



**Reaching out
Reaching within
Proclaiming God's Love**
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

2001 Windsor Drive
Newton, Kansas 67114
Church: 316-283-3310
June 2018

The Messenger

A word from the Rector

He (Jesus) is the Image (the Icon) of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible.....all things have been created through him and for him.....For in him all fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of the cross.. Colossians 1: 15-20

I frequently open Icon workshops by saying that in the beginning God created humanity beautifully in His own image and likeness, but then, some one or some thing lied to us and we chose to believe, live into and, ultimately accept the lie's distorted and unauthentic image of God, creation and ourselves as reality. What God rightly ordered according to his purpose and called very good became tragically disordered. In our disordered condition, instead of showing forth the image or icon of God in which we are created and beloved and to which the best possible life can be discerned, we have chosen to obscure the original light and beauty of humanity that resides deeply within each of us. Our story is one of disengagement and estrangement from ourselves, our relationships and purpose. Yet, we who were made for relationship, made to be icons revealing from within ourselves God's transfiguring light and beauty and meant for glory settled for less. Our authentic light and beauty frequently became obscured by an overactive sense of perfectionism, importance or unrealistic thoughts of unworthiness and the depths of our faults. In truth we're all a

mixed bag of all sorts of mischief – some good and some not. What is certain is our need to recover what is obscured by darkness, what is disconnected and disorienting in life so that, through a prayerful journey of embodying the image – the icon or likeness - of God revealed in Jesus. Perhaps we will find our journey takes us to a home we never really left.

In the orthodox tradition, scripture and icons are valued equally in their understanding of salvation. According to John

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”. The Word became flesh in the form of Jesus of Nazareth and lived “tented” among us as the father's only son, full of grace and truth. The Divine Logos or “Word” is “the true light that enlightens everyone who comes into the world”.

That Divine “Word” and certainly God's image, are present in every human heart. The early Fathers and Mothers of the Church insisted on claiming the presence of the Divine in every human heart. Justin Martyr, a second century theologian, saw Christ the Logos as the Cosmic Sower who plants seeds - implants

*Icon
(Continued on page 3)*



Remember to pray for each of these persons on their special day.

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

June Birthdays

- June 1 - James Lawrence Upton
- June 8 - Ryan Hutton
- June 19 - Gloria Ochs, Mike Irving
- June 21 - Maddy Vajnar Danby
- June 22 - Kyla Jantz
- June 27 - Ana Jaso
- June 29 - Brennan Parker Wald, Margie Knupp
- June 30 - Bill Mills


June Baptisms

- June 3 - William Christopher Beck, Charles Joseph Collier, Mollie (Collier) Partridge
- June 4 - Brandon Ashcraft
- June 7 - Ryan Simmonds

June Confirmations

- June 3 - William Christopher Beck
- June 6 - Kathryn Bogner
- June 18 - Vince Collier
- June 12 - Thea Ferguson

If you know of other birthday, confirmation, or baptism dates that are not listed, please contact the office so they can be included. Thank you.



Please make note of new email addresses for Fr. Les and Peggy:

fatherles@stmatthewsnewton.org
administrator@stmatthewsnewton.org

June 2018 Coffee Hour Hosts



- June 3 - Darlene Hall
- June 10 - Melissa Keenan
- June 17 - Fathers Day/Parish Life
- June 24 - Daughters of the King

If anyone would like to host coffee hour, please sign up on the calendar in the parish hall. Thanks

St. Matthew's Outreach

Shut Ins & Soldiers

Please continue to keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers

Fran Rogers
 Joan Orr
 Maurice Robinson
 Sharon Davis

David Critton
 Jordan Orr
 Ryan Bernard

Please check out fun and interesting facts about Maurice (Charlie's dad) on the shut in board in the parish hall.

Food cart

16 non-perishable food items were delivered to the Salvation Army "Harvest of Love" food bank in May. Thanks to all for caring about those in need...

Upcoming events

July - Back to School

Don't forget to pick up a new Blue UTO Box and start counting your blessings. The next UTO Ingathering will be in the fall.

Happy Father's Day

"A truly rich man is one whose children run into his arms when his hands are empty."
—Ziad Abdelhour



Icon
(Continued from page 1)

“seeds of truth” - in the hearts of all human beings without exception. Hidden deep within the innermost depths of our hearts, God dwells in that place of our deepest and truest self, waiting just to be accepted, realized and revealed.

Icons and iconography are understood from within the context of Eastern Christianity where Jesus is both the Word and the icon of the invisible God. In this context, God is not distant - not out there somewhere, but intimately embedded within, and connected to, everything. God has from the very beginning sanctified - set aside as sacred - the whole of creation and made it an environment for divine revelation. Humanity and Creation have incarnational potential to show forth and bear witness to God's goodness and purpose that are central to all things, including humanity. Thomas Merton writes

“At the center of our being is a point of nothingness which is untouched by sin and by illusion, a point of pure truth, a point or spark which belongs to God....This little point of nothingness and absolute poverty is the pure glory of God in us. It is so to speak his name written within us...It is like a pure diamond, blazing with the invisible light of heaven. It is in everybody, and if we could see it we would see these billions of points of light coming together in the face and blaze of a sun that would make all darkness and cruelty of life vanish completely....I have no program for this seeing. It is only given. But the gate of heaven is everywhere.”

An Iconographer's ministry and practice are to prayerfully incarnate (embody) in visual forms images of God's call to each of us to grow into His likeness and image – an image greatly distorted by sin and covered with layers

of fear and deception. Like the early scribes who labored to reproduce manuscripts of scripture the iconographer prayerfully labors to produce visual images that point and connect us to the mystery of God's love for us and the sanctification of creation. The Evangelist and Apostle Luke is said to have been the first to depict Mary, the Mother of God and Jesus. Icons have been part of Christian tradition from Christianity's beginning, sometimes favored and sometimes not (a subject for another time). Icons connect us to God by revealing the Gospel, teaching and providing spiritual inspiration. They use, line, form and color to depict a reality that is transfigured by the power of God. All Icons are created in prayer and for prayer.

Blessings
Les+

“It is within my power either to serve God or not to serve him. Serving him, I add to my own good and the good of the whole world. Not serving him, I forfeit my own good and deprive the world of that good, which was in my power to create.”

Rector's Schedule		
Monday	Newton Medical Center	1-5
Tuesday	St. Matthew's	8-12
Tuesday	Newton Medical Center	1-5
Wednesday	St. Matthew's	8-12
Wednesday	Newton Medical Center	1-5
Thursday	Rector's Sabbath	
Friday	St. Matthew's	8-12
Friday	Newton Medical Center	1-4
Saturday	Available for meetings	
Sunday	Worship	8-1
*Good Shepherd Hospice as needed and available.		



ADVENTURE CYCLING

will be guests at St. Matthew's again this year!

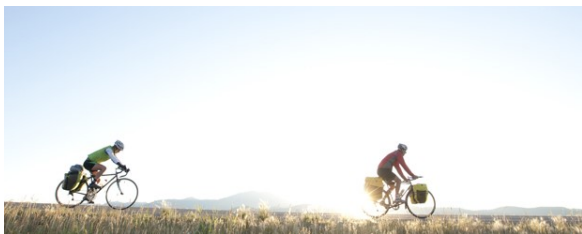
3 different groups are scheduled to stay:

Wed & Thurs, June 13-14,
Sun & Mon, June 17-18
Mon & Tues, June 25-26

In the past St. Matthew's has generously welcomed them with a home cooked meal. Please let Peggy know if you are interested in doing this again.

The cyclists will also be willing to share their experiences with members as well as the community. Any suggestions for a community program would be welcomed.

The cyclists are from all over the United States, as well as countries around the world. They post blogs of their stays, post on Facebook, and have always given back to St. Matthew's. They are interested in our community as well.



The Kansan has printed lengthy stories about St. Matthew's hospitality and Adventure Cycling the last couple years.



Words for today, from 1968

For America, this marks the 50th anniversary of a turbulent year, which included high-profile assassinations, the Vietnam War and civil rights protests. Five decades on, turmoil still abounds.

May we take hope and inspiration from Robert Kennedy, who, on the night of Martin Luther King's death, replaced a presidential-campaign speech with these words:

"What we need in the United States is not division; ... not hatred; ... not violence and lawlessness, but ... love, and wisdom, and compassion toward one another; and a feeling of justice toward those who still suffer within our country, whether they be white or ... black."

Kennedy added: "We will have difficult times in the future. ... But the vast majority of white people and ... black people in this country want to live together ... and want justice for all human beings. ... Let's dedicate ourselves ... to tame the savageness of man and make gentle the life of this world ... and say a prayer for our country and for our people."



The Liturgical Seasons

Do you ever wonder about why the colors in the church change? Do you see the hangings, vestments, and flags changing colors Sunday to Sunday? Well, it all means something in the cycle of the church.

The Episcopal Church's calendar is divided into seasons that celebrate particular periods of the life of Jesus and the Church. The two main cycles of feasts and holy days are dependent on the fixed date of Christmas and on the movable date of Easter. The liturgical year begins with Advent. The Liturgical Seasons are Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time (Time After Epiphany), Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Ordinary Time (Time After Pentecost).

Liturgical Colors

The use of colors to differentiate liturgical seasons became a common practice in the Western church in about the fourth century. At first, usages varied considerably but by the 12th century Pope Innocent III systematized the use of five colors: Violet, White, Black, Red and Green. Colors can be used in altar and pulpit decorations, vestments, banners and tapestries.

Each season is represented by a color:

Advent - Violet or Blue
Christmas - White
Ordinary Time - Green
Lent - Violet or Blue
Easter - White
Pentecost - Red

The colors express emotions and ideas that are associated with each of the seasons of the liturgical year.

Violet is the ancient royal color and therefore a symbol of the sovereignty of Christ. Violet is also associated with repentance from sin. This is used during Advent and Lent.

White and Gold symbolize the brightness of day. White is the color that symbolizes joy, purity, and truth. It is, therefore, the liturgical color for the seasons of Christmas and Easter.

Black is the traditional color of mourning in some cultures. Black is used on Good Friday.

Red evokes the color of blood, and therefore is the color of martyrs and of Christ's death on the Cross. Red also symbolizes fire, and therefore is the color of the Holy Spirit. red is used as the liturgical color for Palm Sunday and Pentecost.

Green is the color of growth and is the color of living things and God's creation. It is used during Ordinary Time. . Green is the color of the Season after Pentecost and it is also the color symbolizing Epiphany.



Thank You

Thank you to my St. Matthew's Church family. It's been quite a year and your prayers, calls, cards, and every gesture of kindness has been appreciated. Once again, you've prayed me through a difficult time and you've all been a great comfort to me.

Nyla Friesen



Prayer for the Search of the 10th Bishop of Kansas

Gracious and loving God, thank you for the directing presence of your Holy Spirit upon those who have been set apart to discern your call of the 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Kansas. Look graciously on your people as we lift up the search process in fervent prayer. Guide us to the faithful pastor, who will nurture your people and cultivate the myriad of gifts that abide in the people of this diocese. Empower this search with a spirit of joy and discernment as together we journey with Jesus the road ahead; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Community Garden

The garden season is upon and us and we invite you to rent and garden a space at the St. Matthew's Community Garden. The mission of the garden is to benefit those needing a place to plant and share the bounty of the garden with those in need through the various local charities. When the garden produces more than you can use, please share with others.



This year we would like to add a flowering component to the garden to attract and nurture the bee population.

The community garden is now ready with rental garden plots. The cost for a plot is \$30 for the growing season. Plots vary in size; some are 25 x 20 feet and others are 30 x 20 feet. Gardeners are welcome to rent a half-garden plot or share with a friend or club.

Please contact the garden coordinator, Mary Werner, at 316-204-9389 after 5 pm. Garden fees can be paid to the church secretary during regular office hours.

*2001 Windsor Drive—316-283-3310
stmatthews@kscoxmail.com
Mary Werner—316-204-9389 (text or call)*



*Flag Day
June 14*

Update from the Search Committee

The Search Committee seeks your prayers as members continue to plan for the upcoming discernment retreat with applicants for bishop, which will take place from Friday, June 8 to Monday, June 11.

The discernment retreat provides the committee an opportunity to get to know the applicants much better and to have deep conversations with them about vision, mission and ministry. Equally important, the retreat allows applicants to further discern their call as bishop of the Diocese of Kansas.

The Search Committee will meet for the last time on June 15 to discern the slate of candidates to present to the Council of Trustees on June 20.

The Council of Trustees will announce the slate of bishop candidates on June 21.

Waiting

Life is a waiting game or so it seems
we wait to be born to grow up to graduate
wait for life's calling wait to find a
satisfying job wait for morning coffee
wait for rain wait in line wait for the repair man
wait at the stop light the railroad crossing
wait for the water to boil for quiet afternoon
tea wait for inner and outer peace
wait to feel better wait at the doctor's
office wait to fall asleep wait for
God's quiet voice breathed into us
from the very beginning God waiting for us
moment by moment we waiting for God
Life is a waiting game or so it seems

Joan Breit
Spring 2018



More than 200 Episcopalians will gather at **Camp Wood YMCA** the week of June 3-9 for **Episcopal Summer Mega Camp!**

When: Sunday, June 3 2:30 pm to Saturday, June 9, 11 am, 2018

Where: Camp Wood YMCA, Elmdale, KS

Who: Students in grades 3-12

Campers love mail!!! Please send them a note to let them know you are thinking and praying for them. Contact the office for a list of who will be attending this year.

Mail your letters early to the following address:

Camper's Name & Session (High School, Junior High or Elementary)
Episcopal Summer Camp
Camp Wood YMCA
1101 Camp Wood Rd.
Elmdale, KS 66850

Please continue to pray for them through the final day of camp on Saturday, June 9.

A Prayer for MegaCamp

O God, who gives us times of refreshment and peace in our busy lives; bless, we pray, the campers and staff of MegaCamp; give them fair weather for their activities, and grant that they may use this time together to strengthen their bodies, renew their faith and build up the community of your church. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Clergy and youth ministers are invited to Mega Worship

All three camps gather for Eucharist at sunset on Wednesday, June 6 during camp. Clergy

and youth ministers are welcome to join us for this 8 p.m. service.

For camp security purposes, **camp visitors must RSVP in advance.** E-mail mfunston@episcopal-ks.org if you plan to attend this worship service.

MissionWichita

An urban mission experience in Wichita, KS, where we will:

- Learn more about poverty.
- Volunteer work with Episcopal Social Services, St. Francis Community Services, and local parishes. (And YES this will count as service hours if you are required to do some for school or a club.)
- Relax, hang-out and do fun activities in the evenings.

When: Tuesday, June 26, 2018, 7 pm to Sunday, July 1, 11:30 am, 2018

Who: Students who have finished grades 8-12 at the time of the event

Where: St. John's Episcopal Church, 402 N. Topeka, Wichita, KS 67202

We will be showering at the Downtown YMCA one block away. Youth need to bring towels and we recommend shower-shoes.

Cost: \$100 (\$120 after June 19)

Registration: <https://edok.formstack.com/forms/mw2018>

Meal Support: sign-up here: <https://www.volunteersignup.org/7ACCB>

We are hoping parishes in and near Wichita will help us keep the cost of this event low by volunteering to provide breakfast and/or supper, as well as volunteers to prepare and clean-up, one day during the event.

***St. Matthew's will be helping to provide healthy snacks for MissionWichita. Please pick up some snacks and leave them in the office at St. Matthew's. Fr. Les will deliver everything collected. Thanks for your help,



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Sunday School 9:00 am - Sunday Worship Service 10:15 am

E-mail - stmatthews@kscoxmail.com — **webpage** - stmatthewsnewton.org

Barnabas the Apostle—Feast Day June 11

Joseph, a Levite, born in Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (son of encouragement), sold a field he owned, brought the money, and turned it over to the apostles." (Acts 4:36f).

His new name fits what we know of his actions. When Saul (or Paul) came to Jerusalem after his conversion, most of the Christians there wanted nothing to do with him. They knew him as a persecutor and an enemy of the Church. But Barnabas was willing to give him a second chance. He looked him up, spoke with him, and brought him to see the other Christians, vouching for him. Later, Paul and Barnabas went on a missionary journey together, taking Mark with them. Part way, Mark turned back and went home. When Paul and Barnabas were about to set out on another journey, Barnabas proposed to take Mark along, and Paul was against it, saying that Mark had shown himself undependable. Barnabas wanted to give Mark a second chance, and so he and Mark went off on one journey, while Paul took Silas and went on another. Apparently Mark responded well to the trust given him by the "son of encouragement," since we find that Paul later speaks of him as a valuable assistant (2 Tim 4:11; see also Col 4:10 and Phil 24)

Grant, O God, that we may follow the example of your faithful Servant Barnabas, who, seeking not his own renown but the well-being of your Church, gave generously of his life and substance for the relief of the poor and the spread of the Gospel; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**You and your family are always welcome at the
community of St. Matthew's**

Return service requested



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
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