

PRAIRIE SPIRIT



Winter 2018/2019

FROM THE BISHOP



Sisters and Brothers,

When we were “walking about” the diocese back in the spring, one of the things I spoke about regarding this diocese was our hospitality. I told you that the strength of the diocese of western Kansas is not in our buildings. It is not our fancy churches. Our strength is not in places or things. Our strength is our people, and the love of God they reflect for each other. Our strength is in our hospitality.

Never was this on display more than at our recent consecration. We had lots of visitors here for the service. Visitors from the national church, visitors from other dioceses, visitors from other denominations and faiths. Were they impressed? They were. Very impressed. Everyone went out of their way to say so, and they told us of the welcome they received, and the happiness of the event, and the joy -they witnessed in our community.

Was the church setting beautiful? Absolutely! The cathedral shined like a jewel The new chairs were gorgeous and comfortable. The stained glass was beautiful with the morning light coming in. The altar was gleaming. The music was outstanding.

Every part of the service was well organized and, the church looked beautiful and people said so. People have seen beautiful churches before. They have seen great liturgy. What blew away our visitors was the love they felt shared by everyone. They loved our hospitality.

Folks from the national church said that this was one of the easiest and most joyful consecrations they had ever done. Visitors from other faiths said, and some of these comments were from folks sitting in the overflow in the parish hall, they felt included. They said that when communion was brought over and shared, they “wanted what we had”. They wanted it. All of it; the joy, the love, the light. They wanted to be part of what was going on, they wanted to partake, and they felt like they were welcome.

That, my friends, is exactly what we should be known for. That hospitality is exactly who we are in this diocese. That is our strength.

I can’t thank you all enough. I am so proud to be your bishop.

Faithfully,

+Bishop Mark

The Bishop’s visitation schedule was emailed to all the Clergy and leadership. If you for one reason or another did not receive it or would like a copy, you can contact the Diocesan Office.

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Diocese of Western Kansas



diowks

FROM THE ASSISTING BISHOP

My Dear Friends,



What can I say about 20 years (eight of them as your bishop) of ministry in Western Kansas. My time here has revealed to me a people who are beautiful in spirit, dedicated in their faith, and strong in their commitment. In all these years you have invited Kathy and I into your churches, into your lives, and into your hearts. And I could not be more thankful!

As many of you know, Kathy and I have decided to stay in Hutch. We will continue to be part of this part of God's Kingdom known as Western Kansas. Bishop Cowell has asked me to continue to participate in the ongoing life of our diocese. So, you will be seeing me around!

As I resign (retire) my prayer is that you will give your hearts and love to Mark and Julie Cowell, as you have done to Kathy and I. Always know that Kathy and I love you deeply, and pray for you often.

Yours in Christ,
+Mike



Rev. Kerschen Attends Borderland Summit

From Nov. 15th to the 18th I, Rev. Charles Kerschen, attended the Borderland Summit in El Paso. He represented the Diocese and did a presentation for Province VII Anti-Racism Network. The former Presiding Bishop Schori and the new Bishop of Rio Grande, Bishop Hunn attended. Among many of the topics covered in regards to immigration, it can be summed up that they felt that the Gospel calls us to solidarity with those who are suffering, vulnerable, and in need. Among today's immigrants, those who have fled war, famine, civil unrest, and economic desperation deserve our special understanding and support.

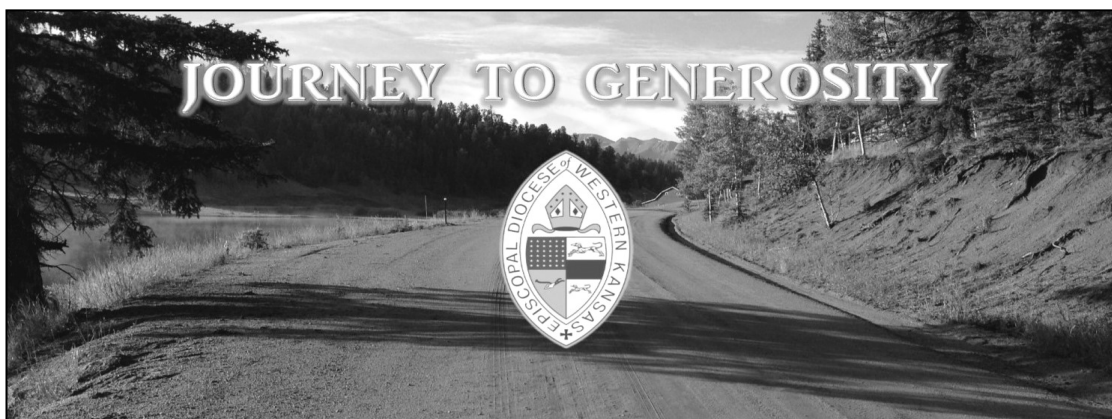


"The Episcopal Church in America must be a vigilant advocate, defending against any unjust restriction the natural right of individual persons to move freely within their own nation and from one nation to another. Attention must be called to the rights of migrants and their families, to the rights of those seeking asylum out of safety for their lives and their families and to respect their human dignity, even in cases of non-legal immigration.

Community organizing efforts such as the Summit can also be an important vehicle for addressing the needs of immigrant communities and incorporating immigrants into our communities. The call to solidarity, to embrace la lucha is also a call to promote the effective recognition of the rights of immigrants and to overcome all discrimination based on race, culture, or religion. It means bearing witness to a fraternal life based on the Gospel, which respects cultural differences and is open to sincere and trustful dialogue.



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 to be added or update an address.



2018 Diocesan Convention

"Journey to Generosity" was the theme for the 48th Diocesan Convention. We focused on Stewardship. Not only money, but time and talents as well. We had two workshops. One on Friday



afternoon presented by Rev. Ted Blakley from Grace Church in Hutchinson. His presentation was "What is our Why?" His presentation will soon be available on our website at www.diowks.org.

On Saturday morning, DeMay Grunden, from Christ Cathedral



presented the workshop "From Scarcity to Abundance" We need to change our mindset from Scarcity to Abundance. How do we do that? Perhaps we could be more generous. Convince yourself that there is enough for everyone by sharing what you have. The more you're willing to share, the more others are willing to share with you. That includes sharing your time.

Friday evening, The Rt. Rev. Clay Matthews traveled from North Carolina to tell us about his



ministry moment. It was an inspiring story and soon his video will be available on our website as well. The Annual Bishop's Crosses were presented to four individuals whose service to the Diocese was recognized. This years recipients were: Carolyn Peterson, from Incarnation in Salina, The Rev. Canon Jerry Jones, who serves Trinity Episcopal Church in Norton, Harry Smith from Christ Cathedral in Salina and Toni Cottrell, Administrator for the Diocese and attends

Grace Church in Hutchinson. Thanks to all the recipients for their dedicated service!

To end the night the ECW had their annual basket raffle. There were many beautiful baskets for the raffle. The ECW raised over \$800.00 . The Women would like to Thank all those who donated baskets and those who purchased tickets. The funds will benefit the Women's Ministries in the Diocese.



Convention contd.

There were also donated items of a Bishop Curry Bobble Head donated by Bishop Cowell and a St. Nicholas cope and miter made and donated by The Rev. Carolyn Ballinger. All proceeds from the auction and the opening Eucharist offering benefitted 'Walking with Jimmy, an All Saints Episcopal Church Mission Outreach Program (MOP), in partnership with Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Island Adventures, Schooners North and Camp Orkila , provides post-treatment fellowship and activities on Orcas Island and Anacortes Washington for families living in the Midwest who are battling the long term emotional effects of childhood cancer. This experience gives the entire family an opportunity to reconnect with each other and helps bring the family unit back together. For more information you can go to their website at: walkingwithjimmy.org/

Elections for Diocesan Committee positions were held. We would like to congratulate those who were elected or appointed:

Standing Committee: The Rev. Carolyn Ballinger, Linda Boone

Diocesan Council: (3 year term) The Rev. Shay Craig, The Rev. John Seatvet, Mrs. Pam Smith, Mrs. Kathleen Crouch
(2 year term) The Rev. Canon Jerry Jones
(1 year term) The Rev. Randy McIntosh

Commission on Ministry: The Rt Rev. Michael Milliken (appointed) The Rev. Ted Blakley, The Rev. Jeff Mitchell, Mrs. Patti Wamsley, Mrs. DeMay Grunden

Disciplinary Board: (Appointed by the Bishop) The Rev. Don Martin, Mr. John Helmer.

The hosts this year were Christ Cathedral and Incarnation Churches in Salina. We would like to extend our appreciation of their hospitality and hard work.

The 2019 Diocesan Convention will be held in Dodge City on October 18th and 19th.



The Rev. Harvey Hillin models the St. Nicholas Cope and Miter donated and made by Mother Ballinger.



Sixteen people from St. Mark's and their friends from First Presbyterian Church, celebrated Mike's and Kathy's many years of dedicated service with a good old-fashioned barbecue. And despite the August heat everyone had a good time!



It was a beautiful night on November 26, for St. Cornelius to spread JOY at the Parade of Lights in Dodge City!

MARK COWELL CONSECRATED AS SIXTH BISHOP

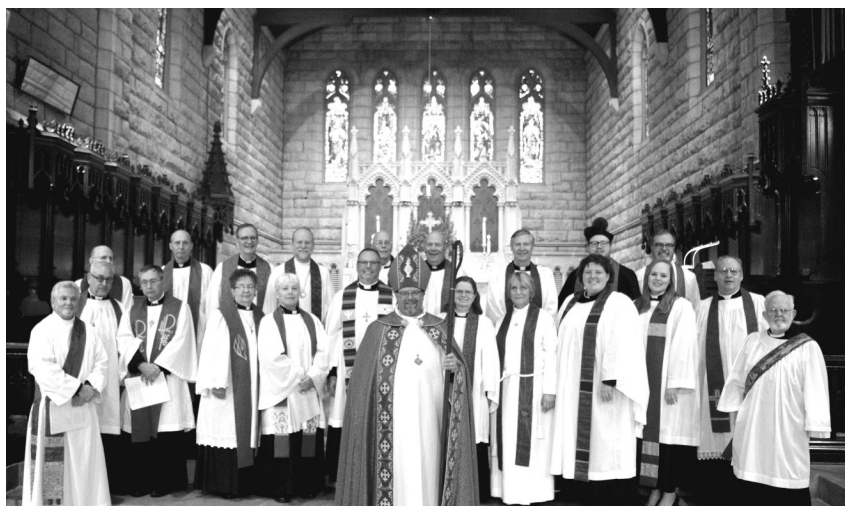
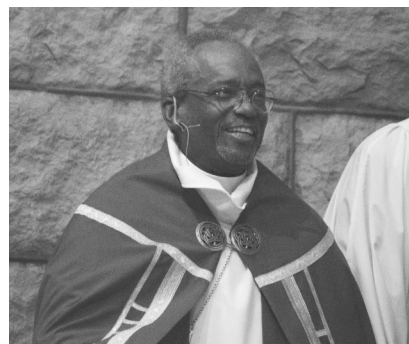
Episcopalians and invited guests from across Kansas and the United States gathered Dec. 1, at Christ Cathedral in Salina to welcome and celebrate the ordination and consecration of the Diocese of Western Kansas' sixth bishop. The Rt. Rev. Mark A. Cowell succeeds the Rt. Rev. Michael Milliken, who served the diocese for nearly eight years. The Service and celebration made for glorious day!

Elected on May 5, Bishop Cowell will lead our largely rural diocese. Like many clergy within the diocese as well as his Bishop Milliken, Cowell will be a bi-vocational 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.



The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church, led the ceremony as chief consecrator. Assisting the presiding bishop as co-consecrators were Milliken, fifth bishop of Western Kansas; the Rt. Rev. James Adams, fourth bishop of Western Kansas, and the Rt. Rev. Martin Fields, bishop of Western Missouri. The Very Rev. David Hodges, Dean of Christ Cathedral, served as master of ceremonies.

A reception to meet and greet Cowell and Curry was held at the Salina Country Club following the ceremony.



You can see all the photos on our
[**FLICKR**](#) page

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry Preaches At St. Anne's

Every pew was filled at St. Anne's Episcopal Church in McPherson as Bishop Milliken and the Most Reverend Michael Curry, who is the Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church of the United States and who recently delivered the sermon at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, served as the guest preacher on The First Sunday in Advent on December 2.

Bishop Curry spoke to the congregation about the beginning of the Advent season and how it marks three comings — that of Jesus' birth, his coming into the heart of a person and also his future return. "(Jesus) gave his life willingly to show us this is what love does," Curry said.



Dear Friends,

*Thank
you*

I want to thank you for the wonderful retirement party you gave Mike, he was truly thrilled. I personally want to thank you for the beautiful necklace. I have already had someone ask where I got and was able to say it came from the wonderful people of Western Kansas.

Thank you for making Jamie, our son, feel like he was part of our great diocesan family.

Blessings to all of you, and thank you, once again, for all the love you have shown Mike and I.

God bless,
Kathy



A Thanksgiving meal at St. Mark's, It was great fellowship and fantastic food and of course wine. Thanks to all the ladies!



Bishop Milliken and Kathy were at Grace Church on November 25, for his last official visit as our Diocesan Bishop. their lives. Also pictured is Fr. Ted Blakley, Rector and Rev. Bill Waln-Assisting Priest.



St. Mark's , in Lyons ECW had a Christmas Open House at the home of Jill & Mac Stromberg of Sterling.

The Ladies mad many goodies to sell. BBQ Sauce, Pies , pumpkin rolls, cookies and more. They also had a raffle. The money raised went to the St. Mark's ECW ministries.



Bishop Cowell is pictured with Jill Stromberg and some tasty treats.



The Rev. Teresa Lahar was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons by Bishop Cowell on Saturday December first at St. John's in Great Bend. Bishop Milliken preached . Rev. Teresa will serve St. John's.

Diocesan Calendar

December 24: Christmas Eve
December 25: Christmas Day-Bishop At Sts. Mary & Martha
December 26 - 31: Office Closed
January 6 - Bishop Visitation to St. Thomas, Garden City
January 20 - 24: Bishop to College for Bishops—Richmond, VA
March 3: All Saints, Pratt



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