



ONE

A publication of the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance May 2019

INSIDE:

- + On a Mission
- + ECMA News

Are we really listening?

The theme for this month is missions. In this edition of the ONE Magazine, you will read about short-term mission experiences, stories of missionaries, and why mission work is important. When I think of mission, an old song I learned at church camp as a youth comes to mind. I have not been able to find the song again anywhere and I do not know the author of the song. But these are the words that have stayed with me all these years:

- There's a world out there, won't you stop and listen?
- There's a world out there, don't you hear it cry?



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

- There's a world out there, won't you stop and listen? Won't you listen, listen, listen?
- The Lord gave the church to set men free, to heal their hurts and misery.
- But we shut our eyes and block out the sound of a world that's crying and dying all around.

• There's a world out there, won't you stop and listen?

• There's a world out there, don't you hear

them cry?

- There's a world out there, won't you stop and listen? Won't you listen, listen, listen

So as you listen to the news about our world, as you encounter people in our own community, what are you hearing?

What are you seeing? Sometimes we are willing to give aid to someone who is in need who looks just like us, who allows us to stay within our comfort zone. Sometimes we like to give our financial resources to help a mission in a foreign country because the only thing required of us is writing a check. However, faithful discipleship is not about comfort and being safe. Just as Jesus gave himself up for us, we are called to take up our cross and follow him. It is a risky venture. But there is a world out there, in far off places, and in our own backyard, where people are crying and dying. Are we really listening? And if we have heard the cries, what is God calling us to do? How we answer these questions is the true essence of mission.

News to know

TMP dinner, auction are Saturday night

Thomas More Prep-Marian High School will be holding its "45th Annual Auction for Christian Education" beginning at 4 p.m. Saturday, April 27, in the Al Billinger Field House.

Tickets for the buffet and auction are \$100 per person for regular seating, \$200 per person for VIP seating, and \$300 per person for seating at the Auctioneer's Table.

A preview party to view auction items will be held from 8 to 10 p.m. Friday, April 26, in the field house. Preview guests can enjoy refreshments and buy a chance to win one of two \$500 cash prizes.

At the auction itself, several cash prizes will be raffled off. The grand prize to be raffled off is a 2018 Chevrolet Trax LT SUV, donated by Kay and Dick Werth of Auto World Used Cars.

Tickets are available by calling (785) 625-9434. The co-chairs for this event are Greg and Candace Yost and Jay and Bobbi Pfeifer.

Clean-up buckets to go to flood victims

Members of Frist Presbyterian Church, 2900 Hall St., will spend part

of their 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, April 28, filling "clean-up buckets" to be dispersed to victims of the recent flooding in Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, and Iowa.

"The buckets will be taken to the Presbytery Meeting in Ellsworth on April 30th and then on to the distribution center," said Becky Rogowski, who is helping to coordinate the project.

Each five-gallon bucket will include cleaning supplies, trash bags, latex gloves, and insect repellent. A complete list of the items is available from Rogowski at (785) 625-2847.

It takes \$35 to fill each bucket, and donations are greatly appreciated, Rogowski said.

'Bowl for Kids Sake' fundraiser coming up

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ellis County will have its 20th annual "Bowl for Kids Sake" on Wednesday, May 1, at Centennial Lanes, 2400 Vine. Bowling times are 5:30 and 7 p.m.

The organization encourages friends, co-workers, and neighbors to form teams of five or six members and sign up at www.4kidsake.org/Ellis. Or individuals may go solo. Those raising at least \$200 will be entered in a draw-

ing to win a trip to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

More than 40 children are currently waiting to be matched with a Big in Ellis County, according to a news release. All proceeds will be used to help facilitate those matches. More information is available at (785) 625-6672.

Herndon Clinic to offer summer camps

The Herndon Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic at Fort Hays State University is currently accepting enrollment for its summer camps for toddlers through middle schoolers who need assistance with communication and social skills.

The camps will run from June 10 through July 11. Two levels of camps are available for school-age children—those who require a high level of support to interact or communicate, and those who are at the conversational level and need support for social skills.

Cost is \$150. The priority deadline is Wednesday, May 1. Registration and additional information are available by calling (785) 628-5366.

The clinic is located in Albertson Hall 131.

SEE NEWS, 10

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.

ADVISERS

Pastor Kevin Daniels
Hays Christian Church
rev.kevin.daniels@gmail.com

Pastor Dave Buller
North Oak Community Church
dbuller@northoak.net

Pastor Marie Sager
Trinity Lutheran Church
pastormarie15@gmail.com



ONE is the official publication of the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance, which guides its mission, content and theme.

It is produced by The Hays Daily News.
Volume 13, Issue 2
Copyright 2019

one@dailynews.net
Read the PDF version at oureema.com
or find us on Facebook

On the cover

Carson Konrade carries two wooden crosses to install at Thomas More Prep-Marian High School on March 9 in Hays.
Jolie Green, HDN.



Last month

The sun sets behind St. John Lutheran Church north of Ellis.

Photo by Marie Sager



He calls us: He forgives us

"When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me." – John 21:15-19

Greetings in the Name of the Risen Christ!

The Risen Christ beckons each of us who love him out into his mission field, just as he did with Simon Peter. In the scripture above, Peter was fishing with six other disciples. They'd been fishing all night long, with no luck. At day-break, a solitary figure called out from the shore, 'cast your nets to the right of the boat'. Reluctantly, they did and the net almost broke because of the huge catch of fish. Simon Peter, realizing it was the Risen Christ, couldn't wait to see him, jumping in the lake and swimming ahead of the boat to quickly see him once again.

This was the same Simon Peter who had denied Jesus three times before his crucifixion. He was not only wel-

comed and fed by Jesus, but would also be forgiven by him three times, with a missional admonition to 1. "Feed my lambs."; 2 "Tend my sheep."; and 3. "Feed my sheep."; with a final admonition to "Follow me."

This was good news for Simon Peter, for Judas was not the only one who had forsaken Jesus at his darkest hour, and Peter knew it. Jesus knew that without his grace-filled act of forgiveness, Simon Peter might revert to simply Simon and continue to only fish for fish. But with his act of supreme forgiveness, Simon Peter would now choose to simply drop Simon, and fully be-



Rev. Mike Rose

First United Methodist
mikerose994@gmail.com

come the Apostle Peter, feeding Jesus' lambs, tending Jesus' sheep, feeding the whole flock, and following him.

In essence, Jesus took Simon

Peter's stumbling block and turned it into a stepping stone, and in the process, prophesied that Simon Peter would become Saint Peter, glorifying God in both his life and death as he followed Jesus, caring for his earthly flock.

The Risen Christ still beckons each of us who love him out into his mission field, just as he did with Simon Peter. He knows that each of us have stumbling blocks in our own pasts that have prevented us from fully enjoying dining with Jesus on the shores of the seas of our lives. And while we may or may not have doubted Jesus, we have doubted ourselves. But here is the truth: Just as Jesus called Simon Peter to feed his lambs, to tend his sheep, to feed his sheep, and to follow him, he calls us, too. And he forgives us, just like he did Simon Peter, so that we, too, may take our stumbling blocks and turn them into stepping stones for Christ.

So, for Christ's sake, let's do it!

SHARE YOUR MESSAGE

**Your goods and services
are needed by members
of the faith community.**

**Don't miss this
opportunity to share
your message of
what your business has
to offer with the
congregations of
Ellis County.**

Advertise in



Call Today

628-1081 or 800-657-6017

THE HAYS DAILY NEWS
VOICE OF THE HIGH PLAINS

507 Main • P.O. Box 857 • Hays, KS 67601
785-628-1081 • 800-657-6017 • Fax: 785-628-8186
e-mail: advertising@dailynews.net

An amazingly true inspiration

Several years ago, I had the privilege of hearing Gwen and John speak at the Hays First Presbyterian Church. They were working as missionaries in Ethiopia at the time, as they had done for over 30 years! Their story amazed me! It was my first experience talking to people who were actually working in missions. They described the dire conditions they worked and lived in. Their passion and love for the people of Ethiopia was obvious! They stressed that they teach love and forgiveness in cultures of violence.

On what seemed like a normal October day, the couple traveled on a road to a house they were building for a Bible translator—a road they had traveled dozens of times—a gunman jumped out of the bush and fired. A car window was open, and a bullet hit Gwen just above the lip, shattering her jaw. Many of the 20 teeth she lost turned into razor-sharp projectiles and hit John's arm and chest. A bone fragment hit him in the eye. "The first of many miracles was that nei-



Becky Rogowski

First Presbyterian
presbychsec@gmail.com

ther of us went into shock," he said. "Gwen wiped the blood from my eye, and we drove away as fast as we could." He said the four native Suris riding with them to the construction site immediately jumped out of the moving car, as self-preservation kicked in. One of them later told John that the man who fired the gun quickly disappeared into the bush with a blanket over his head, a sign of shame. Because they were driving a different vehicle that day, they felt certain he didn't recognize them until after he fired.

They drove to the nearest town and then

were transported by ambulance to a hospital in Addis Ababa. The couple's doctor told World Mission's regional liaison for the Horn of Africa, the Rev. Michael Weller,

that more than 200 people gathered at the rural hospital to show their love and support. Almost 1,000 were present when the couple left the airport in Addis Ababa for a Level 1 trauma center in South Africa, one of the best in the world.

"They came through the emergency room wailing, and some collapsed with grief," said Gwen. "Some even came into the

operating room. There was no way to keep them out. It's simply the way they show love and concern."

Some weeks after the attack, a group of Suris told John they were going to find and kill the man who shot at them. He immediately said "no" and began an ongoing conversation about forgiveness. Daughter Heather spoke with the Suri representative to parliament, Lanjoy, who is a personal friend of the couple, to communicate the family's message and their sincere desire that the man who did this would come to know Jesus. The Suris were told that John and Gwen were not angry with them "and continue to love them as they always have."

"We have always taught the importance of praising God, of forgiveness and reconciliation, and now we have the chance to live it," said Gwen. "The cycle of killing and revenge must be broken among the

Suri people. It can only be done by the heart-changing power of the gospel of Jesus Christ by forgiving and being forgiven."

Safely back in Kansas after retiring from mission service on June 30, John and Gwen are still seeing doctors regularly as they recover from their injuries.

On the anniversary of the incident, John is headed back to Ethiopia to baptize 1,000 new Christians. World Mission's partner is the Ethiopian Church Mekane Yesus, which numbers more than seven million. John also hopes to see the man who shot at them and offer his forgiveness. "Our prayer is that he will come to know Jesus," said Gwen. She said closure is important, for her and for the Suri. John has been back and showed them photos of Gwen, but many refuse to believe she is alive until they see her.

Their amazing love and ability to forgive is definitely an inspiration.

'HEAVENLY MANSIONS'



Showcased at North Oak Community Church, 3000 Oak St., is a display of what fifth graders in the Heroes for Life program think heaven will look like. The heavenly mansions were created over a four-week period by 23 students, said Rachel Ediger, one of the class instructors. Other teachers were Jessica Clingan and Jann Mages.

Photo by Linn Ann Huntington



HAYSMED

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

855.429.7633

Bone, Joint & Spine Center
Breast Care Center
Center for Health Improvement
Convenient Care Walk-In Clinic
DeBakey Heart Institute
Dodge City Specialty Clinic
Dreiling/Schmidt Cancer Institute
Eye Surgery
Family Medicine
General Surgery
Hospice/Palliative Care
Imaging Center
Internal Medicine
Medical Pavilion Pharmacy
Nephrology Center of Western Kansas
OB/GYN
Orthopedic Institute

Pediatrics
Poison Control Center
Psychiatric Associates
Pulmonology Associates
Rehabilitation Services
Robotic Surgery
St. Rose Health Center

Sleep Neurodiagnostic Institute
Specialty Clinic At St. Rose
Urology
WorkSMART
Wound Healing & Hyperbaric Center

Medical Concierge Services

ONE CALL 1-855-429-7633

Nurse Hotline M-F 4:30 p.m.-8 a.m.

24 hours weekends and holidays

Convenient Care Walk-In Clinic

M-F 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m. | Sat. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Sun. 11 a.m.-4 pm

785-261-7065

HaysMed complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age disability, or sex. ATTENTION: If you speak a language other than English, language assistance services are available to you free of charge. Call 1-855-429-7633 (TTY: 1-800-766-3777).

ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-855-429-7633 (TTY: 1-800-766-3777).

CHÚ Ý: Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn. Gọi số 1-855-429-7633 (TTY: 1-800-766-3777).

Why missions?

For several years my wife and I lived in a high-crime neighborhood in California. Drug busts, police raids, cars bursting into flame (meth labs), prostitution rings, and lots of gunfire all made for excitement for a relatively sheltered newly married couple from small southwest Kansas towns. We were like the proverbial fishes out of water. I wonder if Jesus ever felt like that.

One day Jesus traveled to the “south side of the tracks”—you know, the part of town where people talk differently, dress differently, and cause a welling-up of discomfort on our insides. So here is Jesus, walking with his disciples, and they had to go by a village in Samaria (one of those “different” places). The disciples head into the village to buy food. Soon after, Jesus begins speaking with a woman there and shares the Good News of the Kingdom of God. The disciples return, surprised to find him speaking with a woman, and a Samaritan woman besides!

Seeing the aghast expressions of the disciples



Pastor Dave Buller
North Oak Community
dbuller@northoak.net

and feeling the discomfort of the situation, the woman heads into town and begins sharing with all the people in the town all that Jesus had told her.

As if there aren't enough lessons already in this story, right here Jesus begins speaking words that are instructive for not only his contemporaries, but also for those who claim allegiance to this purpose-filled King.

The disciples tell Jesus, “Eat something” (John 4:31).

Jesus responds by saying, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about”

(John 4:32).

The disciples wonder if someone has already brought him food, but to clear things up, Jesus says: “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work” (John 4:34).

Jesus goes on to speak about the harvest...meaning all the people around us who have not heard about the Christ, all the people in the world who have not heard. The heart of God is this: that people on the earth would be saved through believing

that Jesus is the Christ, repenting of their sins, and simply doing what Jesus said. He wants all to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9).

Jesus said that his food was to “do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.” Which gets to the question pertinent to us: What is God's will for us? The answer: Every person who is a follower of Jesus will do the things that he did (John 14:12).

Why do we do missions? Because Jesus did missions. Who should do missions? Everyone who believes in him.

Start a prayer group at your church looking at the words of Jesus, the stories of Jesus. Study what he did, then follow suit. He is the best model you will find. Begin by asking questions and search the Bible for answers. I believe that we have not only the answers that a searching world needs, but we also have supernatural power to bring the message and the salvation of Christ to those around us (Acts 1:8). Look at options this summer for you and your family to go on a mission trip—then choose one and go! Live out the life that God has designed for you and eat real food (John 4:34).

Be blessed!

Words can change you for the better

Welcome to the Bible Reading plan for May. This is a busy month; school is out, it's graduation season, it's wedding season, we celebrate Mother's Day, and Memorial Day. Don't let your Bible reading time slide, we have some amazing readings this month!

We will finish reading through the book of Numbers. Hidden in the “numbers”

are some short narratives that can encourage you. Although reading through this book can be tedious, keep reading, the Holy Spirit might have something to say to you as you press through!

Our New Testament readings continue to build as we read through

Paul's letters. This month will include an almost complete reading of the book of Romans. Did you know that Paul's letters were the primary theological text for the Church at its inception? Paul's letters, especially Romans, is the real “meat and potatoes” of New Testament doctrine.

There are so many promises to meditate on in Romans; 5:17 always stands out to me, “For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned

through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.” AMEN! Then there is 8:26-28, 10:9-10, 12:1-2, 14-15.... And the list



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

May

- 1 Numbers 14..... 2. Cor. 10
- 2 Numbers 15..... 2. Cor. 11
- 3 Numbers 16..... 2. Cor. 12
- 4&5..Weekend Review
- 6 Numbers 17..... 2. Cor. 13
- 7 Numbers 18..... Gal. 1
- 8 Numbers 19..... Gal. 2
- 9 Numbers 20..... Gal. 3
- 10.... Numbers 21..... Gal. 4
- 11&12..Weekend Review
- 13.... Numbers 22..... Gal. 5
- 14.... Numbers 23..... Gal. 6
- 15.... Numbers 24..... Romans 1
- 16.... Numbers 25..... Romans 2
- 17.... Numbers 26..... Romans 3
- 18&19..Weekend Review
- 20.... Numbers 27..... Romans 4
- 21.... Numbers 28..... Romans 5
- 22.... Numbers 29..... Romans 6
- 23.... Numbers 30..... Romans 7
- 24.... Numbers 31..... Romans 8
- 25&26..Weekend Review
- 27.... Numbers 32..... Romans 9
- 28.... Numbers 33..... Romans 9
- 29.... Numbers 34..... Romans 10
- 30.... Numbers 35..... Romans 11
- 31.... Numbers 36..... Romans 12

goes on! Like a friend of mine says, if these passages don't lite your fire, your wood is wet! Let these Words get in you, they will change you for

the better!

May God's word keep you anchored in His love during this busy season. Thanks for reading with me!



Maggie Chitty and her fiancé, Coleman Westhoff, will be going on a mission trip to Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Namibia May 29 through June 14.

LINN ANN HUNTINGTON



COURTESY PHOTO

Maggie Chitty displays two of the Yuda Bands bracelets that she sold while in high school. The bracelets are made from carved coconut shells and leather and come in different designs. They are only available through sales at high schools.

Students ready for mission trips

By Linn Ann Huntington
lhunting@fhsu.edu

In a few weeks Kevin Johnston, Garden City senior, will graduate from Fort Hays State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in exercise science and massage therapy.

But before he starts a new job, Johnston will be going on a mission trip to Trinidad and Tobago in the West Indies. The trip, which will run from mid-July to mid-August, is through Live Like Jesus Today Ministries in Ellinwood.

Johnston said he got involved in the ministry's Contagious Bible Study when he was a student at Barton Community College in Great Bend, before transferring to FHSU.

He has remained friends with the couple who run the ministry, Pastor Buzz Birney and his wife, Clifann.

Johnston said, "Buzz has been a father figure to me the last five or six years." In fact, it was Buzz Birney who baptized Johnston in 2017 after Johnston made a profession of faith.

Johnston said he was attracted to the organization because "they focus on empowering others and building their faith."

According to the ministry's website, "Live Like Jesus Today Ministries' short-term mission experience is about building long-term relationships that transform the goer and receivers' lives for Jesus Christ!"

Clifann Birney is from Trinidad, and her parents have a ministry there that works with Star of Hope Prep School, a private school for underprivileged elementary students.

Johnston said his mission team, which will consist of 10 to 15 people, will be doing evangelism work in different cities in Trinidad.

In addition to its mission trips to the West Indies, the ministry also goes to Wichita each month "to work with the needy and homeless there," according to the website.

Johnston said he has been on two of these trips to Wichita, which is what made him want to go with the group overseas. But his college work always seemed to get in the way, he said.

"I've been looking forward to this trip for four years. God told me the time was now!"

Johnson said he is most looking forward to "getting new opportunities and learning new things about people of different cultures . . . I want to use my ability to talk to people to help them find their walk in Christ."

Johnston has been involved in the United Methodist Student Organization at FHSU for the past three years and has served as president this year.

Since Christmas Break, he has been working to raise the \$1,900 needed to fund his trip. He's still about \$1,000 short. Those who wish to contribute to his trip may go to his GoFundMe page at

<https://www.gofundme.com/6x3cz1k>. He said he also would appreciate people's prayers.

* * *

Two other FHSU students, Maggie Chitty and her fiancé, Coleman Westhoff, soon will be embarking on a mission trip to another part of the world.

Chitty, Gypsum junior, and Westhoff, Assaria junior, will be traveling to Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Nimibia, all countries in Africa, from May 29 through June 14.

They will be traveling with a group of 10-12 students, most of them high school age, on a trip sponsored by Yuda Bands, a non-profit group that supports education in developing nations through the sale of handmade Guatemalan bracelets.

The bracelets are made from carved coconut shells and leather and come in different designs. Ayuda is the Spanish word for help, aid, or assistance, according to the ministry's website.

Chitty and Westhoff both attended Southeast of Saline High School, where they were involved in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). Yuda Bands works with high school organizations such as theirs.

According to Yuda Bands' website, "High school students choose a student in another country to sponsor. They sell the bracelets at their school for \$7 apiece. The sale lasts two weeks. Then the money goes toward a scholarship fund for the selected student."

The selected international students are expected to finish high school, and, according to the website, a high percentage



COURTESY PHOTO
Pastor Buzz Birney, left, and Kevin Johnston, Fort Hays State University student, are shown shortly after Birney baptized Johnston in a swimming pool in Great Bend in 2017. This summer the two will be going on a mission trip together.

of them go on to college.

Since 2009, 700 students have been sponsored through these bracelet sales, the website stated. More than 200 U.S. high schools have hosted the Yuda Band projects, sponsoring students in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Haiti, Nepal, Ecuador, Honduras, and Zambia, the website said.

Chitty said one of the main things she is looking forward to on the trip is getting to meet the student from Zimbabwe that their group's sales sponsored. They will also get to meet the student their high school sponsored this past fall, when Chitty's younger sister was involved in the bracelet sales.

Westhoff said the team members will be building chicken coops, and the mission organization will be providing chickens to some of the families there.

Chitty said the team will also be taking food and clothing to distribute to families, and she is interested in seeing how the people in these countries live.

Both Chitty and Westhoff have made previous mission trips to Haiti through another ministry.

Westhoff said his trip to Haiti in 2017 changed his life. "The kids there were so content with what they had, which to us would be nothing. It was a real cultural shock."

He is expecting this trip to be a similar experience. "I'm interested in how the culture is different and similar to the culture in Haiti and in the U.S. I'm interested in interacting with the people there—having a connection with the people

there."

Chitty said she, too, is looking forward to "experiencing a new country and new cultures and building relationships. It's such a humbling experience to be reminded of how much we have and how much they don't have. I hope our service projects have a long-term effect."

Both Chitty and Westhoff will graduate from FHSU in May 2020. Her degree will be in elementary education. His will be in accounting and finance, with certificates in insurance, business law and banking. He plans to take the CPA exam after graduation; she hopes to get a job teaching elementary students.

They will be married in June 2020 in Salina.

For now, though, they are busy finishing out this school year and raising the \$4,000 each needs to fund their trip.

So far, they've sold T-shirts, had a bake sale, and a friend held a benefit concert for them. Chitty is making and selling earrings. The First United Methodist Church in Hays also held fundraiser for them. They're planning a garage sale in Salina in the near future. They have set up a GoFundMe page at <https://www.gofundme.com/544my-africa-service-trip>.

They have raised about half the money needed. But they remain confident.

"This is where God has put us and where God wants us to be, and we'll figure it out," Chitty said.

News, from 2

The clinic is also accepting registrations for its Spelling Camp for 4th through 12th graders, which will be offered from 9 a.m. to noon July 15-19.

According to a news release, "This one-week intensive camp will teach participants evidence-based strategies to improve their word reading and spelling." All participants will be pre-assessed following their registration. The priority registration for this camp is June 1.

After the pre-assessment, "a report providing a detailed spelling error analysis will be used to construct a targeted plan. Participants will work in focused small groups to learn systematic and structured word study strategies designed to enhance reading and spelling," the news release stated.

The Spelling Camp cost is \$100. Registration is available at the number listed above.

National Day of Prayer observance scheduled

Ellis County will observe The National Day of Prayer beginning at 12:05 p.m. Thursday, May 2, at the Veteran's Memorial at the County Courthouse, 12th and Fort Streets. The service will end around 12:55 p.m., so individuals on their lunch hours can return to work.

The Rev. Steve Dinkel, pastor of Liberty Foursquare Church and one of the event's organizers, said the theme this year will be "Love One Another," based on John 13:34, in which Jesus says, "Love one another, just as I have loved you."

The Rev. Mike Rose, pastor of Hays First United Methodist Church, will lead the opening prayer. Other individuals from throughout the community will lead prayers for "the seven centers of influence in America: the government, military, media arts, business, education, the church, and the family," according to a brochure about the event.

KPRD Radio will be doing a live remote, weather permitting, at the event as well, Dinkel said.

Another observance will take place at the Hays Senior Center, 2450 E. Eighth. Opal Flinn, a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Ellis, will lead a brief service there beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Victoria students organize fundraiser

VICTORIA — Students at Victoria Junior-Senior High School are sponsoring a 5K charity run/walk on Saturday, May 4, to benefit the emergency fund at the Basilica of St. Fidelis.

Registration is \$30. Check-in will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the school, 1105 10th St. The race will begin there at 8 a.m. and end at the same location around 10 a.m. Participants are asked to bring a can of food to the race for donation to a food pantry.

The event is being organized by the Junior High Leadership Class and the High School's chapter of Students Against Destructive Decisions.

Carolyn Nelson, one of the students' sponsors, said this is the first year the event has been held. "We were awarded a mini-service grant from the Global Youth Service as part of Global Youth Service Day," she said.

"The St. Fidelis Emergency Fund helps travelers who get stranded and need a little assistance. It is also used to help community members in Victoria and neighboring small towns. The fund benefits anyone; it is not restricted based on religion," Nelson said.

Registration is available by contacting Christie Sander, a teacher and counselor at the school, at (785) 735-9211 or christies@ruraltel.net.

Methodist Church slates guest speaker May 5

The Rev. Shelly Cox Petz will be speaking at the First United Methodist Church on Sunday, May 5, as part of United Methodist Women's Sunday.

Service times are 8:30 and 10:45 a.m. The church is located at 305 W. Seventh.

ECMA sets monthly meeting

The Ellis County Ministerial Alliance (ECMA) Board of Directors will meet on Wednesday, May 8, at Hays Medical Center. 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.

Hays High baccalaureate planned

The baccalaureate service for Hays High School graduating seniors will begin at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, at the 12th Street Auditorium.

Jeremy McGuire, children's minister at Westview Church, will be delivering the message.

Bethesda Place event is May 11

Bethesda Place invites the community to its 7th Annual Garden Day from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 11. The free event will include live music, a picnic lunch, scavenger hunt, creation stations and farm tours.

Handmade items and homegrown plants will be available for purchase. The event will be canceled in the event of inclement weather.

Bethesda Place is located at 1571 - 220 Ave. (one-quarter mile west of the Ellis County Fairgrounds, then one-quarter mile south on Fairground Road.)

More information about Bethesda Place is available at www.bethesda.place, (785) 625-6220, or bethesdaplaceinc@gmail.com.

Salvation Army gearing up for summer camp

The Salvation Army is accepting registrations for its summer camp through Saturday, May 11.

The camp, for youngsters ages 8 through 12, will take place Tuesday, June 25, through Friday, June 28, at Three Trails Camp in Kansas City, Mo. The 40-acre camp will offer activities involving arts and crafts, nature, the Bible and recreation.

"All activities are Christian centered," said Julie Smith, the Salvation Army's Ellis County coordinator.

Cost of the camp is \$20, which includes round-trip

transportation, lodging, activities and meals for all four days, Smith said. Scholarships are available. More information about the camp is available at <https://threetrailscamp.org/>.

Registration is available by contacting her at (785) 621-2794 or Julie_smith@usc.salvationarmy.org.

ARC of Central Plains head to speak at dinner program

Kathy McAdoo, executive director of The ARC of Central Plains, will offer the Hays After 5 Christian women's group an inside look at "Happenings at the ARC" at their meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, May 13.

The dinner program will take place at the Rose Garden Banquet Hall, 2350 E. Eighth. McAdoo will discuss The ARC's programs, volunteer opportunities, donation opportunities and the plans for an accessible recreation complex in Hays.

According to its website, The ARC "is committed to bringing enrichment and purpose to the lives of all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through participation in activities, education and lifelong inclusion in every aspect of community life."

The ARC's Thrift Store at 600 Main sells gently used clothing, household items, furniture, appliances, and other items. One of The ARC's projects each year is supporting Special Olympics athletes.

Women who volunteer in the community will be recognized at the After 5 meeting.

Also on the program agenda will be inspirational speaker Judy Beck of Salina. Beck, a nurse, volunteers at the Pregnancy Service Center and often talks to middle school students about sexually transmitted diseases.

In her talk, titled "Filling the Hole," Beck will share "how to obtain a purposeful life in this ever changing world."

The cost for the program is \$12.50. Reservations are due by Thursday, May 9, to (785) 202-1036 or to daisymae0917@yahoo.com. Hays After 5 is affiliated with Stonecroft Ministry of Overland Park.

'Project Suitcase' seeking donations for foster kids

The Salvation Army is asking Ellis County residents to donate items for "Project Suitcase," which helps foster children in the community.

Julie Smith, Ellis County Salvation Army coordinator, said, "We rely on donations only—basically what we get through the red kettles at Christmas time. All the funds we get in Ellis County stay in Ellis County," she said, adding, "Donations were way down this year."

That means Project Suitcase, along with the Salvation Army's other services in the county, are suffering.

Each month, Smith said, she likes to give eight suitcases each to the Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center, 135 W. Eighth, and the KVC Wheatland Hospital in the Hadley Center.

Each of these suitcases is stuffed full of hygiene items, school supplies, clothing, and toys for the children in these agencies' care.

Haley Rutherford, child and family advocate for WKCAC, said often when children are removed from their homes by authorities, the children are able to take few, if any, of their personal belongings with them.

The suitcases the children receive through the Salvation Army change all that. The bags provide the children with the basics, such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, and socks, as well as small games and coloring books.

The children take these bags of items with them when they leave WKCAC. It serves children ages 2 through 18, who are suspected victims of abuse.

Smith said placing the items in a small suitcase or backpack is much preferable over the children having to carry their items in a trash bag.

"We try to give the child some dignity, so they don't have to carry their items in a trash bag."

The problem is more people are using debit cards instead of cash to make their holiday purchases, Smith said. So the cash that went into the red kettles in Ellis County this year was way below the normal amount.

That is why Smith is appealing for donations now. Items needed for Project Suitcase are 22-inch sports

duffle bags, backpacks, shampoo and conditioner, body wash, toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, hair brushes, combs, hair ties, crayons, markers, pencils, coloring books, playing cards, small games, lap blankets, socks, and twin size blankets. Gently used bags and backpacks are acceptable, Smith said.

In addition to this project, the Salvation Army provides assistance with rent, utility bills, clothing, prescriptions, school supplies, and transportation to individuals, based on need. The agency also partners with the Lions Club for vision screenings for children and adults, again based on need.

Individuals may drop off any of the items listed above at the Salvation Army office, 203 E. Seventh, but Smith asks that donors call (785) 621-2794 first to make sure someone is available to accept delivery.

Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated Smith said. She may be reached at Julie_smith@usc.salvationarmy.org.

FHSU to offer class on World Religions
The Department of Philosophy at Fort Hays State

University will be offering a class on World Religions in the fall.

The on-campus class, Phil 179, will focus on Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Daoism. It will meet from 1:30 to 2:45 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays starting Tuesday, Aug. 20, and running through Thursday, Dec. 12.

Rob Byer, assistant professor, will be the instructor. He said the class will focus on such topics as: What is a religion? What are different religious doctrines, and what are the historical beginnings of religion?

The class may be taken for three hours of college credit, at a cost of around \$515. Or, Byer said, he is willing to allow people to audit the class for free.

"If someone is interested in attending, doing the reading, and joining in on the discussion, but doesn't need or want credit and doesn't need or want to do assessments related to the course, then auditing would be a fine option," he said. Cost of the book is around \$15.

Registration deadline is Aug. 7. More information is available by contacting Byer at srbyer@fhsu.edu or (785) 628-4727.



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

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church



1805 Vine Street - Hays, Kansas

Fr. Barry Brinkman, Pastor

Parish Office: 785-685-7339

Website: 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

Giving back to the community

By MARGARET ALLEN
mallen@dailynews.net

To Sandra Ruelas-Aranda, a freshman at Fort Hays State University from the tiny southwest Kansas town of Rolla, Hays feels like a big town.

To Vanessa Flores, a freshman from Denver, Hays feels like a small town.

But on a Saturday morning in mid-April, both were at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore, 2918 Vine, volunteering as part of The Big Event, an annual day of service across the nation that is hosted by students at colleges and universities.

"I like doing community service," said Ruelas-Aranda, who is majoring in nursing and medical Spanish. "Back home we don't have clubs. I just like to do it for the service. I just like helping people. We do a lot of projects."

About 160 students, faculty and staff were volunteering at a couple dozen locations for the ninth annual Big Event at Fort Hays, said Jacki Dougherty, Wichita, a junior majoring in organizational leadership, and community relations director for the Fort Hays Student Government Association.

Ruelas-Aranda and Flores were at ReStore as members of Circle K, a leadership program of Kiwanis International for college-age kids.

"It gives you something else to do," said Flores, who is majoring in pre-veterinary medicine, and was helping move large items of furniture with Ruelas-Aranda in the big warehouse store room of ReStore. "I get bored, Hays is so small. I like meeting new people and educating myself and helping other people."

At the front of the store, ReStore volunteer Elaine Pfannenstiel, Hays, manned the ReStore check-out counter.

Marie Ko, an FHSU sophomore from Logan, was one of the three more Circle K volunteers arranging figurines and dishes on the retail shelves. One item, in particular, caught her eye.

"The bell, look at it!" said Ko, who is majoring in finance.

"Where do you see bells like that, it's so cute!" said Grecia Ruano, a freshman from Denver majoring in criminal justice.

"We are dusting and cleaning," explained Circle K volunteer Lauren Whittington, a junior from Fleming, Colo., majoring in radiology technology.

"It feels so good to volunteer," Ko said, "especially when you don't have anything else to do anyway. It feels good to help."

The Big Event is just one of many Circle K volunteer activities, said the students, whether it's making blankets for the Salvation Army, care packages and letters for soldiers, or Valentine cards or Halloween pumpkins for seniors at Via Christi Village, Hays. May 1 they help with Bowl for Kids, a fundraiser by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ellis County.

No wonder they are at The Big Event.

"Circle K, they're like the pros of volunteering," said SGA's Dougherty. "They know what they're doing."



JOLIE GREEN, jgreen@dailynews.net
Jason Bell, director of development for the Fort Hays State University Foundation, rakes leaves around the fencing of the playground at First Presbyterian Church.

Other projects on the agenda for The Big Event included trail clean up at Sternberg Museum of Natural History, sorting donations at Trinity Lutheran Church's Jana's Closet, office organization at Options Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, painting at the Ellis County Fair, and landscaping at Bethesda Place and the Fort Hays State Historic Site, among others.

"Kind of a sad thing about today," said Dougherty, who helped launch the volunteers that morning from the Black and Gold Room of the Memorial Union on campus, handing out t-shirts, work gloves and shovels. "We've had to turn away some volunteers this morning because we don't have enough projects."

While this is the ninth year on campus for The Big Event, it's the first year for SGA to partner on the event with the Fort Hays State University Alumni Association and the FHSU Foundation, said Jason Williby, CEO of the foundation, the non-profit fundraising arm for FHSU.

"Our mission is to support FHSU with private gifts," Williby said. "Gen Z and millennials, they're more interested in philanthropy if it ties to service. This event was already going on through the students, so we saw it as an opportunity to tie service and philanthropy together."

In an email this year, FHSU President Tisa Mason urged faculty and staff to join students at The Big Event.

At First Presbyterian Church, Williby took up a saw to trim bushes where playground equipment will soon be constructed for Happy Days Childcare & Preschool, an independent, nonprofit day care center housed in the church.

"We wanted to get this area prepared so it will be ready," said Presbyterian's pastor Rev. Celeste Lasich.

Jason Ball, the FHSU Foundation's director of development, raked leaves.

Schuyler Coates, the FHSU Foundation's director of annual giving, accepted hedge clippers from Lasich's husband, Dennis Wilson. Coates headed for a big row of bushy bushes.

"Just don't turn them into elephants or anything," Willson said.

"If I do you can't be mad," laughed Coates.

"This community is so generous to the university," said Williby. "We wanted to work side by side with the students. We hope that it grows every year, and part of that is having projects to do."

Besides students, some ideas for projects this year came from Kiwanis, Hays City Commissioner Sandy Jacobs, and Hays Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director Melissa Dixon, said Williby.

At the Fort Hays Historic Site, south of town on the U.S. Highway 183 Bypass, Tammy Younger, site administrator, was happy with the progress there by 10:30 a.m.

"They've gotten a lot done," she said of the volunteers, who had already loaded up several truckloads of branches and helped take them to the dump.

Jackie Tarango, a Dodge City freshman, and Alvaro Escobedo, a sophomore from Salina, were trimming back the dead brown shoots on a clump of pampas grass with several others on their team. Both are senators in the FHSU Student Senate.

"What is this, what are we cutting?" Said Tarango, who is majoring in criminal justice. While she'd never seen the plant before, Escobedo said it was familiar to him from having been part of Prayer in Action, a week of yard work sponsored annually by Catholic Charities.

"We carried lumber from the visitors center to the guardhouse," said Elodie Jones, a professor in the College of Education, who also helped with the pampas grass. "This helps the Fort to prepare for Spring visitors."

With clippers in hand, Jones and a student were set to clear brush from under one of the Fort's many big evergreen trees.

A loud melody from the tree alerted the team to a bird amongst the tree branches.

"There it is," she said as the bird flew out. "It was a dove."

Also at the fort, Jill Arensdorf, chair and associate professor of Leadership Studies, helped.

"I think it's so important for the community and Fort Hays to work together," Jones said. "And I think it's so important to be a role model about the value of giving back to your community and volunteerism."

Jones, who once was a student at Felten Middle School and graduated from Hays High School and Fort Hays, said working with her students also helps her get to know them.

"And the Fort has been fantastic, they had donuts and juice and coffee for us," she said. "So far it hasn't seemed like work."



A Partnership of



Ellis County Ministerial Alliance

and



Can be picked up at the following locations:

Liberty Foursquare Church
Celebration Community Church
Westview Church
Messiah Lutheran Church
First Baptist Church
St. Fidelis Church

St. Nicholas of Myra Church
Hays Christian Church
Cornerstone Southern Baptist Church
First Presbyterian Church
Thomas More Prep-Marian High School
Messenger

St. John Lutheran Church, Ellis

View it online at ourecma.com

Eagle Communications
St. Michael's Episcopal Church
HMC Chapel
North Oak Community Church
First United Methodist Church
Trinity Lutheran Church

Sponsoring
Churches of
ONE



**FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH**

Office Hours: 9-1 Mon. - Thurs.
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.
Fellowship Meal after every
Sunday service
12th & Fort 625-9454



A Place You Can Call Home

Pastor Kevin Daniels
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:45 a.m.
Nursery
Children's Church Provided
22nd & Marshall 625-3100
www.hayschristianchurch.org

**THE BASILICA OF
ST. FIDELIS,
VICTORIA**

Saturday Mass: 5:00 p.m.
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)**

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
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

(LC-MS)

Christ Centered, Family Strong,
Mission Minded

Pastor Rocco Mallardi
We gather around Christ's gifts
every Sunday @ 8:30 & 11:00
Wednesday evening education
classes for all ages
Starts @ 5:00

2000 Main 625-2057
www.messiahlutheranhays.com

**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

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



No matter where you are
in your faith there's
a place for you at C3.

Welcome home.

For more info on service times
and styles, visit us online at
celebratejesus.org
or download our app C3hays.

**WESTVIEW
CHURCH**

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.

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.

Nursery &
Children's Church Available

Wed. K-12 programs

3000 Oak 785-628-8887

www.northoak.net