



THE CROSSROADS

From the Desk of the Rector

(This column was originally published in the Emporia Gazette, May 22, 2009.)

The Non-Debate between Godless Humanists and Religious Kooks

As I write this, National Public Radio has been doing a series of stories about "the Science of Spirituality." The stories focus on the ways that our brains work in regard to such things as spiritual visions, near-death experiences and the impact of prayer on health and well-being. Emphasis is put on the fact that our brains are electro-chemical organs that are the very basis of human experience. But the stories have been intentional about not dismissing the real possibility of God. Instead, the journalists present the idea that perhaps the electro-chemical processes are what make it possible for us to comprehend and connect to something more than ourselves.

As an Episcopal priest, I find such stories interesting because they address issues that I deal with directly within my vocation. They also appeal to me because as an Episcopalian, I come from the Anglican branch of Christianity that buried Charles Darwin and Isaac Newton front and center within the confines of one of our most sacred shrines, Westminster Abbey. I appreciate such an approach because my religious belief is based upon the notion of balancing Scripture, Tradition and Reason, especially when it may force me from my own comfort zones and into a deeper encounter with God.

But recently I have come to appreciate such an approach to science and religion because of the mostly non-fruitful and downright derogatory ways that a few scientists and religious apologists have carried on in the public forum. Unfortunately, where science and religion are concerned, real dialogue is usually bypassed in favor of posted agendas.

All too often scientific method is used to justify an academic skepticism that degrades into a belittlement of all things having to do with faith and spirituality. While in the other camp, religion is often used in both silly and tragic ways to justify forms of ignorance about, and prejudice towards, the reality of the human condition and the cosmos as a whole.

With this approach, issues become an all-or-nothing prospect. For example, either you buy into the theory of evolution and you are branded as some kind of godless humanist. Or you buy into the notion of creationism and are marked as some sort of religious kook. There is no room left for the idea that perhaps there is a supreme being that uses the process of evolution, chemistry and the like to bring about creation. There is no room for the question of "how" from science and the question of "why" from religion.

I suspect, though, that such approaches to science and religion do not bear much fruit for either camp.

continued on p. 6

June 2009

Inside this issue

Looking Ahead	2, 3
Parish Milestones	4
Servers' Schedule	5
Senior Warden's Report	7



Fr. Kelley J. Lackey II, Rector of St. Andrew's



Digital Johannus organ dedicated Ascension Thursday

Our new Johannus organ, a gift of Doug Amend in memory of his parents, Verl and Natta, was dedicated during the Holy Eucharist on Ascension Day, Thursday, May 21. Doug and organist Sue Seeman are shown here during installation of the organ.

Family Night is June 12

The monthly parish family night will be held on Friday, June 12, at the home of Nick and Ann Jacob. The June event will begin at 6 p.m. at the home of Ann and Nick Jacob. The Jacobs will provide hamburgers and hotdogs for a barbecue. Everyone attending is asked to take a side dish, chips or dessert. Water, tea and soft drinks will be served, but people are welcome to take their favorite beverage. If you have questions or would like to help out, get in touch with Nick or Ann at 620-794-4640. Family Night is for everyone, with or without children.

Vacation Bible School is coming

Summer wouldn't be the same without Vacation Bible School. St. Andrew's is again joining with Emporia Presbyterian and St. Mark's Lutheran churches to sponsor a family-oriented program.

Deborah Cotterman, our parish's representative to the planning committee, will have more details as they develop and she'll let everyone know about opportunities to volunteer.

Adult reading group will start new book soon

Discussion of Barbara Brown Taylor's "Home by Another Way" will begin some time in June, when the reading group finishes "The Seeds of Heaven," also by Brown Taylor. "Home" is a collection of short sermons for the church year. Because each discussion is self-contained, spirited and informal, it's easy for people to join in as time allows. The group meets at 10 a.m. on Sundays in the parish hall. The Sunday bulletin will announce when discussion of the new book will begin. For more information, see Deborah Cotterman or Lynn Bonney.

Summer reminders

Wednesday evening Eucharists continue

Weekday Eucharists and suppers continue at 6 p.m. each Wednesday. During the summer, the cooks are taking a break and the group has been sharing take-out pizza or going out to a restaurant. Everyone is welcome.

Need for pledges also continues

Church expenses do not take a summer vacation. Please remember to send in your pledges if you are away this summer.

Looking ahead

- June 5** First Friday Family Night has been changed to Second Friday Family Night (June 12) for this month.
- June 7** Blessing of the Bicycles. See article below.
Diocesan picnic and Evensong begin at 4 p.m. on the ground of Grace Cathedral, Topeka.
- June 10** Parish Life committee will meet at 5 p.m. in the parish hall.
- June 11** The vestry will meet at 7 p.m. in the conference room. All vestry meetings are open to everyone and parishioners are welcome to attend.
- June 12** St. Andrew's Family Night at Nick and Ann Jacob's. See the article on the previous page. Family Night is for everyone, with or without children.
- June 21** Fathers Day. All fathers and those who fill the role of father to someone will be honored at coffee hour following the liturgy.
- June 23** The women of St. Andrew's will gather for their monthly luncheon, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at Coburn's restaurant. These are casual events and participants are encouraged to come and go as their schedules allow.

Blessing of the bikes *Service will focus on fun and safety*

Summer is a free-wheeling time – more of us opt for the fun and freedom of bicycles and other non-horsepower modes of transportation.

St. Andrew's has planned a blessing for bicycles, tricycles, skateboards, Big Wheels and scooters as part of the 11 a.m. Eucharist on Sunday, June 7. If the weather's rainy, we'll have the blessing indoors.

Invite friends and neighbors and their children to join you at the service and be sure to bring those two- or four-wheeled means of transportation. Don't forget your helmets!

St. Andrew's thanks

... David Mai, Helen Call, Onnalee Harrell and everyone who took part in making the spring wine-tasting an evening of fun and friendship.

... Pat Adams, Shirley Schoap, Dobby Bailey, Judy Arthur, Nancy Pontius, Sue McKinney, Elaine Edwards, Sue Wilson and all those who assisted with our Ascension Day festivities.

... Andrea Pearson, for her service as peer minister.

... The Rev. John Davis of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, who preached and concelebrated at the Ascension Day Eucharist.

... Sunday School teachers Colleen Mitchell and Sue Wilson for their ministry to our children.

... Cori Anderson, who provides children's chapel every Sunday for our youngsters, even during the summer.



Today the formerly barren woman gives birth to Christ's Forerunner, who is the fulfillment of every prophecy; for in the Jordan, when he laid his hand on the One foretold by the prophets, he was revealed as Prophet, Herald, and Forerunner of God the Word.

—Kontakion (hymn) on the birth of John the Baptist, June 24. Kontakion and icon from the web site of the Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America.

Milestones

In our daily prayers we celebrate

June 26	Leone G. Broderick
June 28	Bernice Allen
June 30	Fred P. Day

Births

June 1	Chad Anderson
June 5	Adam Law
June 6	Jeff Hawes
June 11	Jim Resch
June 12	Shirley Bannon Marcia Law
June 14	Sue McKinney
June 17	Gary Mason
June 19	Macey Adams
June 20	Fred Adams

Baptisms

June 16	Jake McCracken John McCracken
June 18	Mary Mingenback
June 19	Rick Mitchell

Confirmations

June 4	Harry Bird
June 29	Gary Mason

Marriages

June 7	Gould and Nancy Garcia
June 10	Kevin and Julia Williams
June 11	Ken and Judy Calhoun
June 12	Bill and Gay Barnes
June 14	Rick and Marcia Law
June 17	Glen and Norma Gilpin
June 22	David and Barbara Walker
June 23	Jason and Susan Brinkman

We remember

June 3	William E. Teichgraeber
June 8	Marie Romer
June 11	Bertha Pedroja
June 12	Rea Clark Haynes Vivian Cawood Kessler
June 17	W.S. Dickensheets
June 18	Wylie Price
June 19	Homer Dorsey Gibson
June 22	Mary Smith
June 25	William R. James

If your special date in June hasn't been included in the calendar, please let Karen in the church office know so she can add it to our listings.

Prayer for the unemployed

If you or someone you know is unemployed or facing unemployment, this prayer from the Book of Common Prayer (page 824) may be of solace.

Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who suffer from want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of the land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive just payment for their labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Andrew's Prayer List

Those needing strength and healing: *Those needing strength and healing:* Liz Hollar, Reese Naylor, Briley Naylor, Terri Landeck, Tim Mai, Vazia and her family, Jud Lackey, Suzanne Pontius, Diane Valentine, Helen Call. **Loved ones in the military:** Gregg Etter, Bob Garven, John, Eric Muecke, Christopher Little, Molly, Aaron Riley, Michael Flory, Daniel Pearson, Chris Milan, Ewardo Mendoza.

(As space permits, the prayer list as of publication date will be included monthly.)

June Server Schedule

	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28	July 5
Chalice bearer	S. McKinney	G. Garcia	P. Kelley	G. Garcia	S. McKinney
Priest server	P. Kelley	J. Davis	R. Mitchell	S. McKinney	P. Kelley
Crucifer	S. McKinney	J. Crofoot	G. Mason	J. Crofoot	S. McKinney
Torch 1	A. Mitchell	C. Anderson	A. Mitchell	C. Anderson	A. Mitchell
Torch 2	P. Davis	W. Dyer	P. Davis	W. Dyer	P. Davis
Lector	M. Harrell	B. Barnes	L. Bonney	M. Harrell	M. Amend
Intercessor	G. Garcia	G. Garcia	M. Mingenback	B. Clamurro	L. Bonney
Nursery 1	J. Hubert	A. Jacob	S. Brinkman	J. Scheuerman	A. Jacob
Nursery 2	J. Scheuerman	N. Jacob	J. Hubert	L. Lingenfelter	N. Jacob
Greeter 1	N. Romine	D. Mai	D. Mai	N. Romine	L. Bonney
Greeter 2	L. Bonney	S. Mai	S. Mai	TBD	TBD
LEV 1	S. McKinney	B. Barnes	J. Hubert	S. McKinney	L. Bonney
LEV 2	P. Kelley	J. Hubert	P. Kelley	B. Barnes	P. Kelley

Please remember that if you are not able to serve you are responsible for finding your own substitute.

FROM THE RECTOR, cont.

I suspect that posting agendas based solely on scientific method or religious doctrine only feeds the zeal of those who are already converted to one particular way of thinking. And it only reinforces the social and political agendas that separate Christians and non-Christians alike. It also isn't very true to the example we have of Jesus in the Gospels engaging a variety of folks from different backgrounds with various agendas.

I cannot speak for the scientific community nor can I speak for non-Christians. I am a Christian who has claimed Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I am ordained to proclaim the faith that has been handed on to me from the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. A basic tenet of that faith is that Jesus Christ was fully and truly human while being fully and truly divine. His humanity is as important as his divinity because our humanity, with all of its biological, evolutionary and scientific aspects, was redeemed and made sacred in the embrace of Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection.

Ultimately, I must believe what Jesus says in the first and great commandment (Matthew 22: 37-40): that I am to love God with my whole being and I am to love my neighbor as myself. There is no commandment greater than this. Surely such an endeavor requires real dialogue with room for common ground, clearer understanding and perhaps a glance at the image of God in each other. I suspect that is more in line with the teachings of Jesus than more angry agendas that leave us yelling at each other like a bunch of godless humanists and religious kooks.

Parish cheers with Andrea Pearson ...

A shower was held for peer minister Andrea Faris Pearson on May 6. Andrea did not wear this hat made from bows and wrappings of shower gifts for her wedding to Dan Pearson, which was held over spring break. Dan is in the army and expects to be deployed in the fall.

... and holds a wine-tasting

Jim Heasley, Millard Harrell, Eddie Gilpin, Susan Mai and Nancy Pontius declare the wine to be fine at a wine-tasting held May 9 in the parish hall.

... and congratulates a new citizen

From the Senior Warden

Happy Father's Day

It has been recorded that a young boy called Elmesu carved a Father's Day message on a clay tablet nearly 4,000 years ago. Elmesu wished his Babylonian father good health and a long life. We don't know what happened to Elmesu and his father, but the tradition of celebrating Father's Day remained in several countries all over the world.

Here are some memories of their fathers from a few of the folks here at St. Andrew's:

After breakfast, my father would walk me down to get a newspaper and then to have a shoeshine before Sunday School.

I remember my father sitting in his chair and quietly reading the Bible. Later in life, I found myself doing the same.

My father asked me this question over and over: "What is faith?" and the answer: "The substance of things hoped for; the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1

My mom and dad taught me, "Now I lay me down to sleep....If I should die..." and it didn't scare me at all.

Back during 1944, my father, who was a minister, developed a friendship with a minority parish. The two preachers decided to trade sermons, each in the other's church. This was not received well by some members of the community but I now realize what a far-sighted, Christian move to make, particularly in that era.

My father was very active and influential in the Church while I was growing up. Although I later changed my affiliation, he molded my perception of religion.

When my Father was very ill my brother asked him if he ever doubted the promise of the resurrection. He told my brother that many people had told him things that were untrue and hard to believe but he had never for one minute doubted the words of our Christ and the promise of heaven.

—Sue Wilson

Northwest Convocation to host picnic for entire diocese

A diocesan-wide picnic to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Kansas will take place on Sunday, June 7, on the grounds of Bethany Place and Grace Cathedral in Topeka. The event is sponsored by the Northwest Convocation, of which St. Andrew's is a part.

The afternoon will begin at 4 p.m. in the cathedral with Evensong offered by the Cathedral Choir. A picnic with hot dogs and potluck side dishes and desserts will follow after the service, beginning about 4:45 pm. St. Andrew's is bringing salads.

No surprise here; Harrell's a winner



Millard Harrell has a way with a knife and a knack for seeing the creations that hide inside a piece of wood. At the Wichita Woodcarving Show in late May, Millard's Veneration Cross – his gift to St. Andrew's – won first place in the Religious category. Millard also took home another first place. His whimsical bishop was tops in the Bottle Stopper category at the Wichita Woodcarving Show. Onnalee Harrell, probably not the most impartial observer, noted that the competition at the show was "very tough."

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**The Rt. Rev. Dean E. Wolfe
Bishop of Kansas**

**The Rev. Kelley J. Lackey II
Rector of St. Andrew's**

June 20 is the deadline for information to be included in the July Crossroads. Please drop off any information at the church office or e-mail it by noon that day to office@standrewsemporia.org.

**Visit the parish website at
www.StAndrewsEmporia.org**



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