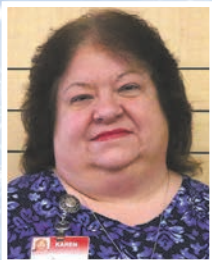


# Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year from the 2018 Participating Organizations of the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance!



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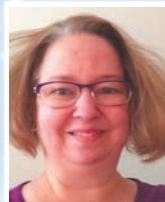
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**Micah Sanderson**  
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United Methodist Campus Center

Not Pictured

**Julie Smith**  
Salvation Army

# We can't take our riches with us

The theme of this edition of ONE is stewardship. A scripture that often comes to mind when approaching this subject is found in Matthew 19:24.

*"Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."*

Jesus did not say that it is impossible for the rich to enter the kingdom of heaven, merely more difficult. But is it really more difficult than a camel getting through the eye of a needle?

In that day, a camel could get through the Eye of the Needle Gate in Jerusalem, but first it would kneel, then crawl through on its knees. This was not an easy trick for a camel carrying silks, figs, carpet and gold from afar. So, with that in mind, we see that being rich, possessing an abundance of belongings, is not the problem. Forgetting God, forgetting to get down on our knees and thank God, the giver of life and all blessings,



**The Rev. Karen Harvester**

Hays Med Chaplain  
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is the problem. Too often an abundance of possessions can incubate an attitude of greed. The self-centered words of "I" and "my" can distract us and cause us to forget God, forget that life is short, and forget that we cannot take our riches with us when we leave this life.

The old Jack Benny shows had a sketch of Jack being robbed at gunpoint. Jack Benny was reported to be a man who was extremely tight with his money. In the sketch the robber says to Jack, "Give me your money or your life." He got no reply. The robber repeated, "I said your money or your life." Jack replied, "Don't rush me. I am thinking it over." We laugh at Jack Benny, but the materialism of western culture is no secret. Many of us live to accumulate more and more. We want a bigger house, a nicer car, designer clothing, an impressive bank account, and a healthy retirement portfolio. But is it worth our soul? God calls challenges us to put our abundance to use in meeting the unmet basic needs of all God's children in our communities and around the world.

The story is told of a man who was speaking to God about heaven and hell. The Lord said to the man, "Come, I will show you hell." They entered a room where a group of people sat around a huge pot of stew. Everyone was famished, desperate, and starving. Each held a spoon that reached the pot, but each spoon had a handle so much longer than each person's own arm that it could not be used to get the stew into each person's mouth. The suffering was terrible.

"Come, now I will show you heaven," the Lord said. They entered a room identical to the first — the pot of stew, the group of people, the same long-handled spoons. But there everyone was happy and well nourished. "I don't understand," said the man. "Why are they happy here when they were miserable in the other room and everything was the same?" "The Lord smiled, "Ah, it is simple," he said. "Here they have learned to feed each other."

The old questions are still real. Your possessions or your life — as faithful stewards of all that God has given you?

## News to know

### First Call plans Community Challenge fundraiser

First Call for Help will hold its "4th Annual Community Challenge" fundraiser on Saturday, March 2, 2019. Registration for each team of four is \$300.

Those teams registering with a \$75 down payment by Monday, Dec. 31, will win a special prize, said Laura Shoaff, project coordinator.

Inspired by the CBS show, "The Amazing Race," each team will solve clues to arrive at various locations in Hays, Shoaff said. Once there, the team must complete a challenge before receiving a clue to the next location. The team finishing a specified number of challenges with the fastest time will be the winner.

The challenge is open to anyone 12 and over. There must be a licensed driver on each team, Shoaff said, since contestants may drive to the secret locations.

The team that raises the most funds will be named the Ultimate Fundraiser and will receive a 2-minute head start in the race. All teams raising \$500 or more will receive time deductions. Those teams choosing to wear

costumes may compete for the Best Costumes Prize, as well.

Registration is available at [www.firstcall-elliscounty.com/AmazingRace](http://www.firstcall-elliscounty.com/AmazingRace) or by calling (785) 623-2800.



### United Way lists 'Dine-Out Day'

The United Way of Ellis County has announced its "Dine-Out Day" for January. The following restaurants will be donating a portion of their proceeds to the United Way's fundraising campaign:

Wendy's, both locations at 1800 Vine and 4235 N. Vine, from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019.

The United Way is celebrating its 65th anniversary in Ellis County and is in the middle of a \$400,000 fundraising

campaign. It provides funding to 15 partner agencies in the county. A list of those is available at [www.liveunited.us](http://www.liveunited.us).

### ECMA Board to meet Jan. 9

The Ellis County Ministerial Alliance (ECMA) will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019, at Unite Common Grounds, Eighth and Oak. The full board will meet at 10 a.m. The ONE Magazine Advisory Board will meet at 11:45 a.m.

Presentations to the board must be scheduled in advance with the ECMA president at [president@ourecma.com](mailto:president@ourecma.com).

### Church schedules Valentine's Dinner

The First United Methodist Church, 305 W. Seventh, will be holding its annual Valentine's Dinner from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, 2019.

Adult tickets are \$15 each and will be on sale from Sunday, Jan. 13, through Sunday, Feb. 3.

SEE NEWS, 10

## 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](mailto: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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**Have a news item  
you'd like to submit  
for ONE Magazine? Or  
perhaps do you have  
a story idea? Email  
Linn Ann Huntington at  
[lhunting@fhsu.edu](mailto:lhunting@fhsu.edu)**

# Welcome to another exciting year

Welcome to the 2019 ONE Bible Reading Plan. I would like to invite you to make a New Year's resolution to join our ONE Bible readers for a year of great reading. Don't fret; it will be a doable resolution. Each month will have a five-day a week plan that will lead you through one-third of the Old Testament, and the entire New Testament. If you fall behind, you have the weekends to catch up.



**Bible Reading Plan**  
**Pastor Steve Dinkel**  
 Liberty Foursquare Church  
 lcfcsd@ruraltel.net

We will be reading the Books in a rearranged order from the International Bible Society's (Biblica.org) "Books of the Bible" resource again this year. This is a strategic arrangement of the books

of the Bible. I have found that this arrangement brings unexpected context to my Bible study experience. I hope it does the same for you.

For the Old Testament, Biblica arranged the Books in three main divisions; "Covenant History", "The Prophets", and "The Writings." This year we will be reading through the "Covenant History" books which will begin in Genesis. For me, Genesis is one of the most engaging books of the Old Testament. I promise, this book will hold your interest.

For the New Testament, Biblica is arranged into four main divisions. Their purpose in rearranging the Books is to

January		
1.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 1
2.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 2
3.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 3
4.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 4
5&6...	Weekend Review	
7.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 5
8.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 6
9.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 7
10.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 8
11.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 17-18	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 9
12&13...	Weekend Review	
14.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 19-20	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 10
15.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 21-22	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 11
16.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 23-24	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 12
17.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 25-26	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 13
18.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 27-28	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 14
19&20...	Weekend Review	
21.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 29-30	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 15
22.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 31-32	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 16
23.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 33-34	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 17
24.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 35-36	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 18
25.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 37-38	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 19
26&27...	Weekend Review	
28.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 39-40	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 20
29.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 41-42	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 21
30.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 43-44	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 22
31.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 45-46	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 23

"express the ancient concept of the four-fold gospel". Each Gospel was written with a specific purpose, and audience. Biblica groups the remaining books of the New Testament around those four groupings. We will begin the year with Luke and Acts, which were written together. The traditional arrangement of the New Testament separates them by inserting the Gospel of John between

them. In this year's reading strategy, we will reunite these two books, and follow them with the letters from the Apostle Paul, in a generally accepted chronological arrangement. This will allow Paul's message to develop, and give us a better understanding of his theology. I hope you enjoy this arrangement as much as I do. May 2019 be your best Bible reading year ever! Welcome aboard!

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Terry Crull directs the Fort Hays Singers as they perform during their Holiday Dessert Show on Dec. 14 at First United Methodist Church in Hays.

JOLIE GREEN,  
jgreen@  
dailynews.net

## FHSU Singers offer sounds, tastes of the season

By JUNO OGLE  
juno@dailynews.net

“Consider yourself at home,” welcomed the Fort Hays Singers as they interspersed throughout the small crowd in the basement meeting room of the First United Methodist Church.

The tune from the Broadway musical “Oliver!” was one of the seasonal sounds the Fort Hays State University ensemble offered to patrons of its second-annual Holiday Dessert Show, “Songs of the Seasons.”

Dressed in costume, the 17 singers surrounded their guests with sound, at times in typical choral formation at the front of the room under the lights, and other times circling the room or positioning themselves among the tables lit by small star-shaped lights in the centerpiece.

“I really love these costumes,” Raeanna Peacock, a Hays senior, said.

“These were pulled from when we used to do our Madrigal Dinner. Dr. Crull wanted to bring a similar atmosphere that had carols the community was aware of and make it more of an intimate show, bring a festive atmosphere for everyone to just enjoy a warm holiday,” she said.

“When we perform, we’re usually in our polos and our dress slacks, so its’ nice to get to wear a costume and get in the spirit of Christmas,” Cody Kreutzer, Hays senior, said.

In between sets, the ensemble members served desserts and snacks appropriate to each season of the year — chips and dip and cookies for summer, or a brownie and peppermint stick for winter, for example.

The show was started last year as a fundraiser for the FHSU Singers trip to Austria and Germany.

“The kids enjoyed the crowds and we thought we’d do it again,” Terry Crull, FHSU director of choral activities, said.

The show will again raise funds for the Singers’ 2019 tour, which will be a regional tour over part of Thanksgiving break, including some of the ensemble members’ hometowns, Crull said.

Peacock and Kreutzer said the trip to Europe was memorable.

“I think it introduced us to not just culture, but also introduced us to our origins of music,” Peacock said.

“I had never been to Europe before, so to get to go with my best friends was one of my favorite parts I have gotten to experience at Fort Hays, period,” Kreutzer said.

The support from the community through the show was also appreciated by the students.

“We really appreciate everybody taking time out of their day, buying tickets to come and support us. It shows that what we’re doing means something to people,” Kreutzer said.

## Ask Jesus to change you

Would \$1,000,000 relieve some stress in your life? As soon as a pastor begins talking about money, many people begin thinking “the church just wants my hard-earned cash.” But did you know that over 40 percent of Jesus’ teachings were about money? The Bible does speak about how we handle our money, and I believe that one of the reasons that we should listen has to do with slavery.

*The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender.* - ESV Proverbs 22:7-7

Proverbs is part of a section of the Bible called “wisdom literature”. And here is a piece of wisdom: if you borrow money (credit cards, loans) then you have become a slave to the one who loaned the money to you.

I have seen how credit cards can weigh people

down. Quick cash through credit cards may seem like a solution, but in reality, those transactions are shackles that will weigh you down and steal your joy. You may need to cut up your credit cards. You cannot afford to pay only the minimum balance on a credit card — if you do, you are just giving your money away in high interest rates, and this will lead to YOUR high stress rate.

*Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.* ESV Romans 13:8-8

Well that is clear. Owe no one anything. Find a way to get out of debt. Call your credit card company or your bank and figure out a plan to pay off your problem. This is typically not easy, but it is worth it.

*For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?* ESV Luke 14:28-28

Luke 14:28 is one verse taken out of a teaching by Jesus. What is He teaching? Plain and simple, He is teaching about budgeting. You need to know how much money you make each month, and how much your expenses

are. Don’t attempt to build something or buy something that you cannot pay off. This is “counting the cost.”

Instead of using every possible dollar you make to spend on pleasures and what you want, save money. Go today and open a bank account, or pull out an envelope that is specifically for your future home, for your future car, education, or even retirement. A penny saved is a penny earned. This also is part of counting the cost, and it is a vital step in preparing yourself to succeed financially. (See also Proverbs 6:6-11)

*“If you lend money to any of my people with you who is poor, you shall not be like a moneylender to him, and you shall not exact interest from him. 26If*

*ever you take your neighbor’s cloak in pledge, you shall return it to him before the sun goes down, 27for that is his*

*only covering, and it is his cloak for his body; in what else shall he sleep? And if he cries to me, I will hear, for I am compassionate.* ESV Exodus 22:25-27

Did you know that God gets angry? It almost seems disrespectful to talk this way about God, but it is true. God is concerned about justice. He gets really upset when the rich rip off the poor (Mark 12:40; Leviticus 25:35-43; Isaiah 10:1-4). Having an abundance of money can also cause your soul to be enslaved (1 Timothy 6:6-10). If you are in a position of influence and affluence, use what you have to bless those around you (1 Timothy 6:17-19).

Regardless of where you find yourself financially or how you have handled finances in the past, know that the Holy Spirit has the power to transform your life and there is hope in Jesus. Ask him to change you. He gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask him (Luke 11:13).

*Be blessed and experience the freedom that God promises to those who honor him with their money* (Malachi 3:10).



**Pastor Dave Buller**

North Oak Community  
dbuller@northoak.net

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# CLE on the move in Hays

By LINN ANN HUNTINGTON  
lhunting@fhsu.edu

For the past 18 years, the Center for Life Experience in Hays has operated as a part of the community outreach program of First Presbyterian Church.

However, as of Dec. 31, the center will have a new home and a new organizational structure, although its mission will remain the same, said Ann Leiker, the center's executive director.

The center "provides a safe space where people can process grief and life struggles in small group settings. It encourages the efforts of individuals of all backgrounds, including children, to heal themselves and support others through its non-denominational, free-of-charge programs," according to a brochure about the center.

Those efforts will continue, Leiker said, but the center will be moving from the church to the Hadley Center. As of Jan. 1, 2019, the center's new address will be 205 E. Seventh, Suite 251. The new phone number will be (785) 259-6859. The center will also have a new e-mail address, which, at press time, was not yet up and running.

In addition to its new address, the center will also no longer be a part of, nor be supported financially by, the church.

The center is now an incorporated 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization whose funding will come totally from grants and donations from private donors, Leiker said.

According to her records, the center has served almost 1,000 people per year since it has been in operation.

In order to continue that service, Leiker has retired from her staff position at the church. She will draw her pension and continue to serve the center as executive director in a three-quarter time unpaid position. In this way, "I can save my organization funding," she said in a recent interview.

"I feel so personally blessed that I have been allowed to continue this." Her goal, she added is to get the center on firm footing before turning over the reins to a new executive director sometime down the road.

Since its incorporation in November, the center has received funding from the Schmidt Foundation, the Beach-Edwards Foundation, and other private donors. Leiker said she is awaiting word on other grants she has written.

Leiker said the church established the center in 2000 after a congregational member left a gift to the church in her will. The donor specified the gift "was to be used by the church to do one project for the community of Hays that demonstrates our Christian obligation to care for our neighbors, not the church itself," according to the center's current website, [www.cflehope.org](http://www.cflehope.org).



COURTESY PHOTO

**Ann Leiker, executive director of the Center for Life Experience, reacts after being honored by the congregation of First Presbyterian Church on Nov. 11 for her 18 years of service to the church and to the center. At left is Patrick Scott, chair of the church's Personnel Committee.**

The church put together a taskforce, which investigated the needs of the community and ultimately proposed the formation of the center.

"The vision was to be directed to building mutually supportive relationships around people with common life challenges and needs who could offer each other their personal gifts, talents and life experiences," the website stated.

Leiker said, "The congregation of this church should be affirmed for their vision 18 years ago."

The center has five main programs, all of which will continue, Leiker said.

Before becoming the center's executive director, Leiker was a medical social worker. She established Healing Hearts, a support group for "immediate family members who are healing from the death of a child in their lives," in the 1980's, long before the center came

into being. Therefore, it was the first support group she established at the center.

The program sponsors two public memorial events each year to honor those children. It has grown in recent years to the point it now has both a daytime and nighttime group, Leiker said. The groups meet monthly.

The second program, Healing After Loss, came into being in 2004. It "offers mutual support for those who are healing from an adult loss in their lives, such as a spouse, parent, sibling, or friend." This group meets twice a month, in addition to informal social gatherings.

The third program, Healing After Loss of Suicide (HALOS), was established in 2009. It "offers family members and friends of those who have lost a loved one to suicide a place to connect with others who are dealing with this highly specialized grief recovery process."

SEE **CENTER, 10**

# Operation reaches goal — and then some

By Linn Ann Huntington  
lhunting@fhsu.edu

Northwest Kansas exceeded its goal this year of shoeboxes collected for Operation Christmas Child, with a total of 6,811 boxes. Rachel Albin of Hays, area coordinator in the Lower Midwest Region of the United States, said that was an increase of 7 percent over the boxes collected in 2017.

Of this year's total, 2,615 shoeboxes were collected in Ellis County, she said. Shoebox collection week nationwide was Nov. 12 to 19.

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief agency headquartered in Boone, N.C., and directed by the Rev. Franklin Graham. For the past 25 years, individuals have filled shoeboxes with toys, school supplies and personal hygiene items each Christmas season, and these boxes are then collected and distributed to needy children around the world.

Each child receiving a shoebox also receives a booklet titled "The Greatest Journey," which tells the child about Jesus and how much he loves him or her. For many of the children, this is the first gift they have ever received.

Albin and 14 members of her team in Northwest Kansas helped out at the processing center in Denver the first weekend in December. Denver, one of eight processing centers in the U.S., is where all the boxes in Kansas are handled.

This is the fourth year Albin has volunteered at the center. The team members opened the shoeboxes to check for items not allowed, such as liquids, edible items, glass items, and toy guns.

Volunteers also removed the donations for shipping, made certain each box was labeled as to the age and sex of the child for whom the box was intended, and then put the shoeboxes into cartons for shipment overseas. Albin said the boxes from Northwest Kansas this year went to Mexico, Haiti and Togo, a country in



**Megan Wagner and Ethan Rose, both of Phillipsburg, are shown checking shoeboxes at the Processing Center in Denver the first weekend in December.**

COURTESY PHOTO

Africa.

The Denver center alone processed more than 600,000 shoeboxes this holiday season, Albin said.

"The shoeboxes are distributed at Christmas and at other times during the year," Albin said, by members of the ministry's overseas divisions. "It's a year-round operation. It depends on how long it takes the shoeboxes to get through customs."

There is a year-round need for local volunteers, as well, Albin said. Volunteers are needed in the areas of leadership, church relations, logistics, community relations, media re-

lations, prayer mobilization, administrative support and student relations, she said. Most of these positions require between 5 and 10 hours per month.

Northwest Kansas currently has 12 shoebox drop-off sites—two are in Hays—and 23 team members. That number does not include those volunteers who direct the collection efforts at their individual churches and other organizations.

Albin said she can always use more year-round volunteers.

A new initiative that will be starting sometime in February is "monthly

craft nights."

The idea is to gather volunteers who like to sew or create some type of craft project for the shoeboxes. People can either make the items for their own shoeboxes or donate them for others boxes, she said. For example, the women at one Hays church make dresses for little girls out of pillowcases.

Those wishing to learn more about year-round volunteer opportunities are encouraged to contact Albin at (785) 639-1325 or at [ralbin-mk@yahoo.com](mailto:ralbin-mk@yahoo.com).

# Little Free Library boxes a hit with readers

By MARGARET ALLEN  
mallen@dailynews.net

A few weeks ago, Hays became home to five more Little Free Library boxes, those wooden enclosures planted around town where anyone can take a book to read, or drop one off that they no longer want.

“The whole purpose is to promote literacy in the community,” said Samantha Gill, adult librarian for the Hays Public Library. “It’s one more way to reach outside our walls and get books into the hands of children, teens and adults.”

The idea is “take a book, leave a book,” but Gill says it’s okay if that’s not possible. She’s just glad the Little Free Library concept is so popular in Hays that the city in late November added another five.

“We pinpointed the prime areas for them, such as neighborhoods next to schools, and in areas that are not walkable to the library,” Gill said.

The most recent ones were installed by a crew from the City of Hays Parks Department in Ekey Park at 19th and Holmes Road, Aubel-Bickle Park at 30th and Sherman, the Frontier Park East playground east of Main, Hays Dog Park off U.S. Highway 183 Alternate, and Kiwanis Park at 17th and Harvest Avenue.

Typically the boxes are stocked with about 25 books, many of them for children and young adults, but there are plenty for adults too.

On Wednesday, anyone stopping by the Free Little Library at the Optimist playground at Seven Hills Park could choose from “The Pocket Wife” by Susan Crawford, “Thorn Among the Lilies” by Michael Hiebert, “What the Bride Wore” by Jade Lee, “One Week in December” by Holly Chamberlin, and many more. That box is stocked by residents of the Centennial Towers apartment building.

The box at Hays Aquatic Park, the city’s first Little Free Library, which was installed two years ago, on Wednesday carried a Clive Barker offering, as well



JOLIE GREEN, jgreen@dailynews.net

**A Little Free Library book box is setup at Seven Hills Park in Hays for the public to take and read books, then return them for others to read. The Hays Public Library and City of Hays Parks Department have partnered to install book boxes around town.**

as children’s selections, “Annie’s City Adventures,” “James Marshall’s Cinderella,” “The Belly Book,” “Up and Down on the Merry-Go-Round,” and “Old Devil Wind.”

“We have a good stock right now,” Gill said. “Come summer, that stockpile will really deplete and we’ll need more.”

Each Little Free Library has been uniquely painted, like the little paw prints on the one at the Dog Park, painted by library assistant Rebecca Grizzell, or the Frontier Park box aptly painted with buffalo and wheat by library assistant Nicole Thibodeau.

No one monitors who takes a book or brings one back. Gill just makes sure they are chock full. Books are



**Several books sit inside the Little Free Library book box at Hays Aquatic Park.**

either loaded by library staff or more recently by the community volunteers who adopt a box to stock. Members of

Trinity Lutheran Church stock the one at Ekey Park. Angie Cook and her 5th Grade Class stock the one at Kiwanis Park.

This time of year, the books move rather slow. Summer is another story, because that’s when the books fly out of the boxes, and Gill couldn’t be happier about it.

Not everyone can leave a book, and that’s okay, she says, thanks to plenty of donations from the community.

“The image that the library is a building where you come and have to be quiet, it’s so much more than that,” Gill said. “Our mission has really expanded.”



# First Call gears up for Amazing Race



The 4th annual fundraiser for First Call for Help, "The Amazing Race: First Call Community Challenge" will take place Saturday, March 2, 2019.

To participate, teams of four must be formed. Teams then come up with a team name and decide whether or not to participate in the costume contest with a chance to win the Best Costumes Prize. Each team must collect donations of at least \$75 per person or \$300 per team in order to compete.

Inspired by the CBS hit, "The Amazing Race", teams of four will solve clues to various locations in Hays. Once there, they will complete a challenge before receiving a clue to the next secret location. The team finishing the challenges with the quickest time is the winner.

This is *not* a typical "running" race! Contes-

tants will be allowed to drive to the secret challenge locations. Anyone 12 years of age or older may compete in the Amazing Race: First Call Community Challenge however, there must be a licensed driver on each team. This is a great way to spend time with family, friends, colleagues, church groups, etc., while raising money for families in Ellis County struggling to pay rent or keep their utilities on.

The team that raises the most money will be awarded the Ultimate Fundraiser prize and receive a 2-minute head start in the race. All teams raising \$500 or more will receive valuable time deductions. New this year is a special prize for all teams registering before Dec. 31 with \$75 down.

For more information or to register, visit [www.firstcallelliscounty.com/AmazingRace](http://www.firstcallelliscounty.com/AmazingRace) or call (785) 623-2800. First Call would love to see youth groups and adults representing every church and organization in Ellis County. Once signed-up, teams are encouraged to challenge other groups to participate as well.

Contact Laura at (785) 623-2800 with any questions or to volunteer.



## St. Nicholas of Myra Catholic Church

2901 E. 13th, Hays, Kansas, Parish Offices:  
(785) 628-1446

Fax: (785) 623-4207, website: [www.heartlandparishes.org](http://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

## Immaculate Heart of Mary Church



1805 Vine Street - Hays, Kansas

Fr. Barry Brinkman, Pastor

Parish Office: 785-685-7339

Website: [www.ihm-church.com](http://www.ihm-church.com)

### Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday 5 PM - Sunday 8 AM - 10 AM - 6 PM

Sunday Spanish Mass - 12 PM

### Weekday Mass Schedule:

MWF 6:45 AM - TTh 8 AM Tuesday Spanish 6:30 PM

Reconciliation: Saturday 4 PM and Thursday 5 PM

The theme of this year's dinner is "Rock & Roll the Night Away," said Susan Jansonius, Wednesday worship food coordinator.

Attendees will hear music from the 1950s, 60s, and 70s. Live performances will be provided by The Hendersons, with Hondo Drums, and singer Tiffany Barbee. Barbee is a professional entertainer who has done shows in Las Vegas, Nev., and Branson, Mo.

The event is being sponsored by the church's middle school and senior high youth groups and youth leaders. The nursery is available upon request. Tickets are available by calling the church at (785) 625-3408.

#### Dermatologist to address Hays After 5 group

Dr. Nicole Hibbs, Hays dermatologist, will encourage women to "Love the Skin We're In" at the Hays After 5 Christian women's meeting in January.



Barbee

The event will take place from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 14, 2019, at the Rose Garden Banquet Hall, 2350 E. Eighth St. Hibbs practices at Great Plains Dermatology with her father, Dr. Donald Tillman.

Also on the program is inspirational speaker Kristi Burchfiel of Wichita. Burchfiel, in her talk titled "When Best Laid Plans Go Awry," will offer a humorous and helpful look at coping with shattered plans.

The dinner program costs \$12.50. Reservations are due by Thursday, Jan. 10, to (785) 202-1036 or to [daisymae0917@yahoo.com](mailto:daisymae0917@yahoo.com).

Burchfiel has written a number of books, including 365 Devotions from the New Testament, Devotions from 1st, 2nd and 3rd John, and Devotions from John's Gospel. Her books will be available for purchase at the meeting. More information about Burchfiel's books is available at [https://www.amazon.com/gp/aw/s/ref=is\\_s?k=kristi+burchfiel](https://www.amazon.com/gp/aw/s/ref=is_s?k=kristi+burchfiel).

Hays After 5 is affiliated with Stonecroft Ministry of Overland Park.

#### Financial Peace University to be offered

Financial Peace University, featuring the teachings of financial expert Dave Ramsey, will be offered from 6 to 8 p.m. Mondays, starting Jan. 14, 2019, at the First United Methodist Church, 305 W. Seventh.

The course, which will last nine weeks, will be facilitated by Sam Gross. Cost is \$109. Registration is available at <http://www.fpu.com/1078760>.

More information is available by contacting Gross at (620) 617-8247 or at [samgrossrd@yahoo.com](mailto:samgrossrd@yahoo.com).

#### Blood drive scheduled for Monday

The American Red Cross will be holding a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31, at Brookdale Senior Living, 1801 E. 27th.

The drive will be held in the community center room. Those wishing to donate may call (785) 689-7574 for an appointment.

## Imagine an amazing 2019

If this New Year's celebration at Times Square follows the pattern set since 2005, just before the ball drops and we turn our calendars forward, someone will sing John Lennon's classic song "Imagine." It is a good thing to close out the past and look to the future by imagining the world as it could be.

John Lennon sat down at his piano in Berkshire, England, one morning in early 1971 and composed the song that became his most popular single. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation named it the greatest song of the last 100 years. Australians chose "Imagine" as the greatest song of

all time. But for many of us, there is a greater vision of how the world could be.

Every time we quote the Lord's Prayer we are invited to imagine the world as it is meant to be. Jesus taught us to pray, "Our Father who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven ..." What would the world look like if that prayer were answered? How would the world differ from the world we know?

If God's will were done on Earth, there would be no more crime. Theft, violence and murder would end. Prisons would empty. Neighbor would no longer

sue neighbor. Court dockets would clear.

Employers would forego extravagant profits in order to pay higher wages to their workers. No child would go to bed hungry or unsheltered. Those who possess the food and resources of the world would share with those who have none.

Corruption, graft and greed would disappear. Wars would cease. Politicians would serve the best interest of others with honesty and integrity. Fairness, kindness, forgiveness and generosity would prevail.

Husbands would love their wives, seeking what is best for

them and striving to please them. Wives would love and respect their husbands, building them up and encouraging them. Children would honor their parents and obey them, trusting them in the knowledge that they want what is best for them.

Racial, cultural and sexual prejudices would vanish. Discrimination would disappear. Every human being would treat every other human being with respect. The strong would help the weak.

None of us are in the position to effect such a whole scale change for the world in which we live. But we are each able to

change our little corner of the world. We can put into practice the answer to the prayer Jesus taught us to pray. His Kingdom can come and his will can be done in us and through us.

In 2019 we can be a part of the answer to the prayer that has been prayed for more than 2,000 years. What if His kingdom were to come and his will was done on earth as it is in Heaven? Just imagine!

*Bill Tinsley reflects on current events and life experience from a faith perspective. Visit [www.tinsleycenter.com](http://www.tinsleycenter.com). Email [bill@tinsleycenter.com](mailto:bill@tinsleycenter.com)*

## Center, from 6

"It is the only (suicide) survivor loss group west of Salina," Leiker said. This group meets twice a month.

In 2004, the center also began a partnership with the National Alliance of Mental Illness, which has brought suicide survivors to Hays who have spoken to overflow crowds about their own struggles with mental illness.

The most recent program, Heal-

ing Kids' Hearts Retreat, was created in 2016. Each spring children who have experienced the loss of a special person in their lives gather for a day of fun activities at Sternberg Museum—activities designed to help the children heal from their losses.

Sessions on how to help their children heal are also offered for parents, grandparents, and other adults in the children's lives. The day always ends with a balloon launch,

Leiker said.

One of Leiker's immediate goals is to create "satellite support groups" in other communities in western Kansas. Hoxie and other smaller communities have contacted the center expressing an interest in becoming part of this satellite program, she said.

"People in western Kansas are resource deprived in terms of helping people deal with loss and moving

forward," Leiker said. The center uses a "strength-based model," she added.

"It helps people determine what their strengths are and move forward. It empowers people to help them solve their own problems—to choose how they want to respond."

On Nov. 11, the church honored Leiker for her 18 years of service to the church and to the center. In a thank you note published in the

church newsletter, Leiker wrote, "I ask for your continued prayers for the new Center for Life Experience Incorporated, that will be carrying on the inspiration of this congregation. I hope you will continue to support and participate in whatever way is meaningful to you in the future. Please stop by and see the new 'digs'."

An open house will be scheduled in the near future, she said.



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**Ellis County Ministerial Alliance**

*and*

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*Can be picked up at the following locations:*

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Office Hours: 9-1 Mon. - Thurs.  
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.  
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Saturday Mass: 5:00 p.m.  
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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)**

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



**LIBERTY  
FOURSQUARE  
CHURCH**

Pastor Steve Dinkel  
Sunday Services: 10 a.m.  
Wed. Services: 7 p.m.  
High School Youth Group  
Royal Rangers and Mpact Girls  
Clubs (Aug. - May)  
400 E. 7th 625-6245  
www.libertyis.com

**MESSIAH  
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Wednesday evening education  
classes for all ages  
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2000 Main 625-2057  
www.messiahlutheranhays.com

**FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST  
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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  
9:30 a.m.

Evening Prayer

Wednesdays 5:15 p.m.

2900 Canal Blvd. 628-8442

stmichaelshays@gmail.com



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Sunday Service: Adult & Children's  
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Wednesday Service: Elevate Kids,  
R3 Youth & Midweek Adult Service,  
7:00 p.m.

Tuesday Service: R3 Live  
College, 8:00 p.m.

3000 W. 41st St 785-625-6359

www.westviewchurch.tv

**TRINITY  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

(ELCA)

The Rev. Marie Sager

2703 Fort St. 785-625-2044

Sunday 10:15 a.m.

(Holy Communion

is Celebrated Every Sunday)

Fellowship Following Worship

www.trinityhays.org

tlchays@eaglecom.net

**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

The Rev. Celeste Lasich

Nursery available

Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.

Adult Study Group: 11 a.m.

Fellowship Hour: 11 a.m.

Youth Group Sun. evenings

www.haysfpc.org

pastorcelestehays@gmail.com

2900 Hall 625-2847



Pastor Ken Ediger

Associate Pastor Dave Buller

Youth Pastor Jeff Neher

Worship Service:

8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:50 a.m.

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