

# THE Harvest

Summer 2018 | The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas



## Praying with paint

Icons help Newton priest pray and reflect the beauty of God's creation

Summer camp / Bishop search news / Diocesan Convention

# The importance of taking sabbath time



## MY SISTERS AND Brothers in Christ,

I pray this note finds you in the midst of, or planning, time for recreation and relaxation this summer. Such sabbath time is so essential to our wellbeing and our recollection that we are partners with God in this creative and generative process called life.

Irenaeus, a bishop of Lyon during the second century, is attributed with saying, “The glory of God is the human person fully alive.” I take “fully

alive” to mean fully engaged with all aspects of one’s life: the physical, the spiritual and the mental, and all to the glory of our Creator.

Such full engagement in life, as God creates it, requires setting aside adequate time for all the facets of our busy lives but with a bias toward our relationship with our Creator.

Sabbath time honors our inclination toward God by giving us space to reorient ourselves away from day-to-day preoccupations and toward our primary relationship with our Creator.

In honoring sabbath time this way, we honor and strengthen every other relationship we have because the love shared in relationship with God nurtures every other relationship.

In fact with practice, sabbath time that honors our relationship with our Creator generates within us a growing capacity to extend God’s love to more and more people, and this glorifies God, and this is the life “fully alive.”

But what does sabbath time look like? It can take any number of forms, such as a vacation, a temporary change of patterns at home, a retreat, a mission trip, going to summer camp, etc.

Sabbath time is any break in the typical pattern of our life that sets aside time with our Creator as our priority, so that we can reflect on how we are living our lives for God’s sake and for the sake of others.

Sabbath time is absolutely essential if we are to grow into the “fully alive” people God created us to be;

people who yearn to live out Jesus’ understanding of the Ten Commandments.

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. (Matthew 22:37-40)

As in these two commandments, when we walk with Jesus, he repeatedly challenges us and shows us what it looks like to be that person who is fully alive, that person who rethinks priorities, that person who reconsiders what cultural norms would look like if we were to put our Creator’s interests and those of our neighbors ahead of our own.

Now is a great time to make time and space for sabbath rest. All that is required of us is a desire to know our Creator and yearning to be “fully alive.”

God will make such time and space holy. ☉

*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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# THE Harvest

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**ON THE COVER:** The Rev. Les Jackson, rector of St. Matthew's, Newton, writes an icon of Jesus as a way of drawing closer to God. | Photo by Melodie Woerman

## News and notes from congregations

**Trinity, Arkansas City** in April and May collected money for Heifer International to buy hives of bees to help people in need around the world.

**Trinity, Atchison** continues to provide support for the Kansas to Kenya ministry through the participation of parishioner John Bishop, who made his sixth trip to Kenya in June.

**St. Paul's, Clay Center** hosted a parish retreat on June 30, followed the next day by a parish picnic and Eucharist in the park.

**St. Paul's, Coffeyville** has ordered assisted listening devices that will provide a sound boost to those who need it during services. The small receiver will transmit to headphones or ear buds and can be used in conjunction with hearing aids.

**St. Andrew's, Derby** participated on May 12 in the citywide garage sale by having a Boot Sale, using the British term for a car trunk. Parishioners brought items to sell in the parking lot, and others were welcome to join in, for a \$10 rental fee.

**St. Martin's, Edwardsville** accomplished a major church clean-up on March 31, including availability of a dumpster for disposing of larger, unneeded items.

**Trinity, El Dorado** marked Ascension Day on May 10 by celebrating the Eucharist at 5:30 p.m. at the labyrinth outside the church.

**St. Andrew's, Emporia** member William Clamurro has had a book of 32 poems published, which he wrote



SUBMITTED PHOTO

### Derby church gets new Easter banners

*A group of women at St. Andrew's, Derby, created two new banners for the church that debuted on Easter. Together they spent several hours cutting out letters and applying them to the fabric panels.*

*The women also made purple-and-white curb signs for the streets near the church. In succession the signs proclaimed "He is Risen, Alleluia, Alleluia." ◉*

while a noncombat medic in Vietnam from 1969 to 1971. The title is *The Vietnam Typescript*.

**St. Mary's, Galena** has beautified the church with two new projects — replacing the carpet in the building and adding a columbarium garden.

**Epiphany, Independence** hosted a Cinco de Mayo party on May 5, complete with potluck fare, to welcome supply priest the Rev. Tom Baker of Topeka.

**St. Timothy's, Iola** gave members of the community the chance to mark Cinco de Mayo with an enchilada dinner. Diners could eat in the church hall or place carry-our

orders. The church sold about 130 dozen enchiladas, all to help fund outreach ministries.

**St. Margaret's, Lawrence** members celebrate the birth of new children or grandchildren in the parish by giving families handmade baby blankets, through its baby blanket ministry.

**Trinity, Lawrence** marked Trinity Sunday May 27 with a parish picnic on the lawn after church. Hamburgers, hot dogs and lemonade were provided.

**St. Paul's, Leavenworth** has started an endowment foundation to help members make planned gifts



PHOTO BY MARSHA BURRIS

## Iola church offers community prayers

*St. Timothy's, Iola, in May added a red prayer box to the "Episcopal Church welcomes you" sign outside the church to offer provide members of the community a way to request prayers. The box includes a stack of blank cards and a pen.*

*Contents of the prayer box are incorporated into the Prayers of the People on the following Sunday. ☉*

to support the long-term health of the parish. A May 2 informational meeting was led by foundation chair Bill Kromer.

**St. Paul's, Manhattan** explored issues of diversity during the Easter season to delve into reasons why it is difficult for a congregation to live fully into the diversity God has in mind.

**St. Michael's, Mission** welcomed back the Carpenter Ants Project, in which congregation members tackle needed construction items. They began with repairs to the fence around the parish day school.

**Ascension, Neodesha** has done extensive work to its Street Hall, including new paint, a raised ceiling, new lighting, newly painted kitchen cabinets, granite countertops and soon-to-be-installed kitchen tile.

**St. Matthew's, Newton** again is making space available in its community garden for those who want to plant their own vegetables but lack the space. The cost to rent for the growing season is \$30.

**St. Aidan's, Olathe** during Lent prayed for and mourned those who have been killed by gun violence. Parishioners also were made aware of opportunities to speak up on behalf of victims.

**Grace, Ottawa** has started a Bible study on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. The first class met on March 1.

**St. Thomas', Overland Park** will send 20 youth and five adults to Houston in July to help clean and rebuild homes devastated by Hurricane Harvey last fall. The storm damaged more than 200,000 homes.

**St. John's, Parsons** continues to support students at Labette County Community College by helping them with laundry at a local laundromat, aided by parish-provided coffee.

**Epiphany, Sedan** invited the community to a spring cookie and bake sale on March 24, with assorted homemade cookies sold by the pound, along with special breads, cakes and pies.

**St. Luke's, Shawnee** is working to show care for creation, one of the tenets of the Jesus Movement, by encouraging reuse and recycling. During May the church collected unwanted eye glasses and cell phones, with other collections planned for the rest of the year.

**Grace Cathedral, Topeka** has a group of people who meet weekly to prepare scripts for a Reader's Theatre. The Grace Players periodically provide a parishwide reading of plays ranging from Shakespeare to Neil Simon.

**St. David's, Topeka** has a chapter of the Junior Daughters of the King that supports the church through prayer and action. Members recently helped clean up the church grounds.

**Good Shepherd, Wichita** hosted a parish campout in June at the Spring Lake RV Resort. Campers reserved a cabin, a spot for an RV or a camping space for the three-day event. Noncampers joined in worship and a potluck supper one evening.

**St. James', Wichita** in May observed Undies Sundays, with members asked to contribute packages of new

*Continued on page 4*

Continued from page 3

underwear and socks, ranging in size from infant to extra-large, for the Wichita Childrens Home.

**St. John's, Wichita** in June said thank-you for 20 years of service to member James Adams, who serves as security officer, sexton and greeter, as well as a dedicated parishioner.

**St. Stephen's, Wichita** saw two members receive the Golden Apple Award from the Wichita Public Schools in April, recognizing employees, volunteers and school partners for exemplary service to the district and students — Susie McFall, foster grandparents at Griffith Elementary; and Casey Rothwell, counselor at Jackson Elementary.

**Grace, Winfield** offered “Chili Madness,” a chili supper in March featuring homemade chili, cornbread and lots of toppings. Proceeds supported camp scholarships for youth from Grace and Trinity, Arkansas City. ①

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## Clergy news

**The Rev. Steve Lipscomb**, who retired as dean of Grace Cathedral, Topeka, on May 20, has accepted a call to serve as part-time interim rector at St. Paul's, Leavenworth, beginning June 17.

**The Rev. Charles Granger**, who is licensed in this diocese from the Diocese of Oklahoma, has been named locum tenens at St. Margaret's, Lawrence, beginning June 1. A locum tenens performs the duties of a rector by a letter of agreement between the priest and the church's Vestry.

**The Rev. David Jenkins**, who has been part-time rector of the Church of the Covenant in Junction City since 2013, has concluded his ministry there. His last day was June 3.

Assignments have been approved for people who were ordained in June 2017 and are completing their internship year:

**Deacon Diane Kruger**, St. Stephen's, Wichita; **the Rev. Mike Loyd**, St. Andrew's, Derby (also assisting at Good Shepherd, Wichita, this summer, during their rectors' sabbatical); and **the Rev. Katie Knoll Lenon**, continued CPE through the end of August at St. Luke's Hospital, Kansas City, Mo. ①

# Lawrence church swaps out all its light bulbs

**LED BY ITS ENVIRONMENTAL** stewardship team (TEST), Trinity, Lawrence in March replaced all the lights in the church with LED bulbs for greater energy efficiency and cost savings. They took the place of compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) that had been used by the church since 2007.

Junior warden David Severance oversaw the effort, which was timed so the church would be brighter for Easter.

He said new bulbs were placed in the 12 chandeliers in the nave, along with floodlights at the altar and in the narthex. It amounted to 113 bulbs in all.

The new bulbs cost about \$700 and were purchased from three area Home Depot stores, taking advantage of Severance's 10 percent discount as a veteran.

Severance said the new bulbs provide a clearer, brighter light than the CFL bulbs, at lower wattage for the same lumens. The bulbs' longer life — nearly double that of CFLs — also were a big plus. “We won't have to pull out the 20-foot ladder as often,” he said.

Any of the old CFL bulbs that were still usable were donated to the Trinity Interfaith Food Pantry, for distribution to anyone who needed them.

— Melodie Woerman ①



PHOTO BY NANCY HANSON

*Andrew Hoyt stands atop a 20-foot ladder to install LED light bulbs in the nave of Trinity, Lawrence.*

# Bishop election will highlight Diocesan Convention

THE ELECTION OF THE 10th bishop of Kansas will highlight the 159th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas when it meets Oct. 19-20 in Topeka.

The theme for the convention is “Unity of the Spirit,” a quote from Ephesians 4:3.

The election of the diocese’s next bishop will take place on Friday, June 19, as a special order of business.

Only certified lay delegates from each congregation, as well as clergy who are canonically resident, will be present for the election, which will take place in the nave of Grace Cathedral. But plans call for the election to be live-streamed, so anyone can watch it a via computer or mobile device.

The link to watch the proceedings will be made available prior to the election on the diocesan website, [www.episcopal-ks.org](http://www.episcopal-ks.org). That’s also where election results will be posted throughout the day.

The convention Eucharist, to which all are invited, will take place at the cathedral at 4 p.m., with the convention banquet and awards taking place in the evening.

Plans are for the bishop-elect to address those attending the banquet via live-stream.



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## Deadline for convention actions is Aug. 3

### Nominations:

Send to the Very Rev. Laurie Lewis  
3705 Edgemont  
Wichita, KS 67208  
[revdlaurie@gmail.com](mailto:revdlaurie@gmail.com)

### Debatable resolutions:

Send to Deacon Oliver Bunker  
2401 W. 3rd St.  
Chanute, KS 66720-1968  
[obunker@cableone.net](mailto:obunker@cableone.net)

### Amendments to the constitution or canons:

Send to Frank Taylor  
7450 W. 130th St., Suite 140  
Overland Park, KS 66213  
[ftaylor@hrkklaw.com](mailto:ftaylor@hrkklaw.com)

### Other business will be on Saturday

All other convention business will take place on Saturday, Oct. 20, in the Sunflower Ballroom of the Capitol Plaza Hotel. Plans call for business sessions to meet into the afternoon and will include elections, consideration of any changes to diocesan canons or debatable resolutions, and adoption of a proposed 2019 budget.

### Elections for two entities

Elections this year will be for two diocesan entities:

- The Council of Trustees, which is the diocese’s governing body between conventions. Two members, one lay and one clergy, will serve three-year terms. The lay incumbent, Stephan Mann, is eligible for re-election. The clergy incumbent, the Very Rev. Patrick Funston, is not eligible for re-election.
- The Disciplinary Board, which hears some complaints about clergy misconduct. Seven members, three lay and four clergy, will serve three-year terms. All incumbents are eligible for re-election: Philip Davidson, the Rev. Dawn Frankfurt, the Rev. Steve Lipscomb, the Rev. Jerry Rankin, Rogene Schille, Robert Skaggs and the Rev. Shawn Streepy.

Nominations for the at-large seats on the Council of Trustees should be made on the required online form, posted on the convention page of the diocesan website, [www.episcopal-ks.org/life/convention.php](http://www.episcopal-ks.org/life/convention.php).

The deadline is **Aug. 3** to submit any action that will come before convention (*see box, left*). ☉



PHOTO BY MELODIE WOERMAN

*St. Francis', Overland Park, vicar the Rev. Doreen Rice (second from right) leads a service of blessing on May 27 for the bees that now live at the church. Joining Rice are acolytes Ethan Kohl (far left) and Rylan Kohl (far right), and Deacon Jim Cummins.*

## Church hosts four hives of bees

By Melodie Woerman

**SINCE APRIL** members of St. Francis', Overland Park, have been joined on the 16 acres of church property by four hives of honey bees. The hives belong to beekeeper Steve Messbarger, who owns more than 90 hives across the greater Kansas City area.

He placed his hives at St. Francis' last fall at the invitation of the church's vicar, the Rev. Doreen Rice. "I've been intrigued by beekeeping for a number of years," Rice said,

"and I knew that our land is a tremendous asset. And then last fall I happened upon the Episcopal Beekeepers page on Facebook."

Rice said that discovery set off a chain of Internet searches that led her to a Facebook page for the Northeast Kansas Beekeepers' Association. There she posted that St. Francis' would love to host bees as a way of supporting the environment, and Messbarger took the church up on its offer.

Last fall he placed four empty hives down a small hill from the

back of the church, to test whether they would last through the winter — bee hives often are vandalized, he said, and the church sits near a major street in southern Johnson County.

They passed the winter unscathed, so in April he brought over four colonies of bees.

In the meantime the church installed a small plastic pond not far from the hives, having learned that bees need a ready source of water. If one isn't nearby, they will fly until they find one, and near St. Francis' that could mean someone's swimming pool.

Messbarger said the "church hives," as he calls them, by early September will produce enough honey to gather. He plans to give some of the honey to the church, and Rice said they may bottle it and sell it to support outreach ministries.

By mid-summer each hive will house as many as 60,000 insects. Given that each bee makes only one-tenth of a teaspoon of honey in its 6-week lifespan, it takes thousands and thousands of bees to produce even a small quantity.

Rice said hosting the hives is a great outreach project for a small congregation like St. Francis', since it doesn't require a lot of labor on the part of parishioners.

"Hosting the bees also is a wonderful way to support God's creation and participate in local Kansas agriculture," she said. ☉

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## How to help support a healthy bee population

Bees account for about 80 percent of all crop pollination in the United States. But the number of bees is in decline, which can mean a devastating effect on farm products.

Here's how you can help support healthy bee colonies:

- Plant flowers, bushes and trees specifically for bees and butterflies (which also help pollinate plants)
- Avoid the use of pesticides on these plants, to keep chemicals out of the pollen chain and away from bees



SUBMITTED PHOTO

*New vestments, altar hangings and processional banner were unveiled during an April 21 service marking the 160th anniversary of St. Paul's, Kansas City. The Very Rev. Craig Loya, dean of Trinity Cathedral, Omaha, and formerly of this diocese, was the celebrant. Bishop Michael Milliken, the diocese's assisting bishop, also participated.*

## New vestments highlight anniversary celebration in Kansas City

ST. PAUL'S, Kansas City, on April 21 celebrated its 160th anniversary with festive activities and vestments and altar hangings specially designed to mark the occasion.

The church's priest in charge, the Rev. Dixie Junk, said the congregation wanted a special way to mark

the milestone. The design of the new liturgical items came in collaboration with a company in St. Louis.

All items — vestments, altar hanging and a processional banner — have a background of brightly colored pieces of batik fabric that references the church's stained glass

windows. The prominent color of all the pieces is green.

The banner includes the church name in both English and Spanish, reflecting the church's vision of being a multicultural, bilingual community, reaching out to those living in its neighborhood. ☉



PHOTO BY JIM EDWARDS

*At St. David's, Topeka, first-time Eucharistic minister Dr. Bart Ramsey (center), stands with rector the Rev. Vicki Smith (left) and Terry Martinez.*

## Nonagenarian seeks to serve

BY HIS OWN admission, retired pediatrician Dr. Bart Ramsey is a "fairly spry" 92-year-old, who has been a member of St. David's, Topeka, since 1969.

But on April 29, he took his first-ever turn as a Eucharistic minister, administering the chalice during communion. He said he was inspired to undertake this new ministry by a stewardship message last fall, encouraging people to contribute to the parish in ways beyond pledges.

He said he tries to smile at everyone he is serving,

mentioning them by name, or calling them "my friend," as he serves the communion wine. When they smile back, he said "it's a very warm experience."

The church's rector, the Rev. Vicki Smith, said Ramsey also keeps an eye on fellow parishioners who live in his retirement complex.

She described Ramsey as "the kindest, most gentle man" who also takes notes on her sermons as she's preaching. "I find that quite charming," she said.

— Melodie Woerman ☉



# The Search for the

# Tenth Bishop

## The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas

## Transition Committee begins its work

By David Schlomer

**WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT** of the names of candidates for the 10th bishop on June 21, the work of the Search Committee has ended and that of the Transition Committee has begun.

We will do that by supporting the candidates and their families, and ultimately, our next bishop, through the next steps of the process. We will accomplish this by:

- communicating the progress of the transition process;
- organizing walkabouts in each of the four convocations;
- overseeing the bishop election on Oct. 19, the first day of Diocesan Convention; and
- planning the service of ordination and consecration, set for March 2, 2019, at Grace Cathedral in Topeka.

Each of the candidates for bishop has been assigned a team of shepherds, members of the Transition Committee whose job is to stay in close communication with them and to make sure they have everything they need between now and the time of the election.

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**A NOTE TO READERS:** *This issue of The Harvest went to press before the June 21 release of the slate of candidates for bishop.*

*Information about the candidates is available on the diocesan website, [www.episcopal-ks.org](http://www.episcopal-ks.org).*

*A special mailing with detailed information about all the candidates will be sent to subscribers in the coming weeks.*

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The walkabouts, set for Oct. 1-5, are an opportunity to introduce the candidates and their families to members to the diocese. There will be visits to each of the four convocations.

These sessions will provide an opportunity for everyone in the diocese to meet the candidates and listen to them explain how they discerned the call to become our next bishop.

The election on Oct. 19 will be open to clergy, delegates and volunteers. It will begin with a service of Morning Prayer and between ballots will include scripture and music.

## Upcoming dates

### Tuesday, Oct. 2

Candidates walkabout, Northeast Convocation

### Wednesday, Oct. 3

Candidates walkabout, Southeast Convocation

### Thursday, Oct. 4

Candidates walkabout, Southwest Convocation

### Friday, Oct. 5

Candidates walkabout, Northwest Convocation

### Friday, Oct. 19

Election during Diocesan Convention, Grace Cathedral, Topeka

### Saturday, March 2, 2019

Service of ordination and consecration, Grace Cathedral, Topeka

Each team of shepherds will call its candidate after each ballot during the election, prior to results being announced publicly, and they will be present to the candidates at the end of the election.

Once the next bishop has been elected, a team will be formed to assist him or her through the service of ordination and consecration and beyond.

The service will feature Presiding Bishop Michael Curry as the chief consecrator, assisted by other bishops and clergy.

During this “get-to-know” phase, the team will assist the bishop-elect by arranging appointments with key personnel, introducing him or her to the larger community, and generally helping him or her become acclimated to the diocese. The Transition Committee will continue to work with the new bishop for as long as it takes to ensure that he or she is off to a good start.

The committee will be busy with all the details of the walkabouts and the service of ordination and consecration — including transportation, hotel reservations, the post-service reception, gifts for the new bishop and a host of other tasks.

More information on all the aspects of the transition can be found via the diocesan website, [www.episcopal-ks.org](http://www.episcopal-ks.org).

*David Schlomer, a member of St. Michael and All Angels, Mission, is co-chair of the Transition Committee.*



PHOTO BY MELODIE WOERMAN

*Bishop Michael Milliken of Western Kansas (back row) stands with people he confirmed or received at a regional service on May 12 at Grace Cathedral, Topeka.*

## Grace Cathedral is site of first regional confirmation service

TEN PEOPLE FROM FOUR congregations were confirmed or received during the first regional confirmation service of the year May 12 at Grace Cathedral in Topeka.

Another person, who experienced a family emergency, was confirmed before the start of the service.

The 11 people represented four congregations: St. John's, Abilene; St. Paul's, Clay Center; St. Paul's, Manhattan and Grace Cathedral.

The celebrant and preacher was Bishop Michael Milliken, bishop of the Diocese of Western Kansas and assisting bishop of this diocese.

Three other convocation services have been set for the remainder of this year:

- Sept. 29, 10:30 a.m., St. Michael and All Angels, Mission
- Nov. 17, 10:30 a.m., St. James', Wichita
- Dec. 8, 10:30 a.m., St. John's, Parsons

Bishop Milliken will be the celebrant at each of these services, also.

Information for churches who wish to register people for any of the remaining services is on the diocesan website, [www.episcopal-ks.org](http://www.episcopal-ks.org). Go to “Resources,” and then click on “Parish administration.”

# Kansas deputies will tackle tough issues in Austin

By Melodie Woerman

**WHEN MEMBERS OF THE** Diocese of Kansas deputation to the 78th General Convention gather July 5-13 in Austin, Texas, they will be asked to tackle a range of issues that will include marriage liturgies for same-sex couples, revisions to the Book of Common Prayer, how the church deals with sexual misconduct, racial reconciliation and care of creation.

They also will need to approve a budget for the next three years.

The four lay and four clergy deputies representing this diocese will join more than 800 others from across the Episcopal Church — including from 11 dioceses and jurisdictions in 15 countries outside the United States — as the House of Deputies.

Together with the House of Bishops, they will participate in committee hearings on proposed legislation, called resolutions, and ultimately vote on all of them.

## An active Kansas deputation

All eight Kansas deputies have been assigned to legislative committees. It is unusual for a diocese to have all of its deputies assigned to a committee, and especially so for first-timers; Kansas has three deputy newcomers.

Kansas deputies are Mike Morrow (deputation chair), Ashley Mather, Michael Funston, Jennifer Allen, the Very Rev. Laurie Lewis, the Very Rev. Don Compier, the Rev. Torey Lightcap and the Very Rev. Patrick Funston.

First alternates Tyler Kerr and the Rev. Andrew O'Connor also will attend. Second alternate the Rev. Mary Korte will be assistant to the deputation.

In addition, Lily Riddle, of St. Luke's, Shawnee, will represent Province 7 as a member of the Official Youth Presence, a group of 18 high school students who will have seat and voice in the House of Deputies.

## Several hot button issues

Among the issues likely to draw the greatest interest, both inside the Austin Convention Center and across the church, are resolutions dealing with the marriage of same-sex couples.

In 2015 General Convention approved marriage for all couples within the Episcopal Church, subject to the approval of a diocese's bishop. Bishops that did not authorize marriage rites for same-sex couples were required to provide access to the rite for those couples. Eight of the church's 101 domestic dioceses do not allow same-sex couples to be get married in their jurisdiction, and not all provide access. Proposed legislation would continue to allow clergy to decline to marry same-sex couples, but the rites would be available to them without having to leave their home diocese.

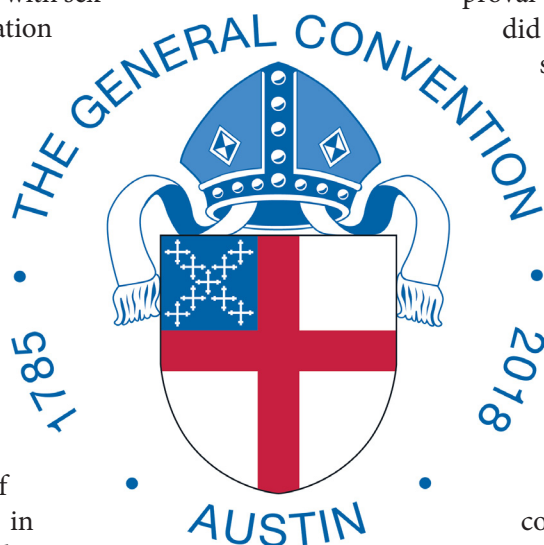
Convention also will be asked to consider resolutions that will be presented by a special House of Deputies Committee on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Exploitation.

This group was appointed in response to a call to the church from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and House of Deputies president the Rev. Gay Jennings to address reports of sexism, misogyny and misuse of power that were shared by women in the Episcopal Church in the wake of the #MeToo movement.

A special working group of deputies and bishops also has announced recommendations for how to foster open and productive debate on the often-thorny discussions of Episcopal Church policy toward Israel and Palestine.

Other topics that General Convention will consider include the return the Episcopal Church in Cuba to the jurisdiction of the Episcopal Church, matters of structure and governance, money for evangelism and church planting, and clergy leadership in small congregations.

A link to General Convention information is on the diocesan website, [www.episcopal-ks.org](http://www.episcopal-ks.org).



# Emporia church aids cyclists with breakfast and blessings

By Melodie Woerman

**WHAT DO YOU DO** when 2,500 cyclists from around the world start a 200-mile race across the street from your church? For St. Andrew's, Emporia, it means you offer breakfast, provide clean restrooms and say prayers.

The church's rector, the Rev. Marc McDonald, said this is the fourth year the church has served breakfast to riders with the Dirty Kanza, a 200-mile bicycle endurance challenge on roads through the Flint Hills that starts in downtown Emporia.

But this was the first time a special blessing was available.

"We wanted to add another dimension to this outreach activity and decided to offer a blessing for cyclists who would like a special prayer for their race," he said.

He said both the blessings and the breakfast were well received by racers, the cyclists' support crews and race spectators.

About 20 church volunteers helped with the church's efforts, he said. Money raised from the sale of breakfast items supports community services to help people in need. Leftover food was donated to a local shelter.



The Rev. Marc McDonald is ready to pray for some of the 2,500 cyclists at the Dirty Kanza road race, which started in front of St. Andrew's, Emporia on June 2.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

McDonald said the race, which was held on June 2, is one of the largest events that takes place in Emporia.

"It was an amazing event," he said, "and one way St. Andrew's is reaching out to our community and beyond." ☉



## BKSM graduates represent a variety of ministries

Five people from the Diocese of Kansas were among the 15 people who completed one of the programs from the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry during a commencement service May 12 at Grace Cathedral in Topeka.

Pictured with Bishop Michael Milliken, assisting bishop of the diocese, are (from left) Deacon Sandy Horton-Smith, Certificate in Biblical Greek II; Kathy Swain, Certificate of Presbyteral Studies and completion of Leadership Boot Camp; and Martha Lamoy and Joseph Steineger III, Lay Preacher Certificates.

The Rev. Joseph Alford also completed Leadership Boot Camp but wasn't able to be present for the service. ☉

# MegaCamp: Exploring big questions about God

FOR A WEEK IN JUNE, 195 campers from third grade through high school graduates, gathered at Camp Wood YMCA for community, recreation and time to ponder big questions about God.

Karen Schlabach, diocesan youth missionary and interim campus missionary, said the theme “Beyond Belief” helped young people explore a variety of concepts.

What if God is bigger than you ever imagined?

What if hope was real?

What if you could change the world?

“We wanted them to think about how God could be seen in the vastness of creation, the power of community and even in their own hearts,” Schlabach said.



*Communion during the all-camp MegaEucharist*



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

*Campers ride horses on trails at Camp Wood YMCA in the heart of the Flint Hills.*

Campers of the same age (elementary, junior high and senior high) stayed in designated housing areas and also were divided into small “family groups,” led by two adults, that spent 90 minutes each day exploring the theme’s faith topics. Schlabach said this time intentionally incorporated a variety of learning activities, including discussion, art, theater and personal reflection.

Each age group also had a priest chaplain who celebrated the Eucharist each day. The entire camp came together one evening for a joint “MegaEucharist.”

But camp wouldn’t be complete without recreational activities that took advantage of the campus that included a lake and trails. Those were overseen by members of the Y camp staff. ①



*The lake was a popular spot for canoeing, as well as swimming.*

# Refugee ministry has new home and partnership

By Shane Schneider

**ON JAN. 1 THE** Salina-based Saint Francis Community Services expanded its ministry of service to children and families when it assumed fiduciary responsibility for the Wichita affiliate of Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM).

EMM assists in the local resettlement of refugees approved through the U.S. Department of State's Resettlement Program.

Renamed Saint Francis Migration Ministries, the program will remain EMM's Wichita affiliate and an integral part of its network of 14 partner agencies.

## New home for ministries

The agency has moved into new offices at the former Mount St. Mary's convent at 3730 East Lincoln. The first stage of a three-year renovation project already has provided a home for the refugee resettlement agency, as well as space for a program to support older teens about to age out of foster care. Head Start also now occupies space there.

Saint Francis' administrative offices in Wichita have relocated to the building, too, which when completed will be called Saint Francis at The Mount.

## Refugee ministry remains vital

"We are thrilled that Saint Francis Community Services has become our partner in this work," said the Rev. E. Mark Stevenson, EMM director. "They bring an expertise and a passion in providing hope and new life to those in tremendous need that



PHOTO BY SHANE SCHNEIDER

*Mount St. Mary's, formerly the convent of the Roman Catholic Sisters of St. Joseph in Wichita, has been leased by Saint Francis Community Services and is the new home for its refugee resettlement agency, and other ministries.*

will strengthen this ministry long into the future."

Refugee resettlement in Wichita began with the creation of the Episcopal Wichita Area Refugee Ministry by a local group of Episcopalians in 2011. The agency became EMM-Wichita in 2015.

More than 80 refugees were resettled in Wichita in 2017, most from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea and Burma. Many have been living in refugee camps for months or years, awaiting approval of their refugee status and eligibility for the resettlement program, a comprehensive process requiring their final approval granted by the Department of State and Department of Homeland Security.

Through a network of community volunteers and partners, Saint Francis Migration Ministries will continue to welcome and provide compassionate, vital support to refugees who come to Wichita seeking

security, opportunity and new lives for themselves and their families.

"The desire of refugees for a peaceful future has woven seamlessly into the tapestry of the Wichita community," said the Very Rev. Robert N. Smith, dean and CEO of Saint Francis.

"For decades, Wichita has embraced refugees from all over the world. Their influence and entrepreneurial spirit rises in every corner of the business and professional community, and Wichita has become stronger and more culturally enriched because of it," he said.

"The Episcopal Church has played a pivotal role in this life-saving, humanitarian initiative since 1988. We at Saint Francis are truly honored to carry this Episcopal mission forward."

*Shane Schneider is the senior copywriter for Saint Francis Community Services.*



PHOTOS BY MELODIE WOERMAN

*An icon of Jesus, in the early stages of being written, sits on the desk of the Rev. Les Jackson, rector of St. Matthew's, Newton, along with paint, brushes and other supplies.*

# REVEALING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

By Melodie Woerman

**ACRYLIC PAINT.** A wooden board. Short brush strokes. More paint.

Those all help the Rev. Les Jackson, rector of St. Matthew's, Newton, finish an icon of Jesus, Mary or one of the saints. But they are not what get him started.

It's prayer. "To write an icon is to engage in prayer," he said. "We make ourselves present to God."

And breathing. "You breathe in God's mercy and grace, and breathe out all the bad stuff."

And creating. "Creating is what God did in the beginning and created us to do that, too."

Jackson said icons are central in Eastern Orthodox practice but are less understood in western Christianity.

But he thinks icons' origins in prayer and as vehicles for creating beauty can enhance the spirituality of believers today.

"The theological understanding behind icons is that God created us beautiful, in his image, and then someone lied to us. And we believed the lie."

The rich colors and luminous gold of icons are a form of beauty that helps reveal God's presence to us, he said. And to create an icon one must slow down, be intentional and be truly present to God. "We are consumed by fast," he said. "Here you slow down. Be aware of the textures and colors. And ask God for the grace to do this work."

And breathe, he said. It takes deep breathing to calm the soul enough to be attuned to God's presence.

## Pointing you back to God

You don't paint an icon, Jackson said, you write it, because Eastern Orthodoxy believe icons and scripture equally are revelations of God.

And the reason for icon writing always points back to God. "The purpose isn't to create a great work of art but a great time of prayer," he said.

It was the need for a deeper prayer life that drew Jackson to icons 13 years ago. A friend suggested it when he struggled with questions of vocation, and writing icons helped still his mind and heart, and find peace.





*The Rev. Les Jackson displays icons that he created on a shelf in his office, with an icon of St. Matthew that belongs to the church hanging on the wall.*

It also connected him to the intentionality of creating. “All the time we are creating things in our lives but are not aware of it,” he said. “Writing an icon is intentional. We can do the same thing in life — be intentional about what we create, including relationships.”

### **Halos, eyes and color**

Writing an icon starts with a pattern traced onto a board — plain wood or more often an art panel, composite wood that is made for painting. Designs usually come from pattern books, but Jackson will take inspiration wherever he finds it. A stylized icon of Jesus as the Good Shepherd came from a Sunday school lesson.

He uses acrylic paints because they are easier to use, even though that strays from the tradition that icons be made only with natural substances. Egg tempera is so much harder to use, he said.

He starts by applying a dark base coat, using short brush strokes in different directions so the paint stays smooth. Then come highlights, layer upon layer of different paints, to create the features of a face and hands, or the folds in clothing.

Halos are added last, sometimes in thin sheets of gold leaf but more often these days, in gold paint. Gold leaf is tricky to use, and it’s almost impossible to repair if it tears, he said.

Icon colors are highly symbolic: blue for the transcendent mystery of God, green for life and hope, deep red for royalty, white for glory. But when an icon writer is at a loss for the right color to use, Jackson said you should ask God to guide you, and then be still and wait.

Eyes are prominent features in icons and often seem like they follow you around a room. Jackson sticks to the tradition of not painting a glister in the eyes. “The light is supposed to come from within,” he said.

It takes him about 12 to 16 hours to complete a simple icon, which he then gives away. “In the process of doing one, I usually think of someone who needs it.”

One exception is an icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a recent work that will be a gift to one of his daughters. He wrote a similar icon several years ago, and she asked if he would create one for her.

This one, he said, “invokes a sense of kindness, compassion and gentleness. I hope my daughter also sees my love for her.”

His favorite icon, he said, is whatever one he is creating.

Icons have become a major part of Jackson’s spiritual life. “This practice has taught me that being whole is better than being perfect; that mistakes add strength, learning and character; and that we seek God’s image in all things,” he said. “We ought to create and bring beauty into our lives at every stage.”

But don’t be judgmental about it, he added, noting he knows he is not a great artist. But that isn’t really the point. “Doing this work prayerfully allows us to get to the heart.”



*An icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which Jackson wrote earlier this year, will be a gift to one of his daughters.*

# Post-royal wedding media boosts awareness of Episcopal Church and presiding bishop



PHOTO BY OWEN HUMPHREYS/POOL VIA REUTERS

*Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael Curry gives an address during the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle in St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle in Windsor, Britain, on May 19.*

By David Paulsen  
Episcopal News Service

**MAY WAS QUITE** a month to be an Episcopalian.

For the week leading up to the royal wedding, people across the world wanted to know everything about Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, including why the leader of the Episcopal Church would be preaching in the presence of the queen of England.

Then on May 19, nearly 30 million TV viewers in the United States alone watched Bishop Curry's sermon on the power of God's love at the

wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

For a week afterward, Bishop Curry was interviewed or profiled by seemingly every major media outlet, from the BBC to ABC's "The View" to the celebrity gossip site TMZ.

Episcopalians, who have long known of Bishop Curry's talent as a preacher, responded with a mix of joy at "one of us" receiving such attention and hope that his rising profile would boost the church's profile — and maybe even help fill the pews.

Bishop Curry did his part to seize this opportunity for evangelism, turning the conversations in inter-

views back to Jesus' message of love's power to change the world.

And days after the royal wedding, in a bit of scheduling serendipity, he joined other ecumenical Christian leaders for a "Reclaiming Jesus" church service, procession and candlelight vigil in Washington, D.C.

Though planned long before Bishop Curry was asked to preach at Windsor Castle, those events, held on May 24, drew additional news coverage due to his sudden star power.

"Part of evangelism is helping the church to be more visible, just as a practical matter, and the other part of it is the church having a message that is worthy of the hearing," Bishop Curry said, recapping the whirlwind of his previous few weeks.

The bigger question for dioceses, congregations and parishioners may be whether the attention Bishop Curry has brought to the Episcopal Church and to the Reclaiming Jesus initiative will flow down to them in ways that serve the long-term mission of the church and the work of its members.

Even if it does, some say there still is plenty of work to be done.

The Rev. Scott Gunn, executive director of the Episcopal evangelism resource ministry Forward Movement, said, "Churches often think that they're going to advertise their way into church growth or that the presiding bishop will do our work for us. But the reality is people hear about Jesus because one person invites another person." ◉

# We depend on one another for our very lives

AS A YOUNG graduate student, I had a job in a public relations office writing press releases about good work going on in the university. I interviewed a Ph.D. candidate about her work and asked her one of my usual questions: “Whom would you acknowledge for helping you with this project, or for helping you come this far?”

“Absolutely no one,” she flatly responded, and I stood in flabbergasted silence. “I have no one but myself to thank for any of this. I’ve only gotten here by my own strength. Any other answer would be a lie.”

“No one? Not a one?” I gamely protested.

“Only me,” she said. “I am grateful only to myself.”

Now, 23 years later, I think I know what I would say to her, and why it matters at just this moment to us all.

It matters because we live in a time of incredible theo-political division. There’s little in the way of forgiveness or forbearance or gentleness or shades of gray, and our public rhetoric can shift into radical, judgmental destructiveness with one twiddle of the “post,” “tweet” or “send” buttons.

There’s plenty in the air these days telling us that we are better when we are divested from one another, off on our own, cloistered and secluded and screened away — often by screens.

It’s a lie, but a seductive one. It says that each day is a fresh temptation to think of ourselves only as individuals and of most of the rest of the world as being out to hold us back and cut off all forward progress.

In times like these, temptations toward isolation and division produce intolerable pain in the community. We need a strong dose of the advice given to the saints at Ephesus, to lead lives worthy of our calling, “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.”

And if we agree that this ungrateful division is a temptation and a lie, what might we say to it? How should we answer?

We can stand on the bedrock of our faith. In the Scriptures, Jesus is consistently present to others from whom he differs greatly, often at great cost to himself. He routinely helps people who make him ritually impure by the standards of his own family. Yet he goes to them, touches them, hears them out, heals them.

We might also look to Paul, who is deeply concerned about the proper functioning of life within the body of Christ. Paul tells the Corinthians that the eye of the body of Christ can’t just divorce the hand and walk away.

In Romans he stresses that what makes the body one (though it is composed of the many) is that we are “individually members one of another.” We are participating in God *as* one another!

In short, our dependence on one another for our very lives is simply staggering. And that means there’s no room for the lie of individual independence, achievement or freedom apart from others. There’s no room for ungratefulness or excessive isolation.



The body of Christ is an organism with everyone playing a vital part. We are simply stuck with each other, and we all help each other get along, even if we can’t always see it.

If I woke up tomorrow to find myself living in 1995 again, I think I’d have a better answer than just stunned silence when the Ph.D. student gave me that hair-raising answer to my simple question.

And I might start by saying, “My faith tells me that we need and rely on each other more than any of us can ever really know.” ☉



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