



**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](http://www.stmatthewsnewton.org)  
[www.facebook.com/stmattsnewton](http://www.facebook.com/stmattsnewton)

# The Messenger

September 2023

From the Interim Pastor—Fr. Richard Osborne

*“Morning by morning they gathered it,  
as much as each needed;  
but when the sun grew hot, it melted.”*  
Exodus 16: 21

It seemed like such a strange and wasteful arrangement! God had commanded his people to gather only as much manna as they could eat in a single day – no more, and no less. Every morning, the ground was covered with it, like frost; anyone who tried to keep some overnight woke up to find it spoiled.

Why weren't the people allowed to store the manna? Why didn't God give them a six-months' supply at a time? What was he saying to them by this daily generosity?

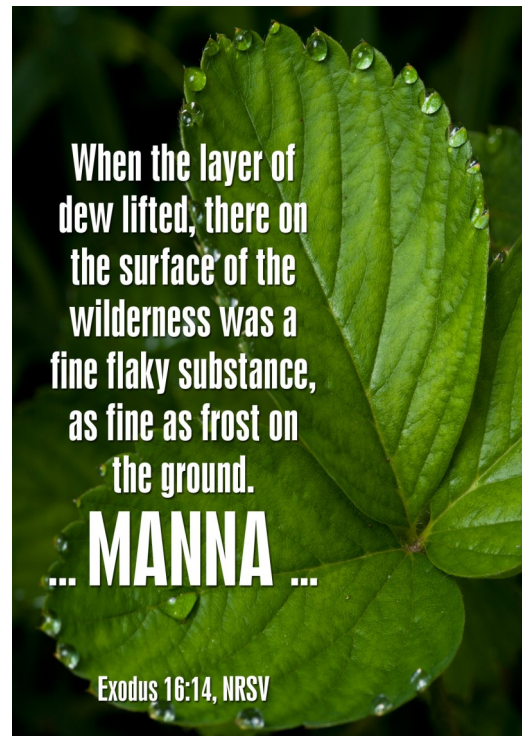
The manna was more than food. It served as a reminder of God's promise, a sign of his faithfulness. God knew that if the people could stock pile it, they'd take his goodness for granted and forget who was caring for them. So, it had to be a hand-to mouth arrangement. Fresh manna would express God's ever-new love. New food would mean new growth in the grace of his relationship with his people.

Today, with cupboards, refrigerators, and freezers, we may forget that God's goodness is moment by moment, morning by morning. He gives us help in pace with our need – no more, no less. His love is as alive as blood and breath. We live by one pulse of blood and two lungs full of breath at a time. Our spirits live on the momentary movements of God's great mercy.

*“It took me so long to learn the lesson of this day when I prayed,”* an aged friend once told me. This is one of life's most difficult lessons, and one of the last to be learned. Each new moment tells us that we're remembered by the one who created it and us. It's both his signature and his gift.

Today isn't a warmed-over yesterday; the present isn't a left-over past. We walk by faith; we see the Christ-face of the future welcoming us.

God the Father gives us each new day, like manna, morning by morning.





## St. Matthew's Vision Statement

*St. Matthew's Episcopal Church is living into God's vision for us as a beloved community and disciples of Christ. We are always growing in relationship with God, embracing our neighborhood and our world, and leading through acts of service as a beacon of God's justice and love.*

St. Matthew's office hours:

- Monday-Wednesday 10:00 am-3:00 pm
- Thursday 10:00 am-Noon
- Friday 10:00 am-1:00 pm

Fr. Richard is in the office 10:00 am-2:00 pm Monday and Tuesday.

Services: Holy Eucharist 10:15 am every Sunday  
Evening Prayer 6:30 pm every Wednesday

The St. Matthew's Vestry's September meeting will be after church on Sunday, September 10, 2023.

The Vestry Meeting minutes will be posted on the Vestry bulletin board in the hallway.

The next Parish Council meeting will be Saturday, September 23 at 10:00 am.

We will be celebrating St. Matthew's Day on Sunday, September 24. We will be asking for your vote for the announced Bylaw changes. And join us for a Pot-luck after church.



## 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

### September Birthdays

September 2—Adam Simmonds

September 9—Cole Irving

September 14—Jennifer Beck, Toby Tyner

September 17—Mariah Dove

September 22—Jill Loyd

September 24—Brier McCloud

September 26—Jill Jantz

September 28—Jane Orr

September 29—Taten Penner

### September Baptisms

September 9—Bonnie Tandoc

Jesus, like a mother hen you gather us – your squawking, demanding, frenetic brood – in safety beneath your wings (Luke 13:34). Quiet us, warm us, feed us, O Lord. Amen.



### End of Summer Cookout

Thank you to everyone that stayed for the End of Summer Cookout. It was a great time! Thanks for all the help in the kitchen, for those that took care of the grill, and for all the help setting up and cleaning up. Thank you for all the good food and games. It was wonderful to stop and take some time to just be together and enjoy some good food and good company!

### Junior Warden report

Instead of a work day, I posted tasks that need to be done throughout the church. People signed up to help improve the appearance of our church. We are getting a nice new fence at the back of the church (thank you Rick Beck) and many windows look cleaner and brighter. Walls have been cleaned and pews cleaned under the cushions. There is more to be done but most tasks have been adopted. Washing the outside of windows will have to be done after weather is a bit cooler. These are not tasks that need regular attention but I am so pleased at how everyone pitched in to make St. Matthew's sparkle. Thanks to all of you.

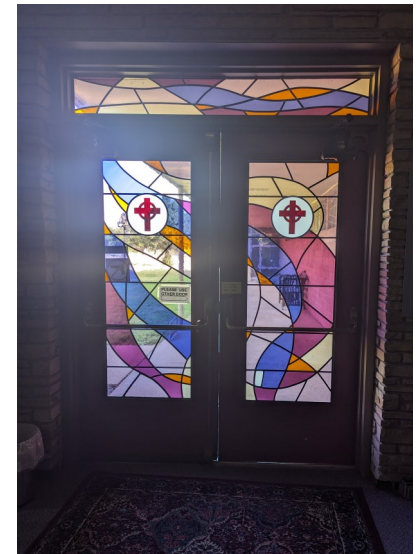
Chris Simmonds

### The Stone

After a particularly rough week in the desert Joshua asks the people a God question? "Whom shall you serve?" knowing the people's waywardness and seeing a heavy stone he rolled the stone under an oak tree in the outdoor sanctuary symbolic of their commitment to the one God "As for me and my household we will serve the Lord."

Reading Joshua today I became aware of a similar heavy stone under the pergola from my immigrant grandparents farm where limestone from ancient ocean floors once covered the Kansas prairies each Sunday and often on weekdays they and their family renewed their love and commitment to this one ancient God carried down through the ages "As for me and my household we will serve the Lord."

Joan Breit  
Summer 2023





### A Note from the Senior Warden—Maggie Snow

The Bishop has accepted the proposed Bylaws Changes relating to Vestry Member term changes. As we've recently decreased the size of the Vestry, we need these changes to increase the flexibility to fill the available positions. The Vestry feels that this change strikes the compromise of giving us the flexibility we need, along with ensuring there is regular turnover in the roles so that all can participate.

#### Special Membership Meeting Sunday, September 24, 2023 St. Matthew's Day

#### PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT

The vestry recommends an amendment to church bylaws to allow vestry members to serve two consecutive three-year terms. The current bylaws require that after serving a three-year term, the member is not eligible for election to the vestry until at least one year has elapsed. A Special Membership Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 24, 2023, to vote on the amendment.

#### 2022 Parish Bylaws St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Newton, Kansas ARTICLE III

#### PARISH OFFICERS

**Section 1.** The official title for the legal transaction of this parish is: "The Rector, Wardens, and Vestry Members of Saint Matthew's Parish" and they are the trustees, corporate and politic; and when there shall occur a vacancy in the office of Rector the same rights are vested in the wardens and Vestry Members. The Vestry Members together with Wardens, under the title of "The vestry," shall transact all temporal business of the Parish and take charge of all its property. With the Rector, Vestry Members shall share concern and responsibility for the mission, ministry and spiritual life of the parish.

**Section 2.** There shall be five (5) Vestry Members, one (1) or two (2) of whom shall be elected at each Annual Parish Meeting. ~~Vestry Members shall serve for a period of three (3) years.~~ **The term for each Vestry Member shall be three (3) years. No member of the Vestry shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms but may again stand for election to a new first term after at least one year has elapsed since the expiration of their second term.** Vacancies occurring in the office of Vestry Member may be filled by the Vestry until the next Annual Parish Meeting, at which time additional Vestry Members shall be elected to fill out the expired terms. Provided, however, that no Vestry Member so appointed by the Vestry shall be ineligible for election to the Vestry at the next Annual Parish Meeting. It is recommended that Vestry Members attend diocesan meetings to become more familiar with the general operation of the Church.

## A few quick facts on the apostle Matthew



#### AKA Levi

Matthew is also known as Levi in Mark and Luke. This could've meant he was from the tribe of Levi, or Matthew may have simply been the Greek name he went by.



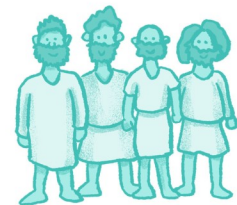
#### A tax collector

Matthew was contracted by the Roman Empire to collect taxes from the Jews in Capernaum. Tax collectors were known for lying about how much people owed and pocketing the difference.



#### A sinner

In many ways, tax collectors were synonymous with sinners. In Matthew 9:12, Jesus lumps Matthew in with other sinners.



#### An eyewitness to Jesus' ministry

As one of Jesus' twelve disciples, Matthew witnessed more of his life and ministry than almost anyone else—besides Peter, James, and John.



#### An evangelist

As one of the four gospel writers, Matthew is called one of the Four Evangelists. The title comes from the Greek word *evangelion*, meaning "good news."



## St. Matthew the Apostle Feast Day September 21

Found on [www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-matthew/](http://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-matthew/)

Matthew was a Jew who worked for the occupying Roman forces, collecting taxes from other Jews. The Romans were not scrupulous about what the “tax farmers” got for themselves. Hence the latter, known as “publicans,” were generally hated as traitors by their fellow Jews. The Pharisees lumped them with “sinners”(see Matthew 9:11-13). So it was shocking to them to hear Jesus call such a man to be one of his intimate followers.

Matthew got Jesus in further trouble by having a sort of going-away party at his house. The Gospel tells us that many tax collectors and “those known as sinners” came to the dinner. The Pharisees were still more badly shocked. What business did the supposedly great teacher have associating with such immoral people? Jesus’ answer was, “Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ I did not come to call the righteous but sinners” (Matthew 9:12b-13). Jesus is not setting aside ritual and worship; he is saying that loving others is even more important.

We will be honoring this Saint while we also celebrate our church, St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church. Join us on **Sunday, September 24** for worship at 10:15 am and then stay for a Potluck lunch after church. Bring a dish to share.



*Card  
Ministry*

The Card Ministry group will be meeting on **Monday, September 11** at 1:00 pm at the church. Please join us! All you need to bring is yourself, as all the materials will be provided. Hope to see you there!

## September 2023 Coffee Hour Hosts

September 3- Darlene Hall

September 10 -George & Kala  
Whiteside

September 17 - Bonnie Jones & Mary Upton

September 24 - St. Matt's day/  
POTLUCK - Bring a dish to share



It is fun to bring your favorite treat, showcase a dessert, or bring crackers, or cookies. We are not picky!! We enjoy it all! If you cannot host and would like to help, a donation of cookies, or a monetary donation to offset the cost of supplies is always appreciated. Thank you.

## St. Matthew's Outreach

### Food Cart

25 non-perishable food items were delivered to the Salvation Army "Harvest of Love" food bank in August. Thanks to all for remembering those who don't have enough to eat.

### UTO

Spring totals: \$361.00

Thank you!

### Back to School

151 school items were delivered to Northridge Elementary school. Thanks for giving the children tools for learning!

### Soldiers & Shut ins

We have 1 shut in ...sadly, Stephen Biddle passed away recently.

If anyone has a person that they would like to add to our board, please contact Melissa.

They will receive cards, goodies, and visits. Thank you.

### September Outreach

New Hope Shelter

We will be collecting items for New Hope shelter on W. Broadway. There is a blue bucket and lists of needed items out in the front hallway. Please pick up a list today!!



September 23—Saturday 10:00—  
Parish Council—

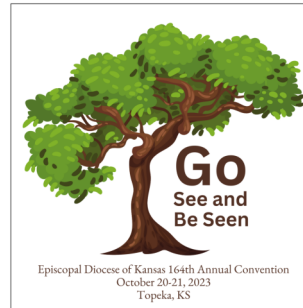
Be there to help plan our calendar through the end of the year. We need everyone's voice!

September 24—Sunday—**St. Matthew's Day**

There will be a church potluck plus an important meeting to vote on a change to our Bylaws. Please plan to be here!

October 7—Saturday—2:00-4:00 PM—

Blessing of the Animals. In honor of St. Francis of Assisi. Bring your pets to be blessed!



**Convention Details**

Registration is now available for the 164th Diocesan Convention. Voting members of convention (delegates, clergy, ex officio, etc.) and others (alternate delegates, seminarians, guests) will register with the same form: [episcopal-ks.org/2023convention](https://episcopal-ks.org/2023convention)

The 164th Diocesan Convention will gather Friday, October 20 through Saturday, October 21 at Grace Cathedral (701 SW 8th Ave, Topeka, KS). The registration table will open at noon on Friday, October 20 with business starting at 1pm in the Nave.

Convention business, Eucharist, and celebration will reflect this year's theme *Go: See and Be Seen*. In addition to normal business (elections, mission plan, constitution and canonical amendments, etc.) the convention will hear and reflect on Council of Trustees presentations of its ongoing strategic planning work.

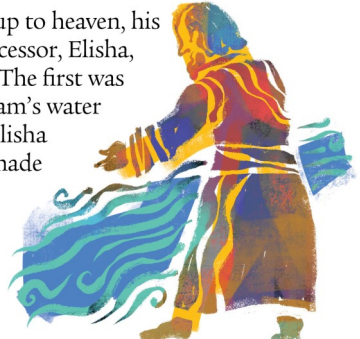
This year's convention will also see the return of our ninth bishop, Dean E. Wolfe, his first official visit since Bishop Bascom's consecration. Bishop and Ellen Wolfe will join convention business, Eucharist, and celebration on Friday. Delegates, alternates, clergy and ex officio members of convention should keep an eye out for the Convention Book which is being sent by snail mail this week. It will also be available on this convention website by September 1, 2023. **Registrations are due September 22nd:** [episcopal-ks.org/2023convention](https://episcopal-ks.org/2023convention)



**Bible Quiz**

After Elijah was taken up to heaven, his newly commissioned successor, Elisha, performed two miracles. The first was making a poisonous stream's water safe to drink. What did Elisha toss into the water that made it wholesome?

A. a stick  
B. a new bowl  
C. bread  
D. salt



Answer: D (See 2 Kings 2:19-22.)



**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**.



**LET'S FILL UP THE ST. MATT'S FOOD PANTRY.**



The pantry is outside, at the entrance to the parking lot. Some suggested items: cereal, canned goods, jelly, mac and cheese, boxed meals, spaghetti, easy muffin mixes, etc. Please consider the weather when leaving your items. Thanks for helping our neighbors.



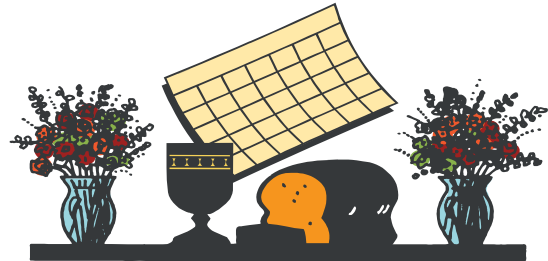
*Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit.*

1 Peter 3:4.

We have two openings for the giving of Sunday Altar Flowers, on the following dates:

- June 11, 2024 - Open
- August 13, 2024 - Open

We schedule the flower list for the year, Please let me know if you would like to give flowers for "Blessings Received", "In loving memory of someone" or other thoughts! The cost for the two arrangements, delivery and container is \$44.00. Ruzen's will send a bill to the individual giving the flowers. Twila Lockaby, 316-215-1164



**ALTAR GUILD**

**Altar Guild Team for September**  
Melissa Keenen, Karen Wall, and Ginger King.

***Altar Flowers for September 2023***

***September 3***

***Darlene Hall***

*"In memory of Charles and Dorothy Elliot"*

***September 10***

***Joe and Joy Robb***

*"for blessings received"*

***September 17***

***Stephanie and Katherine Lindgren***

*"for blessings received"*

***September 24***

***Charlie Robinson and Rich Stinnett***

*"for blessings received"*



**This week's tip:** Employ strategic thinking and discernment to alleviate neighborhood concerns

Half of all worship seating in the U.S. goes unused every Sunday. There are more than half a million acres of unused church property, the vast majority of church buildings are empty 85 percent of the time, and most churches rent space opportunistically rather than strategically.

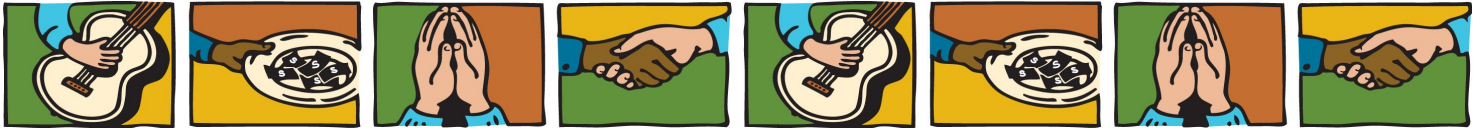
Perhaps the most effective strategy is to leverage underused church property and buildings to bring critically needed services into the community and onto their sites.

Of course, no congregation has the resources to engage all the needs of their neighborhoods, but God doesn't expect us to. Rather, God asks congregations to study their neighborhoods, learn the story of their neighborhoods, and let God speak to them about their place in that story. This kind of discernment can reveal a vision God is calling them to see, the expansive mission God is calling them to take up, and the services God wants them to invite. And they can share their findings with surrounding congregations, who might collaborate to bring a different set of organizations and services onto their property.

Read the full article on ECF Vital Practices: [Leveraging Your Congregation's Physical Assets](#) by Ken Howard.

[Subscribe to ECF Vital Practices](#) for resources, tips and tools on all your ministry questions.





Here is the worship schedule for September. 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!

	September 3	September 10	September 17	September 24
<b>Season</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost
<b>Service</b>	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Communion in the absence of a Priest (ComAP)	Holy Eucharist St. Matthew's Day
<b>Leaders</b>	Fr. Richard Osborne	Fr. Richard Osborne	Deacon Barbara Gibson Mary Anne McCloud	Fr. Richard Osborne
<b>Lectors</b>	Mary Upton	Bonnie Jones	Darlene Hall	Fred Schroeder
<b>Counters (2)</b>	Twila Lockaby	Fred Schroeder	Fred Schroeder	Margie Knupp
	Margie Knupp	Mary Upton	Twila Lockaby	Dave Simmonds
<b>Ushers (2)</b>	Melissa Keenan	Elizabeth Hill	Bonnie Jones	Mary Werner
	Mary Upton	Rick Glover	Mary Upton	Elizabeth Hill
<b>Hosts</b>	Darlene Hall	George and Kala Whiteside	Bonne Jones and Mary Upton	St. Matthew's Day Potluck
<b>Altar Flowers</b>	<i>Darlene Hall</i> "In memory of Charles and Dorothy Elliot"	<i>Joe and Joy Robb</i> "for blessings received"	<i>Stephanie and Katherine Lindgren</i> "for blessings received"	<i>arlie Robinson and Rich Stinnett</i> "for blessings received"
<b>Acolyte &amp; LEM</b>	Fred Schroeder	Karen Wall	Karen Wall	TBD
<b>Organist</b>	Chris Teichler	Chris Teichler	Chris Teichler	Kelli Glann

**Would you like to serve as Usher, Counter or Lector? Or serve the church in some other way? Contact the Office!**