

# THE Harvest

Spring 2019 | The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas

## Bishop Cathleen

Diocese's 10th bishop is consecrated in a service at Grace Cathedral, Topeka

NourishKC / Miqra / Women's Summit

# 'Positively medieval' offers new/old models



**WHEN I WAS A** little girl, I went with my three teenage sisters to see a 1960s movie called "Trouble with Angels." It is a coming-of-age comedy in which two mini-skirted rebels take on the nuns at an all-girls Catholic boarding school. The main protagonist, played by Haley Mills, often rolls her eyes and utters the refrain, "It's positively medieval."

Positively medieval.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and his staff are inviting all of us across the Episcopal Church to follow "The Way of Love." The Way of Love is in some ways "positively medieval."

It is a Rule of Life, meaning that we commit ourselves to practices

that can help shape us into the likeness of Jesus. Across the centuries many have kept rules of life... Benedictines, Franciscans... Buddhists and Baptists.

The Way of Love describes spiritual practices in everyday American English, outlining the basics so that we can start as beginners, or go very deep.

The practices? *Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, Rest*. It's a way of life, which means it's adaptable and organic to our local contexts. In Eastertide, every parish across the Diocese of Kansas will be receiving materials on The Way of Love to share with your members.

The Way of Love has its roots in ancient and medieval spiritual traditions. Pondering how we might best form ourselves to follow, I am struck that forms of church normal in the Middle Ages may actually translate well in our 21st-century context.

One of these is the principle, about which I have spoken much, of the geographic parish. Parishes in our diocese are not only the church building and congregation members, but also all the land, plants, animals, industry, neighborhoods and landscape within certain borders.

The old English idea of a *minster* (like York Minster, Westminster Abbey, etc.) is surprisingly close to some church models gaining attention today. Currently in London, the Church of England is planting or revitalizing 100 churches. In the process they recognize Resource Churches.

While each and every parish church remains a unique center for

members to *Pray, Worship, Bless and Rest*, the Resource Churches (like the medieval minsters) act as a hub for their part of the city or countryside in terms of *Turn, Learn and Go*.

They consolidate and share educational, financial and evangelism resources, working with all the area parishes to share these types of resources. Both lay and clergy leaders share their gifts across parochial lines.

The pilgrimage was another important spiritual practice in early years. People took journeys outside of their parish, beyond their nearby minster, in order to meet God and be changed more into the likeness of Jesus. Our youth and college ministries are in the pilgrimage tradition; people from various parishes (or none at all) travel together in their quest to know the love of God.

I am enthralled by the vision of Episcopalians in Kansas being transformed in Jesus-like ways! I also am intrigued and moved by renewed community models that may empower us to boldly walk The Way of Love.

In the months ahead, I will be sharing these ideas in greater depth with the Council of Trustees, during Bishop Walkabouts II and at Diocesan Convention.

Please look for more info on The Way of Love coming your way soon.

Every blessing,

Bishop Cathleen (*the one in the positively medieval hat*) ☉

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### Women's Summit set for May 3-4

The diocese's third Women's Summit will take place at Grace Cathedral in Topeka and will focus on the "sacred art of listening."

# THE Harvest

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The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry,  
*Presiding Bishop*

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**ON THE COVER:** Bishop Cathleen Bascom greets worshipers during her service of ordination and consecration March 2 at Grace Cathedral in Topeka. | *Photo by Thad Allton*

## News and notes from congregations

**St. John's, Abilene** continues to offer a "prayer and praise potluck" on the third Wednesday of every month to everyone in the congregation is invited.

**Trinity, Atchison** is participating in Atchison's annual Lenten soup and sermon program, which this year has as its theme "spiritual disciplines."

**St. Paul's, Clay Center** offered members a planning form for funerals as a way to make their final wishes known to family and to the church.

**St. Paul's, Coffeyville** is hosting a free six-week series of workshops this spring to help people better manage chronic illnesses, to communicate better with family and health professionals, and to increase physical activity.

**St. Andrew's, Derby** youth in early March prepared sandwiches and filled sacks with other food items and then delivered them all to St. John's Wichita, for their weekly sandwich ministry.

**St. Martin's, Edwardsville** has a new heating system and water softener, thanks to John Claxton and Scott Nesselhoff, and Jay Frazey cleared snow off driveways and parking areas.

**Trinity, El Dorado** began offering a Celtic Eucharist on Jan. 2 at 4 p.m.; the service will continue until the spring.

**St. Andrew's, Emporia** hosted a pot luck supper of favorite Irish foods in celebration of St. Patrick's Day on March 17.

**St. Mary's, Galena** helps prepare and serve an evening meal for 65 people once a month at Watered Gardens homeless shelter in nearby Joplin, Mo. Members eat with those

who are there for the meal or who are spending the night.

**Epiphany, Independence** raised more than \$2,000 with its Craft Fair

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## St. Francis', Overland Park, sponsors all-girl Scout troop



*The leader and members of Troop 449 at St. Francis', Overland Park, one of the first troops for girls through Scouts BSA*

SUBMITTED PHOTO

On Feb. 1, Scout Troop 449, sponsored by St. Francis of Assisi, Overland Park, became one of the first troops in the nation to offer scouting for young women. The troop leaders had been preparing for this opportunity for more than a year, including training adult volunteers, preparing the necessary materials and paperwork, and recruiting girls.

The female troop, also named Troop 449, has eight members, age 11 to 17. Their interest in joining Scouts BSA stems from a desire for high adventure and outdoor activities, including rock climbing, caving and canoeing. Additionally, the girls are interested in pursuing the rank of Eagle Scout. The boys' and girls' troops are linked, and they will participate in separate and combined activities.

St. Francis' vicar, the Rev. Doreen Rice, said, "The people of St. Francis are delighted to be making history in this way. Scouting is a valued ministry at the parish, and the young people are active in helping enhance the church's property, from constructing seating areas on the St. Francis Prayer Trail to constructing a meditation garden for people and the bees who live in St. Francis' seven hives. The Scouts also regularly camp out at the church." ☉



PHOTO BY KATHY SWAIN

## Wellington church starts blanket ministry

*As a teacher, the Rev. Kathy Swain, priest intern at St. Jude's, Wellington, encountered a student who was too cold to sleep well at night — his family kept the house cold to save money, and they didn't have enough blankets to go around.*

*When she shared that story with the congregation, members and vicar the Rev. Kitty Shield decided to undertake a blanket ministry in town. With donations from members, the local Walmart and others in the community, the ministry — known as St. Jude's Blanket Box — began in November 2018.*

*Swain said that over the winter, 175 blankets were distributed, and St. Jude's is applying for grants to fund another year of the Blanket Box. She also said she hopes other congregations "might also open 'Blanket Boxes' as one way the love of Christ can be shared, as people sleep warmer through frigid winter nights." ☺*

and Cookie Market in December, which allowed the church to help five families with needed items at Christmas.

**St. Timothy's, Iola** has raised \$4,350 for Heifer Project and Episcopal Relief & Development. A jar for loose change this year also has netted \$462 for the Kansas to Kenya ministry.

**Church of the Covenant, Junction City** members in December and January donated 200 non-perishable food items to the church's mobile food pantry ministry,

Wheels of HOPE. The cans and boxes were displayed at the church in the shape of a Christmas tree.

**St. Margaret's, Lawrence** served as the host site in January for one in a series of discussions about restorative justice sponsored by Justice Matters, a local interfaith organization. The series commemorated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

**Trinity, Lawrence** heard from member Brian Haupt during an adult forum, in which he discussed his ministry with the transgender community in Kansas City and beyond.

**St. Paul's, Leavenworth** is offering a new study group, with its first meeting in February. The group will be reading *Ears to Hear: Recognizing and Responding to God's Call*.

**St. Paul's, Manhattan** again is hosting a Lent Madness competition, as saints match up against each other in a sports-like bracket. Members paid \$5 to fill out a bracket, and the one with the most correct votes toward the winner of the Golden Halo picks which local service agency will receive the money contributed.

**St. Michael's, Mission** in March offered a jazz Café Concert featuring the Joe Cartwright Trio and vocalist Molly Hammer. The ticketed event was sponsored by the parish's Horizons Arts ministry.

**Ascension, Neodesha** celebrated the confirmation in December of two members — Karen Bertels and Bill Goodwin — during the convocation confirmation service at St. John's, Parsons.

**St. Matthew's, Newton** hosted a brunch on March 17 sponsored by the parish's operation endowment fund, featuring a talk on estate planning and planning for one's financial future by a local financial advisor. A freewill offering benefited the endowment fund.

**St. Aidan's, Olathe** earlier this year began collecting toiletry items for Cross-Lines, a community outreach organization that provides programs for those in poverty, including laundry services and shower facilities. This adds to the church's already extensive list of outreach efforts.

**Grace, Ottawa** Thrift Shop now will be open on Wednesday and Saturday mornings only, because of a lack of available workers for other shifts.

*Continued on page 4*

Continued from page 3

**St. Francis', Overland Park** Christian education group in December made Anglican rosaries as a gift for all parish members. They also made some for visitors, which are kept in a basket near the visitor's book, at the entrance to the church.

**St. Thomas', Overland Park** hosted a dinner for teachers and staff at Comanche Elementary on Feb. 7, the night of parent/teacher conferences. Members were asked to contribute food toward the meal. The church has an ongoing ministry with the students and staff at Comanche.

**St. John's, Parsons** collected nonperishable food items, as well as money, on Feb. 3 as part of the nationwide Souper Bowl of Caring. Items and money gathered went to Labette Assistance Center.

**Epiphany, Sedan** continues to use its Alleluia Grant, awarded at last year's Diocesan Convention, to help students in the local schools. In January that included an Elementary Family Night, offered in conjunction with the local Future Farmers of America chapter, which served 130 people.

**St. Luke's, Shawnee** in January started a hand bell choir and invited people to sign up to be ringers.

**Grace Cathedral, Topeka** invites older parishioners, the Saints of Grace, to meet once a month for a potluck lunch in All Saints Hall, on the second Wednesday of each month.

**St. David's, Topeka** has refreshed its Memorial Garden, a place to bury the cremated ashes of a loved one, with new grass, pots of flowers and a repaired bench.

## Wamego window undergoes repairs



*A 125-year-old stained glass window at St. Luke's, Wamego, was removed on March 20 and is in the process of being repaired and restored.*

*The window features Jesus in the central panel, with colorful side windows filled with a variety of Christian symbolism.*

*The work is being done by Hoefler Stained Glass of Hutchinson and is expected to take about 12 weeks. ©*

PHOTO BY CASEY ROHLEDER

**Good Shepherd, Wichita** this spring collected personal hygiene items, as well as small, non-perishable food items with pop-top lids, for the clients at Breakthrough (Episcopal Social Services) in Wichita.

**St. James', Wichita** will host its 90th annual Olde English Tea on May 4, with morning and afternoon seating available by ticket. Tea and a table of goodies, as well as a sale of baked goods and other items, are part of the event.

**St. John's, Wichita** is refurbishing a room in the church to house parish archives. A large number of historical documents gathered by the parish's historian, the late Katie Pott, will find a new home in the space.

**St. Stephen's, Wichita** hosted an afternoon workshop on how to use the popular Instant Pot pressure cooker, led by an experienced instructor. The event included how to make five dishes, with a tasting of each one. ©

# Priest is ordained in January cathedral service



*(From left): Bishop Michael Milliken, the Rev. Kathy Swain and then-Bishop-elect Cathleen Bascom*

The Rev. Kathy Swain was ordained to the priesthood on Jan. 12 at Grace Cathedral, 701 SW 8th Ave. in Topeka.

Retired Western Kansas Bishop Michael Milliken presided and was the preacher. Then-Bishop-elect Cathleen Bascom also participated.

Swain is a spring 2018 graduate of the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry and is serving a year's internship at St. Jude's, Wellington.

She was ordained as a transitional deacon on June 23 and was sponsored for ordination by Grace, Winfield. ☉

PHOTO BY MELODIE WOERMAN

## Clergy news

**Ashley Mather**, a senior at Virginia Theological Seminary, has accepted a call to become curate at Grace Cathedral, Topeka, following her graduation in May and her planned ordination as a transitional deacon in June. This is through the diocese's curacy program, to provide

support and training for clergy who are completing their education at a residential seminary.

Condolences go to **the Very Rev. Laurie Lewis**, rector of Trinity, Arkansas City and Grace, Winfield, on the death of her father, Jewel Davis, on Feb. 4. ☉



SUBMITTED PHOTO

*Volunteers and staff prepare salads to be served to those eating lunch at the Kansas City Community Kitchen. Because of financial trouble, keeping the kitchen open has become the key focus of NourishKC.*

## NourishKC focuses on Community Kitchen after financial woes hit the agency

By Melodie Woerman

**NOURISHKC**, AN Episcopal-affiliated social service agency serving the Kansas City area (previously known as Episcopal Community Services) in January was forced to take drastic measures to keep the organization afloat.

The Rev. Gar Demo, rector of St. Thomas', Overland Park and president of its board of directors, said the agency faced a huge financial gap that required laying off 15 staff members, including the chief executive officer; handing off programs to other partners; and focusing on saving the agency's signature offering — the Kansas City Community Kitchen, the largest hot-meal program in downtown Kansas City, Mo., which serves 500 lunches each weekday.

The situation was so dire that Demo approached then Bishop-elect Cathleen Bascom to see if the Diocese of Kansas, which had helped create ECS in 1989, could add to its yearly \$1,000 contribution. She asked the Council of Trustees at its Feb. 20 meeting to authorize a one-time gift of \$29,000 from a diocesan memorial fund intended to be used for purposes like this. The Council voted unanimously to approve that request.

Demo said that money, along with financial support from others, helped buy the agency time to keep the Community Kitchen operating, while the board looks for additional financial support and continues to grow its partnerships in the Kansas City area.

Demo said those things are happening. "The number of volunteers is up. Foundation support is up."

Demo said the agency also was blessed when Jay Lehnertz, a member of St. Thomas' who had served as ECS executive director for more than 13 years, volunteered to serve as part-time interim CEO of NourishKC, without salary.

### A big impact on programs

Demo said the bad financial situation arose when new staff members were hired to serve programs that were planned but for which funding had not yet been secured. When that money didn't come, he said the board had no choice but to reduce staff and turn those planned programs over to others.

Those included a warehouse where NourishKC could have stored perishable food it reclaims from local grocery stores and restaurants — high quality food that otherwise would go to waste — as well as a mobile grocery store that would serve parts of Wyandotte County that are fresh-food deserts.

It also meant relinquishing financial support for, and administrative control of, a number of food pantries in the area, including its largest one at St. Paul's, Kansas City. The pantry suffered an additional blow just days later when a pipe burst and flooded the pantry space, requiring major demolition and restoration (*please see the story below*).

The move also ended NourishKC funding for the twice-weekly dinners at the Center of Grace, a Methodist-based social service agency in Olathe where St. Aidan's, Olathe, serves 200 meals during its once-a-month turn. Barbara Belt, outreach co-chair at St. Aidan's, said in a newsletter

article that the parish has been seeking financial commitments to help support the ministry, and a number of people have donated or provided leads on other contributions.

### Finding a path forward

Demo said that the response to NourishKC's financial situation has been very helpful. In addition to money from this diocese, they have received their annual contribution of \$30,000 from the Diocese of West Missouri and \$15,000 from Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral in Kansas City, Mo.

Grants from foundations recently have provided another \$31,000, and donations from individuals — including from a GoFundMe page set up in the early days of the financial crunch — have provided \$50,000.

The Council of Trustees also is planning a diocesanwide financial appeal in the coming weeks, to give more people the chance to help support NourishKC.

Demo said every penny of funding is critical, since it takes about \$50,000 each month to keep the Community Kitchen operating. Lehnertz stressed that all money being donated now goes straight to operating the kitchen. "Every dollar is used to feed people," he said.

Both Demo and Lehnertz said that if funding can be found, they want to restart the Culinary Cornerstones program, which provides restaurant-level chef training to under-served people.

Demo said there still is "a lot of legwork to secure financing for this year and 2020" but the board is seeing lots of support from the community.

"There is a sense of hopefulness among the board and leadership," Demo said. "We're having good conversations with funders. There is a huge community of support around the kitchen." ❖

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## Kansas City pantry is shut down by flooding

**BRUTALLY COLD WINTER** weather has wreaked havoc on the basement space at St. Paul's, Kansas City, that houses its food pantry. On Feb. 1 a frozen pipe burst and spewed thousands of gallons of water over more than 11,500 square feet before it was discovered the next day.

Water seeped into all the walls, and the potential for mold was present in carpeting and ceiling tiles. Floor tiles were damaged, and some were found to contain asbestos.

The church worked with a clean-up company recommended by Church Insurance, and over the course of four weeks everything in the basement area was removed and disinfected to prevent mold.

The church now has committees in place to craft short- and long-term goals for the pantry. They hope to have an interim pantry operating by mid-April and will be connecting with current and former volunteers. ❖



SUBMITTED PHOTO

*The basement at St. Paul's, Kansas City, now stands empty, following clean-up after a flood caused by a burst pipe on Feb. 1.*



CONSECRATION PHOTOS BY THAD ALLTON

*Bishop Cathleen Bascom smiles at those in the congregation as they offer applause during the procession at the end of her service of ordination and consecration on March 2.*

# Cathleen Bascom becomes the 10th bishop of Kansas

By Melodie Woerman

**THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE** of Kansas made history on March 2 in Grace Cathedral, Topeka, when Cathleen Chittenden Bascom was ordained and consecrated as the diocese's 10th bishop and the 1,112th bishop of the Episcopal Church. She is the first woman in the diocese's 160-year history to be bishop, and her election also marked the first time in the history of the Epis-

copal Church that a diocesan bishop was elected from a slate of candidates who all were women.

Presiding Bishop and Primate Michael B. Curry led the service as chief consecrator. Bishop Alan Scarfe of the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa was the preacher. Bishop Cathleen (as she wishes to be called) most recently had served for 17 years in Iowa.

The service, with almost 800 people attending and with hundreds more watching it live via YouTube, also

included her seating in the cathedra, or bishop's chair, near the cathedral's altar.

The lessons were read in English as well as in Swahili and French, representing the diocese's ministries in Kenya and Haiti. The gospel and the Lord's Prayer were in English and Spanish, recognizing the Spanish-speaking members of the diocese.

Music included trumpeters, bagpipers and drummers; a folk band from Iowa; and a choir made up of singers from eight churches in the diocese and surrounding areas.

Music helped set the tone for a service that reflected Bishop Cathleen's Celtic roots, her commitment to the care of creation and her sense of call, with the main processions entering to the hymn "Be Thou My Vision." It also included the song "Turn! Turn! Turn! (To Everything There is a Season)," written in the late 1950s by folksinger Pete Seeger.

### Fifteen bishops present

In addition to Bishop Curry and Bishop Scarfe, four other bishops served as co-consecrators: Bishop Mark Cowell of Western Kansas, retired Bishop of Western Kansas Michael Milliken, Bishop Marc Andrus of California and retired Bishop of Maine Chilton Knudsen. Nine other bishops, including former Kansas Bishop Dean Wolfe, also participated.

One of the key moments in the service came when all the bishops gathered around the kneeling bishop-elect and laid hands upon her, asking God to make her a bishop. She then was vested in a red stole, chasuble and mitre that were specially made for her, all featuring stylized prairie images.

The crozier, symbol of her authority as bishop of the diocese, was pre-

sented to her by the Very Rev. Foster Mays, president of the Council of Trustees, which for the previous 25 months had served as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the diocese.

Her episcopal ring, which by tradition includes a purple amethyst, is one that had belonged to her grandmother and which her family gave to her to serve as a symbol of her office. Her pectoral cross was modeled after an image of the risen Christ vested as a bishop that she saw at the cathedral during one of the pre-election

walkabout sessions. The cathedral later gave her that image as a gift.

### Caring for creation

Bishop Cathleen wanted the service to reflect both her commitment to caring for creation and the importance of the diocese's our regional convocations. During the announcement time, representatives from each of the convocations, carrying banners created for the occasion,

*Continued on page 10*



*Fifteen bishops gather around the bishop-elect, praying and laying hands on her, at the moment she becomes a bishop in the Episcopal Church.*

*Continued from page 9*

greeted her with seeds from plants of the region and asked God to grant her gifts of good humor and a sense of beauty, of strength and wisdom, of truth and honesty, and of illumination and vision. She in turn presented them with baskets of flowers.

Presiding Bishop Curry told worshippers that the new bishop would be talking more about creation care and invited them to fill out cards pledging to take some action to further that care. *(You can read more about that initiative on page 11.)*

Bishop Cathleen was elected 10th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas on Oct. 19, 2018, on the second ballot.

Prior to the election she was Assistant Professor of Religion at Waldorf College in Forest City, Iowa, and also served as supply priest and team coach at Trinity, Emmetsburg. Before that she had served as dean of



*Bishop Alan Scarfe of the Diocese of Iowa worried aloud that while preaching the sermon he might knock off some of the sunflowers that adorned the pulpit.*

St. Paul's Cathedral in Des Moines, Iowa, for 13 years.

Her election was a homecom-

ing of sorts, since she had served in the diocese from 1993 to 2001 leading campus ministry at Kansas State

## Signing and sealing the ordination certificate



PHOTOS BY MELODIE WOERMAN

*Deacon Oliver Bunker stirs the sealing wax as it melts to a consistency for use on the ordination certificate.*

*Before the service began, bishops arrived to sign their name to, and place their diocesan seal on purple ribbons on, the ordination certificate for Bishop Cathleen. The special sealing wax has to be melted to the right consistency to accept the seal, which for many of the bishops attending was inscribed in their episcopal ring.*



University in Manhattan. She received a master of divinity degree from Seabury-Western Seminary in 1990.

She also holds a Doctor of Ministry in Preaching from Iliff School of Theology in Denver, a Master of Arts degree in Modern Literature from Exeter University in England, and a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing and Environment from Iowa State University.

Bishop Cathleen is married to Tim Bascom, a writer and educator. They have two sons, Conrad, age 25, and Luke, age 21.

*Links to more photos from the consecration are on the diocesan website, [www.episcopal-ks.org](http://www.episcopal-ks.org).*



*Presiding Bishop Michael Curry encourages congregants to give generously to the new bishop's discretionary fund, before the offering is taken at her service of ordination and consecration.*

## Bishop emphasizes care of creation during ordination service

**PEOPLE ATTENDING** Bishop Cathleen's service of ordination and consecration had the opportunity to commit to ways they might help care for creation, something about which the bishop frequently has shared her commitment.

A pew card created for the occasion featured a photograph of the Konza Prairie taken by Archdeacon Charles Pearce; on the back were links to information on four ways people could be help:

- Learn more about creation care efforts in the Episcopal Church
- Study the scripture that speaks to care of the creation
- Plant a postage-stamp prairie
- Participate in carbon tracking through a soon-to-be-announced initiative "Sustaining Earth, Our Island Home"

It was intended that the card also serve as a commemoration of the service.

The card had a tear-off portion that offered people the chance to pledge to undertake one or more of these efforts.



*This photo of the Konza Prairie near Manhattan, taken by Archdeacon Charles Pearce, was featured on the take-home portion of the care of creation information provided to those attending the service.*

Ninety-seven people completed the card and placed in the offering plate during the service. The links on the card are available on the diocesan website, [www.episcopal-ks.org/life/Development-and-stewardship.php](http://www.episcopal-ks.org/life/Development-and-stewardship.php).



PHOTO BY PATRICK FUNSTON

*Then-Bishop-elect Cathleen Bascom blesses a child at St. Paul's, Manhattan on Feb. 10.*

## The first Bishop Walkabouts II

While still the bishop-elect, Cathleen Bascom said she wanted to visit parishes in a new way, spending extended time in every convocation and being on the ground in every parish.

She called these Bishop Walkabouts II, an extension of the walkabouts she experienced before the bishop election last October.

The first Walkabout II took place Feb. 8 – 12 in the Northwest Convocation, where she visited five congregations and learned more about their needs and ministries. A visit to the convocation's remaining five congregations will take place in August.

Walkabouts II in the other three convocations are set for May, September and November. ☉



PHOTO BY PATRICK FUNSTON

*Bishop-elect Cathleen talks with Becky Katzenmeier, one of the owners of Prairiewood Preserve, located west of Manhattan, where about 40 people took part in a tallgrass prairie walk on Feb. 10. Katzenmeier participated in campus ministry at Kansas State University when Bishop Cathleen was chaplain there, from 1993 to 2001.*



PHOTO BY MELODIE WOERMAN

*Bishop-elect Cathleen talks with Carolyn Rose (left) in the basement of First Methodist Church, Junction City, during a Feb. 9 visit to see where food is stored for Wheels of HOPE, a ministry started by Church of the Covenant. At right is Covenant member Anne Collett.*

# Cedar Vale church is sold and deconsecrated

A CHURCH building that for more than 100 years had been a place of regular worship was deconsecrated on Feb. 16 and returned to secular use.

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Cedar Vale was founded in 1874. Construction on its building in the southeast Kansas town was completed in January 1901 and consecrated by Bishop Frank Millsbaugh in May.

Like many small churches in small towns, its membership dwindled in the last decades of the 20th century.

By 2000 it no longer had enough members to elect a Vestry, so it became a chapel under the authority of Epiphany, Sedan, the nearest church and one to which it had been yoked for many years.

Late last year Epiphany's rector, the Very Rev. Foster Mays, received an offer to buy the rarely used St. Matthew's building, and the Coun-



PHOTO BY LINDA MAYS

*The Very Rev. Foster Mays (left), rector of Epiphany, Sedan and president of the Council of Trustees, presided over a service of deconsecration of St. Matthew's, Cedar Vale on Feb. 16.*

cil of Trustees authorized its sale in December.

With a closing date in late February, Mays presided over a short service of deconsecration at St. Matthew's on Feb. 16, in which it was

released from the authority of the Diocese of Kansas and made ready for other purposes.

Joining Mays for that service were members of Epiphany who came to say their farewell. ①

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## BKSM credits now accepted at Claremont School of Theology

ON MARCH 17 the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry signed an articulation agreement with the Claremont School of Theology that enables BKSM graduates to transfer up to 36 credit hours of coursework into Claremont's hybrid/online Master of Divinity program.

For some who discover that they may be called to full-time priestly ministry, this agreement offers a pathway to complete the M.Div. degree, mostly by distance, in a short period of time. A BKSM graduate holding a Certificate in Presbyterian Studies could be halfway toward completion of an M.Div.

Claremont is one of 13 official theological schools of the United Methodist Church, with close relationships with other Protestant denominations including the Episcopal Church. It was founded in 1885 and is located in Claremont, Calif., near Los Angeles.

This articulation agreement is the second that BKSM

has signed with an accredited seminary. The first was in July 2017, with Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

The Claremont agreement started with a conversation last July in Austin during General Convention between BKSM's dean, the Very Rev. Don Compier, and Claremont Dean Sheryl Kujawa-Holbrook, who is an Episcopal priest.

Compier also has known Claremont President Jeff Kuan for many years. "We were in graduate school at Emory together and then on the faculty of the Graduate Theological Union," he said.

"Both are just great, collegial people, and our relationship could not be more pleasant," Compier said.

Compier said the agreement validates the quality of BKSM's educational offerings. "Claremont is a world-famous, renowned seminary," he said. "For them to give credit for our courses is so affirming." ①



*Tessa Parker of St. Thomas', Overland Park, reads aloud from the Psalms during Miqra. Participants have the opportunity to sign up for one-hour shifts, including overnight, to read the entire Bible aloud.*

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY  
OF YOUTH MINISTRY

# Youth and young adults spend a weekend with the Bible during Miqra

By Melodie Woerman

**ICY WEATHER COULDN'T** stop 40 young people and 17 adults from making their way to Miqra, the annual Bible-based weekend for youth that took place Jan. 18 – 21 at Grace Cathedral, Topeka.

Miqra is a Hebrew word that means “reading” and refers to the ancient Jewish practice of gathering at the local synagogue to hear a public reading of scripture. It also sometimes was used to refer to the Bible.

The 40 youth who attended represented 10 congregations of the diocese.

In addition, a new offering this year, Mini-Miqra, drew 11 college students who arrived a day early to kick

off the event’s signature activity — reading the Bible, out loud, cover-to-cover, without stop over the course of the weekend. They also participated in workshops and times of worship.

But beyond the reading, Youth Missioner and Interim Campus Missioner Karen Schlabach said Miqra provides opportunities to explore three big questions:

- What’s in the Bible?
- How do we read it?
- Why should we care?

Schlabach and Michael Funston, associate for youth and campus ministry, gave talks to help participants answer those questions.



*Junior high and senior high youth, along with adult leaders and sponsors, gather for a group photo during Miqra, a Bible-based weekend for youth that took place at Grace Cathedral, Topeka, Jan. 18 – 21. In front, Randy Harrison, an adult leader from St. James’, Wichita, keeps the reading of the Bible out loud going during the photo shoot.*

Youth were divided into small groups called “tribes” and named after the 12 tribes of Israel. Each small group was assigned a Bible verse that formed the basis of their small group work, as they thought about it in a variety of ways.

Miqra also offered youth the chance to be part of one of four workshops with Bible-based themes, as well as one of five “just for fun” activities.

They experienced different types of prayer through stations set up in the cathedral nave and also participated in Compline every evening

During the cathedral’s Sunday services, brief sermons were given by Gillian Typer, St. David’s, Topeka, and Carson Avery, Canterbury House at K-State. ☉



*Spending time with friends from churches around the diocese is one thing that brings youth back to events like Miqra.*

## Campus ministry sponsors alternative spring break

**FOUR YOUNG ADULTS** and two campus ministry staff members took part in an alternative spring break trip to St. Louis March 9 – 12. The trip combined fun activities with ministry opportunities, most centered at Deaconess Anne House, an Episcopal Service Corps community of young adults who assist non-profits in serving poor and marginalized people in the city.

Activities included cleaning apartments at Haven of Grace, to be occupied by young mothers who are homeless; picking up trash in the neighborhood nearby; helping to hang new drywall at Grace Hill after the agency suffered flood damage; and cooking dinner for the Deaconess Anne House community.

They also worshipped at Holy Communion Episcopal Church and shared daily Morning Prayer and Compline at Deaconess Anne House.

Fun activities included a trip to the Gateway Arch and the City Museum and meals at some area restaurants. ☉



SUBMITTED PHOTO

*(Back row) Parker Lyon, Program Assistants Rachel Jackson and Will Chaney, and peer ministers Jonah Brandley, Laurie Bush and Benedict Ali. In front is Kevin Rysted from Deaconess Anne House.*

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF KANSAS

# 2019 WOMEN'S SUMMIT

Friday, May 3 – Saturday, May 4

## Third Women's Summit set for Topeka in May

**THE DIOCESE'S THIRD** Women's Summit will take place Friday, May 3 and Saturday, May 4 at Grace Cathedral, 701 SW 8th Ave. in Topeka. The event is open to woman of at least high school age, whether or not they are members of an Episcopal church.

The summit will have as its focus "the sacred art of listening," which will explore what it means to listen well, and how listening might transform lives and the world.

The keynote speaker is Kay Lindahl, who founded The Listening Center with the mission of exploring the sacred nature of listening, conducting workshops and retreats on listening as a spiritual practice. She is a Certified Listening Professional.

The summit begins on May 3 at 6:45 p.m. with the opening keynote session, followed by a Taizé service. It



*Women's Summit  
keynote speaker  
Kay Lindahl*

resumes on May 4 with Morning Prayer at 8 a.m., with two more keynote sessions in the morning.

Breakout workshops take place in the afternoon, and participants can choose from seven being offered:

- Contemplative prayer
- Hosting a faith club at your church
- Planning a prayer retreat for your parish
- Enhancing our spiritual journey with labyrinths
- Spiritual direction
- Prayer flags
- Listening to your body yoga workshop
- Connecting to God through mandalas

After a final keynote session, a service of Holy Eucharist concludes the day; that begins at 2:30 p.m.

The deadline to register is April 29. The cost is \$70 for both Friday and Saturday, or \$55 for Saturday only. Some scholarship assistance is available.

Full details and a link to register are on the diocesan website at [www.episcopal-ks.org/life/Womens-Summit.php](http://www.episcopal-ks.org/life/Womens-Summit.php). ©

# Starting Lent early in an emergency room

**NEW YEAR'S DAY** 2019 was the ninth day of a losing offensive launched against me by flu and bronchitis. Having been to a local clinic for a third opinion that day, and prescribed something to help me relax so I could sleep, I went to bed, dragging along a racking cough.

As I settled in, one rebellious little cough sparked and raked at the bottom of my throat, and I heard a crack in my ribs that I had never heard before, like two big clapping hands, and a noise issued from my belly that my wife said she had never heard me make before.

## An early Lent in the ER

Lent started early for me this year, in an emergency room on Jan. 1. They couldn't do much about the broken rib, but they wouldn't let me go home until I could breathe like a normal human being, and that was proving to be an issue.

The medicine in a piece of breathing-treatment equipment pushed my heart rate over normal, and as the staff stood around looking at me, I clearly heard the attending ER doctor whisper the word "sepsis." I don't have a medical background, but I know a few hospital words and phrases, and sepsis is surely one of them. Septic shock was no joke. It brought into bright relief immediate questions about living and not living.

I need to say, I'm fine, no sepsis, don't worry. I needed to breathe a little better before I could leave the hospital, and eventually I did. Lived to tell. All better. Many of

you prayed for me. I really am most grateful.

But to have this moment plopped down before me in this way, to wrestle for a quick minute with the notion of dying, to check in with myself and with God: Was this something I could be ready for? I remembered, in my body, how willingly the head receives the ashes on Ash Wednesday; how the overworked thumb of the priest is darkened with the spectral reminder of the tomb; how we walk up a hill on Good Friday and witness terrible things and bury our dead, and then, with nothing better to do, go home and wait.

The concreteness of death — the Lenten "memento mori" — is a great clarifier. By the time I crawled out of bed a few weeks into January, my sense of finitude and smallness was better seen, as was my gratitude for life.

You don't have to come close to actual death to understand your life in such stark terms; you just need to have the plain idea of it dangled before you in a vulnerable moment.

I had undergone what I came to appreciate as a hard reset: everything had been reduced to the bare basics. I was starting over.

I began to appreciate that I could choose anew how to do things — how to approach work, prayer, study, relationships. I craved less superficiality and more truth. I wanted to see more of Jesus reflected in everything.

I liked everything I had been doing before; I just wanted a new way to do it, or at least a sense of choicefulness in my daily rounds.



God remakes this choosing business new every day, every minute. Life is not an endless succession of fated actions we can check out of. It demands consciousness, energy, faithfulness, a straining-forward in the face of inertia. I want to choose to live that way now, so I'm trying.

You, too, maybe? Give thanks for those moments of clarity, when life's circumstances have you cornered and there's a simplicity to everything. Trust that God, even unseen, is in the midst of the pain, the uncertainty, the ugliness.

For in Christ we have cause to hope, and we'll not grieve as those who have no hope. ☉



# The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas

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Open to those who have finished grades 3-12, June 2-8, 2019, \$465, register online by May 10.

Come be a part of our family!

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