

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ARDMORE, OKLAHOMA



*Welcome to
St. Philip's*



ALL ARE WELCOME!

St. Philip's Episcopal Church is a diverse and dynamic parish. Here you'll find a warm and accepting community of faith: a place where longtime members and first-time visitors connect with God, one another, and a call to serve our community and the world.

At St. Philip's, worship and parish life blend our love and respect for ancient and beautiful liturgical traditions with our desire to put faith into action. You'll find spiritual nourishment through worship, learning opportunities for all ages, and ever-expanding outreach ministries. The following pages offer a glimpse of who we are and how we share our lives in service to Christ.

With joyful imagination and faithful purpose, we strive to welcome, enrich, and send disciples in the name of Jesus Christ.



VOLUNTEER MINISTRIES AT ST. PHILIP'S

Worship Acolytes
Altar Guild
Eucharistic Ministers
Greeters/Ushers
Lectors



Music St. Philip's Parish Choir
Instrumentalists



Christian Formation Godly Play
Sunday School
Youth Group
Adult Bible Study



Pastoral Care Eucharistic Visitor
Hospitality Committee
Prayer Teams



Parish Life After-Worship Refreshments
Hospitality Committee
Landscape Committee
Mardi Gras Party
Newcomer Receptions
Office Volunteers



Mission & Outreach Ardmore Soup Kitchen
Community Action Group
Food and Resource Center
Foster Childrens' Christmas
Men's Group
Sunday Suppers

WORSHIP



Our Shared Curiosity

When Episcopalians gather for worship, we comprise an eclectic group of seekers, doubters, and believers. If there is a common denominator among Episcopalians, most likely it is curiosity. No matter where any of us might be on our spiritual journey, we want to hear God's vision for us in our time and place. We strive to be welcoming and inclusive because our experiences of God in all persons help to shape our understanding of the Divine.



Strengthened for Service

For Episcopalians, worship is the central expression of our Christian identity, and it deepens our relationship with God. Through prayer, praise, scripture, and sacrament, we celebrate God's love with ancient ceremony yet always-timely conversation. Our worship nourishes and strengthens us for service to Christ in the world.



Participants in Worship

Episcopalians are participants in worship, not observers. We use all our senses and direct our entire attention-body and spirit-toward God. While the clergy are the principal leaders in church services, lay persons (non-clerical) participate in all aspects of worship, from carrying the lights that guard the cross to administering the chalice at communion. Everyone who has been baptized is a minister in the Episcopal Church and shares in the life, worship, and governance of the church.



Using Our Spiritual Gifts

There are many worship ministries where a person may use his or her personal gifts in service to the church. These include leadership roles as well as participating in the altar guild, as acolytes, Eucharistic ministers, lectors, ushers, oblationers, and intercessors.

WORSHIP



Similar Worship, Different Styles

St. Philip's offers two worship services on Sundays. Each unfolds differently, but the format is the same for all: prayers, readings from Holy Scripture, and sermon or homily, followed by Holy Communion.

At 8 a.m. there is a traditional spoken service without hymns or chanting. It retains much of the language used in the 1559 Elizabethan prayer book.

Our 10:30 a.m. service uses contemporary language as well as hymns, organ, parish choir (except during the summer), and occasional instrumentalists.



Grounded in Scripture

We regard the Holy Bible as foundational to our faith. It is the inspired word of God written by human hands for people living in an ancient time and distant place. Therefore, we interpret the Bible through the lenses of context, tradition, and reason. More than 70 percent of *The Book of Common Prayer*, which has guided our worship since the days of King Henry VIII of England, comes directly from the Bible. In addition, each service generally includes readings from the Old Testament, the epistles, the gospels, and the psalms, arranged such that most of the Bible is read aloud in church over three years.

The Book of Common Prayer is widely considered a masterpiece of writing. The language and indeed the whole culture of the prayer book came to be a major influence on the speech of a large proportion of English-speaking men and women.



MUSIC



Music Glorifies God

At its core, sacred music is directed towards God, not human beings. Even so, it undoubtedly has the power to elevate the emotions of those playing, singing, and hearing it.

As Episcopalians, we offer our music to God to enhance our liturgy and magnify our worship. We believe that music is among the ways we glorify God.



Music Connect Us

Listening to music and singing together connect us with God and each other in unique ways. Worshiping through music changes and transforms us. It inclines our hearts to God and to our community of faith in ways other forms can't accomplish.

A Tradition of Excellence

At St. Philip's, we value excellence. Our organ is a magnificent Aeolian-Skinner pipe instrument, and we have a tradition of exceptionally talented musicians leading our music ministries. The American Organ Institute at the University of Oklahoma has become a valuable resource for us in many ways.



A Joyful Sound

St. Philip's Choir leads and supports the congregation's worship. Anthems and other musical offerings amplify and enhance the worship experience. On regular occasions, string and wind instruments augment the choir and organ.

St. Philip's Handbell Choir plays for festival services, on special occasions, and at other times. Their distinctive sound is a beautiful and joyous accompaniment to the liturgy. In addition, the handbell choir offers people with or without musical training the opportunity to participate in music ministry. Handbell choir is offered when there are enough interested participants to ring all the bells (two to four bells per person).

PASTORAL CARE



Responding to Human Need

The ministry of caring, the response to human need ... these are at the heart of the church's life. St. Philip's provides physical, emotional, and spiritual support to our church family and our community. Intercessory prayer, hospital visitation, counseling, and ministries of shared presence, listening, and comfort are offered in times of celebration as well as adversity. Major life changes and challenges such as marriages, new babies, illness, disability, misfortune, bereavement, are aided by loving concern as well as practical assistance.



Listening and Guidance

Parishioners and ordained clergy have the care of God's people as a principal responsibility. If a parishioner desires pastoral counseling, members of the clergy listen, offer encouragement and direction, provide spiritual insight and perspective, and, when appropriate, make referrals to professional counselors.

The sacrament of reconciliation is the practice of privately discussing, and when appropriate, confessing errors or misdoings to a priest. Those who are repentant may receive absolution in the name of God.



Changes and Transitions

When someone dies, St. Philip's offers funeral planning resources to families and loved ones to meet the wishes of the deceased and the needs of the family. It is general practice in the Episcopal Church to offer funeral services for anyone, including non-members and those who do not profess the Christian faith.

Lay ministries are lovingly carried out in many ways. These include, but are not limited to, prayer teams, lay visitors who take the sacrament to homebound parishioners, and receptions at funerals, baptisms, weddings, and special events.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION



Education for a Lifetime

In the Episcopal Church, Christian formation is the lifelong process of growing in our relationship with God, self, others, and all creation. At St. Philip's, we strive to present meaningful, engaging, and thought-provoking learning opportunities for all ages.

Exploring God's Presence

On Sunday mornings, St. Philip's offers **Godly Play**, a Montessori-based storytelling program, for kindergarten through grade two. Children in grades three to five participate in **Weaving God's Promises**, a comprehensive, three-year curriculum that addresses multiple learning styles. A nursery is available for younger children.



Adult Christian Education includes Sunday morning classes and Wednesday evening Bible study. Topics vary and have included in-depth study of biblical passages, the social context of the ancient world, and biblical archaeology, among others.

On Sunday afternoons, a youth director leads **St. Philip's youth group** with attention to making the church a safe place to learn and grow. These, we believe, are essential in the healthy transition to young adulthood. Through open conversation, videos, and hands-on activities, the group explores the application of biblical readings and liturgical practice in a modern context. They also participate in community building events such as hiking, laser tag, and other activities.

Extraordinary Insight

Spiritual direction is a means for people to deepen their relationship with God, or to learn and grow in their own personal spirituality. Two trained and credentialed spiritual directors, both clergy, are available to those who want to engage in this challenging but rewarding practice.



PARISH LIFE



Our Shared Life

There are many ways outside of worship that we support one another in our life of faith. Getting together for fun and fellowship, working in and for the church-these are among the ways our lives are made fuller, richer, and more generous.

Fellowship and Fun

We gather both inside and outside the church to enjoy each other's company. After-worship refreshments and newcomer receptions are among the many ways we nurture supportive relationships among longtime and new church members. Events such as the Mardi Gras party, Consecration Sunday, and other special occasions enable parishioners who attend different worship services to get together for convivial meals and other activities.



Supporting the Church

By supporting St. Philip's ministries and mission, members are reminded that they form a community of faith. When we come together to serve God, we are the body of Christ.

Members seek to show God's presence in the world through a variety of ways:

Office volunteers assist the church staff by updating the Parish Register and Memorial Books, and by answering the phone and by helping with worship bulletins, mailings, and other projects.

Landscape volunteers work to keep our courtyard and other areas picturesque and appealing.

The worship committee members coordinate several ministries and advise the priest. Other parishioners serve on the vestry, the finance committee, and with many other tasks and activities that occur throughout the year.



OUTREACH



Reaching the Community

Through its multiple ministries, and in cooperation with local organizations and agencies, St. Philip's serves the disadvantaged, individuals with physical and mental challenges, and others broken by life's unfortunate circumstances.

Persons in Crisis

St. Philip's works cooperatively with the Grace Resource Center, a homelessness-prevention program, to provide financial assistance to individuals in crisis. Through direct payments to housing, transportation, and other service providers, the church helps with utility payments, rent, temporary shelter, medical bills, and other urgent needs.

Feeding the Hungry

St. Philip's has a strong commitment to feeding those who are hungry. On the last Sunday of the month we host and serve as many as 50 guests at our Sunday Suppers. We also host Hungry for Change, which provides a meal on other Sundays.

Every eight weeks, the church provides weekly staffing for the Food and Resource Center of South Central Oklahoma. It offers a market-type experience for clients to choose what they need.

Helping Children and Veterans

St. Philip's Foster Children's Christmas Program fulfills the Christmas wishes for about 140 foster kids in the care of the Department of Human Services.



ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

516 McLish Street ~ Ardmore, Oklahoma 73401 ~ 580-226-2191 ~ stphilipsardmore.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite 1
- 10:30 a.m. Choral Holy Eucharist, Rite 2
- 1 p.m. Eucharist at Ardmore Village

Wednesdays

- 12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite 2

Christmas Eve

- 5 p.m. Children and Families' Eucharist, Rite 2
- 10:00 p.m. Festival of Carols and Noéls
- 10:30 p.m. Choral Holy Eucharist, Rite 2

Christmas Day

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite 1
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite 2

Ash Wednesday

- 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with
Oak Hall Episcopal School
- 12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite 2
- 6:00 p.m. Choral Holy Eucharist, Rite 2

Other Wednesdays in Lent

- 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite 2
- 6:00 p.m. Lenten Meal (*Parish Hall*)
- 6:30 p.m. Lenten Study Program
(*Canterbury Room*)

Holy Week

- 6:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday
- 12:00 p.m. Good Friday
- 6:00 p.m. Good Friday
- 9:00 a.m. Holy Saturday

Easter

- 8:00 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter
The Saturday evening
before Easter Day

Easter Day

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite 1
- 10:30 a.m. Festival Choral Holy Eucharist, Rite 2

Pentecost

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite 1
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite 2

The worship schedule is subject to change. Please refer to our website: stphilipsardmore.org for the most updated information, or call the Parish Office at 580-226-2191.

Parish Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Mike Stephenson, Rector
Fr. Mike 312-213-0577 cell or email stpamike@gmail.com

Leen Latorre, Organist

Bob Pfau, Choral Director

John Putnam, Youth Director/Sunday School Coordinator ~ stpafamilies@gmail.com

Crystal Cortés, Secretary ~ stpasecretary@gmail.com

Dee Smith, Office Volunteer

Matt Wells, Sexton

www.stphilipsardmore.org

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