

# **CROSSROADS**



## **Fr. Chris writes ...**

My dear people,

September has arrived! School is back in session. The days have lost the sharp spike of heat that we endured in July and August. Attendance is once again picking up at our Sunday liturgies. Those of us attuned to the calendar of the church know the big feast days of September: Holy Cross on the 14th, St Matthew on the 21st, and St. Michael and All Angels on the 29th.

Our search process for St. Andrew's next priest has moved on to an important phase. The parish profile has been posted on the Office of Transition Ministry website (<https://www.otmportfolio.org>), which is the official "job search" database for our church. This means that interested priests from around the country can now read about St. Andrew's and let us know that they're interested. We've also posted the profile on the parish website.

I should say two things here. First, I myself have really no part to play in the search process. The protocol of our church encourages clergy to have as little input as possible into the process of calling future priests, so it won't do much good to ask me questions about where we are in the search process! Direct your questions to our wardens, Rick Mitchell and Trish Weidert, or to Jean Runge who is chairing the search committee. Second, the search process is not a secret, but it is fairly confidential. For a variety of reasons, the identities of candidates are not publicized really until a call is made. I hope the search team will keep the parish informed about the progress, but please understand that there are some things that they really can't say.

Finally, Bishop Wolfe will make his visitation to St. Andrew's on the 27th. I hope you will all plan to come and to invite friends and family to join you! We will serve the liturgy only at 10:45 that day. See you there!

Faithfully,  
Chris+

**September 2015  
Issue**

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Mai DeKonza,  
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## Blessing of the Backpacks



Photo by Pat Kelley

## Youth Ministry Events

Check out the bulletin board near the Office to see all the youth ministry events happening around the diocese this year. There are plenty of events, and there are plenty of things for adults to do as well! If you want to explore the world of youth ministry, or you know a kid who might enjoy getting to know other kids in a faith-filled and fun environment, check out the events posted on the board!

## Order of the Daughters of the King

Women of the church, if you're interested in prayer, service, and evangelism (and what Christian isn't?) there's a nation-wide community for you called the Daughters of the King. We've had a chapter here at St. Andrew's for years, but it has gone dormant in recent years. Check out the national website at <http://www.doknational.org/>, and if you're at all interested, contact the President of the DOK in the Diocese of Kansas, Diane Bernheimer, at 785-640-5326 to find out more.

## **Announcements and Reminders**

### **Share potluck lunch with Bishop Wolfe**

Bishop Dean Wolfe will visit St. Andrew's on Sunday, Sept. 27, to celebrate the 10:45 a.m. Eucharist, meet with the vestry and get together with our parish family for a potluck lunch.

The Parish Life team has planned a "Fall Harvest" theme for the occasion and is inviting parishioners to bring a favorite fall dish to share. David Mai, Parish Life chairman, has posted a sign-up sheet on the Parish Hall doors. Please check the list and see what's needed – and check your recipe box for a dish that can help fill out the menu. -Lynn Bonney

### **Coffee Hour tradition continues; your help is needed**

The coffee hour that follows the 10:45 a.m. Eucharist has long been a part of the St. Andrew's Sunday morning tradition, an opportunity to greet newcomers and to visit with fellow parishioners.

It offers an opportunity for casual fellowship as we watch "our children" grow and share their stories, while we go beyond the passing of the peace with a time for fellowship and conversation.

There's always a need for coffee hour hosts and the sign-up notebook is easily accessible on the serving counter. Parish Life volunteers each take a month to be responsible for ensuring that folks have signed up to help. If you'd like to be a host, but you need help or advice, the month's volunteer is ready to assist.

Hosts are important – but guests are important, too. If you haven't been in the habit of sticking around after the Mass, you've been missing an opportunity to get better acquainted with the St. Andrew's family. And the rest of the family is missing out on the chance to know you.

Make the coffee hour tradition a part of your Sunday tradition! - Lynn Bonney

### **October game night**

It's a wild game supper, October 17, Saturday, 5-7. Prepare your palate for dishes like duck gumbo, goose sticks, some venison dishes and fish.

Volunteers are needed to help with prep, set-up, and a bit of cooking. No experience needed. A sign-up sheet for side dishes will be posted closer to the date.

To further the game night theme, please bring a favorite game to play.

## **September Milestones**

### ***In our daily prayers we celebrate and remember***

#### **Births**

Sept. 9      Ann Jacob  
 Sept. 10     Bob Basler  
 Sept. 16     Diana Moore  
 Sept. 21     Hudson LeGrande Kline  
 Sept. 26     Susan Mai  
 Sept. 30     Pat Adams  
               Julia Williams

#### **Baptisms**

Sept. 21     Chuck Moore

#### **Confirmations**

Sept. 17     Nick Jacob  
 Jacque Heckman- James (rec'd)  
               David Mai  
               Susan Mai  
               Julia Williams  
               Kevin Williams  
 Sept. 27     John Brownlee  
               Lisa Moody  
               Lucas Moody

#### **Anniversaries**

Sept. 13     Kelley & Carolyn Lackey

#### **The faithful departed**

Sept. 1      Beatrice McClure  
 Sept. 2      James D. Jones  
 Sept. 4      Vergil Ferrbee  
 Sept. 6      Helen Bailey  
 Sept. 8      Mary Ella Peak  
 Sept. 12     Louise Throgmorton  
 Sept. 16     Suzie Teichgraeber  
 Sept. 17     Bill Heller  
 Sept. 18     Catherine Neill  
 Sept. 20     George Randall  
 Sept. 21     Matthew Perry Day  
 Sept. 23     William Gerard Price  
               Jerry Keller  
 Sept. 24     Bertha Kufahl  
 Sept. 25     Agnes Hancock  
 Sept. 26     Clay Howerton  
               Granville Holmes  
               Wayne Cuff  
 Sept. 29     Edna Stowe

**October Milestones*****In our daily prayers we celebrate and remember*****Births**

Oct. 2	Janet Ayres
	John Brownlee
Oct. 8	Kelley Fowler
	Eddie Gilpin
Oct. 15	Jacque Heckman-James
Oct. 17	Dobby Bailey
	DeLores Johnson
Oct. 21	Nancy Cordill
Oct. 27	Nancy Wilhelmson
Oct. 30	Patrick Davis
	Carolyn Murphy
Oct. 31	Jacob Moore

**Baptisms**

Oct. 7	Nancy Pontius
Oct. 13	Bob Basler
Oct. 17	Ruthann Resch
Oct. 28	Gloria Stewart

**Confirmations**

Oct. 8	Shirley Crist
Oct. 20	Anna Basler
	Bob Basler
Oct. 21	Elaine Edwards

**Anniversaries**

Oct. 1	Eddie & Nancy Gilpin
Oct. 15	Fred & Pat Adams

**The faithful departed**

Oct. 2	William Drescher
Oct. 3	Edith Gray
	Sarah Thomas
Oct. 4	Rebecca Johnson
Oct. 6	Jacob Rothfelder
	Edna Stowe
Oct. 9	Lena Jones
	Gladys Pantler
Oct. 10	Marian Howard
	Bob Johnson
Oct. 12	Isabell Gunkel
Oct. 13	Helen Samuelson
Oct. 15	Benjamin Jones
	Esther Teichgraeber
Oct. 18	Deanna Hawes
Oct. 19	Mabel Olin
Oct. 20	Marge Frick
Oct. 22	Maggie Ackenhansen
	Ruth Hamble
Oct. 25	Norma Jones
	Sylvester Kufahl
Oct. 26	Ruth Hazel Jensen
	Patricia Jenuine
Oct. 27	Catherine Austin
Oct. 28	A.L. Lewis
Oct. 29	Bessie Russell
Oct. 30	Francis Dotson

**YOU ARE INVITED**  
To a  
**Service of Repentance, Healing & Reconciliation**

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
6<sup>th</sup> and Clarke, Clay Center, Kansas  
September 20, 2015 at 3 P.M.

**A service in honor and memory of Mai DeKonza (1870-1959)**  
**Graveside dedication of a new memorial gravestone to follow the service.**  
**Light refreshments afterward at the church.**

*For more information, call the church at 785-632-3200*

## **A Tribute to Miss Mai DeKonza (1870-1959)**

Miss Mai DeKonza is a deceased member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Clay Center, about whom most of us know very little. It turns out though that she is a woman who lived a very interesting life full of accomplishment and energy along with sadness and tragedy.

The only father Mai ever knew was a white Union veteran of the Civil War, George W. Lawton. He was born in England. Her mother, Elizabeth, was a former slave from Missouri who had been spirited into Kansas as contraband by Jim Lane, then a U. S. Senator and Union Army General. Mai was born in Junction City, but the family moved when Mai was young to Solomon, Dickinson County, where she and her half-brother Richard W. Lawton grew up. Mai completed her 8<sup>th</sup> grade education in Solomon. Later both Mai and Richard lived in Clay Center.

When she was around 21 years of age, Mai petitioned the Kansas State legislature to legally change her name from Elizabeth May Lawton to Elizabeth May DeKonza. Mai wanted to have a pen name, and so she coined this very unique last name in tribute to her love of Kansas history.

Mai wrote poetry, composed music, wrote plays, completed a biography as a ghost writer, wrote prose pieces about racial matters, and was a voluminous letter writer. She possessed an old Oliver typewriter; personnel at *The Times* in Clay Center helped her keep the machine in semi-working order. Some of her pieces of writing were published, many were not. Mai played the piano for weddings, sang songs at concerts, and played instrumental solos at community events. She gave lectures in Kansas City and other places in Kansas on politics and racial matters.

*Continued next page*

*A Tribute to Miss DeKonza continued...*

In her younger years, Mai worked as a seamstress, a stenographer, a light housekeeper, and a music teacher. However, she lived in poverty most of her life. She walked with crutches as a young adult, but her disability greatly increased in 1926 when she was run over by an automobile. She subsisted on county welfare. In the last years of her life, Mai was unable to care for her own needs; a series of four different court-appointed guardians watched over her.

Rev. Joseph Sheerin, the priest at St. Paul's, Clay Center, presented Mai DeKonza to the Rt. Rev. Frank Millspaugh, Third Bishop of Kansas, for confirmation in a class of four confirmands in 1900. She became the only black member of St. Paul's.

The centennial history of St. Paul's indicates that "For years she was tolerated but not accepted." The church used a separate chalice for Mai at Holy Communion when she was able to attend church and later when the priest would take communion to her home.

Mai was an Episcopalian to the core. She did not find warmth and acceptance at the local level, but she did find spiritual help and encouragement in the 1930s from the Rt. Rev. James Wise, Fourth Bishop of Kansas. Mai carried on an extensive correspondence with him, most of which survives.

Mai died in a nursing home in Clifton after a brief illness and is buried in an unmarked grave in the Potter's Field at Greenwood Cemetery in Clay Center.

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

The Rev. Chris Arnold  
*Priest in charge*

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

Mary Austin, *Sexton*  
Helen Miller, *Organist*  
Rae Ann Warneke, *Parish Secretary*

## **ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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**[www.standrewsemporia.org](http://www.standrewsemporia.org)**

**620.342.1537**

### **WORSHIP TIMES**

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



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Episcopal Church  
828 Commercial  
Emporia, Kansas 66801**