

THE Harvest

Fall 2018 | The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas



Bishop election nears

Diocese will select the
10th bishop from three
women candidates

Two are ordained / Helping hurricane victims / General Convention

Excitement precedes bishop election



MY SISTERS AND Brothers in Christ,

As we approach the end of our search process, the sense of anticipation is palpable. Following 20 months of listening and discernment, we are about to elect the 10th bishop of Kansas, whoever she may be.

Then, God willing, and the dioceses and bishops consenting, she will be ordained and consecrated on March 2, 2019.

I wonder what this sense of anticipation feels like for you. Perhaps it is one of relief because a demanding task is behind us. Perhaps it is one of apprehension because we don't fully know what to expect.

The sense of anticipation I am most aware of is one of excitement. Excitement that the process of listening and discernment will continue — continue to draw upon our various gifts as we incorporate this person and her family fully into this part of the Body of Christ that is the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas; and continue as we join her in imagining and envisioning the trajectory of the Jesus Movement in this place.

As I reflect upon different senses of anticipation, I realize that we are not experiencing the end of a period of transition nor the beginning of a period of tenure.

Rather we are continuing along the long arc of God's witness and work in the world. We are the transitory pieces of this story, while the story remains the continuous draw of all humankind toward God's abiding presence.

Nevertheless, how we respond to our senses of anticipation can affect the telling of God's story. Therefore, may we all "lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:1-3)

This comes with my gratitude for your giftedness and grounding in the Spirit. ☉

We, the Council of Trustees, believe in and trust the God-given gifts that abide in the people of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas. During this season of transition, we will not be fearful. Directed by the Spirit, together we joyfully walk with Jesus the road ahead.

[Council of Trustees, Feb. 1, 2017]

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ON THE COVER: A mitre, symbol of a bishop's office, sits on the altar at Grace Cathedral, Topeka, pointing to the approaching election of the 10th bishop. | *Photo by Melodie Woerman*

News and notes from congregations

Trinity, Atchison invited all former members and friends of the church to Homecoming Sunday on Sept. 23, with a barbecue lunch after church.

St. Paul's, Clay Center has picked books for its discussion group, beginning with *A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving. The group began Sept. 23 with breakfast and discussion before church.

St. Paul's, Coffeyville Thrift Shop offered a back-to-school sale on clothing Aug. 9, with free coats given out that day, too. The shop is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year.

St. Andrew's, Derby members boarded a bus on Aug. 6 on a "mystery tour" — not knowing where the destination was. They ended up at a restaurant in Winfield. The church's new rector, the Rev. Mike Loyd, and his wife Jill, joined as a surprise.

St. Martin's, Edwardsville continues to offer a once-a-month gathering for Evening Prayer, potluck supper and Bible study.

Trinity, El Dorado marked the return of the program year with an outdoor service and picnic on Sunday, Sept. 9.

St. Andrew's, Emporia started the new school year with a blessing of backpacks on Aug. 19, with members asked to help teachers by bringing boxes of Kleenex for use in school classrooms.

St. Mary's, Galena collected school supplies for students in the city's elementary schools. They also

Soap kitchen helps people, the environment

St. Francis', Overland Park, has found a ministry that helps people, helps the environment and is sustainable in a small congregation with many older members.

They now provide bars of soap through their "soap kitchen," which produces hand-made bars of scented soap that are given away to shelters and food pantries.

A new partnership with St. Michael and All Angels, Mission, will place bars of St. Francis' soap in Mercy Bags that St. Michael's fills to give to people who are homeless.

The bars are made from soap recycled from the Sheraton Overland Park Convention Center, which donates lightly used bars of soap from hotel rooms that otherwise would end up in a landfill.

The parish's Boy Scout troop grinds them into powder, which the church mixes with water and a hint of essential oil for fragrance, melting it all together in slow cookers.



It then is poured into a wooden mold to dry for about a week, with another week of drying outside the mold. It's finished in a second mold where it is pressed, and then the soap is cut into bars.

Special labels complete the process, which takes about two weeks.

The church makes two batches of soap each weekend, which will turn into 40 finished bars.

The Rev. Doreen Rice, St. Francis' vicar, said that the soap kitchen gives the aging congregation "an important and significant ministry." ☺

marked their patronal feast of St. Mary with an annual steak dinner.

Epiphany, Independence makes its parish hall available to community groups, including a garden club, quilters, music groups, an investment club, Overeaters Anonymous and Al-Anon.

St. Timothy's, Iola again spent part of August feeding athletes at Allen Community College who were on campus for practice before din-

ing rooms opened for the school year. The church also does this over Christmas break.

St. Margaret's, Lawrence has a new ministry — Every Stitch a Prayer — that meets twice a month to create hand-made afghans, pillow cases, pot holders and other items for young adults who have aged out of the foster care system and have to set up an apartment.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Lawrence teams meet in kickball game

Members of St. Margaret's (top photo) and Trinity, (bottom photo) both in Lawrence, engaged in a friendly game of kickball as a way to spend time with, and get to know better, their fellow Episcopalians across town.

Trinity rector the Very Rev. Rob Baldwin had suggested a softball game to St. Margaret's locum tenens priest, the Rev. Charles Granger, who countered with the kickball idea, so all ages could be involved.

The game took place the afternoon of Sept. 15 at St. Margaret's, with more than more than 30 players, all wearing special church T-shirts made by a St. Margaret's parishioner. Baldwin reported it was a great time of fun and fellowship. ☉

Trinity, Lawrence collected backpacks and school supplies for children who are staying at the Willow Domestic Violence Center.

St. Paul's, Leavenworth in August spent its monthly First Wednesday evening meeting with the Rector

Search Committee, combined with a potluck supper.

St. Paul's, Manhattan offered a "Diversity and Welcoming" film series this summer that explored themes from the church's ongoing

discussion on diversity. The church provided popcorn as well as a children's movie.

St. Michael's, Mission had 62 children from 17 elementary schools attend its annual weeklong Summer Arts Camp in June. They were aided by four selected artists and 17 youth counselors, plus a kitchen crew.

Ascension, Neodesha sponsors two Cub Scout dens as well as a Webelos group. This is the third year the church has sponsored these Scout groups.

St. Matthew's, Newton helps members stay in touch with, and learn more about, parish shut-ins by featuring them on a bulletin board that includes photos and information about their lives.

St. Aidan's, Olathe helped students in the Olathe Public Schools with an annual drive to collect underwear for kids in need. They far surpassed their goal of 400 pairs, collecting items or money for 1,100 pairs on Undie Sunday in August,

Grace, Ottawa enjoyed their annual Luau Sunday on Aug. 5, with a potluck lunch and worshippers invited to wear Hawaiian shirts to church.

St. Thomas', Overland Park has expanded its involvement with the Johnson County Interfaith Hospitality Network from assisting churches that provide space for situationally homeless families to being a host church. On Aug. 19 they blessed the classrooms and areas that would be used for IHN overnight shelters from Aug. 26 to Sept. 2.

St. John's, Parsons offered a Vacation Bible School to the community

Continued on page 4

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on June 20-21, with the help of youth from St. Thomas' Overland Park, who assisted in the effort.

St. Luke's, Shawnee observed Homecoming Sunday Sept. 9 with a health fair, offering a variety of health screenings, information about vaccines and healthy cooking, and yoga. A healthy chili lunch was provided.

Grace Cathedral, Topeka spent several weeks in late summer having all the church's exterior limestone power-washed and sealed, with repair to a few damaged stones. A company from Fort Scott handled the work, which needs to be done every 8-to-10 years.

St. David's, Topeka for a second summer hosted an official meal site that this year served approximately 500 children and 160 adults from June 4 to July 20, requiring about 600 volunteer hours. Fun activities also were provided, and every child took home a book to continue summer reading.

Good Shepherd, Wichita had an all-parish chicken dinner on Aug. 12 to mark a day of back-to-school fun, including blessing of the backpacks and a water slide

bouncy house. The church also provided blessings tags for backpacks.

St. James', Wichita offered a variety of outreach efforts over the summer, including collecting suitcases for children in foster care, a blood drive, providing bottled water for Episcopal Social Services clients, and collecting back-to-school supplies — all in addition to ongoing efforts to help the community.

St. John's, Wichita has moved the time of its Spanish-language service from 1 p.m. to 9 a.m., before its English-language liturgy, to help people who attend the two services see one another more and get to know each other better.

St. Stephen's, Wichita kicked off the new program year Sept. 9 with special thanks to church volunteers, along with a grilled steak dinner.

Grace, Winfield hosted its second Holes for Hope golf challenge Sept. 22. The goal wasn't low scores but high volume, with golfers challenged by playing 100 holes in a day. Proceeds benefited parish outreach efforts. ①

Clergy news

The Rev. Nicolette Papanek, who was ordained in this diocese, began serving as interim pastor at Grace Cathedral, Topeka, on Sept. 15.

The Rev. Mike Loyd is the new priest in charge at St. Andrew's, Derby, beginning Sept. 13. He was ordained a priest on Jan. 8 of this year and is a graduate of Bishop Kemper School for Ministry.

Deacon Deborah Burns has been assigned to Trinity, Lawrence, beginning Aug. 15. She previously served at St. Martin's, Edwardsville.

The Rev. David Jenkins accepted a call to become priest in charge at St. Peter's, Pittsburg, beginning Aug. 1. He previously was priest in charge at Church of the Covenant, Junction City.

The Rev. Charles Granger began serving as locum tenens at St. Margaret's, Lawrence, starting June 1. A locum tenens performs the duties of a rector by a letter of agreement between the priest and the church's Vestry. Granger is licensed from the Diocese of Oklahoma.

The Rev. Evan Ash on Aug. 18 began serving as a supply priest once a month for St. Paul's, Coffeyville; Epiphany, Independence; and Ascension, Neodesha.

Deacon Diane Kruger, who was ordained in June 2017, has been assigned to St. Stephen's, Wichita, after serving an intern year at St. James', Wichita.

The Rev. Katie Knoll Lenon has accepted a call to be assistant priest

for children, youth and families at Christ Church, Frederica, St. Simons Island, Georgia. She began in September. She was ordained to the priesthood on Jan. 6 of this year and served an intern year at St. Luke's, Shawnee.

Condolences go to **the Rev. Kitty Shield**, vicar of St. Jude's, Wellington, on the death of her husband, Charles, on Sept. 25. He was 72.

The Rev. Marcus Cunningham, who served in this diocese as rector of Epiphany, Sedan, from 2009 to 2013, died on Aug. 25, of cancer. He was 55.

Congratulations go to **the Very Rev. Rob Baldwin**, rector of Trinity, Lawrence, and Mandy Bell, who were married on Aug. 4. ①



*(From left)
The Rev. Kathy Swain, Bishop Michael Milliken and the Rev. Kitty Shield, after a service of ordination June 23 at Grace Cathedral, Topeka.*

PHOTO BY
MELODIE WOERMAN

Two are ordained in June cathedral service

TWO WOMEN WERE ordained — one as a transitional deacon and one as a priest — during a service at Grace Cathedral, Topeka, on June 23.

The Rev. Kathy Swain, from Grace, Winfield, was ordained as a transitional deacon (a deacon who later will become a priest), and the

Rev. Kitty Shield was ordained a priest after serving as a deacon since 1990.

Bishop Michael Milliken of Western Kansas, who serves as assisting bishop for the Diocese of Kansas, officiated at the service.

Shield, who for many years served as deacon at St. Jude's, Wellington,

now is the vicar of that congregation. Swain will serve an internship year with Shield at the Wellington parish, before her planned ordination to the priesthood.

Swain graduated in May from the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry. ☉

Wichitan named Kansas' Distinguished Woman

SHARON ATHERTON, a member of Good Shepherd, Wichita, was selected by the Episcopal Church Women of the diocese as their Distinguished Woman. The award which is given once every three years during the national ECW Triennial Meeting, recognizes a woman from each diocese whose Christian principles are lived out in her secular and sacred communities.

The award was presented on July 8 in Austin, Texas, where the Triennial Meeting took place. Among those attending were Good Shepherd's rector, the Rev. Andrew O'Connor, diocesan Canon to the Ordinary the Rev. Torey Lightcap and Kansas ECW President Deacon Fran Wheeler.

Atherton became active in her parish ECW after college and then as a member of the diocesan ECW board, where she has served for 24 years, including several terms as an officer. She said that as she was growing up, her mother and other parish women exemplified the importance of ECW involvement.

She served 18 years as a member of the board of Episcopal Social Services.

She works for Cargill Protein as a senior business intelligence analyst and has been a member of the group that determines where the company's charitable contributions are designated. ☉



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sharon Atherton (center) holds a certificate naming her the Distinguished Woman from the Diocese of Kansas during the Episcopal Church Women Triennial Meeting July 8 in Austin, Texas. With her are (from left) the Rev. Andrew O'Connor, Lila Seager, Daria Condon, Deacon Fran Wheeler, Charlotte Buterbaugh and Canon to the Ordinary the Rev. Torey Lightcap.

New campus program assistant begins work at K-State

RACHEL JACKSON is the new campus program assistant assigned to Canterbury House at Kansas State University. She began her ministry in August.

In this role she will share skills in formation, leadership and pastoral care with undergraduate peer ministers who will serve students on the KSU campus.

She will work under Youth Missioner and Interim Campus Missioner

Karen Schlabach and Associate for Youth and Campus Ministry Michael Funston.

Jackson is a native of Prosser, Wash., and is a graduate of Central Washington University and Church Divinity School of the Pacific.

She is a lifelong Episcopalian, and while in college she helped start an evening service for college-age students at the church she attended.

She also served as a convention delegate in the Diocese of Spokane.

She is in the ordination track in her home diocese and hopes to become a naval chaplain.

Her hobbies include swimming, hiking, writing and playing the guitar.

She joins Will Chaney, who will spend another year as program assistant at the Canterbury House in Lawrence, serving students attending the University of Kansas, Haskell Indian Nations University and several nearby small colleges. ☉



Rachel Jackson



Bishop Michael Milliken with the people confirmed and received on Sept. 29 at St. Michael and All Angels, Mission.

PHOTO BY ROB BALDWIN

Regional confirmation service welcomes 21 people

THE SECOND OF FOUR regional confirmation services took place on Saturday, Sept. 29 and welcomed 21 people who were confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church. The service took place at St. Michael and All Angels in Mission.

Four congregations were represented: St. Michael's; St. Francis', Overland Park; Trinity, Lawrence; and St. Andrew's, Emporia.

Bishop Michael Milliken, bishop of Western Kansas and assisting bishop of the Diocese of Kansas, officiated and preached.

Other regional services taking place this year will be Nov. 17, 10:30 a.m., at St. James', Wichita; and Dec. 8, 10:30 a.m. at St. John's, Parsons. People from any church can be registered by their congregation at either of the upcoming services. ☉

Scholarships from Lawrence groups aid DACA students



Students in the DACA program enjoy snacks during an event on Sept. 23 at Trinity, Lawrence, to award college scholarships.

TRINITY, LAWRENCE, hosted a reception Sept. 23 for area students in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival program, during which six \$500 scholarships were awarded. This is the second year awards have been made.

Two local groups — Centro Hispano and Lawrence Interfaith Refugee and Immigrant Ministry (of which the church is a founding member) — created the scholarship program for DACA college students who are not eligible for federal grants and aid.

Money to fund the scholarships comes primarily through the sale of homemade tamales, which this year raised \$5,000. Another \$3,000 was contributed by individuals. ☉



*The Rev. Cathleen
Chittenden Bascom*



The Rev. Martha N. Macgill



The Rev. Helen Svoboda-Barber

Diocese prepares for historic bishop election

By Melodie Woerman

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE of Kansas is set to make history on Friday, Oct. 19, when clergy and lay delegates elect one of three women to be the next bishop of Kansas – the 10th bishop since the diocese was founded in 1859.

This not only will be the first woman to lead this diocese, but it also will be the first time in the history of the Episcopal Church that an election for a diocesan bishop will involve an all-women slate of candidates, according to the Presiding Bishop’s Office of Pastoral Development.

The three candidates are:

■ The Rev. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, assistant professor of religion at Waldorf University, Forest City, Iowa, in the Diocese of Iowa

■ The Rev. Martha N. Macgill, rector, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Cumberland, Md., in the Diocese of Maryland

■ The Rev. Helen Svoboda-Barber, rector, St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, Durham, N.C., in the Diocese of North Carolina

The Very Rev. Foster Mays, president of the Council of Trustees, said of the upcoming election, “From the beginning of our bishop search process, grounded and directed by the Spirit, everyone has sought a slate of excellent candidates for election as the 10th bishop of the Diocese of Kansas. We now have three such candidates.

“The fact that they are all women, while historic, speaks to the ministry and experience of ordained women across the Episcopal Church. Kansas is delighted to

be the first diocese to select their next bishop from an outstanding group of women.”

More about the candidates

Macgill and Svoboda-Barber were proposed as candidates by the Search Committee, and Chittenden Bascom was added by petition, a process that replaces the old “nomination from the floor” to allow for more thorough vetting.

Here is a list of the positions held by each of the candidates, from their submitted resumes:

The Rev. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom

2014 – present: Assistant Professor of Religion and Philosophy, Waldorf University, Forest City, Iowa

2007 – 2014: Dean, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Des Moines, Iowa

2001 – 2007: Rector, St. Stephen’s Church, Newton, Iowa

1993 – 2001: Diocesan College Work and Vicar at Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kan.

1990 – 1993: Assistant Rector, St. Gregory’s, Deerfield, Ill.

The Rev. Martha N. Macgill

2014 – present: Rector, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Cumberland, Md.

2014 – present: Founder, Kaleo, Inc.

2015 – present: Adjunct Professor of Philosophy, Frostburg State University, Frostburg, Md.

2000 – 2014: Rector, Memorial Episcopal Church, Baltimore, Md.

1997 – 2000: Priest-in-Charge, St. Francis Anglican Church, Walkerville, South Africa

1995 – 1997: Assistant Rector, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Richmond, Va.

The Rev. Helen Svoboda-Barber

2014 – present: Rector, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Durham, N.C.

2004 – 2014: Rector, Harcourt Parish Episcopal Church, Gambier, Ohio

2001 – 2004: Assistant Pastor, Holy Cross ELCA Church, Overland Park, Kan.

1998 – 2001: Canon, Grace Episcopal Cathedral, Topeka, Kan.

Get to know the candidates better

If you want to learn more about each of the candidates, there are a variety of ways to do that.

The printed guide to the candidates

All subscribers to this publication were mailed a magazine with biographical information about each of the candidates; their answers to five essay-style questions; the nine things most desired in the next bishop, as discerned by a survey offered by the Search Committee, and a description of the duties of a bishop.

Printed copies are available by request from the diocesan office (*contact information is on page 1 of this issue*).


It also is online in a flip-book format; it can be accessed from the diocesan website, <http://www.episcopal-ks.org/life/convention.php>.

Videos from the candidates

The candidates were asked to submit a short video that answers the question, "What does Jesus mean to me?" Those are available on the diocesan YouTube channel. Go to www.episcopal-ks.org, and click on the YouTube icon at the bottom of the page.

Watch the four walkabout sessions

The candidates answered questions during four 90-minute sessions in early October, one in each of the diocese's four regional convocations.

Each of those was recorded, and those can be viewed on the diocesan YouTube channel. Go to www.episcopal-ks.org, and click on the YouTube icon at the bottom of the page. 

Facts about the bishop election

When does it take place?

It happens on the first day of Diocesan Convention, Friday, Oct. 19. Before balloting can begin, the convention has to meet some canonical requirements to prepare for voting.

Who gets to vote?

Any priest or deacon who is canonically resident in this diocese, whether active or retired, living here or elsewhere, is entitled to vote. They must be present to vote.

Each church is entitled to send lay delegates elected at parish meetings, with the number based on parish membership as defined in the diocesan canons. Youth and campus ministries also are entitled to delegates. If a delegate can't be present, an alternate may be substituted, with required documentation.

How does the voting work?

All ballots at this election will take place using hand-held electronic devices. Each voting member, clergy or lay, gets one vote.

By diocesan canons, clergy and lay votes are counted separately. The two orders also will sit separately in the nave of the cathedral.

How is a bishop-elect declared?

To be elected, a candidate must receive a majority (50 percent plus one) of votes cast in the clergy order and the lay order, on the same ballot. It usually takes more than one ballot.

Then what?

The president of the Council of Trustees will call Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, who then will call that candidate to see if she accepts election as the 10th bishop of Kansas. Upon her acceptance, we have a bishop-elect.

Can we watch the election?

Yes! The election will be live streamed online on the diocese's YouTube channel. The link will be on the diocesan website, www.episcopal-ks.org. If you use social media, the hashtag is #EpiscoKsBp10.

The live stream will begin at 9 a.m. Balloting for bishop is expected to begin about 10:30 a.m.

When will she become our bishop?

The bishop-elect will be ordained and consecrated the 10th bishop on Saturday, March 2, 2019, at Grace Cathedral. More information will be available prior to the service.

Abby Zimmerman (far right) assists during the Foundation Day ceremony Sept. 14 for The Benedictine Way, a new kind of monastic community in Omaha. Zimmerman is part of the new community, which was begun by Trinity Cathedral and the Diocese of Nebraska.

PHOTO BY THE DIOCESE OF NEBRASKA



Kansan is part of new Benedictine community

By Melodie Woerman

ABBY ZIMMERMAN, a member of St. Paul's, Manhattan and a postulant for Holy Orders, is part of new style of Benedictine community that was organized in September in Omaha.

The community, called The Benedictine Way, has three elements:

- The Benedictine Service Corps, a one-year service program for young adults;

- The Oblate Way, for adults (in residence or not) who desire Benedictine spirituality but not a vowed monastic life; and

- The Monastic Way, for adults who seek vowed monasticism.

Zimmerman is the first member of the Service Corps. She is working with Thistle Lights, the business operated by the Omaha Magdalene House, a residential program that

helps women recover from a life as sex workers. She also interns at Trinity Cathedral and the offices of the Diocese of Nebraska.

Zimmerman, who is a 2018 graduate from Kansas State University, said she wanted to take a year off before deciding on attending seminary but didn't feel called to other existing Episcopal service year opportunities.

Then last fall she heard Brother James Dowd, the monk who helped create The Benedictine Way, speak at the Canterbury House at K-State, and she knew how she wanted to spend the coming academic year.

"I really felt called to new ways of doing ministry," she said.

She lives in one of two houses that make up the residences for the new community. She is in St. Benedict House, living with a woman who is part of the Oblate Way. Brother James lives in Incarnation Monas-

tery, along with a man who is there part time as he prepares to take vows as a Benedictine monk.

Zimmerman said she was drawn to the call of daily prayer that is part of Benedictine spirituality, as well as the opportunity to live in community with others.

"I have loved this so far," she said. "I thought it would be hard to get into a rhythm of praying the Daily Offices every day, but it was surprisingly easy. I really like the routine that it adds."

The innovative aspect of the community also appealed to her. "I really like new things," she said. "My business degree is in entrepreneurship, so I saw this as a place where I could give as well as receive."

She said the community is exploring a new way of being Christian in the world. "I'm drawn to see where it leads," she said. ☪

Deacon sees scripture anew studying biblical Greek

By the Rev. Casey Rohleder

FOR THE PAST three years, the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry has offered a series of courses, designed to make learning biblical Greek more accessible to lay and ordained persons alike. These courses are taught by Richard Liantonio, a Ph.D. candidate in Hebrew Bible at University of Manchester, in the United Kingdom.

This year, Liantonio continues to work with a small and dedicated group of third-year students, including Deacon Sandy Horton-Smith, from St. Paul's, Manhattan.

Horton-Smith said she decided to take biblical Greek so she could read the scriptures in the original language.

She said, "We rely on translators when we read an English bible, and they have made choices to make the text more readable in English that can alter the meaning or can even promote their own agenda through word choices. Reading the original Greek strips that all away."

Initially, she had concerns about the time she would need to dedicate to learning a new language and whether, given her busy life (she works in a hospital), she would be able to keep up with her studies. "It feels pretty hard at first," Sandy explained, "but after a while, you realize how much you've learned with very little effort."



Deacon Sandy Horton-Smith



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Deacon Sandy Horton-Smith (left) joins fellow students Kevin Burns and Colleen Teeuwe in learning biblical Greek under instructor Richard Liantonio (far right). The course is offered by the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry.

The biblical Greek program doesn't require students to do homework, take tests or write papers. There isn't any pressure to memorize long lists of words or grammar charts. Learning primarily happens by listening and repeating the words, while reading along from the textbook. The major time commitment is being present when classes meet, both face-to-face and online.

This year, the class is reading the upcoming Sunday's Gospel text together every week, reinforcing old vocabulary and grammar as well as learning new concepts. Three times a month, the group meets by video conferencing, and they gather for a few hours in Topeka on regular BKSM focus weekends.

Horton-Smith said that studying Greek has deeply shaped her engagement with scripture. "Reading in Greek requires me to pay a lot more attention to the texts than I would reading them in English," she said.

"They've become so familiar from reading them before and hearing them in church that it's easy to miss the meaning and let it go in one ear and out the other."

BKSM will offer the first course, Biblical Greek 101, again from January-May 2019.

Biblical Greek is only one example of BKSM's commitment to quality continuing education. More information about this course, as well as Leadership Bootcamp, summer offerings and regularly offered classes, is online at www.bishopkemperschool.org.

The Rev. Casey Rohleder is director of communications for the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry. ☉

Youth help Houston residents hit hard by Hurricane Harvey

By Melodie Woerman

FOR YEARS THE YOUTH of St. Thomas', Overland Park, have spent part of their summer engaged in outreach work, and in the process they explored issues of urban poverty, and mental health and addiction.

This summer they took a step farther by traveling to Houston to help people still reeling from the effects of Hurricane Harvey, which hit Texas in August of 2017 and damaged more than 48,000 homes in the state of Texas.

Twenty youth in junior and senior high, along with seven adults, spent a week in Houston in July "to see what environmental disasters can do to people who are just barely getting by to begin with," according to the Rev. Kelly Demo, the parish's associate rector who helped organize the trip.

Before they left they heard from a fellow parishioner who works for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which oversees disaster recovery, to better understand the context of their trip.

Helping repair a damaged home

Once in Houston, the group divided between junior and senior high students. The older teens did rehabilitation of housing through West Side Recovery, a non-profit started by young adults after Harvey.

Demo said, "I think for our youth to see people who are not that much older than themselves just dive in to help their neighbors was very impactful for them."

The youth started by working in the house of couple who had lost everything in the flooding that followed Harvey's massive rainfall. They tore out damaged sheet-rock in three bedrooms, and to repair the damage, they learned how to measure, cut and hang new drywall as well as install insulation.

Emma Gordon said she was proud to help the homeowner but she learned that putting in a new ceiling was hard work. "Carter and I had to hold up every piece of drywall while Matt drilled the screws. By the end of the day our arms were like noodles!"



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

High school student Bre Geary does repairs for a man whose Houston home was damaged during Hurricane Harvey in August 2017. Geary and other senior and junior high youth from St. Thomas', Overland Park, worked in Houston in July helping hurricane victims.

At another home they dug a backyard trench so a new gas line could be installed, which would provide the homeowner with hot water for the first time in nearly a year.

Delivering preparedness meals

Junior high students worked with Meals on Wheels to help deliver emergency food and water kits to people. Demo said, "Apparently flooding occurs so frequently that often Meals on Wheels cannot get to its clients for days on end, so they raised money to create these special kits."



St. Thomas' youth learn how to install insulation in the walls of a Houston home they helped to rehab this summer after being damaged by Hurricane Harvey. Once insulation was in place, they installed new drywall on the ceiling and walls.

The youth bagged up food and water and then helped to deliver the kits — after calling each recipient to make sure they would be home.

Demo said the kids had “a blast” talking to the elderly clients, while

the recipients were very grateful to have the young people’s company.

Asher Demo said that the Meals on Wheels recipients “always gave us a really big smile, and I would feel God’s presence.”

They also worked with Lord of the Streets, a ministry to the homeless started by a local Episcopal church, to put together lunch packs for their clients.

Canvassing the community

The two groups also spent time canvassing the community to see what needs remain in the Northside neighborhood, a lower-income community hit hard by the hurricane. Demo said, “This really pushed the kids outside their comfort zone, because they had to go door-to-door doing interviews and recording answers.”

The youth did have fun while away, too. They spent one afternoon at Galveston beach. They also went

to a break dancing contest at a local church where they met members of the high school state championship soccer team, which is made up of immigrants and refugees.

They learned that seven of the players will be attending State Fair Community College in Sedalia, Mo., a two-hour drive from Overland Park, and hope to stay in touch with them during the school year.

Students who were part of the trip said their time in Houston had a real impact on them.

Micah Geary said it helped him see “how much harder life could be for me and makes me grateful for my life and the church I go to.”

Zoe Green added, “I learned that we have so much more in common than you would think.”



Maddie Rimmer measures drywall to be installed in a Houston home.



Kansas deputies and alternates to General Convention (from left) Laurie Lewis, Ashley Mather, Patrick Funston, Michael Funston, Torey Lightcap, Don Compier, Mike Morrow, Mary Korte, Andrew O'Connor and Tyler Kerr. Jennifer Allen was attending a hearing and isn't pictured.

PHOTOS BY
MELODIE WOERMAN

General Convention sets the Episcopal Church's path for the next three years

Episcopal News Service

RESPONDING TO Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's call to "Follow the Way of Jesus," deputies and bishops at the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, meeting July 5-13 in Austin, Texas, acted on a record number of resolutions on key issues such as immigration, prayer book revision and readmitting the Episcopal Church of Cuba as a diocese.

Outside the legislative chambers, several events brought together bishops, deputies and visitors to mingle, socialize, pray, worship and advocate, with a public witness against gun violence and another outside an immigrant detention center challenging the actions of the U.S. government in its enforcement of immigration policies.

A revival service at Austin's Palmer Events Center on July 7 drew a crowd of more than 2,500 people who listened to Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's rousing sermon about how "God is love and gives life."

In his opening sermon on July 5, Curry challenged every Episcopalian to embrace the "Way of Love: Practices for a Jesus-centered life" as a way to help the church enter into a new era of spiritual growth.

Convention adopted a \$133.8 million 2019-2021 budget that reflects the presiding bishop's priorities of evangelism, racial reconciliation and justice, and creation care. The priorities have been referred to as the "three pillars" of the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement.

Full access to trial-use rites

Convention agreed in passing Resolution B012 to give all Episco-

palians the ability to be married by their priests in their home churches. The resolution provides for:

- Giving rectors or clergy in charge of a congregation the ability to provide access to the trial use of the marriage rites for same-sex and opposite-sex couples.

- Requiring that, if a bishop "holds a theological position that does not embrace marriage for same-sex couples," he or she may invite another bishop, if necessary, to provide "pastoral support" to any couple desiring to use the rites, as well as to the clergy member and congregation involved. In any case, an outside bishop must be asked to take requests for remarriage if either member of the couple is divorced to fulfill a canonical requirement that applies to opposite-sex couples.

- Continuing trial use of the rites until the completion of the next

comprehensive revision of the Book of Common Prayer.

Welcome back, Cuba

Convention voted to readmit the Episcopal Church of Cuba as a diocese by passing Resolution A238. Cuba had been a diocese of the Episcopal Church until 1967, and since then has been an autonomous diocese of the Anglican Communion.

After the vote by the bishops, Bishop Griselda Delgado del Carpio was escorted to her seat in the House of Bishops. Deputies from Cuba were given seat and voice in the House of Deputies when that body passed the resolution.

The readmission will become effective after a variety of written commitments by the Diocese of Cuba are received and certified by Executive Council of the Episcopal Church. Its clergy then can participate in a pension fund administered by the Church Pension Fund.

The Diocese of Cuba is set to join Province II, which includes dioceses from New York and New Jersey in the United States, Haiti and the Virgin Islands.

Responding to the voices, stories of women

The voices and stories of women played a significant role in the workings of the 79th General Convention, from a liturgy where bishops offered laments and confession for the church's role in sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse, to a resolution that allows deputies to bring infant children on the floor of the House of Deputies to feed them.

The House of Bishops also adopted a covenant that commits them to seek changes in their dioceses to combat abuse, harassment and exploitation.

Bishop Cate Waynick of Eastern Michigan said this was the first time in her 30-plus years of ordained ministry that the House of Bishops "actually decided to take a hard look at the way women have been treated."

New plan for liturgical, prayer book revision

Convention adopted a plan for liturgical and prayer book revision that sets the stage for the creation of new liturgical texts to respond to the needs of Episcopalians across the church, while continuing to use the 1979 Book of Common Prayer.

Continued on page 16



PHOTO BY JEREMIAH SHIPMAN

A priest and servers at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Havana prepare to distribute communion during a service July 15.

K-State student reflects on visit to Cuba cathedral during GC vote

THREE WEEKS of study abroad found K-State student Jeremiah Shipman in Havana, Cuba, during the General Convention vote to readmit Cuba as a diocese of the Episcopal Church.

Shipman, a member of Grace Cathedral, Topeka, said he didn't know ahead of time that the vote was taking place, but on Facebook he saw pictures of church people he knew with the Cuba flag and wondered what was happening. He then learned about the vote.

He worshiped at Holy Trinity Cathedral on July 15, the first Sunday after the reunification vote. He said most of the 40 or so people didn't know about it. "They have very limited Internet, and there are no direct phone lines between the U.S. and Cuba. Calls cost \$12 a minute, which is the monthly average wage in Cuba," he said.

They asked him to tell them more about the vote. With a double major in Spanish and medical biochemistry, he described in Spanish what he understood. "I told them it was great that we can be a reunified church again after 50 years," he said. "As relationships are thawing between countries it's nice to have that between churches."

In response he said those attending told him "that the Episcopal Church was the best mother a church could have. They were very excited." ©

Continued from page 15

The initial resolution called for the start of a process that would lead to a fully revised prayer book in 2030. The bishops instead adopted a plan for “liturgical and prayer book revision for the future of God’s mission through the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement.”

The bishops’ amended resolution calls for bishops to engage worshipping communities in their dioceses in experimentation and creation of alternative liturgical texts that they will submit to a new Task Force on Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision to be appointed by the presiding bishop and the president of the House of Deputies.

It also says that liturgical revision will utilize inclusive and expansive language and imagery for humanity and divinity, and will incorporate understanding, appreciation and care of God’s creation.

Meanwhile, General Convention also adopted a resolution that allows all congregations in the Epis-

copal Church to use optional, expansive-language versions of three Rite II Eucharistic prayers in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer.

Acting on immigration

If there was one issue that defied any expectation of controversy at the 79th General Convention, it was immigration.

Bishops and deputies arrived in Austin on the heels of a national uproar over the Trump administration’s “zero tolerance” policy toward immigration, particularly the decision to separate children from parents in detention. And despite the administration’s reversal on family separations, immigration policies continued to be a hot-button issue, including in the border state that hosted the Episcopal Church’s triennial gathering.

One of the defining moments of the Convention was the prayer vigil held July 8 outside the T. Don Hutto Residential Center, an immigrant detention facility little more than a half-hour outside of Austin.

A massive gathering of more than a thousand Episcopalians prayed and sang in support of immigrant parents and children who had been separated.

Standing against gun violence

Hundreds of people, including dozens of bishops, gathered in a park near the Austin Convention Center on July 8 to make a public witness against gun violence.

The crowd heard from fellow Episcopalians Philip and April Schentrup, whose daughter Carmen was killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., on Feb. 14.

They spoke of how their faith helped them cope with the murder of their daughter and of their commitment to keep other families from suffering the same pain.

High school student Abigail Zimmerman, who organized a school walk-out in support of the Parkland students, described her efforts to be a witness and to work for change to help stop gun violence. ☉

During the public witness against gun violence, April Schentrup wipes away tears as she speaks about her daughter, Carmen, who was killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., on Feb. 14. With her are her son Robert, daughter Evelyn and husband Philip. The family are members of St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church in Coral Springs, Fla.



Preparing to welcome our new bishop

WHEN BISHOP Wolfe accepted a call to a new position, I watched the Council of Trustees with admiration. Initially they had a few options for how to proceed, but in the end, as decision makers, they would be doing much of the heavy lifting normally associated with the bishop.

They brought considerable work onto themselves, and they did it with their eyes as open to reality as might be possible in such circumstances.

You may not have noticed too much difference between the way things operate under a bishop and the way they have operated in the absence of a bishop.

Ordinations have occurred; clergy have been deployed and Letters of Agreement have been signed; conventions have been conducted; mission plans have been debated and approved; canons have been changed; reliable programs have continued; a considerable flow of communications has been reliable, continuous and excellent; and there has been a good continuing interface between the Diocese of Kansas and the Episcopal Church.

I give great thanks for a sense of non-anxious continuity in our diocese that has prevailed.

This is due in part because when we first were without a bishop, we purposely and determinedly pursued decisions on weighty matters whenever we could. We reasoned that the bishop should not arrive at her desk on Day One to find a heavy portfolio of burning issues requiring immediate attention.

Further, she should not be made to be some pariah for having to make snap decisions on important business. So a lot of things have been considered, addressed and changed as needed.

All that said, however, the closer we've come to the election of the 10th bishop, the more I've seen and felt the desire to incorporate her (whoever she may be) into the life of the diocese, and all before she's even shown up for her first day of work.

We're becoming aware of the presence of our next bishop (whoever she may be), and it's shaping us. This has helped me to relearn the spiritual truth that God gives us holy community for good reason — widening the circle, we open ourselves up to more hands at the task, more prayers and more perspectives that we wouldn't have had otherwise.

It means "saving a seat," in the best sense of that term. And when the person that we are mentally making room for will be the bishop of the diocese, it also means more leadership models, more life experiences, more patterns of work and more ways to be community together.

My prayer for you is that you find a way to make room for the "more" experiences our new bishop will bring to this diocese.

I'm excited by what God is doing in our midst, and I'm thrilled to start to clear out a space where even more godly transformation is possible.



I'll also let you in on a little secret: if you let it, this time can even be fun! Making room for new possibilities means giving God's Spirit a place to work in a little lightness and laughter.

Please join me, then, in this effort: clearing space, making room, joyfully and delightfully sweeping out old spaces, and being willing to see everything in a new way.

May God bless us in this new chapter. ☉



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