

The monthly newsletter for Trinity Presbyterian Church Topeka, Kansas

NOVEMBER 2021

let our lives be full of both thanks and giving



Trinity is blessed with a family of givers who generously pledge their time, talent and money. Those family members are encouraged to continue their financial commitment for 2022.

As well, those who have not previously made a financial commitment are urged to join that family of givers. When we step outside ourselves and give generously, when we fully participate in something bigger than we are, we experience the blessing of accomplishing things together.



Would you like to be involved in decisions affecting areas such as Trinity's finances, worship, facilities, or education? Or would you like to be involved in reaching out to Trinity members through phone calls and sending cards? If so, you should consider a nomination to be an Elder or Deacon in the coming year's class.

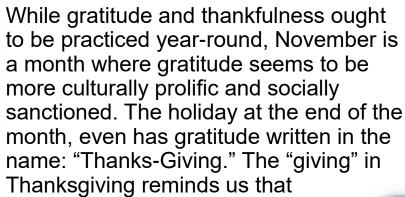
In the coming weeks, the Nominating Committee will begin seeking nominations for Elders, Deacons, Endowment Committee Members, and Nominating Committee Members. The Committee asks you to think about serving in one of these capacities. If someone talks to you about filling one of these positions, please prayerfully consider your answer. The members of the Nominating Committee are: Marvin Burris-Chair, Cathy Armstrong, Pat Thomblison, Kari Hachiya, Becky Bollinger and Laura Sidlinger.

PNKS Mission Trip to King Lake

We returned to King Lake (15 miles NW of Omaha) after doing a flood relief mission trip there in March 2020. Three members* of this year's 8 member team participated in both mission trips. Team members this year were Don Martinson, Trinity Wichita; Bob Frasier, HR PNKS; Rhoda Frasier, Concordia First; Kathy Sanders, Lawrence Westside; Dave Livingood, Lawrence First, Dan Pauls*, Topeka First; Anton Ahrens* and Susan Stickley*, Topeka Trinity.



THANK YOU ANTON AND SUSAN



gratitude is an action—something we do. Like many actions, the more we intentionally practice gratitude, the more we will find to be grateful about. And gratitude is the key ingredient to living with joy.



Author, researcher, and social-worker Brene Brown writes that It seems that "gratitude without practice may be a little like faith without works—it's not alive." (*Gifts of Imperfection*, pg. 79) She goes to explain that happiness is different than joy. "Happiness is tied to circumstance and joyfulness is tied to spirit and gratitude... We need both happiness and joy. I think it's important to create and recognize the experiences that make us happy. But in addition to creating happiness in our lives, I've learned that **we need to cultivate the spiritual practices that lead to joyfulness, especially gratitude.** (79-80)

Spiritual practices that cultivate gratitude can be as simple or detailed as you'd like. Before bedtime, my family goes around in a circle and names 3 things that we were grateful for that day. Often it is hard to limit the list to just three things! I've noticed that on the nights when I intentionally practice gratitude, I mentally reset to experience joy in the morning.



Reflection

Friend, I am grateful for YOU, for the mission of Trinity, and for the privilege of being your pastor. (Ok, I am also grateful for coffee, walks with dog, And football).

May you be blessed, grateful, and joyful.

Grace and peace, Rev. Mere



Trinity Members, Line Dancers, Day Care Parents:



Do you know the intent behind the **Mission Committee Angel Tree**? Every year we select a group to support and this year we have chosen to give to our Little Explorers Day Care.

Beginning November 28, the first day of Advent, the Angel Tree will grace our foyer. Items from the wish list below will be written on paper ornaments, to hang on the tree. You can take as many of the

ornaments as you wish and then bring the purchased items to church and place on the table by the tree. Items should not be wrapped.

Please consider purchasing any of the following items:

- Aluminum Foil
- Baggies: sandwich, quart, gallon
- Boogie Wipes
- Clorox Wipes
- Construction Paper
- Crayons
- Glué bottles or sticks
- Googly eyes

- Hand Soap
- Kleenex
- Napkins
- Paper Plates
- Paper Towels
- Plastic Silverware
- Toilet Paper

Thanks for helping to make it a Merry Christmas for the day care children!

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING



The Christmas Joy Offering is one way we join together as Presbyterians from around the country to meet the needs of vulnerable people we might not be able to meet face to face but who need our support. The gifts we share connect us and also change lives.

The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. This is a commitment of the Presbyterian Church for nearly 140 years.

This offering is collected from November 28 to December 20. <u>Checks should be made to Trinity Presbyterian Church with the notation</u> <u>"Christmas Joy Offering" in the memo line.</u>

Please give generously, for "if we all do a little – *together* – it adds up to a lot."



Updates from Talpetates, El Salvador

COVID

Anton Ahrens has had weekly communication with our brothers and sisters in El Salvador. They continue to express concern about our welfare here at Trinity. They constantly send their prayers and love. The delta variant of the COVID virus has struck El Salvador, but the good news is that vaccination rates in El Salvador are comparable to

those in Kansas. As of Sept. 10, 47% of Salvadorans are fully vaccinated compared with 49.7 % of Kansans.

SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS

Last time Anton talked with Carmen, the Talpetates director of the Trinity/Talpetates program, she informed him that a video has been made by the scholarship students. In the video, each student gave a brief update about his/her course of study and thanked Trinity for providing the opportunity to study. After the video is translated into English, portions of it will be shown in worship and posted to the website.



Trinity's Partnership with Los Talpetates, El Salvador

Trinity has been partnering with Los Talpetates, El Salvador for approximately 30 years. This partnership has included yearly trips by Trinity members to Los Talpetates and providing financial support in the areas of education and health care. Education is a recognized solution to the cycle of poverty, and to that end,

Trinity pays the salaries of two teachers. In addition, Trinity members invest in the future of Los Talpetates' youth by providing high school and college scholarships.

Each year approximately 25-30 students benefit from these scholarships. Anyone interested in investing in the education of a young person in Los Talpetates can do so by writing a check to TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH with TALPETATES SCHOLARSHIPS written on the memo line or go to the church website and click "GIVE ONLINE".



Congratulations to our very own Anton Ahrens on his induction into the Topeka High School Hall of Fame!



Topeka Public Schools Foundation Congratulations TPSF board member <u>Anton Ahrens</u> inducted into <u>Topeka High School</u> Hall Of Fame! Former THS principal, TPSF board and BOE member, Ned Nusbaum, current <u>Topeka</u> <u>Public Schools</u> BOE member, John Willams and TPSF executive director, <u>Pamela</u> Johnson-Betts attended the event.



2021 Christmas Dedications In Memory Of or To Honor Loved Ones

The Deacons have once again decided to not purchase poinsettias during this Advent season. Instead, we offer you an opportunity to make a special Christmas donation in memory of or to honor your loved ones to:



TO DONATE: Write a check to TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION. INCLUDE: This completed form with your check MAIL BOTH TO: Trinity Presbyterian Church-ATTN: BECKY -

MAIL BOTH TO: Trinity Presbyterian Church-ATTN: BECKY -4746 SW 21st St., Topeka, Ks 66604 MAIL IT BY: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8TH PROVIDE DEDICATION INFORMATION BELOW

List names as you want them to appear in the dedication listing.

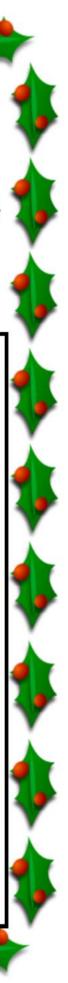
YOUR NAME:_____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN APPRECIATION OF:_____

TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

A list of dedications will be published in Trinity's weekly e-newsletter and will be shown on the worship service screens for Christmas.







C O R N E R Ever wonder how large a carbon footprint you or your family is creating?



Our basic habits each day contribute to the greenhouse gas emissions and make up our carbon footprint.

The Environmental Protection Agency has an easy to use tool to help us determine our basic footprint based on our household energy, transportation usage, and waste. We can enter information such as our electricity bills or usage, our mileage, and our recycling habits to see how we compare with the average American. It also offers ideas for decreasing that footprint on the tool.

If you would like to try it, go to: www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator

Next we can put our church into the calculator and see how we do!

PROPERTY COMMITTEE



Thanks to an excellent group of volunteers The wood mulch has been removed from the playgrounds at Trinity. I regret that this photo doesn't include Jane Williams and Cory Schoffelman who were also part of the crew.



Step two is drainage improvements. Cory Schoffelman arranged for use of a skid loader . Once this machine work is completed, we will make a determination on what other steps should be taken.

Step three is installing ground matting followed by spreading the new rubber mulch. Thanks again to Ralph, Bob, Dennis, Jane, Cory, Richmond, Karin, Joe and Debi. Job well done!

Randall B. Scott Editor's Note: Matting has been installed! See page 11!

THIS is Trinity!



This is **TRINITY**!













SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us for Adult Sunday School November Schedule

9:30-10:15 SUNDAY MORNINGS IN FELLOWHIP HALL

Join Judy Messenger, Alden Hickman, and Jurahee Shriver as they rotate Sundays and share their wisdom of the Bible in exciting ways that will keep you wanting to return for the next lesson.

November 7th – Bible Study with Judy Messenger November 14th - How did that get in the Bible with Alden Hickman November 21st – How did that get in the Bible with Alden Hickman November 28th – Images in Religion with Jurahee Shriver

9:30-10:15 SUNDAY MORNINGS IN RM 9, LOWER LEVEL

November 7 through November 21, we will delve into Jesus' parables, Jesus' "earthly form of stories with Heavenly meanings". Through the parables, we will use the spiritual stories to understand what Jesus was telling the people in his day and to discuss what the parables are still teaching us today.

November 28 through December 19, we will start an Advent study with a new Adam Hamilton book, INCARNATION, Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas.

His parents gave him the name Jesus. But the prophets, the shepherds, the wise men, and angels addressed him by other names. They called him Lord, Messiah, Savior, Emmanuel, Light of the World, and Word Made Flesh. During our study, we will explore the meaning of these titles and what they tell us about the child whose birth we celebrate at Christmas.

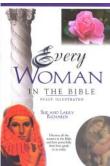
BOOK/DISCUSSION GROUPS



TUESDAYS WITH THE WORD

Please join us for a coffee and spiritual fellowship time with Pastor Mere. We meet on Tuesday, at 9:00 AM at the coffee shop at 21st and Belle, Cafe Quetzal. Join us for this very casual time of fellowship.

PAGE TURNERS FRIDAY BOOK STUDY



In Sunday School and worship we hear of and learn about Men of God, such as Abraham, Moses, Noah, and David. Very seldom do we talk about the women whom God uses to bring about His plans. Who were Abigail, Huldah, Jehosheba, or Dorcas to name a few? What role did she play in Old and New Testament history? Why is she mentioned at all in the Bible?

Come and explore the Bible with us in Page Turners as we study the book, "Every Woman in the Bible" by Sue and Larry Richards. We began this study on October 22 and will continue throughout the month of November. Join us on Friday afternoons, 1:30-3:00 at Thorton Place, 2901 SW Armstrong Ave (off of 29th Street and behind the Hy-Vee shopping center). If you have any questions, contact Becky Jones, 785-207-0040, or jonesbec07@gmail.com.

Clinton Presbyterian Church Dedication



MORE PRESBYTERY NEWS

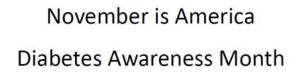
The Rev. Sandra Brown, of the Topeka First Presbyterian Church, delivers the sermon on Sunday, Oct. 10, 2021, at the dedication of the new Clinton Presbyterian church.

The event drew a crowd that filled the about 100 seats in the sanctuary and overflowed to the hallway to the community room.

NOVEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 31 ALL SAINTS DAY SUNDAY AV Volunteer Sound Bd Tech: Liturgist: N/A Reformation Sunday Sermon on the Steps: Pastor Mere STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY USHERS: Ann Fincham & Marvin or Susan Burris 9:30 AM Adult Combined School (FH) 9:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL for ALL AGES in-person & online 	1 All Saints Day 1:30 PM Sticks 'N String Group (Parlor or Zoom)	2 9:00 AM Tuesday's with the Word (Cafe Quetzal) 10:00 AM Line Dance Lesson (FH) 12:30 PM MISSION CMTE MTG ZOOM 1:30 PM Office Staff Meeting (P) 4:00 PM Aerobics (Rm 13/14) 5:00 PM DEACON CMTE MTG - ZOOM	3 1:30 PM Mary Martha Circle (P) 6:45 PM Esther Circle (P) lesson starts at 7 7:00 PM Square Dance Lessons (FH, K)	 4 5:00 PM Yoga for the Young at Heart (Rm 13/14) 6:00 PM PROPERTY CMTE MTG - ZOOM 6:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Heritage Choir Rehearsal (S) 	5 1:30 PM Page Turners Book Study (Thornton Place Chapel) 4:00 PM Aerobics (Rm 13/14)	6 9:00 AM Terminex
7 AV Volunteer Sound Bd Tech: Daylight-Saving Time Ends Liturgist: Marvin Burris Sermon on the Steps: USHERS: Marvin Burris & Dennis Williams 9:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL for ALL AGES in-person & online 10:30 AM COMMUNION WORSHIP SERVICE - In Person/Online	Cmte Fellowship Hall/Parking Lot) 12:00 PM Harvesters Free Food Distribution (Parking Lot) First Come/First Served	Tuesday's with the Word (Cafe Quetzal) 10:00 AM Line Dance Lesson (FH)	10 6:00 PM FINANCE CMTE MTG ZOOM 7:00 PM Square Dance Lessons (FH, K)	 11 Veterans Day 5:00 PM Yoga for the Young at Heart (Rm 13/14) 6:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Heritage Choir Rehearsal (S) 	12 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE for Dec 2021 issue 1:30 PM Page Turners Book Study (Thornton Place Chapel) 4:00 PM Aerobics (Rm 13/14)	13 2:00 PM Friendship Squares Dance (FH, K) set 1pm
14 AV Volunteer Sound Bd Tech: Liturgist: Vicky Walters Sermon on the Steps: USHERS: Susan Burris & Nancy Carpenter 9:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL for ALL AGES in-person & online 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE - In Person/Online 11:30 AM PEACEMAKING COMMITTEE MTG (Parlor)	15 SESSION PACKET REPORTS DUE AT NOON 1:30 PM Sticks 'N String Group (Parlor or Zoom)	 16 9:00 AM Tuesday's with the Word (Cafe Quetzal) 10:00 AM NO Line Dance Lesson (FH) 1:30 PM Office Staff Meeting (P) 4:00 PM Aerobics (Rm 13/14) 	17 7:00 PM SESSION (tbd) 7:00 PM Square Dance Lessons (FH, K)	 18 5:00 PM Yoga for the Young at Heart (Rm 13/14) 6:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Heritage Choir Rehearsal (S) 	19 1:30 PM Page Turners Book Study (Thornton Place Chapel) 4:00 PM Aerobics (Rm 13/14)	20
21 AV Volunteer Sound Bd Tech: Liturgist: Michael Langfitt Sermon on the Steps: USHERS: Craig Neuenswander & Marvin Burris 9:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL for ALL AGES in-person & online 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE - In Person/Online	PERSONNEL CMTE MTG - ZOOM 1:30 PM Sticks 'N String Group	23 9:00 AM Tuesday's with the Word (Cafe Quetzal) 10:00 AM Line Dance Lesson (FH) 1:30 PM Office Staff Meeting (P) 4:00 PM Aerobics (Rm 13/14)	24 7:00 PM Square Dance Lessons (FH, K)	25 *CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Thanksgiving Day 5:00 PM Yoga for the Young at Heart (Rm 13/14) 6:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Heritage Choir Rehearsal (S)	26 *CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 1:30 PM Page Turners Book Study (Thornton Place Chapel) 4:00 PM Aerobics (Rm 13/14)	27
28 Advent AV Volunteer Sound Bd Tech: Liturgist: NO CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL Sermon on the Steps: USHERS: Marvin Burris & David Shriver 9:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL for ALL AGES in-person & online 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE - In Person/Online	29 1:30 PM Sticks 'N String Group (Parlor or Zoom)	Tuesday's with the Word (Cafe Quetzal) 10:00 AM Line	1 1:30 PM Mary Martha Circle (P) 6:45 PM Esther Circle (P) lesson starts at 7 7:00 PM Square Dance Lessons (FH, K)	2 5:00 PM Yoga for the Young at Heart (Rm 13/14) 6:00 PM PROPERTY CMTE MTG - ZOOM 6:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Heritage Choir Rehearsal (S)	3 1:30 PM Page Turners Book Study (Thornton Place Chapel) 4:00 PM Aerobics (Rm 13/14)	4 9:00 AM Terminex

PARISH NURSE





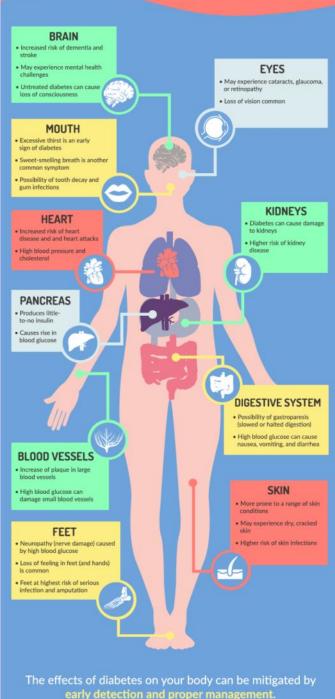
To reduce your risk for heart disease:

- Maintain a healthy weight, Blood
 Pressure, Cholesterol and A1C blood
 levels
- * Eat Healthy
- Stay Active
- » Don't smoke!

Prayers and Blessings in Christ, Kathy Welch, Parish Nurse

Diabetes in the Body

The Different Ways Diabetes Can Affect You



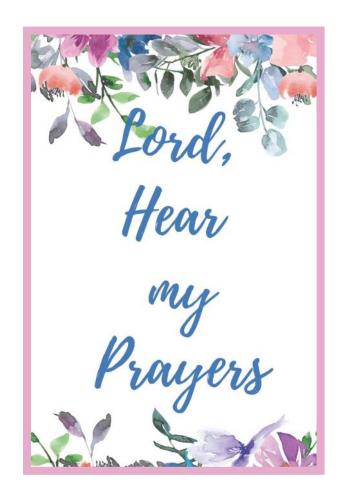
If you have diabetes or suspect you might, make an appointment with your doctor to learn more and stay healthy.

https://www.tricitymed.org/

PRAYER CONCERNS as of October 24, 2021

Carolyn Burns Cheryl Lindstrom Chuck Pullen Helen Rhodes John Eddy Joyce Adcock Jessie Zimmerman **Jim Jenkins** Kay Wildman Lou Nell Gustavson Marjorie Marrs Marilyn Leinacker and family (Audrey and Jacob Barnard) Marilyn Watt Martha Benignus Olive Ubel Pat Thomblison & Kathleen Thompson Pam Oroke Rose Fritz **Ruth Jenkins** Virginia Pelton Our troops overseas Becky Jones' friends, Janice Pechacek & Cheryl Arney; Becky Schooler's sister-inlaw, Jill; Brad Stipcak's mother, Beverly, brother, Brett, sister-in-law, Jaime Stipcak, and nephew, Riley Stipcak; Carmen Raines' friend, Mark and family friend, Gage; Carol Shannahan's friend, Wanda; Carolyn Burns' sister-in-law, Carol Jessop; Carrie & Art Lancaster's daughter, Grace Ray; Cathy Headworth's aunt, Jniece Bell; Elise (Higgins') friend, Katy Everitt; Iris Neuenswander's sister, Rosalee; Jaron Marcus' mother, Sherilyn; Karen Botkin; Kay & Ralph Howard's stepbrother,

Max Hall, nephew in-law Doug; Kay Wildman's niece, Renee Wohletz; Lettie Karlson's friend, K.C; Maddie Mellies' stepfather, Dave Leinweber; Marilyn Leinacker's daughter, Lisa; Mary Nestor's sister-in-law, Susan Nestor and sister, Kay Fessler; Nelson Spaulding's daughter, Deborah Harris; Rev. Mike Kuner; Ruth & Jim Jenkins' great niece, Kaila, friend, Laura Louna, brother-in-law, Jim, sister, Donna's grandson, Chase, friends JP & Peter, and great niece & husband, Michelle & Tony; Toni Farrell-Higgins' mother, Loretta Farrell; Wendy Pullen and her sister, Shannon: Zimmerman family





1-Nov Taelyn Young 3-Nov Annie Leahew 3-Nov Ainsley Wallace 4-Nov Wani Mulegwa **Carmen Raines** 6-Nov 8-Nov Kristin Chooncharoen 10-Nov Lynn Weaver 10-Nov Karen Leon Boswell 12-Nov Gerald Adcock 13-Nov Carol Hornecker **15-Nov Toni Farrell-Higgins** 17-Nov Craig Stafford 17-Nov Rose Swanson **18-Nov Elisabeth Mulegwa 18-Nov Becky Jones** 20-Nov Ben Lathrop 20-Nov Alex Lathrop 22-Nov Vicky Walters 24-Nov Ed Raines **26-Nov Madison Hughes** 28-Nov Breton Sloop Struble **30-Nov William Ashley**



nniversary

18-Nov Anton Ahrens & Susan Stickley 24-Nov Tom & Laurie Ashley

Congratulations to Cathy Headworth and Jon Wasinger who were married October 11th at Unity Village, Missouri. Reverend Meredith officiated the ceremony.



BOB BURTCH 10-7-2021 ADELE WALLACE 10-9-2021

2021 In-Person Worship					
September 26	67				
October 3	89				
October 10	83				
October 17	76				

Thank you for all the calls, cards, meals that our family received after the death of Karen's mom and Doug's brother. We so appreciate our church family! **Karen, Doug, Matt, Michael and Sarah Meenen**

My daughters and I would like to thank all of the Trinity members who helped with Bob Burtch's funeral and with the lunch for the family following the service. We also would like to thank Becky for preparing the bulletin, Anton and Peter for making sure the service was live, and Pastor Mere for all of her help. Thanks also to those who have sent sympathy cards. It was good to have community around us. Marty Peterson



CONGRATULATIONS TO CARMEN RAINES!

She recently passed the ALL of her Ordination Exams moving her forward in her preparation for ministry.



Trinity Presbyterian Church 4746 SW 21st Street Topeka, Ks 66604-3592 785-272-2620

www.trinitypresbyterian.net office @trinitypresbyterian.net www.facebook.com/TrinityTopeka

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Nonprofit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Topeka, Kansas Permit No. 819

Donations Needed for Our Christmas Project Doorstep is adopting 260 households with 821 individuals from the Christmas Bureau again this year. We are receiving calls about what items are needed for our annual Christmas Adoption. We need the following NEW items: We no longer need school supplies or *Blankets - Full/Queen & King Only health kit items *Crock Pots (hygiene items and *Coffee Pots towels). *Skillet Sets *Electric Skillets These have been *Toasters assembled, and are *Board Games ready for December *Puzzles *Money for Gift Cards We would like donations of gift items by December 1st, if possible, so we know what we have, and what we still need for distribution week. However, we will still take donations after that date.

We are not doing the full Christmas Store this year due to the ongoing pandemic & safety issues.
<u>Each household we adopt will receive:</u>
Banket ~ Health Kit ~ School Supplies (if appropriate)
One household item such as coffee pot or crockpot Christmas food order
Family Fun packs with board games, puzzles and toys S20 gift cards per person in the household.
Doorstep is located at 1119 SW 10th, 66604 (10th & Buchanan).
Hours for donations are 9am - 2pm, Monday - Friday. You can mail monetary donations or use our website: DoorstepTopeka.org