



**Reaching out
Reaching within
Proclaiming God's Love**

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 342
2001 Windsor Drive
Newton, Kansas 67114
Church: 316-283-3310
www.stmatthewsnewton.org
www.facebook.com/stmattsnewton

The Messenger



A word from the Rector



When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: “A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the

birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold.” As he said this, he called out, “Let anyone with ears to hear listen!” Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant. “Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance. Luke 8: 4-15 (Matthew 13: 1-9; Mark 4: 1-10)

Farmland and cotton crops are a woven fabric of my life. I was inundated, as a youngster, with agricultural conversations and concerns about cultivation, planting, seed quality, drought and insect resistance, yields, harvest season and of course the unpredictable weather cycle in Northwest Texas. There were long hours but seldom wasted effort or inattention to detail. Those

who failed to do the hard work certainly would not benefit from having a crop to harvest. Farming directly or indirectly impacted the subsistence and well-being of everyone in our circle of family and friends. Having offered the best efforts, we shared a hopefulness in the possibility of an abundant harvest. And some seasons exceeded expectations while many others did not regardless of the effort. We trusted our studied and intentional efforts were the best plan for an abundant harvest for the well-being of our whole community. Jesus’ followers are certainly aware of the numerous conditions and circumstances in sowing, growing, and harvesting crops. The parable or comparison Jesus gives about the “Sower and the Seed” are themes familiar to the people gathered around Jesus and throughout the rural middle East. After all, such vocation was a primary source of human existence. Subsistence, well-being, survival all depended on the success or failure of sowing and harvesting a crop. The comparisons, spoken and unspoken, allows us to place ourselves in the role sower and soil. First as one with the vocation of sowing the living word of God and then being the soil in which the seed is planted. The parable allows us to ask provocative questions and discern for ourselves the importance of individuals and faith communities being the sowers and growing medium for the word God.

Some have used The Parable of the Sower and Seeds recorded the gospels of Matthew Mark and Luke to justify and argue our work and efforts to build the kingdom of God is mostly wasted. This is supposed to make us feel better!?! There is a different, more challenging, and intentional way to view, and glean instructive wisdom form this parable.

*Sower & Seed
(Continued on page 2)*



Sower & Seed
(Continued from page 1)


What is not said sometimes speaks louder than what is said. Although Jesus does not say it in this parable, he repeatedly instructs his followers to “wake up” “stay alert”, and listen if you have ears to hear. In the parable Jesus is not condoning or justifying wasted effort, inattentiveness to details or idle random practices but giving us a comparison and cautionary tale about inattentiveness to the vocation and details of sowing valuable seeds – none other than the transforming and living word of God-valuable seed producing healing, hospitality, well-being and creating sustainability for the “kingdom of God”. And warning us what happens when we carelessly sow seeds where they have little opportunity to grow to maturity.

We want and need seeds, the word of God, to germinate and take root in our hearts and shape the ethos of our being. As the Body of Christ, we have the humble vocation of sowing seed, tending and being the fertile ground seed take root in. We are different from the indiscriminate sower that carelessly scatters seeds everywhere – who does not think twice about where the seeds fall and whether they will be nurtured to maturity. Our mission must include the intentional stewardship of the valuable endangered seeds for possibility of abundant harvest to exist. It involves ground well selected and prepared, cultivated, cleared, weeded, and watered. And it is the mission, the vocation, of our churches to determine how we will go about intentionally doing this important work.

Blessings
Les+



LILY—The lily that blooms around Easter is a symbol of Christ’s resurrection because it rises from a seemingly lifeless bulb decaying in the ground. It is also used as a symbol of Christ himself. The lily, a symbol of purity, is often used to represent the Virgin Mary.



St. Matthew's Prayer Chain

If you have a request for prayers for yourself or others, please contact Mary Upton at **316-841-1736**. The information you share with me will then be passed on to the chain leaders who will then pass the information on to their team. The members of the chain will then add your request to their prayers. The information you give me is confidential and will not be shared with others outside the prayer chain without your permission.

If you have a prayer request, would like more information and/or join the St. Matthew's Prayer Chain, please contact Mary Upton at **316-841-1736**.



Episcopal Summer Camp is ON !!

Following the vote of the Council of Trustees on Feb. 24, Episcopal Summer Camp will take place this year. Camp will follow the recommendations from Camp Wood YMCA and the American Camp Association (their accrediting body) to provide as safe an environment as possible, but we cannot eliminate 100 percent of the risk. Check out [Camp Wood YMCA's website](#) for more details on their plans, including a “policies and procedures” document at the bottom that details specifically all the cleaning and social distancing protocols.

The Episcopal camp leadership team will be convening regularly over the next several months to plan the logistics for Episcopal Summer Camp. Information will be posted on [the camp website](#) as it becomes available.

Parents – please send your questions! Help the leadership team with the planning by letting them know what questions and concerns you have. Email questions about camp to kschlabach@episcopal-ks.org.

- **When:** June 6–12, 2021
- **Where:** Camp Wood YMCA, Elmdale, KS
- **Who:** Students in grades 3–12 for the 2020-21 school year (you must have finished third grade to attend). Camp is not restricted to Episcopalians or regular churchgoers. All are welcome, so feel free to invite friends and family. 2021 Camp will be limited to about 104 campers.
- **Cost:** \$500. Payment plans are available. If you choose, UltraCamp will automatically divide the cost of camp over the remaining months between when you register and the start of camp.
- **Registration** [online via UltraCamp](#)
- **Scholarships:** You can apply for scholarships on the registration form. Information about your household income will be required. Scholarships are awarded by a committee. Your parish should also be able to provide some scholarship money.

Cancellation deadline: Two weeks prior to the start of the camp session for a 100 percent refund; at any time with a doctor’s note for 100 percent refund.

The camp leadership team still is determining the qualifications and requirements for Episcopal camp staff. Registration and applications for staff positions will be available by April 1.

Sign up now for a regional Youth Campfire

After Easter, diocesan youth ministries will host two regional youth campfires with fellowship, prayer and s'mores.

- Wichita-area Campfire, Sunday, April 25, 6:30–8 p.m. (for all those in the Southeast and Southwest convocations)
- Masks are required at both events. Attendance is free, but please sign up so we can bring enough s'mores supplies, have enough adults present and do contact tracing just-in-case.

[Sign-up via UltraCamp](#)

Celebrating Our Youth –

Creed Ekerberg is graduating from Newton High School and attending K-State this fall.

Conner Ekerberg is graduating from the University of Wyoming and being commissioned in US Army as a Second Lieutenant.

Hailey Southern is graduating from Nursing school and will begin her work at Newton Medical Center

Allison Hill is graduating with her Masters of Business Administration from Emporia State University



St. Matthew's Outreach

Food Cart

42 non-perishable food items were donated and delivered to the Salvation Army "Harvest of Love" food bank in March. Please pray for those who don't have enough to eat.

***A special note: the food cart is currently located in the parish hall for those who bring in food donations. Bless you!

Souper Bowl of Caring

12 more cans of soup were donated, which brings our total to 41 cans of soup!
Thanks to everyone!!

Shut Ins & Soldiers

Easter Cards were mailed to our soldiers and shuts ins, also to our college students, and assorted people we know and love! Please keep these people in your prayers.

Stephen Biddle	Sharon Davis	Ryan Bernard
Zoe Stonehouse	Haley Southern	Julianna Loyd
Katherine Lindgren	Allison Hill	Logan Moulds
Connor Ekerberg		
Bill Swendson	Jerry Jacobson	Kathleen Leid
Clay Hedrick	Marge Friesen	Jerry Collier
Brad Moulds	Mike & Annette Bernard	

We would like to thank Charlie and Nancy Craig, and Rick Beck for making and installing the wonderful "Love thy Neighbor" pantry box located to the west of the parking lot at church. What a lovely way to reach out to our community!!! Thanks again!!

It is wonderful to have St. Matthew's open for Sunday services and worship. (Safely, of course!) It will be a while before we can participate in all aspects of being a church and a congregation... but we are grateful for what we can do.

Thanks be to God!!



Birthdays, Confirmations and Baptisms

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

April Birthdays

April 1 - Lance Taylor Woodward, Madelyn Stonehouse
April 3 - Brett Irving
April 7 - Ruth Cooper
April 17 - Alex Beck

April Baptisms

April 2 - Patrick Craig, Sean Hall, Todd Dove
April 3 - Jerry Wall, Renea Dove
April 4 - Mike Loyd
April 7 - Vincent Ochs
April 8 - Suzie Luginbill, George Graybill
April 10 - Twila Lockaby, Jill Loyd
April 11 - Elizabeth Hill, Sarah Hill, Allison Hill, Katrina Southern
April 14 - Susan Koehn, Maggie Tyner, Judy Sheahan, Jonathan Sheahan
April 17 - Cathy Woodward
April 25 - Stephan Hall, Darla Stonehouse
April 27—Karen Wall

April Confirmations

April 10 - Chris Beck, Patrick Craig, Kristan Bogner, Matt Bogner, Amanda Luginbill, Evalie Ainsworth, Vincent Ochs, Gloria Ochs, Elizabeth Wall
April 22 - Jane Orr
April 24 - George Graybill
April 27 - Karen Wall



St, Matthew's Food Pantry

A Little Food Pantry has been installed outside of St. Matthew's. The guidelines are fairly simple. Put only non-perishable in the box. Children's books are appreciated if you have any to donate. They can be gently used. I have sent a letter to Northridge school inviting them to let their families know about this and participate as teachers, staff and families. I am hoping this will be a new and ongoing outreach for St. Matthew's. Many thanks to Rick Beck and Charlie Craig who built the box and to Jan Horst who helped me decorate it.

Nancy Craig

PS- it has also been mentioned that pet food would also be appreciated,



Kind hearts are the gardens.
Kind thoughts are the roots.
Kind words are the flowers.
Kind deeds are the fruits.
Take care of your garden
and keep out the weeds.
Fill it with sunshine,
kind words and kind deeds.



"HELP NEEDED – MEALS ON WHEELS

St Matts needs a volunteer to deliver meals ONCE A MONTH ON 4th TUESDAYS. If you could help or for more info please contact Thea at 283 4939 or jay.f.7643@sbcglobal.net"

?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ?

We know the name of only one of the two disciples to whom the risen Jesus appeared on the road to Emmaus. Who was he?

- A. John
- B. Paul of Tarsus
- C. Joseph of Arimathea
- D. Cleopas

Answer: D (See Luke 24:18.)



And Jesus Wept

A little church nestles
across the valley from Jerusalem
where Jesus wept for the people
Dominus Flevit its name
'and Jesus wept' St. Luke says

At the altar's base a mosaic of mother hen
chicks under her wings
with some peering out as only chicks will do
I know growing up on a Kansas farm

In a moment of despair
Jesus wished he could gather
the people
as a hen gathers her chicks
a motherly image
loving warm protective
'and Jesus wept'

Joan Breit
November 2013

Did you know this about the payee program?

1. St Matthews Payee Program was started in 1997 as a satellite program of Episcopal Social Services
2. First Bank of Newton, now Intrust, agreed to be the bank for our client accounts. They have provided their services free of charge since the beginning
3. A payee is a person or agency selected by the Social Security Administration to manage the benefits of individuals who because of a disability or age cannot manage those benefits
4. Currently we serve 160 individuals
5. We manage over 1 million dollars annually



Think vs Do

I found myself in a bit of a predicament this spring as I was looking over a patch of Henbit - early 'weeds' that have lovely purple flowers. I decided that I would need to mix up a sprayer full of weed killer to take care of it. On my way to Graber's to purchase some weed killer, I was visiting with a friend on the phone and talking about looking for pollinators – bees, butterflies, moths, wasps etc. and how I hadn't seen many yet although it was warm enough. At Graber's looking for the brand of weed killer that is my favorite, it hit me! WAIT – what am I doing??? Pollinators who have hibernated all winter will be looking for all the early flowers for nectar and here I am killing off the very thing that they really need for survival. So I've spent this spring looking at what would be available for the pollinators first thing in the spring. Yes there are crocus and daffodils, but more available are dandelions, henbit, and a very small blue flower the size of a pinhead. Perhaps nature knows best what is needed to get these valuable little insects going in the spring and humans are just getting in the way. I hope to do better of matching my thoughts with my actions.

~ Margie Knupp

