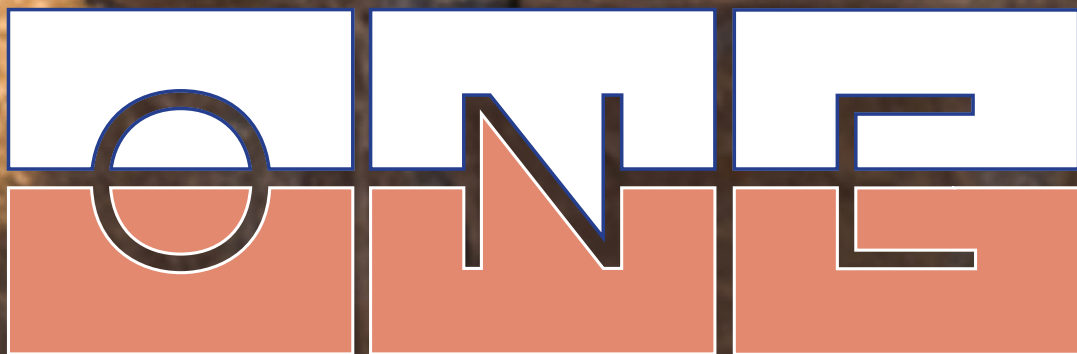


**INSIDE:**

- + Point in time
- + ECMA News
- + Call for input



A publication of the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance March 2019

# Honor for senior members

Many years ago, I was serving a church in another community. Most members were older and there were few younger people or families. The congregation lamented that there were no children in Sunday school. So we decided to invest in a new youth and children's ministry. We also looked at how to be more hospitable and welcoming to visitors. As a result, the congregation began to see many new faces including little ones under foot and teenagers in worship. We began having more fellowship dinners and they were frequently noisy because of the squeals from the children and the youth shooting baskets at the end of the gym where we held the meals. Some members were delighted, but there were others who were not happy with the extra commotion and messiness that comes with having children around. Some complained to the pastor, but I am sure they felt I was not as sympathetic to their concerns as they would have liked.

The murmuring continued until the youth asked for permission to set up a

ping pong table in the classroom where the quilting group met. This was sacred space for the women who met together weekly to quilt, some for over 50 years. There was no other space available in the building to accommodate the size of the table and the youth pastor assured the ladies that the table would be taken down each week prior to their quilting. The ladies looked to one of their sister quilters to support their dismay and disapproval of the plan. Norma was among the oldest members of the congregation and was looked upon by many as the wise church matriarch.

At another church dinner, several members again expressed to me their concern about the noise level and insisted the request by the youth be denied. Then they walked me over to where Norma was sitting and assured me that she would agree with them. So, they asked her about the little ones running around and for her opinion about the use of the quilting room by the youth. All eyes were fixed on her as we awaited her response.

A big smile broke out on Norma's face and then tears came to her eyes.



**The Rev. Karen Harvester**  
Hays Med Chaplain  
karen.harvester@haysmed.com

## 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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## News to know

### Formal attire, accessories to be given away

On Saturday, Feb. 23, an empty store at Big Creek Crossing will be transformed into a showplace of glitz and glitter featuring donated formal wear.

Between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. in the old Rue 21 store, area high school students will have the opportunity to select attire to wear to their junior-senior proms, all at no charge. At press time, the number of donated items totaled around 300.

The giveaway is part of "Project Prom to Remember," a community service project of Hays High Helping Hands, an organization consisting of 30 students.

The students are all enrolled in the school's Career and Tech Education Program, taught by Michelle Thacker and Jolene Windholz.



LINN ANN HUNTINGTON

Displaying items for both gals and guys that will be available at the Project Prom giveaway are Hays High seniors Gabriela Arthur, T.J. Haselhorst, and Quinn Martens-Bobbitt.

SEE NEWS, 8

**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)**

**Festival of Faith**



**JOLIE GREEN**, Hays Daily News

Yvette Moritz, left, first grade teacher at Roosevelt Elementary School, and her husband, Brad Moritz, industrial technology teacher at Hays Middle School, speak about faith in family and education at the 27th annual Festival of Faith on Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2018 at Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center in Hays.

# Festival seeks input

In 2018 I, The Rev. Marie Sager, attended the 27th Annual Festival of Faith. Members of the planning committee, and myself have been discerning the future of this event. We would like your input! Please take some time to answer the following four questions.



**Pastor Marie Sager**  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
pastormarie15@gmail.com

1. Do you attend the Festival of Faith? Why or why not?
2. If you do not attend, would something inspire you to attend in the future? Day of week/Time? Worship style? Time of year? Venue?

3. If the Festival of Faith does not continue how it currently is, would you like to see a new inter-church/inter-community event? Ex: worship in the park? A day of service?
4. Are you willing to lead and or be involved in the planning process?

Give your responses in one of three ways:

1. Your pastor will turn in responses at the March ECMA meeting
2. Email ECMA at [info@ourecma.com](mailto:info@ourecma.com)
3. Mail responses to Trinity Lutheran Church, 2703 Fort St, Hays, KS, 67601.

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# Spreading the good news about Jesus

Welcome to the March Bible reading plan. Thank you for joining me as we read through some great texts this month.

Our Old Testament readings will continue through the Covenant Books. We will finish Exodus and start through Leviticus. The lines between Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers are not clearly separated. The last half of Exodus, all of Leviticus, and the first part of Numbers describe what took place in one location; Mount Sinai, where the law is first given and the tabernacle is built. Even amidst all of the challenges,



**Bible Reading Plan**

**Pastor Steve Dinkel**

Liberty FourSquare Church  
lfcfsd@ruraltel.net

God continues to instruct, guide, and grow His people.

Our New Testament readings will finish the book of Acts, and start through the Epistles (letters) of the Apostle Paul. These writings are arranged in a chronological order

which can facilitate a more developmental understanding of these books. 1 Thesalonians is believed by most to be Paul's first letter, written to

the Church to encourage them during a time of persecution. This new Church had many challenges ahead of her, and Paul's practical counsel would help them keep focus on the mission; spreading the Good News

## March

1... <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 37-38 .. <input type="checkbox"/>	16&17...Weekend Review
2&3...Weekend Review	18.. <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 9..... <input type="checkbox"/> 1Thes2
4... <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 39 ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 20	19.. <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 10..... <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Thes3
5... <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 40 ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 21	20.. <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 11 ..... <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Thes4
6... <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 1 ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 22	21.. <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 12 ..... <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Thes5
7... <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 2 ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 23	22.. <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 13 ..... <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Thes1
8... <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 3 ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 24	23&24...Weekend Review
9&10..Weekend Review	25.. <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 14 ..... <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Thes2
11.. <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 4 ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 25	26.. <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 15 ..... <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Thes3
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15.. <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 8 ..... <input type="checkbox"/> 1Thes 1	

about Jesus during good times and hard times.

I hope you enjoy this month's read-

ings, and as Spring approaches, may the New Life found in Christ spring up and grow within you!



### 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

# Just thankful for another day

When I arose this morning, I stumbled to the bathroom and glanced in the mirror. Squinting through eyes without glasses, I assessed the strange looking older person staring back at me. My false tooth lay on the bathroom counter and my full head of hair wasn't light brown any longer, rather it showed definite streaks of silver. My face, fuller than I'd self-imagined it, was creased from the straps of my recently departed CPAP. Bags hung down from below my eyes. I quickly put on my glasses (with a right hand that has a definite tremor) to at least partially cover up the bags. "You're looking as old as Methuselah!" I said to myself, shaking my head, removing my glasses and getting into the shower.

As I showered, I pondered what it must have been like to be Methuselah, the oldest man cited in the Bible at age 969 (see

Genesis 5:27). He's also mentioned in 1 Chronicles 1:3 and in the New Testament in Luke's Gospel (3:37) in the lineage of Jesus. Methuselah was five generations removed from Adam, was the son of Enoch, and the grandfather of Noah. The Bible honors him for living a long life and seemingly, not much more. But in the Bible, there's something in a name. The name 'Methuselah' is thought to mean one of two things: 'Man of the javelin' or 'Man of Selah.' I like considering the latter, rather than the former of these two name-descriptors because, as someone who loves the Psalms, it is there that we find the often used, but highly enigmatic word 'selah.' 'Man of Selah'

also makes sense if one breaks down the name 'Methuselah.' Methu, meaning 'Man of' and 'selah,' meaning...??? Some Biblical scholars think that 'selah' means a musical interlude, with the command to 'pause and think about this.'

I especially like that interpretation for not only the Psalms, but also for understanding the name and person of Methuselah. It seems to me that the Biblical

authors of Genesis were saying to those with understanding, that God is honoring those who pause and are thoughtful with a long life. It also tells us that because God honors those who are of many years, we are to do the same.

We find that same honor for those two people who became the Father and Mother of three great Biblical nations: Abraham and Sarah. God fulfilled God's promise to Abraham and Sarah with the birth of Isaac when they were 100 and 99 years old respectively. (Yikes!) Through them would form the families of the Jews, the Muslims, and the Christians. Abraham and Sarah are honored throughout the Bible, in both the Old and New Testaments. Abraham was said to be 175 years old when he died (Genesis 25:7-8). Throughout their long lives, God honored Abraham and Sarah as faithful servants. We are to be faithful servants of God, as well.

That's a lot from the Hebrew Bible (and there are many more examples of God honoring those with many years). So, is there someone who God honored as faithful servants in the New Testament? The two that come to mind are Simeon and Anna from Luke's gospel (2:21-38). Simeon was promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had seen the 'the Lord's Christ' (2:27). Holding the eight day old Jesus in the Temple, Simeon said, "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for the glory of your people Israel." Then Anna, an 84 year old prophetess, came and "spoke to about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem." (Luke 2:38) God honored an aged man and woman to proclaim Jesus as the Christ in the Temple to all who would hear.

I got out of the shower and as I dressed, I looked again at the mirror. There was still an old guy looking back at me. But the bags under his eyes had lessened, the CPAP lines had disappeared, and his hair was wet and dark, hiding the silver... for at least a little while. I put my false tooth back in my mouth, and I thanked God that both this old guy and the old guy in the mirror has the honor of proclaiming Christ for another day. May it be so for you, as well!

Grace and Peace.

## Rev. Mike Rose

First United Methodist  
mikerose994@gmail.com



## County to donate to CLE

A Hays-based nonprofit that hosts four grief-support groups for people in north-west Kansas will get a little boost from Ellis County.

The Ellis County Commission at a meeting in early February approved a \$1,000 donation to the Center for Life Experience Inc.

The 18-year-old Center hosts Healing Hearts, a group for families grieving the death of a child, as well as three other grief-support groups: one for people who have lost an adult in their life, one for families who have lost someone to suicide, and an annual weekend retreat for kids

who have lost a significant person in their life.

Neal Younger, Munjor, in January came before the commission at their regular meeting and requested the donation. He and his wife, Carolyn, have belonged to Healing Hearts for more than nine years. They lost their 16-year-old son Cody, who died in a car accident with his girlfriend, Jordy Claiborn.

"I think that's something that's just really good for Ellis County. I was actually never aware we had that in Ellis County until Mr. Younger came up and presented that," said Commission Chairman Dean Haselhorst.



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LINN ANN HUNTINGTON

Four-month-old Sullivan waits quietly while his dad and mom fill out the Point-in-Time survey on Jan. 24 at the Hays Public Library. Sullivan's parents are not being identified to protect the family's privacy.

# Survey measures homelessness in Hays

By Linn Ann Huntington  
lhunting@fhsu.edu

The woman lived in Great Bend, but worked in Hays, so she commuted each workday. But her car was getting old. Finally, she decided she could no longer trust it to get her up and down the highway safely. So she moved to Hays. But she initially couldn't find a place to rent that she could afford. So for months she lived out of her car.

Linda Mills with the Hays Homeless Coalition sighed as she related this true story. Many residents of Ellis County find it hard to believe that someone can work and still be homeless, she said. But the sad truth is--it happens.

Many people face the difficult choice of either paying for rent or paying for the insurance, gasoline and other upkeep for their vehicle. Without their vehicle, they can't keep their job, so paying to keep the vehicle run-

ning often will take priority over paying for a warm, safe place to live.

On Thursday and Friday, Jan 24 and 25, Mills and 11 other volunteers conducted the "Point-in-Time Count," an annual nationwide survey conducted by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. It is designed to count how many homeless adults there are across the United States on a particular night. This year that night was Wednesday, Jan. 23.

The HUD survey defines a homeless person as one who spent that night in one of the following locations because the person had nowhere else to go: in a vehicle, on the street, under a bridge, in an abandoned building, in a public building, camping out, in some type of shelter, in a motel the person did not pay for himself or herself, in a halfway house, with family or friends, in a corrections facility of some type, or in a medical, psychiatric or substance abuse treatment facility.

Teams of trained volunteers conducted the survey this year at the following Hays locations: the Hays Public Library, 1205 Main; Kansas Works, the state employment agency at Eighth and Allen; Breathe Coffee Shop, 703 Main; the Gamers Guild at Eighth and Oak, which offers a free store, food and commodity distribution; the Learning Center at the USD 489 office, 323 W. 12th, where teens and adults can finish their GED's; and at Options: Domestic and Sexual Violence Shelter.

Mills said these places were chosen because they are facilities that homeless individuals are known to frequent. For example, the Hays Public Library is open to the public until 8 on most weeknights, it's heated in the winter, and it offers computer and Internet access. It is a place in Hays where homeless people can come and feel safe — and not be noticed, Mills said.

Of the 72 surveys filled out this year, 14 individuals, or 19 percent, met HUD's definition for homelessness. Two of those 14 listed that they had military experience, and one of those was still in the military, either as a Reservist or in the National Guard, Mills said.

Twenty-four individuals, or 33 percent, met the definition of "chronic homelessness," meaning they have been homeless in the past, even though they may not be homeless right now. "These individuals are considered to be 'at risk of being homeless,'" Mills said.

Fifteen individuals, or 21 percent, have been diagnosed or are currently being treated for one of the following: alcohol abuse, drug abuse, serious mental illness, an HIV/AIDS related illness, a developmental disability, a physical disability, a traumatic brain injury, or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Twenty-five individuals had children.

The HUD survey is voluntary and does not ask for names. But it does have additional questions regarding age, gender and race.

After the survey is conducted, Mills, who is also the executive director of First Call for Help, a community assistance service, enters the results into a database. The Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition then tabulates the results from across the state and reports them to HUD.

"We can enter into the database only those people who are actually homeless, not those 'at risk of being homeless,'" Mills emphasized.

She added it would probably be two months before results are available on the state level, and those will be posed on the statewide coalition's website.

Mills said while the survey is a helpful gauge of the homeless situation in Hays, "the actual number of home-



LINN ANN HUNTINGTON

**Micayla Pachta, office manager with Catholic Charities, and Dianne Meyers, case manager with the Salvation Army, are two of the volunteers who assisted with the Point-in-Time Survey on Jan. 24 at Hays Public Library.**

less individuals changes from day to day because people become stranded in Hays and just don't have a place to go."

For example, about two weeks after the survey was conducted, Mills said, a man showed up at First Call for Help who had been driving through Hays and spent the night in his truck. When temperatures took a nosedive that night, the truck's motor froze because the man hadn't been able to afford antifreeze.

"We do have people sleeping in doorways," she said, adding that sometimes business owners will call her frustrated over the agency's inability to provide long-term assistance for homeless people in the downtown area.

"But we can only offer them one night in a motel or offer them a bus ticket to Salina," she said.

There is no homeless shelter in Ellis County other than the domestic abuse shelter. The nearest general homeless shelter is in Great Bend. But there is no public transportation between Hays and Great Bend. That means if a homeless person desires to go to a shelter,

First Call will normally purchase a bus ticket for the person to go to one of the homeless shelters in Salina, Mills said.

The Salina Rescue Mission houses men. Ashby House is the facility that houses women, children and families.

But homeless individuals in Ellis County who have jobs don't want to go to Salina, she said. "They don't want to lose their jobs."

Many people live paycheck to paycheck, Mills said, and even something as simple as a dead car battery can create an economic crisis for a family.

"The middle class struggles now, too. The middle class can't do the things they did 40 years ago," she said.

Mills encouraged those who want to learn more about ways to help the homeless to attend the Hays Homeless Coalition meetings. The coalition, which began in 2013, meets at 11 a.m. the third Wednesday of every month in the first floor conference room of the Hadley Center, 205 E. Seventh. Anyone is welcome to attend, she said.

Individuals are also welcome to contact Mills at [lmills@firstcallelliscounty.com](mailto:lmills@firstcallelliscounty.com) or at (785) 623-2800.

# News, from 2

The program teaches the fundamentals of running a business, Thacker said, and the students get practical experience throughout the school year running a bakery, the copy shop at the high school, and Hays High's coffee shop, called the Indian Grounds.

"Most businesses give back to the community in some way, and this (service project) is an opportunity to do this, plus it helps their peers," Thacker said.

Gabriela Arthur, a senior, said this is her second year working on the project. She said the Career and Tech program overall teaches students how to cooperate and work with others.

She said the community service project is also a way to help students save on the costs of attending the prom. Many students, both girls and boys, pay several hundred dollars in prom expenses, Arthur said.

"I just love how anyone can come down and get something for nothing," she said, adding she wouldn't be able to go the prom herself without finding that special dress and accessories at the giveaway.

In addition to formal dresses, the students are collecting jewelry, shoes, men's suit pants, jackets, ties and vests. Vintage and retro formal wear are also welcomed.

The students appreciate that all items are clean, with no stains or holes, smoke free, and that jewels and beading are intact.

Thacker said this year the students are focusing more on collecting items for guys.

Senior Quinn Martens-Bobbitt, who is in his second year helping with the project, said, "Last year we had only 10 items for guys," adding he is glad that number has increased this year. "This program is very important for those who don't have the money to spend a lot."

The teachers have sent out notices to several area high schools encouraging them to pass the word along to their students about the giveaway. Windholz said the KAMS students at Fort Hays State University are welcome to participate as well, since many of them return home to attend the proms at their individual high schools.

She added that the Hays High students collect the prom items year round. One giveaway was held last fall preceding homecoming. Two other giveaways will be held from 3 to 4 p.m. Thursday, March 21, and Thursday, April 4, both at the high school, 2300 E. 13th.

Winholz said, "Our administration, especially at the high school level, has been exceptional. Project Prom started with Michelle's vision and energy of what could be, but it took the entire spectrum of support to make it happen and continue to grow."

The students' theme for their project is "Pay It



LINN ANN HUNTINGTON

**Hays High School teachers Michelle Thacker and Jolene Windholz examine one of the dresses they will be transporting from the school to Big Creek Crossing for the "Project Prom to Remember" giveaway on Feb. 23. All of the formal wear their students have collected has been cleaned and bagged.**

Forward." While students are welcome to keep the items they select at the giveaway for as long as they wish, they are also encouraged to re-donate their formal wear in the future to others.

Those with items to donate are welcome to drop them by the Hays High School office between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays.

### First Call plans Community Challenge fundraiser

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

Laura Shoaff, project coordinator, said each team will solve clues to arrive at various locations in Hays. 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 three-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.firstcallelliscounty.com/AmazingRace](http://www.firstcallelliscounty.com/AmazingRace) or by calling (785) 623-2800.

### Hays woman invited to shoebox distribution

Rachel Albin, Operation Christmas Child coordinator for Northwest Kansas, will be assisting with a shoebox distribution in Windhoek, Namibia, South Africa from May 14 to 22. The middle school youth at her church, Messiah Lutheran, are holding a fundraiser on Sunday, March 3, to help with her trip expenses.

A freewill offering will be taken at the breakfast





# ONE COLORING CONTEST

Once again, ONE magazine is sponsoring an Easter coloring contest with the winning entry being selected for the Easter edition of ONE. The children's contest will feature the top five entries with the top drawing awarded the front page of the magazine. To enter, simply take out a blank sheet of 8.5x11 paper and illustrate the phrase "He is Risen." Write your name, age and church on the back. Entries can be turned in at your church or dropped by The Hays Daily News office at 507 Main Street. Entries must be received by 5 p.m. Monday, March 11, and will be judged later that week.

beginning at 9:45 a.m. in the Courtyard of the church, located at 2000 Main. On the menu will be egg casse-roles, fruit and various types of bread.

Operation Christmas Child is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization based in Boone, N.C., and headed by the Rev. Franklin Graham.

Each year thousands of individuals pack shoeboxes with small toys, school supplies and hygiene items. These shoeboxes are then distributed to needy children around the world. Children receiving the shoeboxes also receive a booklet telling them about Jesus and how much he loves them. For many of the children, this is the first gift they have ever received.

Albin said this will be her first time assisting with a shoebox distribution.

"I will be assisting the International Leadership Team. There will be about 20 to 40 people in my group," she said.

The opportunity to assist with a shoebox distribution comes by special invitation only, Albin said, adding she was surprised when she received her invitation last November.

Samaritan's Purse considers whether the area director attends leadership training, attends the annual conference, and if the person's team is experiencing growth in terms of the number of shoeboxes collected annually.

In 2018, Albin's area collected 6,811 shoeboxes, an increase of 7 percent over the number of boxes collected in 2017.

## Lent, Holy Week services scheduled

Messiah Lutheran Church, 2000 Main, has scheduled the following Lent and Holy Week services:

Ash Wednesday service, 7:30 p.m. March 6; Lent services, 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, March 13, 20, 27, April 3, and April 10; Palm Sunday services, 8:30 and 11 a.m. April 14; Maundy Thursday service, 7:30 p.m. April 18; Good Friday service, 7:30 p.m. April 19; Easter Sunday service, 9:30 a.m. April 21.

## Soroptimists schedule fundraiser

The Soroptimist organization in Hays will have its annual fundraiser at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 9, in the Schenk Building at the Ellis County Fairgrounds.

The event will include a prime rib dinner and entertainment featuring "Dueling Pianos," provided by Howl at the Moon. Tickets are \$50 per person before Saturday, March 2. After that, tickets are \$75. Tickets are available at both Cerv's locations in Hays.

According to their Facebook page, Soroptimists are an "organization of women at their best helping other women to be their best." All proceeds

will go toward scholarships for women and girls in the area.

## Cake decorator to be featured at dinner

Melissa Pyle of Hays wears many hats. She is a baker. She is a cake decorator. She is an event planner. She is the owner of Melissa's Party Cakes and Creations. On Monday, March 11, she will be sharing with the Hays After 5 Christian women's group all the different services she provides.

The dinner program will take place from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Rose Garden Banquet Hall 2350 E. Eighth. Hairstylists in the area will be recognized and honored at the event.

Also on the program will be inspirational speaker Robin Reese of Longview, Texas. In her talk, titled "Security in an Unsecured World," Reese will share how she and her husband Terry experienced some dangerous times while living in South Africa for six years. She will also talk about the insecurities of losing loved ones at an early age and how one can feel secure regardless of any situation.

Cost of the dinner program is \$12.50. Reservations are due by Thursday, March 7, to (785) 202-1036 or to [daisymae0917@yahoo.com](mailto:daisymae0917@yahoo.com). Hays After 5 is affiliated with Stonecroft Ministry of Overland Park.

## Shoebox 'Craft Night' is March 25

Operation Christmas Child will have its monthly "Craft Night" from 7 to 8 p.m. Monday, March 25, at St. Nicholas of Myra Church, 2901 E. 13th St., to make items for next year's shoeboxes.

Rachel Albin, area coordinator, said participants do not need to have special skills, and youth are welcome to participate.

"If you want to take some of the items you make that night for your own shoeboxes or for your church's shoeboxes, that's absolutely fine," Albin said. She added that if participants have crafts they are working on for their own shoeboxes, they are welcome to bring them along.

"This will be a fun time when we can gather together as an inter-denominational group and work on projects and share ideas. But, most of all, it's a way to keep the excitement of Operation Christmas Child going throughout the year," she said.

Albin and her staff plan to host a shoebox craft night every month through October, and she is looking for other churches willing to host one.

Donations for supplies are always accepted and appreciated, Albin said. More information is available by contacting her at (785) 639-1325 or at [ralbinmk@yahoo.com](mailto:ralbinmk@yahoo.com)

**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)**

# Night to Shine bigger, brighter

By JUNO OGLE  
juno@dailynews.net

Hays' second Night to Shine was twice as big.

The event in early February — in conjunction with the Tim Tebow Foundation and more than 650 churches across the country on the same night — is a prom night experience for those 14 and older in the special needs community.

This year, they came from more areas, too — groups from Atwood and Hill City, and others from Smith Center and Sylvan Grove.

As the guests entered Celebration Community Church, 5790 230th Ave., they walked a red carpet, greeted by cheering fans and “paparazzi” taking pictures. A volunteer signaled the crowd with colored cards if it was OK to cheer loudly or to give a quieter welcome for those sensitive to noise and lights.

Inside they were matched with a volunteer “buddy” to help make sure they got to enjoy all of the evening’s activities.

This year, more than 800 guests and volunteers filled the church, starting the evening in the 550-seat worship center for the promenade. Senior Pastor Brant Rice introduced each guest, who got their picture taken on stage before heading with their buddies to a dinner in the gym catered by Gella’s Diner.

While volunteers cleaned tables and put them away for the dance, guests could play games, sing karaoke and take rides in a party bus or limo around the church’s parking lot.

It’s a lot of work to make it all happen, said one of the organizers, Brent Kaiser, activities director at Arc of the Central Plains, but having the previous year’s experience helped, even with some new people to the team.

“We were really mostly done with everything by eight o’clock last night,” he said Friday afternoon.

As with last year, Tiger Pals, a student group at Fort Hays State University, assisted with the planning and setup, but with new officers.

“But they’ve jumped in and everything’s just kind of stayed in stride,” Kaiser said.

John Egan and Grace Buessing, president and vice president of Tiger Pals, both volunteered last year. Peri Lange also assisted with the planning, but as a member of the FHSU track team, was traveling for a meet on Saturday.

“Even launching with it last year, I knew I wanted to do more with it this coming year,” Buessing said. Last year, she was a buddy for one of the guests.

The planning committee, which also included Drew Gannon, director of the FHSU Wellness Center, and Haley Nixon, intellectual and developmental disabilities program director at Hays Recreation Commission, met weekly for about six months — and more frequently as the event drew near — to bring Friday night’s event together.

And while many of the 400 volunteers were members of Celebration Church, there also were many from outside the



**JOLIE GREEN, Hays Daily News**  
Skip Cox, right, pins a boutonniere on Ollie Sayers at the Night to Shine event Feb. 8 at Celebration Community Church in Hays.

church, Kaiser said.

One volunteer even came from Littleton, Colo. “Obviously she could have gone to one in Denver, but she wants to be part of the one here because she has some ties to our church, but she also saw how successful the personal relationship was with our guests and how well it was done,” Kaiser said.

More than 30 businesses donated to the evening. Making those connections was easier this year since more people understand what Night to Shine is, Kaiser said. Donations included food, prizes, flowers and hair appointments from Hays Academy of Hair Design.

“It’s been a really cool deal to see our community come together,” he said.

A big donation this year came from Jim’s Formal Wear in Salina, which gave 100 tuxedos for the men and boys, delivered to the Arc’s community room two weeks ago for an evening for guests to pick out their outfits. Last year saw a number of dresses donated for the women and girls, but few suits. The guests get to keep the clothes they choose to wear for the night.

The Hays committee approached the formal wear compa-

ny about the donation, and now the company is considering doing the same nationwide for Night to Shine, Kaiser said.

All the hard work paid off, as guests smiled, laughed and danced through the evening.

Tallias McNabb was one of several who attended from a group home in Hill City. In a bright blue tuxedo vest, he sang Three Dog Night’s “Joy to the World” at the karaoke station, getting cheers and high fives from the crowd.

“I’m not used to being dressed up like this,” he said, but he’s danced at lots of weddings, he said.

In a respite room, parents and caretakers of guests were treated to a meal, refreshments and chair massages from FHSU massage therapy students, who volunteered for the evening.

For Jill Lawson, Sylvan Grove, it was a chance for her and her husband to connect with other parents as well as a fun time for their son, Steven, 20, who had a traumatic brain injury.

“For me it means he gets to be accepted for being who he is,” she said, her voice choking with emotion.

“He’s well loved in his community, but to feel the people around here ... there’s a lot of love here,” she said.



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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](http://www.stfidelischurch.com)

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Sunday Worship with Holy  
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394 St. John-St. Andrew Rd.  
Get off the Ellis exit on I-70,  
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400 E. 7th 625-6245  
[www.libertyis.com](http://www.libertyis.com)

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10:45 a.m. Service Broadcast  
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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

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Rev. Harvey Hillin

Sunday Holy Eucharist  
9:30 a.m.

Evening Prayer

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[stmichaelshays@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaelshays@gmail.com)



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3000 W. 41st St 785-625-6359

[www.westviewchurch.tv](http://www.westviewchurch.tv)

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(ELCA)

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[www.trinityhays.org](http://www.trinityhays.org)

[tlchays@eaglecom.net](mailto:tlchays@eaglecom.net)

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[www.haysfpc.org](http://www.haysfpc.org)

[pastorcelestehays@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcelestehays@gmail.com)

2900 Hall 625-2847



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