 100 of each item and 100 gallon-sized Ziploc storage bags. Once we collect the pieces, we will start assembling the bags. Everyone is welcome to get involved. Please contact Paula Rule for more information, [prule@sjtulsa.org](mailto:prule@sjtulsa.org). 918.808.5682.

## NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY AND IN THE DIOCESE

### APRIL 26-27: EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE AND BISHOP'S DAY

All women are invited to attend the 76th Annual Conference and Bishop's Day of the Episcopal Church Women, Diocese of Oklahoma—April 26-27, 2013 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 555 East Third St., Grove, Oklahoma. This year's theme is, "*Living Water—Living Word*".

The Keynote Speaker, The Reverend Susan Smith, is currently the Rector of St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Bexley, Ohio. Rev. Smith was a Colleague at Women's Spirituality in Kansas City, and she is member at North American Academy of Liturgy. She served as Ass't Prof of preaching and worship at Saint Paul School of Theology and is a participant in pre-tenure faculty group with Toni Craven at Wabash Center for Teaching in Theology and Religion.

For more information, contact Fran Rahn, 918.787.2204, or [franrahn@gmail.com](mailto:franrahn@gmail.com).

### APRIL 26-28: ALTERED: A WEEKEND FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Attention, young adults age 19-30! Come to St. Crispin's Conference Center, near Seminole, OK, for "Altered", a weekend of exploring your faith, personal growth, meeting other young adults, worshiping, singing, reconnecting with God, thinking about your life purpose, stepping back from your busy life, and especially relaxing! This retreat is run by and for young adults, led by Episcopal lay and clergy leaders from around the diocese. See Fr. Tim for details - [tbaer@sjtulsa.org](mailto:tbaer@sjtulsa.org).

### MAY 2-4: DIOCESAN MEN'S RETREAT

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew is sponsoring a retreat open to all men in the Diocese, May 2-4 at St. Crispin's Camp and Conference Center. This retreat has become a favorite annual tradition. This year's retreat leader is our own Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Edward Konieczny. To learn more, you can talk to any member of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, especially Dr. Bob Baker ([baker111@tulsacoxmail.com](mailto:baker111@tulsacoxmail.com)).

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## WEEKLY EMAILS

Are you getting weekly emails from St. John's and from the Diocese of Oklahoma? St. John's usually sends out an email on Thursday afternoons with updates and news about upcoming events, and the Diocese sends out a similar email on Friday mornings, reporting on events around Oklahoma.

It's easy to subscribe! To get weekly emails from St. John's, visit our website, <http://sjtulsa.org>, and at the bottom of the page, click on the "Join Our Mailing List" button.

To get weekly emails from the Diocese, visit <http://epiok.org> and click on the blue "Join Our Mailing List" button on the left.

## NOTES FROM THE FEBRUARY VESTRY RETREAT

At its February retreat, the Vestry took the following actions:

- A motion to approve the minutes from the Vestry meeting of January 14 was made, seconded, and carried.
- A motion to approve the minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting of January 20 was made, seconded, and carried.
- Modifications to rosters of various committees were approved.
- A motion to approve Sisemore Weisz & Associates to do a site survey for the Capital Improvement Project was made, seconded, and carried.
- A motion to authorize the rector to appoint an additional person to the Capital Campaign Committee was made, seconded, and carried.
- A motion to set parameters for the Campus Improvement Committee was made, seconded, and carried.

The Vestry discussed:

- A presentation on Congregational Lifecycles offered by the Rev. Irv Cutter.
- Various aspects of the upcoming Campus Improvement Plan and capital campaign.

## MONTHLY NUMBERS

The Vestry has committed to share some key numbers with the congregation every month:

### Financial Update

	<i>February Actual</i>	<i>YTD Actual</i>	<i>YTD Budget Variance</i>
<i>Operating Income</i>	\$ 76,455	\$ 189,773	(\$ 12,393)
<i>Operating Expense</i>	\$ 80,422	\$ 182,291	(\$ 36,629)

*Detailed financial reports that have been reviewed by the Finance Committee and the Vestry are available in the church office.*

### February Sunday Attendance

	Feb 3	Feb 10	Feb 17	Feb 24
<i>at all Sunday services</i>	230	273	261	265

## SABBATICAL FAQ

Last month's column on sabbaticals for the Rev. Irv Cutter and the Rev. Susanne Methven prompted many questions. Here are answers to some of them.

### **Q. How long will the sabbaticals last?**

A. Clergy normally accrue two weeks of sabbatical leave for every year of service. Susanne is planning a 12-week sabbatical beginning this August. Irv is planning a 14-week sabbatical leave beginning May 2014.

### **Q. How will the sabbaticals be funded?**

A. The clergy get a continuing education allowance every year. Each year, the yearly amount that was not used has been set aside for sabbatical purposes. So both Susanne and Irv have built up some initial funds for their sabbatical projects. There should be no other impact on the Operating Fund. Both Susanne and Irv plan to write grant requests to cover the costs of their sabbaticals.

### **Q. What are the plans for these sabbaticals?**

A. Both Irv and Susanne are still firming up their sabbatical plans. They are working independently to develop plans that will be refreshing and spiritually and intellectually nourishing for each of them. The sabbaticals may involve some travel, study, time for spiritual retreats, or simple quiet time. They'll keep the Vestry informed of their plans as the plans develop.

### **Q. How will the work get done while they're gone?**

A. Irv and Susanne anticipate covering for each other in various ways. So, for example, while Susanne is gone, Irv will take on some of her regular pastoral care ministries, and while Irv is gone, Susanne will take on some of the ongoing supervisory responsibilities and will work with the Wardens on Vestry-related matters.

Liturgical duties like preaching and officiating at services (including Sunday services, midweek services, funerals and weddings) are already shared among the various clergy, including the Curate and our Priest Associate, the Rev. John Rule. So there will be plenty of clergy coverage during Irv's and Susanne's sabbaticals. But these seasons might also be good opportunities to bring in some guest preachers.

If you have other questions, feel free to talk to either Irv or Susanne! Sabbaticals are supposed to be good for clergy *and* for their congregations. So both Irv and Susanne look forward to sharing their plans with St. John's in the months ahead, and they look forward to sharing the fruits of their sabbaticals with the congregation afterwards.

# The Episcopal Church AT ONEOK FIELD



THE  
*Episcopal*  
CHURCH



**April 26, 2013**



**GATES OPEN: 6:00 PM • FIRST PITCH: 7:05 PM**

**Please Sign Up  
and Enjoy a Night  
with Family and  
Friends at  
ONEOK Field**



**201 N. Elgin Ave  
Tulsa, OK 74120**



**TulsaDrillers.com**

Interested? Contact the Rev. Tim Baer, [tbaer@sjtulsa.org](mailto:tbaer@sjtulsa.org).



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*Solid Faith. Sincere Heart.*

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## CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR ALL AGES: SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:00AM

### *Children*

Elementary-age children continue to make use of the "Weaving God's Promises" curriculum, which teaches Bible stories and basic teachings of the Episcopal Church.

### *Youth*

On Sunday mornings we continue to read the Bible. We will be coming up with a condensed version of the books of the Bible in our own words. We will be studying the major players and events for each book. Please join us at 9:00am on Sunday mornings. Look for Paula on the Lower Level. Bring your Bible. Let's see what's inside. Parents or others interested in seeing what we're doing are welcome to join us.

### *Adults*

**Read the Bible in 2013.** The Rev. Irv Cutter continues journeying with parishioners in reading the entire Bible over the course of 2013.

We began in January with Genesis. April will cover First and Second Kings, First and Second Chronicles, and Ezra.

**The English Reformation.** From January through May, Dean Luthey's class, which meets in Powell Hall, covers the reign of Mary, including the burning of Archbishop Thomas Cranmer, author of the Book of Common Prayer; the reinstatement of Roman Catholicism in England; Elizabeth's re-establishment of the Protestant faith; James I and his Bible; the Stuart excesses; and the civil war of Oliver Cromwell and the Puritans.

**Inquirers' Class.** The Rev. Susanne Methven invites you to consider this class if you are experiencing a yearning for a deeper relationship with God and others at Saint John's. The class is based on The Book of Common Prayer. Seekers worship, discuss and learn new practices to help with their discipleship, as well as learn about our church and traditions. This class is also preparation for making an adult affirmation of faith when the bishop comes in June.

**April 14. A special offering at 9:00am**, a presentation by visiting scholar Dr. Clare Haynes! (see p. 2)