

# PRAIRIE SPIRIT



Spring 2019



## FROM THE BISHOP



As many of you may know, I just returned from my first House of Bishops meeting.

While we met, we debated a number of topics concerning the church at large, including gun violence, peace in the Middle East and the upcoming Lambeth Conference. We also discussed the wider church moving forward, what it will look like, and how we propose to shepherd those in our charge.

At the meeting, I got to visit with many of our brothers and sisters in Christ from all over the Episcopal Church. They were all very welcoming, and they wanted to ask me questions. The questions had a theme: How do you guys do it in Western Kansas? It seems that we are recognized as pioneers of a sort. We are known

for finding a way forward in changing times, through shifting demographics, and with shrinking resources.

I enjoy the interest and the chance to share. I am proud of the things we do here, and I like to brag about the work that you do to be the Body of Christ in the world. As I was sharing and bragging, it occurred to me that we rarely share with each other. Often when I visit with clergy around this diocese, I hear stories of the many wonderful ways the Holy Spirit is calling us, and I hear stories of the faithful responses as you answer that call. I want to keep hearing them! But we also need to tell each other.

Bishop Milliken described this diocese as one congregation, and that observation is true. Because we are one big congregation, we need to hear from each other. We need to hear what each other is doing. We need to rejoice together in our successes, and learn together in our failures.

I invite you all then to share your stories. What is going on in your neck of the woods (or your neck of the prairie as it were) that would make Jesus say "Wow! You guys get it!" How are you living into your call as the Body of Christ?

I know that God is active in our diocese and I know that you are responding. Please take the time to share with the diocesan office your pictures and your stories. We are going to post these examples of God's people doing God's work on social media, in the Prairie Spirit, and on our website so that we may inspire not only each other but our neighbors as well. We are going to speak of His love to a world that needs to hear it.

May God bless you now and always.

Faithfully,

+Bishop Mark

*You can send your photos, videos and/or stories to [tec.wks2011@gmail.com](mailto:tec.wks2011@gmail.com) or to our address above.*

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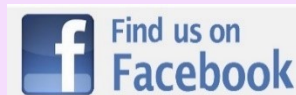
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Diocese of Western Kansas



diowks



Lent is a time of repentance, fasting, and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. A Lenten fast doesn't have to consist of just fasting and abstinence from the things we love, but it can be adding things during this season of lent that will make our lives more meaningful. Although Lent has begun it is not to late give up or add something in. Here are a few ideas:

1. *Don't buy anything that you don't need. If you can live without it, you don't need it.*
2. *Throw Away 40 things for 40 days. Every day, you walk around your house and collect 40 things to donate or throw away... every day, until Lent ends.*
3. *No Gossiping. That means you cannot do any gossiping. If someone says something negative about another person, either say something nice or don't say anything at all.*
4. *Replace 30 minutes of TV time with 30 extra minutes of devotion/prayer time. Read a devotional or bible story with your family and have a discussion about it.*
5. *Do not complain. We often complain and whine about things, but we need to try to have a positive outlook on things. You don't realize how much you complain until you are aware of it.*
6. *Attend weekday service during Lent. It can be a morning or evening prayer, or a Stations of the Cross service.*
7. *Keep a Gratitude Journal. Find a notebook to use and write down things you are thankful for each day during Lent. For when we are grateful, we are not giving our attention to the negative things in our lives.*

### Diocese of Kansas Consecrates Their Tenth Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom was ordained and consecrated as the 10th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas on March 2 at Grace Cathedral in Topeka in a service marked with history, as she became the first woman bishop in the diocese's 160year history. The 1,112th bishop of the Episcopal Church, she also was the first diocesan bishop ever to be elected from a slate of candidates who all were women.



The chief consecrator was Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. Bishop Alan Scarfe of Iowa was the preacher. Bishop Cowell and Assisting Bishop Milliken were co-consecrators at the service.

Her election was a homecoming of sorts for Bascom, having served eight years in the diocese, leading campus ministry at Kansas State University in Manhattan from 1993 to 2001.

She received a Master of Divinity degree from Seabury-Western Seminary in 1990. She also holds a Doctor of Ministry degree in preaching from Iliff School of Theology in Denver, a Master of Arts degree in Modern Literature from Exeter University in England, and a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing and environment from Iowa State University.

She is married to Tim Bascom, a writer and professor. They have two sons, Conrad, 25, and Luke, 21.

Photo Credits go to Thad Allton



# Around the Diocese



In January Assisting Bishop Milliken and Kathy were in Medicine Lodge, at St. Mark's to help Becky Ester, long-time member of St. Mark's, celebrate her birthday. Also present were members from St. Mark's and The First Presbyterian Church. Everyone enjoyed a great dinner and birthday cake.



At St. Thomas in Garden City, Mother Carolyn Ballinger imposes ashes to the Reyes-Martinez Family on Ash Wednesday.



Assisting Bishop Milliken was at St. John's in Great Bend on December 16th to Confirm Barret Freund, Yvonne Schrader, and Nolan Esfeld. Also pictured is Deacon Teresa Lahar.

## Happenings at All Saints

Submitted by The Rev. Karen Lemon

All Saints Church in Pratt was blessed with our first visitation from Bishop Cowell. Originally scheduled for the last Sunday in Epiphany, snow and bitter cold forced cancelation of our services. Bishop Cowell was gracious enough to make arrangements to come to Pratt the following week. The service included one baptism and three confirmations. Beau Parker was baptized, and then joined Griffin Wallace and Gage Egging in making a mature commitment to Christ with the laying on of hands at Confirmation. Following the service a delicious meal was served in the parish hall. Following these events Bishop Cowell departed for the Wichita airport and the House of Bishop's meeting. Thank you for coming, Bishop Mark.

Shortly before Ash Wednesday Jim Lemon flew to Seattle for a meeting with Bishop Rickel. Bishop Rickel was very interested in our mission project, "Walking with Jimmy, and indicated he would like to support it. What that assistance will look like has not been determined but there are several areas that Bishop Rickel indicated they could help. Financial assistance is one way, and additionally there could be buses made available and liaisons to work with the program on a local level. Jim is planning at least one more trip to Seattle to present the program at their diocesan convention and also possibly at a clergy workshop.

## Spotlight Around The Diocese

At the diocese we would like to start something new. We would like to spotlight a member of one of our congregations each month. We will share it on our social media, email and the Prairie Spirit. If you have a member who you would like to recognize, send us an email or give us a call. Just another way that we can get to know our brothers and sisters around the diocese.

## UTO Spring Ingathering

Mark your calendars! The United Thank Offering is Sunday, May 12, Mother's Day. You can send your contributions to the following address:

United Thank Offering  
DFMS – Protestant Episcopal Church US  
P.O. Box 958983  
St. Louis, MO 63195-8983

Need supplies? You can order them at:

[HTTPS://shimaofnavajoland.com/collections/United-Thank-Offering](https://shimaofnavajoland.com/collections/United-Thank-Offering)





# Around the Diocese



The Pancake race is held on Pancake Tuesday AKA Shrove Tuesday. It is a friendly little competition between Liberal, Kansas, and Olney, England, with women running down the streets of each town flipping pancakes, and has been going on for more than 60 years now. It is still the only race of its kind on the planet.

The event in Liberal is a four day event with many activities leading up to the International race. The Rev. Jeff Mitchell (left), Deacon from St. Andrew's in Liberal, participated in the Shrivring Service. The traditional Shrivring service follows the Olney Pancake Race, with a procession of the runners.

Liberal's Maggie Lapinski, was the winner with a time of 62.98 seconds.

## ERD Responds to Flooding in the Central United States

Episcopal Relief & Development is supporting Episcopal dioceses that have been impacted by the record-breaking flooding in the central United States this week.

Historic flooding caused by spring rains and snowmelt have destroyed homes and property throughout the Midwest, causing millions of dollars in damage. In some areas, river levels rose more than 10 feet past flood level. As of Wednesday morning, Nebraska, Iowa and Wisconsin have declared states of emergency and at least four people have died from the floods. While water levels are beginning to slowly recede, additional rain is in the forecast and rivers are expected to remain flooded into next week. Mandatory evacuations are in place in many areas.



Episcopal Relief & Development is supporting dioceses on potential response efforts to the catastrophic flooding. The US Disaster team has reached out to diocesan leadership in each of the affected areas and continue to monitor the situation in these communities, particularly in the Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska and the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa which have experienced significant damage.

Please continue to pray for those impacted by the flooding. To support this emergency, donations can be made to the US Disaster Response Fund at :

<https://www.episcopalrelief.org>

# GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING

## SUPPORT MISSION IN THE HOLY LAND

On Good Friday, offerings are invited from across The Episcopal Church to support the four dioceses in the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Funds are used to promote peace and mutual understanding through pastoral care, health care and educational programs throughout the region.

To learn more about our Church's work in the Middle East please visit [www.episcopalchurch.org/goodfridayoffering](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/goodfridayoffering).

JESUS SAID, "WALK WHILE YOU HAVE THE LIGHT, SO THAT THE DARKNESS MAY NOT OVERTAKE YOU." (JOHN 12:29)

THE  
*Episcopal*  
CHURCH

Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem

# Around the Diocese

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at St. John's in Great Bend



The Shrove ladies: Karen Kline-Martin, Krystal Barnes, Cynthia VanderMeer and Leslie Mingenback.



Deacon George Martin help with pancakes



Nancy Cale and Rose Kelly having a little fun.



Deacon Teresa Lahar showing off her pancake - flipping skills.

### The Rev. Jerry Jones Named as Canon



The Rt. Rev. Mark Cowell has named The Rev. Canon Jerry Jones as his Canon to the Ordinary. Canon Jones resides in Hays and Serves Trinity Church in Norton. He also serves as a supply priest for other congregations in the Diocese.



### Longs Appointed as Diocesan Youth Leaders



Brandon and The Rev. Amy Long have been appointed as the new Diocesan Youth Leaders. Brandon and Mother Amy are currently youth leaders at Grace Church, Hutchinson. Brandon is a plumber, employed by Craig Barkley Plumbing. Mother Amy is employed at Bretz and Young in Client & Community Relations. Mother Amy is also an Associate Priest at Grace Church.

## Diocesan Calendar

**April 7:** Bishop Cowell -Ulysses Visitation

**April 15-20:** Holy Week

**April 18:** Maundy Thursday

**April 19:** Good Friday

**April 21:** Easter. He is Risen! Alleluia!

**April 21:** Bishop Milliken Confirmation - McPherson

**April 26:** Project Resource Meeting -Hutchinson

**April 27-May 4:** Administrator to B+E+S+T Conf.

**April 28:** Bishop Cowell - Cathedral Visitation

**May 4:** Commission on Ministry Meeting

**May 11:** BSKMS Graduation

**May 12:** UTO Ingathering

**May 12:** Mother's Day

**May 25:** BSKMS Board Meeting -Topeka

**May 27:** Memorial Day

**June 1:** Bishop Cowell - Goodland Visitation

**June 2:** Bishop Cowell - Colby Visitation

**June 3-7:** Bishop to Living Our Vows Conf.

**June 9:** Pentecost

**June 9:** Bishop Cowell - Hutchinson Visitation

**June 14:** Flag Day

**June 16:** Father's Day

**Know of someone who is not receiving the Prairie Spirit? They have either moved or they are not on our mailing list. You can contact the Diocesan office at 620-669-006 or [tec.wks2011@gmail.com](mailto:tec.wks2011@gmail.com) to be added or update an address.**

He is not here, for  
he has

*Risen!*



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