



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

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

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The Messenger



November 2021

Bishop Bascom challenges Kansas Episcopalians to reduce carbon footprint

“God so loved the world that he gave his only son ...’ is not a pious platitude or a simple religious refrain. It is a declaration of God’s purpose and mission in the world from the beginning to this very day. “God so loved the world.” That’s not just about us who are human. It’s about the whole of God’s grand and glorious Creation....If we follow Jesus and his way of love, then we strive to love as God loves, to give as God gives, to care as God cares. And that means caring for God’s Creation, all of it, and all of us.” ~Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

Stories from Anglicans around the communion underline real impacts of climate change. An outstanding resource launched by the Diocese of California, and now in use across the Episcopal Church, provides a tool to support individuals, households, congregations and dioceses to discover their carbon footprint and then take measurable actions toward more sustainable living. The app is organized around life choices clustered

in five main areas. The choices range from Easy to Hard – everyone will find something here.

Bishop Bascom would like to invite every congregation in our diocese to register and use this tool as a means to deepen our faithful commitment to the care of creation. As an extra incentive she would like to challenge our churches to a friendly competition to see who can show the most progress, relative to the number of individuals and households participating from each church. As a prize the diocese will offer a \$500 gift toward the purchase of trees or a new water cooler. Learn more about [Sustain Island Home](http://www.sustainislandhome.org) and encourage people in your congregation to register.

When you create an account, it asks you what parish you belong to. As of October 28, 52 people have already signed up, create your account now!

www.sustainislandhome.org

How It Works



Create your profile

It's easy to get started. Create your household profile and enter some information on your current activities so we can track your success!



Take sustainable actions

Browse a list of actions that will help reduce your impact, then add them to your dashboard. We'll help with next steps, costs, and questions.



Work together

When you create your account you will automatically be added to your local congregation group! Work together and help each other succeed!



Fall Stewardship 2022

You should have received the information about pledging your financial assistance to and support of our mission, ministries, and outreach.

1. What is a pledge? A pledge is an estimate of how much financial support you plan to give in the coming year, 2022. It is not a binding contract. If circumstances change, your pledges may be revised up or down depending on your situation by contacting our bookkeeper or treasurer.
2. Why pledge? Your pledge makes it possible for us to create a reasonable budget for staffing, ministries, and outreach for the coming year.
3. How do I pledge? You may pledge by completing a pledge card and returning it to the church. You may mail in your pledge card or bring it with you to church.

Sunday, November 28, 2021

First Sunday Advent

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Ingathering & Dedication of Pledges

Payee News:

The Vestry of St Matthews voted unanimously on the recommendation of the payee program to hire Mike Loyd as the next director of St Matthews Payee Program. He will assume this position October of 2022. Mike will continue to serve the church in Derby in addition to being the director of the payee program.

Mike served the mental health community for many years before becoming a priest. We are very blessed that Mike has agreed to take on this position.

Katie Reese
Director



The Gift of Time and Talent

The offering of your time and talent, impact worship, community life, and outreach. There are many opportunities to serve as readers, greeters, ushers, altar guild, hospitality, Payee Program Volunteers, and many other ways. Let us know where you would like to serve.

Online Giving

You can now give online by clicking the "Give button" on our websites. Giving online is secure and convenient. You can use your checking, savings, credit, or ebit accounts and designate your gifts. Feel free to visit our website and check out this option for giving.

www.stmathewsnewton.org

There is a 2.9% processing and .30 transaction fee. If you would like to cover these fees in your donation, simply check the box marked "Cover Fees" Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

If you are planning to use a room in the church for a meeting or other gathering, please sign up on the big calendar. It is on the desk in the office. Please leave a note with your name and phone number in case there are questions. If you have a question you can call Chris Simmonds at 283-3188. She may be able to help.

Also, if you are borrowing a table or chairs from the church, please leave you name, phone number, and what you are borrowing. Also leave the date you took the items and when they will be returned. Thanks for your help.



St. Matthew's Outreach

Food Cart

9 non-perishable food items were donated to the Salvation Army "Harvest of Love" food bank in October. Please pray for those who don't have enough to eat. Thank you.

New Hope Shelter

62 items were collected and given to the New Hope homeless shelter in September.
Thanks to everyone who made this possible.

Halloween Cards

Halloween cards were signed and mailed to our Shut Ins, Soldiers, College students, and a few others. Please remember to pray for these wonderful people!

Sharon Davis	Stephen Biddle	Susan Koehn
Creed Ekerberg	Zoe Stonehouse	Daniel Teichler
Jordan Orr	Ryan Bernard	
Clay Hedrick	Bill Swendson	

UTO

The fall UTO ingathering will be on November 7th



Please remember to bring your BLUE boxes (God's piggy banks) to church.

There will also be envelopes available at the back of the Nave. There are pamphlets with information about UTO and how the money collected is used.

Harvest of Love

During the month of November, we are hoping to collect non-perishable food items for the Salvation Army "Harvest of Love" food bank. This time of year, the need for food is great. There will be a display in the front hall. Thanks

Upcoming events

Mitten Tree

November Coffee Hour Hosts

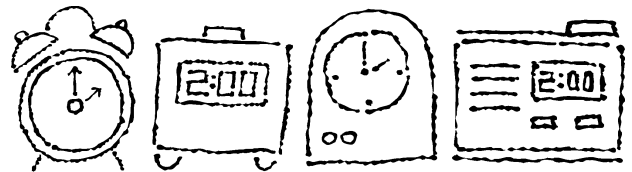
November 7 - Margie Knupp
November 14 - OPEN
November 21 - Elizabeth Hill
November 28 - OPEN



Please sign up to host Coffee hour after the service on Sundays.

We are accepting donations of cookies or crackers to use when there isn't anyone signed up to host Coffee hour after the services on Sunday. Cash donations to offset the cost of coffee and supplies are also welcome.

Any concerns or questions, please contact Melissa



DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME ENDS

Sunday, November 7. Don't forget to turn your clock back one-hour Saturday night!

Bible Quiz

Hebrews 11 is called the Hall of Faith because it's a partial list of ancestors who lived out their belief in God. Who is named in this chapter?

- A. Adam, Eve and Seth
- B. Abel, Enoch, Noah and Sarah
- C. Moses' parents, Moses and Rahab
- D. Deborah, Bathsheba and Huldah
- E. A and B
- F. B and C
- G. C and D



Answer: F



Please join Deacon Barbara for Evening Prayer every Wednesday at 6:30 pm on Facebook,

Or join us in person at the church in the fellowship hall.

Everyone is welcome

Come take a few minutes to end your day with prayer

Altar team for October: Melissa Keenan



Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers for November

November 7 - Barbara Casteel

"In loving memory of granddaughter Kirsten Casteel"

November 14 - Darla and Steve Stonehouse & family

"For blessings received"

November 21 - Stan and Rosalind Scudder & family

"For blessings received"

November 28 - Ruth Cooper

"In loving memory of darling Chuck"

If you would like to donate towards Altar Flowers to honor someone or in thanksgiving, please contact Twila Lockaby. There are open dates if available.

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**.



All Saints Celebration
With

The Commemoration of All Faithful Departed

Sunday, November 7, 2021

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Please email or send the names of your departed loved ones whom you would like to commemorate during worship Sunday, November 7th. We invite you to adorn the Altar with pictures and memorabilia of your loved ones on this Sunday as we celebrate the Saints and remember our family members, friends and those faithful unknown in the wider fellowship of the Church.

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen**



I'm thankful for ~

The past couple years have been tough. There are new family members I have not been able to meet face to face, activities that I've missed – a postponed 50th high school reunion, and travels postponed – maybe I can get to Europe to see those new babies next summer. But I've found that there is still a lot to be thankful for. My good health, that I can add a wild puppy to my household and laugh at all his antics, today he was making a mud puddle in the back yard as I was draining the hoses... boy what a silly mess!

I'm very thankful for all of you – my St. Matthew's family. I miss seeing many of you and have thought that I need to start a note card writing campaign, but haven't managed it yet – maybe when the snow starts to fly. I HOPE that each one of you is also enjoying good health and good humor. As we head into the holiday season, I hope that you can focus on what you have that brings you joy and ignore anything that makes you sad.

I will keep you in my prayers and hope to see each one of you in the near future. I do love my family!!

-Margie



Veterans Day has its roots in what was called Armistice Day, when a peace agreement ended World War I on November 11, 1918. President Wilson proclaimed that Armistice Day was to be marked with solemn pride in heroism and with gratitude for victory as well as the "opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice." In 1954, the remembrance was renamed Veterans Day to honor all U.S. military personnel. It's a reminder to pray for and honor all who serve and sacrifice, to support and assist their families, and to pray that God will bring peace on earth.

**All Souls Day
Touching Bones**

As I sit meditating on this day of celebrating all those who have gone before us this radiant communion of saints I remember a video a study on animal consciousness a key indicator being an awareness of death a remarkable footage of elephants returning for a day to a previous encampment to touch with their trunks the several skeletons the skulls leg bones and rib cages recognizing emotionally their own

Each year we are spiritually reminded on the feast of remembrance of those we love who have gone before us our bond of affection tender individuality our own fragility the amazing grace of each our unity with this luminous divine witness but the animal kingdoms and all creation the Divine present in the beautiful world that surrounds us and even those precious bones

Joan Breit
Autumn 2021
Blessings to you and yours!

Bible Quiz

Naaman, the commander of the Aramean army, had leprosy. Who told his wife about a prophet in Samaria who might be able to cure Naaman? And who was that prophet?

- A. the king of Aram; Elijah
- B. Naaman's wife's sister; Isaiah
- C. an Israelite servant girl; Elisha
- D. a visiting emissary from Israel; Jeremiah



Answer: C (See 2 Kings 5:2-3, 8-10.)



For laughs (or groans!) around your table

Knock knock. Who's there? Arthur.
Arthur who? Arthur any leftovers?

Why was the Thanksgiving soup so expensive?
It had 24 carrots.

If you use boxed mashed potatoes ...
... Great-Grandma will turn over in her gravy.

My family said, "No more Thanksgiving jokes." ...
... but I said I couldn't just quit cold turkey.

Song of thanksgiving

After retiring from the ministry in England, the Rev. Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000) became a prolific hymn writer. Some people have compared his talents to those of Charles Wesley, co-founder of the Methodist Church.

Green's popular Thanksgiving hymn "For the Fruits of His Creation" calls worshipers to move beyond gratitude to their responsibilities for other people and for God's creation. The hymn's closing lines sum up why Christians can give thanks throughout the year: "For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God."

Episcopal hymnal #424

Exercising our gratitude muscles

Expressing gratitude isn't just a good thing to do; it also appears to be good for us! Indiana University researchers found that participants who performed gratitude-focused writing exercises felt uplifted, and were more likely to express gratefulness through generosity, even weeks later.

Furthermore, brain scans revealed increased gratitude-related activity even months down the road (*New York Magazine*).

Though the study was small, we seem to have a "gratitude muscle" that can be strengthened through exercise. If so, there may be more than we thought to the popularity of gratitude journals and Mom's insistence that we write thank-you notes. Not to mention the biblical call to "give thanks to the LORD, for he is good" (1 Chronicles 16:34, for example).

Might God have hardwired us for gratitude — not only at Thanksgiving but year round — because it's good for *us* as well as for those we thank? To that, we respond, "Thanks be to God!"



The LORD hath done
great things
for us; whereof
we are glad.

~PSALM 126:3, KJV~



The journey begins at Advent

When Advent begins on **November 28** this year, so does a new church year for liturgical congregations. The church seasons, which correspond to key events in Jesus' life, begin with the four-week Advent period of preparation for our coming Savior at Christmas. After the 12-day season of Christmas is Epiphany, which begins January 6 and continues through Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. That period of preparation culminates in Holy Week, and then Easter marks the pinnacle of every church year. Forty days after the Resurrection we celebrate Ascension, and 10 days after that, the Pentecost season begins; it lasts until Advent, when the cycle begins again.

"Like a great waterwheel," writes Joan Chittister, "the liturgical year goes on relentlessly irrigating our souls, softening the ground of our hearts, nourishing the soil of our lives until the seed of the Word of God itself begins to grow in us, comes to fruit in us, ripens in us the spiritual journey of a lifetime."



Birthdays, Baptisms and Confirmations

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

November Birthdays

- November 1 - Jake Farmer
- November 13 – Karen Wall, Mary Upton, Peggy Gerber
- November 14 – Joshua Reese
- November 16 – Mary Anne McCloud
- November 17—Jerry Wall
- November 19 - Charles Joseph Collier
- November 20 - Felix Farmer
- November 21 – Chris Beck, Nancy Craig
- November 25 – Sissy Robb
- November 26 – Ryan Simmonds
- November 27 – Megan Tyner
- November 30 – Ginny Holstine

November Confirmations

- November 1 – Darrin Craig, Melinda Scudder
- November 4 – Scott McCloud
- November 6 – Ginny Holstine
- November 9 – Jim Reese
- November 16 – Jill Ferguson Jantz
- November 25 – Nancy Craig

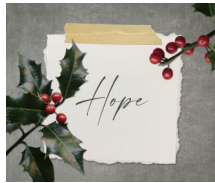
November Baptisms

- November 19 – Jill Ferguson Jantz

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.



Advent & Christmas Schedule 2021
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church



Sunday, November 28, 2021
First Sunday of Advent
Advent Festival of Lessons & Hymns+



Sunday, December 5, 2021,
Second Sunday of Advent
Communion in the Absence of a Priest



Sunday, December 12, 2021,
Third Sunday of Advent
The Rev. Harvey Hillin



Sunday, December 19, 2021,
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Communion in the Absence of a Priest
The Greening of the Church



Friday, December 24, 2021
Christmas Eve+
7:30PM



Saturday, December 25, 2021,
Christmas Day
Morning Prayer & Rectors' Greeting
[Facebook.com/stmattsnewton](https://www.facebook.com/stmattsnewton)



Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him

Sunday, December 26, 2021,
The First Sunday after Christmas
Holy Eucharist Rite II (Spoken)+

Rector's Sabbath Time-Monday, December 27 – Saturday, January 1, 2022.



Advent Quiet Day

Saturday, December 11, 2021

9 am – 2 pm @ Grace Cathedral, Topeka

Registration Fee: \$20, includes lunch

Deadline to register: December 7, 2021

Most of us skip Advent. The season is brief and busy and Christmas seems like the real goal anyway. And yet, like a seed in the fertile ground waiting and waiting, hidden under the surface of anxious scriptures predicting final judgment; Advent is rich with spiritual guidance.

Growth that God imagines for us takes patience. Most of us say we don't have enough of this elusive virtue and yet we long for the fruit of it in our lives and in the world around us. Personal, communal health, and justice of all varieties rely on an inner capacity for patience with the challenges that come to us asking for our best efforts.

Canon Lisa Senuta invites you to spend some time with the Merciful One in community and nurture the seeds of new life in your spiritual heart during the season of waiting. Expect large group learning, small group conversation and guided periods of silence with individual reflection time.

Register online: <https://edok.formstack.com/forms/quietday2021>

Questions? Contact Canon Lisa Senuta at 913-488-2733 or lsenuta@episcopal-ks.org.

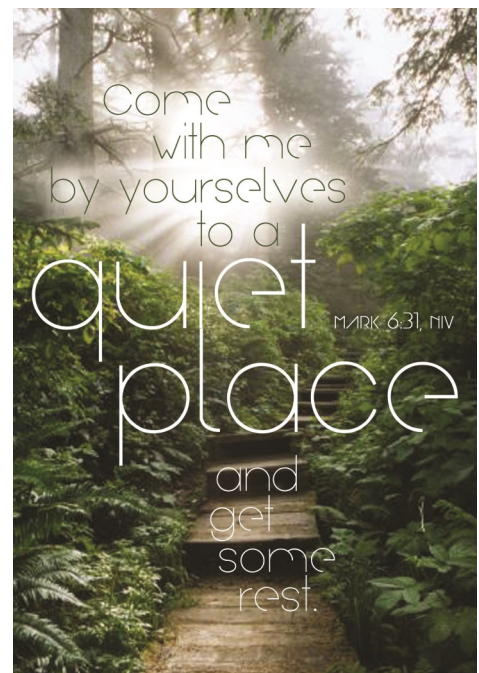
The Quiet Hour

Speak, Lord, in the stillness, while I wait on Thee;
hushed my heart to listen, in expectancy.
Speak, O blessed Master, in this quiet hour,
let me see Thy face, Lord, feel Thy touch of power.

For the words Thou speakest, "They are life" indeed;
living Bread from heaven, Now my spirit feed!
All to Thee is yielded, I am not my own;
blissful, glad surrender, I am Thine alone.

Fill me with the knowledge, of Thy glorious will;
all Thine own good pleasure, in my life fulfill.
Like a watered garden, full of fragrance rare,
ling'ring in Thy presence, let my life appear.

—Emily M. Crawford



advent CALENDAR

Perform a random act of kindness



two

Donate food to a local food bank

Have a coloring contest



four

Buy socks for a homeless shelter



5

Watch a favorite holiday movie

Make or buy a new Christmas ornament



Let someone go in front of you in line

seven

Decorate a gingerbread house



8

Clean out and donate outgrown toys

Build a snowman out of cotton balls



10

Take cupcakes to your local fire department

eleven

Help wrap a Christmas present



thirteen

Leave a happy note for someone to find



Have a game night in your PJs

14



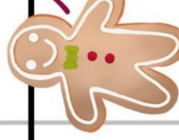
Make paper snowflakes

Drink hot cocoa



17

Make Christmas cards



18

Bake Christmas cookies



Sing Christmas carols

twenty

Take a family photo in front of the Christmas tree



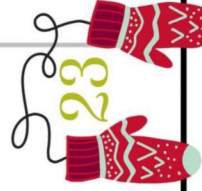
Read your favorite Christmas story



22

Take a car tour of your local light displays

Deliver Christmas cards to your neighbors



23

twenty-four

Watch or attend a Christmas Eve service



25

Read the Nativity story