



ONE

A publication of the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance June 2019

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The vision of service

Many years ago, I served as pastor of a small rural church in Oklahoma. It was considered a “student parish” for those in seminary and there were around twenty in worship each Sunday. As I was preparing to graduate, someone commented to me that I would soon be moving on to a “real church.” I remember being quite offended by that remark. I am sure my parishioners would have been also for they were very committed to service in God’s kingdom in various capacities.

Service within the local church is about praying for the sick, feeding the poor, comforting those who grieve, teaching the faith to the next generation, and welcoming the lost. In other words, whenever



The Rev. Karen Harvester

Hays Med Chaplain
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we bring the good news of the gospel to a hurting world, this is the church, regardless of the number of people involved. I wonder if we sometimes sell ourselves short by minimizing the impact we might have on our community and beyond by our service within the local congregation.

After all, the early history of the church began with the disciples and a few followers.

However, if the disciples would have been content with maintaining status quo, you and I would not be in the church today. Any organization, whether it be a business or a church, that circles in the ranks and sets its sights on maintenance is surely destined to a slow decline and death. There is no standing

still in God’s kingdom. Service in the church means taking risks and having the vision to see beyond present circumstances. It was true for the disciples some two thousand years ago, and it remains true for the church today.

This is my last article as president of the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance. Rev. Mike Rose, Hays United Methodist Church, will become president on June 1. Rev. Dave Buller, North Oak Community Church, will become vice-president. Rev. Steve Dinkel, Liberty Foursquare Church, will continue as treasurer, and Becky Rogowski, Hays First Presbyterian, will continue as secretary. I pray God’s blessings upon them as they assume the leadership for the ECMA in the coming year and I look forward to working alongside them in service to God and our neighbors.

News to know

Relay for Life plans downtown event

Relay for Life of Ellis County will be holding a free event, “Elvis Live—Rockin’ the Bricks,” from 6:30 to 11 p.m. Friday, June 7, at The Pavilion in downtown Hays, 1200 Main.

The Taco Shop will be providing a free taco supper starting at 6:30 p.m. Elvis impersonator Frank Werth will be performing in concert from 7:15 to 10 p.m.

According to the Relay for Life Facebook page, “Our mission is to create a fun evening for our community that provides financial support and inspiration to everyone who has been impacted by cancer.”

Mary Ann Randa with the American Cancer Society said teams may sign up for the event by going to www.relayforlife.org/elliscoks. She said there is no registration fee, but groups are asked to raise \$100 in donations. Luminaries will be set up along the course.

The opening ceremony will be held from 6:30 to 7 p.m., and the closing ceremony will last from 10 to 11 p.m. Cancer survivors will receive T-shirts, Randa said.

The concert is being sponsored by

Hays Memorial Chapel and Insurance Planning.

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. Registration and additional information are available by calling (785) 628-5366. The clinic is located in Albertson Hall 131.

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 to 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-as-

sessed following their registration. The priority registration for this camp is Saturday, 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.

Physical therapist to speak at dinner program

Physical therapist Troy Herrman will offer his “Healthy Habits for Awesome Aging” at the Hays After 5 Christian women’s group meeting on Monday, June 10.

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

Herrman, who owns Physical Therapy and Wellness, 2514 Vine, said he would provide easy, everyday strategies for maintaining strength, balance, and posture. Women who work in the health care industry will be recognized at the

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ONE 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@ourecma.com

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

The columns in ONE represent the views of the author.

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On the cover

The Rev. Steve Dinkel, pastor of Liberty Foursquare Church, speaks at the Ellis County Day of Prayer service on May 2 at the Veterans’ Memorial at the County Courthouse, 12th and Fort.

Photo by Dave Buller.



New ECMA president greets readers

Welcome and Greetings in the Name of the Risen Christ!

As the incoming president of the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance, I wanted to first tell you a little bit about myself and my family. I was born in Tucson, Arizona when my Dad was in the Air Force at Davis-Monthan Airbase. My Mom grew up in Kinsley, and my Dad in Lewis, just south of Hays. My Dad joined the Air Force after coming to Fort Hays State for a year, wanting to serve his country as so many in our family had done earlier. After marrying my Mother and having two sons, my Dad became an Air Traffic Controller at Dodge City, and that would be where I was raised. It would also be where my younger brother was born, as well. (Interestingly, I grew up in a neighborhood of mostly boys. One of those boys was Hannes Zacharias, who is a former City Manager here in Hays.)

In 1975, I married my wife Theresa in Spearville at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. We have five children, from ages 43 to 20. Our two younger children, Ben and Paige were adopted. Ben is awesome and autistic. Paige is amazingly African-American. Our middle son, Rob married Lindsey, who is full Korean. They have two children, Kayla and Devon, who are truly gifted. Our daughter Marilee and her husband Karl, have no children, but have recently started a brewery/taproom/cafe in Chicago, similar to Gellas here in Hays.

Kansas Liberty March coming to Dodge City

Dodge City Daily Globe

DODGE CITY — The first Kansas Liberty March will be arriving to Dodge City on July 6 at the Dodge City First Baptist Church, 1310 N. 2nd Avenue.

The event will begin at 9 a.m. with an information fair and a liberty rally that will take place in the church sanctuary at 10 a.m.

A parade will begin at 1 p.m. that will go from the church southbound on 1st Avenue to Wyatt Earp Boulevard towards Boot Hill Museum, before turning back

Our oldest son Mike and his wife Jenica both work for Smoky Valley School District in Lindsborg. They have two daughters Allison and Abigail who are both athletic and artistic. Ally is a junior at Avila University in Kansas City, majoring in art, and Abby is a freshman at Smoky Valley and is a gifted athlete, among

Rev. Mike Rose

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other things. With everyone's blonde hair and blue eyes, (except for Abby who at six feet tall stands out with her red hair), they are the prototypical Swedes.

As a United Methodist, I graduated from Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, which is a Disciples of Christ, Christian Church seminary. While going to seminary, I helped to start a United Methodist Church in Buhler, Kansas, where there were only three other churches in town- all Mennonite. For the last 25+ years, I have served as pastor to seven United Methodist churches and their communities in western and central Kansas.

I could go on, but my point is that I have lived and experienced a multi-cultural, ecumenical life, and see the beauty and creativity in diversity. I am both

northbound on 2nd Avenue back to the church.

Organizers for the march are inviting the public to participate in activities throughout the day that promote "Christian faith and American patriotism."

"We are honored to have Kansas Senate Chaplain, Pastor Cecil Washington, U.S. Congressman Dr. Roger Marshall, State Treasurer Jake LaTurner, and Kansans for Life President Mary Wilkinson speak at the rally," said organizer and activist, Laura Tawater.

humbled and excited to see what God has in store for our many participating communities of faith within Ellis County in the remaining year of 2019 and the upcoming year of 2020.

I am excited as I consider the ways that the ECMA is active in the community: through the awesome Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner that brings people together not only for a Thanksgiving feast, but also often making new friends through fellowship; to the amazing work that is done day-in and day-out through Frist Call for Help for those in need; to the many prayer activities for individuals, churches, communities, our nation, and world. I am humbled as I consider the talented and dedicated clergy who have

been president and participants of the ECMA in the past. My prayer is that I somehow honor their faithful work and accomplishments as we move boldly into the future that God has provided.

Finally, as I begin as the ECMA President, I am reminded of a song written by Christian singer-songwriter Steven Green: "May All Who Come Behind Us Find Us Faithful". I would like to close with these lyrics from the song: "May all who come behind us find us faithful, may the power of our devotion light their way. May the footprints that we leave, lead them to believe, and the lives we live inspire them to obey. O may all who come behind us find us faithful."

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Mike Rose



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How do you start serving in the church?

“How do you get started serving in the local church?” As someone who is part of the ECMA as a non-pastor, I feel I bring a unique perspective to this question. My parents took me to church from the time I was a very little girl – it was what we did. Many didn’t. Many still don’t. I’m not here to judge this as right or wrong. There was a time in my own early parenting years that getting to church just didn’t happen. But I knew I wanted my girls to have the experience of having the “church family” that I had grown up with.

The most obvious way to start serving your local church is to GET THERE. If you are making excuses as to why you can’t go, I get it! I’ve been in your shoes. Once you push it aside once, it becomes easier and easier to do. If you make it a priority and something you value, it becomes not just habit,

but something you cherish and miss when you aren’t there. You won’t be serving your church by staying home. When you are there, you find out what your church is doing. You find out what your congregation members (your family) is up to. You find out who has tough stuff going on and needs your prayers more than ever before.

The next way to start serving your local church is to PAY ATTENTION – BE IN THE MOMENT. There is not a church around who wouldn’t 100% appreciate your assistance in SOME way. We all have different gifts and talents – Scripture even discusses these as “spiritual gifts”.

God makes us each so uniquely different! We all have things to offer! Toddlers through the elderly – EVERYONE has something unique to offer.

Maybe you’re a great writer – there are places this can be used! Maybe you’re more of a speaker – there’s a place this can be used! Maybe you’re more “techie” – there’s a

place for that, too! Maybe you’ve got a kind heart and a generous spirit – yes, those also came from God and he wants you to use them! The next time you’re at your church – whichever one it is – think about the things you’re good at. Look around.

Listen to the things your church is doing and how your gifts fit in. Think about things the church staff members are doing – I guarantee they’d let you assist with some of what they’re doing!

How else can you start serving your local church? Serve your COMMUNITY! Maybe your job does service work. Maybe your school requires service work. Nobody requires this more than GOD. He expects us to be his HANDS and FEET. We are meant to do his work. Love God. Love your neighbors. Love your family. LOVE generously. May everything you do be done in love.

The opportunities are limitless. The needs of our community are great! There are places to use YOUR gifts. If you need help getting involved in the community or your church, I’m just an email away.



Becky Rogowski

First Presbyterian
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Topeka man pens new book on his experiences with God

Topeka Capital-Journal

Topeka native Dave Fisher has penned several books over the past couple of decades. At 78, he isn’t done writing yet.

His latest book, “He’s Here,” may be his most gratifying.

“This has been a project I’ve been thinking about for several years,” Fisher said. “It’s taken over two years to write the book.”

In all honesty, Fisher said, the book took a lifetime to put together. It tells of the many instances in which God has intervened in his life, moments that were indelibly etched into his memory.

“Of course, some of the things happened when I was a young boy,” he said. “Some of them happened when I was a young man. Some of them happened when I was writing the book.”

“I thought, ‘Why are these things happening to me?’ Then I thought, ‘They’re happening because God knows I will tell people about them.’”

Fisher said he tried to record his experiences “as accurately as possible,” with the hope that people will discover God’s presence in the world.

Don’t miss God’s promises: Bible reading plan for June

Greetings Bible Reader! Can you believe that we are ½ through 2019 already? Are you keeping up with the Bible reading plan? The weather has kept me inside so far this Spring, so I’m keeping the pace. I’ve really enjoyed the readings these past few months.

Our Old Testament readings will continue through the Covenant books. I’ve really enjoyed Numbers this year. Although there were a



Bible Reading Plan

Pastor Steve Dinkel

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This month we begin Deuteronomy; Moses’ fifth book. The Promised Land was near, so this book communicates Moses’ final message; he called the people together to remind them of the Lord’s faithfulness and to challenge them to be faithful and obedient to their God as they possess the Promised Land. Woven into

this book are many promises of blessing for obedience, and consequences for disobedience (especially Chapter 7). Take time to underline some of the verses that speak to you.

Our New Testament readings will continue through the Apostle Paul’s Epistles (letters). We will finish Romans (believed to be the most complete book of New Testament theology), Colossians, Ephesians,

June

1&2 Weekend Review	17.....Deut. 11☐ Ephesians 4
3.....☐ Deut. 1☐ Romans 14	18.....Deut. 12☐ Ephesians 5
4.....Deut. 2☐ Romans 15	19.....Deut. 13☐ Ephesians 6
5.....Deut. 3☐ Romans 16	20.....Deut. 14☐ Philemon
6.....Deut. 4☐ Colossians 1	21.....Deut. 15☐ Philippians 1
7.....Deut. 5☐ Colossians 2	22&23 Weekend Review
8&9Weekend Review	24.....Deut. 16☐ Philippians 2
10.....Deut. 6☐ Colossians 3	23.....Deut. 17☐ Philippians 3
11.....Deut. 7☐ Colossians 4	24.....Deut. 18☐ Philippians 4
12.....Deut. 8☐ Ephesians 1	27.....Deut. 19☐ 1 Timothy 1
13.....Deut. 9☐ Ephesians 2	28.....Deut. 20☐ 1 Timothy 2
14.....Deut. 10☐ Ephesians 3	29.....Deut. 21☐ 1 Timothy 3
15&16 Weekend Review	30& July1 Weekend Review

Philemon, Philippians, and begin the pastoral letters written to Timothy. You may use up a few pens taking notes this month. Don’t miss a day, these letters will revive you!

Thanks for continuing to read through the Bible with me. May God write His truth on your heart, and may it lead you into the wonderful things He has prepared for you. Read on!

Volunteerism is contagious

I volunteered to do a story for ONE. The theme was "When did a volunteer impress me?". The deadline was coming up soon and I asked myself, "Why did I volunteer?" I was ready to call Kevin and let him know I wasn't going to be able to send him a story.

But something kept bugging me; I couldn't get it out of my mind, so I prayed about it.

I have met many volunteers. They seem to know when they are needed and just step up and help. I am most impressed by the women in our church who do it automatically, especially in the kitchen and making quilts.

Wanda has organized Vacation Bible School for many years. I'm so impressed with the great job she does and the wonderful group of volunteers helping her.

By following the free will giving of their time and love, I am happy and thankful for the great friends that step up and give me a hand when I need help.

When I was younger and worked with the youth in 4-H, I volunteered to be

part of projects and programs, and encouraged others to get involved. Now I am older and not able to jump up and give a hand. I still volunteer by doing things sitting

in my walker, such as folding, sorting, cutting, gluing, and writing.

An important part of being a member of a group is to recognize what needs to be done. Just keep your eyes open, follow the progress

of the project, and volunteer when needed.

Volunteerism is contagious – you can easily be caught up in the enjoyment of it.

There are things I volunteer to do each month, such as the calendar for the Meal Site bulletin board, assemble material for the tables at the After 5 Christian Women's Meeting, sit at the reception desk at the annual Snowball Festival, and emcee the Milestone Dinner in Ellis. Actually, there are more.

Volunteer jobs can be fun and are an opportunity to express your free will desire to help.

The National Day of Prayer this year pointed out the importance of loving one another. Be a volunteer. Enjoy this God-given opportunity to love one another.

I'm sure it was the Lord answering my prayer that gave me the desire to complete this story.



Opal Flinn



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

Q&A Vice President of the ECMA



Dave Buller, new vice president for the ECMA, relaxes at Breathe Coffee House, 703 Main. Buller leads a men's Bible study at 6 a.m. every Wednesday at the coffee house. He says men of various church denominations attend, and any man is welcome to join them. (Photo by Linn Ann Huntington)

As told to Linn Ann Huntington
lhunting@fhsu.edu

Editor's Note: This is the latest in a multiple-part series titled "Get to Know the Officers in the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance (ECMA)." In this article, we meet Pastor Dave Buller, the ECMA's new vice president, who is assuming that position June 1. Buller is the associate pastor at North Oak Community Church.

Personal Information:

Where were you born and raised?

I was born in Newton and raised in Ingalls.

Please tell us a little about your childhood.

Twelve miles of dirt roads and 20 miles to a gallon of milk. Farm life was my life and our closest neighbors lived one mile away. We had pigs until I was 5, and my siblings and I all tended the chickens and wrestled the rototiller in the garden. I remember one of my first paying jobs was to transport large round hay bales from the field to the farm. I'm not going to divulge the age of the young driver of the tractor, though. My dad began selling personal computers in the late 1970s, and I grew up working on them. In my early teens I got involved with software development. I have worked for clients ranging from Nebraska agronomists, to the University of California Davis, to commodity brokers and newspapers. I use computers a lot in what I do, although I no longer do software development. One of the challenges and blessings that the church must engage with is technology, its use, and its impact on the soul.

Marital status/children?

More than 20 years ago, I married the love of my life. Emily and I both grew up in southwest Kansas and have a love for the people of our great state. We have four kids ranging in age from 16 down to 7 years. We have done some homeschooling over the years, but this fall all four of our kids will be in the USD 489 school system.

How long have you lived in Ellis County?

Three years.

Please list your hobbies and interests outside of work.

Playing guitar. Reading theology, classics, fiction, and biographies. Audio books. Riding my bicycle.

Academic Information:

Please list degrees/certificates held and from where.

Bachelor of Arts in Biblical/Religious Studies from Tabor College, Hillsboro.
Master of Divinity from Fresno Pacific University Biblical Seminary, Fresno, Calif.

Career Information:

What was the most unusual job you had before you became a minister?

Mucked out brooder houses for thousands of pheasants. Don't ever do that.

Please list your current job title.

Associate Pastor, North Oak Community Church.

How long have you served in this position?

3 years.



Pastor Dave Buller is shown standing behind his family, children Amos, Annelise, Eliana, Liam, and wife, Emily. (Courtesy photo)

Please list previous ministry positions held, where, and length of time, starting with the most recent.

Lead pastor at Cornerstone Community Church, Topeka, for 12 years.

Several years as a volunteer leader in college ministry in Fresno, Calif., and in youth ministry at a couple of churches in Kansas.

What aspect of your current position do you enjoy the most?

I love watching people stepping into a relationship with Jesus Christ and then, in simple faith, doing what he said. That is awesome.

Jesus is the first and the last. He is my Savior and Lord. He has taken my sin and shame and placed on me his approval and his Holy Spirit. He promises to do the same for all who call on his name. He cannot be overstated. His vastness cannot be imagined. His power knows no bounds.

He was, he has come, he died and ascended. He is coming again. He is the one who will judge the living and the dead. He is the source of salvation and healing and life abundant. I am nothing without him, and yet I am the desire of his heart and the impetus for his sacrificial death. Such words are true for all his children. Yet these words are a mystery I haven't fully grasped, as well as the basis for all my hope.

One verse that connects with me is Philippians 1:20 (NIV): *I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.*

I love the church and believe that it is the vehicle—God's plan "A"—for bringing the Gospel to all people. Jesus said it. Now let's do it. There is a lot of brokenness in this world and in our lives. Jesus has come to free us from that. I am praying for more workers in the harvest field (Luke 10:2) to bring hope and healing in Jesus' name.

ECMA Information:

Current Position: Vice President.

How long have you been involved in ECMA?
Three years.

Why do you believe ECMA is important to our community?

Years ago the ECMA founded First Call for Help and the Second Mile Fund. These important ministries in our county would not exist if churches did not continue to partner together to fund and resource them. This is about helping those who need help, and something that close to the heart of God deserves our attention and investment. Together we can do more.

Contact information: dbuller@northoak.net.
Ph: (785) 687-8887.

News, from 2

meeting.

Also on the program will be inspirational speaker Lisa Edmonds of Colorado Springs, Colo. Edmonds, a personal trainer, said she learned early on that “other people’s decisions can have a lasting and powerful effect on everyone around them.”

In her talk, titled “Lisa Baby, It’s Time to Grow Up,” Edmonds will share her own story of survival in a violent world.

Cost to attend is \$12.50. Reservations are due by Thursday, June 6, to (785) 202-1036 or to daisy-mae0917@yahoo.com. Hays After 5 is affiliated with Stonecroft Ministry of Overland Park.

Charity golf scramble coming up

A charity golf scramble will be held beginning at 8 a.m. Friday, June 14, at the Fort Hays Municipal Golf Course, 1450 Golf Course Road.

The event is being sponsored by Relay for Life of Ellis County. Cost for each four-person scramble is \$80 per person, which includes lunch.

Check-in will begin at 8 a.m., with the scramble beginning at 9 a.m. Prizes will be awarded. Registration is available by calling Todd Lynd at (785) 361-2211.

Youth camp to be held June 24-28

DREAM Youth Camp will be held Monday, June 24, through Friday, June 28, for children ages 7 through 11 who have family members who are chemically addicted.

The camp will be held on the north shore of Cedar Bluff Reservoir. The registration form is available at www.dreamhays.com/youth-camp. Sheryl Butler, director of DREAM, Inc., said the cost of the camp is being taken care of through scholarships provided by local churches and other donors.

Registrations will be accepted as long as there is space available for campers, she added.

According to the website, “It is estimated that one in every four children is living in a chemically addicted family.”

The camps have been held since 1990. Their goal, the website stated, is to increase children’s knowledge of chemical addiction and help them with coping skills and goal setting.

In addition to its summer camp, DREAM, Inc., offers outpatient programs for adults and teens, assessment and evaluation, individual counseling, family treatment, after care, workshops, and consultation services,

More information is available at (785) 628-6655 or dreamhays@ruraltel.net.

‘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 duffel 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 also 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.

Registration open for FHSU’s fall picnic

Registration is now open for organizations, including churches, which would like a table at the Fort Hays State University 2019 Back to School Picnic. It is scheduled from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 19, on the FHSU Quad.

There is no registration fee for non-profit organizations; the fee is \$50 for a for-profit business.

“The picnic is your first opportunity to effectively gain awareness for your organization and the services it provides,” a news release from the Center for Student Involvement stated. More information and a registration form are available at <http://www.fhsu.edu/csi/picnic>.

Questions may be directed to (785) 628-4664 or csi@fhsu.edu

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 run 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.

CHURCHES SET VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL DATES

North Oak Community Church, 3000 Oak St.—9 a.m. to noon Monday, June 3, through Friday, June 7. Theme: “The Incredible Race: One Family, One Race, One Savior.” For children completing grades kindergarten through 5th grade. Register online at www.northoak.net.

* * *

Hays Christian Church, 1318 E. 22nd — 6:30-8:45 p.m. Monday, July 8, through Friday, July 12, with a closing program and picnic on Sunday morning, July 14. Theme: “Hero Headquarters.” For children ages 3 through entering 5th grade. Teen program for students entering grades 6-12 meets from 9-10 p.m. each night. Register online at www.hayschristianchurch.org.

* * *

First United Methodist Church, 305 W. Seventh—5 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, July 15, through Thursday, July 18. Theme: “To Mars and Beyond.” For children completing pre-kindergarten through 5th grade. Register online through the church’s Facebook page or its website, www.haysfumc.com.

Wolf howls join worship hymns in ‘Missa Gaia’ at Minnesota churches

Tribune News Service

Most church choirs are accompanied by organs, pianos and flutes. But the sounds of humpbacked whales? The howls of wolves? The chirping of rain forest birds? They were among the “voices” woven into a composition called “Missa Gaia” performed most spring seasons in Minnesota, including at St. Luke Presbyterian Church last week.

The homage to creation was written nearly 40 years ago, as religious groups were starting to embrace environmentalism. As the movement has surged, so has interest in liturgical music that reflects the earth’s beauty -- and its fragility. The mass, written by Grammy Award winner Paul Winter, has been filling that need.

“This is a perfect fit for our church,” said the Rev. Brennan Blue, pastor at St. Luke’s in Minnetonka. “We celebrate the creative arts ... and we also care deeply about environmental justice.”

He added: “And what better time to perform it ... as apple and cherry blossoms are bursting in Minnesota.”

The Missa Gaia -- which translates into Mother Earth Mass -- was commissioned

by New York’s Cathedral of Saint John the Divine, which now performs it every October on the Feast of St. Francis Assisi, in a hugely popular celebration that includes thousands of people and their pets.

The piece often includes the spark of theater. At St. Luke, for example, the choir was accompanied by dancers who mimicked animal movements, a humpback whale puppet that “swam” down the aisles, and dancing children in wolf masks and bird costumes.

Likewise at Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church in Minneapolis, where the mass is scheduled June 1 and 2, Heart of the Beast Puppet Theater will join the performance.

Winter, the award-winning jazz saxophone player who was the music’s chief composer, said he had no idea that the Missa Gaia would have such a legacy. He was artist in residence at Saint John the Divine in 1980 when he was asked to write a contemporary mass for the cathedral.

“We thought we’d do it once, on Mother’s Day 1981,” said Winter, reached at his home in Connecticut. “It was well received, so on it went.”

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3 reasons to serve in the local church

Ken Ediger, North Oak Community Church

A young reporter once asked a College football coach how the game of football had contributed to the health and fitness of Americans. He replied, “It hasn’t contributed at all!” The reporter was mystified. He said, “What do you mean?” The coach replied, “Football is where you have 22 men on the field that desperately need rest, and 67,000 people in the stands that desperately need exercise!”

I hate to say it, but that might be a very good description of a lot of churches! Consider three compelling reasons to serve in your local church.

1. All of God’s people are called to the ministry; all God’s people are sent on mission.

One of the most crippling ideas to pervade the church over the centuries is that there is a special class of Christians called the “clergy” that do the ministry, while all the “laity” sit back and watch them do it. Conversely, the words “clergy” and “laity” never occur in the Bible. This concept is completely unbiblical!

Christian ministry is “*every-member ministry*,” as indicated in Ephesians 4:12–13. God gives evangelists, pastors, and teachers (v. 11) to the body of Christ today “*to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up*” (v. 12). The grammatical structure of this passage removes any hint that it is the responsibility of church officers alone both to equip church members and to build up the body of Christ. That is not the sense of the verse. On the contrary, Paul means that while church leaders must equip the saints to do ministry, this ministry of building up Christ’s body (the church) is collective. All of us have a role to play in advancing the people of God to maturity in His Son (see 1 Corinthians 12). Serving in the local church is crucial to living according to God’s design and purpose for every Christian.

2. Serving in the church is more in line with “being” the church rather than merely “doing” church.

In his book *Revolution*, George Barna notes, “We are not called to *go* to church. We are called to *be* the church.” (p 39) America is full of Christians that are really good at going to church and doing church. In fact, you don’t have to attend a church for very long to discover what behaviors are expected when you attend. You can quickly learn how to “do church” – what time to arrive, what to bring with you, when to stand, when to sing, when to listen, when to take notes and when to leave. Week after week, month after month, year after year, Christians everywhere are “doing church” for an hour or so on Sunday. Many Christians would tell you that this church experience is one of the most meaningful times in their week.

The church gathered is powerful! Yet doing church on Sundays is not why the church exists. Being the church together in community requires a lifestyle of worship and witness that extends beyond “doing church” corporately on Sundays. Being the church is daily! It includes worshipping



STOCK PHOTO

together, serving together, loving together, learning and growing together, praying together, engaging culture together, being salt and light together, and so much more.

Being the church doesn’t stop when you drive away from the church building or meeting place. Being the church doesn’t stop when you walk into your home or get to work. Being the church doesn’t stop ever. Once you belong to God through faith in His Son, you always belong to His church. Church is not something to “do.” The church is something to “be.”

3. Serving is a way to be a good steward of the gifts God has given to you.

According to 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, every Christian (“*to each one*”) receives spiritual gifts. A spiritual gift is an ability (“*working*” or power) that comes to you freely (“*gift*”) for the purpose of ministering to needs (“*service*”) so as to build up Christian community in size and depth (“*the common good*”). This doesn’t mean gifts only meet needs of Christians. They meet needs “*in Jesus’ name*,” as a witness and sign of the

coming kingdom. Ephesians 4:7–12 says that Jesus’ kingly power—which will eventually heal the world physically, socially, and spiritually—is now distributed into us. The bottom line is that every Christian is in ministry through the church. No one is merely a consumer of services; everyone is a distributor.

Our gifts are one of God’s ways of giving us our “assignment.” Our lives are not about pursuing our dreams. Many of our dreams are self-exalting and pride-filled when we really examine them. And the truth is, we rarely know what is best for us and what will really make us happy. But our Designer does! So, live into the design of your Designer. Steward your gifts to the utmost for the sake of others. Aspire to be the very best and most fruitful you that you can be for God’s glory. Don’t dishonor God by devaluing the gifts he’s given you.

The church has been commissioned by Jesus to make disciples. The only way you can accomplish that task beyond the walls of your church is by having engaged, involved, and active disciples within the walls. Serve in and through your local church!



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