



THE CROSSROADS

From the Desk of the Rector

Another Look around the Stable

“Joseph went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.” (Luke 2:5-7)

Oftentimes, I am taken aback when one of my kids asks me about the old days, namely, the 1970's and 80's. It is usually when they stop me and ask me to clarify a term I have used. Awhile back, I used the term 8-track tape and much to my chagrin, Ian was completely perplexed by what such a strange thing could be, what it could look like. Eventually, we came to the understanding that it played music like a CD but it had a long band of material that the music was recorded on. He tried to reconstruct such a thing in his mind based on the world he knows. Time and context had marched on past my son and it wasn't until he could examine such a relic first hand that he could get a basic concept of what it was or how it worked.

This week the baby Jesus that will soon inhabit the sod house-like structure in our front yard came to stay in my office. Propped up on my couch is a little pink cherub of a baby, who looks to be of northern European origin, with

something that looks like a loin cloth around the waist of his otherwise bare body. He lies in a wood box overflowing with hay. I suspect that this is the image of the Christ-child that most of us are most familiar with. However, if we were able to move back through time and the context of the past several hundred years and find ourselves standing outside of that manger in Bethlehem, we may be surprised at how unfamiliar we are with the whole scene.

As we look around we would notice a scarcity of trees and therefore not many structures that are made of wood. As a carpenter, Joseph may have worked with wood some of the time, but more than likely he worked mostly with stone because of its abundance as a building material. We would find that time and resources would not be used up to build a special structure for animals. The animals would live on the lower level of a dwelling that was inhabited by a large family unit. The family would live above the animals and this arrangement would provide additional heat for the humans and security for the animals. The other common way to keep livestock was in a nearby cave that could be easily secured. This would likely be the choice of a village innkeeper.

continued on p. 2

December 2009

Inside this issue

Looking Ahead	3
Parish Milestones	4
Servers' Schedule	5
Senior Warden's Report	6
Christmas Flower & Music Fund Card	7



Fr. Kelley J. Lackey II,
Rector of St. Andrew's

From the Rector, cont.

Feed boxes, or mangers, would be chipped out of stone and found back in the caves where the livestock was kept. There would be no big piles of straw. Such a thing is not found in abundance in first-century Palestine.

Furthermore, as we entered the cave where Mary has given birth to her son, we would watch her take a square cloth and wrap the child tightly in such a way that only his head stuck out. Next, she would take long bands of cloth and wrap the first cloth tightly. This would hold the baby in such a way that he would be warm and secure. He would not be able to kick and move his arms about as they would be tightly bound next to his body. After we observe this girl wrapping this child up into a little package and place him in an empty stone feed box, it may occur to us that he looks more like a little mummy in a stone sarcophagus. And this is exactly what Luke wants us to see in his story of Jesus' birth. Luke knows something about good narrative structure and he wants his hearers to be able to begin to set their minds and hearts for the climax of his story. He wants us to have in our minds the image of this little baby wrapped in cloth, lying in a stone box in a borrowed cave that he has been brought to by a man named Joseph. For Luke, Jesus' birth is secondary. Luke wants us to be prepared for a more important scene later on.

“Joseph (of Arimathea) went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid.” (Luke 23:53-54)

It is certainly fine for us to maintain our traditions and all of the other things that go with Christmas. However, as followers of the little baby who is crucified and buried for us, we need to move past our own context of sentimentality and nostalgia long enough to see that Christmas doesn't point us to a warm and gushy place but ultimately to Good Friday and Easter.

**Pax,
Kelley+**

It's not too late!

Anyone who has put off turning in a card for the parish directory still has a bit of time to get that information to Karen in the office.

But don't put it off any longer. She'll be starting to put the directory together during the first week of December (assuming that she survives a move and St. Andrew's Day), so the slightly extended deadline isn't as flexible as the procrastinators among us might like it to be.

Watch for elves *Little ones will be seeking Christmas donations*

On the Sundays until Christmas, look for children wearing red caps and bearing baskets. They'll be collecting money to buy gifts for the families and individuals St. Andrew's adopts for Christmas.

This year, the vestry has approved setting aside 25 percent of the elf collection to be donated to Episcopal Relief and Development. Our donation can buy a chicken – or a flock of chickens, perhaps cover part of the cost of a cow or help provide clean drinking water for a village in one of the countries ERD works in around the world.

A portion of the Christmas offering will also go to ERD and the rest, as is tradition, will be given to the Lyon County Restricted Emergency Fund, to help our closer neighbors keep the lights and heat on during the winter months.

Fill up our shopping basket *Need continues in Emporia*

As we shop for groceries, for everyday meals or special occasions, let's remember to add an item or two for the shopping cart in the hallway outside the parish hall.

The Salvation Army's food pantry has a constant need for non-perishable items such as soups, canned meats, boxed dinners, cereals and other staples that we often take for granted.

Even a small contribution can go a long way toward helping a family facing unemployment or under-employment and stretching a meager budget to put food on the table.

Looking ahead

- Tuesday, Dec. 1** College youth will serve cookies and hot cider during Emporia's downtown **Christmas Parade**. Parishioners are welcome to help out or to gather outside the building to watch and cheer loudly as the parish float, depicting a visit to grandma's house, goes up the street.
- Thursday, Dec. 10** St. Andrew's **vestry** will meet at 7 p.m. in the conference room. The meeting is open to all parishioners.
- Saturday, Dec. 12** A **parish work day** will begin at 10 a.m. There'll be inside and outside work, so weather is not a factor. Please bring your tools and cleaning supplies if you have them and come ready to help get our building ready for Christmas and for winter.
- Sunday, Dec. 20** The **Hanging of the Greens**, decorating the building for Christmas, will begin after the 11 a.m. Eucharist.
- Thursday, Dec. 24** A **family-friendly Christmas Eve Eucharist** will begin at 5 p.m. The 8 p.m. Christ Mass will include incense.
- Friday, Dec. 25** The low-key **Christmas Day Mass** will begin at 9:30 a.m. As is our tradition, music on St. Andrew's vintage pump organ will provide an old-fashioned touch to the celebration.
- Saturday, Dec. 26** Parishioners **Anna Guiltner and John Brownlee will be married** at St. Andrew's at 5 p.m. This is a "solemn and public covenant" (*Book of Common Prayer*, p. 422), to which all members of the parish are invited.
- Friday, Dec. 31** Anyone who is interested in **servicing on the vestry** must make Fr. Kelley aware of this desire by the end of the calendar year. Also Dec. 31 is the **deadline for fulfilling pledges** or making other donations if they are to be tax-deductible for 2009.
- Wednesday, Jan. 6** St. Andrew's will celebrate the **Feast of the Epiphany** with a 6 p.m. Eucharist. A covered dish supper will follow.
- Sunday, Jan. 24** The **annual parish meeting** is scheduled to convene. Committee chairs and others who are charged with including reports to the parish should make sure that Karen has the pertinent information by Jan 15.
- Tuesday, Jan. 26** The **women of St. Andrew's** will resume their fourth-Tuesday luncheons. More information will be included in January's Crossroads.

St. Andrew's thanks ...

Don and Dobby Bailey for preparing their world-famous (well, locally famous and just waiting to be discovered by the Food Channel) spaghetti for November's Feed the Flock gathering. Thanks also to **Nancy Romine, Gary Mason** and others who lent a hand with food preparation and cleanup.

Cori Anderson, whose inspiration and organizational skills have made Feed the Flock an instant tradition at St. Andrew's.

Jacque Heckman James, for leading this year's pledge drive, and to all who have remembered to make their pledge.

June Hubert, Bill Barnes, Gloria Stewart, Nancy Romine, Jacque Heckman James, Doug Amend (stepping in for **Marged** at the last minute) and **Lynn Bonney** for reading the necrology on All Saints' Day.

Eddie Gilpin, for all he does as junior warden, staying out of the spotlight, but keeping so many things running smoothly.



Redeemer of the nations, come; reveal yourself I virgin birth, the birth which ages all adore, a wondrous birth befitting God.

All praise, O Unbegotten God, all praise to you, eternal Word, all praise, life-giving Spirit, praise, all glory to our God Triune.

—First and last verses of Veni Redemptor gentium, a hymn attributed to Ambrose of Milan (340-397), whose day is celebrated Dec. 7.

Milestones

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. 11	Jason Brinkman
Dec. 20	Deborah Cotterman
Dec. 29	Nancy Romine

Baptisms

Dec. 7	Kelsey Hendricks
Dec. 12	Abigail Jacob
Dec. 18	Stuart Johnson
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. 26	John & Anna Brownlee
Dec. 27	Douglas & Marged Amend Larry & Barbara DeBauge Mike & Trish Weidert
Dec. 30	John Dougherty & Deborah Cotterman

We remember

Dec. 9	Robert MacDonald
Dec. 10	Harry Frick
Dec. 12	Rebecca Faye Reynolds
Dec. 13	Grace Miller Chance
Dec. 15	Forrest Kessler

We remember, cont.

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 Judith Lynn Kimbell Floyd Metzger
Dec. 25	Winston Cram Girdner Crofoot Richard Douthit
Dec. 28	D.D. Dehler
Dec. 30	Christi McCullough

If a date that's important to you hasn't been included in this calendar, please notify the church office at office@standrewsemporia.org or (342-1537).

Banns of Marriage

I publish the Banns of Marriage between Anna Beth Guiltner of Emporia and John Clinton Brownlee of Emporia. If any of you know just cause why they may not be joined together in Holy Matrimony, you are bidden to declare it. This is the second time of asking.

(signed)

Fr. Kelley J. Lackey II

December Server Schedule

	Dec. 6	Dec. 13	Dec. 20	Dec. 24 Family 5 p.m.	Dec. 24 8 p.m. (with incense)	Dec. 27	Jan. 3	Jan. 6 The Epiphany 6 p.m. (with incense)
Chalice bearer	S. McKinney	J. Runge	G. Garcia	R. Mitchell	P. Kelley	G. Garcia	P. Kelley	G. Garcia
Priest server	P. Kelley	P. Kelley	R. Mitchell	S. McKinney	R. Mitchell	S. McKinney	R. Mitchell	S. McKinney
Crucifer	G. Mason	J. Runge	G. Garcia	R. Mitchell	P. Kelley	G. Mason	P. Kelley	G. Garcia
Torch 1	Chad Anderson	Christopher Anderson	E. Williams	E. Williams	J. Crofoot	J. Crofoot	Christopher Anderson	Chad Anderson
Torch 2	J. Crofoot	P. Davis	P. Davis	A. Mitchell	A. Mitchell	E. Williams	A. Mitchell	P. Davis
Thurifer	----	----	----	----	R. Mitchell	----	----	R. Mitchell
Lector	M. Amend	J. Runge	B. Barnes	S. McKinney	L. Bonney	G. Garcia	M. Mingenback	M. Harrell
Inter-cessor	B. Clamurro	L. Bonney	M. Mingenback	M. Harrell	M. Mingenback	M. Harrell	L. Bonney	B. Barnes
Nursery 1	J. Hubert	N. Jacob	J. Williams	----	----	N. Jacob	J. Williams	N. Jacob
Nursery 2	S. Brinkman	A. Jacob	L. Lingenfelter	----	----	A. Jacob	L. Lingenfelter	A. Jacob
Greeter 1	D. Mai	E. First	D. Mai	J. Hubert	J. Hubert	J. Hubert	D. Mai	B. Clamurro
Greeter 2	S. Mai	N. Romine	S. Mai	C. Lackey	L. Bonney	E. First	S. Mai	G. Mason
LEV 1	P. Kelley	P. Kelley	G. Mason	----	----	G. Mason	P. Kelley	----
LEV 2	J. Hubert	L. Bonney	S. McKinney	----	----	S. McKinney	L. Bonney	----
Altar Guild	Mitchell/ Mitchell	Gilpin/ Weidert/ Basler	Garcia/ Barnes/ Bailey	Garcia/ Barnes/ Bailey	Garcia/ Barnes/ Bailey	Pontius/ Mai	Mitchell/ Mitchell	Mitchell/ Mitchell

From the Senior Warden

ABC Thanksgiving at St. Andrew's

Lord, hear our prayers of thanksgiving for the:

A Altar Guild, Archbishop. **B** beautiful building and grounds, Bible, babies, baptism and bells.

And we are grateful for **C** Communion, coffee hour, the choir, collection plates, candles, college youth, cross, chapel, conflicts (which help us grow), Children's Chapel and the congregation.

In addition, we thank you for **D** deacons who have served us, the dioceses, and donations; **E** (beautiful) Episcopal Church services, Evening Prayer, early church and the Eucharist;

And no less, the **F** flowers on the altar, fellowship meals, families and Feed the Flock.

How could we exist without **G** girls and boys who serve on the altar, grounds care, giving, and greeters; **H** hymnals, **I** interest shown in organizations, **J** just being present and our janitor, Richard Sandstrom.

Where would we be without **K** Kansas Bishop Wolfe, kneeling benches and cushions and the kitchen or **L** the liturgy and the Lackey family.

What would we do if there were no **M** men who serve the Church, missions and Morning Prayer, or **N** the nave and the nursery.

We offer special thanks for **O** organs (old and new), our organist (Sue), **P** Presiding Bishop Katherine, pews, Prayer Books, prayers, pledges, pianos and people who serve on committees.

Our many blessings include **Q** Questions (Stump the Rector), quilts, donated & auctioned, **R** our rector, Father Lackey, and robes, readers and red doors.

Don't let me forget **S** the sanctuary, stoves, sacraments, Sunday school and our secretary, Karen, or **T** tables and chairs.

What a bleak life we would have without **U** a united congregation, ushers, **V** the Vestry, visitors and Vigils

and **W** Wednesday night services and the women of the parish. *God, our* **Y** youth and **X** X-tra help are indispensable.

And while it might seem trivial to others, we thank you lastly for **Z** zeta (a small room or closet in a church), zymite (a priest using leavened bread during Communion) and, finally, the zone at the entrance where the priest and greeters meet to shake hands and give out bulletins.

We thank you, God for these and any other gifts we may have omitted, for having grown so dependent as to not have realized they weren't a part of life itself. AMEN

—Lovingly and creatively compiled by Sue Wilson



Collin Moody baptized

Collin Moody, son of Luke and Lisa Moody, was baptized on All Saints' Day, Nov. 1. His parents were confirmed by Bishop Wolfe when he visited in September.

Collin, shown above in a photograph taken by Sarah Stewart, received a special quilt handcrafted for him by Susan Brinkman and Nancy Romine.

Feeding the Flock



Don Bailey dishes out some of his famous spaghetti during the Feed the Flock meal after the liturgy on Nov. 8. Cori Anderson has started a new—and appetizing—tradition at St. Andrew's.

Setting up the manger



The camels and Magi arrive at their home on the front lawn at St. Andrew's. The city of Emporia bought the

manger set in the 1940's; all the figures were replaced in the 1970's, except the camels, which are part of the original set. The manger scene, lovingly restored and painted by 15 people at Messiah Lutheran Church, will be set up here because St. Andrew's is on the busiest street downtown.

Sponsoring flowers, music and candles for Christmas

Please complete this form if you would like to contribute toward flowers, music, candles and other enhancements to our Christmas worship. The funds contributed will determine the extent of flowers and music we can provide. The form should be in the office by December 17 to assure inclusion in the Christmas bulletins, but your donations are welcome at any time before Christmas. You may drop the form in the collection plate. You may also call in your contribution (342-1537) and drop a check by the office at your convenience before Christmas. Thank you.

Please print clearly.

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

In memory of

In thanksgiving for

In honor of

Amount enclosed _____

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 by noon to
office@standrewsemporia.org.

Visit the parish website at
www.StAndrewsEmporia.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday, 9-noon
other hours by appointment

You may contact the secretary at (620) 342-1537 or
office@standrewsemporia.org. You may also leave a
message through our website at StAndrewsEmporia.org.



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