

PRAIRIE SPIRIT



Fall 2019

FROM THE BISHOP



Sisters and Brothers,

As I was celebrating the Eucharist at Holy Nativity in Kinsley, Kansas, last week, I happened to get a closer look at the beautiful old candle sticks on the altar. I noticed that they have engraving on the bases. Curious, I took a closer look and discovered that they used to be in St. Alban's Church in Cimarron, Kansas.

I had never heard of St. Alban's Church in Cimarron. I have served a number of churches in this diocese, and I have visited most. I have seen the throw rug that many churches display that has the image of the map of our diocese. Although that map identifies many churches, including some that are now gone, St. Alban's is not on that map.

A couple of months ago, I was working with the Project Resource committee and we stumbled onto a map of the churches in the diocese from 1901. While there were several familiar names on that map, there were several of which I had not heard. These, like St. Alban's are gone. However, what struck me the most was that there are many currently operating churches, churches alive today, churches which were not on the map in 1901.

Change is inevitable. Demographics are shifting. Most of the smaller towns in Western Kansas are shrinking, and some of larger towns are growing. There are changes in the population, too. 100 years ago, many European immigrants moved to Western Kansas and decided to work here, live here, raise their families here. Today, there are different families coming, fresh faces also looking for places to work, to live, to raise a family.

We both open and close church buildings according to the needs of the people. We do not worship the buildings themselves. Instead, the buildings serve us as we try to bring the Good News of God in Christ to the people.

It is always sad to see churches close, especially for those who worshipped there and shared in that particular community. But we must remember that the baptisms, the weddings, the Eucharist's celebrated happened outside of time, and those sacraments and the grace which was shared endure.

We are transitioning in this diocese, but we are not failing, nor are we fading. God remains constant, and the need for the people in Western Kansas to hear the Good News of God in Christ also remains constant. Things may look different, but we will prevail. God has already provided us with everything we need to be successful.

Peace.

+Bishop Mark

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Diocese of Western Kansas





FROM THE ASSISTING BISHOP

Holy Orders in Western Kansas

The Rt. Rev. Michael P. Milliken
Chair, Commission on Ministry

At the first Convention of the Missionary District of Salina, held in 1903, Bishop Sheldon Griswold spoke of three major problems facing this new rural Missionary District of the Episcopal Church. These challenges were too few people, too little money, and too few clergy. 116 years later we are still challenged with too few people, too little money, and too few clergy.

Finding more people is called evangelism. Finding more money is called stewardship. Finding more clergy involves helping men and women respond to the inner calling of the Holy Spirit to the Ordained Ministry.

In Western Kansas we have many small congregations that need the ministry of Priests and Deacons. We need men and women who are willing to accept the challenged of ministry in rural and frontier Kansas. We need men and women willing to serve the Risen Christ, and his Church in return for very little or no compensation. While this may sound like a ridiculous dream, never-the-less there are men and women who are coming forward to accept this challenge.

To provide theological training for these modern-day saints, the Diocese of Western Kansas joined with the Dioceses of Kansas, Nebraska, and West Missouri to create the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry. This education program is for two or three years and grounds our students in the basics of theological, biblical, liturgical and historical needed or non-stipendiary ministry in our small and struggling congregations.

For several years we have had tremendous success with BKSM. We have may great clergy who are graduates of BKSM serving in many congregations. However, we have discovered one shortcoming to our program. Distance!

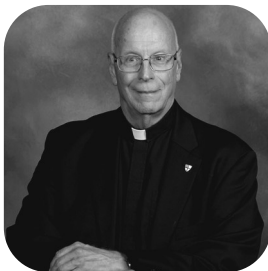
For our people in the far reaches of the diocese it can be up to a 7-hour drive to Topeka. And to do this once-a-month can be a real deterrent to many who might be interested in the ordination process. To try and alleviated this obstacle, the diocese is working with BKSM to create a "BKSM West" in Garden City. Driving to Garden City from Goodland, or Ulysses takes a lot less time than driving to Topeka.

Courses at "BKSM West" would be a simultaneous live broadcast from Topeka via the internet. From time-to-time BKSM Instructors would actually be present in Garden City. Each month during the BKSM West weekend we would have a priest or bishop in residence to lead praxis sessions.

The first BKSM West weekend will be in mid-September with the Introduction to Holy Scripture Class. Our hope and dream is that BKSM West will help us provide talented and dedicated men and women for the ministries of Deacons and Priests in Western Kansas.

If you feel you might be called to the ordained ministry and would like to explore whether or not BKSM or BKSM West might be a fit for you please contact me, or Bishop Cowell.

St. Anne's Calls Rev. Basil Price



St. Anne's in McPherson has called the Rev. Basil Price to serve as there Rector. Father Basil graduated from Bishop Kemper School of Ministry in May of 2015 and was ordained by the Rt. Rev. Michael Milliken at Christ Cathedral on November 5, 2016.

Father Basil will began his ministry on September 1. He will be employed on a part-time basis and continue teaching as well. Prayers and congratulations for St. Anne's as they begin a new chapter of ministry.

Church: A Safe Place?

We often hear a lot of complaining and whining and foot-dragging when we tell folks that they must have a criminal background check and participate in a training program to help prevent sex abuse and harassment in the church.

Our canons (church law) requires all ordained persons as well as all paid employees of the church to undergo this training as a condition of their employment and/or ordination, with periodic updates.

Beyond that, the church requires all volunteer youth workers, Sunday school teachers, nursery attendants, vestry persons, and few others to also undergo checks and education, albeit at a slightly lower level than clergy and employees.

We are currently reviewing our files to find those who need to renew the course study.

None of us wants to think that abuse or harassment could ever happen in our congregation, but that is a fond dream. Without training and vigilance abuse and harassment can happen in any church, or camp, or youth group. We are not saying that our checks and education will always prevent abuse 100%, but studies show that it greatly reduces the incidence of these actions.

We all would agree that our churches should be places of safety for children, adults, and seniors.

We, as Christians, are called to guard the weak and protect the innocent. To do any less is, we believe, unacceptable.



For the “why” of these requirements and programs you need go no further than recent news stories about the Catholic Church. Over the course of many years thousands of children were abused by many clergy. Clergy are not the only ones who abuse! Our background checks and training programs are just one way we can, to the best of our ability, try to prevent this from happening in Western Kansas.

For more information on background checks, training programs, and who should participate in these programs, you can check the diocesan website (<https://www.diowks.org/safeguarding>), or call Toni at the diocesan office.



On April 21, Bishop Milliken was at St. Anne's in McPherson to confirm Ronnie Hites. Also pictured is Fr. Bob Lane and Senior Warden, John Helmer.



On April 21, Deacon Jeff Mitchell baptized Jaylea Perez at St. Andrew's in Liberal.



On July 1, Bishop Cowell was at St. Paul's in Goodland to confirm Ryan and Estina Taraska. Also pictured is Fr. Don Martin.

Racial Reconciliation Training



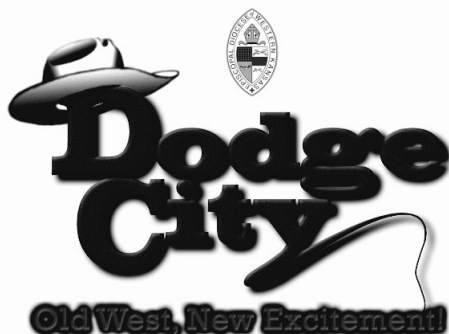
Racial Reconciliation Training will be on Saturday, November 16, at Christ Cathedral from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. The purpose of this workshop is organizing to eliminate the sin of racism. This training fulfills the intent of several General Convention resolutions which call for leaders at all levels of The Episcopal Church to receive training on the Church's teaching about racial diversity as well as other forms of diversity present within the human family.

The workshop is limited to 25 people. You will need to register at:

<https://www.diowks.org/racial-reconciliation-registration>

They will need a count for lunch and materials. For more information you can contact Rev. Charles Kerschen at: kerschen212@gmail.com or 620-899-9183.

2019 Convention



The Forty Ninth Diocesan Convention

October 18-19, 2019

The 49th Annual Diocesan Convention is upon us! This will be Bishop Cowell's first Diocesan Convention as Bishop! The folks at St. Cornelius have been busy planning for the convention and have some fun things planned!

The Diocese is bringing **Invite Welcome Connect**, created by Mary Parmer and developed first in the Diocese of Texas, is now a ministry of the Beecken Center of the School of Theology, University of the South, Sewanee.



Invite • Welcome • Connect*



Mary Parmer will be facilitating our workshop on Friday afternoon and speaking at our banquet on Friday evening. **Invite Welcome Connect** is a ministry of relational evangelism and congregational empowerment allowing churches to become places of genuine connection for inviting the faith journeys and stories of everyone, enabling deeper journeys of Christian discipleship and enabling the Spirit of Christ to be at the heart of each church's hospitable mission of spreading the Good News.

Convention Deadlines

Nominations - September 6 (still taking nominations).

Proposed Canonical Amendments or Resolutions - September 16

Necrology - September 16

Convention Reports - September 25

Registration - October 11

Yee Haw! This year, the Episcopal Diocese of Western Kansas will be kicking up their boots in old fashioned Dodge City—where there's plenty of Old West, New Excitement . . . *everything from Boot Hill Museum, the Long Branch Lagoon water park, Boot Hill Casino, all of Dodge City's historical spots, shopping and much more!*

Join us Thursday evening, October 17, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. for a **Pre-Convention Event**. We'll gather at Central Station Bar & Grill (east of the Santa Fe Depot) for food, fellowship and fun in their west room (on your own ticket). Enjoy this historic setting, complete with its own indoor freight and dining cars!

Scoot your boots with your friends and relax before the serious business begins. Have fun—dress in your favorite Western wear or just come as comfortable and casual as you wish. Well, be merciful. Swimwear is at your own risk . . .

2019 Convention

You can find all the Convention resources and registration on our website at :

<https://www.diowks.org/convention>



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When you post something to social media (Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram) be sure to use the hashtag: **#diowks19**



Instagram



EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN Basket Raffle Fundraiser



'BUILD A BASKET'

Donations can be delivered during Diocesan Convention Registration.

You can purchase tickets at \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. Raffle drawing will be during the Diocesan Convention Banquet on Friday, October 18, 2019. Tickets will be available for purchase starting Friday Morning.

Basket Ideas: Spa, K-State, K.U. Fort Hays, Wichita State, Themed Dinner, Kids Basket, Gift Certificates, Coffee Baskets, or Wine Baskets.

Questions? Contact Toni Cottrell at tec.wks.2011@gmail.com

2019 Youth Convention

Youth Convention was held at Camp WAJATO, in Lyons, on August 24-25. Keeping Sabbath was the Youth Convention theme for 2019. Based on the Scripture: Isaiah 58:9b-14 and Luke 13:10-17. The youth talked not so much about sabbath as rest but rather about sabbath in terms of being in relationship with God and what that means for our relationships with others (service, love, compassion, etc.)

They had discussion, music, worship and games. Thanks to our youth coordinators for putting it all together, Mother Amy & Brandon Long, to our youth sponsors, Bishop Mark & Julie Cowell, Nathan and Kendra Barker and to Bob Prewitt and Heather Harper for providing music.

They also elected two youth delegates to Diocesan Convention in October. Congratulations to Harris Siller and Randall Thornton! They will represent the youth at our Diocesan Convention in October.



Around The Diocese

SIX MILLION STEPS FOR KIDS

6 Million Steps for Kids was first conceptualized by The Rev. Peter Munson, who is the former rector of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church, Boulder, Colorado, and now he is walking across the United States for 6 Million Steps for Kids. He is walking 3,600 miles from Charleston, South Carolina, to San Francisco. Peter estimated it will take approximately 6 million steps. His walk took him through the Diocese of Western Kansas. Thanks to all those who hosted him along the way. Munson was hosted by the generous folks of our Diocese were in McPherson (Helmer), Lyons (Stromberg), Great Bend (Lahar), Larned (McGurk) Dodge City (Seavet), Garden City (Helen Vasquez), and Lakin (Stockton). Other folks provided meals for Peter as well.

- ◆ When leaving McPherson, The Rev. Bob Davidson joined him for some of the way. Bob is the son of the first Bishop of the Diocese of Western Kansas, William Davidson.
- ◆ In Dodge City while preaching one Sunday, he met a cousin of his for the first time.
- ◆ The Carlos Family, from Dodge City, came across Peter while vacationing in Colorado. They shared a meal with him.

You can read more about Peter Munson Journey at : <https://www.6millionstepsforkids.org/>



In McPherson (L) Bob Davidson and Peter. (R) Peter joined the folks from St. Anne's for services.



In Lyons (L) Peter attended services with the congregation of St. Mark's. (R) Mac and Jill Stromberg hosted Peter for a couple of days.



In Great Bend (L) Peter joined the folks from St. John's for dinner. (R) Mother Teresa and Ray Lahar are pictured with Peter.



In Larned (L) Sue and Mike McGurk from Saints Mary and Martha were hosts to Peter. (R) Bishop Mark and Peter pose for a picture at Saints Mary & Martha.



In Dodge City (L) Father John and Jeanette hosted Peter. Peter's (R) visits with a cousin he had never met after services at St. Cornelius.



In Lakin Mother Rita Hosted Peter and he attended services at the Upper Room.



A NEW PIPE ORGAN FOR ST. CORNELIUS

"The Church knew what the psalmist knew: music praises God...it is the Church's greatest ornament." -Igor Stravinsky



St. Cornelius' Episcopal Church, Dodge City's oldest active church, has received its new pipe organ. The organ committee, headed by Kerry J. Kuplic, Associate Professor of Music at Dodge City Community College, commis-

sioned the Casavant Frères Organ Company of Quebec to construct and install a custom-built pipe organ. The instrument was designed to complement the unique architectural and musical requirements of the church, and is composed of two manuals, seven ranks, 24 stops, and 399 pipes.

Casavant's organs can be heard in thousands of churches, cathedrals, universities, and concert halls throughout the world, including the Kauffman Center in Kansas City and the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC.

Kuplic said 'I look forward to this amazing instrument playing an important role in reenergizing the musical offerings at St. Cornelius and throughout the region. With proper maintenance, this organ will last for hundreds of years.'

The organ dedication recital will be held on October 5th and will feature the acclaimed performing and recording artist Dr. Jan Kraybill. The recital will showcase the symphonic capabilities of the organ and will include works by Bach, Holst, and Dupré. There will be a reception to follow in the Parish House. The vestry, clergy, and parishioners of St. Cornelius' Episcopal Church look forward to sharing this world-class instrument with the Diocese and community. In addition to Dr. Kraybill's recital, plans are underway for regular recitals and performances.



Diocesan Calendar

September 16-21: House of Bishops in Minneapolis

September 30– Oct 4: Administrator EBAC Conference

October 6: Bishop Visitation to Trinity Church, Norton

November 1 –2 : BSKMS Board Meeting

November 3: Incarnation Closing Service

November 11: Veterans Day



November 12-14: Bishop to CPG Conference

November 28: Thanksgiving



December 1: Bishop visitation at Hays, St. Michael's



On Sunday evening, August 25th twelve people from six towns around Kansas, including Mother Mary Hixson, Bishop and Kathy Milliken and Mark Strasser of Garden City attended the second annual August BBQ at St Mark's



"Autumn...the year's last, loveliest smile."

- WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT

On August 2, Bishop Milliken and Cathy celebrated 50 years of wedded bliss. Blessings for many more years!



Around The Diocese



BABY SHOWER FOR MOTHER AMY LONG

The Grace Church, Hutchinson, ECW threw Mother Amy Long a baby shower on August 4. There were games, a photo booth plenty of food, gifts and fun! Mother Amy and Brandon are expecting a girl in October.



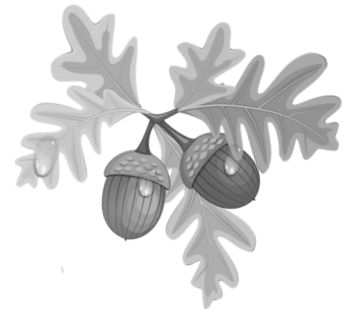
Church Pension Group Angie Harris, VP Relationship Management & Development (RT) and Jackie Quarnberg, Account Representative, IBAMS (L), spent a morning with the Diocese of Western Kansas. They introduced themselves to Bishop Cowell, visited with Bishop Milliken and Toni Cottrell as well.



September 8 at Christ Cathedral, the Dean, The Very Rev'd David Hodges blessed and dedicated new Holy Water Stoops at both the north and south transcript doors in memory of Ruth Cox.



On July 7, At St. Luke's, Scott City, Bishop Cowell received Kathryn Haxton. Also pictured is Fr. Don Martin



On Pentecost, June 9 at Grace Church in Hutchinson, Bishop Cowell confirmed Brad Smith, Steven Snook, Andrea Springer and Brooklyn Walker. Also pictured is Fr. Ted Blakley, Rector and Deacon George Martin who gave the sermon.



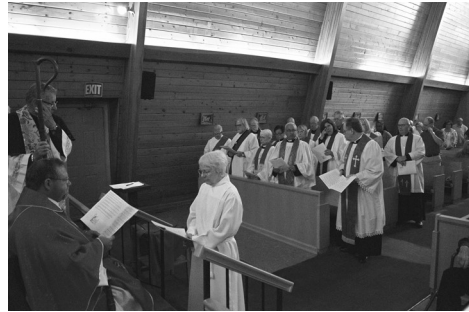
In August, Bishop Cowell and Julie, took a group of youth from Larned, Pratt and Garden City, to New Jersey as a preparation trip for travel. They plan on a pilgrimage trip in 2021. They also took time to venture into New York City.



Teresa Lahar Ordained

The Rev. Teresa Lahar was ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests by the Rt. Rev. Mark Cowell on June 15. The service was held at St. John's, Great Bend.

Mother Teresa's brother, The Rev. Daniel Tondeau, who is the Rector at St. Hughes Episcopal Church in Idyllwild, CA., was the preacher. Lahar's father, who is a Deacon, was in attendance as well. We wish Mother Teresa and St. John's many blessings as they begin a new chapter in their ministry.





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