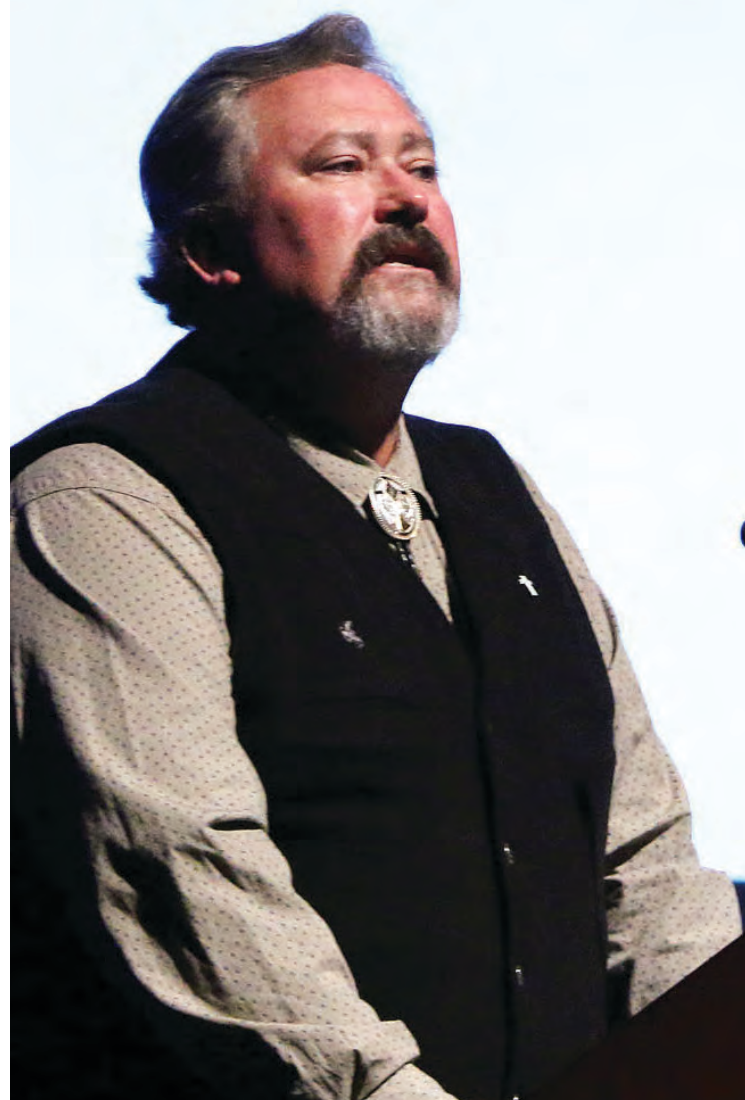


...this great nation and the
... men and women who serve and



INSIDE:

- + Blessing of the animals.
- + ECMA News
- + Festival of Faith

A publication of the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance November 2017

News to know

'Espresso Yourself' dialogues begin tonight

Breathe Coffee House, 703 B Main, will be hosting three events this fall designed to "build dialogue between different groups in Ellis County," said owner Patrick McGinnis.

Titled "Espresso Yourself," the first conversation will take place at 7 tonight, Friday, Oct. 27, and will feature candidates for Hays City Commission.

The second conversation will feature members of Ellis County's law enforcement organizations. It will take place at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 2.

The third conversation, titled "The Battle Within: A Conversation on Emotional and Mental Issues," will feature counselors and representatives from various social service agencies. It will take place at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30.

McGinnis, who opened Breathe in May 2016, said a main purpose of the coffee house is "building bridges and connecting different groups in Ellis County." These conversations will be much more informal than a panel discussion or forum, he said. "People will just be sitting around at tables talking about things that are important to them." The community is invited.

Presbyterian Women selling baked goodies

Presbyterian Women will be conducting their annual "Country Kitchen" fundraiser, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 28, at the church at 2900 Hall St.

On sale will be their traditional apple pies, plus other baked goodies. Virginia Clapp, president of the group, said church members normally prepare around 150 apple pies, which are sold frozen.

Other types of pies, cakes, cookies, muffins, breads, jams and jellies — all of them homemade — will also be available. Customers can partake of complimentary cookies and coffee while shopping.

Proceeds go toward church and mission projects, Clapp said.

'Pumpkin Roll' to benefit United Way

The United Way of Ellis County is holding two fundraisers in the next few weeks.

Families are invited to the "Pumpkin

Roll and Fun Run" on Saturday, Oct. 28, at Pa's Pumpkin Patch and Corn Maze. It is located 2½ miles south of Hays on Highway 183, on the east side of the road. Sherry Dryden, United Way executive director, said a sign will direct individuals to the location.

The cost is \$20. Registration will run from 7:15 to 7:45 a.m., with the run/walk through the corn maze beginning at 8 a.m. Participants will receive free pumpkins. Pre-registration is available online at www.liveunited.us.

The second event is the organization's "3rd Annual Night of Giving" from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 3, at Center Court in Big Creek Crossing, 2918 Vine.

The evening will feature shopping, with wine, food, music, giveaways and store specials. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the United Way Office, 205 E. Seventh St., Suite 111, in Hays; Big Creek Crossing; or online at <https://liveunited.us/night-giving>.

Jana's Campaign to hold fundraiser

A fundraiser for Jana's Campaign will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28, at the Fox Pavilion, 13th and Main in Hays.

"Jana's Campaign is a national education and violence prevention organization with the single mission of reducing gender and relationship violence. In honor of the late Jana Mackey and other victims of gender and relationship violence, Jana's Campaign delivers educational programs that prevent domestic and dating violence, sexual violence and stalking," according to the organization's website.

The theme of the benefit is "A Night in Old Hollywood at Empty Place at the Table." The evening will include dinner, live entertainment and auction items. Tickets are \$50 and may be purchased at janascampaign.org or by calling (785) 656-0324.

Alzheimer's Walk set for Oct. 28

The 2017 "Walk to End Alzheimer's" will take place on Saturday, Oct. 28, at Big Creek Crossing, 2928 S. Vine in Hays. Registration will begin at 10 a.m. The opening ceremony will commence at 11 a.m., and the two-mile walk will get underway at 11:15 a.m.

There is no registration fee. All participants who raise at least \$100 will receive a free T-shirt. All proceeds will go "to further the care, support and research efforts of The Alzheimer's Association," a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, according to the group's website.

More information is available from the walk's coordinator, Denise Vann, at (316) 267-7333 or dvann@alz.org.

Cleansing Stream ministers to speak at Liberty Foursquare

The Revs. Alan and Sharon DeBoer, area pastors for Cleansing Stream Ministries, will be speaking at Liberty Foursquare Church, 400 E. Seventh St., at 10 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 29.

The DeBoers are pastors of Restoration Fellowship in Pagosa Springs, Colo., and have led Cleansing Stream healing retreats for many years. The public is invited.

Ermoians to be honored at retirement reception

A come-and-go retirement reception honoring Pastor Kyle Ermoian, senior pastor at Celebration Community Church, and his wife Debbie will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 29, at the church.

Ermoian founded the church 21 years ago. He is retiring this fall, and he and his wife are moving to Georgia to be closer to their children and grandchildren. The church, which recently opened a 16,000-square-foot addition, is located on a hill just off the Interstate 70 and Highway 183 Bypass junction.

Barbecue to benefit Special Olympians

Trinity Lutheran Church, 2703 Fort St., will hold a barbecue to benefit two Special Olympians from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 29.

The two athletes, Joseph Reed and Kacey Dannels, both of Hays, qualified for the national competition to be held in Seattle from July 1 to 6, 2018.

They are among 42 athletes and six coaches who will be representing Kansas at the national event. Each delegate is responsible for raising funds to help offset the costs of his or her trip.

SEE NEWS, 4

SUBMISSIONS

ONE and the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance encourage submissions from ECMA congregations. Photographs, stories, testimonies and other submissions should be directed toward your church leaders or sent via email to one@dailynews.net.

The ECMA advisory board will choose appropriate and timely submissions for publication.

The columns in ONE represent the views of the author.

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ON THE COVER

Gary Simon, former pastor at Cornerstone Southern Baptist Church, prays for the government and military at the 26th annual Festival of Faith on Oct. 4.



Photo by JOLIE GREEN, HDN

A time to be thankful for many blessings

Greetings Bible Readers! It is November, one of my favorite months of the year. More than most other months, we take time during November to give thanks for the many things God has done for us. When we do this, things around us change. Psalm 100:4 reads *“Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful and bless His Name.”*

Being grateful is one of the easiest ways to stay in God’s presence. He is doing things around us all of the time, but if we don’t take time to notice and say “thank you” we often will miss the blessing. Our Bible readings this month stimulate me to be thankful. Both Old and New Testament readings this month are packed with reminders of the good things God has done, and is continuing to do.

In the Old Testament we will finish

Ezekiel, and read through two of my favorite prophetic books; Haggai and Zechariah. For the Jewish people, hope was being restored after a long season of suffering. As the result of a governmental change the new leader (King Cyrus) gave the exiled Jews permission to return to their homeland and rebuild their place of worship. The book

of Haggai contains the writings of this event. Then in Zechariah the work to rebuild escalates in earnest. Pay special attention to the language in these

books. First the writings begin with a call to repentance, calling for sincere worship and devotion. Rebuilding the temple would be futile if the purpose of the temple – a place to worship God – was not priority. This reminds me of our nation today. Is God beginning a great work in our Country? If so, perhaps He has given us a Cyrus – are we



Bible Reading Plan

Pastor Steve Dinkel

Liberty FourSquare Church
lcfcsd@uraltel.net

November		
1.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezek 43	<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 2
2.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezek 44	<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 3
3.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezek 45	<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 4
4&5.....	Weekend Review	
6.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezek 46	<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 5
7.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezek 47	<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 6
8.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezek 48	<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 7
9.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Hag 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 8
10.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Hag 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 9
11&12.....	Weekend Review	
13.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Zech 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 10
14.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Zech 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 11
15.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Zech 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 13
16.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Zech 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 14
17.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Zech 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 14
18&19.....	Weekend Review	
20.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Zech 6	<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 15
21.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Zech 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 16
22.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Zech 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Colos 1
23.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Zech 9	<input type="checkbox"/> Colos 2
24.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Zech 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Colos 3
25&26.....	Weekend Review	
27.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Zech 11	<input type="checkbox"/> Colos 4
28.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Zech 12	<input type="checkbox"/> Eph 1
29.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Zech 13	<input type="checkbox"/> Eph 2
30.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Zech 14	<input type="checkbox"/> Eph 3

going to make the most of the opportunity?

Our New Testament readings are also texts we should be thankful for. We will read through what many theologians consider the most complete text of the Apostle Paul’s New Testament theology; the book of Romans. Rome was the political powerhouse of the known world when Paul wrote this letter. Rome is where every preacher wanted to exercise his or her influence. The book of Romans was Paul’s “position paper” that preceded his visit. Although the book of Ro-

mans wasn’t written to us, it was written for us. Just as the Gospel greatly impacted the Roman Empire, it can also greatly influence the governments of today’s world. As you read Romans, Colossians, and Ephesians, let them encourage you, correct you, and inspire you to be all that God wants you to be in these most important days.


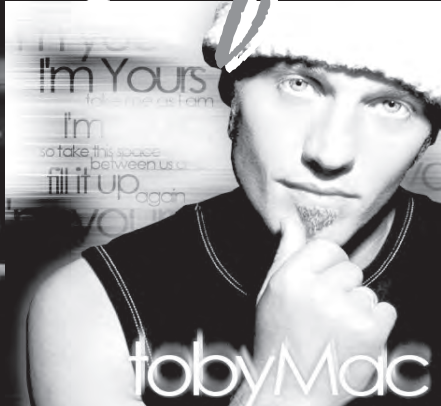
I’m also thankful that you have joined me in this Bible reading journey during 2017. I hope you have been enriched by our time spent in God’s Word. Happy Thanksgiving!

KJIL

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News, from 2

Freewill donations will be accepted at the meal, which will consist of several different kinds of meat, barbecued beans, potato salad and various desserts.

Prior to the meal, the church will hold a special service at 10:15 a.m. commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation (1517-2017). The service will feature the Fort Hays Singers, directed by Terry Crull. The Singers will also perform during the meal.

Profiles of each Special Olympian representing Kansas and an opportunity to donate online are available at <http://kssso.org/sports-competitions/usa-games/>.

Library to host Halloween bash

The Hays Public Library, 1205 Main, is hosting an all-ages Halloween bash from 3 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 31.

Luci Bain, the library's communications coordinator, said there will be a story walk with treats and activities for children, a "mad scientist lab" for teens, and a chili supper with cinnamon rolls for all attendees.

"The event is perfect for small children who need to be home early and older kids and parents who need to fuel up before hitting the streets to trick-or-treat," Bain said.

The event is free and open to the public. More information is available by contacting her at (785) 625-9014.

Church's Trunk or Treat set for Halloween night

North Oak Community Church, 3000 Oak St., will hold its annual Trunk or Treat carnival from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 31, in the church parking lot.

The event will feature carnival games for kids, free pulled pork sandwiches, hotdogs, 4-in-1 bouncy house, and lots of candy in a safe, family-friendly environment. The community is invited.

Methodist Women hosting 'Peddlers' Fair'

The United Methodist Women will be hosting their annual "Peddlers' Fair" from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 4, at the church, 305 W. Seventh in Hays.

On sale will be crafts and homemade food items, including baked goods, pies, jams and jellies, relishes, etc.

Lunch will be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for suggested donations of \$8 for adults and \$3 for children ages 3 through 10.

Proceeds will go to United Methodist-supported missions and for improvements to the church.

Cancer survivors to hold 'Craft Boutique'

Your Voice Through Cancer is having its annual "Craft Boutique" from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, at Hays Middle School, 201 W. 29th St.

Your Voice Through Cancer is a local group whose purpose is to provide support to those going through cancer diagnosis and treatment and "to give those with cancer a voice," said Judy Stegman, who co-founded the group after surviving breast cancer.



COURTESY PHOTO

Students at the elementary school in Rwentobo, Uganda, show off their new school uniforms and shoes. The children attending Vacation Bible School this past summer at North Oak Community Church donated more than \$3,000 to provide these items.

She said more than 40 vendors will be on hand this year. There is no admission charge. More information, including a list of vendors, is available on the group's Facebook page,

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/370323523311055>, or by contacting Stegman at jasmine@ruraltel.net.

Global workers to speak at North Oak

Global workers from two different organizations in India and Uganda will be speaking at North Oak Community Church, 3000 Oak St., during November.

The husband and wife team of Roger and Hiroko Seth will be speaking at the church on Sunday, Nov. 12. They work with Courage Homes in New Delhi, India. The organization is a non-profit that "exists to promote healing, transformation and wholeness for girls affected by trafficking and prostitution," according to courage-homes.org.

Figures provided by the organization estimate that, on average, 200 women and girls enter into prostitution in India every day, 80 percent of them unwillingly.

The Rev. Ken Ediger, pastor at North Oak, said, "Once a girl is rescued from the trafficking, they try to get the girl restored to her family and restored back to normal life, which can be a long process."

The Seths will be speaking at both the 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services and will be meeting with the church's youth group during Sunday School, which begins at 9:50 a.m.

Ediger encouraged those wanting to know more about the sex trafficking trade to watch the PBS documentary "The Day My God Died" at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vL4oCZxyXcA>.

The following Sunday, Nov. 19, the speaker will be the Rev. Medad Birungi, Ph.D., founder of World Shine Ministries, headquartered in Kampala, Uganda. He will be speaking during both morning services at 8:30 and 11 a.m. and will be addressing adult Sunday School classes at 9:50 a.m.

World Shine is a Christian outreach ministry that "exists to raise Godly men and women to lead Uganda and influence the nations of the world for Christ," according to worldshineuganda.wordpress.com. One of the ministry's projects is an elementary school in Rwentobo, Uganda.

Ediger said North Oak first began working with the organization in 2014 when the church learned the Uganda government was on the verge of shutting down the school because its kitchen did not meet governmental standards.

North Oak funded the building of a new kitchen and later funded construction of a dining hall at the school; prior to this, students had sat on the ground outside when they ate. The hall is also used for assemblies and other activities. Ediger led a delegation from North Oak that attended the dedication of the new building in May 2015.

This past summer the children attending Vacation

Bible School at North Oak donated more than \$3,000 for shoes and uniforms for the Ugandan schoolchildren.

Ediger said that Birungi “is coming here to thank us and our kids and tell us about his next project.” That project includes upgrades to the dining hall, including electricity, “which would enhance their ability to use the building even more,” Ediger said.

Birungi will be accompanied by Steve Happ, who heads World Shine U.S.A., which raises money and sends team to Uganda.

North Oak’s annual potluck Thanksgiving dinner will follow the 11 a.m. church service on Nov. 19, and the community is welcome to attend both, Ediger said.

Individuals wanting more information about either event are encouraged to call Ediger at (785) 628-8887.

Habitat ‘Food Festival’ is Nov. 12

Habitat for Humanity of Ellis County is hosting its first “Vine and Dine Food Festival” from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 12, on the main concourse at Big Creek Crossing, 2918 Vine.

Diners will be able to feast on selections from 29 area restaurants, featuring cuisine ranging from fried chicken, to Mexican food, to pizza, to Japanese food, to barbecue and much more.

Area merchants have also donated raffle prizes.

Tickets are \$20 per adult and \$20 for two children aged 4-12. Children aged 3 and under eat free. Tickets are available online at <https://vine-dine.eventbrite.com>.

All proceeds will go toward helping Habitat build more affordable housing for those in need in Ellis County. The organization, so far, has built or refurbished two houses in Hays, one in Ellis, and one in Victoria. More information is available at executivedirector@habitatelliscounty.org.

School food pantries topic for women’s meeting

Suelyn Stenger, a counselor at Hays High School, will be one of the speakers at the Hays After 5 Christian women’s group meeting on Monday, Nov. 13.

Stenger will be sharing information about the food pantries maintained by the USD 489 Hays School District—where the pantries are located, their purposes and their needs.

The meeting will take place from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Rose Garden Banquet Hall, 2350 E. Eighth St.

Also on the agenda will be inspirational speaker Portia Murphy of Stark. Murphy will share about the bad choices she made in her life and how she was able to forgive herself.

Murphy owns a bed and breakfast and deals in antiques. She enjoys riding motorcycles with her husband and loves football, baseball and watching her sons play rugby.

Cost of the dinner program is \$12.50. Reservations are due by Thursday, Nov. 9, to noheartnurse@yahoo.com or to (785) 202-1036. Hays After 5 is affiliated with Stonecroft Ministry of Overland Park.



This is what Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes look like at drop-off centers as they await delivery to children around the world. The drop-off center in Hays is Messiah Lutheran Church.

Shoebox gift collection week coming up

Operation Christmas Child is well underway in Ellis County as individuals and churches are preparing colorfully wrapped shoebox gifts to be sent to children around the world—many of whom have never received a gift before.

Nov. 13 – 20 is the project’s National Collection Week, when local residents will drop off their shoebox gifts filled with fun toys, school supplies and hygiene items.

The Hays drop-off location is Messiah Lutheran Church, 2000 Main. The community is invited “to join us to kick off National Collection Week with a prayer walk at the church at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 13,” said Rachel Albin, Northwest Kansas area coordinator. The walk will be followed by an “informational reception” at 3:30 p.m. in the church, she added.

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan’s Purse, an international Christian relief and evangelism organization headed by Franklin Graham. After the shoeboxes are collected at each drop-off site, Samaritan’s Purse will deliver these gifts to children all over the world who are affected by war, disease, disaster, poverty and famine.

Operation Christmas Child hopes to collect enough shoebox gifts overall to reach 12 million children this year. Albin said Hays volunteers have a goal of collecting more than 3,000 of those boxes during the collection week.

She said the church will be open to receive shoeboxes during the following times through that week:

Monday, Nov. 13, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 14, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 15, from 11am - 1pm

Thursday, Nov. 16, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 17, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 18, from noon to 2 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 19, from noon to 2 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 20, from 9 to 11 a.m.

Those wanting more information on how to participate in Operation Christmas Child or to view gift suggestions may visit samaritanspurse.org/occ. Participants can donate \$9 per shoebox gift online through “Follow Your Box” and receive a tracking label to discover its destination.

Those who prefer the convenience of online shopping may browse samaritanspurse.org/buildonline to select gifts matched to a child’s specific age and gender, then finish packing the virtual shoebox by adding a photo and personal note of encouragement.

There are also many volunteer opportunities for teens and adults available throughout National Collection Week, Albin said. Those interested in partnering with this ministry may contact Stacey Stults, Hays drop-off team leader, at (785) 650-3293 or email her at stacey_stults@yahoo.com.

Signup continues for Christmas food baskets

The Community Assistance Center’s signup for a Christmas food basket and toys through Teaming Up for Tots runs through Friday, Nov. 17. Ellis County residents who have low incomes may sign up at the center’s office, 12th and Oak Streets.

Those wishing to sponsor a family for a Christmas food basket, which costs \$50, may call the center at (785) 625-9110.

Cost of Poverty group sets Hays meeting

Community, church and agency representatives are invited to a free informational meeting about the Cost of Poverty Experience (COPE) from 1 to 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17, at the VFW, 2106 Vine in Hays.

“COPE offers participants a glimpse into the lives of individuals who are navigating life with little or no regular income. Participants grow in their understanding of the obstacles faced and the decisions that must be made by individuals who live this reality on a daily basis” in a given community, according to the organization’s website.

The goal of COPE is to encourage participants to collaborate more actively with low-income individuals and families in their communities as well as work in partnership with the agencies that are already involved.

Attendees will be given an overview of CarePortal, an introduction to what it is, how it works and how they and their church can get involved in bringing CarePortal to the Hays area.

CarePortal brings the needs of hurting children and families in a particular community to the attention of churches in that area. Child welfare workers uncover the needs. Then CarePortal makes local churches aware of those needs, giving them a timely alert and an opportunity to respond.

Churches donate teddy bears

By Linn Ann Huntington
lhunting@fhsu.edu

Members of the Palco United Methodist Church recently got a personal tour of the Rooks County Health Center in Plainville, as a result of a special delivery they made to the hospital this past summer.

The youth group and other members at the Palco church and the United Methodist Church in Ellis delivered teddy bears to two area hospitals and a nursing home. Both churches are pastored by the Rev. Tricia North.

A group of 12 from Palco delivered 23 teddy bears to the health center and the Redbud Village nursing home in Plainville on June 5. On June 15, a group of 17 from the Ellis church delivered 26 teddy bears to Trego County-Lemke Memorial Hospital in WaKeeney. Staff at each facility distributed the stuffed animals to patients.

North said the bears were purchased through donations by members of each church.

North taught at Sharon Springs High School for 12 years before deciding to enter the ministry. She said as a teacher she liked to do

community service projects with her students. One of those spring break projects inspired this project.

For two years in a row, North's students at Sharon Springs delivered new teddy bears to Memorial Hospital for Children in Colorado Springs.

The responses from both the hospital staff and the students were so positive, North said, she decided to do similar projects, what she calls "mini-mission trips," with the youth at her two churches. She has been the pastor of both churches since July 2015.

"As Christians, we are called to help our neighbors," North said, citing Matthew 22:39-39, Mark 12: 30-31, and other scriptures. "We are united through compassionate hearts, helping hands and acts of kindness. We can bring hope, comfort, peace and joy to those around us."



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Ellis United Methodist Church show off the teddy bears that the church donated to the Trego County-Lemke Memorial Hospital in WaKeeney. At far right on the back row are church Pastor Tricia North and Dave Augustine, the hospital's CEO.

She added she wanted to demonstrate to the children and young people of her churches that "there are no age limitations to help others."

Adults, youth, and children took part in the deliveries to both WaKeeney and Plainville. "For both trips, we formed a prayer circle around the teddy bears and prayed blessings over the bears, especially blessings for healing, joy and peace to the recipients, their family members and friends. We also prayed for safe travels."

A group of eight from the Palco church went on the "thank you tour" of the Rooks County Health Center on Saturday, Sept. 30.

They saw the walk-in clinic, MRI and CT scanner areas, the emergency room, labor and delivery area, patient rooms, doctors' quarters, and the stroke robot. This piece of equipment allows doctors in Denver to actually see inside a stroke victim's brain in Plainville

and prescribe treatment.

Among those on the tour were 7-year-old Keeley Linner; her sister Rylie, 10; and their parents, Brady and Randa, all of Damar.

Keeley and Rylie in particular seemed to enjoy the cookies following the tour, which were provided by Eric Sumeall, the hospital's communications and development officer, who served as tour guide.

When North first approached her congregants about donating teddy bears to the health facilities, Keeley decided she herself wanted to donate a bear. Her parents were OK with that.

Keeley's reason for wanting to make a donation of her own?

"To be nice," she answered simply, as she wiped cookie crumbs from her face.

Her pastor just smiled. There are indeed "no age limitations on helping others."

Blessed be the animals



JOLIE GREEN, jgreen@dailynews.net

Trinity Lutheran Church Pastor Marie Sager holds out her hand as she says a blessing over Cheryl Duffy's kitten at the church's Blessing of the Animals service Oct. 1 in Hays.

By Linn Ann Huntington
lhunting@fhsu.edu

The animals didn't exactly come two-by-two to Trinity Lutheran Church on an early October afternoon. But their excited barking and meowing seemed to indicate they were aware something special was about to happen.

That something special was the Blessing of the Animals service, conducted on the front lawn of the church, 2703 Fort, by Pastor Marie Sager.

Sager blessed 27 animals, 14 present and 13 in absentia. Church members had been told they could bring their animals or pictures of them.

Sager said the blessing of the animals goes back to St. Francis of Assisi, who was famous for his love of animals. St. Francis said, "God requires that we assist the animals when they need our help. Each being has the same right of protection."

The feast day for St. Francis was Oct. 4, so some churches do the service on that day or on the Sunday closest to it, Sager said.

She has been pastor at Trinity for two years, and although she never had conducted a service blessing animals before, she participated in one when she was in seminary. She said

she is hoping to make the service an annual event at Trinity.

"To me, this blessing is a time to celebrate the animal members of our family. They are important to us, and they are part of our families," Sager said.

"A blessing is wishing goodness on someone. The blessing is for the animals, but also for us, because of the love they bring into our lives."

The scripture readings Sager chose for the service were Genesis 1:1, 20-28, the story of God creating the animals and giving humans "dominion" over them, and Psalms 8:1-9, a prayer acknowledging God's glory and mankind's responsibility to care for God's creatures.

Joey and Shenel Berens brought their three horses and Don Juan, their donkey, to the service.

"It's something wonderful we can do for them," Shenel Berens said, adding this was an extra special blessing because two of their mares, Betty and Maddy, are in foal. "We're pretty excited about that."

Cheryl Duffy also had a special reason for bringing her 4-week-old kitten to the service.

"He's had a rough start in life, and I wanted to get him blessed as we become a family," she said.

Duffy's great-niece found the kitten, covered with fleas, abandoned on the Fort Hays State University cam-

pus. His mother had been killed.

Duffy said she and her husband, Bob, already have two other pets, a dog and a cat, "but I guess God wanted us to have another one."

Duffy, an English professor at FHSU, named the kitten "Radley" after the character Boo Radley in the novel "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee. Like his namesake, the kitten "has been very brave," she said.

Sager said for those who couldn't make it to the service, she is willing to do an individualized blessing — whether the owner is a church member or not.

Some people have pictures of animals who have passed on and want them blessed, she said. She also knows of situations where stuffed animals have been blessed.

"To a little kid, that stuffed animal may seem alive," she said. "It may be the only animal Mom and Dad let them have."

The blessing Sager says over each animal is the same: "You were created by God, and you are loved by God. May you and your human family experience joy and companionship together and continue to be a blessing to each other."

Sager can be reached at (785) 625-2044 or at tlcpr@eaglecom.net.

GOOD FEELINGS — PAST AND PRESENT

Nathaniel was a pretty good man. Jesus himself said that he was someone who had no duplicity in him, that is, that he was not fake or someone who pretended to be more than anyone else:

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Here is a true Israelite. There is no duplicity in him." Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Phillip called you, I saw you under the fig tree." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this" (John 1:47-50).

No doubt, Nathaniel felt good about his life and relished the pleasant feelings that he enjoyed. But he knew that he had to move on. Good feelings in the past cannot be the deciding factor of a future life. He heard Jesus call him, and he had to change his lifestyle to include a future that was built around Jesus, one that also would give him a good feeling.

Past feelings are good to recall, of course, at least the feelings that made us feel good, but we cannot allow them

to dominate our lives. The group Portugal.The Man in their song "Feel It Still" sings about a man who had been a "rebel" and he had a good time in the past. He had some "kicks," some real happiness in his life, and his "now--back then" were great feelings, and he wants to feel it still. But he realizes that he has to leave those good feelings, and "give a little" to other people, especially his "little baby girl" so that his future will be as good a feeling as his past:



Message at The Top

Fr. Mike Scully
michael.scully@capuchins.org

"Can't keep my hands to myself, think I'll dust 'em off, put 'em back up on the shelf in case my little baby girl is in need. Am I coming out of left field? I'm a rebel just for kicks, now I been feeling it since 1966, now might be over now, but I feel it still. Let me kick it like it's 1986, now might be over now, but I feel it still. Is it coming? It's time to give a little to the kids in the middle.

God has allowed us to have good feelings in our past, and we can rejoice in them because feeling satisfied is important as we grow. But we also understand that we need good feelings in the present and the future. We cannot live in the past, and therefore we must work at making that

THE GOSPELS IN FATHER MIKE'S TOP 5 as of Oct. 15

- 1 - "Slow Hands" / Niall Horan John 15:1-5"
- 2 - "Attention" / Charlie Puth Matthew 23:27-18
- 3 - "What about Us" / Pink John 8:1-11
- 4 - "There's Nothing Holdin' Me Back" / Shawn Mendes John 17:20-23
- 5 - "Feel It Still" / Portugal.The Man John 1:47-50

future as happy as it was in the past.

Nathaniel was not only interested in the past in his life, but once Jesus came into his life, he became very interested in his future as well. We can learn from him, and we can likewise learn from Portugal.The Man's song that even though our past was good, our present and future can be happy as well.

For the Christian, such a happy feeling begins with acceptance of the ways of Jesus.

Good and gracious God, You have given us good feelings in the past even though sometimes we may have been hurting for some reason. Help us learn from Your Son so that our feelings in the future will be happy. Be with us, we pray.



St. Nicholas of Myra Catholic Church

2901 E. 13th, Hays, Kansas, Parish Offices:

(785) 628-1446

Fax: (785) 623-4207, website: www.heartlandparishes.org

Fr. Jarett Konrade

Mass Schedule:

Saturday at 5 PM

Sunday at 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Daily Mass - Wednesday, and Friday at 7:00 AM

Reconciliation: Saturday at 4:00 PM

Haunted Circus Train

**Sat., Oct. 28
& Tues., Oct. 31**
6:30-11:00 PM

Sun., Oct. 29
Lighted 2:00-4:00 PM
6:30-10:00 PM

Big Creek Crossing
Old Midwest Drug Location

Sponsored by
Immaculate Heart of Mary CYO



News, from 5

CarePortal is owned by The Global Orphan Project.

The informational event is free, but pre-registration is required at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/careportal-event-hays-tickets-38508072682>.

More information is available at meredith.saver13@gmail.com.

'Bright Lights for Little Tykes' auction set

The Hays Area Children's Center will be hosting its annual "Bright Lights for Little Tykes" holiday auction beginning at 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, at VFW Post 9076, located at 2106 Vine.

Tickets are \$40 for the event, which will feature dinner, free wine, a bidding number, and live entertainment provided by Howl at the Moon Dueling Pianos.

Proceeds will benefit the free services that the center provides to children with disabilities who reside in Ellis and Rush counties. The center offers free screenings for children ages birth to 3 in several developmental areas: speech, language, vision, hearing, thinking, self-help, personal-social behavior and motor development, according to the center's newsletter.

The silent auction will feature a wide array of gift baskets, holiday decor and hand-made items.

The live auction will feature big-ticket items, such as fine jewelry and vacation packages. The event is best known for the decorated Christmas trees that will be auctioned off during the night.

Tickets are available at (785) 625-3257 or at brightlightsfortykes.com.

Community invited to Thanksgiving feast

The Ellis County Ministerial Alliance will once again be hosting a community Thanksgiving dinner, with all the trimmings, from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 23.

The feast, which is free and open to anyone in the community, will be held at the Rose Garden Banquet Hall, 2350 E. Eighth St. The Rev. Celeste Lasich, an ECMA board member on the planning committee, said organizers are expecting to feed around 650 people.

"We couldn't put on this event with-

out the help of volunteers," said Linda Mills, executive director of First Call for Help, who is also on the planning committee. "We need around 100 people."

Volunteers will assist with parking, they will serve food, serve as table hosts, refill drink glasses, clear tables and help with cleanup following the dinner, Mills said.

Cash donations will be accepted at the event. Those wishing to donate non-perishable food items may bring them to the banquet hall at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 22, the evening before the event.

Volunteers are also needed to help bag those items, which will be distributed at the meal to those in need, Mills said.

Volunteers may sign up by calling First Call for Help at (785) 623-2800.

Breathe Coffee House receives grant

Breathe Coffee House, 703 B Main, has received a \$5,000 grant from the Heartland Community Foundation.

The grant will assist the coffee house in engaging community members in opportunities to support those in need. It will contribute to the development of an app that will connect people looking to volunteer with available volunteer opportunities.

Patrick McGinnis, who opened Breathe in May of 2016, said one of his goals with the coffee house is "to get people connected with others in the community who are already doing community service projects."

The app's interactive technology will allow customers, who are waiting in line to order or waiting for their order to be filled, to locate people who need their particular gifts and talents. Immediately, those customers can be connected with the individuals needing volunteer help, McGinnis said.

Eventually, he wants the app to include a map of all of western Kansas. "People could pick a location where they wanted to serve, click on that area and see a 30-second or minute-long video about that particular project," he said.

The grant was written by a group of students last spring in a class called

Fieldwork in Leadership Studies at Fort Hays State University. The class was taught by Seth Kastle, assistant professor.

The students who participated in that project are Luke Cox, Quanyi "Andrew" Hu, Hadley Tharp and Brady Walker. More recently, McGinnis has been working with FHSU student interns Isaiah Maxi and Paul Kirkwood, who have already shot some of the videos.

Those same videos will also be shown on the TV in the coffee house. McGinnis said his goal is to have the app up and running by the end of the year.

St. Joseph Church to host Vespers Concert

A "Winter Vespers Concert" will be held at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 210 W. 13th in Hays.

The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m., with a pre-concert talk by Hays Symphony Orchestra Director Shah Sadikov at 7 p.m.

The concert will feature "introspective, lyrical and spiritual music of the 20th Century," according to a news release. Fort Hays State University faculty soloists Kay Werth, Kristin Pisano and Ben Cline will be accompanied by the Hays Symphony Orchestra strings.

A post-concert reception will be sponsored by the Hays Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Crossroads Choir plans one last concert

Crossroads Choir, a Hays-based Gospel singing group, will be holding its final concert ever this holiday season. That performance will be at the Christmas Vespers Service at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at the United Methodist Church, 305 W. Seventh in Hays.

"Due to changes in life's journey and circumstances, Crossroads will be disbanding at the end of the year," said Melody Barton, choir member.

The choir will be performing another area concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 12, at the Hill City United Methodist Church. The Hill City concert is being sponsored by the Graham County Arts

Council

Both concerts are free and open to the public. Barton said the group's CD's will be on sale at both events.

Known for its Southern Gospel sound and rich harmonies, the 16-member choir celebrated its 20th anniversary in August. The group started out accompanied by piano only, but later added rhythm and bass guitars and percussion, Barton said.

Crossroads has performed throughout Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, at the Capitol Rotunda in Topeka, and, in June 2009, performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Barton said that over the years, "there have probably been up to 35 or more members" in the choir, who have come from all walks of life. Only three of the original members, Kay Fisher and her sons Lee and Lynn, are still with the group.

The choir has sung for numerous benefits in Ellis County, along with funerals, weddings, telethons and birthday parties.

"We have been lucky enough to truly 'make music with our friends' as (stated) in our theme song 'Loving God, Loving Each Other,'" Barton said. "Who knows what the future holds? For now we celebrate this wonderful past and look into 2018 to see where our personal journeys lead us."

Child Advocacy Center holding fundraiser

Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center is partnering with local law enforcement to help children who are victims of sexual and physical abuse.

Tickets are being sold for a chance to win a 2017 Jeep Wrangler Sport. Tickets are \$100 each and can be purchased through local law enforcement agencies. Only 1,500 tickets are available.

The prize drawing will be held Wednesday, Dec. 20. The winner will receive the new vehicle, sales tax included. The approximate value of the prize is \$32,000.

WKCAC has offices in Hays and throughout northwest Kansas, in addition to mobile services. The fundraiser will benefit direct support services in the community.

Faithful gather for celebration of faith, prayer

By KALEY CONNER
kconner@dailynews.net

Members of many Hays churches gathered in early October for an interdenominational worship service that has become a long-standing tradition, marking its 26th year.

Festival of Faith took place in Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center on the Fort Hays State University campus. The event was more than an hour long, including musical performances, congregational hymns and prayer.

This year's theme was "Hays Day of Prayer," with representatives from several churches leading prayers for specific areas of the community such as military/public service, education, business and churches.

"In a week when our country has again known terrible violence, it feels important to come together as Christian brothers and sisters and to pray and to offer our solace to God and to pray for the church that

steps into so many places of pain in the world," said the Rev. Kathy Bannister of FHSU's Methodist Campus Center before she led a prayer for the church.

While Bannister made reference to the mass shooting in Las Vegas on Sunday, other leaders acknowledged local Christians could be struggling with different challenges, or simply feeling overwhelmed by events outside the community.

Attendees were encouraged to continue pressing into their faith to find comfort and hope.

"At times, it may seem like our world's a little crazy and a little out of control," said Bill Meagher, Thomas More Prep-Marian campus minister. "We know as Christians, when things are out of control, when the problem is bigger than us, what we do is we give that problem to God. ... When you read Scriptures over and over again, the message you hear is turn to God with prayer, and tonight, we do that."

The event was on a Wednesday instead



JOLIE GREEN, HDN
Ushers collect an offering for the ECMA Second Mile Fund during the Festival of Faith.

of a Sunday this year in efforts to boost attendance, particularly among church youth groups. Christians of all ages attended the service, and the youngest speaker was a sophomore at TMP.

Lane Werth, accompanied by Barbara Wagoner — a former staff member at the

Catholic high school — read a prayer he had written for families and education. Wagoner described Werth as creative and selfless, displaying a painting of Jesus he had surprised her with as a retirement gift.

Werth said he has been on a journey to deepen his faith, in part by becoming more involved with the Catholic Youth Organization and attending a "One Bread One Cup" youth program.

"We ask that you would not only grant us the strength to hold steadfast in our Christian faith through these times of difficulty, but that you also grant us the peace to live according to your will without ridicule or judgment," Werth said, as he also prayed for the community's educators "who day in and day out supply us with information so we can go out and change the world."

BETHESDA PLACE

Local Servant Leadership Ministry Employment Opportunity

Description:

Bethesda Place is a local Christian non-profit home/farm providing excellent residential and employment services for 7 men with developmental disabilities. Bethesda Place is an equal opportunity employer and offers competitive wages for direct support staff. Our lives are abundantly full of activity both on and off the farm, and we are looking for a high energy self-motivated person(s) who love people and feel personal satisfaction in a job well done.

Direct Support Professionals:

We are looking for both part-time and full-time personnel. Schedule varies based on employee needs and skill sets. Hours available 8 am - 10 pm, Monday - Sunday.

Direct support staff is responsible for working alongside the men and providing positive support for the task at hand. Day time hours will include outdoor physical labor, both agricultural and mechanical in nature. Some farm experience preferred. Evening hours include assisting with cooking, household management, and hygiene, as well as providing positive recreational opportunities.

No experience is necessary and extensive on the job training will be provided. This is an amazing and fulfilling employment opportunity perfect for hard-working individuals who strive to make the lives of others better.

For more info check out Bethesda Place on Facebook or call 785-259-8475.

Applicants should possess a valid Kansas driver's license and a good driving record. Must also be able to successfully pass a background check. Interested applicants should send their resume, 2 professional letters of reference and application to bethesdaplaceinc@gmail.com or Bethesda Place 1571 220 Ave, Hays, Ks 67601.

Applications will be accepted until a position is filled.



Volunteer
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623-2800

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Rose Garden Banquet Hall
2350 E. 8th St.

Send your tax-deductible donations to
ECMA · P.O. Box 173 · Hays, KS 67601
Proceeds to benefit ECMA's 2nd Mile Fund




CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST

ONE is sponsoring a coloring contest in an upcoming issue with the theme "Joy to the World." The deadline for submission is Monday, Nov. 6. The winner of the contest will have the artwork appear on the cover of the December issue of ONE. Participants should put their name, age, grade and church on the back of their submission.

Participants will portray "Joy to the World" with their artwork. Submissions can be dropped off at your church or at The Hays Daily News, 507 Main.

JOY TO THE WORLD

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Sunday Mass: 10:00 a.m.
Eucharistic Adoration
Thursdays:
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
in St. Fidelis Church behind the main altar
St. Ann, Walker
Sat. Mass: 6:30 p.m. Nov. thru April
Sun. Mass: 7:30 a.m. May thru Oct.
St. Boniface, Vincent
Sun. Mass: 8:45 a.m.
Fr. John Schmeidler
735-2777
fidelis@ruraltel.net
www.stfidelischurch.com

**ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
(ELCA)**
Intern Hayden Kvamme
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship with Holy
Communion: 10:30 a.m.
394 St. John-St. Andrew Rd.
Get off the Ellis exit on I-70,
and go six miles North
on the paved road
726-3207

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Pastor Wes Oakley, D. Min.
Associate Pastor Tim Nunnery
Children's Pastor Jeremy McGuire
Sunday Service: Adult & Children's
Church, 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Service: Elevate Kids,
R3 Youth & Midweek Adult Service,
7:00 p.m.
Thursday Service: R3 Live
College, 8:00 p.m.
3000 W. 41st St 785-625-6359
www.westviewchurch.tv

**MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
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(LCMS)**
Pastor Rocco Mallardi
Traditional Worship: 8:30 a.m.
Study Hour: 9:45 a.m.
Contemporary Worship: 11:00 a.m.
(Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays)
Lutheran Hour: Sunday 7:30 a.m.
KHAZ FM 99.5
e-mail: messiahsec@ruraltel.net
2000 Main 625-2057
www.messiahlutheranhays.com

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Rev. Mike Rose, Sr. Pastor
Matt Dumler, Youth Ministry Dir.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Service: 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.
10:45 a.m. Service Broadcast
on KAYS 1400 AM
WOW Worship on Wednesdays:
Meal 5 to 6 pm
Worship 5:50 to 6:10 p.m.
Children/Youth/Adult Programs
6:15-7:15 pm
305 W. 7th 625-3408

**ST. MICHAEL'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**
Rev. Harvey Hillin
Sunday Holy Eucharist
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Evening Prayer
Wednesdays 5:15 p.m.
2900 Canal Blvd. 628-8442
stmichaelshays@gmail.com



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29th & Indian Trail 625-9500
www.hayscornerstonesbc.com

**TRINITY
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The Rev. Marie Sager
2703 Fort St. 785-625-2044
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www.haysfpc.org
pastorcelestehays@gmail.com
2900 Hall 625-2847

**NORTH OAK
COMMUNITY
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Associate Pastor Dave Buller
Youth Pastor Jeff Neher
Worship Service:
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Sunday School: 9:50 a.m.
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www.northoak.net