

THE Harvest

Summer 2019 | The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas

Urban ministry in Wichita

St. John's partners with street medicine team and others to help serve people who are homeless

Women's Summit / Mega Camp / Diocesan Convention

The Spirit calls us to holy diversity



Bishop Cathleen with the retired Bishop of Nakuru, Joseph Muchai, during her time with Kansas to Kenya in June.

I WRITE TO YOU FROM London in mid-June, on the way to join our K2K team in Kenya. My husband Tim and I are watching the Women's World Cup.

Earlier, Scotland played England, Japan played Argentina, and now Canada faces Cameroon. I note the varied skin tones and hair styles and body builds reflective of the different cultures. The TV is a large screen — and maybe it is just my jet lag talking — but the movement of two colorful teams colliding, shooting and exploding around a soccer ball is a bit like watching fireworks in a night sky.

God weaves glorious diversity into the fabric of existence. The Bible is resplendent with passages highlighting this truth.

The psalmists are well-versed in diversity, literally. Psalm 104 is a beautiful collection of verses: stacked parallel lines of poetry that give praise for gushing water, wild asses, young lions in their dens, workers at the end of a day in the fields. The psalmist sings what might daily be on our lips: *“O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all.”*

I would say that of all the books of the Bible, the Book of Acts is the one that most calls us to lives of holy diversity. Central to this book is the idea that the risen Christ actively draws humans of diverse cultures, beliefs and backgrounds into his Way of Love — unites us in himself and in so doing makes us more whom God intends us to be as human beings in this world.

We just celebrated the feast of Pentecost, hearing again the amazing story of Acts 2 about the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on the disciples, so that the very diverse

society to be found in Jerusalem during the time of the Roman Empire heard the Good News of Jesus in their own native languages: *“Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome...”*

Equally moving to me, and even more instructive, is the story in Acts 10 of the risen Jesus calling Peter (a Jew) and Cornelius (an Italian gentile) into relationship with each other. Jesus speaks to each man separately through visions during their times of prayer.

A Jew and a gentile are being called to be in relationship in Jesus' Way of Love — and this kind of partnership is where diversity puts rubber to the road. It's not just an interesting, honorable concept. It is to become an observable, incarnate reality within the body of people who know Jesus.

I see this when I hear Dr. Steve Segebrecht describe meeting patients or medical workers in Nakuru; when Joe Bob Lake and Nyakio Kaniu-Lake speak lovingly of the women they know at Agatha Amani House; when Garey and Lisa Welker show photos of partners installing solar panels for the students at St. Paul's School in Torbeck, Haiti.

I hear of it when I learn of the historic African-American Church of the Ascension, which is one of the root communities of St. Paul's, Kansas City; and when at St. John's in Wichita I meet Latina women making a difference in the surrounding community.

In its profile for a new bishop, the Diocese of Kansas articulated a desire to more fully manifest diversity. In the next six months, here are some steps we will take:

- Soon every parish will receive invitations to engage the Presiding Bishop's Way of Love, with practices to deepen our receptivity of Jesus' call to us.

- At Diocesan Convention we will kick off several new or renewed diocesan task forces, and among them will be Diversity and Justice, and Global Partnerships.

There already are congregations in our diocese connecting with the diverse peoples of their surrounding parish neighborhoods. There are already long-standing global partnerships forged between Kansas Episcopalians and people of God in Haiti and in Kenya.

May these things grow. May God pour the Holy Spirit upon us, and the risen Christ individually call us, that our Way of Love might shoot, collide, join and explode in beauty visible for the world to see.

Every blessing,
Bishop Cathleen ☉

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

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ON THE COVER: A nurse takes the blood pressure reading for a patient at a clinic run by the ICT Street Team in Wichita, a partner with St. John's Church. | Photo by Melodie Woerman

News and notes from congregations

St. John's, Abilene asked members to bring garden flowers on Easter to help decorate a flowering cross in front of the church.

St. Paul's, Clay Center continues to help feed its community with monthly large-scale food distributions in a local parking lot and commodities designated for seniors.

St. Paul's, Coffeyville Thrift Shop is open on Thursday mornings, with volunteers sorting and hanging donated clothing two mornings a week.

St. Andrew's, Derby observed Father's Day with a Mass on the Grass outdoor service followed by a cook-out with hamburgers and hot dogs.

St. Martin's, Edwardsville has begun a partnership with Stony Point Cemetery, an old cemetery near the church, whose grounds had become overgrown. Church members raked leaves and trimmed trees in late April.

Trinity, El Dorado distributed drug deactivation bags during the city's Spring Fling event May 1. The bags, funded in part by a diocesan Alleluia Grant, provide for safe disposal of prescription drugs.

St. Andrew's, Emporia again provided hospitality and a blessing on June 1 to riders in the Dirty Kanza gravel-road bicycle ride that begins in downtown Emporia. A fundraiser breakfast, with proceeds going to charity, added to the festive morning.

St. Mary's, Galena offers its church for a monthly meeting of the city's P.E.O. chapter, and in April a



PHOTO BY MELODIE WOERMAN

Eight Kansans graduate from BKSM

Eight people from the Diocese of Kansas were among the 11 students recognized during a graduation service from Bishop Kemper School for Ministry on May 11 at Grace Cathedral, Topeka. Seven of the eight were present to receive their certificate of completion in their field of study.

Graduates posed with Bishop Cathleen Bascom after the service. They are (front row, from left) Theresa Ryther, lay catechist; Carolyn Garwood, diaconal studies and Claudia McKinsey, lay evangelist; (second row, from left) Todd Allison, lay catechist; John Bullock, presbyteral studies; Carl Edwards, lay evangelist and Charles Durland, diaconal studies.

Not pictured is Sharon Highberger, lay evangelist. ☉

parish member offered a program about raku pottery.

Epiphany, Independence had several young members in productions at Independence Children's Summer Theatre performances. The

church invited members to support the youngsters by printing names, plays and performance times in the monthly newsletter.

St. Margaret's, Lawrence members supported the Family



PHOTO BY MELODIE WOERMAN

Holy Week services broadcast from KC

A video crew headed by Mike Collins (second from right, above), manager of multimedia services for the Episcopal Church Office of Communication, provided livestream broadcasts from the diocese for three Holy Week services: Maundy Thursday and Easter Day from St. Paul's, Kansas City; and the Easter Vigil from St. Michael and All Angels, Mission.

They also recorded a Good Friday Stations of the Cross walk through the neighborhood around St. Paul's, since wi-fi was too spotty to broadcast live.

This was the second year a video crew originated livestream broadcasts of Holy Week services on the Episcopal Church website, www.episcopalchurch.org. Last year the website featured a church in Pennsylvania. ☉

Promise program by participating in the group's 7th annual 5K "home run" on May 27. The program offers short-term housing for families at risk of homelessness.

Trinity, Lawrence has started a support group for parents and caregivers of children with behavioral, emotional, physical or intellectual challenges, named the Alphabet Soup Parents Group Meeting.

St. Paul's, Leavenworth continues to offer a monthly fellowship meal on the first Wednesday evening of each month. Members bring a covered dish to share and are

encouraged to bring a friend, too.

St. Paul's, Manhattan Encore Shop offered a bag sale in late June, to help clear the thrift store of merchandise and prepare for deep cleaning in July and opening again in August with fall merchandise.

St. Michael's, Mission annual "Bigger Bible School" adult sessions in late July will focus on climate change and Christian responsibility.

Ascension, Neodesha hosted the annual Southeast Convocation service on Ascension Day, May 30. Bishop Bascom was the celebrant.

St. Matthew's, Newton had members recognized by local community groups. Firefighter and paramedic Aaron Wald, who was a bone marrow donor for a stranger in need, was presented the Outstanding Achievement Award by the local Emergency Medical Services. Dr. Richard Glover and Susan Koehn, both graduates of Newton High School, were presented the NHS Distinguished Alumni Award.

St. Aidan's, Olathe is planning its annual July collection of new underwear for Olathe school children of all ages. Last year the congregation surpassed the goal of 415 pairs.

St. Thomas', Overland Park designated one Lenten day in April as an all-parish service day. Members could pick from a morning working in a thrift store, a mid-day delivery of care packages to a hospital, or an afternoon doing meal prep at the Ronald McDonald House.

St. John's, Parsons in April was recognized by Southeast Kansas Point of Pride with one of two "Spotlight Property" award. The award recognizes the extra care given to the appearance of the church property, which helps improve its neighborhood and the overall community.

St. Luke's, Shawnee in April collected enough hygiene items to fill 30 kits for KC4Refugees, a grassroots organization that supports refugees, in part by delivering hygiene supplies that aren't covered by other funds. The effort was spearheaded by new member Amanda Textor.

Grace Cathedral, Topeka added a new member to its active Stephen Ministry when Konnie Kyle

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completed the training. She is a former neurosurgery nurse.

St. David's, Topeka again this year is providing meals to children and their parents through an approved USDA lunch program. The church also provides summer reading materials for those who come in to eat. A group of committed volunteers oversees the program.

St. Luke's, Wamego continues to provide twice-a-month community breakfasts, with members and guests spending Thursday mornings enjoying a hot meal and good conversation.

Good Shepherd, Wichita had its annual garage sale June 14–15 at the church. Proceeds from the event will support Wichita ministries Breakthrough/ESS and Migration Ministries of Saint Francis, Episcopal Relief & Development, and Our Little Roses

Orphanage in Honduras.

St. James', Wichita hosted the community for a 90th year at its annual Olde English Tea May 4, billed as the “biggest tea party in Kansas.” Members contributed thousands of tea-sized sandwiches and sweets.

St. John's, Wichita has designated “Aimee's Garden” as a place where members can bury ashes of beloved pets. The garden, which is a memorial to the late Aimee Dorsett, was dedicated and blessed for this new purpose on Easter.

St. Stephen's, Wichita Sunday school students offered the musical “Down by the River” for members on May 19 during the 10:30 service.

Grace, Winfield on April 6 offered homemade chili (meat, vegetarian and white chicken) carryout-style, to members of the local community, in quarts or pints. Proceeds supported summer camp scholarships for parish youth. ☉

Cunningham is new program assistant at KSU

ANASTASIA

Cunningham has been named the campus ministry program assistant at Kansas State University, starting Aug. 1. She will assist with the Campus Ministry programs at KSU, based at the St. Francis Canterbury House, from which she will work.

She is a 2015 graduate of Oklahoma State University with a degree in hotel and restaurant management, and while at OSU she was active in campus ministry. Since graduation she has been a manager in three states for Cheddar Scratch Kitchens restaurants. ☉



Anastasia Cunningham

Clergy news

The Rev. Doreen Rice is the new priest-in-charge of the Church of the Covenant in Junction City, beginning July 1. She had served as vicar of St. Francis', Overland Park, since 2016.

The Rev. Steve Lipscomb is the new priest-in-charge at St. Paul's, Leavenworth, where he has served for the past year as interim. He previously was dean of Grace Cathedral, Topeka, for 17 years.

The Rev. Mary Sigmund retired on July 1 as rector of St. Luke's, Shawnee, after having served the church for nearly five years.

The Rev. Shawn Streepy retired on July 1 as rector of St. Aidan's, Olathe, where he had served for six years.

The Rev. Nicolette Papanek concluded her time as interim dean of Grace Cathedral, Topeka, on June 30.

The Rev. Susan Terry retired as associate rector of Trinity, Lawrence, on June 9. She has moved to Georgia to be nearer to her family.

The Rev. Foster Mays, previously the rector of Epiphany, Sedan, dean of the Southeast Convocation and president of the Council of Trustees, is the new priest-in-charge of St. Michael's in the Hills in Toledo, Ohio, beginning June 2. Succeeding Mays as a member of the Council will be **the Rev. David Jenkins**, priest in charge at St. Peters, Pittsburg.

The Rev. Sarah Stewart, formerly associate rector of St. James', Wichita, is the new Associate Rector for Young Adults & Innovation at All Saints' Episcopal Church, Atlanta. Her last day at St. James' was June 2.

Congratulations go to **the Rev. Steve Lipscomb** and Christine Fuller, who were married June 23 at Grace Cathedral, Topeka, during the 10:30 a.m. service.

Condolences go to **the Rev. Vicki Smith**, rector of St. David's, Topeka, on the death of her mother Carla Ruth Howe Lovely on April 29 in Brewer, Maine. She was 83. ☉



PHOTO BY MELODIE WOERMAN

On May 15 at St. Michael and All Angels, Mission, Bishop Cathleen Bascom kicks off her Walkabout II in the Northeast Convocation with her first confirmation — Arann Raven, one of three teens confirmed at that service.

Out and about with Bishop Bascom

SINCE HER CONSECRATION

on March 2, Bishop Cathleen Bascom has undertaken her first confirmations, her first ordinations and her first time as a co-consecrator of another bishop — Bishop Emelyn Dacuychy, the first woman bishop in the Iglesia Filipina Independiente, on May 5.

She also spent 10 days in the Northeast Convocation for the second of her “Walkabouts II,” time when she visited each church and learned more about their needs and ministries. Later this year she will spend similar time in the Southeast and Southwest Convocations.

She then headed to Kenya with the Kansas to Kenya ministry, to see what members of the diocese have been doing in that country in the years that K2K has provided medical care and community development in the town of Maai Mahiu. ☉



PHOTO BY BILLIE PORTER

Bishop Bascom celebrated Ascension Day at the Church of the Ascension in Neodesha, along with others from the Southeast Convocation. With her are (left) Deacon David Butler and Archdeacon Monte Giddings.

In June Bishop Bascom spent time in Kenya with the Kansas to Kenya ministry. She is shown here with Deacon Diane Krueger, St. Stephen's, Wichita.



PHOTO COURTESY KANSAS2KENYA

Episcopalians shine while 'Dancing with the Stars'

By Melodie Woerman

A NEW FUNDRAISER

for Breakthrough/Episcopal Social Services in Wichita saw success on May 4, thanks in part to hours of hard work on the dance floor by two local Episcopalians.

Jean Wiest, St. James', Wichita, and Deacon Arland Wallace, St. John's, Wichita, were among 10 competitors paired with area dance instructors for a local version of "Dancing with the Stars."

Wiest ended the night as the grand prize winner, receiving the "Dance Champion" trophy for receiving the most votes that evening and for having raised the most money before the event — \$17,470.

Rachel Newell, Breakthrough's director of development, said the event raised more than \$112,600 for the agency's programs that serve the poor and those who are homeless, as well as people living with severe and persistent mental illness.

Before the event, people across the Wichita area were invited to donate \$10 as a vote for one of the 10 volunteer "star" dancers. About 500 people attended the event at the Hyatt Regency Hotel to watch the dance teams compete.

Wallace and Wiest each were provided with 16 free, one-hour dance lessons with a local dance studio instructor. Wallace danced an East Coast swing with some Charleston thrown in. The process was a challenge for him as a non-dancer, including wearing a sparkly red shirt.

Wiest, who said she has enjoyed dancing for many years, danced a Triple Two Step to a favorite song, "Trusting You." Wiest said she



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Jean Wiest of St. James', Wichita, was the Dance Champion in the first-ever Wichita "Dancing with the Stars" fundraiser May 4 for Breakthrough/ESS. The event raised more than \$112,600 for the agency.

picked that song because it helped reflect the mission of Breakthrough to help others.

Both dancers said finding the time to rehearse was a challenge. Wallace's pro partner was a college student, so they worked around her class schedule, sometimes doubling up lessons.

Wiest, who is a high school special education teacher, said she sometimes had to schedule lessons as late as 9 p.m. "It was pretty intense for a while," she said.

Wallace enjoyed the experience so much he is continuing to take lessons with his pro partner. Wiest said she also is taking more lessons and learning new steps because dancing provides "so much joy." ◊



Deacon Arland Wallace (left), St. John's, Wichita, and his dance instructor partner Haley Ensz also participated in the event.

Three deacons are ordained in cathedral service

IN THE FIRST ordinations of her episcopacy, Bishop Cathleen Bascom on June 1 ordained three people as deacons: John Bullock of Trinity, Lawrence; Carolyn Garwood, from St. Paul's, Clay Center; and Ashley Mather, St. James', Wichita.

The service took place at Grace Cathedral, Topeka.

Bullock and Mather are serving as transitional deacons, meaning their vocation is to the priesthood. If all is in order, they will be ordained priests in January 2020. Garwood's vocation is to the diaconate.

Mather is a 2019 graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary. She has been named curate at Grace Cathedral, Topeka, through the diocese's program of providing some financial support for a graduate of a residential seminary placed in a parish of the diocese for 24 months.

Bullock and Garwood are 2019 graduates of the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry. Graduates of the school, upon ordination, serve a one-year internship to help prepare them for their ministry.

Garwood will intern at St. Paul's, Manhattan and St. John's, Abilene.

Bullock will serve as curate at



PHOTO BY MELODIE WOERMAN

Bishop Cathleen Bascom (second from left) ordained three people as deacons on June 1 in Grace Cathedral, Topeka: (from left) Carolyn Garwood, Ashley Mather and John Bullock.

St. Aidan's, Olathe, under the mentorship of the Rev. Kelly Demo, St. Thomas', Overland Park, and dioc-

esan canon to the ordinary the Rev. Torey Lightcap. ☉

Topeka deacon named diocesan disaster coordinator



Deacon Mary Becker

DEACON MARY BECKER, St. David's, Topeka, has been named the disaster coordinator for the diocese, effective June 1. She has undergone training for this new responsibility through Episcopal Relief & Development, which spearheads efforts throughout the Episcopal Church to respond to a variety of disasters.

She will continue to work with ER&D staff on matters affecting the diocese and the region.

Becker also will be working with churches across the diocese to help them determine their readiness for disasters hitting the church, as well as their capacity to assist if their community is affected by a disaster. ☉

Wichita church embraces its role in urban ministries partnerships

By Melodie Woerman

FOR MORE THAN 25 YEARS St. John's, Wichita, has provided a sack of sandwiches every Saturday to people in need. But in recent months the church has partnered with organizations to serve even more people in new ways. And through it all, the church has maintained a ministry of presence to people who are homeless in downtown Wichita.

Late last year, the church moved its Sandwich Saturdays distribution from an area behind the church to a vacant parking lot across the street to make it easier to

hand out its 200 meals, with Jerri Cochran, a member of a local Methodist church, organizing the churches that provide the food.

That led Joshua Reed, a nurse practitioner who had developed a model for street medicine, to ask if he could bring his new medical trailer to the parking lot to provide care for people in the neighborhood. And later in the spring, the church was approached by Family Promise, a group that helps homeless families, about using a vacant building the church owns for part of its work.

Together, these efforts have resulted in what the church has labeled St. John's Urban Ministries.

Shirley Orr, St. John's senior warden, said these partnerships reflect the fact that "we are an urban church serving an urban population." She said the church wanted to be a better neighbor to the community around it. Those efforts have "radically transformed the congregation," she said, prompting a more intentional effort to serve those who rely on the shelters and soup kitchens in the neighborhoods around the church.

Orr said, "Our hope is that people see that we have a social justice mission and are trying to be the hands of Jesus in the world."

Medical care for people on the street

That effort rang true with Reed, who grew up at St. Paul's, Clay Center, before he drifted away from the church as a young adult. As a nurse working in a variety of clinics and hospitals, he saw patients arrive with serious complications that could have been avoided if they had access to medical care that didn't require a phone to make an appointment or a car to get there.

He researched best practices for care with those who are homeless and spent time in Pittsburgh to see if a model of street medicine might work. He came back to Wichita convinced it could.

While working full-time in an area emergency room, he started the ICT Street Team, a registered non-profit (ICT is the airport code for Wichita). It consists of a trailer with exam tables stocked with everything a health care professional would need to treat the kinds of conditions Reed's team sees in homeless patients: wound care, lesion removal, and management of chronic illnesses



PHOTO BY TOM POTT

Josh Reed, the nurse practitioner who started the ICT Street Team to provide medical care to people in Wichita who are homeless, checks the list of patients to be seen.



PHOTO BY TOM POTT

Deacon Arland Wallace (left) assists the Rev. Eli Montes as she prepares to bless the ministries taking place in the parking lot across the street from St. John's, Wichita.

including COPD and asthma, high blood pressure, and diabetes.

Donations from pharmaceutical manufacturers allow him to provide antibiotics, insulin and other medications without charge. Meds that need to be kept refrigerated, along with other supplies, are stored in office space that the church provides. The van also includes equipment to run diagnostic tests, including blood work and EKGs, to better treat patients.

Reed said the Street Team provides key aspects of care for people living on the streets — availability and consistency. They are in the parking lot across from St. John's every Wednesday and Saturday morning. When they hand out medicine for high blood pressure, or insulin for diabetics, they ask people to return for follow-up testing. And patients know they will be there.

Jeremy, a 27-year-old man, recently stopped by the mobile clinic because he needed help with his diabetes. He had been hospitalized to try to get his blood sugar levels under control, and while there he lost his job and with it his health insurance. After being released, he had gone three weeks without insulin, which now costs nearly 10 times what it did five years ago.

When he came to a recent Street Team Saturday clinic, his glucose level was in the 400s, far above the normal of around 100, leaving him feeling tired all the time, even with plenty of sleep. Reed was able to provide insulin

and syringes and asked Jeremy to return the following Wednesday to get his blood checked again.

Reed and those who work with him are all volunteers, and the cost of the van and other supplies come from private donations and partnerships with other organizations.

During most 4-hour clinic sessions, the Street Team will see as many as 30 patients, with about a quarter of them new each time. On the first Saturday of the month, however, the clinic expands and hands out donated clothing and sleeping bags, while groups provide breakfast and other items. On those days, they might see more than 60 patients.

Just being there for people

While Reed and his team see patients, St. John's rector, the Rev. Eli Montes, also is there twice a week; Deacon Arland Wallace joins every Saturday. They visit with folks who stop by, offering bottled water and kind words. People say it makes a difference.

Shorty, who wears a ball cap and a crucifix, said that Reed's efforts helped save his life, after he got off drugs and alcohol by going cold-turkey, alone in his shack by the railroad tracks, last winter. He ended up in the hospital where Reed was working, diagnosed with kidney and liver disease. "Josh told me he could help me if I would let him," Shorty said. With his conditions now stabilized with medications, he said, "God sent them to help and save me."



Shorty got help from the ICT Street Team and St. John's.

He said people on the streets know that "St. John's has always had a love for us," noting the annual memorial service in December for people who have died on the streets. But the united efforts with the ICT Street Team have expanded that. "We love them," he said. "There is love everywhere we go."

One of the Street Team nurses, working with the Wichita Police Homeless Outreach Team and the city's Housing Authority, was able to get Shorty into an apartment, with rent and utilities provided for two years.

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Walter, a tall man with a keen mind and sharp wit, said both the Street Team and St. John's helped him through a recent medical crisis. He wasn't feeling well, and Reed's team discovered his blood pressure was sky high. They sent him to the hospital, where after four days he was discharged with a prescription. With no money in his pocket he returned to find it wasn't a day the Street Team had a clinic. He crossed the street, knocked on the church door and was greeted by Montes, who everyone calls Mother Eli.

She researched the cost to get his prescription filled — \$4 — and gave him money to pay for it. But then, Walter said, "We sat and talked. She prayed with me. That was a low moment, but God and the church helped. That renewed by faith. It wasn't just the \$4; we talked. It encouraged me on the right path."

Montes said the partnership of the medical team and the church has helped to create a sense of community for those seeking help. "What I experience every Saturday is beyond my imagination," she said. "People feel acknowledged, loved and cared for. They are seen. They aren't invisible anymore."

St. John's added a liturgical presence on June 1, one of the large first-Saturday clinic mornings, when Montes formally blessed all those serving and being served in the parking lot.

St. John's provides more than just spiritual well-being by making paperback books available in a lending library. Retired teachers Peggy Karr and Marlene Franklin seek out donated books, and often scour used bookstores, to meet requests from those who stop by the table they set out each Saturday. Westerns and science fiction are favorites. The women do this as a labor of love because, according to Karr, "A life without reading is a life without happiness."

And the partnership with Family Promise soon will result in space to help more people. That agency is renovating an empty building St. John's owns next to the church, where it can help more homeless families move into sustainable independence. The building will provide services like adult training and childcare, with families heading to partner churches every evening to sleep.

Church is the most important partner

Reed said that St. John's is the most important partner for the ICT Street Team, surpassing even those who donate or provide free goods. The church's eagerness to




PHOTO BY MELODIE WOERMAN

People line up to get a sack lunch every Saturday in the parking lot across the street from St. John's.

support his street medicine plan made a real difference. "Without them we couldn't have gotten off the ground so quickly."

He said that even though Wichita has decriminalized being homeless, there remains a stigma about having homeless people on one's property. "But homeless people congregate around the church and they know they won't be run out. These are people who sometimes are on drugs or with mental health issues, or prostitutes or drug users and people who are drinking, and it has taken the high road. The church is very embracing."

To support the work of the ICT Street Team, donate online at <https://cli.re/Donate> or text "ICTStreet" to 44-321. More information is online at nursesglobaloutreach.org 

Deadlines are announced for convention actions

THE 160TH ANNUAL Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas will meet Oct. 18-19 in Topeka, with “Who is my neighbor?” as the convention theme.

Anyone wishing to submit a nomination for an office being elected at this year’s Diocesan Convention, or a proposed debatable resolution or a proposed amendment to the constitution or canons of the diocese, has until **Friday, Aug. 2** to do so.

Elections

This year, people will be elected to these positions serving the diocese:

Council of Trustees (for a three-year term)

- One at-large member, lay (*the incumbent, Scott Howard, is eligible to run again*)
- One at-large member, clergy (*the incumbent, the Rev. Sharon Billman, is completing two terms and cannot run again*)

Deputy to General Convention (General Convention meets June 30 to July 9, 2021, in Baltimore, Md. Expenses to attend are paid by the diocese.)

- Four lay people as deputies and four as alternates
- Four clergy as deputies and four as alternates

Note: Lay nominees for all offices must be at least 16 years old and a confirmed member of a parish in the Diocese of Kansas. Clergy nominees must be canonically resident and in good standing in the Diocese of Kansas.

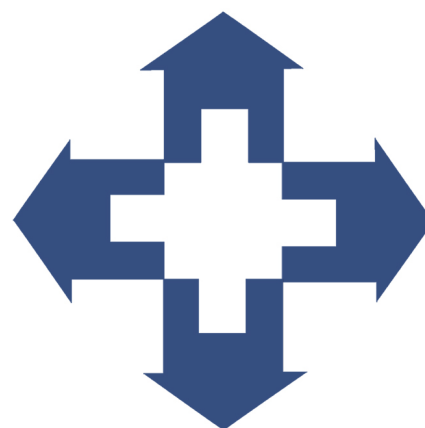
Nominations are to be made online using the form provided on the diocesan website, www.episcopal-ks.org.

Other items for submission

Aug. 2 also is the deadline for any proposed debatable resolutions or proposed amendments to the constitution or canons of the diocese.

Proposed debatable resolutions should be sent to Deacon Oliver Bunker, chair of the Debatable Resolutions Committee, at obunker@cableone.net or 2401 W. 3rd St., Chanute, KS 66720-1968.

Proposed amendments to the constitution or canon of the diocese should be sent to Frank Taylor, chair of the Constitution and Canons Committee, at ftaylor@hrkklaw.com or 7450 W. 130th St., Suite 140, Overland Park, KS 66213.



**Who is my
neighbor?**
Luke 10:29

**The 160th Annual Convention
The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas**

Also on the agenda

Each year clergy and lay delegates also vote on a proposed mission plan, or budget, for the coming year, along with a schedule of apportionments from each church to help fund expenditures.

The mission plan is compiled from requests by heads of departments and other budgetary areas, with adjustments made for expected revenue. It is presented to the Council of Trustees, which in July will adopt the final proposed plan to be presented to the convention.

Each parish, at its Annual Meeting, elects lay delegates to represent it at Diocesan Convention, based on membership. All clergy who are canonically resident in the diocese also are entitled to attend and vote. ☉

Presenter Kay Lindahl speaks about the power of listening to those attending the Women's Summit at Grace Cathedral, Topeka, on May 4.



PHOTOS BY MELODIE WOERMAN

Women's Summit offers a call to listening

By Melodie Woerman

THE DIOCESE'S THIRD Women's Summit drew more than 60 women to Grace Cathedral, Topeka May 3–4 to learn about the art of listening. The presenter was Kay Lindahl, founder of The Listening Center in Long Beach, Calif., and author of *The Sacred Art of Listening*.

The event began with an opening reception and session by Lindahl on Friday evening, followed by a Taizé-style service and the opportunity for people to walk a small canvas labyrinth set up in the cathedral, lit by electric candles.

On Saturday Lindahl described how people can go about engaging in true listening, and it starts with silence. "There is no listening without silence," she said. "Quieting the mind is essential to good listening."

She noted that studies on mice have shown that silence helps enlarge their hippocampus, the part of the brain that processes and stores short-term memory.

She added that it sometimes helps to start small. "Find spaces and time in your life that are conducive to silence. Start with one minute a day to be intentionally silent."

Lindahl said life in 21st century America makes it hard to find silence since "we have become addicted to noise." That makes being silent "counter-cultural," she said, and those quiet times "move us from head to heart."

Lindahl then introduced the concept of the listening stick — an actual object (it need not be a stick but does need to be tangible) that designates the speaker within a group. Those not speaking are to listen thoroughly by being present to the speaker.



Women gather in a small group to practice listening fully and being present to others before speaking.

She said people today attempt a lot of multi-tasking, but that isn't what really is happening. "Scientists have shown that we can't do two things at the same time," she said. "We do things sequentially, but really fast. But it is very tiring."

She encouraged participants to spend 60 seconds every day being silent and fully present to everything in their surroundings as a way to carve out space to be uni-taskers.

She then asked people to form small groups to practice with a listening stick. One person was charged with answering a designated question for 60 seconds, while others listened intently and with purpose. At the end of the minute, all were to ask themselves, "What needs to be said or done now?" Lindahl said this was a way to learn to reflect before you speak.

In the afternoon, participants joined in two of eight breakout sessions that focused on a variety of ways of expressing one's faith, as well as tools such as prayer flags, drawing or coloring mandalas, or walking a labyrinth.

The clergy at the closing Eucharist included the event's organizers: Deacon Fran Wheeler, who is president of the diocese's Episcopal Church Women and serves at St. Thomas, Overland Park, who preached; and the Rev. Helen Hoch, Calvary, Yates Center, who presided.

'An uplifting experience'

Sheryl Rollin, St. Michael's, Mission, said she found being with other women in the diocese "an uplifting experience" as well as a chance to meet other women in the diocese.



Women's Summit participants had the opportunity to walk a labyrinth set up in the nave at Grace Cathedral.

Myrna Mai, Epiphany, Independence, who had attended the previous summits, said she especially liked the labyrinth and the closing Eucharist.

Jennifer Westhoff, St. Andrew's, Derby, said she also enjoyed walking the labyrinth but that "everything was wonderful." She said it was especially fun to share the Eucharist with so many women from around the diocese. Overall, she said it was "a restful, peaceful weekend." ◊



The Rev. Helen Hoch celebrates the Eucharist that concluded the Women's Summit May 4. Assisting were (from left) Deacon Anne Flynn, the Rev. Casey Rohleder and Deacon Fran Wheeler. Wheeler and Hoch were organizers of the event.

A week of fun and faith at Mega Camp

THIS YEAR'S MEGA CAMP for youth in grades 3 through 12 offered campers the chance to explore how they can be peacemakers in their homes, schools and churches, along with time for fun activities available at Camp Wood YMCA near Elmdale, June 2-8.

Campers — 177 of them — came from three age groups: elementary, junior high and senior high, with 151 of them representing 26 of the 44 churches of the diocese. Seven campers were from the dioceses of Western Kansas, West Missouri and Texas, and 19 were non-Episcopalians.



PHOTOS BY DIOCESE OF KANSAS YOUTH MINISTRY

An elementary-aged camper tackles the rock climbing wall during activity time.



Junior high campers use art during a family time discussion of ways to communicate love.



Senior high campers spend time in canoes on the lake at Camp Wood, which also features a popular swimming beach.

Evening activities included movie nights, games, talent shows, and dances for the senior and junior high groups.

They also engaged in some form of worship each day, under the direction of a priest who served as chaplain. The yearly MegaEucharist, an all-camp service in the amphitheater atop High Y Hill, took place on June 5 after dinner.

Christian Parker and Riley Demo, both high school seniors, gave the sermon. Campers from all three age groups served as readers, intercessors, oblationers and chalice bearers.

The youth band “Mustard Seeds” included musicians and vocalists from all three age groups as they provided music for the service.

The camp itself provided lots of fun activities for all ages, including a new high ropes course, climbing wall and zip line; canoeing; swimming; horseback riding; hiking; archery; fishing; arts and crafts; soccer; skateboarding and biking. ☉

Assisting during the week were 49 adult staff members

The overall theme of the week was Peace Works, and it was manifested through daily themes that explored diversity:

- Day 1: Aloha / Hospitality
- Day 2: Ubuntu / Community
- Day 3: Shalom / Responding to conflict
- Day 4: Agape / God’s reconciling love

- Day 5: Heiwa / Self-sacrifice for unity of all

- Day 6: Sí Se Puede / Active peacemaking

- Day 7: Aloha / Going out

Each camper was assigned to a family group with two adult leaders, where they met daily for activities and discussion.

During those family discussion times, they explored the day’s theme through a variety of hands-on activities.



The all-camp MegaEucharist is a highlight of the week at Camp Wood, with 177 youth and 49 staff, joined by some parish clergy who come to support their campers, gathered on High Y Hill for the service.

Walking priest visits Trinity, Lawrence

By Melodie Woerman

DURING CHURCH

on June 30, Trinity, Lawrence, welcomed a guest who is in the middle of a nine-month, 3,000-plus mile walk across the country to raise money to help children.

The Rev. Peter Munson, who most recently was rector of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church in Boulder, Colo., is undertaking the trek in response to a call from God he heard more than 10 years ago while hiking. After years of shorter hikes and planning, he set out on March 4 from Charleston, S.C., and plans to arrive on Nov. 10 in San Francisco.

He was joined at Trinity by his wife Julia, who had flown from their home in Arvada, Colo., to Kansas City earlier in the week to see her husband for the first time since he set out on his journey.

Munson said that in the more than 1,500 miles that he has walked so far, over 199 days, he has been blessed by generosity.

"I don't always know where I'm going to sleep that night when I start out in the morning," he said. But offers of lodging, or money to pay for hotels, means that so far he has had to camp out only three nights.

When he set out in March he was joined by a nephew who walked with him for nearly two weeks, and he occasionally has had someone join him for a day. Otherwise he walks alone, usually along two-lane highways. Because he has to be alert to traffic, he doesn't listen to music or podcasts as he walks. He said he'd had a few "close calls" from passing cars who may not have seen him, in spite of the bright colors he wears.



PHOTO BY MELODIE WOERMAN

The Rev. Peter Munson and his wife Julia visited Trinity, Lawrence, on June 30. Munson is walking across the U.S. to raise money for groups that help children.

He averages about 18 miles a day, or 100 miles a week. He's now on his third pair of shoes, and his wife said he's dropped a pants' size.

Spiritual insights

Munson said the journey so far has provided some spiritual insights.

"I'm learning about the theme of sacrifice," he said. "When God calls you and you make that choice, you are foregoing other things." For him that means missing his family, friends and his sense of routine. Video chats and phone calls help, but it's not the same thing, he said.

He also better understands the part of the Lord's Prayer that asks God to provide "our daily bread." For him that means not only food for the day, but other needs. He has realized anew that "God provides through other people."

Munson said he also relies on the words of Psalm 28 that call God a shield. "That never really meant anything to me before," he said. "But


walking along busy roads, contending with dogs and bad weather, I have a daily prayer for protection. God as a shield means a lot to me."

Munson said he initially had a dream of raising \$6 million, a dollar for every step he will take in his 3,750-mile journey. He now hopes he can raise \$375,000, or \$100 for each mile walked.

So far he's raised \$40,000, and recently the non-profit he created for this effort, Bright Future for Children, made its first grant of \$13,000 to REMAR Children's Home, one of the four organizations he's supporting. Others are:

- Episcopal Relief & Development
- Street Fraternity in Denver
- Youth programs of the Diocese of Colorado

Munson said the amount he raises is "one of the many things I am letting go of...trusting that God knows what can happen."

More information and a way to donate is on Munson's website, www.6millionstepsforkids.org. 

When churches say they want to grow

EVERYWHERE I GO,

I hear the same thing: “We want to bring in young families and grow the church.” Since I’ve served in diocesan offices for the past six years, you can bet I’ve heard that expression a lot. I’ve had years to ponder it.

The sincerity of “bringing in young families and growing the church” cannot be questioned. It comes from a real place of concern.

I don’t doubt that people really believe it. But I hope you’ll let me ask a few leading questions.

1. Who is it for — Jesus or me? Is it based on the idea that “We’d better find someone to replace ourselves”? That “If we don’t do this, the church won’t carry on any further”? Because if it comes from that place, any plan for self-replacement isn’t furthering the mission of God’s church.

Replication should not be confused with transformation; real evangelism comes from a much deeper joy, and churches grow in response to the truth of the gospel across their various generations. By contrast, fear and survivalism are nothing on which to hang a plan for growth.

2. Are you willing to change? You say you are, but are you, really? For most congregations, truly growing the church will require some fundamental shifts in structure, practice, thought and culture.

Congregations may find they are precisely built to resist any kind of change. So this process extracts something of a price, which means learning to do things in a new way while not sacrificing who we are at our core, as Episcopalians, in Jesus Christ. It doesn’t mean changing everything — throwing out the Prayer Book or being dishonest about our worship style.

In fact, it means something deeper — a sincere look at ourselves in the mirror, and the willingness to make necessary changes.

3. How long is your commitment? There is a sector of the church-industrial complex dedicated to finding fast solutions. But please don’t be seduced by their claims.

Take your time, build real coalitions, measure the cost, pray over ideas, study your community, read books on the subject, talk to the diocesan youth team, collaborate with partners, get sticky commitments, listen to all voices, and be sincerely invested for the long haul.

As Jesus warns us, rocky soil does not yield good fruit, but nutrient-rich soil built over time eventually makes for a bumper crop.

4. How deep is your leadership bench? People say we should bring in young families and grow the church in part because it’s what they’ve been taught to say. But there’s a world of difference between saying this and actually taking it on.

Good leaders (lay and clergy, matriarchs and patriarchs, Vestry members and those on committees) will help the entire congregation own the idea by keeping everyone oriented to the work of growth and being willing to reach across various factions.

5. What will you do when you encounter push-back? While it is easy to argue for positive change in the abstract, when a new initiative is started the opposition can get pretty vocal, and those who are supposed to stand up and remind people about their purpose can grow suspiciously quiet.

Very few people really love conflict, and the obstacles to church growth these days are significant.



More than one effort has been stopped at the first sign of trouble. After that, all that remains is a cautionary tale (“We tried that once and it didn’t work”).

At the heart of “bringing in young families and growing the church” is a commitment to share the amazing richness of being a part of God’s family with others.

We can’t be intimidated by that; in fact, it should energize us. It has virtually nothing to do with securing the comfort of our institutions and everything to do with our willingness to be the church of Jesus across many generations.

Now, that’s a vision I can get behind. ☉



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Study, worship, eat, and socialize with Episcopalians from four dioceses across three states as well as students from other Christian traditions.