



THE CROSSROADS

From the Desk of the Rector

This month's rector's column is indeed from the rector of St. Andrew's but not from me. June Hubert shared with me this sermon delivered by Fr. Ned Creswell at Christmas 1970 during his tenure here as rector. It sums up very well some thoughts that I would like to share with you. I think that it holds up as well today as it did 37 years ago and I am printing it here with Fr. Creswell's blessing.

Pax, Kelley+

Christmas Sermon 1970
by The Rev. C. Edward Creswell,
26th Rector of St. Andrew's.

On this festival when we come together to celebrate the reality of God, his concreteness, his flesh and bones in the person of Jesus, I would like to tell you a small story entitled "The Velveteen Rabbit" by Margery Williams Bianco.

"What is real" asked the rabbit one day, when they were lying side by side near the nursery wall before the maid came in to tidy the room. "Does it mean having things that buzz inside you and stick out handles?"

"Real isn't how you are made" said the skin covered rocking horse. "It's a thing that happens to you when a child loves you for a long time, not just to play with, but really loves you, then you become real."

"Does it hurt?" asked the rabbit.

"Sometimes," said the skin horse for he was always truthful. "When you are real you don't mind being hurt."

"Does it happen all at once, like being wound up?" he asked, "or bit by bit?"

"It doesn't happen all at once" said the skin horse. "You become. It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't often happen to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or have to be carefully kept. Generally, by the time you are real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints and very shabby. But these things don't matter at all, because once you are real, you can't be ugly except to people who don't understand."

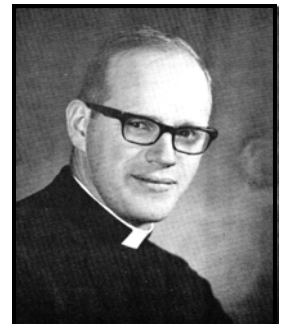
There is a difference between "real" and "not real" or false that even a toy rabbit can see. And of course we can to. There is that great gap so often fixed between what we would like to think that we are and what we really are, there is the paradox of forsaking the reality in each of us that is a gift of God and an attempt to create and sustain an image of ourselves that is far from his will for us. Shakespeare, through King Lear, advises us: "And this above all, to thine own self be true, for if this be so, then it must follow as night follows day, you cannot be false two any other man." How do we become true to ourselves, how does God become incarnate in us as he was and is in Jesus?

There is, in each of us, from the beginning of our self awareness, a God given desire to be ourselves. To be the unique person that we were meant to be. Each of us is unique, one individual person in a sea of persons. But we are subjected to massive pressure to make ourselves less than unique, to conform, to adjust to compromise. Of course, some adjustment is necessary for the order of society and for wellbeing within it.

December 2007

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Fr. Ned Creswell
26th Rector of St. Andrew's
1969-1971



Fr. Kelley J. Lackey II
29th Rector of St. Andrew's
2005-Present

Helpers will collect donations for Christmas families

Keep an eye out for the elves

A sure sign of Advent is the arrival of the elves, who visit St. Andrew's each December to collect money for our Christmas families.

Parishioners will be able to see the elves in the parish hall during coffee hours on Dec. 2 and Dec. 9. Folks who are worshipping at 8 a.m. Sundays or 6 p.m. Wednesdays shouldn't worry about missing the elves – it's okay to leave a donation with Fr. Kelley for the Christmas fund.

St. Andrew's has adopted, through the Salvation Army, two families and two single women. As designated by their file numbers, their information is:

* Woman No. 136 wears size 22 clothing. She has asked for curtain rods, throw rugs and a skillet.

* Woman No. 140 has asked for skillets, washcloths, tea towels, a queen-size cotton bedspread and an electric coffee pot with timer.

* Family No. 165 includes an 8-year-old girl, who would like CDs, DVDs, books and "horses." She wears clothing in small adult sizes.

A second girl, also 8 years old, is hoping for a Barbie doll, games, art supplies and size 8 jeans.

A 2-year-old boy, who wears size 2T clothing, is wishing for cars, trains and trucks.

* Family No. 139 has four children, including a 13-year-old girl, who wants a CD player, blouses in junior sizes 14 and 16 and women's size 9 tennis shoes.

A 10-year-old girl also hopes for a CD player, jeans in junior size 12-13, size 8 tennis shoes and socks.

A 9-year-old girl told the Salvation Army that she'd like to receive dolls, a Doodle Board and underwear.

And a 1-year-old girl in the family would be pleased with toddler toys and could also use infant-toddler size 4 tennis shoes.

The parents of the children listed have not asked for anything for themselves, but small gifts of toiletries or kitchen items will certainly not go amiss.

Our shoppers will use the donations to fill this list as well as they can, but parishioners are also free to purchase any of the items directly. We'll also be collecting food to distribute to the families and will, as possible, purchase perishables to stock their larders for Christmas.

If you have wrapping supplies to donate or would like to be a shopper, please let June Hubert know. She'll be scheduling the shopping trip. Children are also welcome to join the shopping expedition.

Every Member Canvass continues

The Every Member Canvass continues until Dec. 9, when pledge cards will be blessed at the 11 a.m. Eucharist. Parishioners are asked to consider prayerfully their contribution, especially in moving toward a tithe.

Interested in baptism, confirmation?

Fr. Kelley continues to meet individually with anyone who is interested in being baptized or confirmed when the bishop visits in January. He asks that anyone with an interest in or questions about the process talk with him soon.

Office hours noted

The office will close at the end of the day on Dec. 21 and will reopen at 9 a.m. on Dec. 27. The celebration of Holy Eucharist is not affected.

Looking ahead

- Dec. 2** **First Sunday In Advent.** The Great Litany will open the Advent season at St. Andrew's as part of the 11 a.m. Eucharist.
- Dec. 5** **St. Nicholas Day.** Although Nicholas' official day is Dec. 6, St. Andrew's will celebrate on the eve, at the 6 p.m. Wednesday Eucharist. Parish Life plans a visit from St. Nicholas, who is expected to leave traditional "gold coins" in the shoes of parishioners—especially children—who are present for the event.
- Dec. 8** **Altar Guild cleaning day.** Altar Guild members will be working from 9 to 11 a.m. to prepare the church building for the Christmas celebration. They invite anyone and everyone to come and help with the effort.
- Dec. 9** **Second Sunday In Advent.** Pledge cards from Every Member Canvass will be blessed during the 11 a.m. Eucharist
- Dec. 10** **Peace Vigil.** A march and vigil will bring Emporians of various faiths together to pray for peace. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church (202 E. 12th) and process to William Lindsay White Auditorium, where the vigil will begin at 7 p.m. Participants who are unable to march may meet at the auditorium, where the Rev. Allen Epp will preach and prayers will be offered for peace. As Christians, Fr. Kelley reminds us, we are to pray for peace. Those participating are asked to take a candle.
- Dec. 13** **Monthly meeting of the vestry.** 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.
- Dec. 23** **Hanging of the Greens.** Parishioners are urged to stay after the 11 a.m. Eucharist to decorate for Christmas.
- Dec. 24** **Christmas Eve.** St. Andrew's will have two services: a family Eucharist at 5 p.m. and the Christ Mass at 11:30 p.m. Music will begin at 11 p.m. There will be incense at the second service, but not at the first.
- Dec. 25** **Christmas Day.** St. Andrew's will celebrate the Eucharist at 10 o'clock on Christmas morning. That service will feature the vintage Mason & Hamlin organ that may have accompanied some of the first hymns sung at St. Andrew's.
- Dec. 26** **Office closed.** The regular Wednesday evening Eucharist will be celebrated, but there will be no meal following.
- Dec. 30** **Vestry nominations due.**
- Jan. 6** **Epiphany.** Incense will be used at the 11 a.m. Eucharist, which marks the revelation of Jesus to the Gentiles, with the arrival of the Magi at Bethlehem. The traditional Epiphany cake will be part of the coffee hour.
- Jan. 13** **Bishop's visitation.** Bishop Dean Wolfe will celebrate the 11 a.m. Eucharist, which will include the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. A brunch will follow in the parish hall.
- Jan. 15** **Reports due.** Reports from parish committee leaders due for parish meeting.
- Jan. 27** **Parish meeting.** The meeting will convene in the parish hall after the 11 a.m. Eucharist to elect new vestry members and approve the budget for 2008. A soup luncheon will be served.



*In our daily prayers
we celebrate*

Births

- Dec. 1 Marged Amend
 Dec. 2 Keith Foster
 Millard Harrell
 Dec. 5 Harry Bird
 Dec. 6 Dave Hendricks
 Dec. 9 Patrick Kelley
 Dec. 10 Ranney Vogt
 Dec. 26 Sarah Harbaugh
 Dec. 29 Mallory Defoor
 Nancy Romine

Baptisms

- Dec. 5 Mary Barnes
 Dec. 7 Kelsey Hendricks
 Dec. 12 Abigail Jacob
 Dec. 18 Stuart Johnson
 Dec. 19 Anita Gilpin
 Dec. 23 Rivers Schwenn
 Dec. 24 Florence Colaw
 Steven Schwenn
 Dec. 27 Emily Ayers

Confirmations

- Dec. 6 Leigh Ann Crofoot
 Dec. 7 Kelsey Hendricks
 Dec. 11 Karen Henderson
 Dec. 12 Mary Barnes
 Dec. 14 Dave Hendricks
 Dec. 17 Barbara DeBauge
 Dec. 22 Trish Weidert

Marriages

- Dec. 27 Douglas & Marged Amend
 Larry & Barbara DeBauge
 Mike & Trish Weidert

We remember

- Dec. 6 George Herbert
 Dec. 9 Robert MacDonald
 Dec. 11 Harry Frick

Milestones

- Dec. 12 Rebecca Faye Reynolds
 Dec. 13 Grace Miller Chance
 Dec. 15 Forrest Kessler
 Dec. 17 Daniel Hugh Koger
 Sally Shideler Torrey
 Dec. 18 Eve Faulkenbury
 Dec. 20 John K. Payne Sr.
 Ruth Mollring Payne
 Dec. 23 Mary V. Price
 Shelly Kay Prost
 Dec. 24 Jane Austin
 Floyd Metzger
 Dec. 25 Winston Cram
 Girdner Crofoot
 Richard Douthit
 Dec. 28 D.D. Dehler
 Dec. 30 Christi McCullough

Important date missing?

If a date that's important to you hasn't been included in this calendar, please notify the church office or send an e-mail to oread1978@yahoo.com.

Our King and Savior
 now draws near: O
 come, let us adore
 him.—*Antiphon for
 Advent. Morning Prayer,
 BCP p. 80.*



*Nolan Eugene Jacob was baptized on
 November 4. With him are his
 parents, Nick and Ann, sister Abigail,
 godparents Randy and Lindy Wiens,
 and Fr. Kelley.*

December Server Schedule

	Dec. 2	Dec. 9	Dec. 16	Dec. 23	Dec. 24 5:00 pm Family	Dec. 24 11:30 pm* (incense)	Dec. 25 10:00 am	Dec. 30	Jan. 6 Epiph- any (with incense)
Chalice bearer	G. Mason	A. Keller	J. Harder	J. Harder	A. Keller	P. Kelley	P. Kelley	G. Mason	J. Harder
Priest server	S. McKinney	J. Davis	R. Mitchell	S. McKinney	J. Davis	G. Mason	-none-	R. Mitchell	J. Davis
Crucifer	J. Crofoot	B. Dyer	J. Crofoot	C. Harder	B. Dyer	C. O'Mara	-none-	C. O'Mara	J. Crofoot
Torch 1	W. Dyer	W. Dyer	H. Harder	P. Davis	W. Dyer	A. Mitchell	-none-	W. Dyer	P. Davis
Torch 2	B. Dyer	C. O'Mara	A. Mitchell	H. Harder	J. Crofoot	P. Kelley	-none-	A. Mitchell	H. Harder
Thurifer	-none-	-none-	-none-	-none-	-none-	R. Mitchell	-none-	-none-	C. Harder
Reader	L. Bonney	A. Rust	B. Clmurro	B. Barnes	R. Call	L. Bonney	-none-	R. Call	G. Garcia
Prayers People	M. Mingenback	R. Call	M. Mingenback	M. Harrell	M. Amend	M. Mingenback	-none-	M. Amend	B. Clamurro
Nursery 1	J. Schwenn	L. Dyer	R. Call	A. Jacob	-none-	-none-	-none-	A. Jacob	C. Lackey
Nursery 2	J. Schwenn	J. Hubert	H. Call	N. Jacob	-none-	-none-	-none-	N. Jacob	M. Halleran
Greeter 1	D. Mai	J. Williams	C. Harder	N. Romine	J. Williams	D. Mai	-none-	B. Dyer	N. Romine
Greeter 2	SJ Mai	J. Runge	B. Dyer	J. Runge	-none-	S. Mai	-none-	J. Williams	J. Hubert
Lay Euch Visitor	S. McKinney	L. Bonney	J. Hubert	G. Mason	-none-	-none-	-none-	L. Bonney	G. Mason
Lay Euch Visitor	B. Barnes	J. Ayres	P. Kelley	B. Barnes	-none-	-none-	-none-	J. Hubert	B. Barnes

Please remember that if you are not able to serve you are responsible for finding your own substitute.

***Music begins at 11:00 p.m.**

Rector's Column, *cont.*

But, I wonder, as we celebrate the birth of the most unique one of us of all, whether we do not at times adjust too much? There are powerful pressures on each of us all the time, pressure that must be met with inner strength or we collapse like an egg shell in the jaws of a fox. Where do we find the strength to be ourselves, to be real?

You see, while the desire to be ourselves is a “given” something that we each possess by the grace of God, it is not accomplished painlessly or easily. Being real is a struggle in which we engage, it is not conferred by things that buzz inside or handles that stick out.

It seems that realization, the process of becoming real, happens to us as much as from within us, perhaps more so. What we really are is called out from us by others that we may see ourselves. It is similar to a surgeon who can show you a bullet or a cancer or a splinter that is taken from you so that you can understand why you felt as you did. What we *really* are cannot be brought out by apathy or by ridicule or by anything less powerful than love itself. If this is true, it is natural that God chose to demonstrate his love by becoming one of us so that we can see what he is really like. For that is the Gospel, the Good News, that God so loved the world that he gave his only son. God loves us. Not just “to play with” and when we begin to realize this, we begin to become real, because we are freed from the false images of man and God that distort and pervert reality. On another, closer level, we are made real by the love of people and they are made real, or forced into façade by our love for them, or lack of it. The ability to confirm or to withhold reality from others is a terrible, and often brutally used power.

Becoming real. “Does it hurt?” the rabbit asked. “Sometimes,” said the horse, for he always told the truth. And he added, “But when you are real, you don’t mind being hurt.” Perhaps he is right, perhaps you don’t mind, but you do not enjoy it. It is a fact that being as real, as genuine a person as you can is painful at times, as it is for those around you. But among those who struggle to cast off the falseness, there is a bond of strength and love which, while it may not take away the hurts, will make them bearable. And much of that strength comes from God who risked human reality.

To become real involves risk. It involves opening yourself to others just as Jerusalem opened its gates to Jesus so long ago on his way to the cross. The shadow of pain was there, even then, the possibility of deep hurt, just as it was there at his birth. The skin horse truly said that becoming real does not very often happen to people who break easily or have sharp edges or who have to be carefully kept. Brittle people rarely really know themselves. To open yourself to others in love, as God in Christ opened himself to us is a great risk. The only conclusion to be drawn from this is that God expects us to lead risky lives. The real people are the ones who look beyond the cross to the resurrection and celebrate the

joy of the reality that God has given them without discounting the pain that was the price tag. And from there, accepting our basic reality as people loved by God, we are free to love God’s people, risk and all.

It was said that once Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of England had his portrait painted. Oliver, in a word was ugly. He had very large ears, his nose larger and his face was speckled with warts. The painter, hoping to win a little favor, prettied his Lordship up, cropped his ears, gave him a nose job and eliminated the warts. When Cromwell saw the painting he asked, “Who is that?” The artist said that it was Cromwell to which the lord protector thundered “Young man, when you paint me, you paint me warts and all.”

Cromwell knew his reality and would not accept a distortion of it in order to put on a better face before men. If we are free, we are free to love the Cromwell’s of the world, those who acknowledge their warts and those who do not. By loving them for Christ’s sake, we enable them to become what they could be and they enable us to be what we are called to be. We are called to be God’s people as Christ is his son, to risk ourselves as he risked himself, to give and not count the cost, to bleed and never feel the wounds, to fall and never fail to rise. That is the Gospel to which we are called and by which we are sustained. Given that job description, it is no wonder that in the words of the skin horse, that generally, by the time you are real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose at the joints and very shabby. But these things don’t matter at all; because once you are real you can’t be ugly except to people who don’t understand.

We celebrate the birth of God made real, of God made man, a man who was real, a man who did not need a phony image of himself because he knew that God loved him. The celebration of the birth of Christ is the celebration of the coming of reality, of personal honesty to each of us. If we are not freed from our pride and pretensions by the birth of Christ, if we are not made less phony and more real ... we are just people who don’t understand.



Nancy Pontius brought her dog, Elza Poppin, to the Blessing of the Animals on Oct. 3. There were nearly 20 animals—and their uprights—at the annual celebration of St. Francis. Andrea Faris assisted Fr. Kelley.

From the Senior Warden

Special congratulations to the recognition Father Kelley received at the recent diocesan convention. It speaks highly of his work to grow our parish and his work with students at ESU.

The parish's annual meeting will be held on Sunday, Jan. 27.

The Outreach Committee is working with the Salvation Army to identify families to adopt for Christmas.

St. Andrew's has made a contribution from outreach funds to the Lyon County Restricted Emergency Fund to help needy families in the community meet basic needs such as paying utility bills. Our goal is to grow our outreach contributions to help people in Emporia and around the world.

If you have not turned in your pledge card for 2008, please do so. We need this information to finalize our 2008 budget.

	YTD	Variance
Pledges	\$ 86,654	(\$ 12)
Total Receipts	101,373	5,773
Total Expenses	128,648	(3,748)

Bill Barnes

From the Treasurer

For the first 10 months of 2007, expenses have averaged \$12,865 a month. Receipts collected for the first 10 months of 2007 have averaged \$8,665 a month. That leaves a shortfall of \$4,200 a month.

St. Andrew's has approximately 83 pledging and giving units. If each giving unit gave \$51 more each month, St. Andrew's would be able to balance the budget. That amounts to \$12.65 a week, or a little over \$1.63 a day.

Mary Mlengenback

Vestry nominees sought for annual meeting

The annual meeting agenda includes, in addition to approval of the budget, the election of three vestry members. Nominations, which must be submitted in advance, must be in to Fr. Kelley by Dec. 30. Brief statements from each nominee will be solicited for inclusion.

Each candidate for vestry will be asked to agree to a covenant, including regular participation in parish worship and activities, attending a vestry retreat in the first quarter of the year, having a strong personal commitment to Jesus Christ and being open to guidance by the Holy Spirit, and tithing or making a strong commitment to working toward a tithe. Attendance is required at vestry meetings, at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

Right: Auctioneer John Dougherty gets ready to start the Uptown Hoedown benefit auction, St. Andrew's fund-raising event, on Oct. 27. Far right: Jacque and Dick James check out an item up for auction. More than 40 items were donated by parishioners, businesses and supporters and the auction raised nearly \$5000 for the programs and mission of St. Andrew's.



**St Andrew's Episcopal Church
828 Commercial
Emporia, Kansas 66801
(620) 342-1537**

**The Rt. Rev. Dean E. Wolfe
Bishop of Kansas**

**The Rev. Kelley J. Lackey II
Rector of St. Andrew's**

December 20 is the deadline for information to be included in the January Crossroads. Please drop off any information at the church office or e-mail it to oread1978@yahoo.com by noon that day.

**Visit the parish website at
www.StAndrewsEmporia.org**

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