



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

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

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The Messenger



From the Interim Pastor

This week marks three months that Connie and I have been here at St. Matthew's and I have been spending a lot of time lately thinking about these three months here.

I remember how welcoming everyone was the first weekend we moved into town. I remember how many families I met at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Most of all I remember the heartfelt conversations that have happened in my office and at the coffee hour after church on Sundays.

As we look to the future for St. Matthew's with our church leadership, we hope to shape our worship and direction to fit the needs of the congregation and our community.

There will be challenges for us as we try to discern

what kind of church and ministries our congregation needs and wants. Your core leadership will do its best in understanding what our parishioner's need and want.

All of this is under consideration right now! We will be asking for your input. Pray that our efforts on your behalf will bear much fruit. That we will be blessed by God and that our efforts will produce what is pleasing to the Lord!

Thanks again for your gracious acceptance and welcoming of Connie and I to St. Matthew's.

Rev. Richard Osborne
Interim Pastor

What is our Vision for Congregational Mission?

When we consider the image of the visible church in the world, * do we see any of the following characteristics that describe a "missional church"? Can we say that St. Matthew's:

- Fosters clear sense of identity and commitment?
- Manifests diversity of membership?
- Consciously prepares and supports members for vocation and witness in a pluralistic society?
- Balances nurture and group solidarity with accountability for life beyond the walls of the church?
- Shows patterns of authority and governance that keep fruitful balance between clergy and laity?
- Offers its witness of the good news in publicly visible and understandable ways?
- Shapes a pattern of formation for children, youth and adults that work toward combining growth in discipleship with vocation and ministry?

* James Fowler, *Weaving the New Creation* (San Francisco: Harper 1991)



Common Sense

Reading today's scripture I was reminded of my childhood of growing up on the Kansas plains and harvest time when the wheat turned a golden yellow. It was then that our daddy taught my sisters and I that chewing the ripe grains of wheat not only satisfied hunger but amazingly transformed into a gum of sorts.


Rubbing heads of grain and eating as they walked through a field ripe for harvest, Jesus and his disciples took advantage of this available food to satisfy their bodily' hunger only to be hassled by the Pharisees for breaking the Sabbath Law. Jesus, not getting caught in man-made laws, quoted the Old Testament story of David and his friends' hunger of eating the Temple bread allowed only for the priests. Reminding the Pharisees that the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. Jesus opted in favor of common sense to satisfy the hunger of the moment

Joan Breit
Summer 2021

Bible Quiz

Jesus was known for using a certain type of speech in his teaching. What was it?

- A. soliloquy
- B. parable
- C. lecture
- D. riddle



Answer: B (See Mark 4:33-34.)

Meals on wheels

A volunteer is needed to deliver meals on Tuesdays 6 times a year. 3rd Tuesday in Jan., Mar., May., July, Sept., and Nov.



Please call Thea 316-283-4939

Parish Council Meeting

All committee leaders and members are encouraged to attend the Parish Council Meeting on Saturday, June 11 at 10:00 am.

We will be talking about and planning the next three months of activities and services here at St. Matthew's. Your input is welcome, please plan to attend.

Meet in the Parish Hall.

Holy Spirit, blow into my life and light my heart on fire with your creative and life-giving energy.





St. Matthew's Outreach

Food Cart

9 non-perishable food items were delivered to the Salvation Army "Harvest of Love" food bank in May. Summer is often when families and friends go on vacation....however, hunger never takes time off. Please remember those who don't have enough to eat.

Shut Ins & Soldiers

Easter cards were mailed to all of our Shut Ins, Soldiers, College students, and other assorted friends and past members of St. Matthew's. It's always nice to remember those who cannot attend church, who are away at school, and those in the military. Please keep all of these lovely people in your prayers!!

Zoe Stonehouse	Creed Ekerberg	Daniel Teichler
Ryan Bernard	Conner Ekerberg	Jordan Orr
Kathleen Leid	Stephen Biddle	Susan Koehn
Bill Swendson	Jerry Jacobson	Clay Hedrick
Jerry Collier	Shirley Charlson	Thea Ferguson
Mike & Annette Bernard		

United Thank Offering

Spring UTO totals will be in the July Messenger

Upcoming Outreach

Back to School in July

Parents are stewards

Striving to raise happy, well-rounded children isn't wrong "unless those successes become the goal," writes Jeffrey Reed in *ParentLife* magazine.

For Christians, he says, the driving force of parenting should be helping kids follow God's path.

"What if we parented as if we were temporary stewards of the greatest containers of godly potential?" Reed asks. "What if our goal for our children was to continually seek God's guidance on what it is that he wants for them and to help them pursue that goal on a daily basis?" He concludes: "In a hundred years, nothing we do will matter apart from the impact we've made in God's kingdom on earth. Perhaps your children will be that legacy."



June 2022 Coffee Hour Hosts

June 5 - Pentecost—OPEN
June 12- OPEN
June 19 - Father's day/ Melissa
June 26 - OPEN



Please sign up to host coffee hour after the service on Sundays. It doesn't have to be a feast. A committee or group can sign up, or 2 people can buddy up.... if someone likes to fly solo, that is also great. Any questions or concerns, please contact Melissa



On Pentecost, we remember when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus' disciples. As they gathered in Jerusalem 10 days after Jesus' ascension, they saw tongues of fire, heard rushing wind and began speaking in many languages. Because the disciples could then share the good news with all the pilgrims assembled for the Pentecost festival, the occasion marks the birthday of the Christian church. That day alone, about 3,000 people devoted their lives to Christ.

Like the Holy Spirit, Pentecost is important and relevant today. As theologian Henri Nouwen writes, "Without Pentecost the Christ-event — the life, death and resurrection of Jesus — remains imprisoned in history as something to remember, think about and reflect on. The Spirit of Jesus comes to dwell within us, so that we can become living Christs here and now."



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 St. Matthew's Chapel
Everyone is welcome
Come take a few minutes to
end your day
with prayer



Altar team for June 2022: Melissa Keenan, Karen Wall

Altar Flowers for June 2022

June 5—Charlie & Nancy Craig and Mary & Rick Beck

“In loving memory of Dr. Richard & Betty Glover, Margaret Hollingsworth, Marguerite & Dr. Harold Glover”

June 12—Kathleen Leid

“In thanksgiving for the life of Fran Rogers, my Mom”

June 19—Mary Werner

“For the blessings of children”

June 26—Margie Knupp

“In loving memory of Hal and Patty Knupp”

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**.



Concerning the Altar flowers:

I just visited with Jack at Ruzen's and it has been over five years since we have had a price increase for the two flower arrangements for Sunday Service. The price will be \$44.00 including flowers, tax, containers and delivery. Thanks, Twila Lockaby



Don't Forget about the Online Giving

You can now give online by clicking the "Give button" on our website. Giving online is secure and convenient. You can use your checking, savings, credit, or debit 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.

Transitions from One Rector to Another Have Changed

- The number of applicants for clergy positions will be fewer than in years gone by.
- Clergy are less willing or able to relocate.
- More clergy are trained through local or distance-learning models like Bishop Kemper School for Ministry, and fewer through traditional seminary settings.
- Many clergy have already had a first career before responding to a call to the priesthood.
- The diocesan transition minister, Debbie Kremers, will be our guide and support throughout this process.
- The church requires background checks on candidates.
- The bishop must approve your choice of a new clergy leader.

While we are not nearly ready to begin a search, we must remember that "calling" a priest is much more than "hiring" one. The best calls happen when the Holy Spirit is part of the process. Seeking new clergy leadership is a spiritual process, not an executive search. But until we know who we are and what we want to be as a parish, we are not ready to seek a new rector. Fr. Richard Osborne, our interim priest, is trained and experienced in leading congregations in this project. It will begin with a Vestry Retreat on June 4. The Parish Council will meet on Saturday, June 11 at 10 A.M. We are interested in knowing what our expectations and priorities are for ourselves and our leadership.

Update from the Vestry

We will be meeting on June 12 for our monthly meeting. If there is anything that you want us to discuss, please let any member know or email me.

We are having a Vestry Retreat June 4th, Saturday at 10 AM. Father Richard will be assisting our discussion of St. Matthews direction in the next years to come.

We are having our Quarterly Parish Council Meeting on June 11th.

The Vestry will having a Zoom Meeting on June 13th with Bishop Bascom to discuss the future plans of the Rectory. We are trying to decide what to do with the Rectory. We could keep it and would have to make some needed repairs for the next Priest. Bishop Bascom believes that having a Rectory would be a big selling point in finding our next Priest. Or, we could sell it or rent it . The PEF owns 1/2 of the Rectory, so they will be involved. Still, we want your ideas on what is best to do with the Rectory.

If you have any thoughts about St Matthews, we are open to suggestions regarding the church, services and outreach programs.

We still need volunteers for so many aspects of St Matthews Sunday Service. Please consider where you would like to serve.

Thank you

Rick Glover
Sr. Warden

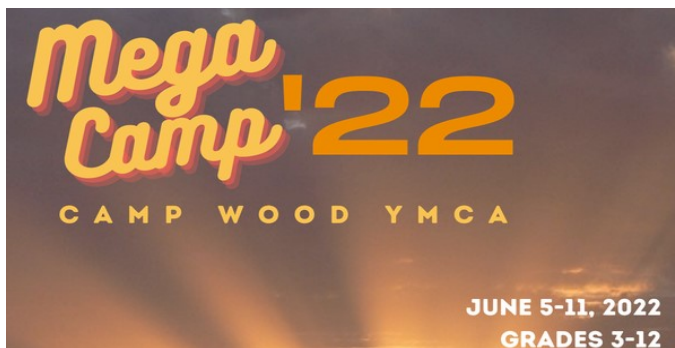


Growing Earth Stewards: Enjoying the natural world

With the weather warming up, it's a good time to get out and enjoy the natural world all around us. There are many state parks and nature preserves here in Kansas including some areas of prairie preservation and restoration like the Konza Prairie outside Manhattan and the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve near Council Grove. These sites allow us to experience the prairie grasslands the way they were in centuries past and to see some of the last remaining areas of tallgrass prairie.

The Land Use mini of the Care of Creation Task Force has created a guide to natural areas that we can all explore as pilgrimages. They have identified several sites in each of the convocations "which are demonstrating three principles: restoration of native plants, incorporation of creation sensitive practices, and hospitality to the surrounding community." All are welcome to visit these places and see the variety of natural places in our diocese. The guide is available on the diocesan website at: <https://episcopal-ks.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Restoring-Our-Roots.pdf>

Please pray for all the kids and counselors at Camp Wood the first week of June. May they have lots of fun, learn about God and His Love for them, and find new and old friends.



BIRTHDAYS, BAPTISMS, 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

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 29 - Brennan Parker Wald, Margie Knupp

June Baptisms

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

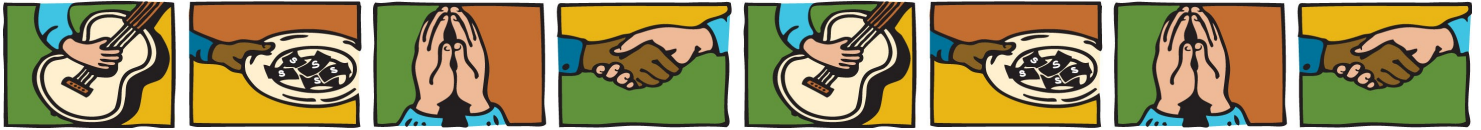
June Confirmations

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

St. Matthew's Little Food Pantry

Please remember to add items to the Little Food Pantry at St. Matthew's.

As we move into the warmer months be sure to include things that won't be affected by the heat. Pasta, peanut butter granola bars, cereal, little containers of applesauce or fruit work well and are appreciated.



Here is the worship schedule for June. As we begin to get back to a more normal Sunday service, please consider serving as lector, counter, usher or host. The sign up sheet will be out every Sunday for you to sign up. Thank you for your time and service.

	June 5	June 12	June 19	June 26	July 3
Season	Pentecost	Trinity Sunday	2nd Sunday after Pentecost	3rd Sunday after Pentecost	4th Sunday after Pentecost
Service	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	ComAP	Holy Eucharist	ComAP
Leaders	Fr. Richard Osborne	Fr. Richard Osborne	Deacon Barbara Gibson	Fr. Richard Osborne	Deacon Barbara Gibson
Lectors	Bonnie Jones	Fred Schroeder	Mary Upton	Elizabeth Hill	
Counters (2)	Twila Lockaby	Steve Stonehouse	Margie Knupp	Elizabeth Hill	
	Mary Upton	Dave Simmonds	Fred Schroeder	Twila Lockaby	
Ushers (2)	Charlie Craig	Melissa Keenan	Elizabeth Hill	Steve Stonehouse	
	Rich Stinnett	Mary Upton	Rick Glover	Rich Stinnett	
Hosts	Open Pentecost	Open Trinity Sunday	Melissa Keenan Father's Day	Open	
Altar Flowers	Charlie & Nancy Craig and Mary & Rick Beck	Kathleen Leid	Mary Werner	Margie Knupp	The Rev. Scott Hankins
Acolyte	Fred Schroeder	Maggie Snow	Fred Schroeder	Maggie Snow	
Organist	Chris Teichler	Chris Teichler	Chris Teichler	Kelly Glann	