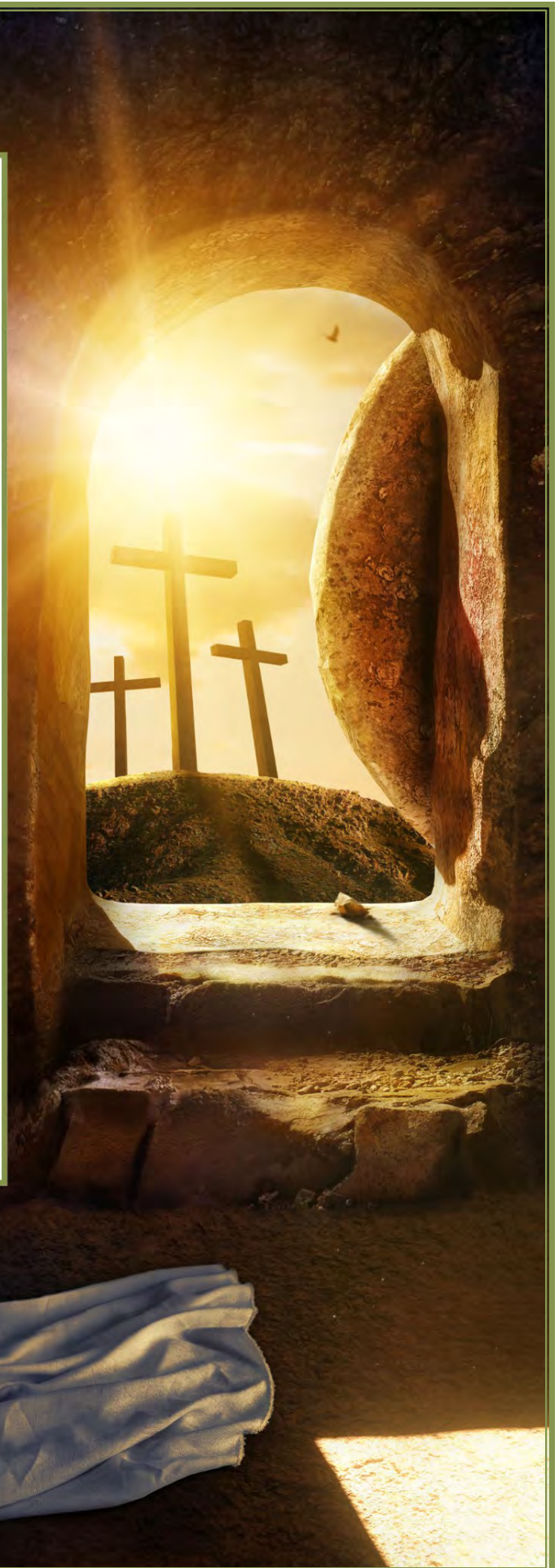


# Inside

# Grace to You!

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## **Thoughts from your Senior Warden**

Greetings and Salutations to all the people and friends of Grace Muskogee!

Happy Spring to all, especially those looking forward to digging in the dirt and have plans to grow something. This time of year, I frequently don't come home without new plant(s) in my car.

### ***Priest Search:***

The most exciting news I can share with you is that Grace Muskogee is now officially searching for a Full-time Rector. Our Profile is completed. Our Search is in process. One week into our status of "receiving names", one application packet (letter of interest, ministry portfolio, resume) has already been received. Please pray for Canon Betsy Randall and our "Mighty Grace Search Committee" as they recruit and discern the priest we are looking for.

I hope you noticed that our search is for a full-time priest. Financial support for this full-time position is well underway. Please consider contributing to this fund if you have not already done so. Thank you. Thank you! THANK YOU!! to those who already have.

For more information on financial support for this full time position, please contact Van Odom, Treasurer. There is a specific way to contribute to this full-time priest fund.

### ***Safe Church Updates:***

Over the past year, the Diocesan Office has been updating Safe Church policies in response to feedback from congregations. The Diocesan Council recently approved the new policy and training. To read about the updates visit: <https://www.epiok.org/safe-church>.

A Key Holder Agreement for those having key(s) or code access to the church building has been added. A committee will be working on the best way to implement this new policy at Grace.

### ***Baptism-Confirmation-Reception into the Episcopal Church:***

Fr. Kenneth Orsburn will be officiating at the 10:30am Easter Sunday service on April 20th. Several baptisms have already been scheduled for this day. If you or your child are interested in being baptized on April 20th, please contact Nancy Scott for details.

Bishop Poulson will be visiting Grace on Sunday, June 8th, and will be officiating at the 10:30am Sunday service. Youth and adults wishing to be Confirmed or Received are invited to do so during this visit. Confirmation classes begin on Wednesday, April 16th at 6:30pm. Please contact Katherine Coburn or Nancy Scott if you are interested or have any questions.

### ***Vestry Moving Forward Ideas for 2025:***

Your Vestry met recently on a Saturday morning to discuss projects and programs they hope to focus on this year. Ideas discussed include a fundraiser auction or dinner, offering space at Grace for music recitals, Grace alumni "We Miss You" mailing, monthly Parents Sunday Afternoon Out (starts in June), helping Sadler Arts Academy with their need for reading tutors and playground equipment, St. Crispin's Summer Camp Fund, and a Youth Spring Cleaning Day at Grace before Easter. If you are interested in helping with any of these projects, please contact the Grace staff or Vestry members. Stay tuned and pray for action.

### ***Cherokee Elementary Book Fair:***

Grace recently donated to the Cherokee Elementary School Library Book Fair. We have supported this program for several years. A thank you note from the school librarian, Gina Batie, states "When you value something, you support it. Access to print is an important indicator of reading achievement. Thank you for supporting readers at Cherokee Elementary School by proving funds to build their home libraries during our Book Fair."

### ***Acknowledgements:***

Thank you Scott Stratton and family for your work raising funds for the new Grace Playground Play Set. Thank you to those of you who have donated to the cause and to all who have helped with the installation. There are also plans to add recreational items to the Youth Room for improved engagement of youth while at church with any remaining playground funds.

Thank you Che Seibold for volunteering to be the Grace lawn guy this growing season!

Thank you to Grace members who raise chickens. Everyone LOVES when you bring eggs to church (hint). Best eggs ever. Egg sale \$ is always donated back to Grace projects.

Thank you to all who have pledged to the 2025 Operating Fund. It helps greatly when budgeting for the coming year. All gifts offer thanksgiving to God, but your annual pledge allows Grace to discern God's will for our community, to plan and respond.

For where your treasure is, there will be your heart also. Luke 12:34

### ***An excerpt from Daily Prayer for All Seasons:***

Make our hearts leap with joy,  
and fill our mouths with songs of praise,  
that we may announce glad tidings of peace,  
and welcome the Christ in our midst.  
Amen.

May the Peace of the Lord be with you now and always.

~~Katherine Coburn

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

|      |                   |      |                        |
|------|-------------------|------|------------------------|
| 4/1  | Slade Stratton    | 5/1  | Ann Gardner            |
| 4/2  | David Moore III   | 5/1  | Mary-Margaret Sinclair |
| 4/10 | Leah Smith        | 5/3  | Carrie Cotten          |
| 4/10 | Theodore Stratton | 5/3  | Elizabeth Smith        |
| 4/12 | Laura Burchfiel   | 5/7  | Emma Graves            |
| 4/12 | Jonathan Moya     | 5/8  | Philip Di Noia         |
| 4/14 | Kaia Holder       | 5/9  | Gabby Green            |
| 4/14 | Chris James       | 5/12 | Cathey Bentley         |
| 4/15 | Lora Sellers      | 5/13 | Kiri Holder            |
| 4/21 | Carleigh Fite     | 5/13 | Cedric Johnson         |
| 4/22 | Declan Stratton   | 5/16 | Ronda Engelbrecht      |
| 4/23 | Patricia Clinton  | 5/17 | Rusty Bradley          |
| 4/23 | Chris Odom        | 5/20 | Preston Jones Jr.      |
| 4/28 | Gabriel Woods     | 5/22 | Ched Wetz              |
| 4/30 | Lake Moore IV     | 5/25 | Myriah Synar           |
|      |                   | 5/26 | Martha Alford          |
|      |                   | 5/26 | Pam Lipscomb           |





*HAPPY Anniversary*

- 4/8 Nancy & Lance Scott
- 4/25 Ronda & John Engelbrecht
- 5/8 Melody & John Freie
- 5/17 Joan & Bob Wickizer



**Ronnie, Mike, John, Stuart, Nancy, Catheryne, Jennifer, Paula, Ched, Phillip, Roger, Patricia, Leslie, Anna, Jonathan, D.G., Lester, Mark, Falling family, Joe, Connie, Dorothy, Marlene, Dusty, Larry, Manuel, Sharon, those impacted by war and violence, all emergency responders, United States Military, and those whose suffering is known only to God**

**Prayer Requests**

We will keep names on the prayer for three months; if names need to be left on indefinitely, please let us know when you make the request. If you have any questions or wish to submit a request, please send an email to: [office@gracemuskogee.org](mailto:office@gracemuskogee.org).

If you have family news, or if we have missed your anniversary or birthday, please let us know. Information can be submitted by calling the Grace office at 687-5416 or by emailing [office@GraceMuskogee.org](mailto:office@GraceMuskogee.org). Submissions for the next newsletter should be received in the office no later than May 15th.

## THOSE WHO SERVE APRIL & MAY

| 10:30 A.M.                   | 4/6              | 4/13                     | 4/18-19<br>Maundy Thursday /<br>Good Friday | 4/20                     | 4/27              |
|------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Officiant / Celebrant</b> | Stephen Bradley  | The Rev. Kenneth Orsburn | Tim Holder                                  | The Rev. Kenneth Orsburn | Lance Scott       |
| <b>1st Reader/ Chalice</b>   | Katherine Coburn | Various (see list)       | TBD   | Tim Holder               | Pat Wilcox        |
| <b>2nd Reader/ Chalice</b>   | Van Odom         | Various (see list)       | TBD   | Kaia Holder              | Killilan Stratton |
| <b>Head Usher/ Greeter</b>   | Joshua Chapman   | Joel Cousins             | David Wilcox                                | Stephen Bradley          | Tyler Martin      |
| <b>Altar Guild</b>           | Melody Freie     | Katherine Coburn         | Marlene Odom                                | Marlene Odom             | Pat Wilcox        |
| <b>Media</b>                 | Tim Holder       | Alex Wilson              | Tyler Martin                                | Alex Wilson              | Tim Holder        |
| <b>1st Cross</b>             | Coco Cox         | Danielle Jardine         | Pat Wilcox                                  | Danielle Jardine         | Pat Wilcox        |
| <b>Torch/ Plates</b>         | --               | Skye Jardin              | --  | Skye Jardin              | Nora Pevehouse    |
| <b>2nd Cross</b>             | Lucy Cox         | Andrew Jardin            | B.J. Charbonneau                            | Andrew Jardin            | Killian Stratton  |

### Palm Sunday Gospel Readers:

**Narrator** – Stephen Bradley; **Jesus** – Tim Holder; **Judas** – Van Odom; **Disciples** – Joel Cousins, Alex Wilson; **Peter** – Alex Wilson; **Accusers** – Kaia Holder, BJ Charbonneau; **High Priest** – Joshua Chapman; **Chief Priests** – Joshua Chapman, Tyler Martin; **Servant Girl** – Lora Sellers; **Bystander** – Pat Wilcox; **Pilate** – Lance Scott; **Pilate's Wife** – BJ Charbonneau; **Soldiers** – Joel Cousins, David Wilcox; **Centurion** – David Wilcox

| 10:30 A.M.                   | 5/4             | 5/11                     | 5/18                     | 5/25             |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Officiant / Celebrant</b> | Alex Wilson     | The Rev. Kenneth Orsburn | The Rev. Kenneth Orsburn | Thomas Bentley   |
| <b>1st Reader /Chalice</b>   | Stephen Bradley | Van Odom                 | Stephen Bradley          | David Wilcox     |
| <b>2nd Reader /Chalice</b>   | Jean Lewis      | Tyler Martin             | Alex Wilson              | Pat Wilcox       |
| <b>Head Usher /Greeter</b>   | Stephen Bradley | Tyler Martin             | Alex Wilson              | David Wilcox     |
| <b>Altar Guild</b>           | Marlene Odom    | Melody Freie             | Pat Wilcox               | Katherine Coburn |
| <b>Media</b>                 | Tyler Martin    | Alex Wilson              | Tim Holder               | Nancy Scott      |
| <b>1st Cross</b>             | Coco Cox        | Danielle Jardine         | Van Odom                 | Danielle Jardine |
| <b>Torch/ Plates</b>         | --              | Skye Jardine             | Nora Pevehouse           | Skye Jardine     |
| <b>2nd Cross</b>             | Lucy Cox        | Andrew Jardine           | Killian Stratton         | Andrew Jardine   |

***If you are unable to serve on your assigned dates, please find a replacement & contact Pat Wilcox.***

# On the Altar: April & May



Flowers



Bread & Wine

|                  |  |  |
|------------------|--|--|
| <b>April 6:</b>  | LENT   | In memory of Rayburn Baily<br>by Jennifer Sparks                                     |
| <b>April 13:</b> | PALM SUNDAY  | In honor of Mikaela Louis<br>by Edith Lubin  |
| <b>April 20:</b> | EASTER LILIES  | In memory of J.R. Palmer<br>by the Charbonneaus                                      |
| <b>April 27:</b> | loving memory of<br>Floyd & Mildred Cousins<br>by Joel Cousins             | OPEN<br><i>(To become a sponsor,<br/>please contact the office.)</i>                 |
| <b>May 4:</b>    | In thanksgiving of their anniversary<br>by Melody & John Freie             | In honor of our grandchildren<br>by Betty & Tom Honea                                |
| <b>May 11:</b>   | In loving memory of<br>David Christopher Lee<br>by Jennifer Sparks         | In memory of our fathers<br>Kenneth Sellers & Paul Archer<br>by Lora & Jerry Sellers |
| <b>May 18:</b>   | In loving memory of Inez Johnson<br>by Cedric Johnson                      | In memory of our<br>parents & grandparents<br>by Marlene & Van Odom                  |
| <b>May 25:</b>   | In honor of the anniversary<br>of Audre & Samuel Bates<br>by the Hauglands | OPEN<br><i>(To become a sponsor,<br/>please contact the office.)</i>                 |

It's time for a  
**Baptism**

**Easter Sunday, April 20th**

Please see Nancy or Pam if you are interested in being baptized or having your child(ren) baptized this Easter.



## **EASTER EGG HUNT**

**Sunday, April 20th**

On the Grace Playground Following the 10:30AM Service

Invite your friends and neighbors!

We need plastic eggs, Easter candy, and other egg fillers.  
See Nancy Scott to donate or for more information.

Join us for the annual

## **Easter Potluck**

During coffee hour on Sunday, April 20th,  
Ham will be provided.  
Bring your favorite Easter sides and desserts!



## LILIES FOR THE 2025 EASTER ALTAR

**It's never too early! Order your Easter Lilies today!**

In Memory of : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Or

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

GIVEN BY: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to Grace Church Altar Guild attached in the amount of : \_\_\_\_\_

(Suggested donation—\$20 per lily)

Drop off at the Church office or in the offering plate by Monday, April 14th to be included in the Easter Bulletin.



# HOLY WEEK SERVICES 2025

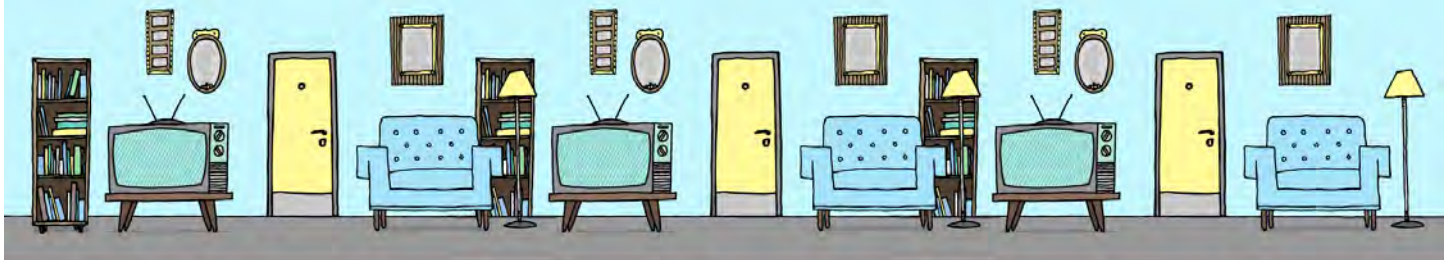
- Palm Sunday** April 13 @ 10:30AM
- Maundy Thursday** April 17 @ 6:30PM
- Stations of the Cross** April 18 @ 6:00PM
- Good Friday** April 18 @ 6:30PM
- Easter Sunday** April 20 @ 10:30AM

FOR ONE WEEKEND ONLY!  
**GRACE FALL RUMMAGE SALE**

**MAY 2-3 | 9:00AM**

We are taking donations for a selection of used, but not abused, items ranging from toys, books, clothing, household appliances, pet supplies, and more!

Items can be dropped off at the church beginning April 27th. See B.J. Charbonneau for more information.



## **Confirmation and Reception**

**Bishop Poulson**

will visit Grace Muskogee on

**Sunday, June 8th.**

Youth and adults wishing to be

**Confirmed or Received**

are invited to do so during this visit.

Classes will begin **April 16th**

Please let Katherine or Nancy know if you are interested or have any questions.



# JOIN THE FUN AT ST. CRISPIN'S Summer CAMP

## INTENSIVE SESSIONS (6TH - 2025 H.S. GRADUATES)

**JUNE 29 - JULY 2**

Arts & Crafts  
Music & Theater  
Ropes & Adventure

REGISTER  
NOW

SPACE IS  
LIMITED!

## CAMP SESSIONS

- All Ages: June 1-7  
(4th - 2025 high school grads)
- Senior High: June 8 - 14  
(10th - 2025 high school grads)
- Intermediate Session 1: June 15 - 21  
(4th - 6th graders)
- Junior High 1: June 22 - 28  
(7th - 9th graders)
- ABC Camp: June 28 - 29  
(K - 3rd graders)
- Mini Session: June 29 - July 2  
(2nd - 5th graders)

Packed with fun activities, meaningful connections, and spiritual growth, camp is a perfect opportunity for young individuals to strengthen their faith, build lifelong friendships, and create lasting memories.

**SIGN UP TODAY AND GIVE YOUR CHILD AN UNFORGETTABLE SUMMER!**

[stcrispins.org/camp](http://stcrispins.org/camp)

Scholarships are available. See Nancy for details.

### CAMP HIGHLIGHTS:

- Outdoor Adventure
- Arts and crafts
- Sports and games
- Nature Exploration



## Easter is almost here!

In preparation, there are some things needed to get our facilities ready for our coming guests. We will be cleaning the church and sprucing up the landscaping. Everyone is encouraged to come and help.

Please join in the

# SPRING CLEAN-UP

SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH

9:30 AM



APRIL  
VESTRY PERSON  
OF THE MONTH:

**Alison  
Miller**

MAY  
VESTRY PERSON  
OF THE MONTH:

**Laura  
Birchfiel**



## Vestry Meeting Minutes from Monday, January , 2025 5:30PM

- In-Person Attendance: Katherine Coburn, Van Odom, Lora Sellers, Stephen Bradley, Alison Miller, Pam Lipscomb, Joshua Chapman, David Wilcox, BJ Charbonneau, Lance Scott. Absent: none.
  - The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. with a vestry prayer and a devotional from Ephesians by Senior Warden Katherine Coburn. The Senior Warden prepared a list of vestry members holding church keys and provided it to the Junior Warden.
  - Reading & Approval of December 30, 2024 minutes. Motion to accept Joshua Chapman, 2nd Van Odom, motion carried.
  - Reports of Wardens & Committees
- A. **Rector's Reports** – N/A
- B. **Wardens' Reports**
1. Senior Warden (Katherine) –
    - a. Follow-Up Unfinished Business
      - 1) Church Management software – Van & Nancy will review in February when the annual meeting is complete.
      - 2) Cloud location – Katherine and Alex moved the files to the Vestry Portal. Vestry members who are not able to access the Portal should contact Alex or Lance.
      - 3) Social media/website/FB etc – no change.
      - 4) Belltower – Senior Warden is working to obtain an estimate for potential repairs.
      - 5) **Margaret's Garden** – the Ruby family grant to be submitted by NBN. Muskogee Foundation grant LOI is due January 30. Patrick Shea is working on this. Another option is to pay the NBN grant writer to submit, if needed (about \$280).
      - 6) Fountain – some drains in the fountain need better silicone seals, we will work on this in the spring.
      - 7) Church membership list – a form will be presented at the annual meeting for parishioners to complete.
      - 8) No sign repair update, vendor not available.
      - 9) Fire department compliance - procedure will be reviewed at the annual parish meeting.
      - 10)HR/Personnel & compensation review – projected February staff meeting.
      - 11)Pastoral Care/Shut-In Visits, Lay Eucharistic Visitor assignments in place. Van, BJ, Tim Holder and Senior Warden are doing shut-in visits.
      - 12)Card Ministry – we need to get that re-started, volunteer office help could assist.
    - b. Priest Search – waiting on Canon Betsy to post the position. Senior Warden has a call in to the diocese for a progress update.
    - c. Local police department have been contacted regarding teaching active shooter training. There are also some concealed carry questions we are addressing.
    - d. we need to vote at the annual meeting on changing bylaws for definition of Junior Warden duties. The annual meeting is January 26.
  2. Junior Warden (BJ Charbonneau)
    - a. Saturday sextons – cancelled due to weather in January, next date is February 15, 2025. We need to clean fridges, take up trash, etc.
    - b. Parish directory – form to be distributed at the annual meeting.
    - c. Security cameras – Tyler & Scott will be asked to work on that.
    - d. Scouts – Scout Sunday is February 2, 2025.
    - e. Facilities Use Agreement notebook – BJ has the notebook.
    - f. Keyholder list – being worked on currently.
    - g. **Furnace draft reducer motor needs replaced. Present church temperature is 40's. Potentially 2 parts needed, he thinks he can have it repaired by Sunday but if not, we will need to have service again in the chapel.**
- C. Finance (Van Odom)
1. **Treasurer's report** – Written report provided. Net loss for the year was \$34,804. We had unexpected repairs, utility costs have drastically increased. We need to increase our income in 2025. There was discussion regarding where in the budget supply priest costs are reflected. Discussion regarding breakdown of utility costs to determine where the increase is the biggest impact (gas/electric/water). Motion to accept **Treasurer's Report Lora Sellers, 2nd Joshua Chapman**, motion carried.
  2. Budget report – electronic report sent to vestry by the Treasurer. Fund accounting allows use of unused budgeted items to cover item over budget. Van Odom recommends we approve the 2025 budget as presented. Motion to accept the budget Pam Lipscomb, 2nd BJ Charbonneau, motion carried with 1 opposed (Stephen Bradley). Stephen Bradley clarified that we are approving a preliminary budget pending future pledges and potential expenses.
- D. Insurance Committee (Stephen Bradley) – nothing new to report.
- E. Building & Grounds Committee (BJ Charbonneau & David Wilcox) – see Jr. Warden report above.
1. next Saturday Sextons is February 15, 2025.
  2. sanctuary microphones – new ones are here, we will test them this week. We have ordered AA batteries.
- F. Christian Formation (Pam Lipscomb)
1. **Safeguarding God's Children** – we should check when it is time to renew.
  2. Godly Play is going very well.
  3. EfM starts this Sunday.
  4. Book Study starts this Wednesday, 7-8 p.m. **"Cherished Belonging" is the book available in the office.**
  5. Moving Forward: ideas for Christian education. Would really like to see an after-church activity for kids.
    - a. Continue Godly Play
    - b. **Parent's Day Out one Sunday a month, pickup by 6 p.m.**
    - c. Short course EfM (4-6 week course on a specific topic, reflection, etc.)
    - d. we need to train one more person as backup for Godly Play, rotations so regular Godly Play can attend regular service.
    - e. establish a summer camp fund
    - f. consider a regular Saturday program for meditation etc.
    - g. consider a youth workday periodically
    - h. consider expanding the vitality group, there are currently 4 persons and we could use 8 people (Faithful Innovation).
    - i. Youth bake sale to fund activities
    - j. Forma – Nancy Scott is attending and it is about Formation.
- G. Outreach Committee (Stephen Bradley) – nothing new to report.

- H. Stewardship: 32 pledges to date for approximately \$164,000. We have about 12 people that normally pledge who have not yet this year. We normally have 40 pledges annually.
- I. Nominating Committee (Katherine Coburn)
  1. Pam Lipscomb, Kelin Stratton, Tyler Martin are nominated for the three-year terms. The one-year term is being considered by Laura Birchfield (she will give a decision on Wednesday to the Senior Warden).
  2. Annual Meeting: convention Sr. Warden, Pam & Phil Lipscomb, Josh Chapman as alternate we will ask for nominations from the floor.
- J. Evangelism / Worship Committee (Lora Sellers)
  1. Supply Priests: a schedule was sent to all vestry members with officiant assignments and open dates designated. The schedule includes all service music up to May 4.
  2. Spoke with Larry Rogers for potential fill for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. He is not available. Canon Betsy is scheduled for Ash Wednesday and Tim Holder will be asked for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.
  3. We need to send the organist posting to local schools for potential applicants.
  4. Fr. Glandon is coming March 29 (9-12) for a Lenten retreat followed by a soup lunch.
  5. We need to schedule an Usher in-service to cover: safety procedures, usher responsibilities, get the list from Pat Wilcox. Contact Muskogee Police Department for active shooter training/guidelines. Need a 3rd & 4th usher to assist on communion stairs (ask for more at annual meeting).
- New Business
  - \* **St Dunstan's floor labyrinth is not wanted back.**
  - \* Can we cancel St. James Press? Partial refund?
  - \* Vestry Person of the Month: February 2025: David Wilcox; March 2025: give new vestry persons an opportunity; April 2025: give new vestry persons an opportunity
  - \* Announcements: next meeting February 24, 2025
  - \* Schedule a vestry retreat at February meeting
- Closing Prayer given by BJ Charbonneau. Adjournment at 7:17 p.m.

## Vestry Meeting Minutes from Monday, February 24, 2025 5:30PM

- In-Person Attendance: Katherine Coburn, Van Odom, Lora Sellers, Stephen Bradley, Alison Miller, Pam Lipscomb, Joshua Chapman, BJ Charbonneau, Kelin Stratton, Tyler Martin, Laura Burchfield, David Wilcox. Absent: none.
- Mission statement: To bring people together in loving relationship with each other and God in Christ.
- The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Senior Warden Katherine Coburn.
- Reading & Approval of January 20, 2025 minutes. Motion to accept Joshua Chapman, 2nd BJ Charbonneau, motion carried.
- Reports of Wardens & Committees
- A. **Rector's Reports** – N/A
- B. **Wardens' Reports**
  1. Senior Warden (Katherine) –
    - a. Follow-Up Unfinished Business
      - 1) Church Management software – Van & Nancy are reviewing some new software, tabling until other items are complete.
      - 2) Updated membership list provided.
      - 3) Cloud location – Katherine and Alex moved the files to the vestry portal. Vestry access is email address and then last name+last 4 digits of cell phone. Those who are unable to log in should let the Senior Warden know. Lance Scott states he can assist those vestry who cannot get in.
      - 4) Vestry Information Updates – Vestry Person of the Month
      - 5) Social Media – Alex Wilson/Nancy Scott/BJ Charbonneau facebook administrators, new vestry members encouraged to decide which teams they want to work on.
      - 6) SWEEPS – website ecf/ Stewardship, worship, education, evangelism, pastoral care, service
    2. Junior Warden (BJ Charbonneau)
      - a. Saturday sextons – March 15 unless it interferes with Vestry Retreat, will ask sextons to help with Azalea cleanup on March 27-29.
      - b. Parish directory – BJ is working on it, received forms at annual meeting.
      - c. Facilities Use agreement – Senior Warden provided book to Junior Warden.
      - d. keyholder list – completed.
      - e. scout activities – looking forward to camping, regular meetings moved to Tuesday nights, Thursday nights is cubs. The ship serves all of northeastern OK.
- C. Finance (Van Odom)
  1. **Treasurer's report & regular finance reports** – written report provided. Working on itemizing utility costs to determine utility expenditures year over year. Motion to accept Katherine Coburn, 2nd Stephen Bradley, motion carried.
  2. Pledge progress report – written report provided, \$226,760 in pledges for 2025.
  3. finance committee (no additional information). Any expenditure such as the EfM scholarship must be approved by the vestry, not just the discretionary fund. BJ Charbonneau motioned the EfM \$1400 scholarship for 2025 be approved, David Wilcox seconded, motion carried.
  4. fundraising for priest – for Diocese to advertise for a full-time priest Van is trying to raise additional funds for a 3-year commitment for a full-time priest (insurance is a huge part). Raised \$26,000 so far, need \$65,000 more. If we partner with another community (such as Wagoner) it could shave \$10,000 off the need. A new priest will motivate us to do MORE.
- D. Insurance Committee (Stephen Bradley) – nothing new to report.
  1. Beckman is reviewing our insurance and will have something for Stephen to review soon.
  2. Church Insurance Company statement for 2025 is \$46,119.00.
- E. Building & Grounds Committee (BJ Charbonneau) –
  1. Saturday Sextons
  2. Electronic sign update – panel replacement/repair still pending (panels on order?)

3. belltower update – Cook construction repair recommendation still pending
  4. **Margaret's garden** – Ruby Family charitable fund requested, request managed by NBN; City of Muskogee foundation grant LOI submitted
  5. Fire Extinguisher/AED/First Aid Kits – facility maps laminated, will be posted soon
  6. security cameras – repair existing, install new Blink cameras (Tyler will review)
  7. Sanctuary furnace repair update – about \$1500 for the recent repair.
- F. Christian Formation (Pam Lipscomb)
1. **Safeguarding God's Children** – new vestry has not received information yet but is required by the diocese (all online) and Pam will ensure Nancy sends the appropriate link for the training,
  2. Godly play – more teachers are needed. Katherine volunteered to help.
  3. EfM short courses- **after this year the whole curriculum will change. Anyone who has been thru EfM already, they can do a "5th year" program in addition to** short courses being released in the fall.
  4. book studies – sidelined due to weather, resumes this Wednesday
  5. VBS – nothing to report
  6. Moving forward ideas: after church youth activities, parents day out is planned for summer, summer camp fund, youth bake sales, etc. Nursery attendance is really good.
  7. Forma – Nancy Scott report from January retreat is pending receipt.
- G. Stewardship Committee (Stephen Bradley)
1. Stewardship committee needs a co-chair. 43 pledgers (in 2 years makes a 10% increase in pledgers) which is encouraging and represents momentum going forward.
  2. Sunday counters – people who count the offertory (should be 2 persons at all times) using the correct form.
  3. Thank-you note assignment will be presented to the vestry soon.
- H. Evangelism
1. need chairperson
  2. Nothing going on with Faithful Innovations at the present time.
  3. how can we get the word out about Grace? Grace, mercy, forgiveness, freedom, love & Life that can be found through Christ in the Episcopal Church. Moo Cards were shown as an example.
  4. Ashes to go – March 5, 2025 11:00-2:00 on the back porch. Canon Betsy will be at 6:30 service. This Wednesday is pancakes & pajamas at 6:30.
  5. Publicity (facebook etc); Service (outreach); Meals on Wings; Scouts (chartered by Grace); Jingle Jam; Azalea Cleanup; What other projects can we do?
- I. Pastoral Care (need chairperson): Lay eucharistic visitors - # visits, # communion served (BJ, Tim Holder, Van & Katherine have been doing it, if anyone is interested training is available). We have 4-5 in nursing care that we take communion to once a month. We need to track this information for the parochial report.
- J. Nominating Committee (Katherine Coburn) – no new report.
- K. Search Committee (Pam Lipscomb, Tyler Martin) – Zoom meeting with Canon Betsy, same material gone over with vestry on February 23 after the morning service.
- L. Worship Committee (Lora Sellers)
1. Supply Priests: a schedule was sent to all vestry members with homilist assignments and Volunteers for Morning Prayer Officiant
  2. Usher Inservice
  3. Lenten Retreat – Fr. Clyde Glandon Saturday March 29 begins at 9:00 to noon followed with soup lunch.
  4. Floor Labrynth – use during lent?
  5. St James Press subscription through annual subscription until August 7, 2025.
  6. Discussion re: fill organist
- M. Compensation review committee/HR committee (Alison Miller, Lora Sellers, Katherine Coburn)
1. Employee handbook update – Alison has updated and will go over with Nancy soon.
  2. staff meeting pending
  3. best practices per diocese recommendations – staff Letter of Agreement contracts
- N. Parish Life/Fellowship (Laura Burchfield)
1. Card ministry – Kaia Holder, Sharon Champlin
  2. Coffee Hour, Potluck dinners – we would like to do more fellowship. Bring back the 5th Sunday potluck. Consider youth service on 5th Sunday also.
  3. Other fellowship opportunities (field trips, restaurant, picnic, etc)
- New Business:
    - \* Vestry person of the month: February David Wilcox; March Tyler Martin; April Alison Miller; May Laura Burchfiel; June Stephen Bradley; July Joshua Chapman; August Katherine Coburn; Sept Pam Lipscomb; October Lora Sellers; November Kelin Stratton; December 2025 BJ Charbonneau
    - \* Vestry Retreat – March 15, 2025 9:00 a.m. to noon.
  - Announcements, anything else: Next vestry meeting March 24.
  - Closing Prayer given by Van Odom. Adjournment at 7:06 p.m.
  - Addendums to Vestry Meeting:
    - \* Email from the Senior Warden 2-25-25 at 8:20 p.m.: Here is a new business item I failed to bring up at the meeting last night: Attached is an estimated bid from Jon at EF Productions for media capabilities at the chapel. Would be used for streaming a service in the chapel, wedding, funeral etc....as opposed to the hoops the media team has to piece together when we have a last minute service in the chapel. As the amount is non-budgeted and over \$1000, we would need at least one more bid. Would anyone with media knowledge be interested in pursuing another bid? Here is some info from the Grace Purchasing Policy...especially for new Vestry persons: 1. A non-budgeted expense of \$500.00 - \$2,000.00 will require two written or verbal bids (to one of the officers) and must be approved by a majority of the Vestry. We can discuss further at the Vestry Retreat on the morning of March 15 and/or at the next monthly vestry meeting, March 24, but if we have another bid, the discussion will be more complete. Estimate from EF Productions (Wagoner OK) for \$1160 attached.
    - \* Parish Administrator sent the Parochial Report via email to vestry on 2-28-2025 at 4:51 p.m. (attached). The submission is due 3-1-25 with a vote of the vestry needed. Votes by email to accept: Van Odom, Katherine Coburn, Stephen Bradley, Joshua Chapman, Lora Sellers, Alison Miller, Tyler Martin. This is a quorum. The Parochial Report was submitted to the diocese on 3-1-2025.



Grace Episcopal Church  
218 North 6th Street  
Muskogee, OK 74401

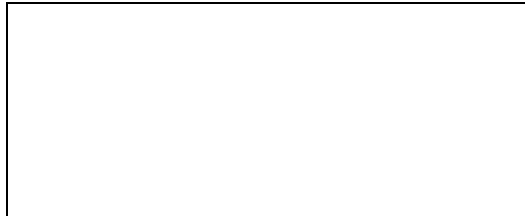
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# GRACE TO YOU

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY

APRIL / MAY 2025

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## Loving God, Embracing All

**Ministers:** All the People of God (BCP p. 855)  
**Presiding Bishop:** The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry  
**Bishop:** The Rt. Rev. Poulson Reed  
**Deacon Emeritus:** The Rev. Thomas A. Harrington  
**Sr. Warden:** Katherine Coburn  
**Jr. Warden:** B.J. Charbonneau  
**Vestry:** Stephen Bradley, Laura Burchfiel, Joshua Chapman,  
Pam Lipscomb, Tyler Martin, Alison Miller, Lora Sellers,  
Kelin Stratton, David Wilcox  
**Clerk of the Vestry:** Lora Sellers  
**Treasurer/Financial Chair:** Van Odom  
**Parish Admin/Youth & Children's Director:** Nancy Scott  
**Phone:** 918-687-5416  
**Website:** [www.GraceMuskogee.org](http://www.GraceMuskogee.org)  
**Email:** [office@GraceMuskogee.org](mailto:office@GraceMuskogee.org)  
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