



# Mike's Missal



St. Michael's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 720326

Norman, OK 73070

(405) 321-8951

[administrator@stmichaelsnorman.org](mailto:administrator@stmichaelsnorman.org)

[www.stmichaelsnorman.org](http://www.stmichaelsnorman.org)



*To the church of God in Norman, and to God's blessed people at St. Michael's Church, grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ....*

It's with humility and gratitude that I take this opportunity to briefly introduce myself. My name is Brent Carey and I was ordained to the Episcopal priesthood in December, 1997, in the Diocese of California. Over the past 23 years, I've had the privilege of serving parishes in the dioceses of

New Hampshire, Southwestern Virginia, San Diego, Western Michigan, and Kansas. I served as the rector of St. David's, San Diego, for 9 years. I've also served as a hospital chaplain. For a year, I was a Chaplain Resident at the San Diego VA Medical Center where I focused on the spiritual needs of veterans with addiction and/or psychiatric issues.

Beginning in 2015, my professional focus shifted to interim or transitional parish ministry from settled parish work. My job as interim rector is to enter a congregation like St. Michael's and assist you in sorting out the issues that obstruct your ability to live out the fullness of your lives in Christ. So far, I've successfully served two parishes in this capacity: St. Mark's, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and St. Michael and All Angels, Mission, Kansas. This is work I truly enjoy and I look forward to working with everyone at St. Michael's to advance God's reign from our campus on West Imhoff Road.

On a more personal note, I'm the father of four children, three girls and one boy. The girls have fledged. One lives in Denver, another in Portland, Maine, and the third in Seattle. My son is a high school junior and lives with his mother in San Diego. I'm recently engaged to Susan Britton from Prairie Village, Kansas. After she closes out her position as accounting director of the Kansas City (MO) Life Insurance Company, Susan will join me in Norman around the first of February 2021. We plan to marry in late December of this year.

Many years ago, when transferring schools as an undergraduate student, I was accepted to two colleges to pursue a degree in Theatre. One was OU. The other was Ohio State. Having been born in Cleveland, I chose THE Ohio State University (as we like to say, "Ohio by birth. Buckeye by the grace of God."). Nevertheless, I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to live among you in Norman for a time and to root vigorously for the Sooners (unless they're playing the Buckeyes)!

I look forward to meeting all of you soon, at a careful distance, and to seeing what God in Christ has in store for St. Michael's.

Until then, blessings of peace on each of you.

Brent ✠

## Update on Sunday Services

For the foreseeable future, until changes are made pursuant to directives from the bishop, or agreed to by the vestry and the interim rector, we will continue with one service of Holy Eucharist on Sundays at 9:30 A.M. We will continue to provide seating in the nave while also transmitting the audio outside to the porch or to your own vehicle. If the weather becomes inclement, we may set up the ingathering space to hold a number of people at safe distances.

As it stands, there is more than enough room in the church to accommodate those who wish to be present. We will continue to monitor the situation as the season changes and will make any adjustments deemed prudent. Happily, we expect installation of our new live-streaming equipment before the end of the first week of November!



If you wish to give altar flowers or sanctuary candles, please sign up on the credenza or contact the office.

### Lectors! Ushers!

If you are able and willing to serve on Sundays, please contact Jeremy in the office, if you are not already receiving automatic scheduling emails. We need you to commit if you are at all able. Our pool is smaller, given that some are not able to be with us in person yet.

### Upcoming Sundays @ 9:30 A.M.

Nov. 8: Morning Prayer with music – Deacon Ann presiding.

Nov. 15: Holy Eucharist – Fr. Brent Carey, Interim Rector, presiding.

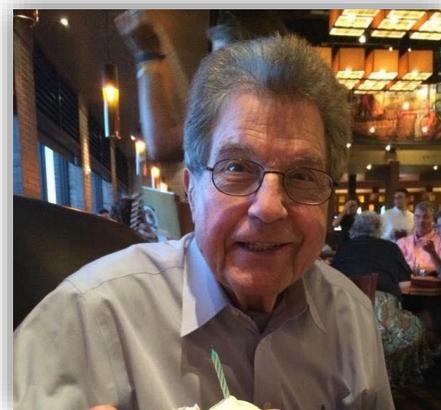
## Norman Christmas Day Community Dinner

The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Norman Christmas Day Community Dinner (2020) **will not be held this year** because of the COVID-19 virus. Consequently, I will not be seeking volunteers this year. This is simply a postponement.

My staff and I have discussed many options that we might pursue, but came to the conclusion that we would not be able to follow safe conditions, and as the founder and director I did not want to be responsible for anyone who might get the COVID virus from working in any way with the dinner.

It saddens us not to be able to feed the families and to distribute toys to the children like we have done for 33 years. But be assured that we will be in full swing next year (2021) for the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Norman Christmas Day Community Dinner. My staff and I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, hopefully spent with family.

We wish God's blessings on everyone and pray that this virus will vanish through mutation or via a vaccine.



God Bless Everyone!

Bob Magarian, founder and director  
Norman Christmas Day Community Dinner.

**But don't despair!**  
**Read on!**



## Christmas Blessings from St. Michael's for Those in Need

*But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? (1 John 3:17)*

The Norman Community Dinner has been cancelled due to COVID-19, but that doesn't mean we can't help others this holiday season. We are developing a way to help others while keeping everyone safe.

St. Michael's is asking you to reach out to friends, neighbors, loved ones, acquaintances, teachers, students, families, the elderly -- anyone you know whom you feel needs something this Christmas.

Need is not merely food and clothing.

It is the person who sits alone in their home on Christmas Eve with no family.

It is the grandparents raising their grandkids while living on Social Security.

It is the teenager who is alone and struggling for independence.

It is the young mom by herself, wondering how she will be able to buy gifts  
for her children.

It is the dad who was laid off.

It is the widower who lost his wife.

It is the family wondering how they will provide a Christmas meal.

It is the fellow church member who is lonely.

Look for those who will need that little extra this season. If you know of anyone, share with us a name and circumstances. We will provide gifts, food, and something personal. We need you, our congregation, to make this happen. We know most of you are still being careful because of pandemic and want to help, but in a safe way. This is how we can reach out to our community with love and care. This is how each of us can give during this season and still stay safe.

Once you have names, please send them to Debi Kelley at [d3bi.kelley@gmail.com](mailto:d3bi.kelley@gmail.com) or by calling (405) 306-3450, **by Saturday November 21**. We will meet via ZOOM on Sunday, November 22 at 1:00 P.M. to get organized. Forms will be sent to those who submitted names to find out more information on how we can make this a personal experience for the person or family. This form will ask for specific needs, from which we can ask for gifts to be brought by our congregation to be part of baskets put together for these individuals. We also want to include personal notes to cheer those in need.

Once we have the lists the fun begins! We will meet again via Zoom on Sunday, November 29 at 1:00 P.M. We will need bakers, shoppers, wrappers, crafty people, writers, and those who can give of their time to pack and deliver. All will be done safely.

*And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:27)*



## 33<sup>rd</sup> Year of Thanksgiving Baskets

St. Michael's has been distributing Thanksgiving baskets from the church to families in need for the past thirty years. This year forty-five (45) baskets will be distributed to families. We are asking for donations to purchase the food items—turkey breast, stuffing, potatoes, milk, butter, canned vegetables, cranberry sauce, bread, pies, and apples—for the baskets. Please address checks to “St. Michael's Thanksgiving Baskets” and leave them in the offering plate, the church office, or send to our P.O. Box. We are working with Homeland for the third year.

We will assemble baskets on Monday, November 23 at 10:00 A.M. and distribute them from the church on Tuesday, November 24 from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Volunteers are needed. If you can help, please call Rick Young (405) 637-6376.



## Prayer List

If you have individuals you would like to be added to the prayer list, please email or contact the office and let us know names and general reason for request (healing, special needs, those serving our country, the departed, etc.). *You are also encouraged to speak names aloud at the silences provided during the Prayers of the People.* God hears our prayers, whether silent or spoken!

As a note: if you have a need for a priest, please contact with the church office. Outside office hours, contact Jeremy Wance at (405) 226-8245 or Judy Phillips at (405) 921-0974. You may also wish to contact Amy Gardner to activate the Prayer Chain, whose members will be informed of the need immediately and confidentially. You can e-mail [awgardner@yahoo.com](mailto:awgardner@yahoo.com) or call (405) 410-5523.

## Nunc Dimittis

With sadness, we report the death of **Donn Mason**, well-known in our community as a stage designer and, to many more, as Santa. You may send notes of condolence to Pat at:

Pat Mason  
709 Classen Blvd.  
Norman, OK 73071

Founding member **Chris Busch** died on October 29th. No services are planned at this time. You may send notes of condolence to her daughter, Cathy Brown, at:

Cathy Brown  
3100 Ridgecrest Ct.  
Norman, OK 73072

*O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of thy servants Donn and Chris, and grant them an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of thy saints; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

–BCP, p. 470

## Updates

We continue to pray for **Anne Million**, as she recovers from a broken hip. You can send notes, cards, etc., to her directly at:

Anne Million  
c/o Avante Rehab Center  
225 N. Sowers Rd.  
Irving, TX 75061

In these difficult times, let us not forget those who are physically distant from us!

*Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

–BCP, p. 817

## Vestry Notes

“When a door closes, a window opens” is a familiar saying. Did you know it is attributed to Alexander Graham Bell? The rest of his statement is also worth knowing. “But we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us.”

Even though the doors of St. Michael’s are once again open, spiritually and mentally many of us feel surrounded by closed doors during this period of Covidtide. Our inability to mingle and take meals together is a hardship, but the vestry is hard at work trying to open as many doors and windows as possible. The cancellation of the annual Christmas Dinner, while understandable, is very disappointing. Consequently, the vestry formed a committee under the leadership of Debi Kelley to look into creating a Christmas service project that the parish can realistically undertake this season. The need, after all, is still there.

In addition to implementing the re-opening of our church, the vestry has also invested in some new computer and audiovisual equipment that will finally be installed in the next week or two. This will enable us to livestream our services into your homes; an innovation that we expect will continue after the pandemic has passed, enabling us to keep in touch with those who are away or homebound.

Finally, the resignation and departure of Fr. Jason Haddox shuts a major door and leaves many saddened. The Diocese of Oklahoma has been extremely helpful in looking towards the future of St Michael’s. Canon Eric quickly identified Fr. Brent Carey as an appropriate interim rector for us. The vestry approved his call after a long and lively conversation with Brent on a beautiful October evening in the Hartleys’ garden.

Brent is an experienced, trained interim who has worked with congregations across the nation. He will be leading us in worship on November 15. Please read his statement elsewhere in this missal, join us in welcoming him and his fiancée Susan to St. Michael’s, and take the time to introduce yourselves to him. He looks forward to hearing from everybody.

It is indeed the end of an era, but it is also the beginning of a new one. Let us really see the doors and windows God opens to us. And give thanks for them.



**Judy Phillips**  
Senior Warden

### Financial Summary As of September 31, 2020

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Receipts-Monthly	20,470.57	23,425.44
Expenditures Monthly	20,401.04	28,136.95
Net Income (+/-)	<b>1,405.30</b>	<b>330.68</b>
Receipts YTD	238,233.29	250,256.43
Expend. YTD	207,909.09	253,232.55
Net income (+/-) Year-to-Date	<b>1,735.98</b>	<b>2,976.12</b>

### ZOOM in to Knit

The St. Michael’s knitters are meeting on Zoom on Wednesday evenings. Get a beverage, have your needles and yarn ready, and join in! We meet on Wednesday evening from 6:30 - 7:30 P.M. for knitting or crocheting and conversation.

Below is the sign-in information. Contact Amy Gardner if you have any problems or want any further information: [awgardner@yahoo.com](mailto:awgardner@yahoo.com)

<https://zoom.us/j/97600482268?pwd=ODZXczF1M0NDZmZjSzBmcUxDQVdtZz09>

Meeting ID: 976 0048 2268

Or by phone, dial in at:

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

## From the Parish Administrator



“Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.” (Matt. 6:34)

This biblical aphorism was often spoken by my mother as I grew up. Consequently, it quickly comes to mind when the challenges of daily life start to pile up. And no, not all the things are “evil” – they’re just rather a lot, at times... especially in 2020.

St. Michael’s is going through another period of change, in a particularly challenging time in regard to the world around us. Every single day we seem to be presented with another unexpected wrinkle, hurdle, or “opportunity.” Our task is

to meet the daily challenges without taking our sight off the overarching mission. But what is our mission? According to the catechism found in the Book of Common Prayer (p. 855), “The Church pursues its mission as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love.” But, “through whom does the Church carry out its mission?” We are given the answer: “The Church carries out its mission through the ministry of all its members.”

Here’s where it gets tricky, for we have to know what our individual ministries are and actively live them. Additionally, we have to know how we can express those ministries in this period of pandemic, when nothing is as it should be. In looking back at our response to the COVID lockdowns, it’s plain to see that many – perhaps most – of us retreated to the safety of our homes as much as possible, where we waited, watched *Tiger King* and cable

news and waited for the *all-clear* to sound. Unintentionally, we let drop some of the societal constructs that define us and order our lives and thoughts.

COVID has exposed the fragility of our daily lives and that of the institutions and constructs that bind us together –the Church being one. I’m not speaking about the physical building. I mean the *people*. St. Michael’s had to pull back from our involvement in many works of outreach and inreach. We couldn’t *serve*.

Each of us has a wonderful and unique ministry, in the Church and in the world. We have to continue to live out that ministry, no matter the circumstances. We have duties to God and to each other to “bind up the brokenhearted;” to clothe and feed; to pray and worship; to give and give again; to seek justice and peace.

As we continue to assess what the work of the Church can look like in this period, and at how we go about building Jerusalem in this “green and pleasant land,” during a pandemic, I ask you to reach out to each other. To join us online on Sundays (this coming Sunday we’ll have the new camera system!). To help keep our parish church in good repair. To tune in to Compline every evening at 8:00 P.M. on Facebook. To send in your pledge card (with an increase, if possible!). To call or write all our people – particularly those who are most affected by the current situation – who you may not have seen at all of late, or only see across the room.

God’s kingdom doesn’t stop, no matter the circumstances here on Earth. We have work to do. Let’s get to it!

Jeremy Wance  
Parish Administrator



### November Birthdays

02	Devan Whittaker
13	Ron Stiehler
14	Luceen Dunn
14	Gary Wittmer
16	Lindsay Robertson
18	Nancy Hancock
26	Avari Gray
27	Carol Smith
28	Michael Whittaker
29	Deborah Price

### November Anniversaries

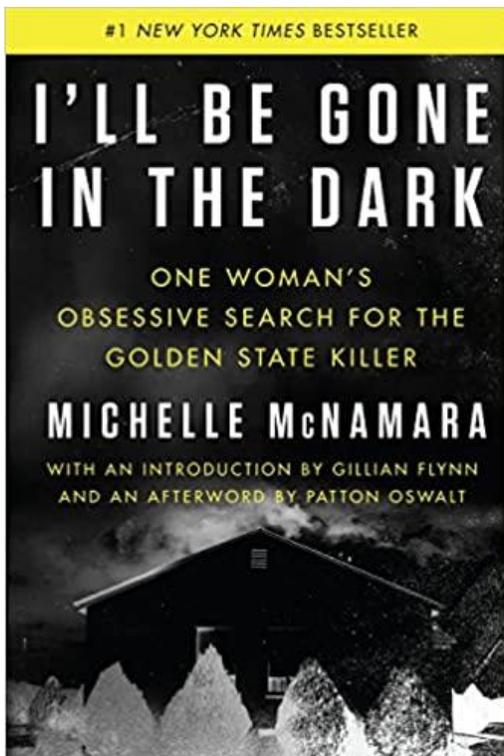
04	Tom & Nancy Wakely
10	Andrew & Lilly Strout
20	Zane & Melissa Gray
20	David Zittel & Mary Meacham

## Second Sunday Book Club

The book club will be meeting on Zoom this Sunday, Nov. 8 at 2:30 P.M. to discuss *Small Fry: A Memoir* by Lisa Brennan-Jobs. Login to Zoom [HERE](#), or go [HERE](#) for more information.

The book for December will be *I'll Be Gone in the Dark: One Woman's Obsessive Search for the Golden State Killer* by Michelle McNamara. True crime. The discussion will take place on Dec. 13.

For additional information, contact Carol Wittmer: [carolwittmer@outlook.com](mailto:carolwittmer@outlook.com)



## From the Junior Warden

### GREEN POWER!

Styrofoam recycling is a daily activity at the church. The Dart facility in Ada is closed during Covidtime. Although we have another place to take most of what we collect, they cannot chip up food-packing or to-go trays – so please don't bring in “clamshells.” They will take drink cups – just be sure they are clean. Packing foam is always accepted, including thermal boxes.

On October 7<sup>th</sup>, three vehicles drove to Taylor Foam in Oklahoma City. We loaded everything they accept and delivered 32 (33-gallon) bags. This brings our total recycled foam to 256 bags! That's equivalent to 1,280 cubic feet of toxic waste NOT returned to the Earth. Please acknowledge these Green Team members for their generous gift of vehicle and time: Bob Mansfield, Jim and Amy Gardner (and the Junior Warden).

### THE LITTLE EVENT

We were blessed to have a group of OU students at the parish on Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>, as part of a scaled-back version of “The Big Event,” in which OU students perform community service within Norman. They were joined by Dn. Laura, Jeremy Wance, Amy Gardner, Brandt Cassidy, and Valerie McCallister. Together, we made great strides in cleaning up the property, which had gotten a bit overgrown during the COVID closing. Thank you to all who came out!

There are many more improvements being made. As I write this, the camera system for live-streaming services is being installed, after high demand for these sort of systems caused backorders. Also, our new janitorial service has been doing a great job at taking care of some deferred maintenance and generally giving the building a deep *clean*. Thanks to Russ from Jan-Pro!

Lastly, the ice storm did some damage to the trees on our property – mainly the sweetgums. Parish members who are willing to grab a saw or carry some branches can contact me!

Tina Mahle  
Junior Warden



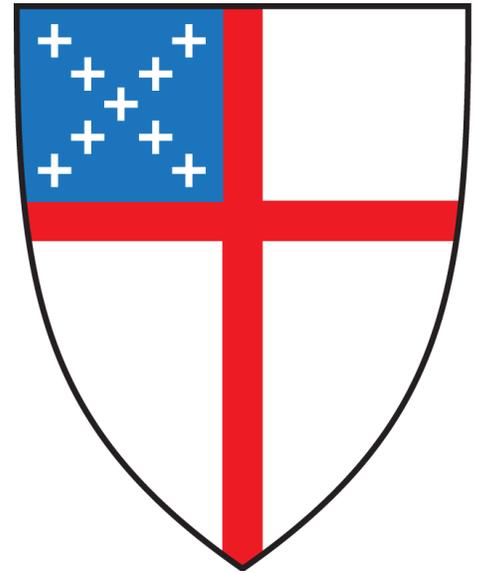
Students from the University of Oklahoma joined parish members for a clean-up day at St. Michael's, as part of the “Little Event” on Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Episcopal Church (TEC) is a member church of the worldwide Anglican Communion and is based in the United States with additional dioceses elsewhere. It is a mainline Christian denomination divided into nine provinces. The presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church is Michael Bruce Curry, the first African-American bishop to serve in that position.

In 2018, the Episcopal Church had 1,835,931 baptized members, of whom 1,676,349 were in the United States. In 2011, it was the nation's 14th largest denomination. In 2015, Pew Research estimated that 1.2 percent of the adult population in the United States, or 3 million people, self-identify as mainline Episcopalians.

The church was organized after the American Revolution, when it became separate from the Church of England, whose clergy are required to swear allegiance to the British monarch as Supreme Governor of the Church of England. The Episcopal Church describes itself as "Protestant, yet Catholic". The Episcopal Church claims apostolic succession, tracing its bishops back to the apostles via holy orders. The Book of Common Prayer, a collection of traditional rites, blessings, liturgies, and prayers used throughout the Anglican Communion, is central to Episcopal worship.

For the latest calendar items, please visit the website: [www.stmichaelsnorman.org/calendar.html](http://www.stmichaelsnorman.org/calendar.html)



### Useful Information For the Duration

**Until Fr. Brent begins on Nov. 15, Fr. Burris and Bp. Ohl have agreed to be *locum tenens* in case of a pastoral emergency. If you need pastoral care, please contact the office. If it is outside office hours, contact Jeremy Wance (405) 226-8245 or Judy Phillips (405) 921-0974.**

St. Michael's Webpage:

[www.stmichaelsnorman.org](http://www.stmichaelsnorman.org)

St. Michael's Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/6273015521>

For more interactive information sharing. You'll need to be approved as a member of the group.

St. Michael's YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZX8EOJFq5VykhE5K9q8eA>

Subscribe to receive update notices when we post new videos for worship or other resources.

Judy Phillips (Senior Warden): [judith.s.lewis-1@ou.edu](mailto:judith.s.lewis-1@ou.edu) or (405) 921-0974

Tina Mahle-Takhopfer (Junior Warden): [tina.mahle@alumni.ou.edu](mailto:tina.mahle@alumni.ou.edu) or (405) 517-5142

Jeremy Wance (Parish Administrator): [administrator@stmichaelsnorman.org](mailto:administrator@stmichaelsnorman.org) ; (405) 321-8951 or (405) 226-8245

Suzanne Moore (Financial Administrator): [treasurer@stmichaelsnorman.org](mailto:treasurer@stmichaelsnorman.org) or (405) 321-8951