

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

# HELLO 2002 25

### From the Interim Pastor—Fr. Richard Osborne

We thank you for your support and participation in St. Matthew's 2025 Stewardship Campaign.

It is through stewardship that we recognize everything we have is a gift from God, and we are called to give back a portion of those blessings in service to others. We invite you to prayerfully consider how you can support the mission and ministries of our parish through financial giving. The reason I am asking is that we have fallen short in our pledges this year by \$57,000 and need to ask for your help in giving a little bit more.

We believe that St. Matthew's is called to be a beacon for unity. In a time that can feel polarizing, we rejoice in all the ways that God's love draws us together. Making a financial pledge to St. Matthew's is an outward and visible sign of our union as a parish and how we depend on each other. Together, when we give not just out of abundance, but out of love and faith, we can accomplish so much more than we ever could alone.

A financial gift is a love offering that springs from gratitude and a shared calling to be in communion with others. Your annual pledge is given freely without expectation, just as God's love is given freely. In committing our financial resources, we are one in the funding of the programs and initiatives that God has called us to pursue.

- Pledged contributions fund the parish budget. Your pledge helps us plan for 2025.
- Pledges support *all* our ministry groups: liturgy, outreach, community building, with children & youth, pastoral care, and faith formation.
- Pledges will help us attract and retain the talent of

a new Rector and staff who support the programs that are so meaningful to each of us.

In a time when churches are shrinking, our St. Matthew's family continues to add a few new members each year. We are growing in all age groups, from the oldest to the youngest. Of interest, our 10:15am Church service has grown over the past two years. We have even created Welcome Packets to share with visitors and we invite everyone to come experience the joyful chaos firsthand!

As we look ahead to the future of St. Matthew's, we believe that God is calling us to deepen our commitment to one another and the work we are doing together. Our parish goals include an increase in pledge participation and an increase in the average pledge amount. These goals aren't just about numbers, they reflect our collective desire to increase meaningful participation in our community. *Your best gift* means thoughtfully reflecting on how you can support our shared mission in a way that aligns with your capacity to give.

Your gift and participation are so important for the parish. We ask that you prayerfully reflect on the impact St. Matthews has had on strengthening your faith and all that binds us together. We thank you whole-heartedly for your generous participation and prayers and gifts for St. Matthew's.

God's peace be with you!

Richard Osborne, Interim Pastor

#### 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 Mission Statement

The Mission of St. Matthew's is to Welcome, Respect and Care for All People. We accomplish this by following Christ, the perfect example of God's reconciling love, as we promote justice, peace and healing for ourselves and our world.

Office phone: 316-283-3310

Office e-mail: office.stmatthewsnewton@gmail.com

#### St. Matthew's office hours:

- Monday-Thursday 9:00 am—2:00 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 6:00 pm every Wednesday

- \* St. Matthew's Vestry meeting will be Sunday, March 16 after church.
- \* PEF meeting will be Sunday, March 2 after church
- \* 85th annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper will be Tuesday, March 4
- \* Ash Wednesday service is March 5 at 7:00 pm

#### Prayer for the Search of our Next Rector

Almighty God, look graciously on the people of St. Matthew's.
e with us and lead us as we seek the next rec

Be with us and lead us as we seek the next rector for our church.

We ask your direction and guidance for those who shall choose our new spiritual leader, that we may receive an upright and faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries.

Grant us perception, faithfulness and joy, so that we may hear your voice in all our deliberations.

Grant us also the desire and the ability to truly hear each other and those who have entrusted us with this process.

Give us courage to respond and act as you lead us.

Come Holy Spirit.

We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen





Complete this sentence which introduces a well-known Bible story: "The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of \_\_\_\_\_."

A. flowers

B. sheep

C. rocks

D. bones



Answer: D (See Ezekiel 37:1, NIV.)



# Birthdays, Baptisms, and Confirmations

#### March Birthdays

March 5 - Katherine Lindgren, Kim Hill

March 7—Ashton Jantz

March 8 - Jaden Johnson

March 6 - Scott Craig

March 12 - Jessica Brungardt, Jon Ainsworth,

Matt Bogner

March 15 - Suzie Luginbill

March 18 - Allison Hill, Elizabeth Wall Rodriguez

March 23 - Joan Stahly, Bryanna Bush

March 25 - Scott McCloud

March 29—Bonnie Jones

March—Jan Plummer

#### **March Confirmations**

March 14 - Mitch Young

#### March Baptisms

March 10 - Kristan Bogner

March 24 - Joshua Reese

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.

#### **Discretionary Fund**

This is a reminder that on the first Sunday of each month any loose money in the collection plate goes to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. This gives the Rector resources to give someone that asks for help with a utility bill, rent, food or anything else that is presented to Fr. Richard. Please be generous.

### March 2025 Coffee Hour Hosts



March 2 - Rick and Rochelle Glover

March 9 - OPEN

March 16- Steve and Darla Stonehouse

March 23 - OPEN

March 30 - OPEN

There are plenty of opportunities to host coffee hr on Sundays. Friends can buddy up...committees, groups, anyone can sign up. We will eat just about anything!!

### St. Matthew's Outreach

#### Food Cart

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

#### Lenten outreach

#### New Jerusalem Mission

We will be collecting items again during Lent for the New Jerusalem mission located at 209 E. Broadway here in Newton. The missions helps men transitioning from the detention center, and serves meal available to the public 5 days a week, among other services for those in need.

There will be a collection bucket and lists of much needed items in the front hallway during Lent.

#### Super Bowl of Caring

81 items of soup and a few other food items were donated for our Super Bowl of Caring event!!

Thanks to all who made this possible!!

#### A Lenten history lesson

Though the date of Easter varies, the majority of the Lenten season occurs during March. In fact, the word *Lent* comes from the Anglo-Saxon words *lenctentid* (meaning "March") and *lencten* (meaning "spring").

The first reference to Lent dates back to 325 AD, in one of the 20 canons decreed at the council of Nicaea. By the eighth century, Christians started observing Lent, and a 10th-century monk named Aelfric connected the use of ashes and "the Lenten fast" to the pre-Easter period.

Lent lasts 40 days to represent Jesus' time in the wilderness, when he was tempted by the devil. The six Sundays that occur between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday aren't counted as part of Lent; instead, as the traditional day of worship, they're considered "mini-Easters."

#### Imposition of Ashes

Ashes may be imposed on the heads of participants in the Ash Wednesday service as a sign of mortality and penitence. The ashes are imposed with the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (BCP, p. 265). Ashes are typically imposed by inscribing a cross on the forehead. The imposition of ashes has been practiced on Ash Wednesday since the ninth century.



LET'S FILL UP THE ST. MATTHEW'S FOOD PANTRY/BLESSING BOX

Let's fill up The Pantry and help our neighbors. Some items to include are easy open cans of vegetables, fruit, sauces, etc. Also microwave soups, mac & cheese and single

meals. Please take into account the weather when leaving items. It has been suggested to put items in the pantry on the weekends when city organizations are closed. Also, books are wanted for the top shelf.

Share your reflections in discussions each Sunday morning at 9:00 AM in the Parish Hall. A provided a devotional booklet to guide our reflection during this holy season.



Living Well Through

Lent 2025: Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit in Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind is a resource from Living Compass. As a time of introspection and self-reflection, Lent a time to consider the core of what it means to live a Christian life amid great change and uncertainty.

Please support our Sunday Morning discussion leaders:

3/9/25	Margie Knupp
3/16/25	Rochelle Glover
3/23/25	Rick Glover II
3/30/25	Fr Richard Osborne
4/6/25	Jeremy Kitto
4/13/25	Elizabeth Hill

The themes begin with faithfulness for the first week in Lent, progress through peace, joy, generosity, and patience, culminating in love during Holy Week.



#### Altar Team for March

Margie Knupp, Chris Simmonds, Katie Reese, Elizabeth Hill

#### Altar Flowers for March:

#### March 2

Barb Plummer and Jan Plummer and family "In loving memory of Evelyn Bacon"

Lent begins March 5—No flowers on the altar during Lent

March 9

Lent

March 16

Lent

March 23

Lent

If you have any questions regarding Altar Guild or Altar flowers please contact Margie Knupp at 316-284-1790

Altar Guild members will be polishing brass and making Palm crosses on Saturday, April 12, at 10:00. Everyone is welcome to join us.



### St. Matthew's Prayer Chain

If you have a request for prayers for yourself or others, contact Mary Upton at



316-841-1736. The information you share will then be passed on to the chain leaders who will pass the information on to their team. The members of the chain will 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.

#### **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE**

The St. Matthew's Capital Campaign has reached its 6 month mark. Due to need and efficiency the priority of the tasks has changed somewhat. The women's bathroom project is completed. Now there are new and more modern toilets and a brand new floor. The men's bathroom and kitchen also have new flooring. I think it is a noticeable improvement. For various reasons this project took longer than expected and worth the wait. We also have a person lined up to fix the ceiling in the Parish Hall.

There was also an unexpected need that arose which was covered by the capital campaign. The small furnace that heats the chapel and conference room needed to be replaced immediately. Thank you Stan Scudder for getting this done so fast.

Now the committee is getting bids to replace broken heating/air units in two classrooms. We will also be getting bids to make sure enough money is being set aside to replace the large HVAC when it stops working.

Committee members have been discussing the wants and needs of additional lighting in the Nave, specifically lights directed at the Altar. We will be seeking input from those who are at the Altar and are impacted by the lights. We will then get professional input and bids for projects.

At the same time we may look around to see if it would be cost effective in the long term to update light fixtures in some classrooms.

This Capital Campaign is a 3 year campaign. At this point we have \$85K pledged for the 3 years and we have \$29K in hand, with some bills still to come in. Our 3 year campaign began October 1, 2024. If you made a three year pledge to the campaign with 2025 being year one, please remember that your first donation is anticipated this year by October 1st. If you have not made a pledge to our campaign, please consider doing so.

Chris Simmonds, Capital Campaign representative



#### ANNOUNCING

#### 2025 St. Matthew's Vestry/Leadership

- Rick Glover, Sr. Warden
- Chris Simmonds, Jr. Warden
- Mary Anne McCloud & Clerk
- Elizábeth Hill\*
- Rochelle Glover\*
- Stan Scudder, Treasurer and Building and Grounds

#### Clergy

- Fr. Richard Osborne, Interim Priest
- Barbara Gibson, Deacon

#### St. Matthew's Convocation Delegates

- Fred Schroeder
- Elizabeth Hill
- Maggie Snow, alternate\*

Vestry meetings are held every 3rd Sunday of each month. Please contact any vestry member with thoughts, ideas, concerns, and/ or questions about St. Matthews Episcopal Church. Your input is welcome!



Fr. Richard will be leading Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent at 12:00 Noon and 6:00 pm in the St. Matthew's Sanctuary.

The Stations of the Cross have formed part of Christian devotion at Passiontide for many centuries because it enables us to engage actively with the path of suffering walked by Jesus. They originated when early Christians visited Jerusalem and wanted to follow literally in the footsteps of Jesus, tracing the path from Pilate's house to Calvary. They would pause for prayer and devotion at various points. Eventually, those pilgrims brought the practice back to their home countries and ever since then Christians of differing traditions have used this form of devotion.

<sup>\*</sup>newly elected



# 85th Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Tuesday, March 4
5 to 8 pm
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
2001 Windsor Drive
Newton

Pancakes, Ham, Applesauce & Beverage

\$7 Adults
Children 10 and under \$5



#### Resting in Jesus

An old hymn declares:

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest.

Lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."

I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn and sad.

I found in him a resting place, and he has made me alad. (Hearting)

I found in him a resting-place, and he has made me glad. (Horatius Bonar, 1846)

Many people these days feel exhausted by division, the news, hatred that seems louder than love. More than ever, we who are "weary, worn, and sad" need to hear Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest."

Jesus wants to be our resting place — but not so we can hide forever from reality. Instead, he offers a place of refreshment where we can relax long enough to remember that not everything is bad; there is gospel to share. Not everything is hatred; God's love is stronger.

Resting in Jesus, we focus on God's goodness. We are reminded of love shown by kind people to those in trouble, bold voices speaking for justice, warm friendships that brighten our days. Gladdened by rest, we rise again. Jesus walks with us, as always. We can lean on him every step of the way.

—Heidi Hyland Mann





Don't be late for church! Set your clocks forward one hour Saturday night March 8.

## Join us June 1-7, 2025 for Episcopal Summer Mega Camp!

Mega Camp is a 1-week overnight summer camp experience for young people who have finished grades 3-12. There's boating, horseback riding, archery, climbing tower, hiking, arts & crafts, plus Episcopal worship and formation. The camp community is like nothing else: campers will feel accepted and loved for who they are and be able to build their faith with others their age.

Check out our <u>Parent Handbook</u> for everything you need to know about being a camper at Episcopal Summer Mega Camp! (plus lots of photos!)

When: June 1-7, 2025

Where: Camp Wood YMCA, Elmdale, KS Who: Students in grades 3-12 for 2024-25 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.

Cost: \$525 through May 1, 2025; \$575 after May 1. There is a \$25 non-refundable deposit due at registration.

Registration: <u>online via UltraCamp</u> the priority deadline is May 1. <u>Register by clicking here</u>. Scholarships: You can apply for scholarships on the registration form.

# St. Matthew's is offering scholarships through PEF for all church members and guests. Please contact Steve Stonehouse with the PEF for more information.



A quiet afternoon at St. Matthew's



















Here is the worship schedule for March. 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!

	March 2	March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30
Season	Last Sunday after the Epiphany	1st Sunday in Lent	2nd Sunday in Lent	3rd Sunday in Lent	4th Sunday in Lent
Service	ComAP Communion in the absence of a Priest	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist
Leader	Deacon Barbara Gibson	Fr. Richard Osborne	Fr. Richard Osborne	Fr. Richard Osborne	Fr. Richard Osborne
Lector— Lessons	Jeremy Kitto	Fred Schroeder	Jeremy Kitto	Mary Upton	Rick Glover
Lector— Psalm	Elizabeth Hill	Kala Whiteside	Darlene Hall	Maggie Snow	Elizabeth Hill
Counters (2)	Twila Lockaby	Mary Upton	Margie Knupp	Mary Upton	David Simmonds
	Fred Schroeder	Margie Knupp	David Simmonds	Fred Schroeder	Twila Lockaby
Ushers (2)	Rick Glover	Elizabeth Hill	Rick Glover	Kayla Whiteside	Melissa Keenan
	Mary Upton	Melissa Keenan	Mary Werner	George Whiteside	
Hosts	Open	Melissa Keenan	Chris and Sarah Teichler	Open	Open
Altar Flowers	Barb Plummer and Jan Plummer and family "In loving memory of Evelyn Bacon"	Lent	Lent	Lent	Lent
LEM& Acolyte	Mary Anne McCloud Ruth Cooper	Karen Wall Asa Garner Micah Garner	Maggie Snow Asa Garner Micah Garner	Fred Schroeder	Elizabeth Hill Asa Garner Micah Garner
Organist Flutist	Chris Teichler Sarah Teichler	Chris Teichler Sarah Teichler	Kelli Glann Sarah Teichler	Chris Teichler Sarah Teichler	Chris Teichler Sarah Teichler

Ash Wednesday Service—March 4 at 7:00 pm—Holy Eucharist and imposition of Ashes

Evening Prayer: every Wednesday night at 6:00 pm in the St. Matthew's Covey Chapel