Mike's Missal

August 2022

St. Michael's Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 720326
Norman, OK 73070
administrator@stmichaelsnorman.org
www.stmichaelsnorman.org
Sunday Service is at 10:00 A.M.
Live on YOUTUBE

Stewardship Committee

What it means to pledge

Some parishioners are reluctant to fill out a pledge card because they are concerned that their financial situation may change throughout the year, making it difficult to complete their pledge for 2023. Please pledge anyway. The Stewardship Committee would like to remind everyone that your pledge is understood as your statement of the amount you hope and intend to give. The amount you give is confidential and no one will receive a bill at the end of the year or a phone call (like your car's extended warranty is due). Your pledge is between you and God.

The wonderful advantage of a pledging is the ability to develop our church budget based on credible numbers rather than guesswork. At times people contribute more than they pledge; at other times, they contribute less than planned. Inflation? Crisis? The unexpected? Life happens. Pledge anyway. Despite the necessary midyear shifts, the amount collectively from pledges by our congregation gives the Budget and Finance Committee a solid place to begin for 2023 and we're well on own way in finding our new Priest. Your pledge covers so much, and it goes far and wide not only for St. Michaels, but into our community.

Hopefully this clarification will make it easier for our members to keep up with this year's pledge and continue with 2023. Our vestry has exciting things lined up for St. Michaels and your pledge is what makes St. Michael's who we are today and what we will be in the future.

2022 St. Michael's Stewardship Committee

Prayer Chain

Members of St. Michael's have committed to praying daily for concerns that have been given to any member of the Prayer Chain. Our Prayer Chain is confidential (not published). Please contact Amy Gardner to bring concerns to this group. Also, please contact Amy if you feel called to this ministry.

A death in our Parish family

Kenneth Stanton passed away in Georgia on July 26, 2022. He moved there this year on Father's Day to be close to family. Please keep his family in your prayers. May he rest in peace.

The Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma

85TH DIOCESAN CONVENTION

"Like Trees Planted by Streams" Psalm 1

Save the date for the 85th annual Diocesan Convention, **October 7th-8th, 2022 at St. Crispin's Conference Center. Registration will open on August 4th, 2022 at 5 pm.**

Our theme this year is from Psalm 1: "Like Trees Planted by Streams." This theme relates to convention in two ways. First, we grow in faith through God's abundant grace like a tree by a stream. And second, being in the midst of the beauty of God's creation at St. Crispin's will give us opportunities to think about our stewardship of natural resources, especially in our congregations. Our guest speaker this year will be Brian Sellers Petersen. Brian is the Agrarian Missioner for the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia, the Coordinator of Good News Gardens, and Co-Host of the Spade Spoon Soul podcast. He'll be speaking not only about the theology of creation, but also about practical efforts to incorporate agrarian ministries (community gardens, beekeeping etc.) into congregational life.

Imagine a great, big diocesan family reunion, with worship, learning, camp activities, great food, and just a little convention business, at a sacred place we love.

Worship Committee

During this time of our rector search, St. Michael's worship committee is once again meeting. Members of the worship committee are John Hartley (chair); Deacon Laura Blazek, Deacon Ann Murray, Jon Roberts, Paula Price, Donna Young, Tonya Fleming, Nancy Littlejohn, Wallis Ohl, and Peter Rodriques. The next worship committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 3rd, at 7:30 p.m. in St. Michael's library. If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns about worship at St. Michael's, please let one of the committee members know so that they can bring it before the committee.

EfM

It can be hard to see the relevance of the Old Testament in our everyday lives, but in the first year of Education for Ministry (EfM) that is what we do. It an also be hard to embody the phrase "actions speak louder than words," and in the fourth year of EfM we reflect on living into our faith. In between, we look at the New Testament and church history as we shape and perhaps re-shape our personal ideas of theology.

EfM is a four-year distance learning certificate program based on small-group study and practice through The University of the South in Sewanee, TN. A participant commits to the program one year at a time. At St. Michael's we begin in the fall and end in May, like the school year. We have hosted an EfM group for over 20 years, so many people in the parish have participated in this life-changing experience. For more information about the program visit efm.sewanee.edu

If this sounds like the group for you, welcome! If you started EfM but weren't able to complete it, welcome back! If you went through EfM a while ago and want to take one of the years again, welcome again! Please contact the church office or Rachel Armstrong at rachiearmstrong101@gmail.com for more information.

Our WHY? HOW? WHAT?

WHY? "At St. Michael's, we are the voice of Christ in the modern world. We hold to the traditions of the Episcopal Church, which welcomes all who desire to know the love of God in Christ, regardless of age, social status, gender identity, race, or cultural heritage, because we are all made in the image of God. We do this through worship centered on the Word of God as found in the Bible, which promises hope, restoration, and reconciliation. We are committed to reaching out to those in the community who are marginalized by meeting their immediate needs through social ministry. We support families and understand the difficulty of finding a church that recognizes personal needs and limitations. Above all, at St. Michael's we care for others and seek to restore all people to unity with God and one another.

HOW? "At St. Michael's we live and share the love of Christ."

WHAT? is lived out through our commitment to 1) the homeless and hungry, 2) children's services, and 3) the environment. We support these initiatives primarily through our outreach ministries.

Nancy's Notes

- I'll be out of the office July 31 - August 17. Donna Young will sub in the office.

Nancy Littlejohn, Parish Administrator

Churches Caring for Creation

Churches Caring for Creation (CC4C) is a group of interdenominational churches, each hosting a Green Team of people committed to saving the planet "one drink cup at a time" by recycling #6 plastic. The Norman coalition has a Densifier – a machine that turns polyfoam into logs, which can be reused to make new plastic products.

Densifying events: (All are 10:00 a.m. to noon)

Sat, **August 6** – Moore Public Library
Sat, **August 13** – Norman Household Hazardous Waste Facility, 803 Chautauqua Ave
Sat, **August 27** – Noble Public Library

CC4C is a non-profit group that will gladly accept tax-deductible donations to fund this project.

The public is invited to recycle foodservice and packaging foam at University Lutheran Church, 914 Elm, weekdays from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Entry is from the parking lot behind the church on College St. Contacts: Tina Mahle or Cathy Bowden at University Lutheran.

From the Senior Warden

Summer has arrived with a stark, hot reminder that this is Oklahoma. We have been two-and-a-half-months without a Rector, and the past month I was in Australia. A wonderful outcome is that Saint Michael's has continued to function smoothly, thanks to our vestry, our Deacons, and to our staff; especially our Administrative Assistant, Nancy Littlejohn, and our Assistant Treasurer, Rachel Armstrong. I think we have done quite well as a parish.

We now approach September and the return to our normal schedule and routines. The work of our Pre-Search Process Sub-committees work continues. It is reassuring to have Canon Eric Cooter working on our behalf directly and indirectly. His experience with this new Diocesan Search Process enables him to provide us much guidance and support. In addition, Canon Eric's mentoring is quite valuable to your Senior Warden.

Senior Warden thoughts include, but are not limited to the following:

- I am excited by the work of our Stewardship Committee headed by Nelson Dent.
- Our need to Manage & Control Information & Electronic Security;
- "As the Christian Formation year comes to a close, St. Michael's has some reflecting to do on what we want Christian Formation to look like in this parish."

There is much work to be done. May God continue to guide Saint Michael's.

Peter Rodrigues, Senior Warden

AUGUST EVENTS

Worship Committee August 3

The Worship Committee will meet Wednesday, August 3rd at 7:30 p.m. in the library.

Wild Men August 12

St. Michael's men will meet for an evening of fellowship and conversation at 7:00 P.M. Friday, **August 12th.**
For just $15 you can enjoy giant ribeye steaks charcoal-grilled to perfection, baked potatoes, salad, garlic bread and a plentiful choice of craft beers. Non-steak-eaters are welcome to bring other items to grill. As always, first time participants and first-time guests can enjoy all this for FREE. Please sign-up as we need an accurate count for our steak order by **August 9**. Contact: Brandt Cassidy.

Laundry Love August 13

St. Michael's will sponsor Laundry Love in Norman on Saturday, August 13th.

Laundry Love provides laundry, lunch, socks, and other assistance to our guests. So far this year (in multiple locations in Central Oklahoma):

We've served 725 Families / 2,900 people.
We've fed 1,654 Neighbors
We've washed 2,758 loads of laundry = 57,760lbs
We've shared 7,315 pairs of socks
We've had 214 Volunteers give 856 hours of labor

Bring your quarters to support this ministry.

We will distribute the school supplies collected in Sharon's Wagon.

We need help on Friday, August 12th at 2:00 p.m. making sack lunches. Additionally, we need volunteers to help with the guests at the laundromat on Saturday from 9 am - noon. A signup will be available on Sunday. This is also a back-to-school event, so we are expecting a crowd! Contact: Amy Gardner.

Discretionary Fund

The last Sunday of each month all offering plate cash goes to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. You may also write a check with a note. It is used to address unexpected needs.

Will & Estate Planning Workshop Follow up Appointments - August 13

Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma partnered with St. Michael's Episcopal Church to hold a free will clinic for senior citizens and low-income persons who may be putting off basic estate planning because they don't have money to pay an attorney.

Those who attended the July session will be given an appointment to meet with an attorney on August 13 when their documents will be prepared. Contact: Ann Murray.

Special Prayers for Back-to-School August 14

It is time for Back-to-School! This is both an exciting and stressful time for students, teachers, and parents. To help give them strength to face the year and to remind them that they are enfolded by the loving arms of Jesus, we will offer prayers and blessings at our worship service on Aug. 14th. Students of all ages who are learning in any place or platform; teachers and parents who need the love and support of our community to get through the year are invited to come feel the love through special prayers and blessings. If you have a backpack or other item that helps you get through the school year, please bring it to be a part of the blessing. We will also have a surprise for all students, teachers, and parents on this special day. Please join us and invite others to 'come and see' on this special day.

Meal Prep August 17
For Norman Social Injustice League.

Upcoming dates are **August 17th, and Sept. 14th.** Our outreach ministry provides 40 meals once a month for the homeless through the Norman Social Injustice League. These meals are delivered to people who cannot make it to a place where they can receive a meal.

A sign-up sheet is in the ingathering space. We need 3 to 4 people each month. We meet at 5:00 to set up the boxes. Food is cooked at home then brought hot to be boxed. If you will need into the church early to heat food, arrangements can be made.

You can help! Donate to help purchase items we need. Make donations to Outreach/Social Injustice and/or sign up to cook, bake or purchase food for each meal. If you want to cook but cannot get the food to church, let Debi know and she can pick it up.

Find out more about Social Injustice of Norman on Facebook. Contact: Debi Kelley.

Saucy Sisters August 19

We will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Friday August 19th. Judy Kellogg will make a taco bar! Suggested donation is $10, and first time is free. Contact: Amy Gardner.

Outreach Meeting August 20

Outreach will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, **August 20th.** Everyone is welcome. We will discuss our plans for this fall. Contact: Amy Gardner.

ECW
Italian Luncheon
Sunday, August 21

When: Following the service
Where: Ingathering space
Why: Support the Episcopal Church Women's Red Tent initiative to provide feminine hygiene products to local non-profit groups.
Bring: pads and tampons–or monetary donations and we will purchase the items.
Everyone is welcome!

RUMMAGE SALE August 27

You may bring your donations to the church at any time **if** they will fit in the youth room. Large items must wait until after 1:00 p.m. on Sunday August 21. Clothes must be in good wearable condition. You do not need to price items in advance. Sign up to help! Set up will be Friday, August 26.

Sharon's Wagon

The school supplies we collected in July will be distributed at the August 13th Laundry Love, so you still have time to donate. In August we will collect feminine hygiene products in conjunction with the ECW Italian Luncheon. Contact Amy Gardner.

Book Sale

Remember to donate your books and other media in anticipation of our next book sale. You can place them under the table in the choir room. There are some empty boxes where you can place your donation. Contact Amy Gardner

Ignatian Groups are Forming

Registration for the September through June groups is currently underway, with a registration deadline of August 1st. Amy Gardner and/or Deacon Ann will conduct brief information sessions Sunday, July 10th and July 24th. Come find out about this daily retreat that many say deepened their faith, strengthened their walk with Christ, and is life changing. Retreatant costs for the ten-month program include: Tuition, $300; Book; and sliding scale for your Spiritual Director.

Wise Women Wise Women will not meet in August, but will resume in September Contact: Santa Velez

Care Team

Our dear friends Pam and Lester Wallace continue to need help with meals and rides. Sign up at CareCalendar.org. Contact: Debi Kelley

Norman Coalition for Refugee Support

The families are all immeasurably grateful for the support and care you have been giving. To make financial donations to NCRS, please make checks out to St. Michael's and indicate *Refugee Support* on the memo line. Contact: Debi Kelley

Get Crafty!

The crafters meet every Wednesday from 6:30-7:30 pm. Bring your knitting, crocheting, and other crafts to work on during this time. We will continue to decorate lunch bags for Laundry Love. Contact: Amy Gardner.

Handy Information

If you have a pastoral emergency, please call the office at 405-321-8951 during regular hours, or call Deacon Laura or Deacon Ann in case of emergency outside office hours.

Office Hours: Monday – Wednesday 9:00 A.M.– 2:00 P.M. Thursdays 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

St. Michael's Webpage: www.stmichaelsnorman.org

St. Michael's Facebook Group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/6273015521

St. Michael's YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZX8EOJFq5VykheD5K9q8eA
Subscribe to receive update notices when we post new videos for worship or other resources.

Peter Rodrigues (Senior Warden) studiepete@gmail.com or 405-651-7717

Tina Mahle (Junior Warden) Tina.mahle@alumni.ou.edu 405-517-5142

Nancy Littlejohn (Parish Administrator) administrator@stmichaelsnorman.org 405-321-8951 or cell 405-924-2782

Deacon Laura Blazek laurablazek@sbcglobal.net 405-639-0300

Deacon Ann Murray deaconann18@gmail.com 405-919-8533

OTHER CONTACTS:

Brandt Cassidy bgcassidy@cox.net 405-921-5772

Amy Gardner awgardner@yahoo.com 405-366-8321

Debi Kelley d3bi.kelley@gmail.com 405-306-3450

Santa Velez santagv@gmail.com 405-664-1020

Your Vestry

Peter Rodrigues, Senior Warden
(405) 651-7717
studiepete@gmail.com

Tina Mahle, Junior Warden
(405) 517-5142
tina.mahle@alumni.ou.edu

King Price, Treasurer
(405) 321-1687
pricecpajd@aol.com

Tim Phillips, Clerk
(405) 329-2318
hrothgar@earthlink.net

Katie Blair
(405) 245-1073
katie.l.willis@gmail.com

Patrick Calhoun
(405) 590-4919
phineas42@gmail.com

Brandt Cassidy
bgcassidy@cox.net
(405) 921-5772

Tonya Fleming
tonyafleming70@gmail.com
(4405) 588-2062

John Hartley
hartley.j@sbcglobal.net
(405) 535-9195

Paul Pruett
fess1960@hotmail.com
(405) 527-9199

Santa Velez
santagv@gmail.com
(405) 664-1020

Donna Young
dryoun9@msn.com
(405) 637-6371

August Birthdays

03 Kay Sandridge
04 David Henry
08 Brandt Cassidy
09 Tina Mahle
10 William McGovern-Fagg
12 William Petrie
16 Jim Gardner
17 Mary Meacham
18 Jeanne Giles
24 James Smith, Mason Dent
30 Eric Blazek, Andrew Sprouse

Anniversaries

8-10 Jim and Amy Gardner
8-10 Peter and Karen Goodchild

On the anniversary of their death

8/1/2012 ✠Clarence Huslig
8/6/2012 ✠Stephen Benso
8/9/2002 ✠Linda Johnson
8/18/1981 ✠Charles Jackson
8/20/2021 ✠Keith Stejskal
8/20/1980 ✠Harriett Thompson
8/23/1997 ✠Daniel Morton
8/28/1979 ✠William Hartman
8/30/2021 ✠Laura Ann Bennett
8/30/1979 ✠John Culp
8/31/1979 ✠Chester Waylay

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to thy never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that thou art doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.