



THE Harvest

Winter 2018 | The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas

Bishop-elect Bascom

Former campus chaplain
is elected as the diocese's
10th bishop

Bishop-elect's message / Diocesan Convention / The ministry of vergers

Harnessing the power of Christ



MY DEAR SIBLINGS in Christ,

Since our election of Bishop-elect Bascom, people often ask me if I feel that a burden has been lifted from my shoulders. Generally my response is no.

No, because the Council of Trustees continues to function as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the diocese until Bishop-elect Bascom is ordained and consecrated, God willing and the bishops and Standing Committees of the Episcopal Church consenting, on Saturday, March 2.

But this terse response is purely a canonical response. The fuller — and truer — response is that I hear a sense of lightness within the diocese that I attribute to the abatement of anxiety. In the face of a bit more clarity, I hear more aspiration for the possibilities before us. This change in tone is a delight, and something for us to harness.

The Council of Trustees has certainly been wearing this aspirational harness for two years now; this is the principal reason why I have not felt burdened in our service together.

Now, in the remaining days of this transitional period, the Council's aspirational view is expanding — making room for the 10th bishop of Kansas to join us in this harness. Not to remove the harness from us, but to share it with us as we envision our direction together.

The sharing of such a harness makes the work lighter and more likely to be accomplished. It helps direct the way in which we pull; it makes it more likely that we pull together rather than apart; and it

allows those who are new to harness can learn and grow into invaluable members of the team.

This last point is critical to appreciate.

So often I hear people say I can't serve on this some committee or the Vestry because I don't have the right experience or don't know enough. Harness is a great way of training — of gaining skills and experience — so that one can move up into leadership and make room for the next disciple.

This sort of team building also has the advantage attracting other members, because people witness the vibrancy and accomplishments of the team and want to be apart of it.

Where are the teams in your community, congregation, convocation or diocese with which you would like to be in harness?

In case you haven't noticed, as a baptized Christian, you're already in harness with the most life-giving and loving team ever conceived — the body of Christ.

In thanksgiving for your giftedness, I am yours in Christ's harness,
Foster+ ☉

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

[Council of Trustees, Feb. 1, 2017]

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The Most Rev. and Rt. Hon. Justin Welby,
Archbishop of Canterbury

The Episcopal Church is a community of 2 million members in 109 dioceses in 16 countries in the Americas and abroad.

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry,
Presiding Bishop

The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas is a community of more than 10,000 members in 44 congregations in eastern Kansas.

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ON THE COVER: Bishop-elect Cathleen Chittenden Bascom stands next to the *cathedra*, or bishop's chair, which on March 2 will become her official seat. | *Photo by Melodie Woerman*

News and notes from congregations

St. John's, Abilene members in December collected items for Toys for Tots, hats and mittens for the church's tree, and United Thank Offering blue boxes for the parish Ingathering.

Trinity, Atchison used All Saints Day as the kick-off for the parish fall pledge campaign, complete with a celebration of the Eucharist, chili supper, talent show, and talks on stewardship and evangelism.

St. Paul's, Clay Center had a lunch in December to thank the many volunteers who have helped through the year with the parish's food ministries: distributing food through the mobile food pantry, BackSnacks and senior commodities.

St. Paul's, Coffeyville Thrift Shop marked its 60th anniversary with an Oct. 25 party featuring special cookies created for the day. The shop recently has undergone an expansion using space in the undercroft.

St. Andrew's, Derby member Kathleen O'Brien was recognized as a Distinguished Teacher by Project Lead the Way, an organization dedicated to creating engaging classroom environments. She was one of 40 teachers across the U.S. so honored for outstanding efforts to empower and inspire students. She teaches biomedical sciences at Derby High School.

St. Martin's, Edwardsville enjoyed a Christmas play on Dec. 9 as part of the Sunday morning service. The title was "Unexpected Christmas Presence."

Trinity, El Dorado parishioner Virginia Amend for Veterans Day made available 17 years of displays she had compiled describing aspects of veterans' service in World War II and the Korean War.

St. Andrew's, Emporia took advantage of its location on the city's main downtown street by opened its parking lot before the start of the city's Nov. 27 Christmas parade to offer cookies and hot cider. The church also handed out candy to kids attending the downtown trick-or-treat event on Oct. 27.

St. Mary's, Galena hosted its community with a spaghetti dinner in September and a chili supper in November, and members enjoyed a Bunco Night in October.



PHOTO BY SARAH KESSINGER, THE MARYSVILLE ADVOCATE

Marysville church celebrates 130 years of ministry

The Rev. Greg Doll (left) tells a visitor about the history and buildings of St. Paul's, Marysville, during the parish's 130th anniversary open house on Dec. 1. The church also celebrated with a special Eucharist on Sunday, Dec. 2, exactly 130 years from the date of the church's first service.

Doll serves as vicar of the church as well as of St. Mark's, Blue Rapids. ☺

Epiphany, Independence helped the 30 students in the city's Head Start program by providing snack bags for them before the Thanksgiving and Christmas school breaks, with plans to do the same before spring break in March.

St. Timothy's, Iola matched donations of members to outreach projects in the weeks before Christmas, up to



PHOTO BY MELODIE WOERMAN

Figures complete cathedral rood beam

A rood beam was installed last fall above the chancel entrance to Grace Cathedral, Topeka, and this summer three figures were added to the top of it. At the center is Jesus on the cross, watched by his mother Mary (left) and disciple John. The figures, which are about 5 feet tall, were made in Italy, with stain and finishing touches applied by Ratigan-Schottler Manufacturing in Nebraska, who made the beam.

The completed beam was given by cathedral member Jan Buckley in memory of her mother, Marie Wyker. It replaces an ornate rood screen that was lost in the fire that destroyed the cathedral's interior in November 1975. ☉

\$1,000, and the church donated another \$1,000 itself to help people in need.

Church of the Covenant, Junction City raised more than \$500 for its "Covenant Quarters" outreach ministry with a chili supper in October. The ministry each month gives \$7.50 in quarters to 20 residents of a low-income senior apartment building, to help with the cost of doing laundry.

St. Paul's, Kansas City hosted a bilingual English/Spanish service of Lessons and Carols on Dec. 9, after the church opened its space in the afternoon as part of the annual Westheight neighborhood open house tours.

St. Margaret's, Lawrence benefited this year from a crew of six people who mowed the church's 10-acre property, saving the cost of a commercial service. Doug Paul

even cleared out more than 100 cedar trees to the north of the church to create a park-like setting.

Trinity, Lawrence raised \$9,000 from its annual fall Ploughman's Lunch and Trinity Treasures Sale/Bake Sale. The latter raised \$6,500, with the lunch serving 350 people with proceeds of \$2,500 — the largest number in five years. Money will go to various charities in Lawrence and Douglas County.

St. Paul's, Leavenworth took a special collection during the service on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, to support Vet Buddies, which provides free boarding and care of pets belonging to veterans receiving care at nearby VA Medical Centers. When owners don't recover, Vet Buddies finds new homes for the animals.

St. Paul's, Manhattan collected enough homemade cookies to fill 50 tins, to bring Christmas cheer to residents in three area senior facilities, as well as people who are homebound.

St. Michael's, Mission offered an Advent prayer workshop the morning of Dec. 1, looking at various kinds of prayers, with participants writing their own prayers to mark the season.

Ascension, Neodesha was featured on the Neodesha Arts Center Home Tour Dec. 15. The church hosted an English tea for afternoon visitors featuring lemon cookies and cucumber sandwiches.

St. Matthew's, Newton helped provide for fellow citizens in need with donations to the church's mitten tree, as well as providing gifts for the family the parish adopted.

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St. Aidan's, Olathe welcomed Samantha Zamarripa as the church's new children's director and Samantha Hutchinson as child care director. Both are parishioners.

Grace, Ottawa has a new parking spot for those with disabilities, thanks to members Jim Moore and Norm Griffith, and a new fan for the church's Thrift Shop, thanks to Ron McNaughton.

St. Thomas', Overland Park offered young people in grades 3 through 8 the chance to help their community at the end of winter break on Jan. 4 with a morning of service to area agencies, called Reaching Out to the Community (ROTC), followed by an afternoon of lunch and fun activities.

St. John's, Parsons offered several opportunities for animals to be blessed near St. Francis Day in October — at the local dog park and pet hospital, as well as at the church, where activities also included a petting zoo and medals for all the blessed pets.

St. Luke's, Shawnee hosted an international dinner Nov. 10, asking participants to bring 20 small servings of native cuisine and to decorate food stations with an international flair. Proceeds went to help purchase a much-needed new dishwasher for the church's kitchen.

Grace Cathedral, Topeka Great Spaces Music and Art Series received the 2018 Community Arts Award from Topeka ARTSConnect, in recognition of the professional quality and breadth of concerts provided. The series is led by Steve Burk, the church's organist and choirmaster.

St. David's, Topeka on Dec. 1 hosted a seminar for seniors to provide information about resources and services available to them and their families, featuring presentations by the area Council on Aging, the Alzheimer's Association and HealthWise 55. Kansas Legal Services provided brochures dealing with financial and legal issues.

St. Luke's, Wamego had its annual Cookies by the Pound sale on Dec. 1 in partnership with First Baptist Church. Craft vendors sold their goods, and Santa made an appear-

ance. The church raised nearly \$800 for camp scholarships.

Good Shepherd, Wichita provided Christmas gifts for children in foster care who are served by Saint Francis Ministries, with parishioners picking up cards detailing wanted gifts for each child.

St. James', Wichita members met weekly during Advent in homes for a potluck meal and prayer service.

St. John's, Wichita raised \$1,655 by church team members participating in the Oct. 7 local CROP Walk. That amount placed them second among all teams, bested by only \$250 by West Heights Baptist Church.

St. Stephen's, Wichita provided handmade ornaments for the local Alternative Gift Market, with proceeds from sales supporting high school girls in Kenya through a program that supports them as they explore career and school choices.

Grace, Winfield offered members the chance to help young people attend next summer's Mega Camp by buying gift cards in December. Proceeds went to the camp scholarship fund. ☉

Clergy news

Prayers go out to **the Rev. Shawn Streepy**, rector of St. Aidan's, Olathe, who is recovering from a broken leg.

The Rev. Joyce Holmes, who served as rector of Grace, Chanute, since 2013, on Oct. 7 celebrated her last service at the congregation. She has retired and moved to Florida, where she will serve as an associate at St. Wilfred's Episcopal Church in Sarasota.

Condolences go to **the Rev. Tom Baker** of Topeka, and his wife Cherie, on the death of their 11-month-old great-granddaughter, Bowie Alexandria Kirby, on Oct. 22 in Little Rock, Ark. ☉

Kansan picked as UN delegate

JENNIFER ALLEN, a second-year student at General Theological Seminary in New York City, has been selected by the Anglican Communion Office to be one of its eight representatives from around the world to the 2019 meeting of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

In 2017 and 2018 Allen attended the U.N. meeting as part of the official Episcopal Church delegation. She is a member of St. Michael and All Angels, Mission. ☉



Jennifer Allen

A message from Bishop-elect Cathleen Bascom

DEAR FRIENDS OF GOD IN KANSAS:

It is as if the Apostle Paul is speaking for me in his First Letter to the Thessalonians, one of our lessons for Advent I:

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

I find that since the election as your next bishop, the Spirit rouses me earlier than usual, and I find myself in prayer for when we will be together. Already the wondrous technology of Zoom and Facetime has been connecting us, but I wait eagerly for more incarnate time with you in the New Year.

The Greek word translated above “face to face” has a nuanced understanding of seeing the countenance of someone, being able to ask with both lips and eyes, “How are you doing? Really? Tell me about it.”

Per needs I heard and the vision I cast in the pre-election Walkabout, Executive Assistant Jeanne Atha and I have been working creatively so that my episcopal visits can involve extended time in every convocation and on the ground in every parish. I am calling them Bishop Walkabouts II. Please try them with me this first year, and then we can reflect together whether it is a practice worthy of being continued.

A proposed schedule is on the diocesan website, www.episcopal-ks.org, under “Bishop’s Visitation Schedule.” The convocation deans will provide their help and further outline the idea. I’ve proposed some specific visits for the early, shorter trips — aiming especially to connect with convocation deans and churches in transition between priests.

The longer “Walkabouts II” I’d like to leave to each convocation to fashion. Churches in any given convocation can choose to combine for regional Confirmation on the Sundays when I am in that region. Or, an individual church can choose a weekday evening Eucharist with Confirmation at home.



First Thessalonians chapter 3 describes the double-community to which God’s love relates: first in our own worship communities where the Risen Jesus helps us increase and abound in love, and second in all that God loves near and around our churches.

My desire in Bishop Walkabouts II is to learn about this double-community where you live. I deeply desire to meet the members who fill your pews with worship and love. But I also want to literally “walk about” with you: to see your fields and nature areas, neighborhoods, courthouses, the Statehouse, shopping malls, pubs, art galleries, industries, feeding programs, laundromats... wherever you go and imagine the Gospel of Love taking root.

I would be blessed to meet your community partners too. The Jesus Movement implies that we are moving beyond our church walls!

In his letter, Paul speaks of “restoring whatever is lacking in your faith.” This does not mean I see faith lacking in the Diocese of Kansas. To the contrary. But my experience of faith is often, “I believe, Lord; help my unbelief.”

Years ago when I stayed with Franciscan nuns in Florence, Italy, I met young women who were restoring frescoes. Sometimes their work dealt with deep, crumbling walls; sometimes with mid-layers of compromised plaster; sometimes surface colors were being retouched or even created anew. Restoration was a team effort of people with varied gifts.

It’s like that in the church. As a prayerful, loving community, we help to fill in one another’s unbelief.

I cannot tell you how beautiful I found the murals of love you and God are painting across eastern Kansas. I can hardly wait until we can meet face-to-face and pray about how Jesus will use us to increase and strengthen God’s artwork.

But for now we pray and wait...

With every blessing,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cathleen".

The Reverend Cathleen Chittenden Bascom

Bishop-elect of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas



The Ordination and Consecration of the 10th bishop of Kansas

will take place Saturday,
March 2, 2019, at
Grace Cathedral, Topeka
Presiding Bishop
Michael Curry, officiating

Initial details are available about the March 2 service

MORE THAN TWO years without a bishop of the diocese will come to an end when the Rev. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom is ordained and consecrated as the 10th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas on March 2.

While planning continues into the early months of 2019, some details already are known.

When does it take place?

Saturday, March 2, beginning at 11 a.m. The service will last about 2 1/2 hours. A reception will follow the service.

Where is the service?

At Grace Cathedral, located at 701 SW 8th Avenue in Topeka. By canon the cathedral is designated as the bishop's church. The chair where the bishop sits is the cathedra.

Who will preside?

Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry will preside during the first portion of the service. The new bishop will preside as chief celebrant during the Eucharist.

Will other bishops be there?

Yes. All bishops of the Episcopal Church will be invited, and some will be able to attend. Along with Presiding Bishop Curry, two will be designated as co-consecrators. Church canons require that at least three bishops be present to ordain another bishop.

Who will preach?

That is the prerogative of the bishop-elect, and she has asked Bishop Alan Scarfe of the Diocese of Iowa. Bishop-elect Bascom has served in the Diocese of Iowa for the past 17 years.

Who can attend the service?

Anyone! Once all the seats in the nave of the cathedral are full, people will be seated in the nearby parish hall, with the service broadcast on a big screen there. A communion station will be there, too.

Will it shown online?

Yes! The service will be live-streamed on the diocesan YouTube channel. A link will be on the diocesan website, www.episcopal-ks.org, as well as on the diocese's social media channels, ahead of time.

Where can I get the latest information?

Check the diocesan website, www.episcopal-ks.org. There you will find the latest information and details relating to this service. ☺

BKSM graduates to benefit from \$1 million grant

By Melodie Woerman

RECENT graduates of the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry will be among those benefiting from a \$1 million grant to the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest, made by Lilly Endowment Inc. The grant was announced in October.

The grant is designed to help new bivocational clergy — those serving a church part-time while having other employment as their main means of support — grow in their ministry.

The “Thriving in Bivocational Ministry” initiative aims to supplement the education these clergy have received with specialized training in pastoral care, preaching, and spiritual formation and practices. It also will provide a network of mentors who will offer pastoral, professional and experiential support that is critical in the early years of a new ministry.

All of this will be without cost to the clergy who are selected.

This training will be available primarily to recent graduates of BKSM and those in the Iona School for Ministry, which operates under the seminary’s Iona Center. BKSM provides education and formation for those in the dioceses of Kansas, Western Kansas, West Missouri and Nebraska, and the Iona School covers almost 30 more dioceses.

Because the Very Rev. Don Compier, BKSM’s dean, has made networking and partnerships a key element of the school’s mission, he was delighted when his friend and colleague, the Rev. John Lewis of the Iona School, asked him to comment on a plan to seek a grant from the Lilly Endowment, indicating he wanted the schools to be part of such an initiative together.



A new grant will help recent BKSM alums engage in advanced training courses as well as mentor and peer support.

Compier said having this kind of additional education and support for BKSM graduates is sorely needed. “We have long been worried about the heavy demands placed on ministers who also hold secular jobs,” he said. “BKSM alone did not have the resources needed to provide proper support,” he added, but funds from this grant will go a long way toward making it happen.

Mentor and peer support

The grant will provide a five-year program for 36 new clergy each year, divided into six cohort groups, to receive the extended training. Most of those picked will be new or recent graduates of BKSM and the Iona School. Two cohorts will spend time in Clinical Pastoral Education, two in deepening spiritual formation and two in preaching. Compier said that if enough deacons apply — the program assumes that most of those applying will be new priests — a deacon cohort could be created.

The cohorts will meet in person once a year and will meet biweekly by video technology.

Compier said BKSM graduates selected for this program will gain not only from the subject matter they will study but from additional levels of support, both from mentors and their peers. “Peer support is critical to any ministerial success,” he said, “but certainly this is true for bivocational ministers.”

Compier hopes this collaborative approach to enhancing ministry will spread. “We believe this is a model of the kind of collaboration that can and should occur across schools and diocese,” he said. “BKSM is seen as a natural partner because we are a rare instance of one school serving several dioceses to train and educate all three orders — priests, deacons and lay people.”

Bishop election highlights the 159th Diocesan Convention

By Melodie Woerman

THE 159TH MEETING of the Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas saw plenty of the usual convention business: voting for nominees for diocesan entities, adoption of an annual mission plan (budget) and debating a proposed change to diocesan canons.

But lay delegates and clergy also got to undertake one of the most consequential actions a convention can take — electing a bishop.

The election was made even more historic, since Kansas would be the first Episcopal diocese ever to elect its diocesan bishop from a slate of candidates who all were women. (Since then, two other dioceses have elected diocesan bishops from all-women slates.)

The first day of convention — Friday, Oct. 19 — was set aside for the election. In accordance with tradition, it took place in the nave of Grace Cathedral in Topeka, with clergy sitting together on one side and lay delegates on the other. But the event featured some breaks with tradition, too — use of handheld voting devices that pro-



PHOTO BY KAREN SCHLABACH

A photo of the Rev. Cathleen Bascom is displayed on a large screen after her election as the diocese's 10th bishop on Oct. 19 in the nave of Grace Cathedral, Topeka.

vided nearly instant results, and a livestream of the event to viewers on the diocese's YouTube channel.

By the time voters arrived, they had experienced lots of opportunities to get to know the three candidates: the Rev. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, the Rev. Martha



Clergy and lay delegates line up in the Common Room of Grace Cathedral to begin the process of getting their voting credentials before the start of the bishop election.

PHOTO BY MELODIE WOERMAN

Macgill and the Rev. Helen Svoboda-Barber. Materials they had submitted were posted online, and each one had recorded a short video describing what Jesus meant to them, also available online.

Four walkabout question-and-answer sessions, one in each of the diocese's four convocations, was either livestreamed or recorded and posted online. A guide about the election process, with information from each candidate, was mailed to every household in the diocese.

While convention planners were prepared for an election involving multiple rounds of voting, in the end it took just two ballots for the convention to elect the Rev. Cathleen Bascom as the 10th bishop of the diocese.

She received 56 clergy votes (43 were needed to elect) and 64 lay votes (62 were needed to elect). Her election was greeted with cheers and the singing of the Doxology.

During the banquet that evening, the bishop-elect was able to offer greetings by video conference, appearing on big screens in the banquet hall and at the end was joined by members of her family, before she offered a blessing.

During the banquet a number of awards were presented, including the Archdeacons' Cross and the Canon's Award (see story below), and Alleluia Grants for outreach ministries to five churches of the diocese (see story on page 10).

Between the election and the banquet was the convention Eucharist,

where the sermon was preached by the Very Rev. Foster Mays, who has served as president of the Council of Trustees since October 2016.

The Council has served as the canonical Ecclesiastical Authority throughout the two years without a diocesan bishop in place, calling upon the now-retired bishop of Western Kansas, Michael Milliken, to assist with liturgical actions such as confirmations and ordinations.

Other convention business

While some elements of convention organizing took place on Friday before the election, the majority of business was transacted on Saturday,

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Deacon Rex Matney (left) of Church of the Covenant, Junction City, and Jim Beck, St. Paul's, Clay Center, received the Archdeacons' Award and Canon's Award, respectively.

PHOTOS BY DEACON BOB HIRST

Convention awards recognize service and ministry

The annual Archdeacons' Award, presented to a deacon by Archdeacons Monte Giddings and Charles Pearce, went to Deacon Rex Matney, of the Church of the Covenant, Junction City, for his work in starting an extensive food ministry in the community and other service.

Breaking with tradition, Canon to the Ordinary the Rev. Torey Lightcap did not honor a priest but instead presented the Canon's Award to Jim Beck, a member of St. Paul's, Clay Center, in recognition of his research and writing that helped bring to light the story of Mai DeKonza,

the church's only African American member (who died in 1959), and the parish's efforts to make amends for the way she was treated by the church.

Beck also has written a book about DeKonza and her mother, a former slave. ☉

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in a session at the Capitol Plaza Hotel and Conference Center.

One of the main items of business was the election of people to various positions within the diocese:

■ **Treasurer:** Brian Geary, St. Thomas, Overland Park (for a 1-year term)

■ **Council of Trustees:** Stephan Mann, St. Luke's, Shawnee (to a second 3-year term) and the Rev. Casey Rohleder, St. Luke's, Wamego and Bishop Kemper School for Ministry (to a first 3-year term)

■ **Disciplinary Board** (all 3-year terms): Barry Car-

roll, St. James, Wichita; James Lewis, St. James, Wichita; David Littrell, St. Paul's, Manhattan; the Rev. Kay Dagg, St. Paul's, Clay Center; the Very Rev. Patrick Funston, St. Paul's, Manhattan, the Rev. Doreen Rice, St. Francis, Overland Park and the Rev. Kitty Shield, St. Jude's, Wellington

The convention also adopted a mission plan (budget) for 2019 totaling \$1,871,188.

A proposed amendment to the canons of the diocese dealing with congregation vitality was adopted, with one amendment. This will be reflected in the diocesan canons posted on the diocesan website, www.episcopal-ks.org, on Jan. 1, when the change takes effect. ☉

Alleluia grants will support outreach ministries

By Melodie Woerman

DURING THE banquet at Diocesan Convention, five churches received Alleluia Grants totaling \$11,265.16.

These are matching grants given to support projects that enable parishioners to serve as Christ's hands and feet in the world. Funding for the grants comes from money designated for mission and outreach through the diocesan Crossroads Campaign.

All of the recipients this year are small churches, with average Sunday attendance ranging from 14 to 53.

Grants are given for one-time projects, with a maximum of \$3,000 per grant.

St. Paul's, Marysville, awarded \$3,000 for an ADA ramp

This grant will be used to help provide a ramp for the church's 85-year-old parish hall cabin, to make it accessible to outside groups. The Rev. Greg Doll, the parish's vicar, said he has been approached by Alcoholics Anonymous, Weight Watchers and a grief support group, all who would

like to use the cabin for meetings because of its welcoming atmosphere.

Epiphany, Sedan, awarded \$3,000 for "Re-Imagine Sedan"

This grant will enable Epiphany parishioners to offer programs to students and parents in the community who are struggling with poverty. Linda Mays, who is involved with the project, says it also will enable church members "to share Jesus' love" and offer "a non-judgmental attitude and love" to help make a difference in the lives of young people.

Grace, Winfield, awarded \$2,567 for "Annex Renovations, Electronic Locking and Security System"

This grant will help install electronic locks in an existing church annex building to help turn it into a community center and free event venue for non-profit organizations. Parishioner Karen Deal said this gives the church the opportunity to partner with non-profits that don't have space, to enable them to offer services that otherwise wouldn't be provided. Rector the Very Rev. Laurie Lewis said, "This is ministry part-

nership of carrying out the gospel mandate in the community."

St. Mary's, Galena, awarded \$1,634.16 for "Picnic Tables and Benches"

This grant will purchase four picnic tables with benches to provide outdoor seating space for the many community activities hosted every year by the church. Parishioner Ena Smittle said this may also allow the church to use its own property for its annual outdoor service instead of a city park.

Trinity, El Dorado, awarded \$1,064 for "Drug Safety Initiative"

This grant will offer a way for community members to safely dispose of unused prescription and over-the-counter medications by distributing Deterra Drug Deactivation system pouches to the community and offering education about how they are to be used. The pouches will be made available to those who participate in parish programs as well as during community events, and will be handed out by parishioners. ☉

Wichita agency's new name reflects its mission

By Melodie Woerman

THE EPISCOPAL agency that for 35 years has helped bring hope to people in need in Wichita has adopted a new name that better reflects its work today.

Episcopal Social Services now is known as Breakthrough, with "Episcopal Social Services" remaining as its tag line.

The Rev. Barbara Andres, the agency's executive director, said the name was developed in consultation with many people and groups, including presentations to every church in the Southwest Convocation this past summer.

The need for a new name became apparent after ESS resumed responsibility for Breakthrough Club, a program that aids people with mental illness that was started by ESS and later became its own entity.

Andres said that as the organization grew and expanded, "we identified the need to clarify and simplify our many services under a single, impactful name."



BREAKTHROUGH

EPISCOPAL SOCIAL SERVICES

She said "Breakthrough" is a powerful word that represents the agency's mission "to help those hurting in our community break through the cycle of poverty and mental illness."

She added, "Love moves us to empower those toward independence and freedom. Love breaks through pain. Hope breaks through despair."

Rachel Newell, the agency's director of development, said they worked hard to make sure everyone connected to the organization was part of the discussion process regarding the new name, including church members, other faith communities, volunteers, clients, donors, agency collaborators, employees and places that refer clients to them.

One of the people Andres consulted was former ESS executive director Linda Bemis, who advocated for keeping "Episcopal" as part of the agency's core identify. She said, "Linda reminded us that when no one in Wichita was doing anything for the poor, the Episcopal Church stood up."

ESS was founded in 1983 as Venture House, the result of the churches of the Southwest Convocations pooling money raised through the diocesanwide Venture in Mission capital campaign to buy a house where services could be offered. When it outgrew the house, the name was changed to Episcopal Social Services to reflect its expanded services. ☉

Saint Francis updates its name and brand logo

SAINT FRANCIS COMMUNITY Services, the Salina-based Episcopal organization that serves families, children and youth, has updated its name and logo. They now are known as Saint Francis Ministries. Their logo retains a dove, long a symbol of Saint Francis, but now within the inclusiveness of a circle.



Saint Francis

MINISTRIES

Saint Francis' CEO, the Rev. Robert Smith, said the name reflects that the organization now reaches people beyond Kansas and other states to include other parts of the U.S. and the world.

Saint Francis' programs aid boys and girls dealing with trauma, adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, survivors of sex trafficking, refugees from violence and oppression, and marginalized families and children in central America.

The organization was founded more than 70 years ago as Saint Francis Boys' Home. ☉



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Confirmands and clergy from regional confirmation services at St. James', Wichita (above) on Nov. 17 and at St. John's, Parsons (right) on Dec. 8



PHOTO BY MARTHA STONE

Two services complete 2018 confirmations

The last of the four regional confirmation services throughout the diocese took place at St. James', Wichita on Nov. 17 and at St. John's, Parsons on Dec. 8.

During 2018 a service took place in each of the diocese's four convocations.

At each one the celebrant and preacher was Bishop Michael Milliken, the recently retired bishop of Western Kansas who has been serving as assisting bishop for the Diocese of Kansas during the period between bishops. ☉

Students from campus ministries at Kansas State University and the University of Kansas gathered after a game of cornhole Nov. 10 at the Canterbury House at K-State, in a revival of the Bishop's Bowl.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL FUNSTON



Students revive Bishop's Bowl competition

STUDENTS from KU and K-State gathered in Manhattan on Saturday, Nov. 10, for the return of the Bishop's Bowl. They tailgated prior to the KSU vs. KU football game, some attended the

game, then all returned to the Canterbury House at K-State for a cornhole (bean bag) competition. K-State won and took home the coveted Bishop's Miter prize. Students also had the opportunity

to video-chat with Bishop-elect Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, a former chaplain at K-State.

Next year's Bishop's Bowl will be hosted by the Canterbury House of Lawrence. ☉

Mark Cowell is the new bishop of Western Kansas

THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN KANSAS

ordained and consecrated its sixth bishop, the Rt. Rev. Mark Cowell, at Christ Cathedral in Salina on Dec. 1, with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry serving as chief consecrator.

He succeeds Bishop Michael Milliken, who served the diocese for nearly seven years.

Like many clergy within the diocese as well as his predecessor, Cowell will be a bivocational bishop. A lawyer who once prosecuted gang members in Dodge City, the new bishop will continue to serve as vicar of Sts. Mary and Martha of Bethany in Larned and of Holy Nativity in Kinsley.

He also works part-time as Dodge City's municipal prosecutor and is currently in his second term as Hodgeman County attorney.

Cowell was raised in the Episcopal Church and fell in love with Anglican liturgy while living in England as a child.

He earned his bachelor's degree in political science from Drew University in 1990, and his Juris Doctorate from Washburn University Law School in 1994. Shortly after admission to the Kansas Bar in 1994, he felt the call to ministry. Trained locally, he was ordained a transitional deacon in October 2003 and a priest in June 2004.

Cowell, his wife Julie, and their three children, Gabriel, Cathleen and Gryffin, live in Larned. ☪



PHOTO BY TONI COTTRELL

On Dec. 1 Bishop Mark Cowell was ordained the sixth bishop of Western Kansas.



PHOTO BY LINDA MAYS

Diocese of Kansas clergy were among those attending Bishop Cowell's ordination: the Very Rev. Foster Mays (back row, third from left), the Rev. Torey Lightcap (back row, far right) and the Very Rev. Don Compier (full front row, far right).

The ministry of vergers

By Melodie Woerman

RECENT TELEVISED FUNERALS

at the Washington National Cathedral have put vergers front and center in the minds of many who watched. Wearing a distinctive gown and often carrying a wand called a virge, vergers guided processions and escorted to the lectern speakers ranging from historians to former presidents.

But the ministry of vergers reaches beyond grand services like these to liturgies of six churches in the Diocese of Kansas (based on newsletters and scans of parish Facebook pages). These vergers — 10 men and seven women — assist at services of every size in the congregations where they minister.

But a verger's work starts long before the start of a service. George Webb of Grace Cathedral, Topeka (formerly of St. David's) said, "90 percent of the verger's duties occur before the first note of the processional."

Vergers make certain that all participants in the service — lectors, acolyte, Eucharistic ministers — are present, and if they aren't, they often step in. Candles are checked, bread and wine is confirmed to be in place, and the Altar Guild is consulted to see if they have any needs.

When vergers of the diocese were asked what they like best about their ministry, the required planning topped almost every list. Tim Flynn of St. James', Wichita, said, "I'm responsible for making sure that every service is celebrated as planned. This allows the clergy to concentrate on the spiritual side of the service and not worry about the logistics required for a given service."

Susan Byler of St. David's, Topeka, likened her responsibilities for every aspect of the service to that of a stage manager. Jim Edwards, also of St. David's, said, "I try to make sure that things go smoothly. And if they don't, I try to make sure the worship team are the only ones who are aware."

In a few of the churches, vergers' duties extend beyond the service to include training acolytes and lectors, and helping clergy think through any changes in existing services. In Flynn's case, it also includes chairing the monthly meeting of the parish Worship Committee.



PHOTO BY MELODIE WOERMAN

Verger Elizabeth Massey leads a departing procession at Grace Cathedral, Topeka.

Kent Wingerson of Grace Cathedral, Topeka, said that in every church someone is responsible for making sure the service runs well. That means, he said, "every place has a verger, whether they call it that or not."

Appreciated by clergy

Clergy in congregations with vergers acknowledge how crucial they are to the parish's liturgical life. The Rev. Dawn Franklin, rector at St. James', said, "The value of vergers can't be overstated. The more services, clergy and volunteers a parish has, the more essential the services of a verger become." She noted that a Lutheran pastor who attended a service at St. James' had seen Flynn's



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Rev. Dawn Frankfurt (left), rector of St. James', Wichita, with vergers Mary Beth Halley (center) and Tim Flynn. Halley and Flynn wear the seal of the Vergers Guild of the Episcopal Church on their cloaks.

service and told him later, "I want a verger!"

The Rev. Vicki Smith of St. David's, Topeka, said of the five vergers with whom she works, "Their ministry enhances our worship, and I find them incredibly helpful. Having someone else who pays attention to the details is amazingly valuable."

The Very Rev. Patrick Funston of St. Paul's, Manhattan, said his church's verger, David Littrell, had developed "a wonderful working relationship with the Altar Guild and the deacons and really understands his role to be in service to the congregation."

Most memorable moments

Vergers had a wide range of answers when asked about the most memorable thing that had happened during their time of service. Elizabeth Massey, Grace Cathedral, said it came when she served during a visit

by former Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori to the diocese in 2009. George Webb said he had to assist a young acolyte who lost a tooth during a service. More seriously, Susan Byler said she once had to help a deacon out of the church and then administer CPR (the deacon fully recovered).

Wingerson, who has been a verger since 1984, said that the upcoming ordination and consecration of Bishop-elect Cathleen Bascom will be his third as a verger, adding he served as an acolyte during a fourth bishop ordination.

The Vergers Guild

When Wingerson began serving there was no organization for training and support for vergers in the Episcopal Church, but that changed when he and 31 others attended what became the founding conference of the Vergers Guild of the Episcopal

Church in 1989. Since then, the number of Verger Guild members has grown to more than 1,400.

The guild offers an online training course that can help new vergers better understand their ministry. Guild members can wear the organization's seal on their cloak, and those who have passed its training course are recognized as Fellows and can carry a special virge with the guild's seal at the top.

Funston said he learned that vergers served outside of cathedrals after stopping by the Vergers Guild booth at General Convention.

The guild has a robust website with information that includes how to start a verger ministry. Their web address is www.vergers.org.



PHOTO BY MELODIE WOERMAN

Kent Wingerson, Grace Cathedral, Topeka, gives instructions before the start of the 2017 graduation ceremony of the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry. Wingerson is the longest-serving verger in the diocese.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NASA

On Dec. 24, 1968, Apollo 8 astronaut William A. Anders took this photo, known as Earthrise, as Earth appeared over the surface of the moon while the space capsule made its fourth orbit of the moon. Anders and fellow astronauts Frank Borman and James A. Lovell Jr. were the first humans to have this view of the Earth.

Apollo 8 moon mission is recalled during 50th anniversary event at the National Cathedral

By Mary Frances Schjonberg, Episcopal News Service

WASHINGTON NATIONAL Cathedral was the setting on Dec. 11 for a special celebration of the 50th anniversary of Apollo 8, the first flight to the moon, in an event sponsored by the National Air and Space Museum, with funding from the Boeing Corp.

Speakers included Apollo 8 astronaut James A. Lovell Jr., Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and the Very Rev. Randy Hollerith, dean of the cathedral. They discussed the spiritual meaning of exploration and the unity created by the mission's 1968 Christmas Eve broadcast and iconic Earthrise photo.

During the broadcast the astronauts described their experience and then read portions of the creation story from Genesis. It was heard by an estimated 1 billion people around the world.

With a near-capacity crowd gathered in the cathedral, images of stars were projected on the vaulted ceiling of the nave and celestial images covered the building's exterior. The Cathedral Choir performed "The Firmament," which matched singing with a recording of the historic broadcast.

Hollerith suggested that Apollo 8 was "a holy journey not only for what it accomplished, but for what it revealed to us about our place in God's grand creation."

Bishop Curry said that some believe "that moment changed human consciousness forever," and he added that the view of Earth from space showed "we are a part of it, not the sum total of it."

Lovell agreed, describing how he realized that his thumb could cover up the entire Earth as he saw it through the space capsule's window. "In this cathedral, my world exists within these walls, but seeing the Earth at 240,000 miles, my world suddenly expanded to infinity," he said.

"Just think: over 3 billion people, mountains, oceans, deserts, everything I ever knew was behind my thumb," he said. "As I observed the Earth, I realized my home was a small planet. It is just a mere speck in our Milky Way galaxy and lost to oblivion in the universe."

The program at the cathedral is one of a series of "Apollo 50" events leading up to a five-day celebration, July 16–20, 2019, at the National Air and Space Museum and on the National Mall to commemorate Apollo 11 and the first moon landing. 🌕

Getting ready to see God's fullness

IT WAS ABOUT a month ago, on the First Sunday of Advent, that some things came together for me, and I thought I might share them with you. Although we are celebrating Christmas and birth and incarnation, take a quick step back with me and rewind the calendar.

I began to understand that our Advent hymnody and Bible readings are actually a pretty wild appropriation of what has been termed the eschatological. Eschatology is that part of theology dealing more or less with the end of things — the destiny of humanity, the boundaries of the world and time: death, judgment, the ultimate fulfillment of God's purposes.

Here, though, in the Advent liturgy, we took those things and applied them to an annual ritual of repentance, watching and renewal prior to Christmas. We daringly imported the cosmic into the local. We were being asked to hold and look at everything from inside of a time that is decidedly less than everything.

I was struck all at once by how sudden, bold and impetuous it is to do something like this: to take a vision for the end of the world and how God will be acting through it, and to move it onto the calendar in a regular way.

The effect of all of this was to ponder one simple question: "Are you really ready for this? Are you quite prepared to see the fullness of God's mercy and forgiveness — God's plan for the life of the world — poured out into this one thing that is happening that we will call Jesus?"

Is it too much of a burden to make a few quick weeks of Advent

be the stand-in for all of time? Not if we believe that at the end of it, everything of what God intends for us shows up in one person, whose way of life will confound and change everything forever.

The poetic impulse in me sees these truths as not opposed, but in fact as mutually reconciling one another. In Advent we waited for something that has already happened in Christ (the first great mystery), and that is also going on right now (the second mystery), and that is also yet to be, contained within the fullness of God's time (the last and most beautiful).

God's salvific coming to us in Jesus is both within and outside of time.

This is part of why I ended up needing to be something like an Episcopalian. I needed to be part of a tradition that at least tried to see, in a regular way, that God's judgment, correction, redemption, generosity and compassion are completely unlimited by our conceptions of time, space or other temporal condition.

I needed to know that what Jesus is up to is both forever and now, both stunningly local and dazzlingly universal.

In the flash it took me to see all this cosmic pageantry playing itself out, I was reminded of how the poet Czeslaw Milosz described the end of the world:

*And those who expected lightning
and thunder
Are disappointed.
And those who expected signs and
archangels' trumps
Do not believe it is happening now.*



*As long as the sun and the moon
are above,
As long as the bumblebee visits a
rose,
As long as rosy infants are born
No one believes it is happening
now.
Only a white-haired old man, who
would be a prophet
Yet is not a prophet, for he's much
too busy,
Repeats while he binds his toma-
toes:
There will be no other end of the
world,
There will be no other end of the
world. ①*



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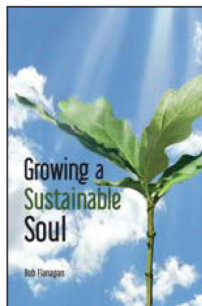
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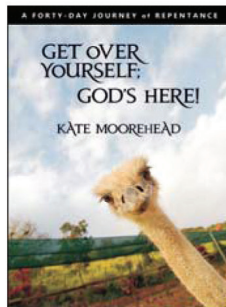
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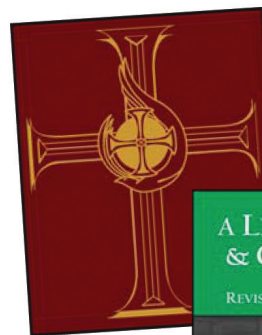


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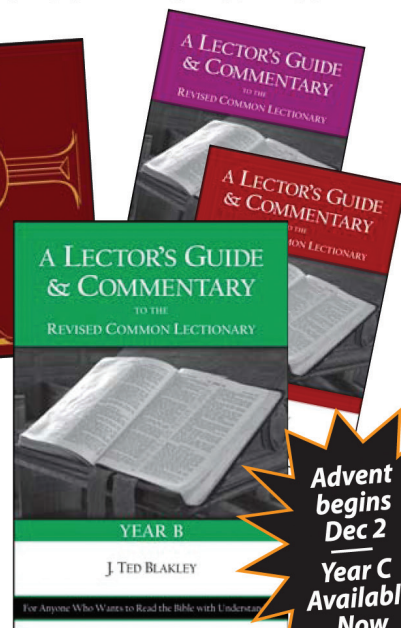


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