



Reaching out
Reaching within
Proclaiming God's Love

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

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The Messenger



A NOTE FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR—Fr. Richard Osborne

Meanings of Advent

Christmas is the "**most wonderful time of the year**": trees are trimmed, presents wrapped, and the chilly air signals the coming season of festive warmth. But did you know we're not really ready for Christmas without first observing a "**little Lent?**" This season looks at ways to "**deck the halls**" of our hearts – and prepare our bodies and our homes – for the birth of Christ by preparing for Him in the season of Advent.

A Brief History of Advent

The season of Advent developed in the Church over time. Here are ten facts that you may not know about the roots and meaning of Advent.

1. Advent is the time of expectation and preparation for the birth of the Lord
2. Advent has a changing start date. For us, this year, it starts on November 27th.
3. Advent marks the beginning of the Liturgical year.
4. The Advent season has two meanings.
5. Hope is the predominant theme of Advent.
6. Advent is a reminder of the Old Testament promises of the coming of the Messiah.
7. Advent focuses on light as opposed to darkness.
8. Advent has two parts.
9. The origins of Advent can be traced back to the church in France.
10. Advent as we know it today was developed in Rome.

Advent is the season that begins four Sundays before December 25. Advent lasts a short four weeks and prepares us for Christmas, right? Shopping for presents, decorating the tree, singing carols, making gingerbread houses, sending cards, enjoying holiday parties, "**making a list...and checking it twice.**" There's a lot to it.

Christmas is Christ entering our world and Advent is expectant waiting, hopeful anticipation and joyful preparation for God coming into our lives and hearts, in all moments, all

places, all times, past, present, and future, commemorating the birth of Jesus, welcoming God into our lives every day, and preparing for Christ's **second coming!**

Advent prepares us for these events and reminds us there is joy in waiting and even begins a new year for the Church!

Advent is not waiting in line to see Santa, rushing around shopping, or a race to December 25th.

Advent is different from Lent because it is a season of "**hope**" not repentance.

Lent is a spring cleaning of our lives...hope in Advent is a cozier time, like getting your home ready to welcome a special guest... **Jesus**. He is the one we've been waiting for!


The Advent colors are not Red & Green but Purple & Rose, like the candles in the Advent Wreath. A new candle is lit each week. The third week is Rose... for "**Gaudate**" Sunday. Gaudate is the Latin word for **Re-joyce**, don't lose heart. The expected guest has almost arrived!

Remember, Advent isn't about shopping, stressing, planning or buying; it's about expecting, waiting, hoping, and praying.

If you're sick of Christmas by December 25th. you haven't done Advent correctly.

This Advent, add some meaning to your waiting. Volunteer at a hospital or, at our church, spend some extra time in prayer, be patient with your family, count down the days with an Advent Calendar, speak kindly to strangers, go to church, and, ... share **hope** with those who need it most while you wait for that special guest born in a manger!

Have a wonderful, meaningful Advent

St. Matt's Little Food Pantry

The Little Food Pantry looks empty! If everyone could pick up one extra item each time they go to the store we could keep this pantry full! Thanks for your generosity!



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

Cardinals

Filling the feeders the cardinal pair of bold brightness and cheerful song manifest each morning like exclamation points of beauty in my life sparrows at peace feeding with this welcoming duo not always so with other larger birds I have seen the male delicately feed a tasty sunflower seed to his mate she following him into the bird bath on a hot summer day brown and red puffs of babies arriving in the spring with various other newly hatched winged ones always amazed am I at this backyard Garden of Paradise

Joan Breit
Fall 2022

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.

Bible Quiz

Which of the following is not called a “fruit of the Spirit” – but probably could be?

- A. love
- B. faithfulness
- C. self-control
- D. gratitude
- E. gentleness



Answer: D (See Galatians 5:22-23.)



A shoot brings life

Last year, Israeli scientists harvested dates from seeds that had been dormant about 2,000 years. The seeds, recovered during archaeological digs, were nurtured in incubators and several thrived. One (named Methuselah!) became a 10-foot-tall palm tree.

Horticulturists joked about marketing “dates that Jesus ate,” but there’s another scriptural connection. Isaiah 11, a traditional Advent reading, prophesies: “A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots” (verse 1, NRSV). Jesus is the tender shoot that emerged from the humble peasant origins of Jesse, father of King David. From a dynasty that went dormant due to Israel’s sins sprouted a mighty tree, who will someday usher in a reign of peace (see verses 6-7).

Some people and churches celebrate Christmas with a Jesse Tree, remembering how God sent Jesus to sprout life out of death and bring new hope and joy to the world.

—adapted from *The Wired Word*

Altar Guild News

Altar Guild Mission & Purpose

“The Altar Guild is a lay ministry to serve God in His house by preparing the Sanctuary for worship, maintaining and caring for the sacred vessels, altar linens, and vestments, and serving the clergy and the parish.” It is emphasized that Altar Guild members should be members in good standing and view their service as a sacred duty.

- We will be polishing brass on Saturday, December 3 at 10:00 am. Everyone is welcome to come help, whether you are on an Altar Guild Team or not! Come help us get the church beautified for the Season!
- Altar Flowers—If you would like to donate flowers to be on the Altar on a certain Sunday or if you would like to change your current donation, please contact Twila Lockaby
- Would you like to be a part of an Altar Guild Team? We would love for you to join us. There are Teams that need members.

The journey begins at Advent

When Advent begins on November 27 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.”



Card Ministry

The Card Ministry group will again be making cards in November. Our next session will be Monday, November 14 at 1:00 pm, at the church. Please feel free to join us. All you need to bring is yourself, as all the materials will be provided. Hope to see you there!

Mary Upton and Bonnie Jones



St. Matthew's Outreach

Food Cart

14 non-perishable food items were delivered to the Salvation Army "Harvest of Love" food bank in October. The need is greater than ever. Please remember those who don't have enough to eat.

Blessing Box-St. Matthew's Food Pantry

The blessing box out by our driveway is often empty. This is a reflection on St. Matthews. Please pick up an item or 2 to put on the shelves. We all are so blessed....let us help others.

Cards

Our Halloween cards that we all signed for the first time in 2 and 1/2 years were mailed to our soldiers, shut-ins, students, and assorted members and former members, and friends. A lot of the former members still consider St. Matthews their church home. Thank you, everyone, for helping with this fun project!!!

Harvest of Love

During the entire month of November we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Salvation Army "Harvest of Love" food bank. There are bushel baskets in the front hallway to drop off items. There is a greater need this year. Families, seniors, and other people are struggling to put food on the table. We are all feeling the pinch. Please find it in your hearts to help with this endeavor. We will be blessing this offering at the worship service on November 27.

Adopt a Family

We are pleased to announce that we will be helping a family of 3 this year. A single mom and 2 children. We will kick this off on Sunday, November 20th. More info to come. How exciting!!!

Mitten Tree

Our Mitten tree will start on Sunday, November 27th. We will be collecting mittens, hats, scarves, gloves, and socks for Salvation Army for distribution. More info to come.

Help!!

Our Outreach Committee is needing more people! If you would like to help with the various Outreach projects, creating new opportunities, and setting up displays, etc., in addition to fellowship, caring, and fun, please contact Melissa Keenan or Mary Upton. The need is great in our community and world—that is why we need you!

November 2022 Coffee Hour Hosts

November 6—Rick, Rocelle & Brooke Glover
November 13- Sarah Teichler
November 20 - (Christ the King Sunday)
Margie Knupp
November 27 - OPEN



If anyone would like to host, or would like to make a donation towards supplies for coffee hour, please contact Melissa. Thanks.



Fall Back

Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 6. Don't forget to set your clock back one hour Saturday night. If you don't you may be very early to church which would be very unusual for Episcopalians!!



Altar Team for November:

Twila Lockaby, Ruth Cooper, Scott McCloud and Maggie Snow

Altar Flowers for November 2022

November 6

In loving memory of
Barbara Casteel and *granddaughter*
Kirsten Casteel"

November 13 - Ruth Cooper

"In loving memory of darling Chuck"

**November 20 - Darla and Steve Stonehouse
& family**

"For blessings received"

**November 27 - Stan and Rosalind Scudder
& family**

"For blessings received"

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**.



Diocesan Spiritual Life

2022-2023 Calendar of Retreats

Spiritual Deepening for Parish Life

Saturday, November 19, 2022, 9:30 am-2 pm
St. Andrew's, Emporia

Learn contemplative prayer methods to bring to parish meetings and other groups to form spiritual community, support discernment, and shape prayer groups.

Advent Quiet Day: Let it Be, the spirituality of Mary of Nazareth

Saturday, December 3, 2022, 9 am - 2 pm
Grace Cathedral and Bethany Garden

Spirituality for Resilience in Parish Leadership

Wednesday, January 4, 2023 6:30-8 pm AND
Wednesday, January 11, 2023 6:30-8 pm on Zoom
For the long haulers, the consistent volunteers, and those who wear many hats for the care and keeping of the church. This two-part evening zoom is designed to support a sense of prayerful reflection on your faithful efforts and learn some spiritual practices to nourish your active heart in God's abiding presence.



Stewardship At St. Matthew's: More Than Enough

Thank you to everyone who has already turned in your pledge cards for the Annual St. Matthew's Stewardship Campaign! Thank you for all that you do for the Church and for the world. For those of you who have not turned in your cards, I am asking you to consider what you will pledge to our community in the coming year to sustain our ministry and to serve our neighbors. Every gift of wealth, works, and wisdom goes toward our ministry and mission, and yours is essential to us. I ask that you pray with us as we launch our annual gathering of gifts and gratitude, and consider how you will contribute your gift of wealth.

We would like to create our budget for the 2023 Fiscal Year in November so that we can present a budget to you before the year actually begins. In order to achieve that, we need all pledge cards returned to us by **Sunday, November 13th** at the latest.

I would also like to point you to online giving via Tithely. Simply visit our website at <https://www.stmatthewsnewton.org/> and click the red **Give** button. You can give using either a Credit Card or directly from whatever bank account you choose. If you have any other questions or need assistance setting up online giving, please let me know!

Maggie Snow
Jr. Warden & Treasurer

Our personal response to God's generosity in the way we share our resources of time, talent, and money. Stewardship reflects our commitment to making God's love known through the realities of human life and our use of all that God has given us. It is also our service to God's world and our care of creation. Parish members are encouraged to make an annual stewardship pledge. This pledge represents their specific Christian commitment to "work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom of God" (BCP, p. 856).

How can you give your Stewardship of Time and Talent? We need YOU.

*Stewardship is about **being grateful, responsible stewards of the gifts we receive from God.** The Episcopal Church sees stewardship as more than simply contributing money to the church; it's also about contributing time and talents, and volunteering for ministry and mission.*

As people start returning to in-person Sunday Worship Services, we need to re-vamp some of the committees and areas of service here at St. Matthew's. The Vestry and Leaders are working hard to find ways to revitalize and renew the church and congregation as we move into the future. The last few years have shown us that we need to honor our past as we try to develop new ways to serve God, serve our community and serve the people of St. Matthew's. And that's where we need each of you.

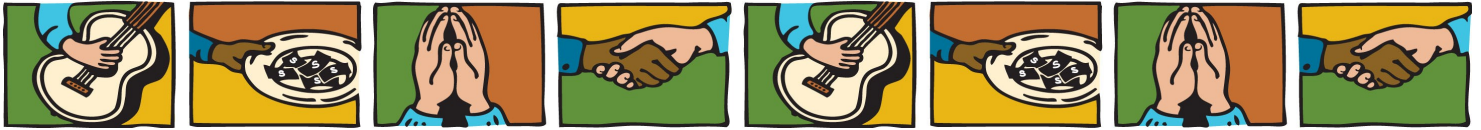
If you have not attended lately consider how you can plan to come back to St. Matthew's and help make this place an even more giving, loving and growing church. What do You need here at St. Matthew's? What is important to You to grow your own faith as you help grow the faith here?

We need people to serve as ushers, readers and lay leaders. We need help in Outreach and Music. We need your help to serve in the Kitchen and help with weddings and funerals. We need people that will serve on the Vestry and as Delegates to convention. We also need people to service on the OEF and PEF committees, those to help with the finance committee and to help with communication within the church. There is truly a place for anyone and everyone.

As you consider your financial pledge als consider these other areas where you can help. **WE NEED YOU** and want you a part of the future St. Matthew's.



MORE THAN ENOUGH



Here is the worship schedule for November. Please let the office know if you would like to sign up to read, usher and/or count. We can always use more hands! ***If you are unable to serve when you are scheduled, please find a substitute.*** Thanks for your service!

	November 6 A	November 13	November 20	November 27
Season	Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost	Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost	Christ the King Last Sunday after Pentecost	First Sunday in Advent
Service	Commemoration of All Saints Day Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Communion in the Absence of a Priest	Holy Eucharist
Leaders	Fr. Richard Osborne	Fr. Richard Osborne	Deacon Barbara Gibson and Maggie Snow	Fr. Richard Osborne
Lectors	Bonnie Jones	Fred Schroeder	Elizabeth Hill	Mary Upton
Counters (2)	Fred Schroeder	Mary Upton	David Simmonds	Margie Knupp
	Margie Knupp	Maggie Snow	Fred Schroeder	Twila Lockaby
Ushers (2)	David Simmonds	Charlie Craig	Bonnie Jones	Melissa Keenan
	Mary Upton	Rick Glover	Elizabeth Hill	Mary Upton
Hosts	Rick, Rochelle & Brooke Glover	Sarah Teichler	Margie Knupp	Open
Altar Flowers	In loving memory of Barbara Casteel and granddaughter Kirsten Casteel	Ruth Cooper "In loving memory of darling Chuck"	Darla and Steve Stonehouse & family "For blessings received"	Stan and Rosalind Scudder & family "For blessings received"
Acolyte	Maggie Snow	Fred Schroeder	CoMap	Michael Southern LEM—Elizabeth Hill
Organist	Chris Teichler	Chris Teichler	Chris Teichler	Kelli Glann