

CROSSROADS



Fr. Chris writes ...

My dear people,

Grace and peace to you in Christ Jesus! We've had a wonderful Summer in the Spirit so far. Members of our parish have had the chance to discover their spirituality types and some of their spiritual gifts. We've sung, learned about, and voted on the Top Twenty Hymns (the results of our votes can be found in this issue). We've given our feedback in the Congregational Life Survey. The results of that one will be reviewed by the Vestry, and we'll give you a full report in a few weeks.

But the centerpiece, the heart, of Summer in the Spirit is yet to come: Holy Conversations. We gather for three sessions to share and hear our stories, our good memories, our hurts, our disappointments, and our hopes for this parish. This is a very important series of events. They will shape and mold our future together for years to come! Please see the full article on Holy Conversations later in this issue. Mark those days on your calendar and try to attend all three.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Faithfully,
Chris+

August 2014

The heart of *Summer in the Spirit* takes place this month. Read about it on page 2.

There's a new prayer group starting up. What kind of prayer? See page 3.

What is the future of our Saturday lunches? You can still offer your thoughts. See page 6.

SUMMER



Summer Gospel readings from St. Matthew: Parable of the Sower (Matt 13:1-9, 18-23), Jesus feeds the five thousand (Matt 14:13-21), Jesus walks on water (Matt 14:22-33).



Summer in the Spirit

Igniting the Heart of St. Andrew's

Inspiring the Hearts of Our People

Holy Conversations

By telling our shared stories, we can begin to envision our shared future. Holy Conversations is a trio of meetings for the whole parish family to remember our past, discern our deepest values, and recognize our needs & wishes in the years to come. We encourage all members of the parish to attend as many sessions as possible. Snacks will be served. Meetings are on Tuesday evenings in August starting at 6:30pm.

- "The things I value" August 12. Sharing our fondest memories at St. Andrew's (or other churches) to discover what matters most to us.
- "When I have been hurt, disappointed, or angry" August 19. Sharing the time we've been wounded in the church or by the church. Concludes with a liturgy of healing and reconciliation.
- "When my safe place changes: wishes, hopes, and dreams" August 26. We hope to grow and strengthen our community, and that means change. What changes do we want to see? What are we willing to do to help those things come to life?

For the second session, we will be joined by Father Andrew O'Connor from Good Shepherd, Wichita. He will preside over the reconciliation liturgy.

Please make every effort to attend these sessions. They will help to guide and shape the future direction of our parish community.

Book Study Vote

This fall we'll have a parish-wide book study. The question is, which book will we read? At the end of August, we'll have a chance to cast our ballots to find that out. We'll have a short list of 4 or 5 books on wide-ranging topics of Anglican Christianity. We'll vote for one, and then start reading a few weeks later. Look for the opportunity to vote coming in a few weeks!

Top Hymns Results

Over seven weeks, we sang through the Top 20 Desert Island Hymns (<http://anglicansonline.org/special/hymns/>). As we did, we learned a little about each hymn and cast our own votes.

The top hymns were "Be Thou my vision" (#488 in The Hymnal 1982), "All creatures of our God and king" (#400), and "For all the saints who from their labors rest" (#287).

Our least favorite hymns were "I sing a song of the saints of God" (#293), "Dear Lord and Father of mankind" (#653), and "O thou who camest from above" (#704)

Generally speaking, there was a strong link between familiarity and popularity. We liked the hymns that we'd heard before, and didn't like the hymns we hadn't heard before. Our least favorite, "O thou who camest from above," had only been heard before by 9% of reporters. The exception to this was that we didn't care for "I sing a song of the saints of God," even although 100% of reporters had heard it!

Centering prayer group forming

Explore a new aspect of your spiritual life by trying Centering Prayer.

What is Centering Prayer? “Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. This method of prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship.” *(From the website noted below.)*

Beginning this month, a Centering Prayer group will begin meeting on the ESU campus. Although the group will meet at ESU, it will be open to all. The time and location will be announced later this month. As part of St. Andrew's campus ministry, this Centering Prayer group hopes to form a bridge between our Eucharistic community and the students, faculty, and staff of ESU. Learn more about Centering Prayer at <http://www.contemplativeoutreach.org/>.

Volunteers make VBS Safari a success

Vacation Bible School 2014 welcomed children and parents to a week of fun and learning: a jungle safari on the West Campus of Emporia Presbyterian Church. Each session included lessons, games and a shared meal, through the combined efforts of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Emporia Presbyterian Church, First Baptist Church and St. Andrew's.

An interdenominational service involved children's music and “wonderful handmade instruments,” says Sue Wilson, who served as parish liaison to the organizing committee. The participants presented Sue's dramatization of “Daniel and the Lion's Den.”

Young participants received small packets containing a nail, a cross, gauze and four “jewels.” The children were asked if they would trade a jewel for the stone that covered the grave of Jesus or for any of the other items. “There were some who didn't want to trade,” Sue says. “It was interesting.” Each packet also contained a slip of paper printed with John 3:16-17.

Sue praised St. Andrew's parishioners Pat Adams and David Mai, who planned and organized our parish's share of the event. David contributed great, life-size animals to the decorating committee, and Lance Moore and Celeste Williams served as teaching assistants. Sue McKinney, June Hubert and Patrick Kelley gathered materials and printed signs.

Pat organized a cadre of great volunteers who prepared a supper for Vacation Bible School students (and adults). She notes that leftover food was taken to St. Andrew's for use at Saturday lunch and Sunday coffee hour.

- Trish Weidert baked 25 dozen cookies (yes, 25 dozen cookies!).
- Gabe Lackey helped with set-up and clean-up chores.
- Dobby Bailey baked chicken nuggets.
- Gay Barnes baked chicken nuggets and set up, served and cleaned up.
- Anna Brownlee helped with setting up, serving and cleaning up.
- Sue McKinney cooked green beans and set up, served and cleaned up.
- Melissa Lowery made fresh fruit salad and set up, served and cleaned up.
- An anonymous donor provided many bags of chips and various snacks
- And Pat herself shopped for food, got it to dinner “and helped where I could.”

Looking ahead - August

Sunday, August 3 Jezel-Marie Sunday. On the first Sunday of the month, loose change and designated checks in the collection plate are used to help support our “adopted” daughter in the Philippines.

Tuesday, August 5 Our parish hall will be in use all day for the Kansas primary elections.

Sunday, August 10 Our monthly visit to Presbyterian Manor begins at 2 p.m. All parishioners are invited to join our members who are residents of the manor, as well as other residents who share the worship and Eucharist.

Tuesday, August 12 *Summer in the Spirit: Holy Conversations* We'll gather at 6:30 p.m. to discuss “Things I value.” See item on page 2.

Thursday, August 14 St. Andrew's vestry meets at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room. All interested parishioners are welcome to attend.

Sunday, August 17 Outreach Sunday. Loose change and designated checks in the collection plate are used to buy food for our Loaves and Fishes ministry to feed the hungry on Saturdays.

Thursday, August 19 *Summer in the Spirit: Holy Conversations* We'll gather at 6:30 p.m. to discuss “When I have been hurt, disappointed, or angry.” See item on page 2.

Sunday, August 24 Get in the back-to-school spirit! Bring backpacks, book bags, satchels – whatever you as a teacher or student will be toting during the 2014-2015 academic year – for a blessing during the 10:45 a.m. Eucharist. And plan to stick around for coffee hour, which will be the traditional “sack lunch” including sandwiches and cookies.

Tuesday, August 26 The women of St. Andrew's gather for their monthly luncheon, from 11:30 a.m. to 1

p.m. at Amanda's, Seventh Avenue and Commercial Street. Pay your own way; come and go as your schedule permits.

Tuesday, August 26 *Summer in the Spirit: Holy Conversations* We'll gather at 6:30 p.m. to discuss “Things I value.” See item on page 2.

Coming in September

Sunday, September 7 Church school begins during the 10:45 a.m. Eucharist. (More information on page 7.)

We pray for...

Every week we pray for the needs of the church and the world in our Sunday liturgies. We pray as well for specific people who are sick or suffering, or who have died, or who are actively deployed on military service.

To include somebody's name in the weekly prayers, please fill out a Prayer Request slip. The slips can be found on the table at the back of the church, or on the table near the church office. You can place the slip of paper in the offering plate on Sundays. You can also put it under the office door.

We pray for that person for four Sundays. You can always re-list a name of someone whose need lasts longer than a month.

Remember your pledge through the summer!

Expenses of running St. Andrew's do not stop during the summer. Please remember to keep your pledge current.

August Milestones

In our daily prayers we celebrate and remember

We celebrate

Births

Aug. 4	Nancy Pontius
Aug. 6	Kegan Moore
Aug. 7	Ruthann Resch
Aug. 12	Ali Crofoot
Aug. 13	Barry Romine
Aug. 15	Gay Barnes
Aug. 16	Tammy Davis
Aug. 21	Kira Williams
Aug. 24	Brianna Dougherty
Aug. 30	Don Bailey
	Lawrence Eudaley
	Lee Fowler
	Abigail Jacob

Baptisms

Aug. 10	Eddie Gilpin
Aug. 31	Kelley Fowler

Confirmations none this month

Marriages

Aug. 1	Lee & Kelley Fowler
Aug. 5	Barry & Nancy Romine
Aug. 7	Millard & Onnalee Harrell
Aug. 11	Larry & Donna Eudaley
Aug. 12	Bill & Ann North
Aug. 18	David & Susan Mai
Aug. 26	Don & Dobby Bailey

We remember

Aug. 3	Lorelei Ann Hicks
	Jenette Tomlinson
Aug. 5	Bettie Cuff
	William John Gunkel
	Eleanor Craig Jones
	George E. Noce
	Donald David Resch Sr.
	Larry Valentine
Aug. 7	Bobby Jo Dehler
Aug. 11	Winfield S. Hancock
Aug. 12	Constance Allen
	Ann Louise Jones James
	Phil Martin
Aug. 16	Gladys Peart
	George Newman Sprague
Aug. 17	Kathrine K. White
Aug. 18	Karl Bruder
Aug. 20	Herbert Ritterhoff
Aug. 21	Cordelia Gladfelter
Aug. 22	Rex Jones
Aug. 25	Laura McWilliams
Aug. 26	Frederick Higbee
Aug. 27	Harry McClure
Aug. 28	Gertrude Unger
Aug. 31	Gertrude Henning

Recurring events

Sundays Holy Eucharist, Rite II said, at 8:30 a.m. and Rite II sung at 10:45 a.m. Faith Formation for adults at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesdays Worship begins at 6 p.m. During the summer, those attending move after worship to a local eatery for supper and fellowship.

Saturdays Loaves and Fishes ministry serves a no-cost lunch to the community from noon to 1 p.m. in the parish hall. St. Andrew's parishioners are urged to join in for good food and conversation and to practice our ministry of hospitality to the larger community.

Mondays through Thursdays Matins (Morning Prayer) said at 8:30 a.m.

From the Senior Warden

Thanks to everyone who returned the mutual ministry review documents. Your comments on the strengths and needs for improvement were helpful for evaluating the past year and looking toward the future. The Vestry committee – Jean Runge, Bill Barnes, and David Mai – summarized the comments and met with Father Chris to discuss the issues. Father Chris also shared his notes regarding Vestry leadership. At the next Vestry meeting, a few specific goals will be prioritized and strategies to reach those goals in the upcoming year will be discussed.

The digital organ installation process is continuing. A representative of the Johannus Organ Co., located in the Netherlands, has been very helpful in describing alterations to the original plan, which will more adequately fit the size of St. Andrew's and improve the aesthetics of the organ to fit with the architecture of our church building. Rick Mitchell is in the process of designing decorative grills to cover the speakers. Dates for completion of the installation are not decided. The representative of Johannus wants us to be satisfied with the organ, and he plans to travel to Emporia to personally complete the final voicing of the organ.

– *David Mai*

What's the future of Loaves and Fishes? Parish survey, meetings will determine ministry's course

Our Loaves and Fishes Ministry has reached a crossroads: Can this ministry continue? Should this ministry continue?

After a meeting during the July 20 coffee hour, the leadership team began collecting responses on the future of this ministry. You can help, first, by responding to the short survey that's on the table and on our website: <http://www.standrewsemporia.org/service>. The website also contains responses from the people Loaves and Fishes serves each Saturday. Andy Leigh-Bullard talked with the patrons and organized their answers to a few questions.

Rachelle Smith has stepped up to head Loaves and Fishes, filling a vacancy left by Don Bailey's resignation. She's been busy working out a plan to divide the labor, so that all the work doesn't fall on the shoulders of two or three hard-working (and overworked) volunteers. This will ensure that the ministry continues until we as a parish can come to a decision about the future of the Saturday lunch program.

Another "coffee hour gathering" in September will give everyone a chance to talk about the results of the survey and to determine if this is a ministry that has run its course or if it has enough support to continue the work of the past 2 ½ years.

Vestry minutes now posted on bulletin board

In case you haven't noticed, the minutes of St. Andrew's vestry meetings are now being posted on the board outside the parish hall. They'll be up early in the week after each meeting; meetings fall on the second Thursday of each month.

Please note that the posted minutes are drafts that haven't been approved by vestry members and are, therefore, subject to being corrected or clarified.

St. Andrew's remembers ...

... **Harry Bird**, a longtime parishioner, who died July 10 at a hospice in St. Paul, Kan. Harry's funeral was at St. Andrew's on July 10; he is buried in Memorial Lawn Cemetery near his first wife, Maxie. His second wife, Eleda, died in December.

St. Andrew's congratulates ...

... Former parishioners **Grant and Melissa Geis** and their brand new son, **Roman**, who was born July 6 in Pueblo, Colo. Roman weighed in at 7 pounds, 4 ounces and was 20 inches tall.

St. Andrew's thanks ...

... **David and Susan Mai**, who shared their back yard – and their culinary expertise – to ensure that St. Andrew's parishioners had a memorable July Fourth celebration.

... **Ruthann Resch, Marcia Law, Kelley Fowler and Nancy Garcia**, who baked cookies for the reception after Harry Bird's funeral Mass.

Back to school – already?

Yes! School year, Christian education ready to go

If it seems to you that summers are getting shorter, you're not alone. Back-to-school time is already here and St. Andrew's is ready.

On Sunday, Aug. 24, we'll have the traditional "Blessing of the Backpacks." Students and teachers are asked to bring their book bags, backpacks, briefcases and so on to the 10:45 a.m. service for recognition and a blessing for a successful academic year.

The tradition will continue after the Eucharist, as we adjourn to coffee hour that will include traditional "brown-bag" fare such as sandwiches, cookies and fruit. Whether you're a student, a teacher or a school staff member, you're welcome. And if your school days are further behind you than you care to admit, you're welcome, too.

Our Christian education program will begin on Sunday, Sept. 7. Children, age 4 and over, will be with their parents in the nave for the opening hymn and prayers and then they'll accompany their teacher, Sue Wilson, to the St. Nicholas Chapel for a lesson and activities.

Sue focuses each week's lesson on one of the readings that are part of the "grown-up" service. Parents can talk with their children about the lessons, because everyone in the family will have studied the same readings. If the readings aren't appropriate for children – which happens occasionally – the lesson time will focus on another topic, perhaps a discussion of one of the stained-glass windows or a statue in the building or information about an Episcopal tradition.

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

The Rev. Chris Arnold
Priest in charge

David Mai - Sr. Warden
Rick Mitchel - Jr. Warden
Bill Barnes
Millard Harrell
Jordan Kline
Nancy Pontius
Jean Runge
Trish Weidert
Members of the Vestry

**ST. ANDREW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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www.standrewsemporia.org
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WORSHIP TIMES

Sundays 8:30 (spoken) and
10:45 a.m. (sung)

Wednesdays 6:00 p.m., followed by fellowship
and a meal during the academic year

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday, 9:00 - noon

FR. CHRIS' DROP-IN HOURS

Monday-Thursday, 9:00 - 1.p.m.
Other times by appointment



**St. Andrew's
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