

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

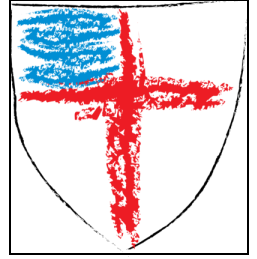
April, 2017

“To Know Christ and Make Christ Known”

Our Vestry Mem- bers:

Thomas Brown
(Senior Warden),
Linda Chmiel
(Junior Warden)
Cinnie Hill
(Clerk), Claudia
McKinsey, Ed
Dillinger, Emily
Benson, Laura
Hannan

St Luke's Newsletter



Spiritual Reflection: (provided by Mother Casey Rohleder)

On Hope

I love when the spring starts making herself known around me. With the unseasonably warm weather during late weeks of winter, spring seemed to make her entrance earlier than normal this year.

The issues of global warming aside, I welcome the explosion of brilliant colors around me – the pinks and whites of flowering trees, the purple crocuses and the bright yellow daffodils. The most ambitious tulips and irises are already making their appearance.

Driving between Topeka and Wamego on Highway 24 this past Sunday, I noticed that the winter wheat has suddenly become a brilliant green and the grass in people's yards is coming back to life, ushered out of their winter slumber.

For me, spring is a time of new beginnings and unlimited potential. It is a time of hope. Do you feel that sort of energy, too?

Before Christmas, I was having a conversation with Carolyn, and she asked me what "hope" meant. Do you know (or do you remember) what it's like to feel stumped by your kids or grandkids? Trying to define words, particularly abstract ones, in simple language is way more challenging than I ever imagined it could be. And I like to think that clear communication is one of my strengths!

To help answer her question, I decided to seek the collective wisdom of my friends. Naturally, I turned to the power of social media and posed the question on Facebook: How would you describe hope to a child?

I received a lot of wonderful responses. One friend suggested that hope is "our ability to visit things in our imagination that are not real YET." Another friend defined hope as "a stubborn insistence on believing the worst thing is never the last thing." Having experienced my fair share of "worst things," I really liked her perspective!

In the Church, we speak of Christian hope. The hope of an incarnate God who comes to us at Christmas. The hope found in the empty tomb on Easter morning. And then, there is our ultimate Christian hope – when God will make all things new and "death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more" (Rev. 21: 4).

My friend, Amy, who is a mom and a priest and an absolutely beautiful soul, recommended a wonderful children's book, *Butterflies Under Our Hats* by Rabbi Sandy Sasso. I bought it right away because any book recommendation from her is worth pursuing. And I cannot turn down a

good book!

Butterflies Under Our Hats is about a small community called Chelm that believed it had lost its luck. Homes were in disrepair, sidewalks were full of cracks, and weeds crowded out once beautiful gardens. "Nothing was ever right," the narrator tells us. But then, the community was visited by a strange and beautiful woman, who said that there was something better than luck. She promised that hope would arrive at daybreak in the form of butterflies. The townspeople were not convinced.

After the butterflies arrived, so the story goes, "the people of Chelm started building houses, repairing sidewalks and planting gardens. Sometimes their roofs still leaked and their sidewalks still cracked, but not always. Their gardens grew weeds but also flowers." They had discovered hope!

Like the people of Chelm, we have all faced times in life where hope seems lost, where optimism and potential are squeezed out by sadness or despair. Life can be difficult. Relationships can be challenging. Bad things happen. The future seems frightening and uncertain. Sometimes, we forget what hope feels like. We can only see the cracks and weeds and leaky roofs.

In the context of this book, Amy offered me this wonderful nugget: "Hope is planting a garden, even though we know the weeds will come."

Springtime is perhaps the best reminder of God's never-ending promise of new life, of all the potential and possibilities around us. Spring reminds me, again and again, what hope feels like.

I invite you to take the time to experience the hope of spring, both individually and as a church community. Get outside, get your hands dirty, and plant your garden. Dream some new dreams and imagine the possibilities that await you. Let the season's colors and textures and new growth remind you that our hope in Christ not only gifts us with new life, but assures us that there is much, much more around us than the weeds.

And be on the lookout for the butterflies.

Senior Warden's Report:

I can't believe it is already time for another News Letter. It only feels like yesterday that I was voted in to be Senior Warden. Now I get to tell you what we as a church have done.

Jay has gotten his feet wet with the Council of Churches. He also took a trip to visit the other stain glass company to see how they did things. For the most part, he is still very busy doing things.

Doug is going back to the engineer to talk over different options for the west wall of the church. He wants to see what else could be done and to ask more questions. Emily and Linda will be going on this quest with him.

Sharing Table is going well and is still feeding on average of 30 people per Thursday. I want to thank all of you that donate the food and your time to make this project a success. I will never be able to tell you all how much of an honor it is for me to do this for you. I pray that God will keep me going for many years to come.

Your Humble Servant in Christ,
Thomas

Junior Warden Report:

We are continuing to review the all the information concerning the structural support for the west wall and the bell tower.

Linda

Lenten Soup and Study:

We are offering a Lenten Study on Wednesday evenings at 6:00, gathering for soup then watching a DVD series,

“Embracing Spiritual Awakening”,

By Diana Butler Bass
(DVD and Discussion!)

Program Schedule:

April 5: Awakening

Vestry:

Senior Warden Thomas Brown recommended that every Vestry person have a copy of the Vestry Handbook and the Diocesan Canons to be transferred to each new Vestry person. Motion: Ed Dillinger moved with Linda Chmiel seconding a motion to purchase 4 Vestry Handbooks from Amazon at \$12.90/book. Motion passed unanimously.

The stained glass window and church foundation projects: After the discussion, it was decided to clarify the next step regarding the foundation and to not think about the window until the foundation issue is resolved. Laura Hannan moved with Claudia McKinsey seconding. Motion passed unanimously.

Supply Priest – Cinnie Hill reported that she has begun finding supply priests for May through September and already has Mother Casey’s scheduled for basically two Sundays every month.

Outside Lights: Motion-Linda Chmiel moved with Laura Hannan seconding a motion to leave the outside lights on at night and monitored by the Junior Warden. Motion passed with 4 yes and 2 abstaining.

Cinnie

Rector Search Committee Updates:

The newly formed Rector Search Committee met on Sunday after church and oriented ourselves to the way forward in this process. We are reviewing the finished survey that is being sent out as a kind of preliminary “job opening” by the Office of Transition Ministry. Coming up, we will be putting together another document called a Parish Profile, which gives more information about the church and the community to potential applicants. As you can imagine, there is a lot for us to discuss! We appreciate your thoughts and prayers as we try to best represent our needs and what we have to offer.

Please don’t hesitate to bring your comments and questions to us!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve,

Emily, Doug, Larry, Kally, and Myrline

Treasurer’s Report:

The following summary reflects the results of the operating fund, income and expense for the month of February 2017, with a budget comparison. (The Year-to-date includes the beginning balance on January 1st)

	Current month	Year-to-date	Budget
Income	\$ 15,109.46	\$ 19,682.63	\$ 71,201.00
Expense	\$ <u>3,778.01</u>	\$ <u>8,351.18</u>	\$ <u>51,144.00</u>
Difference	\$ 11,331.45	\$ 12,363.42	\$ 20,057.00

Community Health Ministry/ First Methodist Church Food Pantries:

Please contribute to the collection box in Guild Hall once or twice a month with a couple cans/boxes of food.

Council of Churches is seeking volunteers with one or more hours a week, to assist in the Food Pantry at UMC. Check with Ed or Jay, if interested.

Guild:

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper went well even though the numbers were down, which led us into a discussion of needing to update our Face book page and website pages, plus start using the Manhattan Mercury for announcing our activities.

We had a going away reception for Linda Cobb on March 12th.

VBS will be July 31 thru August 4th this year. Myrlene will be looking at materials for the program. Continue making donations to our Food Banks.

Next meeting will be April 2th after the service

All are welcome to attend the bridal shower for Laurina Hannan on Saturday, April 1st from 2

Sharing Table:

Sharing Table Breakfast: Thursday, April 6 and 20. Please continue to help with this wonderful ministry to the community.

Palm Sunday:

Father Mark Jeske, chaplain at St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City will celebrate Palm Sunday with us. We will begin the service in the Guild Hall using the narrative gospel with the parish family taking a role in

Community Holy Week "Lunch and Sermon" Series

Monday, April 10 through Friday, April 14

Lunch at noon followed by Worship from 12:30 – 1 p.m.

Monday – Reverend Ron Gordman

Tuesday – Reverend Michael Tompson-DeGreeff

Wednesday – Reverend John Austin

Thursday – Reverend Chris Bedore

Good Friday – Reverend Jol Klein – service at Noon (no lunch served)

Each day at First Presbyterian Church

Corner of 6th & Elm Streets, Wamego

For more information call the church office at 456-2556

(I have attended many of these services through the years and find them to be a Spiritual Community

Holy Week Schedule:

Holy Wednesday will have a potluck at 6 with Stations of the Cross following at 7 in the church.

Maundy Thursday Eucharist with foot washing and stripping of the Altar at 7 pm. Mother Casey Rohleder presiding.

Good Friday service will be at 7pm with Mother Casey Rohleder presiding.

Easter Sunrise Service: There will be an Easter Sunrise Service at 7 am north of Wamego on 99, hosted by the United Methodist Church for all the community. Directions: ***8200 Hwy 99 is the address. It's five miles north of town on Hwy 99 on west side of road (left) with the 3 large crosses. Turn into lane and follow road back to the south west.***

Our Easter Sunday service is at 9:30 am with Mother Casey Rohleder presiding. The service will include flowering of the cross (please contribute flowers). We will be baptizing Martha Miller's great-great granddaughter, Jocelyn. Following the service, the annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held. (please contribute plastic Easter eggs filled with trinkets). Then all are invited to enjoy the Easter breakfast, prepared by St. Luke's guild.

Prayers: (If you have someone needing prayers, please either email or tell Cinnie. Thank you)

We pray for: Anna Lea, David, Doreen, Jerry, Martha and family, Sarah, Alice, Kay, Lynn; Pat, Sherry and children: Allen, Curtis, Dawn, Dick S, Gary, Harley, Jeff, Jillian and family, John, Judy P, KoKo, Mary Anna, Mickey and Lisa, Pat S, Sara, Stacey

We pray for our Military personnel: Luke, Mike, Molly Lynn.

We pray for our ministries: Kansans to Kenya.

BIRTHDAYS IN April:

April 24-Susan Burgess

ANNIVERSARIES:

April 6-Larry & Laura Hannan

APRIL SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 2nd-Father Don Compier will officiate

 Guild Meeting after the service

 Ultreya – 5 pm St John’s in Abilene followed by a potluck

Wednesday April 8 – 6 pm Potluck and Lenten Study on Awakening

Thursday, April 6th – 6:30 till done: Sharing Table Breakfast

Saturday April 15, 9:00 am, Brass Polishing

HOLY WEEK SERVICES and Gatherings

Sunday, April 9th - Palm Sunday - Father Mark Jeske will officiate

Vestry meets following the service

Monday-Friday Noon-1:00, First Presbyterian Church,

Community Holy Week “Lunch and Sermon “Series

Wednesday, April 12th – 6pm - Potluck followed at 7 pm with Stations or the Cross

Thursday, April 13th - 7 pm – Maundy Thursday Service with Mother Casey

Friday, April 14th – 7 pm – Good Friday service with Mother Casey

Sunday, April 16th – EASTER SUNDAY Mother Casey Rohleder will officiate

After the service we will have Easter Breakfast and the Easter Egg Hunt for the children.

Wednesday April 18 – 6 pm Potluck and Children’s Ministry returns

Thursday, April 19: – 6:30 till done: Sharing Table Breakfast

Sunday, April 23 - Father Don Compier will officiate

Sunday, April 30: Father Don Compier will officiate.

Upcoming Events - Book Discussion by Monica Hannan

Monday May 15th 8:00 am - Monica Hannan will discuss her new book: “The Gift of Death” in Guild Hall. Invite community members to attend.

St. Luke’s Weekly Schedule:

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Rite II Holy Eucharist

Mondays: 7:00 a.m. Spiritual Development Book Group – McDonalds

Tuesdays: 9 am – 10am; Sign Language

 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Bible Study

Wednesdays: 6 - 7:30 p.m. WE - Potluck Supper and Children’s Ministry

Thursdays: 7:30 p.m. Cursillo Reunion Group

Sunday School teachers for April:

Pat will teach the younger students and Claudia will be teaching the older students.

Myrline

To receive the Diocesan News twice a month, send an email with the subject "Dialog" to the Diocese Publications. mwoerman@episcopal-ks.org

Editor Comments:

- There is a list on the refrigerator of duties to complete for anyone using the kitchen including coffee hosts. Please remember to empty the hot water pot after the coffee hour and be sure all heat units are turned off. Use filtered water in a coffee pots from filtered water pitchers then refill the pitcher reservoirs. Thank you for completing all those tasks before leaving the building. Finally be sure the lights are off, the doors are locked and the furnaces are adjusted. If you have questions, ask.
- Our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, will be in Kansas City at the "Power and Light Stage" on Saturday, May 6 and in Springfield, Missouri at Hammons Field on May 7. His intent is to awaken the Spirit in the Diocese of West Missouri and adjoining diocese as we gather together as Episcopalians and people of faith. This will be a tremendous event to attend! Plan on attending as well as praying!!
- Larry Hannan's sister, Monica has written the following book *Gift of Death – A Message of Comfort and Hope* talks in plain terms about the experience of dying, but also offers proof that our lives don't end here. Blending storytelling with Catholic/Christian doctrine, the book not only gets the discussion started for families uncomfortable with the topic of death, but also pulls the reader through to its uplifting and comforting conclusion. It shows the reader that eternal life is what God wants for each of us and that getting there should not be a frightening process. Price: \$14.99 Order online from Amazon or Contact: mhannan@kfyrtv.com/701-220-8253 or order from Amazon

April, 2017, Service Duty List

	April 2	April 9	April 16	April 23	April 30
Altar Guild	Laura Hannan, Myrline Winkler	Cinnie Hill, Linda Chmiel	Joyce Elcock, Emily Benson	Laura Hannan, Myrline Winkler	Cinnie Hill, Linda Chmiel
Lay Reader	Pat Frey	Judy Hildreth	Eric Benson	Claudia McKinsey	Doug Benson
Chalice Bearer	Myrline Winkler	Larry Hannan	Joyce Elcock	Ed Dillinger	Myrline Winkler
Greeter/ Usher	John Chmiel	Sherry Parr	Doug Elcock	Larry Hannan	Judy Hildreth
Coffee Host	Claudia McKinsey	Elcocks	Easter Break- fast (all)	Freys	Hannans