

The People of God at Prayer

Throughout the Easter season I have been delighted by comments about worship. Some worry that we will never again kneel for prayer according to the ancient custom of the 1928 Prayer Book. On the other hand, taller members of the congregation have rejoiced to stand for the whole service. Others are concerned about the frequent use of incense, while a small handful (mainly members of the altar party) have encouraged me to keep the incense burning year-round. Whether you prefer standing or kneeling, holy smoke or none at all, I would like to thank you for speaking up. I am excited about the feedback, contradictory as it may be, because people have noticed we were doing something different.

To make matters clearer, let me explain. Standing for prayer during Easter has been a symbol of Resurrection (literally “standing again” in Greek) since the earliest centuries of the church. Incense is a sign of blessing which is often used on feast days. Since the entire Easter season is festal, not just Easter and Pentecost, we’ve kept the thurible fired up. These changes remind us that our spiritual worship happens through the use of our bodies and our senses; worship is a way of approaching holiness through physical places and things. We move, we pray, we change colors, light candles and dozens of other things to mark the liturgical seasons that help lend meaning and depth to our lives.

In the long season of between Pentecost and Advent, we have now reverted back to “normal.” Kneeling for prayer is “in” again, and the interior atmosphere of the Cathedral is as clear as a September sky. As we slip back into the familiar routines of ordinary time, I’d like to offer a few suggestions about how we can keep our worship fresh and meaningful during this long growing season.

First, we can be better at prayer by preparing for worship. Alexander Schmemmann, one of the great voices of the 20th century liturgical renewal, observed that worship actually begins the

moment we leave our homes and head for the church. Our various paths form a scattered procession that comes together at the doors of the Cathedral, where our diverse motions become a united procession to the altar. So, leave early, drive slowly, and use the time between your house and God’s to let go of the cares that detract from worship. Having brought your body to God’s house, take a moment to be certain that your heart is there also. Find a seat and quietly focus on God. Psalm 131 (BCP 785) and the prayer “Before Worship” (BCP 833) are wonderful texts to direct the soul toward God. If you’d prefer not to thumb through a book, ponder the crucifixion on the rood beam or a stained glass window.

Once the service begins, we strive to worship together. The gathered people of God are a single body of Christ, and our unified prayer in word and action expresses this theological reality. To help bring this reality to birth, we print a bulletin with the words that everyone says together in ***bold italics*** and the things that everyone does together in *smaller italics*. For the words, a good rule of thumb is that you should hear your own voice and that of your nearest neighbor equally. When it’s time to move, the whole congregation ideally acts as a unified body. We can accomplish this by moving in concert with the priest leading the service. When everyone speaks and moves together, our worship is more orderly and more like the eternal worship of heaven (*e.g.* Ezekiel 1; Revelation 4-5).

Finally, I hasten to add that we do not worship our worship; we worship God. So, if you miss your cue, if you discover that the you are the only person standing for prayer or that you have somehow managed a solo on some part of the Psalm, don’t despair: God is not offended, and neither is anyone else. Like a teenager who occasionally stumbles because he hasn’t grown into his feet, every congregation occasionally trips over itself to the eternal amusement of our Father in heaven.

-Benjamin

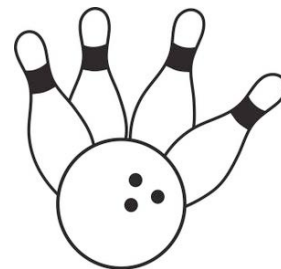


Romp and Chomp at the Rolling Hills Zoo (clockwise) Sr. Warden Steve Hoffman with rare cubist zebra; Kathleen and Barth Crouch work with grandson Colin while Tammy Mockerman looks on; the crew gets a lesson on animal behavior from a zoo staff member; Michelle Fry offers advice to a group of confused dads. ***Newly ordained Deacon Harvey Hillin*** with Bishop Milliken and clergy on Pentecost.



Notes for July

Mark your Calendars: Events for Families,
Youth and Children!



Church Bowling League

Every Saturday this summer, 6 to 9 pm.

Contact Person - Cat Thornton (GunnysTaxCat@yahoo.com)



Christ Cathedral Pool Party

Sunday July 13, 5:00-8:00 pm

1053 Burr Oak Lane

Join us at 1053 Burr Oak Lane (Twin Oaks Town Homes-just south of Magnolia on Ohio) for swimming, food, and fellowship. Bring the whole family, your swimsuits and towels, and a dish to share. The church will provide drinks. Contact Person - Matthew Kemp (mkemp@christcathedralsalina.org)



Youth Group at Kenwood Cove

Friday, July 18, 1:00-7:00 pm

Grades 6-12, invite a friend!

Contact Person - DeMay Ault-Duell (demaygrunden@gmail.com)



Kids' Pajama Night

Thursday, July 24, 6:00-8:30 pm Children ages 1-12: Wear your favorite PJ's, bring your favorite stuffed animal & pillow, and join us for an evening in the Parish Hall. The church will provide popcorn, snacks & drinks. Parents go out and have a dinner date while we play and watch a movie, play games, and have some fun.

Contact Person - Cat Thornton (GunnysTaxCat@yahoo.com)

Sleep-in Sunday

Sunday, July 27, Youth Group serves Brunch after 10 am Mass. So skip breakfast and dishes, come directly to Mass, and make a donation toward funding Youth Group events.

Stewardship Update:

	Actual	Budget	(Under Budget)
Pledge Income Year-to-Date	\$89,066.00	\$88,855.00	\$211.00
Plate Income Year-to-Date	\$ 9,529.00	\$12,500.00	(\$ 2,971.00)
Total Pledge & Plate Year-to-Date	\$98,595.00	\$101,355.00	(\$2,760.00)

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS, this message is for you: In the kitchen there is a posted list of responsibilities for those using our kitchen. In part it includes a reminder to please take tea towels home to launder and return them as soon as possible. We recently experienced a batch of towels left behind that had mold throughout them. A weekly dose of detergent and a spin in the dryer is all we need to avoid this unpleasant situation from recurring.

Thank you in advance for your help! -*Kathleen Crouch, Vestry member*

BAGPIPE ALERT! The 3rd annual Balmoral School of Piping and Drumming concert will be held here at the cathedral on July 17th, 2014 at 7 PM. This group comes from Pittsburgh, PA and features students as well as some of the world's most accomplished pipers and drummers.

A Note About Child Abuse Prevention

Children are the future of the church, and teaching them to love and serve God is one of the most important aspects of our mission. Unfortunately, children can come to harm—even in the church. For this reason, the Diocese of Western Kansas has implemented new policies for preventing the abuse of children and youth.

A major component of these policies is the Episcopal Church's training program, Safeguarding God's Children. This training is designed to educate congregations in identifying and preventing cases of abuse. The Diocese requires all staff and volunteers working with minors to complete this training every 4 years. At present the majority of Christ Cathedral staff and volunteers have fulfilled this requirement, and the rest are in the process of doing so.

Another aspect of the Diocesan policies is a standard application process for all new and current volunteers working with children and youth. We will implement this in August for the coming program year. While this may seem burdensome, especially for volunteers who have been serving in these ministries for a long time, the intention is neither to be distrustful of one another nor to hinder able and willing people from sharing their talents with the church. The reason for implementing these procedures is first and foremost to create a safe environment for children in our community and assist the Bishop in his efforts to care for all the children of our diocese.

If you are interested in learning more about the Diocesan policy regarding the protection of our children, you will find more information online at <http://diowks.org/safeguarding-gods-children.html>.

Feed the Hungry outreach ministry is in need of the following items: paper napkins, paper towels, toilet paper and plastic spoons. Contributions can be left in the Parish Hall kitchen.

July - 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 10 AM - Mass	30	1	2 5 PM - Mass	3	4 Office Closed 	5 5 PM - Mass
6 10 AM - Mass	7	8	9 5 PM - Mass	10 9 AM Stewardship Meeting	11	12 5 PM - Mass
13 10 AM - Mass 5 PM Church Pool Party at Smith's Clubhouse	14	15	16 5 PM - Mass	17	18 1 PM Youth Group at Kenwood Cove, Grades 6-12	19 5 PM - Mass
20 10 AM Mass	21 6:30 PM Vestry Meeting	22	23 5 PM - Mass	24 6 - 8:30 PM Pajama Night in Parish Hall	25	26 5 PM - Mass
27 10 AM - Mass Youth Group serves Brunch after Mass	28	29	30 5 PM - Mass	31	1	2 5 PM - Mass

Vestry Highlights

At the end of May we are behind on plate offerings but ahead on pledge offerings. May's income was exceptionally good so no Endowment Distribution was needed. The Vestry is working on a protocol for handling all monies including Saturday and Sunday offerings and monies collected at dinners and other fund raising events.

The Cathedral has offered two Safeguarding God's Children trainings. These trainings are mandatory for all staff and volunteers who work with the youth. For those who have not yet attended, training is available online through the Diocesan website.

The new sound system will be installed in August. The hearing aid loop system is still being worked on. Repairs to the gazebo are in the works. The youth group will work on the scraping and painting. New steps and lattice work will be installed and the roof will be repaired or replaced as needed. The Vestry is also working on plans for upkeep of the Cathedral grounds.

The Vestry has recommended the formation of several committees. Fr. Benjamin will work on job descriptions for these committees so all members will know what their expectations are. These will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Plans are in the works for the Steven Spooner concert and reception in September. Be watching for more information in August. Matt Schwan took the Vestry on a tour of the offices that he and Royce would like to make into a music studio. He explained what changes would need to be made so the area would be useable.

These are some highlights from the June Vestry Meeting. If you would like a copy of the complete Vestry minutes, please contact the Cathedral office. *Linda Favre, Vestry Clerk*