

THE Harvest

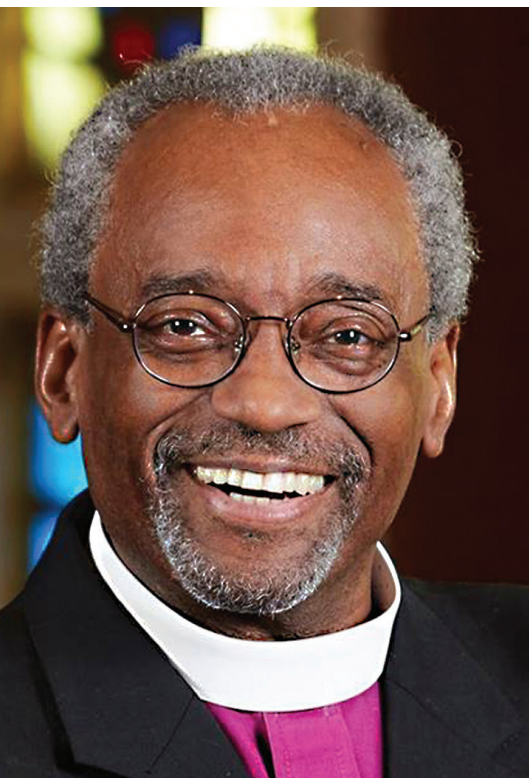
Spring 2018 | The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas

Bible-based weekend

Youth at Miqra read the Bible out loud, explore what it means for them

Church hosts weekly dinner / Bishop search update / New diocesan office

The last word is God, and God is love



Note: This message was delivered by video from St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem on the day after Palm Sunday, while Presiding Bishop Michael Curry was on a visit to the Holy Land.

THERE IS A PASSAGE

in the 27th chapter of Matthew's gospel where religious leaders and political leaders come together after Jesus has been crucified and executed, after he had been buried in the tomb. Once again they come together to seal the tomb, to make sure not even a rumor of his resurrection will happen. And this is what some of them say:

"Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may go and steal him away and tell the people he has been raised from the dead. And

the last deception will be worse than the first."

It is easy to overlook, and sometimes convenient to forget, that Jesus was executed, Jesus was crucified, by an unholy alliance of religion, politics and economic self-interest.

— Politics represented in Pontius Pilate, governor of the Roman Empire, representative of that very empire and all of its power.

— King Herod, who heard Jesus at one of the trials, representative of the Herodian and economic self-interest at the time.

— The Chief Priest, representative of religious aristocracies who had a vested interest in the status quo.

These three powers came together — economic, religious and political — to crucify the one who taught "love the Lord your God, love your neighbor and actually live that way."

The truth is, the message of Jesus was as unsettling to the world then as it is unsettling to the world now. And yet that very message is the only source of hope in life for the way of the cross, the way of unselfish living, the way of sacrificial living, seeking the good, the welfare of the other before one's own unenlightened self-interest.

That way of the cross is the way of love. That is the nature of love. And that way is the only hope for the entire human family.

The reality is the way of Jesus was a threat to the way that the world is, and hope for the way the world can and will be.

But on that third day after the crucifixion, when by the titanic power of God, by the power of the love of God, Jesus was raised from the dead. God sent a message and declared that death does not have the last word.

Hatred does not have the last word. Violence does not have the last word. Bigotry does not have the last word. Sin and evil do not have the last word.

The last word is God, and God is love.

On our pilgrimage here, we spent two days in Jordan. In Amman, Jordan, we were able to spend some sacred, blessed and painful time with Iraqi Christians. These are Christians, many of whom are Anglican, who have fled their country of Iraq because of war, violence, hatred and desecration. They have given up everything, refusing to renounce their faith in Jesus Christ.

And there in Jordan, with the help of the Anglican Church and many other relief agencies, they are at least safe, hoping to find safe and permanent homes in other countries.

At one point I found myself quoting a hymn known in our country. It says, "Because he lives," referring to Jesus and his resurrection, "Because he lives, I can face tomorrow."

And those who have lost their homes, people who have lost everything except life itself, those who have lost loved ones — I saw them lift up their heads and respond with the words "Amen, hallelujah."

My brothers and sisters, evil could not stop him. Death could not stop him. Violence could not stop him. For the love of God, the heart of God, the reality of God is stronger than anything else.

And Jesus really rose from the dead on that first resurrection morning.

God love you. God bless you. And may this Easter season be the first day of the rest of our lives. Amen. ☉

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Deputies all get committee nods

Unlike most dioceses, all eight Kansas deputies to General Convention have been named to legislative committees for the July event.

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Miqra

Besides reading the Bible out loud, youth engaged in workshops, small group discussions, worship, fun activities and time shared with friends.

THE Harvest

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ON THE COVER: Gillian Typer, a member of St. David's, Topeka, reads from the gospel of Matthew during the Miqra youth weekend at St. David's in January. | *Photo by Karen Schlabach*

News and notes from congregations

St. John's, Abilene hosts Cursillo reunion group meetings every Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the church.

Trinity, Arkansas City distributed Mason jars at the start of Lent as a vehicle to collect loose change for outreach projects in the church.

Trinity, Atchison welcomed the community for its annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, with proceeds benefiting the church's Good Samaritan Ministry.

St. Mark's, Blue Rapids helped sponsor a soup supper fundraiser for member and high school senior DeAndra Woodyard, who will make a mission trip to Honduras this summer with an Episcopal church in Atlanta.

St. Paul's, Clay Center again provided "Random Acts of Kindness" in December. Members brought small, wrapped gifts to the church, and members then distributed them anonymously around town.

St. Paul's, Coffeyville provides space at the church for an exercise group every Thursday afternoon.

St. Andrew's, Derby members participated in a special Lenten project by taking a marked Lent bag and every day putting into it one food item. Bags were returned on Palm Sunday, with food given to the local food bank.

St. Martin's, Edwardsville now offers monthly potluck suppers with Bible study on Wednesday evenings, starting on Feb. 21.

Trinity, El Dorado gave members the opportunity to pay for one day's operating expenses at the church as a special offering through its "Church Care" project.

St. Andrew's, Emporia offers Morning Prayer on Tuesday and Thursday in the chapel.

St. Mary's, Galena opened its doors to feed its community with a spaghetti supper in January and a pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday.

Epiphany, Independence St. Martha's Guild members monthly assemble snack bags to keep local Head Start preschoolers from going hungry on weekends.

Covenant, Junction City is collecting quarters to help residents at a local retirement home with their laundry.

The church provides enough quarters to cover two loads of laundry each month for the 20 residents.

St. Margaret's, Lawrence offers a book study group that meets two Wednesday afternoons a month. The spring book was *A History of God: The 4,000 Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam*.

Trinity, Lawrence received a challenge grant of \$20,000 from a parishioner to help pay off the last of the loan that refurbished the parish hall, organ and lightning protection system.

St. Paul's, Leavenworth raised more than \$2,500 at its recent cookie sale to provide food through the Backpack Buddies program. That was enough to help 16 local children have nutritious weekend snacks.

St. Paul's, Manhattan offered a Lay Liturgical Leadership Academy on March 3 to provide instruction for ushers, lectors and chalice ministers, as well as training in CPR and use of the church's automated external defibrillator.

Trinity, Lawrence hosts icon workshop



PHOTO BY MARY DONOVAN

Ellyn Owen (left) displays an icon she created during icon workshops sponsored by Trinity, Lawrence, in February and March.

Parishioner Mary Donovan, who has taught similar classes across the region, was the instructor. ©



PHOTO BY DEACON FRAN WHEELER

(From left) Rachel Chambers, Diana Diaz, Laura Bond and Susan Docking, all from St. Thomas', Overland Park, staff a reception table at a naturalization ceremony.

Church helps welcome new citizens

Starting in 2017, St. Thomas', Overland Park, has helped welcome new citizens of the United States by hosting a reception after naturalization ceremonies in Kansas City, Mo.

The most recent occasion came on Feb. 21, when the U.S. District Court for Western Missouri administered the Oath of Allegiance to 50 people representing 32 countries.

Deacon Fran Wheeler said the congregation provides these receptions three or four times a year. ☺

St. Paul's, Marysville is continuing work on the cabin adjacent to the church building, to make it more accessible for parish and community needs.

St. Michael and All Angels, Mission offered a special Wednesday evening Lenten program for children 4 years old through sixth grade, as they explored how Easter is celebrated round the world. Adults had their own program, exploring reasons for Jesus' crucifixion.

Ascension, Neodesha member and longtime treasurer Pattie Bailey in January was recognized as Volunteer of the Year by the Neodesha Chamber of Commerce. The award noted her many civic involvements as well as service to her church.

St. Matthew's, Newton has chartered a new chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King, an international prayer order for women worldwide in Episcopal, Anglican, Lutheran and Roman Catholic churches. It is named the Ruth Chapter.

St. Aidan's, Olathe is seeking donations to help send five young people to summer MegaCamp in June. The cost of each registration is signified by a cartoon of Snoopy as a camper, attached to the lectern. A Snoopy is removed when money to provide a scholarship is donated.

Grace, Ottawa is seeking to purchase an automated external defibrillator for use in the church. It would be accompanied by a training session on its use, as well as how to perform CPR.

St. Thomas', Overland Park over spring break offered two installments of a program for junior high students that was designed by two young women in the parish. "Connecting Communities" offered students in grades 6-8 the opportunity to engage in outreach activities in their community.

St. John's, Parsons undertook a Lenten study that explored how the Holy Spirit is active in the liturgies and prayers of the Book of Common Prayer.

St. Luke's, Shawnee provided help to a family in the church after they suffered a major fire right before Christmas. Members were invited to donate gift cards or money to help them cover immediate expenses.

Grace Cathedral, Topeka welcomed the renowned Concordia Choir from Moorhead, Minn., for a concert on Feb. 26. The church provided dinner before the concert, with housing for the 76 musicians provided by church members in their homes.

St. David's, Topeka gave members the chance to fill out a bracket in the popular Lent Madness contest (matching saints in a tournament-style vote), for a \$5 contribution to the rector's discretionary fund. Parti-

Continued on page 4

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pants earned one point for every correct selection; the prize for the highest score was a church pen with flashlight.

St. Luke's, Wamego celebrated another successful Cookies by the Pound sale in December, with proceeds going to help send parish youth to summer MegaCamp.

Good Shepherd, Wichita offered an evening of music, dancing and food on Feb. 7, complete with a concert by the Great Plains Jazz Orchestra, in the church Fellowship Hall.

St. James', Wichita hosted a Red Cross blood drive at the church on Feb. 18, noting that winter is a time when the blood supply is always low.

St. John's, Wichita asked members to bring books to be given away to people who come for the weekly Sandwich Saturday meal. Books in a variety of genres were welcome, with a special eye toward military history for the veterans in the group.

St. Stephen's, Wichita continues to gather food at every service, thanks to the presence of a little red wagon provided by the Daughters of the King. A variety of food, as well as personal care products and diapers, are needed.

Grace, Winfield offered coloring pages and meditation coloring books as an aid to members' Lenten reflections. ☉

Clergy news

The Rev. Kay Dagg has accepted a call to become part-time rector of St. Paul's, Clay Center, effective Feb. 21.

The Very Rev. Steve Lipscomb, dean of Grace Cathedral, Topeka, has announced his retirement, effective May 20. He has served there since 2001.

The Rev. Michael Munro, rector of St. Paul's, Leavenworth, has announced his retirement, effective May 20. He has served there since 2000.

The Rev. Matt Zimmermann, rector of St. Margaret's, Lawrence, has announced his retirement, effective May 27. He has served there since 2009.

Deacon David Butler, who serves Epiphany, Independence and Ascension, Neodesha, has announced his retirement. A farewell celebration will take place at Epiphany on June 17 after the 11 a.m. service

The Very Rev. Patrick Funston, rector of St. Paul's, Manhattan, has been appointed by the Council of Trustees as dean of the Northwest Convocation, effective Jan. 1. ☉

Youth missionary named interim campus missionary

KAREN SCHLABACH, who has been diocesan Youth Missioner since 2013, assumed the job of Interim Campus Missioner on Feb. 16. She replaces the Rev. Betty Glover, who took a position in a church in Fairbanks, Alaska.



Karen Schlabach

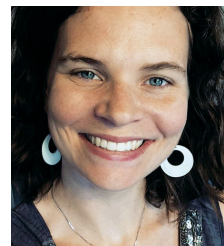
In this dual role Schlabach will be responsible for all aspects of youth ministry and campus ministry in the diocese. She will serve as Interim Campus Missioner for 24 months, and then the combined position will be reevaluated.

Schlabach said, "I am grateful to the Council of Trustees for being willing to try out something new and entrusting this important ministry to me. I look forward to working with the Campus Ministry Council, peer ministers and campus interns in this new capacity. There's somewhat of a natural flow between youth and campus ministry, and I am very excited about the possibilities."

She noted that she had worked with previous campus missionaries in the past so believes that will give her a head start on the combined ministry.

Michael Funston named to associate post

Michael Funston, a member of St. Paul's, Manhattan, has been hired by the diocese to be Associate for Youth and Campus Ministry, working under Karen Schlabach. She began on April 16.



Michael Funston

In this capacity she will assist with planning and arrangements for all scheduled diocesan youth and campus ministry events, cultivate collaborative working relationships with clergy and parishes, and represent youth and campus ministries at diocesan events. ☉



PHOTO BY MICHELE MOSS

(From left): The Rev. Bianca Elliott, the Rev. Katherine Knoll Lenon, Bishop Michael Milliken and the Rev. Michael Loyd, following the service of ordination on Jan. 6 at Grace Cathedral, Topeka.

Three ordained as priests in January service

THREE NEW PRIESTS WERE ordained for the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas in a service Jan. 6 at Grace Cathedral in Topeka.

They are the Rev. Bianca Elliott, the Rev. Katie Knoll Lenon and the Rev. Mike Loyd.

Bishop Michael Milliken, assisting bishop of this diocese and bishop of Western Kansas, presided.

Elliott is serving as an intern this academic year at St. Aidan's, Olathe. Knoll Lenon is interning at St. Luke's, Shawnee. Loyd is intern at Good Shepherd, Wichita.

Elliott and Loyd are 2017 graduates of the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry. Knoll Lenon is a 2017 graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary. They were ordained deacons on June 17, 2017. ☉

New book highlights lives of a Clay Center woman and her slave mother

By Melodie Woerman

WHEN JIM BECK BEGAN to research a former member of St. Paul's, Clay Center, he quickly knew he had quite a story. But before too long, he realized he actually had a book.

That book, which Beck self-published, is entitled *Have You Seen My Spirit?* It describes the lives of Mai DeKonza, an African-American woman who was a member of St. Paul's from 1900 until her death in 1959, and her mother, Elizabeth Lawton, who was a slave in Missouri, was freed during the Civil War and survived Quantrill's Raid in Lawrence.

Beck's work on DeKonza, which highlighted how she was ostracized by the church because of her race, even to keeping a separate chalice for her use in receiving communion, spurred the church to hold a service of repentance for its racist treatment of her. That took place in September 2015 and was described in the Fall 2015 issue of this publication.

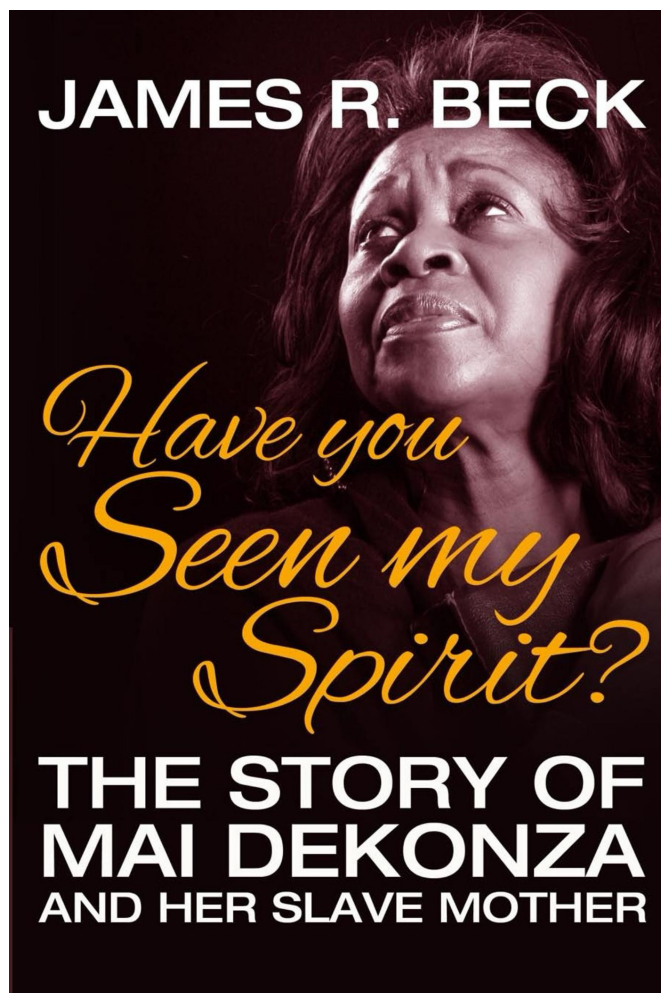
But Beck's curiosity took him beyond his original research on DeKonza. He learned she had been an author, speaker and musician, so he started to look for more details about her works.

"That's when the information just exploded," Beck said. "It became substantially more than just about a little church in Clay Center."

An expanded look at DeKonza

After Beck wrote his original 19-page report about DeKonza and her connection to St. Paul's, he knew there was more information to be found. He already had uncovered 19 letters in the diocesan archives from DeKonza to Bishop James Wise, who held office from 1916 to 1939.

He said he went looking for letters from the bishop, because he expected to find admonitions from him to St. Paul's clergy for the church's treatment of its only African-American member. Instead he found DeKonza's letters to him.



The cover of a new book written by Jim Beck, a member of St. Paul's, Clay Center

One of those letters said she had written to Henry Ford, so research in the Ford Library turned up 100 pages of new information. Beck also learned she had written to W.E. B. Du Bois, and he found that in the online archives of the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

DeKonza also told Wise that she had written 100 pages of letters to President Franklin Roosevelt, but extensive

searches through multiple libraries and archives failed to uncover them.

A former slave

Beck's interest in her mother, Elizabeth Lawton, came from reading DeKonza's obituary, which mentioned that Lawton had been a slave.

"That sparked my curiosity," he said. "I explored and her story tumbled out." He said it was like he had opened a wrapper and information burst out.

With a degree in history and a hobby of genealogy, Beck knew that a reference to Lawton as a Civil War widow meant he likely would find records in the files of the old Civil War Widows' Pension Office. He didn't expect to find 215 pages that detailed her life and that of her daughter, who lived with her. "The record was her biography, but unintentionally," he said.

Lawton (then known as Sarah Taylor) had been a slave in western Missouri, and she and others in her family made their way to Kansas in 1861 under the protection of Brigadier General and U.S. Senator John Lane as a "contraband of war," a concept used to take slaves from states in the Confederacy, or sympathetic to it, to skirt laws that required that slaves be returned to their owners.

The family ended up in Lawrence, where she survived the massacre of men and boys in that town by William Quantrill on Aug. 21, 1863. According to her account, she had overheard men talking about the impending raid the night before and tried to warn others. In retaliation, the guerillas shot her in the arm,

causing lifelong damage and contradicting their claim that they had spared all women and only attacked men and boys, murdering more than 160 of them.

But Lawton's life included a lie that haunted her and hurt her financially. In her filings with the Pension Office, she had claimed to have been married before she met George Lawton, the Civil War veteran, perhaps as a way to explain her frequent name changes. But that lie, and her inability to back up parts of her story with facts, kept her from receiving a full widow's pension, leaving her and her daughter in poverty for most of her life.

A story of two women

Beck said as he poured over Lawton's files, he soon realized he had enough material for a book about the two of them. He was drawn in by the compelling stories of both mother and daughter and the way they influenced each other. "If I'd featured only one, it would have been a partial picture," he said.

Beck previously had self-published books about other relatively unknown women, so he wasn't fazed by the prospect of turning his reams of information into a book. His daughter told him about a new platform through Amazon that provides templates into which authors drop their material, and it automatically designs the pages, creates an index and table of contents, and formats the footnotes.

The book, which took about three-and-a-half-years to complete, is available from Amazon for \$19.95

in paperback or \$9.95 for Kindle. It features a back-cover recommendation from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, who has championed the work Beck and St. Paul's did in uncovering its treatment of DeKonza and repenting of it.

Going forward

Beck said that if he was a novelist, he would be able to create stories to fill in the information gaps about Lawton and DeKonza. For instance, he wishes he knew if Lawton had any church connections in her life.

And how did DeKonza come to pick the Episcopal Church? Where was she baptized, by whom, and why? His research hasn't provided any clues to those mysteries.

Beck said he was surprised and encouraged by the way Clay Center residents embraced Mai DeKonza's story. "The community is very aware of her," he said. "The community owns this story as much as St. Paul's." He said the increased awareness of her was "very rewarding" to him.

"I want to give her a voice," he said. "Typically, people who live undistinguished lives are rarely understood."

He recently learned that a music arrangement class at Kansas State University will be working on some of the scores DeKonza wrote, which he hopes will bring her story to even more people.

"The stories of Mai and Elizabeth relate to us today," he said, noting that racism and dismissal of marginalized people occur all around us. "We do this in our own lives; we just haven't examined it."

He hopes his book will prompt people to wonder, "Who are the other Mai DeKonzas of our society?"



Jim Beck

Independence church hosts community meals

By Melodie Woerman

FOR MORE THAN a dozen years, the Church of the Epiphany, Independence, has opened its doors to provide a home to a weekly dinner that serves up to 100 people with good food and welcoming fellowship.

And now, thanks to a grant last fall from the diocesan Alleluia Fund, it has made that welcome accessible to more people.

The church used the \$1,763 grant awarded to the church at last year's Diocesan Convention to install an automatic door opener for its parish hall. That means that a person using a wheelchair or walker now can enter the room without help when attending the dinner or other events.

Marty Eidson, Epiphany member who serves on the board that helps oversee the Community United Feeding Friends, or CUFF, meal, said the dinner was started in June 2005 by a group of local churches to serve a growing homeless population in the southeast Kansas community of about 9,000.

Within a few months the meal found a permanent home at the Episcopal church, where it hosts diners every Thursday throughout the year except for four — Maundy Thursday, Thanksgiving, the week of Christmas and the week of the city's major October festival known as Neewollah.

Eidson said that Epiphany is one of nine churches in town that take turns cooking a hot meal each week. While originally intended for



PHOTO BY GARY MASON

Diners enjoy a buffet-style dinner on March 15, provided by the Church of the Epiphany in Independence. The church offers its building for a weekly meal that serves as many as 100 people every Thursday.



Elsa Hester and Paul Schieferecke, members of Epiphany, Independence, dish up turkey pot pie filling over biscuits for a recent CUFF dinner in the church.

PHOTOS BY MYRNA MAI

people who were homeless, she said those who participate in the meal have changed — about half now are people who can use a helping hand, but half are people who are lonely and seek companionship.

“People in need can get a hot meal, and older people who are tired of eating alone in front of the TV come for fellowship,” she said.

When it’s Epiphany’s turn to serve, Eidson said the church usually can rely on food items donated by church members.

“Church members know we often serve turkey and noodles, so turkeys will just appear in the church freezer,” she said. The church covers the cost of ingredients, and CUFF takes up a weekly freewill offering to help with other expenses.

With the meal in their building, Epiphany members often are involved in helping out even when it’s not their week to cook, Eidson said. Some help serve, and two men open the building every week.

Epiphany isn’t large — it averages about 40 people in church each week — but members often pitch in to help smaller churches when it’s their turn to cook.

She said that a corps of a dozen dedicated volunteers makes the church’s participation possible. Eidson attributes that to teachings of the church’s former vicar, the Rev. Gerald Eytcheson. “He taught us that all things are possible with God, so we focus on what we can do, not what we can’t.”

Hosting the meal has been a blessing to the congregation, Eidson said. “It brings us all together for the common good, and it brings people into our building every week.”

She said being part of an ecumenical effort serving others is wonderful.

And every week, dozens of people who look for a warm meal and a welcome smile are glad they can always find it at Epiphany. ☉



Epiphany members Mark Coder and Brian Bridges slice five kinds of cake for diners to enjoy.

Alleluia Grants aid new outreach efforts

Increased accessibility to Epiphany’s parish hall was one of five programs awarded an Alleluia Grant by the diocese’s Mission and Outreach Committee in October 2017, during the grant program’s second year.

In its first two years, the Alleluia Fund has given \$21,443 in grants to seven church across the diocese.

Information now is available for churches to apply for matching funds for new outreach minis-

tries in congregations throughout the diocese.

Information will be distributed to parishes and to all deacons, and it also is posted on the diocesan website.

To help keep these grants sustainable long into the future, a mailing is being sent during Eastertide to all households in the diocese, giving people the opportunity to contribute to the Alleluia Fund. Watch for this in mailboxes in April. ☉



Diocesan office moves into its new home

MEMBERS OF THE Topeka-based staff of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas moved into the new diocesan office in February, after 13 months of construction on the joint project with Grace Cathedral.

Construction was paid for by capital campaigns undertaken in recent years by both the diocese and the cathedral.

The new diocesan space includes a dedicated front entrance that leads to a two-story foyer. On the first floor is a reception area and offices for the bishop and bishop's assistant.

Upstairs are the offices for the canon to the ordinary, the canon's assistant, the comptroller and the director of communications.

A file and server room, and a combination work room and break room also are located on the second floor.



PHOTOS BY MELODIE WOERMAN

The entrance to the new office suite includes the diocese's name and color seal above the doorway. The office address remains the same as in the old building.

The foyer, seen from the second floor landing, features a Jerusalem cross in contrasting tile.



A reception area just off the foyer provides guests with a comfortable place to wait for appointments with staff members.



A two-story parish hall, named All Saints Hall, provides Grace Cathedral with an accessible space large enough for all-parish gatherings. It opens into existing Common Room on the first floor.

New space for Grace Cathedral includes a two-story parish hall, named All Saints Hall, located just off the existing Common Room gathering space.

All Saints Hall offers an accessible space large enough for all-parish gatherings. A spacious catering kitchen is adjacent, as is a conference room, named Robyn Room, in honor of the late Robyn Lipscomb, wife of cathedral Dean Steve Lipscomb, who died last year.

A new choir room and music storage area are on the second floor.

The joint building project also provided for new space for the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry, which now occupies what had been the cathedral's lower-level parish hall.

The BKSM space opened in time for fall classes in August 2017 and includes three classrooms, a library and an office. ①



A catering kitchen with lots of storage is located just off All Saints Hall.

Regional confirmation services for 2018 now are set

FOUR CONFIRMATION services — one in each of the diocese's four convocations — have been scheduled during 2018. All are on Saturdays. They are:

- May 12, 1:30 p.m., Grace Cathedral, Topeka
- 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

Assisting Bishop Michael Milliken will officiate at all of the services.

Churches may bring confirmands to any of these services, even if they are not in the church's convocation.

In order to plan, the diocesan office needs to know how many people will be presented for confirmation, reception or reaffirmation at each service. An online sign-up form is on the diocesan website, www.episcopal-ks.org, under the "Resources" tab.

Churches should submit one form for each date to which they will bring candidates; forms should be submitted at least two weeks before each service. ①



The Search for the

Tenth Bishop

The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas

An update on the search process for the next bishop

By the Rev. Casey Rohleder

IN RECENT WEEKS, the Search Committee has taken significant steps forward in its discernment process.

In late February and early March, the committee interviewed all remaining applicants using Zoom videoconferencing technology.

Each applicant interviewed with a team of three or four committee members. The team asked six questions of all applicants, along with two questions particular to that applicant. Applicants also had the opportunity to ask questions of the interview team. Because the interviews were recorded, all committee members then watched and evaluated every interview.

On March 17, the Search Committee met at Bishop Kemper School for Ministry for the next phase of group discernment. The Rev. Ann Hallisey, the search consultant assisting the diocese, joined the meeting via Zoom.

Over a five-hour period, the team discussed each applicant, prayed and then decided which applicants to invite to the discernment retreat in early June. All of the selected applicants have now agreed to continue with us in this process of mutual discernment.

Prior to the June discernment retreat, the team will be busy with reference and background checks. Additionally, each applicant will be assigned a shepherd from the team to remain in regular contact.

Please keep your Search Committee and the discernment process in your prayers. ☩

Upcoming dates

June 8-11

Discernment retreat with semi-finalists

June 21

Slate of candidates is announced

June 21-30

Petition process opens

Oct. 1-5

Candidate walkabouts

Oct. 19

Election during Diocesan Convention

March 2, 2019

Service of ordination and consecration

Diocese's deputies all get legislative posts

By Melodie Woerman

ALL EIGHT members of the Diocese of Kansas deputation to this summer's General Convention have been assigned to legislative committees during the event, which takes place July 5-13 in Austin, Texas.

Legislative committees debate and vote on resolutions that are submitted for consideration before they

go to the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops for final votes. Both deputies and bishops sit on legislative committees.

A spokeswoman for the House of Deputies said it is unusual for a diocese to have every one of its deputies serving on a committee.

Rebecca Wilson added that only 58 percent of all deputies were selected for committees this year.

She said it also is unusual for first-time deputies to receive a committee post. Jennifer Allen and the Very Rev. Don Compier both are attending their first General Convention.



Mike Morrow



Laurie Lewis



Ashley Mather



Don Compier



Michael Funston



Torey Lightcap



Jennifer Allen



Patrick Funston

Committee assignments

- **Mike Morrow**, deputation chair: Safeguarding and Title IV
- **Ashley Mather**: Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations
- **Michael Funston**: Ministry
- **Jennifer Allen**: Social Justice and International Policy
- **The Very Rev. Laurie Lewis**: Churchwide Leadership
- **The Very Rev. Don Compier**: Ministry
- **The Rev. Torey Lightcap**: Privilege and Courtesy (committee vice-chair)
- **The Very Rev. Patrick Funston**: Committee to Receive the Report on Resolution A169 (Prayer Book revision)

In addition to her committee assignment, Allen has been appointed to a 47-member special committee to draft resolutions, before General Convention begins, on how to combat sexual harassment and exploitation in the church.

Kansan named to Official Youth Presence

Lily Riddle, a member of St. Luke's, Shawnee, has been selected as one of 18 high schoolers to serve at General Convention with the Official Youth Presence.



Lily Riddle

Members of the Official Youth Presence have seat and voice in the House of Deputies and will participate in committee hearings and floor debates.

Karen Schlabach, diocesan Youth Missioner and Interim Campus Missioner, is one of five adult mentors who will assist the Official Youth Presence at General Convention. ☉

First alternates Tyler Kerr and the Rev. Andrew O'Connor also will attend the convention, but alternates are not assigned to committee posts.

The Rev. Mary Korte, also an alternate, will be there to serve as an assistant to the deputation.

Diocesan Director of Communications Melodie Woerman will be part of the Episcopal News Service team, her fourth time reporting for ENS at General Convention. ☉



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Junior high and senior high youth, along with adult leaders and sponsors, gather for a group photo during Miqrā, a Bible-based weekend for youth that took place at St. David's, Topeka, Jan. 13-15. In front, a person reading a portion of the Bible out loud continues during the photo shoot.

Miqrā helps youth understand and read the Bible

By Melodie Woerman

THE ANNUAL MIQRA weekend for youth, which helps young people better understand the Bible, this year drew 50 young people from 15 churches across the diocese to spend time with the Scriptures — through workshops, worship and taking part in reading it out loud, cover to cover, during the event.

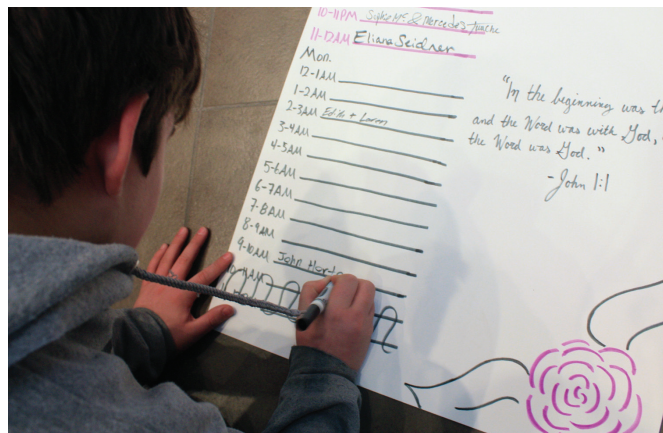
The event took place Jan. 13-15 at St. David's, Topeka. Miqrā is best known for allowing young people to participate in a continuous reading of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, over the course of the weekend.

But the event also included talks about what is in the Bible and why a Christian should read it, as well as workshops on a variety of Bible-based topics, worship, fun activities and small group discussions.

Youth were assigned to one of 12 small groups, based on age and named for the 12 tribes of Israel.

They arrived on Saturday morning, but in order to get through the entire Bible, the reading started on Friday, with adults from local churches as well as some who were assisting at the event.

Karen Schlabach, youth missionary and interim campus missionary, said that the reading went so smoothly that the book of Revelation was finished in the early hours of Monday morning. Readers then started into the Apocrypha, giving students a taste of the writings that are printed in many Bibles but aren't part of the official group of biblical books.



PHOTOS BY KAREN SCHLABACH

John Horton-Smith, St. Paul's, Manhattan, signs up for a one-hour shift to read the Bible out loud. The continuous reading is one of the hallmarks of the Miqrā weekend.

Serious study mixed with fun

Six adults offered a variety of workshop about the Bible for the students, ranging from learning about the

Actions and movement make song time even more fun for everyone.



prophet Isaiah to discussing difficult and confusing parts of the Bible. There also was an anti-racism workshop, modeled on the longer anti-racism training required for all clergy and lay leaders across the Episcopal Church. Participants experienced an hour of silent prayer time centered on eight stations, each emphasizing a different way to pray. In addition to St. David's Sunday morning worship, youth also had three services of Compline. But even some of the fun activities had a faith component,

including making Anglican rosaries and coloring Bible-based pages. Schlabach reported that students said their favorite parts of Miqra were spending time with friends or meeting new people, workshops and other times of learning, and the group Bible reading. They said they learned how to better defend their interpretation of Scripture, more about what Jesus did and how to deal with challenging parts of the Bible. ①



Spending time with friends from around the diocese is a big reason Miqra is popular.



Engaging worship, fun activities, deep friendships, beautiful landscape

Camp is 250 Episcopalians in a safe, fun, Christian community. Camp Wood YMCA features a variety of activities such as horseback riding, archery, climbing tower, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, water slide, mud slide, arts and crafts, and sports. The volunteer Episcopal staff provides Christian education, featuring worship, music, small group discussions, and prayer. There is also a different fun activity planned each night, like movie night, a talent show, and a dance.

Open to those who have finished grades 3-12, June 3-9, 2018, \$455, register online by May 11.

Come be a part of our family!

<https://edokyouth.wordpress.com/camp/>

BKSM announces summer classes for all

TO MAKE HIGH-QUALITY theological education available to more people, Bishop Kemper School for Ministry is expanding its offering of one-day Saturday classes this summer. Classes will be offered at BKSM's Topeka campus.

School officials said one benefit is that clergy, who aren't available for regular classes that meet Saturday and Sunday, can participate this summer in three of the four courses offered.

The school's dean, the Very Rev. Don Compier, said, "Those of us ordained for service in Christ's Church take vows committing ourselves to continual study. In a time of rapid change in our society, we must dedicate ourselves to lifelong learning for the sake of God's mission entrusted to us."

Compier said providing high-quality, affordable and practical continuing education for current clergy will augment the school's other missions: education and training for future priests and deacons, and classes leading to licensing of lay people as catechists, evangelists, preacher or pastoral leader.

Lay people seeking personal enrichment are welcome to take courses at any time, during the summer or the school year.

Clergy and lay people interested in summer classes can audit a course for \$100 or take it or credit for \$180. These fees include meals. Overnight accommodations at Upton Hall are possible on a space-available basis.

Complete course information and online registration is available at <http://www.bishopkemperschool.org>.

Summer classes being offered

■ **June 15-16: PREPARE/ENRICH facilitator training.** Instructor: the Rev. Andrew O'Connor, rector, Good Shepherd, Wichita.

For more than 35 years, clergy and other leaders have used the PREPARE/ENRICH assessment tool to provide more constructive premarital counseling. This class will teach participants how to administer the

online assessment, interpret couples' reports and provide useful feedback to them, and teach proven relationship skills.

■ **July 21: Grace in Grief.** Instructor: the Rev. Tom Baker, Director of Spiritual Care at Stormont Vail Hospital in Topeka, with 30 years of chaplaincy experience.

Offered as a refresher course for some and an introductory course for others, Grace in Grief will explore the theology of death, "doing versus being" as a pastoral leader, and a variety of tools and resources to equip clergy and lay leaders to assist families through their grief work.

■ **Aug. 4: Blogging as Ministry.** Instructor: Dr. Douglas McNair of Cerner Corporation.

This new course will encourage participants to consider how blogging can be both an extension of their parish (or other) ministry and an opportunity to deepen their own spiritual formation. It also will provide instruction on the technical aspect of setting up a blog. Beginners are welcome.

■ **Aug. 11: Diversity, Justice and the Church's Mission.** Instructor: the Rev. Marcus Halley, rector of St. Paul's Church on the Lake of Isles in Minneapolis, Minn.

This course explores how systemic oppression plays a role in creating barriers to true multicultural diversity. It also discusses how to move congregations along the continuum from "exclusive" to "transforming" communities.

This class satisfies the canonical requirement of all clergy and lay leaders to participate in anti-racism training.

About the school

The Bishop Kemper School for Ministry is a unique collaborative venture of the Episcopal Dioceses of Kansas, Nebraska, West Missouri and Western Kansas.

It was founded in 2013 and forms priests, deacons and lay ministers together, fostering shared team ministry that honors and values the gifts and callings of all. ☉



Finding a thin place in newly built spaces

SEVERAL MEMBERS

of the staff of the Office of the Bishop recently relocated to new offices.

The project came together out of the same initiative to expand the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry and to add a new Great Hall (called All Saints Hall) and associated rooms onto Grace Cathedral.

What no one entity could accomplish on its own, three parties working amicably, faithfully together have been able to turn into an exciting set of ministry opportunities.

If you are ever in town and would like to see the work, please drop by and any of us will be delighted to show you around.

When I look at the building and all that has been accomplished through it, I see a design that represents the cleverness of God's people to seek to find ways to make things happen even when there's no one clear path leading forward. Just walking through the building and looking at small details, I can recall any number of decisions, debates and discussions that led to them.

I pray that all that has been done will provide a basis for true service for years to come.

I'm increasingly mindful of how impactful the smallest decision can become as it is lived out over time. To look at this work we've done together, in consideration of how long we will be living with it, is to realize the words of Elton Trueblood, in *The Life We Prize* (1951): "A man has at least made a start on discovering the meaning of human life when he plants shade trees under which he knows full well he will never sit."

In the long view, this is work given to the glory of God, and its purposes may shift along with new

demands. As long as we constantly seek God's will, we will be good stewards of these resources.

Not that we haven't gotten to enjoy these metaphorical shade trees. Certainly we have already. May I favor you with just one quick story?

Toward the end of February, my father-in-law died at the age of 81. Over the next few days his children came together from around the country and started to plan a memorial service.

His family members all consider themselves to be Christians, but the question of where in Topeka to have a service remained. Knowing the deceased as well as I did (he was fanatically sold out to Jesus but not sold on organized denominations), we couldn't help but think that something in a church, but still not overtly "churchy," might be best.

Dean Steve Lipscomb reached out to our family on behalf of Grace Cathedral to offer whatever spaces might work, and in the course of thinking through the Grace campus, All Saints Hall clearly announced itself as the place to have the service.

It turned out to be the perfect place: on the grounds of a beautiful cathedral, in a bright and lovely space, not overly adorned by the symbols of The Episcopal Church. The space, and the service within it, matched up with how I had known my father-in-law for almost the past three decades: simple, direct, earnest, and seeking to please and to praise God.

Although I have planned and conducted quite a few funerals in my ministry, this one came a little closer to home. I walked away grateful for the chance to draw sustenance from our family's connection to the cathe-



dral as we started working through the pain of having lost someone truly dear to us. Only after the fact has it been possible for me to fully appreciate why it's so necessary to think through every last detail in the decision-making process.

Any place can be a "thin place," where the Holy Spirit is particularly felt; but when we take the time to deliberately step through the planning process, our chances of sensing the Spirit at work within the walls of the finished product are just that much better.

We can only guess, and never fully know, how God will use the spaces we carve out for God to be known and for the love of Christ to be proclaimed. ☉



The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas

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High school youth will spend a week serving Episcopal ministries in Wichita and learning more about the cycle of poverty. We'll also relax, hang-out, and do some fun stuff around town!



June 26-July 1, 2018
St. John's, Wichita
\$100, sign-up online

We need volunteers to provide meals during our week! Sign-up at the link!

<https://edokyouth.wordpress.com/missionwichita/>