

THE Harvest

April 2023 | The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas



New windows for Grace Cathedral

Renovations near completion with a triptych of stained-glass windows to be installed in May.

Creation Trustees Gathering / Unraveling and Creating / Bishop's Bowl

Home and the House of Bishops



TWICE EACH YEAR, the bishops of The Episcopal Church gather to learn and take counsel from one another. Our most recent meeting was held in March at Camp McDowell in Nauvoo, Alabama. So not long after the Chief's Superbowl victory, I made my way to Kansas City's new airport terminal, prayerfully anticipating all that I would experience and how it would connect to our shared ministry here in the Diocese of Kansas.

Upon arrival, our first order of business was to listen to three candidates for The Episcopal Church's next Bishop Suffragan for Armed Forces and Federal Ministries. The

nominees were: The Rev. Jerome Hinson, captain, Navy Chaplain Corps. Hinson is chief of staff for the Chief of Navy Chaplains. The Rev. Ann Ritonia, retired Marine Corps major. Ritonia is the rector of St. John's Episcopal Church and Parish Day School in the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland. The Very Rev. Michael Sniffen, lieutenant, Navy Reserve. Sniffen is dean of the Cathedral of the Incarnation in the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island, and dean of the Mercer School of Theology.

In a very close election, the Rev. Ann Ritonia was elected, by 122 voting bishops. She is the first woman ever to hold this position. During this experience, our home in Kansas felt near because I have spent recent months engaged with the people of St. Paul's in Leavenworth as they seek a new priest. Several people in that parish are current or former military personnel, and I held them in mind as I listened to the candidates.

The profound centerpiece of learning at this House of Bishops gathering was a Pilgrimage to Montgomery. The Legacy Museum there provides a comprehensive history of the United States with a focus on the legacy of slavery. The museum provides detailed interactive content and compelling narratives. Lynching, racial segregation, and the emergence of over-incarceration in the 20th century are examined in depth and brought to life through film, images, and first-person narratives. We also visited The National Memorial for Peace and Justice. The site includes a memorial square with 800 six-foot monuments to symbolize thousands of racial terror lynching

victims in the United States and the counties and states where this terrorism took place. We walked through acres of hanging stones representing known lynchings. While most were in the south, there was Atchison, KS marked in stone.

I was familiar with the tragic story of George Johnson, lynched for shooting a white man in a hunting accident. And while my heart broke again at the memory, I was also grateful for the Rev. Jon Huling and the members of Trinity, Atchison who participated in the memorial walk and dedication service for the historical marker that was placed on June 19, 2021, to commemorate the site of Johnson's death.

On the long and silent bus trip back to Camp McDowell, and since returning home to Kansas, I keep asking where my own ancestors were in all that was portrayed. How did the Church stand by or participate? How was God present to those who suffered? How can we in the Diocese of Kansas learn of our past and transform our present and future? Bishop Deon Johnson, of Missouri, formed a powerful and poetic liturgy for our use on this pilgrimage.

During our time together, we also have the opportunity to meet in affinity groups with fellow bishops who share similar passion for ministry. The "Green Bishops" is a growing group that is focused on creation care. I met with the bishops of Nebraska, North Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana. We are working together on an Episcopal Grasslands Project and will be joined by Western Kansas and perhaps South Dakota. As I partner with these

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The Rt. Rev. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, *Bishop*

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ON THE COVER: Cathedral Finance Officer Kent Wingerson creates "Legacy Lines" on one of the new stained-glass windows to be installed at Grace Cathedral in May.

News and notes from congregations



SUBMITTED PHOTO

St. Andrew's, Emporia vestry on retreat at Conception Abbey in Missouri.

St. Andrew's Vestry Retreat

The vestry of St. Andrew's, Emporia gathered for a leadership retreat facilitated by Canon Lisa Senuta at Conception Abbey in Missouri. The retreat was made possible by vestry member Mark Valentine. The time away allowed vestry members to deepen their awareness of God working in one another and generated a renewed sense of spiritual community. Members came away from the retreat with excitement to work with the parish on the next steps of spiritual vitality, to see where God is at work in the community, and to join in the harvest of God's love.

St. John's, Abilene offers a "Little Free Library" built and installed by parishioners that features children's books that can be borrowed by members of the community.

Trinity, Arkansas City partnered with Grace, Winfield to host Prom Dress Express, which provides free formal dresses to anyone no matter the occasion.

Trinity, Atchison participated in Atchison's Martin Luther King Jr. Walk for Racial Justice event. The Rev. Jon Hulinger offered prayers at the memorial for the lynching of George Johnson.

St. Paul's, Clay Center hosts a book discussion on the third Sunday of each month at 8:30 am. In April the book will be *Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World* by Alan J. Roxburgh.

St. Paul's, Coffeyville collects donations of food, personal products, and household items each Sunday for Genesis Food Pantry, serving those in need in the community.

Trinity, El Dorado invites parishioners to join the Peanut Butter Parade and bring donations of peanut butter for the Salvation Army Food Bank.

St. Mary's, Galena installed a Blessing Box where donations of food can be placed for those in need. The youth of the parish are in charge of keeping the box supplied.

Epiphany, Independence hosted an evening of bingo and fun with pulled pork for dinner and prizes for the winners.

Church of the Covenant, Junction City prepared and served its 20,000th meal for the Community Dinner feeding ministry. The ministry provides a weekly free dinner to the community.

St. Paul's, Kansas City has cataloged their extensive church music library and has sheet music available to other churches, choirs, or interested musical groups. For more information contact the church office.

St. Anselm's Canterbury, Lawrence participated in Alternative Spring Break, serving at Cherith Brook in Kansas City, which provides meals, clothing, laundry, and shower facilities to those in need.

St. Margaret's, Lawrence served as a host facility for Family Promise Lawrence, providing three meals a day and shelter for a week long stay for an unhoused family.

Trinity, Lawrence hosts a Saturday morning family playgroup for parents to build community, check in with one another, and to give their kids a chance to blow off steam.

St. Francis Canterbury, Manhattan served at St. Paul's, Manhattan, during their semi-annual spring



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Canon Lisa Senuta presents award on behalf of Bishop Bascom.

Marsha Burris presented with Bishop's Cross

The Rev. Oliver Bunker nominated St. Timothy's, Iola parishioner Marsha Burris to receive the Bishop's Cross Award for her outstanding service to the community of Iola, noting her outreach work with the students of Allen County Community College and with the parish feeding program. The Bishop's Cross Award is given to lay church members in recognition of leadership and service to the diocese.

work day, doing cleaning projects, and repairing water damage.

St. Paul's, Manhattan offered a Wednesday night soup supper during Lent followed by a candle-light Compline service.

St. Michael's, Mission recently launched a new website to more effectively share information about the parish and provide a welcoming online presence.

Church of the Ascension, Neodesha held a Shrove Tuesday pancake fundraiser with the proceeds going to SoHome Foundation, a group home in Neodesha for children awaiting placement in foster care.

St. Matthew's, Newton participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring, collecting 102 cans of food and \$50 which were given to the Salvation Army "Harvest of Love" Food Bank.

St. Aidan's, Olathe members have been inviting friends and neighbors to services by handing out small cards that read, "Come sit with me at church."

St. Thomas', Overland Park provided \$4000 in gift cards and furniture donations to a family displaced by fire whose children attend Comanche Elementary where the parish does ongoing outreach.

St. Luke's, Shawnee hosts a monthly family game night featuring card and board games introduced by parishioners.

St. David's, Topeka launched a fellowship ministry focused on small group meals in parishioners' homes. The groups alternate locations and activities with a goal of getting to know as many people as possible in the parish.

St. Luke's, Wamego hosted a Mardi Gras Pancake Feed and collected donations for camp scholarships to Episcopal Summer Mega Camp at Camp Wood YMCA.

Good Shepherd, Wichita compiled a Spotify playlist of contemporary Christian music to accompany parishioners on their Holy Week journey "from the Temple to the Table, from the Garden to the Fortress, and from the Cross to the Empty Tomb."

St. John's, Wichita welcomed the clergy of the diocese for the annual Chrism Mass which is held each year on Tuesday during Holy Week. The service features a reaffirmation



SUBMITTED PHOTO

St. James parishioner gives blood during recent blood drive.

St. James gives blood to help community

An American Red Cross Blood Drive is held at St. James, Wichita four times a year. Project chair Dottie Evans Clark and her assistant Sarah Robinson recruit, enroll, and welcome participants. With each drive, the church has donated approximately 17 units of blood which provides blood for 51 people who are ill or injured. At times blood donations are shipped to neighboring states due to critical need.

of vows and distribution of Chrism oil blessed by the bishop.

St. Stephen's, Wichita prepared Easter bags for the residents of a local nursing home filled with large print Bibles, hygiene items, towels, and diabetic Easter candy.

The Rev. Shawn Streepy appointed as Chaplain to Retired Clergy



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Rev. Shawn Streepy

by Chad Senuta

The Rev. Shawn Streepy was appointed by Bishop Cathleen Bascom as the Chaplain to the Retired Clergy of the diocese in January. In this role, he supports retired clergy across the diocese with the Rev. George Wiley and Canon Lisa Senuta. The position includes serving as the official representative of retired clergy for the Diocese of Kansas, communicating and meeting regularly with The Church Pension Group in Province

VII of The Episcopal Church. Although the Rev. George Wiley has stepped down from this role, he remains as Canon Pastor for the diocese.

Bishop Bascom, Canon Senuta, and Rev. Streepy all want the retired clergy of Kansas to further develop as an active, engaged community. In March a luncheon was held for retired clergy and their spouses at Upton Hall in Topeka. Fifteen participants gathered for fellowship and to hear from the bishop about the mission and priorities of the diocese. A similar gathering will be offered soon for the southern convocations.

Rev. Streepy has also begun hosting a Zoom Bible study for retired clergy that meets on the third Monday of each month.

In a letter to the retired clergy of the diocese about the new appointment, Rev. Streepy said, “I know that shifting from active ministry into retirement can be a difficult transition, and I hope that you sense the love and respect held by Bishop Cathleen and all those your ministries have touched. Neither our age nor our circumstance can diminish our love for the Lord and for the Church. We have much to offer to the Church, the Diocese, and especially to each other.”



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Bishop Bascom speaks to retired clergy at Upton Hall.

Clergy News

- The Rev. Daryl Stanford was named Vicar of Grace Church Chanute and Minster Priest for the Agape Minster starting May 1.
- Deacon Yvonne Amanor-Boadu was appointed as Minster Shepherd of the Tallgrass Minster.
- The Rev. Doreen Rice accepted a call to be the Rector of St. David's, Topeka and began Feb. 1.
- Deacon Sandy Horton-Smith was placed at St. Luke's, Wamego starting March 19.
- The Rev. Andrew O'Connor accepted a position as Executive Officer for Mission and Ministry with St. Francis Ministries.
- The Very Rev. Steve Lipscomb was named Priest in Charge at the Church of the Covenant in Junction City starting May 1.



PHOTO BY THE VERY REV. TOREY LIGHTCAP

Kent Wingerson participates in creation of new stained glass windows by making “legacy lines.”

New windows for Grace Cathedral

by Chad Senuta

The Very Rev. Torey Lightcap of Grace Cathedral and the church’s Finance Officer Kent Wingerson visited the studio and manufacturing facility of Associated Crafts & Willet Hauser in Winona, Minnesota in March to observe the final stages of design and assembly for a triptych of stained glass windows, which will be installed above the choir loft in the Cathedral in May.

The two Cathedral staff members were able to see firsthand the craftsmanship and skill that goes into the windows as well as the many stages of design and assembly. Both Dean Lightcap and Mr. Wingerson were allowed to participate in the process, making “legacy lines” by pulling away stippling to give light to objects.

Together the three windows depict the birth of the early church at Pentecost and its charge to share the living Christ with the world throughout history and to the present day in Topeka. The center window portrays the Holy Spirit descending on a group of Galileans with “tongues of fire,” bringing spiritual gifts and allowing them to hear one another in their own native languages. The two windows flanking the center present church figures who have both witnessed and embodied the gifts of Pentecost in their own lives, bringing the flame to new generations.

One notable figure who is featured in the right window of the triptych is the Rev. Joseph Thompson, a beloved Deacon, who served at both Grace Cathedral and St. Simon’s Episcopal Church, which was closed in 1964.

The Rev. Thompson connects the story of Pentecost to the present age, the Episcopal Church in Kansas, and the community of Topeka.

When asked to share about the significance of the project, Dean Lightcap stated, “It has effectively been in the making since the fire of 1975 when it was decided that Grace Cathedral would be rebuilt. Whether those involved knew that it would take nearly half a century to replace the stained glass, I don’t know. What I do know is that it has been the privilege of this priest’s lifetime to help bring it to fruition. We are so grateful for the kindness of our donors. Were it not for their generosity, we would still be passing the hat and dreaming about what’s possible.”



PHOTO BY THE VERY REV. TOREY LIGHTCAP

Artist’s sketch of the Rev. Joseph Thompson of Topeka who will be featured in the Pentecost windows.

Bethany Gardens ready to bloom



PHOTO BY CHAD SENUTA

Bishop Bascom and volunteers survey newly planted cabbage in culinary garden.

By the Rev. Jenn Allen

When I first arrived at 835 Polk Street, I was greeted by a long, tall hedge blocking my view of the grounds. It felt forbidding rather than welcoming. Once we brought that hedge down, we started to see visitors come to the grounds even before the first new path was installed. It was with great joy that Bethany House & Garden welcomed guests from the diocese and the local community to celebrate our Ribbon Cutting in October. And even though it may seem there's little to do for a garden during the winter months, we have been busily preparing for spring and new life.

Amanda Northrop, Biodiversity Intern, and ShaMecha King-Simms, St. Simon's Advocacy and Justice Community Coordinator, have been building relationships and spreading the word throughout the community. Their efforts have helped to ensure the success of our new small group program based on *From Many, One: Conversations Across Difference*, which is a program from the Episcopal Church inviting Episcopalians and our neighbors to engage in one-to-one listening and sharing across the many differences that separate us.

We are hosting four small groups, two of which are made up of Topeka High School Students, and the other two made up of our neighbors. Each time we meet we explore a single question such as, "What do you love?" In the context of each question, we answer on behalf of creation, tying our care for creation to our understanding of who we are.

We see new people every day and new groups volunteering to work in the gardens. The Environmental Club at Topeka High School is beginning to come to work in the gardens and the Bishop's Gardening Brigade has started meeting every Thursday from 9 am to 12 pm. New volunteers join us every week on Thursdays. Planting has begun and potatoes, onions, greens, broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower are already in the ground. Soon we will be planting tomatoes and peppers. All volunteers are welcome.

As the culinary garden begins growing, we are looking forward to sharing our produce with the culinary program at Topeka Center for Advanced Learning and Careers, Westside Baptist Church's Fruit and Vegetable pantry, and our neighbors. The gardens are in a food desert, so sharing vegetables is important to help ensure a healthy diet for our neighbors.

On Earth Day this year, we will be holding a celebration with food trucks, crafts, and a movie on the lawn, and we will be burying our time capsule. We are including items in the capsule that will give a picture of our environment today, with the hope of a better tomorrow. We will include images of the gardens, seeds, artwork, and information about carbon levels and average temperatures. We hope you will come and visit us, whether you come to weed, contemplate creation, pray, or heal. Visit the Bethany House & Garden website for more information and contact Mother Jenn Allen for volunteer information. www.bethanyhouseandgarden.com ☎

St. Paul's, Leavenworth ready for the next 100 years of ministry

by the Very Rev. Steve Lipscomb

St. Paul's, Leavenworth has undergone some big changes over the last couple of months with more to come. Both the church and the Parish House are being renovated and repaired. In the church, all the plaster cracks that have occurred over decades were repaired and the entire interior of the church was repainted. Across the street in the Parish House, the entire kitchen has been redone. The space has been enlarged and the cabinets, appliances, and floors have all been replaced. The former offices have become a conference room and treasurer's office and the secretary and priest's offices have been moved into what used to be a Parish House chapel.

The great hall has been replastered and painted, and the space will soon receive new lighting, new flooring, and window treatments. The restrooms upstairs and downstairs are also being refurbished. In addition, the entire exterior of the Parish House has been replastered and painted. An estate gift provided funds for the kitchen and funding for the additional work was pro-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Church members gather in the newly renovated Heritage Center.

vided by a capital campaign and additional gifts from parishioners and friends of St. Paul's that also paid off a \$250,000 mortgage debt! The community of St. Paul's, and our facilities, are now poised for another 100 years of ministry! ①



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Newly painted sanctuary at St. Paul's, Leavenworth.



PHOTO FROM 10ROWSADAY.COM

Unraveling is part of creating

By Canon Lisa Senuta

I used to watch my grandma crochet. As a small child, she taught me the chain stitch. As she crocheted a blanket or scarf, I would make a long chain. She taught me when my stitch was too tight or too loose, I could just pull it out. This instruction taught me that unraveling is part of creating.

I am loving the book *Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World* by Alan J. Roxburgh that our Bishop recommended for the diocese. In it, he introduces the image of unraveling as a metaphor for what the European protestant denominations are experiencing in their parishes in our current time.

As an Episcopalian in Kansas, how does that metaphor meet your experience of the cultural messages and norms of religion and attending church today in your town?

Applying the metaphor of unraveling to the experience of shrinking worship numbers and shift of church status in society can cause a variety of inner reactions – beyond alarm there is grief, insecurity, defensive-

ness, and blaming and there is also excitement and optimism. Locating how you feel in your context about this reality is paramount to creating a future for faith to flourish at this time.

When I was young it was quite fun to witness my grandma pull on that string and watch the quick ease with which each stitch unraveled. The long string of yarn piled on the floor beside her was part of the process. However, as leaders and parishioners facing our present challenges, we may feel more unsure without a clear direction for what to do next. And not unlike the Reformation 500 years ago, the changes that affect the church are coming from many directions.

All those many years ago reformers exposed lies at the center of the Roman Catholic teachings and practice that resulted in a schism. People were excommunicated for speaking out, and others took advantage of the in-fighting to gain power, causing tensions to rise so high that conflicts erupted into violence before they settled into the denominational flavors. What seemed all together

unraveled was eventually re-formed.

When we pause and take in the big picture, we see clearly that unraveling is part of the reality of religion. It is always re-forming.

Jesus said to the disciples at the founding of the first communities, “Take nothing for the journey.” Like a pile of yarn on the floor. Jesus might tell us not to be afraid and recognize that what is most important is already within us.

To be contemplative we learn to trust God and be reformed. What we need we have in silence, sacrament, spiritual community, discernment, service, and prayer. These disciplines hold us firm to what matters while they free us for renewal. They lead us forward into what is next and good not for ourselves alone but for those who come after us.

Like Israel and the first disciples, we are called to become more intentional and embody the reformation needed now for God’s sacred purpose.

We are invited to faith amid the unraveling, trusting that God is weaving together a whole new creation of grace, truth, and love. ①

Creation Trustees gather for event at Grace Cathedral

by Chad Senuta

Forty Leaders engaged in ranching, gardening, urban prairies, wildlife protection, water quality, and environmental activism met at Grace Cathedral and Bethany House and Garden on March 25 for the first Creation Trustees Gathering in the diocese. Bishop Cathleen Bascom convened the gathering as a culmination of her Green Pastures and Still Waters Tour, where she visited Kansas Episcopalians actively engaged in caring for God's natural world throughout 2022 and 2023.

The purpose of the event was to express gratitude to the leaders and connect them with one another to share encouragement and best practices for their work. The day began with an invocation from the bishop and a reading of poetry from author and Washburn professor emeritus Thomas Fox Averill.

The event featured presentations by a variety of speakers focusing on the purpose of creation care and its practical implications. The spiritual foundations for creation care were presented by Sister Elizabeth Carillo of Mt. St. Scholastica in Atchison, KS with a focus on the Benedictine Way of work and prayer. The Rev. Jenn Allen, Diocesan Missioner also shared how the Gospel is being lived out in Topeka and the diocese through the Bethany House & Garden ministry. After lunch the participants toured Bethany Garden, learning more about spring planting and plans for upcoming programs like the Earth Day Celebration to be held on April 22.

In the afternoon participants listened to plenary speakers address how to care for creation. Dr. Jackie Augustine, Executive Director of Audubon of Kansas, spoke about Land as a Legacy and how to make gifts of land to future generations. Bishop Bascom shared about two water bills currently under consideration by the Kansas Legislature in 2023, concerning funding for the state water plan and groundwater management for the state. Emily Wilkinson of Kansas Interfaith Action then explained Small Cities Initiatives happening in the state. The plenary session ended with Dr. Jackie Augustine, Judie Storandt, and Gary Charter explaining how to manage invasive species of plants, grass, and trees.

To conclude the event, Bishop Bascom discussed the next steps for the diocese and the Anglican Communion. She affirmed that as faith leaders are mobilizing for real impact, Kansas is already "ahead of the game" having begun much work before The Archbishop of Canterbury made the Anglican Communion Forest project a centerpiece of the 2022 Lambeth Conference. Having recently returned from the semiannual House of Bishops gathering, the bishop also explained how the Grasslands Project seeks to establish similar networks of Creation Trustees in Nebraska, North Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana that can be linked to protect and restore grasslands, employ healthy gardening and agricultural practices, increase plant and animal biodiversity, and offer places of peace to neighbors. She is excited to see how local efforts in the Diocese of Kansas will cross-pollinate with efforts around the country and around the world. ☪



PHOTO BY MICHELE MOSS

Washburn Professor Tom Averil reads poetry to inspire Creation Trustees.



PHOTO BY MICHELE MOSS

Members of St. Thomas the Apostle, Overland Park receive Alleluia Fund grant check at Diocesan Convention 2022.

Alleluia Fund Grant Cycle begins for 2023

by Chad Senuta

The Mission and Outreach Committee of the diocese is preparing for the 2023 Alleluia Fund grant cycle. The Alleluia Fund provides one way to keep our Baptismal Covenant promise to “Seek and serve Christ in all persons.” The Fund provides matching grants of up to \$3,000 to help launch outreach ministries in congregations across the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas. These ministries enable fellow Kansas Episcopalians to serve as Christ’s hands and feet in the world.

The Alleluia Fund was established with money from the Crossroads capital campaign designated for outreach efforts. Since its start in 2016, the Alleluia Fund has distributed \$78,624 in grants to support outreach ministries in Kansas congregations. Past grant projects have focused on:

- Programs that directly serve the community such as providing community meals for the hungry, sharing warmth through giving blankets to the State Highway Patrol, or offering “Winter Care Bags” for retirement home residents.

- Education to help youth discern their gifts to better serve their community, and an engagement program providing parent/student communication skills.
- Building enhancements to support or expand existing food ministries in churches, or to create free event space for community groups.
- Transportation aid for programs serving youth and young adults with developmental disabilities.
- A drug safety ministry to help dispose of unused prescription medicines.

Churches can apply for an Alleluia Grant from May 29 through August 1. Grant applications will be sent to every church in the diocese and will also be available on the diocesan website.

Parishioners are invited to take this opportunity, in the Easter season, to support the Alleluia Fund with a financial donation that can be turned into direct action, empowering others in service. Donations can be made online at www.episcopal-ks.org/donate. Please select “Alleluia Fund.”

Important dates for 2023 Diocesan Convention



PHOTO BY MICHELE MOSS

Delegates vote at 2022 Diocesan Convention at Grace Cathedral, Topeka.

Diocesan Convention is on the way!	
May 17 (Wednesday)	Council of Trustees (COT) approves draft 2024 mission plan and apportionment schedule, sent soon after to clergy, delegates, and ex officio members of convention. Send feedback and comment through COT Reps.
May 23 (Tuesday)	Dates of convention and deadline for submissions and nominations officially announced via DioLog (diocesan e-newsletter).
June 15 (Thursday)	Renewal deadline: Parishes to have filed annual report (Certificate of Good Standing) with the Secretary of the State.
August 4 (Friday)	Registration information sent out.
August 4 (Friday)	All proposed Convention business due: nominations, debatable resolutions, and amendments.
August 16 (Wednesday)	Council of Trustees finalizes 2024 Mission Plan and Apportionment Schedule proposal.
Around August 25 (Friday)	Convention Books mailed: Agenda, Elections, Other Business.
September 9 (Saturday)	Northeast Convocation Board Meeting: 9am, Location TBD.
September 9 (Saturday)	Northwest Convocation Board Meeting: 1pm, Grace Cathedral, Topeka.
September 30 (Saturday)	Southeast Convocation Board Meeting: 10am, St. John's, Parsons.
September 30 (Saturday)	Southwest Convocation Board Meeting: 2pm, Trinity, El Dorado.
October 20-21 (Friday/Saturday)	Diocesan Convention; All Saints Hall, Grace Cathedral, Topeka

From the Bishop, continued from page 1

colleagues for a project that will span many states, I am mindful of all that is happening here at home: Bethany House & Garden welcoming volunteers and beginning to plant for the culinary garden, the ongoing formation of Green Teams

in our churches, and the development of Creation Care Trustees for our diocese.

Often great fruit for ministry at home emerges from our receptions and dinners together. With translation help from Bishop Rafael of Puerto Rico, I was able to converse with the new bishop of Colombia regarding a candidate priest for St.

Paul's, Kansas City. I am grateful that you were all able to be with me at House of Bishops even if you didn't know you had traveled to Alabama. Our home in the Diocese of Kansas is always on my heart. And I'm ever grateful for how our shared ministry connects to the ministry of the wider church. Easter blessings to all!

College students gather for Bishop's Bowl at Upton Hall

By Chad Senuta

Eighteen college students from the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, Emporia State University, University of Nebraska, and Cloud Community College participated in the annual “Bishop’s Bowl” held at Upton Hall on February 4, 2022. The annual event is a tradition for the Canterbury Houses in Lawrence and Manhattan and is typically held in the fall on the same day as the University of Kansas vs. Kansas State University football game. The two houses alternate hosting the event, which features friendly competition and an opportunity for fellowship before the game.

Since this year’s Sunflower Showdown fell on Thanksgiving weekend, the students elected to try a new format. Previously, the event had mainly been a short gathering held before students attended the football game or watched together on tv. The Peer Ministers from both Canterbury Houses felt the event could be expanded to



PHOTO BY CHAD SENUTA

Weston Curnow leads a workshop on how to develop a personal “Rule of life.”

become a half-day retreat, where students could learn from one another and develop a stronger connection with the ministries of the diocese.

Brandon Kirmer, a Junior at KSU studying architecture, led a workshop on how to write the Prayers of the People for liturgies. The students practiced writing their own prayers and then prayed together. Weston Curnow, a Junior at KU studying Philosophy, taught the group about the importance of a spiritual “Rule of Life” and how to create one.

The students toured Bethany House & Garden learning about the various gardens and the ministries developing there and also toured the Cathedral property. The day concluded with a fun competition of trivia and relay games between KU and KSU students. K-State won the competition and the coveted Bishop’s Miter award. The students plan to hold the Bishop’s Bowl at Upton Hall again during the 2023-2024 academic year. ☺

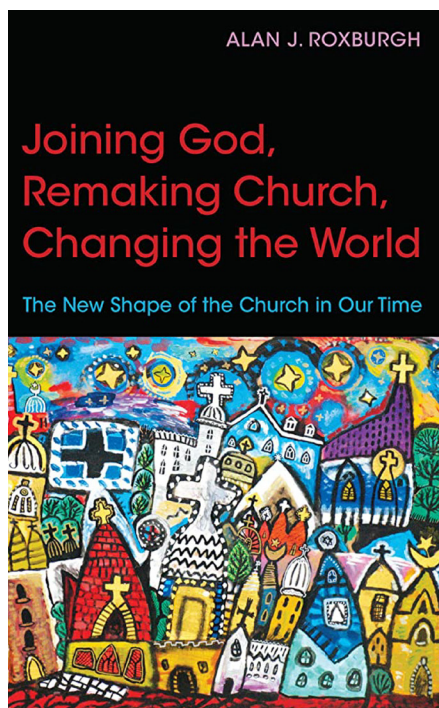


PHOTO BY CHAD SENUTA

Students play relay games during Bishop’s Bowl.

The resurrection of Jesus provides a new tapestry

AS MINSTER teams begin their study and conversation about *Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World* by Alan J. Roxburgh, so too has the diocesan staff been discussing its themes. During a recent staff meeting, we reflected on Roxburgh's contention that since the 1960s, "mainline, Protestant" "Euro-tribal churches" (denominations like The Episcopal Church) have been experiencing a steady loss of our "long, cherished tradition." This isn't Tradition in the (capital T) sense of our liturgical and theological heritage, rather it's our traditional expectation of the Church's socio-political importance, and it's our tradition of Sunday morning worship being a "must." In his 2015 book, Roxburgh



Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World by Alan J. Roxburgh

evocatively calls this multi-faceted loss "The Great Unraveling." As the diocesan staff reflected on the Unraveling, we shared how the Unraveling makes us feel. We feel a mix of worry and hope, loss and faith. Since that conversation, I've been thinking about how the events of Holy Week must have felt like an unraveling to Jesus' disciples.

Things started out so well! With Jesus the disciples had worked on stitching together a beautiful tapestry which came to a type of fulfillment: a Sunday procession into Jerusalem with Jesus proclaimed as Messiah. However, over the course of the next five days everything came apart; stitch-by-stitch, the tapestry unraveled until finally abandoned by all but a few, Jesus was killed. The disciples thought this would go another way, they thought that their power and prestige would grow, they thought that Jesus would win. On that Friday it had all unraveled.

Like those disciples, it's possible for us to look around and see a world that has shifted. We might feel like the tapestries our ancestors built for us are falling around us. Sometimes I feel like I'm looking down at my hands and see I'm holding piles of the tangled yarn of the Church that was; it feels like Good Friday.

Unraveling is such a powerful metaphor. Unlike the destruction of a bomb or an eraser, Unraveling leaves us something to work with: the yarn is still there and ready to be reworked. There's opportunity to transform what remains.

On Easter morning, God took what had unraveled and stitched it back together into a glorious rework-



ing. The resurrection of Jesus was a new tapestry remade and transformed from that which had fallen apart. With God's help, our work is to notice the unraveling, to tell the truth of it, to lament it, but more importantly to see the opportunities it contains. By our baptism we are equipped to join the Lord's resurrection work, stitching together a new vision for our Church. ☪

Book Study Guide available at:

<https://episcopal-ks.org/joining-god-remaking-church-changing-the-world>



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