

Inside *Grace* **to You!**

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From the Rector's Pen..✍

“Faithfulness in Small Things”

This past week, I stood alone in the sanctuary early in the morning, the hot summer sun gently bleeding through the stained-glass windows. There’s a quiet holiness in those early hours. No hurried whispering of readers or servers as they find their places. Just stillness. The kind of stillness that reminds you that God often speaks not in the wind, or the earthquake, or the fire, but in the whisper.

I found myself reflecting on what makes a church flourish. Not just survive, but genuinely flourish. It is tempting, especially in our day and age, to measure vitality the way the world does, through numbers, metrics, clicks, and growth charts. And yes, those things can tell part of the story. But they are not the whole story. The Kingdom of God is rarely about the visible and dramatic. It is almost always about the slow and hidden things, a widow’s mite, a mustard seed, a little leaven in the dough. In other words, faithfulness in small things.

We are living in a peculiar moment. Our culture moves at the speed of impulse. Patience is not rewarded. Humility is not admired. Commitment is often viewed as optional, and consistency is perceived as outdated. And yet here you are, Sunday after Sunday, week after week, praying, serving, making coffee, teaching children, showing up. Perhaps no one notices. But God does.

In one of his letters, the apostle Paul reminds us that we are “God’s field, God’s building.” What a striking image. Not a factory or a machine, but a field. Which means that everything we do in this parish is agricultural work. And anyone who has ever farmed or gardened knows the nature of that work. It is patient, seasonal, and repetitive. You pull weeds that come back the next day. You water and wait, water and wait. For weeks, there has been no change. And then, almost miraculously, the first green shoots appear.

So much of parish ministry is like that. Faithfully pulling weeds and faithfully showing up and faithfully singing the same hymns, praying the same prayers, walking with the same people. We do it because God is at work, even when we cannot see it, especially when we cannot see it.

One of the beautiful things I have learned during my short time at Grace is that the most important ministry in a church is often the one that goes unseen. Someone prays for another parishioner daily without them knowing. Someone takes home the linens to wash. Someone replaces the candles. Someone puts away the bulletins left in the pews. None of this is included in the annual report. But I am convinced that the invisible faithfulness of the saints is what holds a church together.

It is a strange thing to say in a newsletter, but I will say it anyway. Holiness still matters. And holiness is not something only monks or mystics pursue. It is cultivated in homes, in hospitals, at kitchen tables, in committee meetings, in long email threads about the parish calendar. Holiness is formed when we decide that our worship matters, even when we are tired; that our prayers matter, even when we feel dry; and that our presence matters, even when we are unseen.

So, if you find yourself wondering whether your ministry matters, whether teaching that Sunday School class, praying for that person, or welcoming that newcomer is worth the effort, let me say plainly: it is. Our faith is not built on what we see. It is built on the promise that God is faithful and that God will finish what God began.

I want to thank all of you who are engaged in the unglamorous but vital work of parish life. Those who come early to unlock the doors. Those who stay after to clean up. Those who call, visit, or check in on someone who has been away from home. This is not extra. This is not behind the scenes. This is the Church.

As we enter this next season, I invite you to recommit to the small things. To not overlook the ordinary in search of the spectacular. God is often in the ordinary, if only we have eyes to see. Recommit to worship, to prayer, to hospitality, to learning, to forgiveness, to friendship. These are the seeds we plant, and in God's time, the Kingdom comes.

And if you are new to this community, having come for just a few weeks or a couple of months, please know this. There is a place for you here. You are not too late. You do not have to know everything. You are not required to have your life together. But you are invited to join us in this long and slow work of grace. We do not pretend to be perfect, but we are trying to be faithful. And we believe that is more than enough.

With gratitude for each of you, and with hope in Christ,

Fr. Omar+



The Rt. Rev. Poulson Reed,
Bishop of the Diocese of Oklahoma,

with

The Rev. Canon Betsy Randall
Canon to the Ordinary

and

The Wardens, Vestry, and People
of Grace Episcopal Church Muskogee

invite your prayers and presence at
the Celebration of New Ministry



Welcoming our new Rector:
The Rev. Omar Cisneros

On Wednesday, August 27th - 6:30 P.M.
Please join us in person or online.



Reimagining
YOUTH NIGHTS
Parents & Youth: Please join us for

PIZZA & PLANNING

6:30 PM ~ 9/10/25

Grace is currently in need of a new Security system as our current system no longer works. A fund has been created to help with replacement. Please designate "security" to give towards this need.

**SECURITY
SYSTEM**



Happy Birthday

8/1 Nancy Scott
8/4 Jay Smith
8/5 Jordan Harper
8/8 Brett Wiseley
8/9 Jennifer Moore
8/10 Richard Bradley
8/10 Cohen Martin
8/12 Ron Beaman
8/12 Blake Woods
8/13 Tom Honea
8/14 Lillian Jayne
8/14 Alison Miller
8/17 Jeremy Stone
8/17 D.I. Wilkinson
8/19 Silas Johnson
8/26 Finley Stone
8/28 Carolyn Powell
8/29 Emma Clark
8/30 Chris Vestal
8/31 Ron Woods

9/5 John Champlin
9/5 Jamie Charbonneau
9/6 Terry Eddings
9/6 Jackson Pevehouse
9/9 Kaleb Di Noia
9/10 Suzanne Ray
9/18 Josh Cotten
9/18 John Freie
9/19 Stuart Woods
9/20 Brandon Bower
9/21 Karoline Newell
9/28 Zach Coburn
9/28 Pamela Freeman






Happy Anniversary

8/12 Kaia & Tim Holder
8/26 Margaret & Clifton Gregory
9/2 Cody & Renee Johnson
9/12 Shelia & Tom Harrington
9/24 Sharon & John Champlin



A NIGHT IN GREECE FUNDRAISER DINNER OCTOBER 10, 2025 6:00 PM



This will be an important fundraising event for our church.

It will take our entire church community to make this happen.

We need help with: set-up, clean up, wait staff, advertising, and promotion within the community.

This is a public event. To volunteer please contact Laura Burchfiel (205-915-5273) or Lburchfiel@gmail.com.

In Memory of...

Dorothy Fite

Given by:

**Joel Cousins
Kristin Janisch
Laurie Campbell Wilson
Linda Fite
Mike Stratton
Renee Tyrrell
JoLynn Gabrielson**

**Ken Beard
Saundra Smith
Diane Walden
James Buchanan
Kaia & Tim Holder
Elada Kirk
Martha Kent**



**Ronnie, Nancy, Catheryne, Paula,
Ched, Falling family, Joe, Connie,
Marlene, Larry, Ron, Tony, Kelli, Cedric,
Ricky, Sharon, Brent, Robert, Mike,
Ann, Fred, Renee, Wesley, Taylor, Ky,
Stuart, Pam, Leland, Adrian, Mike,
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.

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. Submissions for the next newsletter should be received in the office no later than September 15th.

THOSE WHO SERVE AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

10:30 A.M.	8/3	8/10	8/17	8/24	8/31
Celebrant	The Rev. Omar Cisneros	The Rt. Rev. Omar Cisneros	The Rev. Omar Cisneros	The Rev. Omar Cisneros	The Rev. Omar Cisneros
1st Reader/Chalice	Stephen Bradley	Tim Holder	Stephen Bradley	Katherine Coburn	Lora Sellers
2nd Reader/Chalice	Van Odom	Kaia Holder	Killian Stratton	Jean Lewis	Tyler Martin
Head Usher/Greeter	Stephen Bradley	Josh Chapman	Tyler Martin	David Wilcox	Stephen Bradley
Altar Guild	Marlene Odom	Katherine Coburn	Melody Freie	Renee Tyrrell	Pat Wilcox
Media	Alex Wilson	Nancy Scott	Tim Holder	Tyler Martin	Alex Wilson
1st Cross	Coco Cox	Danielle Jardine	Pat Wilcox	Danielle Jardine	Pat Wilcox
Torch	Edie Martin	--	Edie Martin	--	Edie Martin
Torch/Plates	Silas Johnson	Skye Jardin	Silas Johnson	Skye Jardin	Silas Johnson
2nd Cross	Lucy Cox	Andrew Jardin	Killian Stratton	Andrew Jardin	Killian Stratton
10:30 A.M.	9/7	9/14	9/21	9/28	
Celebrant	The Rev. Omar Cisneros	The Rev. Omar Cisneros	The Rev. Omar Cisneros	The Rev. Omar Cisneros	
1st Reader/Chalice	Alex Wilson	Stephen Bradley	Van Odom	Rick Ewing	
2nd Reader/Chalice	Joel Cousins	Killian Stratton	Stephen Bradley	Chris Ewing	
Head Usher/Greeter	Alex Wilson	Stephen Bradley	Tyler Martin	David Wilcox	
Altar Guild	Marlene Odom	Katherine Coburn	Renee Tyrrell	Pat Wilcox	
Media	Nancy Scott	Tim Holder	Tyler Martin	Alex Wilson	
1st Cross	Coco Cox	Danielle Jardine	Pat Wilcox	Danielle Jardine	
Torch	--	Edie Martin	--	Edie Martin	
Torch/Plates	Silas Johnson	Skye Jardine	Silas Johnson	Skye Jardine	
2nd Cross	Lucy Cox	Killian Stratton	Killian Stratton	Andrew Jardine	

If you are unable to serve on your assigned dates, please find a replacement & notify the parish office at 918-687-5416 by Wednesday before your scheduled day to serve. If an acolyte cannot serve when scheduled, please contact Pat Wilcox.

On the Altar: August & September



Flowers



Bread & Wine

Aug 3:	In loving memory of Dorothy Boen by Chuck & Dotty Oelkers and Eddie Boen	In memory of Anna Jean Woods by Stuart Woods
Aug 10:	In loving memory of Henry, Gerald, and Cynthia Haugland by the Hauglands	In honor of Tom Honea's birthday by Betty Honea
Aug 17:	In Memory of his mother, Anna Jean Woods, by Stuart Woods	In loving memory of Eddie & Bernice Edwards, David & Linda Edwards, Emily Green, and Emil & Marion Stratton by Van & Marlene Odom
Aug 24:	In Honor of Jerry Sellers Birthday by Lora Sellers	In honor of Edith Lubin's belated birthday by Edith Lubin
Aug 31:	In honor of Carmen Lubin by Edith Lubin	In loving memory of Dorothy Boen by Chuck & Dotty Oelkers and Eddie Boen
Sept 7:	In loving memory of Alex & Ruth Burrell, Helen & Thomas E. Tobin, Sr., and Daniel Tobin by Barbara Tobin	In honor of all our church youth, past, present, and future by Katherine Coburn
Sept 14:	In loving memory of Dorothy Boen by Chuck & Dotty Oelkers and Eddie Boen	In loving memory of Joe & Em Basolo by Nancy Green
Sept 21:	In loving memory of Frank Medearis by Joel Cousins	In honor of their daughters by Kaia & Tim Holder
Sept 28:	In loving memory of Inez Johnson by Cedric Johnson	In honor of our children's and grandchildren's birthdays by Marlene & Van Odom

Join us for the end of summer

ICE CREAM SOCIAL *and* POTLUCK

Sunday, August 31st
after the Worship Service
in the Parish Hall

Bring your favorite summer side.



food ~ fellowship ~ ice cream sundae bar ~ toppings galore

**Sunday,
9/28/25
During
Coffee
Hour**

**FISH FRY
AND
POTLUCK**

**Bring
your
favorite
sides and
desserts.**

**AUGUST
VESTRY PERSON
OF THE MONTH:**
**Katherine
Coburn**



**SEPTEMBER
VESTRY PERSON
OF THE MONTH:**
**Pam
Lipscomb**



Minutes of the Vestry Meeting, June 2, 2025

- In-Person Attendance: Katherine Coburn, Laura Burchfiel, Lora Sellers, Alison Miller, Pam Lipscomb, Joshua Chapman, Kelin Stratton, Tyler Martin, David Wilcox, Stephen Bradley. Absent: Van Odom, BJ Charbonneau.
- The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. with prayer.
- Reading & Approval of April 28, 2025 minutes. Motion to accept Joshua Chapman, 2nd Pam Lipscomb, motion carried.

Reports of Wardens & Committees

A. Rector's Reports – Pending first day of employment with Fr. Omar.

B. Wardens' Reports

1. Senior Warden (Katherine)

a) Follow-Up Unfinished Business

1. Miss You cards – Stephen's are mailed, Katherine's are almost finished and will go out this week.
2. Cloud location for vestry documents – Katherine getting them moved over. Joshua Chapman still cannot get in.
3. Moving forward priorities – playground has been updated, donation to Sadler has been made.
4. Safe Church policy update – Nancy Scott is being trained to be an instructor.

b) New Business

1. New Rector Letter of Agreement is complete (LOA). The vestry needs to approve the designation of the housing allowance, and an officer of the church must sign it. This is a future obligation to be met at the next meeting.
2. New Rector celebration party – Britta will get with Fr. Omar to set a date.
3. Celebration of New Ministry service – Canon Betsy will let us know, sometime in August.

2. Junior Warden (BJ Charbonneau) ABSENT

a) Parish directory – Due by June 30, 2025.

b) Facilities Use agreement – no report

c) Keyholder status list – no report

d) Sunday offering count & deposit – no report

e) Jakes Muffler rental of Grace Parking Lot – BJ and Katherine spoke with the new owner, he needs a lease in order to obtain liability insurance. We will work on putting a lease together. Alison Miller motioned for a monthly lease amount of \$250 and they will maintain. 2nd Joshua Chapman. Motion carried.

C. Finance (Van Odom)

1. A written finance report was provided in advance. Treasurer was away on the meeting date, no questions. Motion to accept as presented Joshua Chapman, 2nd Alison Miller, motion carried.

2. Pledge Progress Report

3. Full time priest fund raising status

D. Insurance Committee (Stephen Bradley): 2025 CIG vs. Beckman Ins. Options – no report until November.

E. Building & Grounds Committee (BJ Charbonneau) –

1. Saturday Sextons – May 17 report – David did not have a report.

2. Electronic sign update

3. Belltower update – Jim Ebe (sp?) came out with Wren Stratton to look at the project, he provided names for foundation work (northeast corner). There is no imminent danger of it falling according to him. Then the louvers will need to be repaired above. Katherine is working on this project. A taller curb and the storm drain in the street is an issue. We also need to look at point tucking the masonry and putting a dehumidifier in the basement.

4. Margaret's Garden – no status update on Ruby family fund. Another grant through Kids

5. Gardening might be something to look into.

6. Fire Extinguisher / AED / First Aid kits, facility map – maps are created, need to be posted. We may need to discuss a safety committee in future.

7. Security cameras – We need an update on the donated amount toward this line item.

F. Christian Formation (Pam Lipscomb)

1. Godly Play – still need a teacher, working on that this summer. There are lots of online training options.

2. Kelin, Georgie, Patrick, Pam, Phil are on the Education Committee. Discussion to restructure youth and children activities. Ages are 2 to 18 (older kids volunteer).

3. EfM – 1 more meeting then off until August.

4. Book Studies – Getting to Know Jesus Again book study is continuing.

5. Moving forward ideas – St. Crispin's we have some children are going. Parent's Day out starting June 22 (parents free afternoon from 1-6 including games, meal, crafts).

6. Forma – nothing to report.

7. VBS 2025 – nothing to report

8. Youth & Children Director – feedback on position expectations will be determined with new priest.

G. Stewardship Committee (Stephen Bradley): online stewardship training is available for anyone wishing to participate.

H. Evangelism (Tyler Martin) – not available

1. Faithful Innovations

2. Publicity / social media – he can work on a weekly social media post, content can be a group effort. Discussion regarding disclaimer that personal images are used.

I. Service (outreach)

1. Meals on Wings – no new report. Food donations are taking the place of an external donation. Meals on Wednesdays and Fridays.

2. Scouts (chartered by Grace) – ongoing, nothing new to report.

J. Parish Life (Laura Burchfiel)

1. Card Ministry – ongoing work.

2. Coffee Hour / potlucks – potluck for Bishop's visit June 8, Lance is smoking a ham.

3. Fellowship activities – any field trip ideas? Crystal Bridges, Philbrook, Leon Russell home, Tulsa Botanical Garden, Tahlequah monastery (Clear Creek Abbey). Once a quarter is the goal for field trips.

4. International dinner – discussion with Laura Wickizer regarding a menu and ideas are ongoing. We can't cook anything in our ovens because it burns, Renee suggested everyone brings a baked dish and we can keep it warm in the oven. We do need to set a date for sometime in October depending on football schedules and church convention (Oct 2-4).

5. Auction – pending.

K. Pastoral Care (need chairperson): Lay eucharistic visitors – Van has been doing them, Katherine is going to see Cedric at noon. (Phil would like to accompany Katherine for that visit).

L. Worship Committee (Lora Sellers)

1. Supply Priests: recognition/thank you Fr. Orsburn (signed by wardens & clerk). Fr. Omar will pick up a small thank-you gift (Zieglers in Tulsa).
2. Volunteers for morning prayer officiant
3. usher inservice
4. St. James Press – subscription thru 8-7-25
5. Music program
6. organ repair – bid pending
7. Cope is currently under rebuilding for the Ash Wednesday/Pentecost Sunday priest attire.

M. Search Committee (Pam Lipscomb, Tyler Martin): MISSION COMPLETE – LET'S CELEBRATE. Pam stated it was a wonderful committee and they are very pleased with their selection. Tom Harrington and Tim Holder have agreed to be the advisory committee for Fr. Cisneros.

N. Compensation review committee/HR committee (Alison Miller, Lora Sellers, Katherine Coburn)

1. Employee handbook update – need to schedule a meeting.
2. STAFF MEETING with Fr. Omar will be established to coordinate parish life.
3. In-Office hours to be posted – office location should be more easily discerned. Phone message needs to be updated. Suggested office hours are 9-3.

O. Nominating Committee – no report.

• New Business

1. Vestry person of the month: June - Stephen Bradley; July - Joshua Chapman; August - Katherine Coburn; Sept - Pam Lipscomb; October - Lora Sellers; November - Kelin Stratton; December - BJ Charbonneau
 2. Next regular meeting June 30, 2025
 3. Announcements, anything else: nothing new.
- Closing Prayer at 6:50 p.m.

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting, June 30, 2025

- In-Person Attendance: Katherine Coburn, Laura Burchfiel, Lora Sellers, Alison Miller, Pam Lipscomb, Joshua Chapman, Stephen Bradley, Van Odom, BJ Charbonneau, Fr. Omar Cisneros, Kelin Stratton. Absent: David Wilcox, Tyler Martin
- The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. with prayer by Fr. Cisneros.
- Reading & Approval of June 2, 2025 minutes. Motion to accept Pam Lipscomb, 2nd Joshua Chapman, motion carried.

Reports of Wardens & Committees

A. Rector's Reports – Fr. Omar Cisneros

1. Grace Updates – enjoy being at Grace the past 3 weeks! Inspiring to see flexibility of the congregation.
 - a) Distributed a list of topics for discussion including office hours (Mon-Thurs 9-3), door system & cameras, repurpose space for ministry use, complete website & log redesign, establish system-based pastoral care email. Replace Church Windows with Church Center system, more user friendly and user interactive system.
 - b) Parish-wide Anglican course being searched for, weekly newcomer meetings, publicize office hours, polish Sunday service, reconnect with lapsed members. Fr. Clyde Glandon asked to have a conference here on October 18, 2025.
 - c) Goal to Meet each vestry & member individually
2. 2025 Pay & Housing designation
3. Jake's Muffler – lease agreement parking lot use/rental – decided to not use our parking lot any more, we should not see commercial use there although we want to keep a good relationship with them.

B. Wardens' Reports

1. Senior Warden (Katherine)

- a) Cloud location – minutes etc are being moved slowly to the portal
- b) moving forward priorities: acolyte recognition Sunday in the fall, bids for carpet & chair cleaning parish hall meeting with a service tomorrow for a bid
- c) Safe church policy updates: there is a new diocesan contact, Nancy has been asked to be a regional inperson trainer, keyholder agreement criteria
- d) Fr. Orsburn recognition of service, certificates have been created and need to be signed
- e) celebration of new ministry service August 27 with a reception hosted by vestry
- f) cleaning service proposal for sanctuary: altar guild has been performing this cleaning. Megan Pierce has sent a bid to come twice monthly for \$150/visit or \$300/month. Proposed trying it for six months before making a longer commitment. BJ Charbonneau motioned to contract for six months and then evaluate, 2nd Joshua Chapman, motion carried.
- g) church nametags are on a board in the sacristy, we need to update design, display board. Kelin Stratton volunteered to take on the project.

2. Junior Warden (BJ Charbonneau) ABSENT

- a) Parish directory – Due by June 30, 2025, all but last 2 names were done, church center app already has a directory function built in.
- b) Facilities Use agreement – BJ is responsible for getting facility users to sign the agreement.
- c) Keyholder status list – BJ is responsible for getting keyholders to sign the agreement.
- d) Sunday offering count & deposit – change from mid-week deposit to Sunday count & deposit. We need a schedule put together of people who can perform this task.

C. Finance (Van Odom)

1. A written finance report was provided in advance. Income is \$741 over budget year to date. Pledge income and plate offering is in the black. Year-to-date expenses are under budget. \$56,008 donated to the new priest fund year to date. The Stifel balance is \$136,938. Utilities were below budget through May 31, 2025. Thank you cards were sent to new priest fund contributors. Insurance was paid in June which will change our expenses going forward. Motion to accept finance report Alison Miller, 2nd Pam Lipscomb, motion carried.
2. Legacy contributions are important ongoing commitments and available.
3. finance committee / stewardship committee meeting will be held in August.
4. Motion to add Fr. Omar Cisneros as a signatory to both bank checking accounts (Operating Fund & Priest Discretionary Fund) made by Katherine Coburn, 2nd Lora Sellers, motion carried.

D. Insurance Committee (Stephen Bradley): 2025 CIG vs. Beckman Ins. Options – no report until November.

E. Building & Grounds Committee (BJ Charbonneau) –

1. Saturday Sextons – next meeting is July 19. A church workday with an organized list and supplies is a better plan, and to get the scouts involved. A quarterly workday would be more effective.
 2. Electronic sign update – waiting on parts to repair, service crew was here, repairs will take place when parts arrive.
 3. Belltower update – Wren Stratton and Jim Ebe met with Sr. Warden, corner of foundation appears to be sinking, recommended Shane Frix to see if he can find a footing to lift, then Travis Williams construction to take a look for additional potential work. Also get some drone footage which would help the construction team. Another chunk fell off the belltower exterior. Jim Webb has done roofing and he said the louver replacement would be expensive, just insert smoked glass in those openings. Sealing might muffle the bell but would correct future water damage. Guttering entering the underground clay could be re-done, and the slope could be re-graded. There are not any storm drains on our side of Court at the street. Avery Rigney (SP?) will be getting back with Katherine about the storm drain situation.
 4. Margaret's Garden – no status update on Ruby family fund. OK Diocese Episcopal Church Women's grant \$500 received & Meals on Wings got a \$500 grant. \$14,000 is in the Margaret's Garden fund to date. Electricity is the first task in that project. A thank you card for the grant has been sent.
 5. Fire Extinguisher / AED / First Aid kits, facility map – maps are created, need to be posted. We may need to discuss a safety committee in future.
 6. Security cameras – only \$100 has been donated to this item.
 7. Quote for maglock/keyfob church entry system is pending
 8. lightning strike has damaged the air conditioning system (kitchen, parish hall, 3 unit outside choir room one is off the pad). Adrian will be here this week to get the air back online and check the church system.
 9. the lock on the front office door is being inspected tomorrow and BJ is meeting with them.
 10. Appliance repair will be here Wednesday to repair door on fridge and to look at the center fridge.
 11. Proposed awning for the front door at the office as well as a stair into the attic from the boiler room. BJ will begin getting estimates. She will also get rubber strips for the steps from the alley into the kitchen area. Tom Harrington will contribute toward a handrail in that area. Also we need to consider rails from the sacristy to the sidewalk.
- F. Christian Formation (Pam Lipscomb, Kelin Stratton, Patrick Shea, Phil Lipscomb, Georgie Chapius, Nancy Scott): NOTHING IS BROKEN!
1. Education Committee is meeting in August, proposed 3 classes, older group in youth room, middle in children's chapel, tots in nursery.
 2. Godly Play – still need a teacher, working on that this summer. There are lots of online training options with a cost of \$350.
 3. EfM short courses start fall 2025, description is pending
 4. Book study "Getting to Know Jesus Again" is ongoing
 5. St Crispin's camp kids reported they had a good time and looking forward to going next year. Funds from the rummage sale will go toward camp scholarships every year.
 6. Parent Sunday afternoon out on June 22 was a really good event, plan to do it again in August.
 7. Forma – youth activity meeting August/September & after church youth activities
 8. VBS 2025 July 28-31 "Road Trip" needs volunteers for kids 6-12 plus families

G. Stewardship Committee (Stephen Bradley): online stewardship training is available for anyone wishing to participate.

1. online stewardship training – August 19, 6:30 p.m. & September 23, 6:30 p.m. Offered by TENS (the Episcopal Network for Stewardship)
2. New Stewardship program to implement in 2026 – Fr. Omar has an idea for next year, he will provide a book to Stephen for review (Consecration Sunday).

H. Evangelism (Tyler Martin) – not available

1. Faithful Innovations – on hiatus, diocese will be looking for new ways to change and grow
2. Publicity / social media – (Alex, Nancy, BJ, Fr. Omar) – Fr. Omar is trying to post a couple times a week. Young people look at website & social media first. The Grace Friends facebook page is a private forum safe for kids & members.

I. Service (outreach)

1. Meals on Wings – \$500 grant received.
2. Scouts (chartered by Grace) – busy with camps and watersports activities.

J. Parish Life (Laura Burchfiel)

1. Card Ministry – (Kaia Holder, Sharon Champlin).
2. Coffee Hour / potlucks – 5th Sunday potluck March, June, August, November. Suggested "Christmas in July" on July 27 with Christmas food, decorations, etc. Proposed last Sunday of the month be a themed potluck for the next 6 months.
3. Fellowship activities – Tulsa Tunnels information received, if we do the group activity.
4. Greek/International dinner – October 23 proposed date (Thursday). Gather recipes, menu will be established, people will be contacted to prepare dishes in advance.
5. Auction – pending, funds raised are proposed to go to kitchen stove replacement and possibly bigger sinks.
6. Pam looked at freestanding commercial ovens ranging in price from \$3000-\$4000. There is also a \$500-\$1200 convection countertop oven option. The kitchen is the heart of the church.

K. Pastoral Care (need chairperson)

1. Lay eucharistic visitors – # visits, # communion served
2. Pastoral care email account – please let Fr. Omar know if someone is hospitalized.

L. Worship Committee (Lora Sellers)

1. Usher inservice – completed by Pat Wilcox in May 2025
2. St James Press subscription good until August 7, 2025
3. music program – organist, choir director position open. Oscar Ho & David Simmons interviews pending
4. Organ repair – bid pending

M. Compensation review committee/HR committee (Alison Miller, Lora Sellers, Katherine Coburn)

1. Employee handbook update – need to schedule a meeting.
2. STAFF MEETING with Fr. Omar will be established to coordinate parish life.
3. In-Office hours to be posted – office location should be more easily discerned. Phone message needs to be updated. Suggested office hours are 9-3.

N. Nominating Committee – no report.

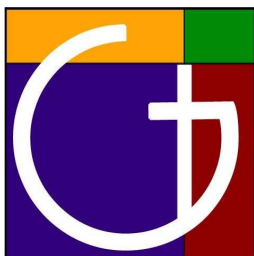
• New Business

1. Vestry person of the month: July – Joshua Chapman; August – Katherine Coburn; Sept – Pam Lipscomb; October – Lora Sellers; November – Kelin Stratton; December – BJ Charbonneau
2. Next regular meeting July 21, 2025
3. Announcements, anything else: nothing new.

• Old Business

1. SheBrews – Fr. Omar filled out an application for wholesale pricing, a group can do a tasting tour if they wish.
2. Suggest we purchase Fr. Omar a wooden gavel to control meetings.

• Closing Prayer at 7:30 p.m. by Fr. Omar Cisneros, meeting adjourned.



Grace Episcopal Church
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Muskogee, OK 74401

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GRACE TO YOU

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AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2025

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Loving God, Embracing All

Ministers: All the People of God (BCP p. 855)

Presiding Bishop: The Most Rev. Sean Rowe

Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Poulson Reed

Rector: The Rev. Omar Cisneros

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

Organist: Oscar Ho

Parish Admin/Youth & Children's Director: Nancy Scott

Phone: 918-687-5416

Website: www.GraceMuskogee.org

Email: office@GraceMuskogee.org

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