



EVANGEL

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - NORMAN

Holy Eucharist

SUNDAY

7:30 & 10:30 a.m.

5 p.m. – *parish hall*

TUESDAY

10 a.m. – *chapel*

WEDNESDAY

6:30 p.m. – *chapel*

Inside

Holy Week

Acolyte Festival

Baptism

Protecting
our children

Witness the resurrection

One of the requirements of apostleship in the earliest days of the Christian church was that you were a witness to the resurrection. Even in our own day, the bishops of our church, the inheritors of the apostolic tradition, are charged with being witness to the resurrection as a part of their ministry in the world. So what can that possibly mean today? More importantly, how can we who share in the ministry of our bishops also bear witness to the resurrection in our lives?

I have seen the way that life returns to the scared earth after a fire. I have greeted with joy the first blooms of spring and noted the tenacity of vines and grasses, even in the cracks of summer scorched pavement. I have witnessed the way our bodies fight infection and injury, and given thanks for the recovery of those who faced depression and addiction.

I know that in every place and time, people of faith and hope have resisted evil and oppression, even in the face of pain and death, not because they believed they personally would be spared, but because they trusted in the power of the resurrection to conquer all evil, even death in the end. I have hope that even now, in the halls of the state house and congress, men and women of faith are able to resist division and acrimony

and work together for the common good. I am convinced that even in the depth of the most hardened heart, there lies a soft seed of compassion, waiting for the chance to grow.

I have held the hands of the dying who have placed their whole trust in the grace and love of Christ, have known him to be present with them, and have with confidence turned loose of this life, bound for another. I have prayed with couples torn apart by hurt and unfaithfulness and watched as day by day the wounds have healed, trust is rekindled and hearts opened once more.

In various church communities I have witnessed the ministry of individuals who have taken seriously their baptismal vows and have become Christ for others, giving liberally their time and resources, their wisdom and compassion. I have seen the seeds of new life and hope sewn within loving communities where each is valued, respected, affirmed, guided, entrusted and strengthened to serve.

So, with my bishop, the whole St. John's community, my brother and sister clergy and the faithful throughout the world, I am bold to say, "I have seen the Lord. He is risen!"

✠ FR. DWIGHT

HOLY WEEK OBSERVANCES

THE LESSONS

Lectionary Year C

APRIL 4

Easter Day

Isaiah 65:17-25

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18

APRIL 11

2nd Sunday

after Easter

Acts 5:27-32

Psalms 118:14-29

Revelation 1:4-8

John 20:19-31

APRIL 18

3rd Sunday

after Easter

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)

Psalms 30

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

APRIL 25

4th Sunday

after Easter

Acts 9:36-43

Psalms 23

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

As we enter Holy Week, we are called to walk the path of the early Christians, to walk the path of Christ.

Noonday Prayer continues at 12:10 p.m. through Thursday of Holy Week, and the nave is open for your quiet devotion from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. each day.

As the weather warms, consider walking the Stations of the Cross around the church. Resources are also available at the east entry for walking and praying the stations of the cross, located outside, around the church.

TENEBRAE, 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 31
Patterned after ancient, monastic night services of Holy Week, we move into the darkness.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, 7 p.m., April 1
The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated and, in accordance with John's Gospel, foot washing will be offered. The altar will be stripped and elements carried to the chapel for the all-night vigil at the Altar of Repose.

Honor Sunday set for May 2

On May 2 we'll celebrate Honor Sunday, when we will recognize our youth, high school graduating seniors, acolytes and Sunday school teachers — all at the 10:30 a.m. service. Following the service, we'll continue the celebration with an all-church potluck lunch in the parish hall.

We want to be sure and identify all of our high school graduating seniors, to be recognized during service on May 2. We know there are some seniors out there that we have not heard from yet; let us know who you are by Easter Sunday.

Also, we would like each senior to provide a short write-up (don't think of it as another school essay) — sharing your story with your parish family. Follow the format that follows and e-mail to staff@episcopal-norman.org. These will be read during the service and shared with the parish.

GOOD FRIDAY, April 2

We commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus with the prayers and litany for the day.

Stations of the Cross, noon

The Great Litany, 1 p.m.

Prayers for our church family, 2 p.m.

Litany for Good Friday, 3 p.m.

HOLY SATURDAY: THE GREAT VIGIL
8:30 p.m., April 3

One of the most ancient customs of the church is observed on Holy Saturday, with solemn, sung liturgy and incense. The first celebration of Easter begins in darkness and includes services of light (kindling of new fire, lighting the Paschal candle); lessons; Christian Initiation (Holy Baptism); and the Eucharist. We keep the ancient Easter feast, experiencing the darkness and rising to new, joyous life in Christ.

EASTER SUNDAY, April 4

Services will be at 7:30, 9 and 11 a.m. Children are invited to share in the tradition of flowering the cross at the two later services.

We're looking for all our highschool graduating seniors — let us know who you are by Sunday, April 4

We would like you to include a little bit about your history and involvement at St. John's, school and community information, and your plans for the future. You'd could fill a book, right? But we'd like you to keep it to 200 words and have it in by April 15.

We also inviting our graduating seniors and to submit photos for a visual presentation during the potluck and encourage everyone to submit photos from youth events, acolytes and Sunday school classes. Electronic files are preferred and may be e-mailed to staff@episcopalnorman.org. Prints may also be provided to the church office. Send your photos by April 15.

Lector, chalice event at Cathedral

Saturday, April 17, St. Paul's Cathedral will be hosting a training session for Lectors (readers) and Eucharistic Ministers (chalice bearers) with Dr. Ted Blakley, author of *A Lector's Guide and Commentary to the Revised Common Lectionary*. He holds a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies from the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, and an M.Div. from Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California; he presently serves as Scholar in Residence for St. Mark's Press, Wichita. More detail on his background may be found at <http://www.blakleycreative.com/jtb/>

Focus of the training will be on the subtler enrichment of reading by gaining deeper understanding of the stories we tell each Sunday, their context, their often multi-layered message.

The exact time of the event has not been set, but it will be an all-day program, with both didactic and experiential components. There will be a registration fee of \$10, which will include a box lunch. Several people from St. John's have expressed interest in attending and carpooling there. If you would like to participate, e-mail staff@episcopalnorman.org or call 321-3020.

Annual egg hunt Easter morning

Our annual Easter egg hunt is set to take place Easter morning, between the 9 and 11 a.m. worship services. Little ones should bring a basket and meet in the parish hall at 10:15 a.m. for instructions. If you can help by bringing mini-muffins or fruit, contact Katie at 701-2876 or e-mail the church, staff@episcopalnorman.org. There will be refreshments and photo opportunities in the courtyard after the hunt ... with a furry, white visitor!

Acolyte Festival April 24

The diocesan acolyte festival is planned for 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, April 24, at St. Paul's Cathedral in Oklahoma City. This is a day for acolytes and acolyte masters from all over the diocese to gather at the cathedral for an opportunity to worship, learn and play.

There will be several learning tracks, including "Acolyte Aerobics" and "Cathedral Project Runway." For experienced acolytes age 15 and older, a senior peer leader

training will be offered. Mark the date on your calendar and watch for details about St. John's trip to the festival.

Altar of Repose

In keeping with ancient tradition, we will stay awake with Christ following the Maundy Thursday service, April 1, until noon on Good Friday, April 2. You are encouraged to sign up for an hour-long watch in the chapel, in prayer and meditation with others. Contact the church office for details.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 1 Carolyn Folmsbee, Amy Schones

April 2 Lindy Ritz, Tom Torgerson

April 3 Alan Grubb, Karen Deatherage,
Rob Green

April 4 Mary Alicia Maisano, Erica Warren,
Madeline Childers

April 5 Thomas Pearson, Jim Hazeldine

April 6 Ginger Clark, Tom Blakey,
Michael Kiester, Joanna Schonauer,
Brennan Hockett

April 7 Thomas Shingledecker, Katie Argentos

April 8 Gerald Carlson, Jo Ann Murray,
Bridget Childers, Sarah Colijn

April 9 Lenton Roller, Catherine Black,
Mike Abla, Stacy Smith

April 10 Connor Bates, Ethan Hunt

April 11 Earl Waldeck, Jessica Nichols,

Lazo Stevenson

April 12 Mary Ruth Bussey, Courtney Green

April 13 Charlotte Rosko, Allan Oehlschlager

April 14 Duke Ridgway

April 16 Cindy Abbott, Lukas Schneider

April 17 Charles Nicholson, Doyal Robinson,
Alison Behrens

April 18 Jeff Kimpel, Wayne Vanhof

April 19 Charlie Neufeldt, Addison Marler

April 20 Lawrence Larsen

April 22 Susie Beall

April 23 Susie Hetherington, George Clayton,
Isaac Young

April 24 Logan Whalen

April 25 Duane Olinger, Jack Kasulis,

Ryan Elassal, Nathaniel Haralson, Max Gillett

April 26 Pat Roane

April 27 Johnna Chandler, Trish Frazier,
Lacy Barrett, Amy Kimmel

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Entering into the family of Christ

“Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ’s Body the Church. The bond which God establishes in Baptism is indissoluble.” *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 298

Baptism is not an intellectual assent to a theological/philosophical proposition, but is entrance into a community founded in Christ, with the purpose of assisting its members in living into a particular identity and vision of ultimate reality. As such, the church has from the beginning baptized children, as well as adults. One is never too old or too young to join in community.

We understand that the grace offered in baptism is not conditioned or limited by our liturgical actions, but is a gift of love from God. The baptized person is one who lives life no longer for self, but for Christ and in Christ, recognizing that God’s purpose for them and direction for their life is more true than their own.

“It is my personal and professional preference that children be baptized and admitted to communion as early as possible,” said Fr. Dwight Helt. “This allows them to grow up within the loving community of the church and to experience life from the perspective of one who is loved and forgiven, called into relationship with all other humans, and bound for a life even greater and more fulfilling than this one.”

Easter is, by ancient traditions of the Church, a time for baptism — historically the one time each year when those who had “strayed” went through a lengthy time of preparation before being received into the community through baptism. It is still considered a very appropriate time for the sacrament of baptism.

An adult or older child preparing for baptism may find it helpful to read the section of the Catechism in the *Book of Common Prayer* that addresses baptism (p. 858) and the service of Holy Baptism (p. 299). Scriptural study could include John 3:1-8, 22-28; Romans 6:1-4; and 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27. There are also helpful resources in our church library, bookstore, and in

the literature rack outside the church office.

Promises are made at the baptism of infants by their parents and sponsors or godparents. The adults promise to bring the child up in the Church, and to help the child know and follow Christ. Through baptism, parents gain assistance of the whole “village” to guide and to love their child.

Baptisms may take place at the Easter Vigil, 8 p.m. Saturday, April 3, and at other times through the year. For those seeking baptism, arrangements may be made by calling the church.

One of the gifts of baptism and entrance into the community of the church is participation in communion, partaking of the body and blood of Christ. This sacrament, following baptism, affirms the unity of all the baptized, our unity with God, and our participation in Christ’s redeeming love.

Children recognize the essential hospitality of communion and desire to participate in it. This desire, however unconscious it may be, to enter into a loving community and to have God enter into them in a personal and intimate way, is sufficient for communion to take place.

It is the practice of the Episcopal Church to admit all baptized persons into communion. There is not a minimum age or special liturgy for the first time to receive. For a child who has been baptized and has not yet received communion, parents teach by word and example the importance and meaning, and can assist children in learning to receive and to grow in understanding. A child need not fully understand the Holy Eucharist to participate. Parents assist in their continued formation within the community of the church, just as adults continue formation in the same community.

A gift of a cross or shell, a new bible, or a special meal with family and friends, are all meaningful and appropriate ways to celebrate a child’s first communion.

Easter can be a special time for children who have not yet received communion to join their parents and the rest of the Body of Christ, as welcome members at the table.

What can you do about the sexual abuse of children?

Did you know one in four girls will be sexually abused before they are 18 years of age? Come and hear more about what you need to know about how to protect your child and others from the devastating effects of sexual assault, and how to prevent it from occurring.

Kay Christiansen will be discussing the sexual abuse of children at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, April 25, in the Kasulis Great Room. Kay is the senior warden of St. John's and executive director of Bethesda, Inc., which is the only freestanding non-profit agency in Oklahoma devoted solely to the treatment and healing of children who have been sexually abused.

The sexual abuse of children should matter to all of us. The number of perpetrators is increasing and they live in our neighborhoods. One in every four girls and one in six boys will become a victim before they are 18. They are functioning in the community and possibly being perpetrators also, with nieces, nephews Sunday school children, neighbors becoming a victim every day.

Oklahoma is among the top four

states nationally for the incidence of sexual abuse of children.

Come to the program April 25 and find out why you should know more.

Prior to joining Bethesda, Kay was a prosecuting attorney for 14 years specializing in cases dealing with child neglect and sexual abuse, sexual assault and major sex crimes and other violent crimes. She has served as an assistant district attorney and district attorney.

She was appointed Commissioner to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. She has served on numerous committees including The State Child Death Review Board, The Advisory Task Force for the Prevention of Child Abuse, two legislative committees to revise the Oklahoma Children's Code and Emergency Protective Orders, the Sex Offender Management Team to develop statewide guidelines for sentencing convicted sex offenders and other committees.

Kay has served as St. John's organist-choirmaster and in numerous other roles in the church, at the parish, diocesan and national levels.

Support groups meet at St. John's

Our church provides free meeting space to several community support groups, including:

Al-Anon

Noon-1 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday

AA

7:30-8:30 p.m. Monday

Al-Anon/women

Noon-1 p.m. Tuesday

Living Sober

5-6 p.m. Wednesday

Debtors Anonymous

Noon-1 p.m. Thursday

AA/Rebellion Dogs

5:30-6:30 p.m. Thursday

Gamblers Anonymous

7-8 p.m. Thursday

CODA (co-dependency)

6:30-7:30 p.m. Fridays

Overeaters

Anonymous

10:30-11:30 Saturday

Groups meet in the community room, in the northeast corridor of the church.

Safeguarding God's children

Anyone who would like to know more about keeping our children and youth safe is encouraged to come to "Safeguarding God's Children." This training is also required for anyone wanting to help with programs for our children and youth. Offered through the diocese, "Safeguarding" gives a format for education, training and policies to help keep our youngest members safe.

In the training, persons learn steps to help keep ministries safe, guidelines for interactions, signs of abuse, procedures for monitoring interactions, and recommendations and resources for responding to

general concerns and specific situations.

Our minister for Christian Formation, Pam Brown, is a certified trainer for the program. Vestry, staff, Sunday school teachers, nursery workers and others who are in roles educating and supporting our children are required to complete the training, which we began offering last spring.

Interested parents, grandparents and others are also invited to the training. The workshop will be offered 3-5 p.m. Sunday, April 18, in The Commons. Participants should RSVP to staff@episcopalnorman.org or call 321-3020.



Youth group members and their sponsors prepare to leave for a spring break trip to the Buffalo National River area, where they hiked, canoed, camped ... and were snowed on.

Biblical garden

Spring is budding through the ground and the church gardens change daily this time of year. We'll have Biblical garden "strolls" after each of the Sunday services on April 18 to observe the plantings, take a look at the original garden plans and dream of what it can become in the months ahead. No digging required ... just looking for a little garden wisdom. Join Twila in the Biblical garden (southeast corner) after any of the services on April 18.

Be part of the 'Pilgrims' Progress'

Youth in the J2A class are beginning fund raising for a pilgrimage, to take place in the summer of 2011. Details of the pilgrimage have not been set, but these 8th and 9th graders have begun raising funds through rosary sales and are introducing a new project, "Pilgrims' Progress."

The youth are offering their services to help with yard work, pet sitting, business projects, baking cookies, cleaning out the garage ... You think of how they can help and they'll do their best to meet your needs. In exchange for the work, donations to their pilgrimage fund will be gratefully received.

To arrange for "Pilgrims' Progress" work, send the following information to the

Rummage sale April 16-17

The Episcopal Church Women will hold a community rummage sale at St. John's April 16-17, with proceeds designated for the renovation of the Commons.

Start saving items now for the sale. There is not room at the church for storage at this time, but a storage unit will be available in the church parking lot the week before the sale. For more information, contact Andrea Marler, aamarler@me.com or call 808-7253.

church, staff@episcopalnorman.org. Forms are also available in the church office.

We'll need to know your name and contact information, a description of the work desired, preferred date(s) and location of the work. We also need to know the estimated number of youth volunteers needed and whether the task will require adult leadership. Projects will need to be limited to Norman.

ECW to visit St. Crispin's

On Monday, April 5, the Episcopal Church Women will travel to the diocesan camp and conference grounds in Wewoka for a tour of St. Crispin's and a luncheon in the Powell Dining Room. All the women of the church are invited to attend — come along for a real treat.

A carpool will leave the church parking lot at 10 a.m. and return around 3 p.m. Please make reservations by Friday, April 2. For more information call Evelyn Bibens at 329-7509.

The ECW's next event will be "Ladies Day Out and Lunch on the Town," on May 4, meeting at 11:30 a.m. at Embassy Suites in Norman. Come and get to know the women of the church and have a good time.

Retreating into a pattern of peace

The self-examination and focus on spiritual disciplines in Lent is a good for us year-round. The following guide creates a simple retreat to help you reflect on barriers, relationships and practices, and discern goals.

[PREPARE]

Wrestling with big questions? Facing a life transition? Create your own retreat and rest in God's peace. Plan ahead, even if just a day or two and commit to a period of time. Determine a place where you can be quiet and comfortable for a good stretch of time. You can adjust the pattern below for the time you have available.

[SUPPLIES]

Keep it simple. *The Book of Common Prayer*, a notebook and a pen may be all you need. You might want to take along a Bible and perhaps one other book to inspire you. If you desire, portable music, a sketch book ... and a snack or lunch, if desired.

[PRAYER]

Use one of the devotional forms in *The Book of Common Prayer*, beginning on p. 136.

[REFLECTION]

Consider the barriers that may be separating you from God, your fellow humans and your true self. Identify two or three that you desire to remove over a period of time. Be specific about how the barriers

'Einstein's God' series forming

We have been asked by a division of Church Publishing to preview the pilot for a new, small group program based on America Public Media's radio program, "Speaking of Faith" with Krista Tippett. So does the topic, "Einstein's God: Science, Faith and the Life of Wonder" interest you? How about creation and Charles Darwin's theory of evolution? Twila Smith will be facilitating the group and offering feedback to Church Publishing. There will be five sessions, weekly from late April through late May. Let Twila know if you are interested in exploring science and faith and suggest days of the week/times you are available.

are separating you. Are you limiting God's use of you? Do you fear change? Spend some time in meditation or, if you prefer, take a walk. Bring your mind to your heart. Be present with God.

[PRAYER]

Use one of the prayers for guidance (p. 832), then let your own prayer flow from there.

[CONTINUE]

Continue a pattern of reflection and prayer, moving to the behaviors that need to be changed to remove barriers. Set appropriate, achievable goals — this will become your discipline and commitment.

[IN COMMUNITY]

Decide on someone with whom you can share reflections of the day. Contact them and plan a time to meet. Reconciliation may be appropriate, or you may simply ask your companion to hold your new commitment in prayer.

EfM to host open house night

Have you been hearing about Education for Ministry but still not sure if it would be right for you? Join the group from 6:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, April 20, for an open house. The current EfM group will be going through its routine of a typical EfM session, including the week's lessons and a "theological reflection" exercise, and you are welcome to come to watch and learn. The group will also offer some time for questions and answers.

3 Cups of Tea book discussion

St. John's librarian Anne Harris will hold a book discussion of *Three Cups of Tea* in the church library at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 18. If you are interested in attending the discussion, please stop by the church office to check out your copy of the book. The author, Greg Mortenson, will be visiting the OU campus on April 22, so this is a good opportunity to read and discuss his book before hearing him speak.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Jan. 1-Feb. 28, 2010

Budgeted Income

\$72,362

Actual Income

\$91,069

Budgeted Expenses

\$72,359

Actual Expenses

\$65,726

Projected Variance

\$3

Actual Variance

\$25,343

ST. JOHN'S

Episcopal Church

235 W. Duffy, Norman
405-321-3020

MAILING ADDRESS
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Norman, OK 73070

OFFICE HOURS
9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Monday-Friday
Open until 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays

STAFF

The Congregation

Ministers of the church

The Rev. Dwight Helt

Rector: 701-5976

The Rev. Stan Upchurch

Deacon: 329-0431

The Rev. Nancy Wakely

Deacon: 360-9676

Dr. Linda Kelly

Organist/choirmaster

Pam Brown

Minister of Christian
Formation

Rob & Courtney Green

Youth Activities Ministers

Twila Smith

Parish Associate

Kathryn Kiester

Financial Secretary

Chris Brown

Sexton

Anne Harris

Library

Nancy Larsen

Bookstore

staff@episcopalnorman.org • www.episcopalnorman.org

Easter Services

7:30 a.m., 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday, April 4

Easter Egg Hunt at 10:15 a.m., beginning in the Parish Hall

Open House

6-7:30 p.m. Sunday, May 2, in The Commons

New to St. John's or know people who are curious about the Episcopal Church?

Invite your friends and come to our Open House, 6-7:30 p.m. Sunday, May 2, in The Commons. Refreshments will be provided and it's a great way to get to know people and ask questions, in an informal, family-friendly environment.

child care provided

EVANGEL DEADLINE

April 15 for the
May 2010 issue

ST. JOHN'S EVANGEL

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Sundays

7:30 and 10:30 a.m., The Holy Eucharist
5 p.m., The Holy Eucharist – *parish hall*
6 p.m., Saplings – *The Commons*

Mondays

7 p.m., Men's bible study – *library*

Tuesdays

10 a.m., The Holy Eucharist – *chapel*
10:30 a.m., Bible study – *The Commons*
10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., bookstore open
7:15 p.m., Women's bible study – *library*

Wednesdays

6:30 p.m., The Holy Eucharist – *chapel*

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