



Mike's Missal



September 2021

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 720326

Norman, OK 73070

administrator@stmichaelsnorman.org

www.stmichaelsnorman.org

From the Interim Rector

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7



St. Michael's 2022 Stewardship Pledge Drive begins the end of this month. It is not a secret that the 18 months of pandemic uncertainty has diminished giving by our members. The pledge team, led by Nelson Dent, has planned carefully for this year's pledge efforts. On the last Sunday of July, I spoke to the congregation about the need for increased revenue beginning in August to prepare for the search for a new rector. Since that time, a few of you have increased your gifts, and we thank you. Overall, however, increased giving has been lackluster.

Canon Eric Cooter from Diocesan HQ has made it clear that our income must show we can support a full-time rector for at least three years, before research begins and a search committee is named. To achieve this, King Price says, as a congregation, we need to increase our weekly giving by \$1000. The people of St. Michael's can do this by increasing their individual offering each week.

This year, the Stewardship Team is asking each member to pledge, no matter the amount. You will receive your pledge form in the mail at the end of September. Pledge forms will also be available at the church. While we know some of you pledge yearly, less than half the congregation pledges. We are seeking a commitment from each member. Please note, we are less concerned about the amount of the pledge than the fact that every household pledges. If you have a young family, maybe you can pledge \$10 a week. If so, thank you! If you can pledge more, please do.

Stewardship and pledging are about more than money. It is first and foremost about faith. The questions before St. Michael's today are—

- ❖ Do we have faith in the future of St. Michael's?
- ❖ Do we have faith that God will help us fulfill the pledge we make?
- ❖ Will we make a financial commitment to St. Michael's for 2022?

I believe the answer to each of these questions is a resounding yes!

*St. Michael's is
Moving Forward*



When I was in seminary with two daughters and a modest income, I continued to pledge 10% of my income to my church. No month was easy, but I learned that by ordering a small plain coffee rather than a venti latte every Saturday when a friend and I met at Starbucks, I could save about \$25 a month. With tight budgets, small steps like this will help you keep your pledge, and it will help assure the search for a new rector for St. Michael's.

I am glad to serve St. Michael's, but an interim ministry is just that – a limited time. Let's secure the future of St. Michael's with an every-household pledge.

God Works through our generosity.

In Christ,

Rev'd Dawn



September Birthdays

02	Clark Morter
08	Pam Wallace
08	King Price
15	Charmaine Magarian
18	Paula Price
20	Jaci Williams
21	Pepper Haraway
21	Carol Gibbens
24	Peter Rodrigues
27	Tim Kellogg

September Anniversaries

04	Wallis & Sheila Ohl
05	Howard & Suzanne Moore

On the anniversary of their death

9/1/1981	✠Margaret Gibson
9/1/1988	✠Jewel Ellsworth
9/2/1982	✠Richard Kirt
9/4/2013	✠Dolores Dickinson
9/5/2019	✠Sarah Jean Oxenreider
9/6/2008	✠Rosalie Franklin
9/6/2010	✠Suzanne Attocknie
9/13/2010	✠Miriam Ray
9/14/2001	✠Donald Mason, Sr.
9/15/1987	✠Doris Rowan
9/19/1980	✠Francis Pierce
9/21/1990	✠Robert Bard
9/26/1980	✠Ruby Little
9/26/1994	✠Dorothy Dellinger
9/26/1994	✠Virginia Lee Stiehler
9/27/1995	✠Pauline Hatch

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.

Sept. 5: HOLY EUCHARIST MOVES TO 10:00 A.M.

Sept. 8: Outreach Ministry meeting @ 5:30 P.M.
 Sept. 10: Styro "densifier" blessing @ 6:30 P.M. @ ULC
 Sept. 10 -11: ECW Conference
~~Sept. 10: Wild Men @ 7:00 P.M.~~
 Sept. 12: BCP Class (6 weeks) begins @ 11:00 A.M.
 Sept. 14-25: Rev'd Dawn on Vacation
 Sept. 17: Wicked Women **via Zoom** @ 7:00 P.M.
 Sept. 26: **THE FEAST OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**
 Oct. 3: First youth group meeting @ 3:00 P.M.

Really Important!!!

On September 5th, we will be moving the Sunday morning liturgy to 10:00 A.M. to better accommodate everyone's schedule. Make sure you put this on your calendar! But hey, if you don't, and you show up at 9:30 A.M. on Sept. 5th, we will almost certainly have a pot of coffee ready for you!



Master Calendar



We have a large calendar posted in the Ingathering Space that will function as our master calendar, showing all the dates and activities we know about. Be sure to peruse it. If you see something missing, please contact Jeremy in the office. If it isn't on the calendar, it doesn't exist!

Notable Events:

Outreach Ministry Meeting

In an effort to coordinate outreach ministries, we will meet on Wednesday, Sept. 8th at 5:30 P.M. to visit about what outreach ministries are currently active. Please contact Amy Gardner at awgardner@yahoo.com if you have something to share but are unable to attend.

Sunday Shul

Beginning Sept. 12th at 11:00 a.m., Bishop Ohl and Rev'd Dawn will lead a six-week course on the Book of Common Prayer. Want to learn more about what's in this foundational text? Come find out!

Rev'd Dawn Vacation

Our interim rector will be taking some R&R from Sept. 14th through the 25th. During this time, pastoral care will be coordinated by Jeremy (see contact info on back page). Bishop Ohl will preside on Sunday, Sept. 19th, and Rev'd Dawn will be back at St. Mike's on Sept. 26th. We send her off with every hope for a pleasant vacation!

Weekly Recurring:

Mon: Nothing yet!
 Tue: Rev'd Dawn Office Hours 10:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.
 12-Step Meeting 7:00-9:00 P.M. **PRIVATE**
 Wed: Lectio Divina 6:30-7:30 P.M.
 Crafting 6:30-8:00 P.M.
 Thu: Nothing yet!
 Fri: 12-Step Meeting 8-10:00 P.M. **PRIVATE**
 Sat: Nothing yet!
 Sun: Holy Eucharist 10:00 A.M.
 Christian Education 11:00 A.M.
 Office Hours: 9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M., Monday-Thursday

Rally Day Redux! -or-

The Feast of St. Michael -or-

The Fish Fry Returns!!!!

Long-time members of St. Mike's will remember the tradition of the annual fish fry to kick off the new school year. We're bringing it back for the mega-busy date of Sunday, September 26th! On this day, we will (plan to) begin Christian Formation/Sunday School for the children and youth. We will also celebrate the Feast



of St. Michael the Archangel, our patronal feast day, transferred from Sept. 29th. Also planned to begin on Sept. 26th is the stewardship/pledge

drive. We will continue to monitor the COVID situation and make any alterations that seem prudent. For now, put this on your calendar!

Holy Eucharist @ 10:00 A.M.

Christian Formation/Sunday School @ 11:00 A.M.

Fish Fry @ 12:00 P.M.

Journeying Through Grief



Beginning on Oct. 12th at 11:45 A.M., and repeating each month on the second Tuesday, Rev'd Dawn will offer Noonday Prayer and a support group based on *Journeying Through Grief*. For more information, contact her!

Let Us Welcome the Newly Baptized!

It was Rev'd Dawn's recent privilege to baptize Ted Cook as the newest member of St. Michael's in a liturgy at home. His sponsors were Evelyn Bibens and Jeremy Wance.

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.



St. Mike's Episco-Pals

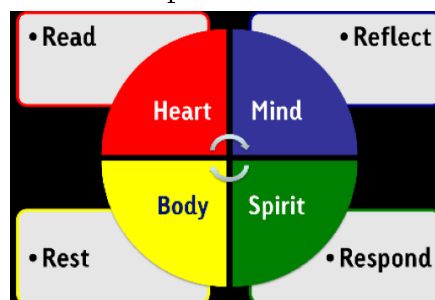
Children are back in the church! It's so great to see them, isn't it? We are looking for a few special folks to pair up with young parishioners on Sundays to greet them and help them feel included at St. Michael's. That's all it would require: greeting the young person and letting them know you are happy to see them at church. If you feel so inclined, you can go all out and send them a card on their birthday. We have some great kids in our parish, let's make sure they know we care about them. If you would like to participate, please contact the church office or Rachel Armstrong.



Lectio Divina

Meeting each Wednesday at 6:30 P.M. in the Chapel, the *lectio* group is facilitated by Bishop Ohl and Canon Charles Woltz. Currently, the group is exploring the Gospel of St. John.

In Western Christianity, *Lectio Divina* (Latin for "Divine Reading") is a traditional monastic practice of scripture reading, meditation, and prayer, intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God's word. Traditionally, *lectio divina* has four separate steps: read; meditate; pray; contemplate. First a passage of scripture is read, then its meaning is reflected upon. This is followed by prayer and then contemplation of the Word of God.



The focus of *lectio divina* is not a theological analysis of biblical passages but viewing them with Christ as the key to their meaning. For example, given

Jesus's statement in John 14:27- "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you"- an analytical approach would focus on the reason for the statement during the Last Supper, the biblical context, etc. In *lectio divina*, however, the practitioner "enters" and shares the peace of Christ rather than "dissecting" it. In some Christian teachings, this form of meditative prayer is understood as leading to an increased knowledge of Christ.

The roots of scriptural reflection and interpretation go back to Origen in the 3rd century. This practice was transmitted then from Ambrose to Augustine of Hippo. The monastic practice of *lectio divina* was first established in the 6th century by Benedict of Nursia and was then formalized as a four-step process by the Carthusian monk Guigo II during the 12th century.

Youth Group 2021/2022



Youth Group is for all kids entering the 6th grade to 12th grade (i.e. must be at least 12 years of age). St. Michael's youth group is Christ-centered and is a place where we learn how to live out our baptismal covenant in the world as we seek to see the Holy Trinity at work in our everyday lives. We strive to do this through fellowship and well-balanced fun, learning, and service. Youth Group is an opportunity to grow in faith as we learn to think theologically and take our faith into the world.

At this time, our first meeting will be Sunday, October 3rd, 2021, from 3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. We will then begin meeting every Sunday afternoon at 3:00 P.M., unless there is a special event that requires a different meeting day/time or if the group decides to not meet during school breaks. We won't meet on any Sunday that coincides with a holiday (e.g. Mother's Day). Youth group will pause for summer. Any changes to our regular meeting day/time will be announced in the monthly missal, weekly email missal, direct email to youth group members, and/or verbal announcement during service, as appropriate.

Youth Group will meet at St. Michael's most of the time. We will, however, have service projects and "field trip fun events" that will take us off-campus which will be announced. As much as possible, we will be meeting outside to decrease COVID-19 transmission risk. We are continuing to monitor the COVID-19 situation closely. Therefore, plans may change. We will strive to keep everyone updated as quickly as possible when changes occur.

Masks are required if we are meeting indoors or traveling off campus until further notice. All mentors are vaccinated for COVID-19. All youth attending are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated.

Mentors for the 2021/2022 year are: Deacon Laura Blazek (lead mentor), Melissa Gray, and James Cassidy. Contact Deacon Laura Blazek by email (deaconlaura@stmichaelsnorman.org) or text (405) 639-0300 with questions or concerns.



Haircuts at Food and Shelter for Friends

I started offering free haircuts at Food & Shelter For Friends when I retired from the salon in January. It was a personal ministry, but soon, as happens at St. Mike's, it became a church ministry. Donna Young joined me in August. She helped distribute items, swept the floor and chatted with the guests. She was a blessing, and I was able to do more haircuts. Many people have donated hair products and toiletries, which we have distributed.



A few requests:

- ✓ If you are donating shampoos, conditioner, body wash, lotion etc., they need to be full size. No travel size.
- ✓ Products need to be new and unopened. If we receive opened product, we will not be able to donate it.
- ✓ We always need shampoo and conditioner.
- ✓ We get a lot of requests for body lotion, Q-tips, razors, and deodorant.

Whatever is left each month we donate to the shelter and they distribute as needed. We want to be well-stocked in September. We can do so because of all of you. My deepest thanks to all who have been donating money and products. Also, to the anonymous donor who gave a substantial sum of money: thank you so much. It will be used over the next couple months.

– Debi Kelley

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

We met in July to kickstart ECW. Melissa Gray and Debi Kelley are co-chairs, with Donna Young as treasurer. We are planning a Chili Cook Off in October. It has been two long years since our last winner took home the "Golden Ladle." It will be on Halloween, so it should be a "ghoul" time for all!

We will be meeting again at the end of September or beginning of October. TBD if in person or Zoom. If you haven't yet joined our ECW Facebook by searching for "St. Michael's Episcopal Church Women." This is where you will find updates and information on what the ECW group is doing. If you would like to be included in our mailing list, send your info to d3bi.kelley@gmail.com. We don't send a lot of emails, but if you are not on Facebook and want to know what we are doing we will email you. Also coming in February 2022: our Annual Women's Retreat.



September Vestry Notes



After only one in-person gathering, the vestry has reluctantly gone back to meeting on Zoom. Keeping each other safe has to be our priority. While we are not yet going back to a mask mandate at St. Michael's, we are pleased to see our congregation coming masked to church on Sunday mornings. The vestry has decided to expand seating into the Ingathering Space and the "north choir" of the church proper to accommodate the increasing numbers of worshippers. This will better enable distancing between households.

We have also focused on the role of the vestry in an Episcopal parish, been delighted by the willingness of parish members to chair our re-emerging teams, and celebrated the success of "Churches Caring for Creation." Vestry members wrote devotionals, something most of us had never done before, for our September stewardship campaign. And, as always, we worried about the budget.

On the last Sunday in August the Prayers of the People began by praising God. "Open our eyes to see that all we are and all we have comes from you." This is a familiar sentiment, and in church, we usually mumble it. But how many of us actually believe that all we have comes from God? I am a historian and not a theologian. Recently I was thinking about how economists regard wealth. Where does it actually come from? Before Adam Smith wrote his *Wealth of Nations* – published, not coincidentally, in 1776 – economists thought wealth came from the soil's goodies: coal, tin, and most of all, gold and silver. Smith argued that wealth came from labor—a good thing to reflect on as we head into Labor Day. Earth's goodies are useless without human labor to dig them up, burn them, smelt them, transport them, and sell them.

What does any of this have to do with God? It is apparent that God provides the resources of the earth, whether coal and gold, or petroleum and wind power. But don't we labor hard to make a living in this world—don't we earn every penny ourselves? Well, sure. But where do our abilities come from? Many of us are gifted intellectually, athletically, or artistically. Some of us are good with numbers and computers, while others enjoy great bodily strength. Many more of us are gifted with the ability to work hard, persevere, and get the job done long after others have given up. Where does that persistence come from? It is easy to claim that we received our talents and habits from our parents, but that only raises the question of where did their gifts come from? Even good health is a gift we only appreciate when we lose it. So too, gratitude for what we have, rather than resentment for what we think we lack. I've long realized that my optimistic nature is one of my chief blessings. And yet I don't know where it comes from—I certainly don't labor to be optimistic, nor did I obviously inherit that trait. Surely these gifts come from God.

As a college professor I was constantly lending books to my students. I often bought more than one copy of an assigned book, knowing there would be a student who couldn't afford it. When I packed up my office upon my retirement, I realized there were many I never got back. This reminded me of an old friend in New York who was always gladly lending books and forgetting where they went. She believed that things were only ours for a while, to cherish and enjoy. "Ownership" could never be more than temporary. The question was what do you do with your resources while you have them? As the old saying goes, you can't take it with you.

– Judith Phillips, Senior Warden

A Word About 12-Step Groups

For as long as St. Michael's Church has been at this location, she has opened her doors to several iterations of 12-step groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous. A foundational principle of these groups is anonymity and confidentiality. As such, the groups generally meet at times and locations where they can be assured they will not be interrupted or compromised.

Currently, we have a group meeting each Tuesday evening from 7:00-9:00 P.M., and it has grown large enough that their meetings are held in the Ingathering Space. We now host a second group on Friday evenings from 8:00-10:00 P.M. As this group is smaller, it may meet in various locations around the campus, but may also be found in the Ingathering Space. The meetings are listed on the master calendar, if you need to consult it.

Please observe a rule of no interruptions while these groups are meeting. They are a vital ministry of our community, and while they are meeting, members are sharing intensely personal and difficult experiences. If you have need of the premises during meeting times, please contact Jeremy or Rev'd Dawn. Many thanks in advance!

They are
100%
ANONYMOUS
AND FREE
TO ATTEND

**12-STEPS
MEETINGS**

These groups are populated by fellow recovering addicts and provide an essential form of motivational and emotional support

The 12-Step model provides support and accountability for people who genuinely want to overcome their addiction

University Lutheran Church & Student Center (ULCSC)

invites you to attend the Styrofoam Densifier Blessing & Happy Hour

When: Friday, September 10th, 6:30-8:00 P.M.

Where: ULCSC parking lot, 914 Elm, BEHIND the church. Enter from College Ave. Additional parking is available in the southernmost two rows of the Wesley Foundation parking lot at Elm and Lindsey.

What Else: Come celebrate with us the culmination of this phase of styrofoam recycling when we densify the **ONE THOUSANDTH 33-gallon bag of foam** collected from church members, "Churches Caring for Creation" participants, the Cleveland County Master Gardeners, and the general public, all of whom have made considerable contributions to the achievement of this goal!

ULCSC will serve lemonade and popcorn at this outdoor event. Masks and social distancing are encouraged.

What to bring: 1) Your own adult beverage of choice, if you'd like; 2) Any "clean, Clean, CLEAN" foodservice or packaging foam you'd like to recycle; and, 3) a lawn chair since we'll be on a grassy area beside the parking lot. (With parking at a premium in the campus area, if you can carpool, that would help, but isn't necessary.)

This is a joyous time to get together with so many supportive friends who have encouraged the ULCSC Green Team during the last 2 years' efforts. God has given us wonderful partners in caring for the Earth, and we are most grateful! Come! Celebrate with us!



More info: Cathy Bowden
cate46@yahoo.com
405-831-2025

Why Education for Ministry?

Education for Ministry (EfM) develops a theologically informed, reflective and articulate laity that is prepared to listen for and respond to God's call. EfM helps people discover and exercise their varied gifts for ministry in the places where they live and work. That is "Why Education for Ministry."



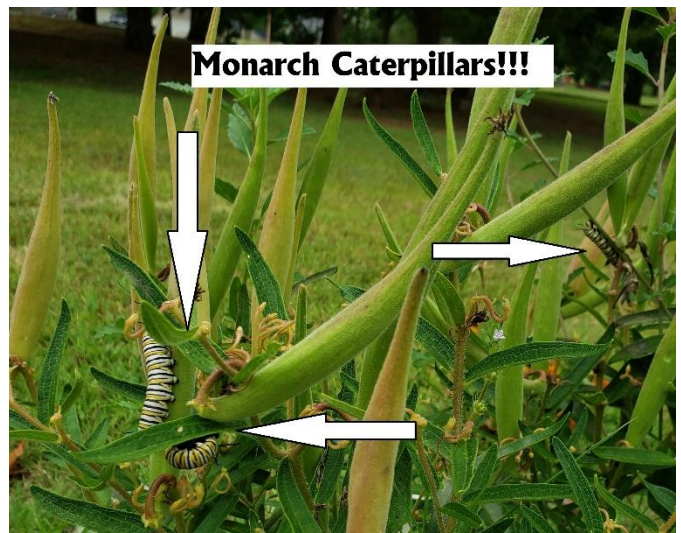
EfM is a four-year program offered through the University of the South, Sewanee, TN. In the first year the Old Testament is studied, year two the New Testament, year three Christian history and year four focuses on theology in everyday living. All years' work on theology throughout the course. Your commitment is one year at a time.

At St. Michael's, Norman we have two mentors who co-mentor an EfM group, Rachel Armstrong and Donna Young. We invite everyone who may be interested in EfM to consider joining this group. Although both mentors attend services at St. Michael's, EfM is open to everyone. Last year we had people from

St. John's, St. Michael's, and University Lutheran attending. All faiths and denominations are welcome. If you are interested or even just slightly curious, please contact Donna Young: (405) 637-6371 dryoun9@msn.com or Rachel Armstrong: (240) 409-6499 rachiearmstrong101@gmail.com. Information is also available at <https://efm.sewanee.edu>. We hope you will join us, beginning this Fall.

Labyrinth Report

Did you know that St. Michael's has a labyrinth and pollinator garden, just to the west of the education building? Take a little walk over the wooden bridge, and you will find yourself in this place of meditation and natural beauty. Having languished during the COVID shutdowns, many hands are working to restore it to full beauty. Thanks to a gift from the McGovern-Fagg family, we installed sprinklers that make it easier to keep even the drought-tolerant plants alive through the Oklahoma summers. Most recently, the milkweed, which was planted specifically to attract Monarch butterflies, served its purpose! Monarchs sipped nectar from its flowers and laid eggs which hatched larvae that fed on the leaves of the plants, just as God intended!



Get Crafty!



Please join us Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm for knitting, crocheting, and crafting. We are currently working on Prayer Shawls, as well as hats and shawls for Mariners. If you have any ideas for additional projects, please bring them to the group! Any Questions? Contact Amy Gardner at awgardner@yahoo.com

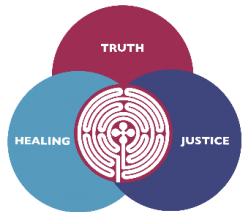
COVID-19 Guidelines

Having initially dropped the mask requirement on July 4th, we have since been following the rise in cases across the country, and in Oklahoma and Norman specifically. For this reason, some of our activities, have been cancelled. Some activities are remaining on the schedule, but *may* be cancelled or postponed if it seems indicated. **We do strongly encourage you to wear a mask at the church.** More than that, we hope you and your families are receiving the vaccines, as therein lies the solution to the problem!



A Year of Prayer for the End of Racism

The purpose of the Diocesan Commission to End Racism is ‘to work for the elimination of racism, whether in the church or in the community, with the utilization of education, group interaction, anti-racism dialogues, and prayer.’ The goal of the Commission is “to bring about mutual understanding, respect, appreciation, and fair treatment for people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds.”



**BECOMING BELOVED
COMMUNITY NOW**

The Commission has developed a series of special collects calling attention to specific issues still prevalent in our society today that we as a church must be ever mindful of as we work toward making the world a better place for all of God’s people. We will share

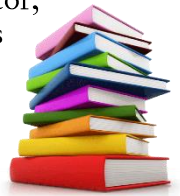
these collects in each edition of *Mike's Missal*.

SEPTEMBER -- For racial equality in education, housing, public services, and employment opportunity

“God our Creator, you created humankind in your image, and blessed us with your love. Help us to show that love to one another as we work for equality for all races in education, housing, public services, and employment opportunity. Give us strength and courage to speak out against injustice, and to work for the transformation of unjust systems that keep some in bondage: that we may more fully live out your kingdom here on earth; through Jesus Christ your son, who came to set us free.” Amen.

Book Sale Report

Thanks to all who donated, set up, worked the sale, and packed the books for the Book Sale. We brought in over \$1450 (including \$38 from youth cookie sale). In coordination with the vestry, interim rector, and book sale coordinators, the proceeds will be distributed to: choir, youth group, white table cloths for round tables, outreach, and office furniture for the rector's office. Start donating your books for the next sale!



Rummage Sale Report



Rummage sale final: \$1,323! Laundry Love will receive \$1,000 which means we will be able to buy quarters for two Laundry Love events. \$223 will go towards the Labyrinth fund and the final \$100 will go into the youth group fund. Thank you to everyone who donated items for the sale. A special thank you to Amy, Rachel, Debra, Melissa, Sam, Ava, and Gaege (and anyone else unmentioned) for all your help with setting up, working the sale, and boxing up the left overs!!

33rd Year for Thanksgiving Baskets

St. Michael’s has been distributing Thanksgiving Baskets from the church for the past thirty years to families in need. This year forty (40) baskets are going to be providing for families in need during this holiday season. As always, St. Michael’s has supported this outreach mission through donations, allowing us to purchase the food items—turkey breast, stuffing, potatoes, milk, butter, canned vegetables, green bean casserole, cranberry sauce, bread, pies, and apples—for the baskets.



If you wish to support this outreach mission, please send your donations to St. Michael’s P.O. Box 720326, Norman 73070.

Homeland on Robinson and 24th will provide all our needs as they have done in years past. The baskets will be distributed from the church on **Tuesday, November 23rd from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** Through the efforts of many of our volunteers, we will put the baskets together on **November 21st**. I thank all who will volunteer for their hard work in helping this year.

Call Rick Young (405) 637-6376 or Patrick Moore (405) 659-2126 if you want to put together baskets or wish to hand out baskets.

Sincerely,
Rick Young and Patrick Moore

Oklahoma's Saint

David Pendleton Oakerhater, O-kuh-ha-tuh, or Making Medicine, was born circa 1847, in Western Oklahoma. He was a warrior, possibly involved in the Second Battle of Adobe Walls, and a spiritual leader. His name can also be transliterated as "Medicine Man." He was imprisoned in St. Augustine, Florida, in 1875. While there, he was among those who developed "ledger art." Captain Pratt, the camp officer, saw Oakerhater's leadership skills, and how his fellow prisoners respected him, and made Oakerhater a trustee. The former Cheyenne warrior led the prisoners in daily military drills, using dummy rifles.

In 1877, Mary Douglass Burnham, an Episcopal deaconess, made arrangements to sponsor the education of several prisoners, including Oakerhater. David was sponsored by Senator George Pendleton of Paris Hill, New York, and ultimately moved in with Rev. John B. Wicks, the rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Paris Hill. There, he received instruction in agriculture, Scripture, and current events. He was baptized about six months later, in early 1878, and adopted the Christian name David, after King David of the Bible, and Pendleton, in honor of his sponsor. He was ordained a deacon in July, 1881, and returned to western Oklahoma. He served near Anadarko for Sunday services, and spent weekdays visiting and caring for sick members of various tribes.

He began his work at Whirlwind Mission of the Holy Family in 1889, near Fay, Oklahoma, about 17 miles west of Watonga. He remained there until his retirement in 1918. Even in retirement, he continued to preach, and served as a Native American chief and holy man. He died in 1931, at the age of 84. He was named a Holy Person, or saint, in the Episcopal Church in 1985; his feast day is September 1st.



Touched the face of God....?



There is nothing quite so infuriating as reading news about the billionaire space race. We are faced with the overwhelming problems of life on Earth: anthropogenic climate change, social media driving extreme political polarization, soaring wealth inequality, and many others. Rather than do anything to help, Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, and Richard Branson have decided to create new problems elsewhere in the solar system.

We may feel righteous in condemning these people, but this condemnation is often an attempt to hide our own shame. Like in the parable of the good Samaritan, the moral truth is presented so clearly that no one could misinterpret it, but we are left stricken by our own resemblance to the evil characters. *All of us benefit from the exploitation of workers, all of us lead unsustainable lifestyles, all of us avert our eyes from the suffering of those in need to hoard wealth for ourselves.* "For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged" (Matt. 7:2).

How, then, are we to act as Christians in this world? We must recognize that our greed does not occur spontaneously. Our society is designed to require it. What would happen if you were to truly give all of your wealth to the poor, as Christ very specifically commanded? You would be thrown into destitution and uncertainty, as our economic system is predicated upon people selling their work for money and keeping as much of that money as possible. Thus, while we must strive to live according to Christ's teachings, we must also work to rebuild the systems that currently make a truly Christian life impossible. This is what we mean when we pray, "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

--Kenton Huff

Handy Information

If you have a pastoral emergency, please call the office at (405) 321-8951 during regular hours, or call Jeremy Wance in case of emergency outside office hours.

St. Michael's Webpage: 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/UCZX8EOJFq5VykhED5K9q8eA>

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

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