



The Torchbearer

November 2009

There's a Place for you at the Table

A publication by, for and about the people of St. Aidan's Episcopal Church

From the Desk of Mother Juli

Sunday, November 1, we celebrated the Feast of All Saints' Day. All Saints' is one of the Principal feasts of the Church which means that like Christmas, Easter, Ascension Day, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, and The Epiphany we celebrate the importance of the day in the life of the Church. Particular to the Feast of All Saints' Day we are reminded that we, both the living and the dead, those we see and those we see no more are "knit together" as one through the mystery of God's gift to us, his Son Jesus Christ. We prayed the prayers to remember loved ones who have gone before us. We also prayed for those who are part of the Body but who can no longer attend worship.

Two years ago, we saw a need at St. Aidan's to train and license some Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEV) to take communion following Sunday Worship to those who were not able for one reason or another to attend church. Initially, there was occasionally a need to send someone out to visit. Then our beloved Faxon House entered a rehab facility so in addition to the priest's visits, one of the LEVs visited each week. Faxon, his family members, his roommate and frequently staff joined in the brief worship and communion. At that time, we had four persons who were licensed to visit. During the last year, the need has grown. We now have twelve Lay Eucharistic Visitors. We are sending four or five persons out each Sunday. In nearly every place they visit, others come and ask to participate. Week by week, the word

travels and more lives are touched. The lives of those who share in this ministry have also been touched.

Because all of St. Aidan's is involved in this ministry, it seemed appropriate to re commission the Lay Eucharistic Visitors on All Saints' Sunday. Even when persons are no longer able to attend worship, we are still connected! I send the visitors out with these words, "I send you forth bearing these Holy Gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood." Each Sunday you respond, "We who are many are one body because we all share one bread, one cup." Thanks be to God!

In Christ's Peace, Mtr. Juli+



Advent Lessons and Carols: Sunday, December 6 at 5:00 pm

The season of Advent is the beginning of the Church year. It is the one special time in the church year for which we will not see or hear ads touted by merchants as the time to spend money during midnight sales or early morning watches. True, for the Church it is a time of watching and waiting but not for the shopping center to open. It is the time to prepare ourselves to "hear once more the message of the Angels", and open our hearts for the coming of the Christ Child.

So, as we begin the season of Advent, let us gather for an Advent Festival of Lessons and Music. There will be a candle light Evensong beginning at 5:00 pm on December 6. We will have the opportunity to hear once again the story of God's loving purpose from Holy Scripture told in music and reading.

Following Evensong, there will be a progressive supper beginning with hors d'oeuvres in the Parrish Hall, continuing with a main course in various homes, and ending the evening back together in the Parish Hall for desert. Watch for more information and invite your friends for a very special evening.

Pipe Organ Finds New Home

A long silent Pipe Organ seeking a place to make music will soon find a home within St. Aidan's. Many years ago, the 4-rank Wicks Pipe Organ lived in the home of the Grace Cathedral organist. For a time she has traveled about as a vagabond here and there, in and out of storage, in and out of service. Most recently she lived in St. Philips Episcopal Church in Topeka. The building has been sold, and she must move on. The organ is in good condition with a beautiful tone.



We will need to pay professionals to move, install and tune her. We are in the process of taking bids at this time. The Diocese of Kansas sent an email to all the churches in diocese about the "gift" of the organ. Mother Juli called the diocesan office before she even finished reading the email, and she was first, so this lovely Wicks Pipe Organ will settle into St. Aidan's very soon.

Thanksgiving Worship

St. Mark's Lutheran Church and St. Aidan's have a long standing tradition of worshipping together on Thanksgiving Eve. This year would be St. Mark's turn to host but because they are building a new church and have sold their old building, they are homeless. Pastor Kriss of St. Marks' has described their building status as, "exciting and a bit unnerving." Each Sunday their Altar Guild must unpack boxes to prepare for the Eucharist. In addition they have no kitchen from which to serve receptions. It is a classic 'already and not yet' condition. So, this year for our shared Thanksgiving worship, we will combine the Lutheran and Episcopal liturgies, our choirs will perform together, we will have the opportunity for other musicians, readers, and Eucharistic ministers, celebrants, and preachers from both congregations. The festive reception following the worship service will be hosted by both communities. Plan to come, give thanks together. **The Thanksgiving Eve worship will be at St. Aidan's at 7:00 pm on November 25.**

Help Move the Organ!

You won't have to lift a single pipe, Or strain your back, just bend an elbow, lift a glass and enjoy good fellowship.

With a Wine Tasting Event

Join us to help move the organ by tasting several wines and hear them explained by Sommelier Phil Munick. Proceeds go to the Pipe Organ Moving Fund. Tickets are available from the church office,

Paul & Jill Reed or June Giancarlo.

Saturday, Nov 14, 2009 at 7:00 pm

St. Aidan's parish hall

\$25.00 per person



Thanksgiving Day Dinner – Community Sharing – Come and Celebrate

Several St. Aidan's families mentioned that their traditional Thanksgiving visits will not happen this year. So, we will follow the First Thanksgiving in Plymouth in 1621 when the community gathered and participated in creating the meal. Come alone or bring your family or your friends for Thanksgiving Day Dinner. We can all participate to provide a feast without each of us cooking the entire meal. The location will be determined once we know approximately how many dinner places to set. So sign up on the bulletin board to reserve a place and also to let us know what favorite dish you would like to share. Let's give thanks and celebrate together.



God is Eager to Hear Us

Emily Davidson

She sits at her piano, crying. She says, "I am NEVER going to play the piano again. I'm not going to play in a recital, I'm not going to play for Mass, NOTHING. EVER. AGAIN." Her dark hair hides her face, but tears are falling on the book in her lap. Her worried mother says to me, "She hasn't touched the piano in a week. We just keep telling her it's not the end of the world."

Only, it is. She is eleven years old. She's been in love with music since she was five and took her first piano lesson. She can't keep her hands off her piano books, eagerly shuffling the pages, trying a bit of melody here, some chords there. She says, "I can't WAIT to play "Ave Maria" for my uncle's wedding." Her small square hands dance over the keys with assurance.

At least, that was true of her last week. That was before she played in a local piano "festival" that was actually a competition. Some judge told her she was pretty good, but just not good enough for a top rating. And my student allowed this adult to "own" her talent and to evaluate it.

Everyone who has ever studied music seems to have a similar story. Some of them kept their angry word and never played or sang again. Now, I'm thinking, if I, just a

human, flawed being who teaches music, am so heartbroken over my student's sorrow, how must our Creator feel when we abandon our gifts because we've allowed someone else to define us? A different student of mine, only four years old, used to tell me at her lessons, "My mother is eager to hear me!" I always think she taught me about God--is not God eager to hear us and to see what we do?

This is the season to share our gifts, the gifts brought to us by God. If we sew, dance, sing, bake, play an instrument, practice one of the visual arts, or have the gift for listening or conversation, we have inherited those gifts and those loved skills from God. I believe that God loves to see our work, hear our music, enjoy the pleasure of those who receive our bread, knitting, canned food, back-snacks, and every other thing that shows forth the gifts from our creator.

My student will play again because I will never give up on her. If we flawed humans do not give up on one another, Who do you think NEVER gives up on us? Please consider sharing the gifts you have, even if you're a little scared. I like to think of our Creator as eager to hear us, watching to see what we will do with our gifts.

You are invited
to
The Bishop's Ball
to conclude the celebration
of the 150th anniversary
of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas
with a gala dinner and dancing,
featuring the Michael Beera Band

**Friday, December 11, 2009
7 to 11 p.m.**

Spencer Hall
Saint Michael and All Angels Church
6650 Hall Avenue, Mission

\$55 per person

Seating is limited. The deadline
for reservations is December 1, 2009.

Send checks to Episcopal Diocese of Kansas,
Attn: Grace, 539 SW Polk St., Topeka, KS 66612
Your check is your reservation.

Diocese: Black tie optional

*Celebrate the Advent Season
with a
Fellowship Dinner following
Festival of Lessons and Carols*

*St. Aidan's Episcopal Church
Sunday - December 6*

5 p.m. - Lessons and Carols
6 p.m. - Hors d'oeuvres at the Church
6:30 p.m. - Fellowship Dinners
at Various Homes
8:30 p.m. - Dessert at the Church
Guests more than encouraged!

R.S.V.P.

Doreen Rice 913.782.8382 drice1964@att.net

There's a place for everyone at the Table at St. Aidan's Come and Celebrate God's Love



Outreach Committee Meeting - Tues Nov. 10 @ 6:30

Come find out what's up with Outreach and help plan. Remember EVERYONE is part of St. Aidan's Outreach Activities.

Backsnack Schedule Change

We'll only pack on Wednesday evening at 5:00 (no more 6:30 packing). So come by help wipe down the backpacks, fill them with the food packages and zip them up. **Extra volunteer packers needed Nov. 18** – we'll be packing double packs for students over the Thanksgiving holiday.

Heartland Infant Center Christmas Gifts

One of the very special services provided in our area is SRS covered day care costs for teen parents who are attend school in Olathe. And every year we provide Christmas presents for some of the children. St. Aidan's can *adopt* 6 wee ones ~ three infants, one toddler and two three-year olds. Look for more information as we are given a gift list. By the way the Heartland Infant Center is now called "Early Learning Center, YMCA of Greater Kansas Preschool Care and Education."

St. Paul's Food Pantry

The pantry will be closed the Saturdays after Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years. Deacon Gail is looking for extra volunteers for the remaining Saturdays of November and December. If you can spare a few hours between 9:30 and 12:30, on those Saturdays, it would truly be appreciated.

H.U.G.S. is back!

Keep your eyes open for our second annual H.U.G.S. collection. Hats, Underwear, Gloves, and Scarves will be collected at St. Aidan's and provided for our BackSnacking students again this winter.



Adult Forum

Most every Sunday morning from 9 to 9:45, adults gather to discuss the Bible Reading(s) of the day and/or events of the week.

Bible 101

Most Mondays at 7-8 pm is great time to enjoy "Adult Bible Stories." This fall, it's about King David. A great place to explore and learn new things – no homework but lots of discussion.

Worship and Quiet Time – Rest for the Soul

Worship/Eucharist – Sunday 10 am: It takes more than Mother Juli to make Sunday Worship possible. Come and worship, but also help out – readers, people to help serve the wine, assist with music, join the choir, serve as ushers, greet newcomers, set up the altar, and wash the coffee cups. Check with Mother Juli to see how you can help.

Quiet Prayer Time – 3rd Saturday 9-11 am: Come by St. Aidan's for a bit of silence in this busy and bustling world. Or ask for prayer with you or for you or for others.

Explore the "Red Book" (The Book of Common Prayer): Participate in the special prayer services as we learn how they came to be and what the significance is.



Children's Church

Children's Church is an active and fun time for our preschoolers and up during the Sunday Worship (until Communion). There is a great set of "curriculum" and music and activities and super kids. Could you help out just once a month?



THE RED DOOR

Diocese of Kansas Convention Celebrating 150 Years with the Presiding Bishop

I was pretty determined not to be impressed with the Presiding Bishop. I sat with my arms crossed waiting to see what this woman, an oceanographer for pete's sake, would have to say. After all what's one more purple clad Episcopal Priest. But was I surprised. Bishop Katherine speaks in simple, plain, but passionate English about the needs of this world. For instance she said that for \$0.88 cents from each person in the Episcopal Community for three years would fund the ministry of the church. Holy Smoke!!! If this woman is right, then we need to get on board. So I coerced Ray Wheeler to join me and in about 10 minutes with Tiffany's help we had collected \$500 from the convention attendees for the Presiding Bishop's ministry funds. Of course only St. Aidan's would be so brazen! But back to convention. After the banquet, Bishop Dean had cards from anyone who had questions for the Bishop Katherine. Everything from what she did on vacation (helped her husband to wire a house) to how she felt as the first woman to become the Presiding

Bishop (she said that as an oceanographer, she had been one of the first women to spend the night on an oceanographer boat). Really down to earth. Seems like she'd be right at home at St. Aidan's.

And what a worship at the Cathedral! With wonderful music, pageantry and a calm but

powerful sermon that was really the salt of the earth. Bishop Katherine got quite a laugh when she commented that perhaps God would turn Fred Phelps into a pillar of salt like He did Lot's wife (the Phelps had demonstrated at the convention site). Next year we need to take a bus to the Convention Eucharist at the Cathedral. Even if you've been there before it is worth the trip.

And the convention itself . . . the actual business took less than half a day without any argument of long discussions. The only vote was the one we won . . . electing Mother Juli to a 3 year term on the Board of Trustees. That one was close – two votes apart. St. Aidan's also was one of 4 parishes to receive a Jubilee Ministry award.



Gospel Golf Fall Tournament

Seventeen members of the St. Aidan's Golf Society gathered at the river for some good old time Gospel Golf on October 4. The autumn afternoon was beautiful with sunny blue skies and temperatures in the upper 60s. The course by the Kaw River was very green.

Rich Crouch, our newest member of the St. Aidan's Golf Society, made a splendid debut at the Burning Tree Golf Club in De Soto, KS. Mike Belt brought Crystal and Charlie. Russ Sifers brought his son Dave and granddaughter Alina who plays for Shawnee Mission North. Photographers John and Steve Butler covered the outing for Golf Digest. Golfers who scored birdies and eagles hurried back to St. Aidan's afterwards for the Blessing of the Animals and their birdies. It was a glorious day and a good time was had by all. Our next gathering at the river will be in the spring.

Russ Sifers, BGA



Yeah Youth!

Children's Church – 3 – 7 years **10 to 10:35**

Bible Stories, Music, and Activities should keep our young children having fun and learning before they join their parents for the Eucharist.

Barb Crago and Laura Agee, Karon Wintrode, and Don Hutchinson need some help.

Volunteer for just one Sunday a month.

Age 5-12

9 to 9:45 am

Team Leaders

Don Hutchinson, Cathy Nolan, Karon Wintrode, and Carrie Wilson

Age 13-18

9 to 9:45 am

Team Leaders

Leaders Jane Bush and Karen Hutchinson



Thanks to Maggie for working in the nursery and with Children's Church.



Thanks for Tiffany as a page at the Diocesan Convention. And for some reason, sleeping at the cathedral with other young people was more appealing than staying at the hotel with the adults. We'll never understand teenagers

MIQRA - (meek•rah) - January 16-18, 2010

Ask Any of Our Youth About It

The event is for students in grades 6-12 of the 2009-2010 school year.

Grace Cathedral in Topeka (701 SW 8th Ave.) & St. David's, Topeka (3916 SW 17th Ave.)

Miqra was so large in 2009 that a second location has been set up for 2010!

If you haven't heard . . . at MIQRA the Bible is read straight through in 72 hours!

And there are wacky games like Church Commandos and Nave Olympics. . . a movie night. . . worship with the Mustard Seeds . . . attend engaging workshops on various biblical topics . . . hear clergy speak about the bible.

For some familiar faces

Take a look at the YouTube <http://www.episcopal-ks.org/youth/miqra.html>

Keep our military in your prayers.

**PVT Hebert, Cory A.
511 ENCO FOB WARRIOR
APOAE 09338**

**PV2 Hutchinson, Danae M
Delta 232 Med Bn, Class 15-09
2950 Koehler Rd Ste1350
Ft. Sam Houston, TX 78234**

St. Aidan's Vestry

Vestry again focused on SWEEPS as a way to coordinate with the various parish activities and ministries.

Senior Warden/ Community Life – **Paul Reed**
 Junior Warden / Stewasrdship – **Neal Schmutzler**
 Treasurer – **Jim Bush**

Vestry Members

- Laura Agee** - Evangelism
- Barb Belt** – Servanthood
- Rick Crouch** - Property
- Don Hutchinson** - Education/Youth
- Pat Martin** - Education
- Jill Reed** – Clerk
- Don Seifert** - Property Expansion
- Carrie Wilson** - Worship
- Karon Wintrode** - Pastoral Care



The vestry meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00. Any member of the congregation is welcome to attend. Please feel free to contact any member of the vestry if you wish to discuss any issue or have something you would like to bring to the vestry.

Wedding Anniversaries

Ray and Fran Wheeler	Nov 1
Pat & Connie Martin	Nov 24
Lee & Sarah Smith	Nov 28

Birthdays

Cole A. Spriggs	Nov 1
Laura Burbach	Nov 3
Don Seifert	Nov 9
Austin Ray	Nov 11
Paul Griffith	Nov 17
Barbara Belt	Nov 18
Merrily Shultz	Nov 22
Sarah Stewart	Nov 22
Margaret Dierolf	Nov 24
John Butler	Nov. 29

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