



Reaching out
Reaching within
Proclaiming God's Love

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

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The Messenger

February 2023

A NOTE FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

Cleaning the Clutter

I don't know if you have an extra bedroom in your home. Perhaps it's your craft or project room, or maybe it's a guest bedroom. Or perhaps, like one of the rooms in my house, it is the room where everything goes when you don't know where it belongs. The result can be a very messy and cluttered place where the door stays closed almost all the time.

When I bought my house, I dreamed of having a wonderful guest room. But it wasn't too long before I realized that the room had gotten filled with boxes of belongings from our daughter who stored things with us, plus many of our own odds and ends. It was hardly a welcoming place, and I was always careful not to leave the door open when guests arrived. Somehow in the nine years that I have lived in that house that room never quite became the guest room I'd imagined. My struggle with clearing a cluttered room is hardly unique. In fact, I think there are times when our lives feel just as cluttered and disorganized.

We wish we could just close the door and hide all the garbage and brokenness in our lives from others. When I read the story in Luke 4 where Jesus meets Levi (or Matthew) the tax collector and invites him to become a disciple, I am struck by how quickly Levi is willing to invite Jesus not only into his home, but also into the disorder of his life. There was something in Jesus' look and words that made Levi want to welcome him and be changed by him.

During this Lenten and Easter season, we are being invited to once again to look into the "room" of our lives. Where might a little cleaning help? Is there someone I need to forgive? How's my relationship with God? What do I need to confess? It may seem almost overwhelming on some days. Lots of issues and things can clutter our lives and make it difficult to welcome Jesus, but Levi's story reminds us that Jesus loves and calls to us right where we are – good or bad.

As we journey through this sacred season of the year, may it be a time in which we again feel the warm glow of Jesus' presence in every area of our lives.

And, as we go about our work and ministry in our St. Matthew's community, may the promise and hope of Jesus' loving call be shared with all who need to experience it..

Fr. Richard Osborne +

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.



The Bishop is Coming!

The Right Reverend Cathleen Chittenden Bascom will be here at St. Matthew's on Sunday, February 5th. Please plan to be here to welcome her to St. Matthew's.



The Bishop will preach and preside at the Sunday service and visit with the Congregation during Coffee Hour. She will meet with the Vestry after Coffee hour.



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

**83rd Annual
Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper**



**Tuesday, February 21
5 to 8 pm
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
2001 Windsor Drive
Newton**

Pancakes, Ham, Applesauce & Beverage

**\$8 Adults
Children 10 and under \$5**

We need volunteers to help make this 83rd annual pancake supper the best yet! Sign up sheets are available at the church or you can call the church office. We need ingredients for the meal, ticket sales, help at the door, preparing and serving the food and help cleaning up. How can you help?

February Birthdays

- February 7 - Kenny Wall
- February 8 - Aurora Farmer
- February 9 - Darla Stonehouse
- February 11 - Rick Beck
- February 13 - Dave Simmonds
- February 14 - Kala Whiteside
- February 15 - Stan Scudder
- February 17 - Jordan Orr
- February 19 - Connor Ekerberg
- February 19 - Jeff Upton
- February 24 - Andrew Craig
- February 25 - Betsy Robb
- February 28 - Judy Sizemore, William Stahl

February Baptisms

- February 4 - Stan Scudder
- February 9 - Rick Beck
- February 19 - London Orr-Thompson
- February 21 - Jennifer Beck
- February 28 - Steve Stonehouse

February Confirmations

- February 7 - Twila Lockaby, Errol Lunginbill, Wayne Reif, Stan Scudder,
- February 18 - Clay Hedrick

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.



Senior Warden Report – February 2023 Maggie Snow

First of all, I want to thank you all for the trust you have placed in me by nominating and voting for me to be Senior Warden for St. Matthew's. It means a lot to me to hold this position of trust, and I will strive to always be conscious of that position and the responsibilities it entails. We all love St. Matthew's and have its best interests at heart, and I am excited for the improvements we have made so far and for setting us on firm ground to move forward into the future!

We have several items in the coming months that need immediate attention from the St. Matthew's family, and I want to make sure we all are aware of them so we can work towards completing them successfully.

First up, the Outreach Committee is running our Souper Bowl of Caring Campaign now through February 12th. This campaign was started by the NFL Alumni Association and St. Matthew's has been participating in it for many years. Tackling hunger is more important than ever, as Kansas Health Matters released numbers for 2020 indicating that 10.3% of families in Harvey County (just over 1,330 families) don't have enough food to eat. While many of us like to think that hunger isn't a problem in rural areas like Harvey County, that is simply not true; Hunger Relief Organization Feeding America notes that 11% of families in rural areas faced hunger or food insecurity in 2021. Rising inflation and the ending of several Covid-related benefit programs such as the Child Tax Credit are contributing to rises in these numbers. Between now and February 12th, we are collecting donations of prepared soup (canned or boxed) or monetary donations to support Souper Bowl for Caring. Please bring your offerings to the church before February 12th and help us tackle hunger in Newton! All donations will go to the Salvation Army Food Bank.

Speaking of food, Lent is fast approaching, and that means our 83rd Annual Pancake Supper! The Pancake Supper will be held on Mardi Gras (AKA Fat Tuesday/Shrove Tuesday), which is February 21st this year. We

need volunteers to help bring ingredients for the food, distribute tickets for sale, take tickets at the door, prepare and serve the food as well as help clean up after the dinner is over. Sign up sheets will be made available soon, so please watch for them and sign up!

I am also still seeking volunteers to sit on the Mission Statement Subcommittee. This subcommittee will work on updating the Mission Statement for St. Matthew's to align it with our new Vision Statement and help us align our efforts and programs towards accomplishing our Vision.

Our new Vision Statement is:

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.

If you can lend your time and talents to helping us craft a Mission Statement that will explain how we will seek to make our vision a reality, please contact me. I would like to get the subcommittee started working by the end of February.

As we begin this New Year at St. Matthew's, I'd like to offer a prayer for everyone that is one of my favorites:

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields and until
we meet again, may God hold you
in the palm of His hand.

My soul is parched, Lord, like Israel in the wilderness and the woman at the well. Pour into me your forgiveness and love.



Fun and interesting Facts about the Episcopal Church

Every month a fun and/or interesting fact about the Episcopal Church will be listed. Do you know a fact about the Episcopal Church or about St. Matthew's? Let me know and I will include it in future editions of The Messenger! It will be fun to learn new things about our church. Thanks, Elizabeth

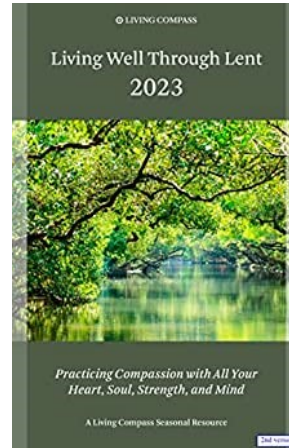
The Book of Common Prayer contains "instructions" for public worship.

The first Book of Common Prayer was created in England more than 350 years ago, with a goal of rendering the prayers of worship in the language of the gathered people instead of the language of the educated elite.

This tradition of common-language worship continues today and the Book of Common Prayer has been translated into nearly every spoken language on earth. The most recent revision of the Book of Common Prayer in the Episcopal Church was in 1979 and allowed for the choice of either "traditional" or modern language.


The BCP provides liturgical forms, prayers, and instructions so that all members and orders of the Episcopal Church may appropriately share in common worship. The first American BCP was ratified by the first General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 1789. Future revisions were in 1892, 1928, and then finally in 1979. On July 10, 2018, at General Convention, the Episcopal Church voted to begin revising its Book of Common Prayer to move toward more inclusive language for God. But it may not be until 2030 that this is complete.

Lenten Study Beginning on Sunday, February 26 9:00 am in the Church Lounge Continuing every Sunday during Lent



We will be using a study guide, *Living Well Through Lent 2023, Practicing Compassion with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength and Mind.*

Plan to join us every Sunday during Lent to strengthen your Lenten journey.



Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday, February 22
7:00 pm

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

We enter the season of Lent repenting of our sins, trusting in God's grace through Jesus Christ, and eager to grow in the Holy Spirit as we journey toward Easter.

A prayer for Ash Wednesday

Lord of the winds,
I cry to thee,
I that am dust,
and blown about
by every gust
I fly to thee.

Lord of the waters,
unto thee I call.
I that am weed
upon the waters borne,
and by the waters torn,
tossed by the waters,
at thy feet I fall.

—Mary Coleridge (1861-1907)



St. Matthew's Outreach

Food Cart

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

Souper Bowl of Caring

This outreach was actually started in 1991 by a Methodist youth leader. Every Super Bowl Sunday, Church youth across the nation, collect cans of soup to donate to local food banks. At St. Matthew's Cans of soup will be collected by a few "Young at Heart" members....please bring a can or 2, (or even more!) on February 12th. There will be a display in the front hallway.

Hope to see you on Sunday!!! Touch Down!!!!

Soldiers & Shut Ins

If anyone has a loved one that would love to receive cards and visits (in town), we would like a photo to place on the board... please contact Melissa.

Lenten Outreach

Once again, we will be collecting much needed items for the New Jerusalem Mission during Lent.

More info to come.

It's still winter ... but spring is near. It's Lent ... but we're pointed toward Easter. Keep us hopeful, Lord.

February 2023 Coffee Hour Hosts

February 5 - Maggie Snow / Bishop's visit
February 12 - Chris and Sarah Teichler
February 19 - Cookies
February 26 - OPEN



NEW YEAR....Plenty of openings.....Plenty of opportunities to sign up to host coffee hour. Sign up with a friend, or showcase your favorite dessert. Committees or groups are always welcome to sign up also. Let's have fun!!



Card
Ministry

The Card Ministry group will be meeting again in February on Monday, February 13 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!

Mary Upton and Bonnie Jones



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 Covey Chapel. Everyone is welcome. Come take a few minutes to end your day with prayer.



ANNOUNCING

2023 St. Matthew's Vestry/Leadership

- Maggie Snow, Sr. Warden & Treasurer
- Chris Simmonds, Jr. Warden*
- Mary Upton
- Charles Craig
- Mary Anne McCloud*
- Fr. Richard Osborne, Interim Priest
- Barbara Gibson, Deacon

- Elizabeth Hill, Clerk

St. Matthew's Convocation Delegates

- Mary Anne McCloud
- Mary Upton
- Fred Schroeder—Alternate*

*newly elected

Vestry meetings are held every 2nd 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!

Altar Team for February 2023

Twila Lockaby, Scott McCloud,
Ruth Cooper, Maggie Snow

I will be preparing the Sunday Flower List for the year in the next couple of weeks, so if anyone wants to change the date or be added to the list please let me know by text or phone asap, 316-215-1164. Thank you, Twila Lockaby



Altar Flowers for February 2023

February 5 - Steve and Ginger King
"In Loving Memory of Lee and Ed"

February 12 - Jerry Collier
"In loving memory of Chuck Collier"

February 19 - Fred Schroeder
"For Blessings Received"

Ash Wednesday is February 22 -
No flowers on the Altar during Lent

February 26 - LENT
No flowers

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**.





Epiphany Party

We had a great time at the Epiphany Party on Sunday, January 8. We enjoyed snacks and a King's Cake. Everyone joined in on a White Elephant gift exchange/game, which was a lot of fun. We also continued the tradition of Chalking the Door (which our Senior Warden, Rick Glover did admirably!). This is a blessing of the church, on whose lintels are inscribed the cross of salvation, together with the indication of the year and the initials of the three wise men (20+C+M+B+23), which can also be interpreted to as *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* which means 'May Christ bless this house'.



Why should we observe Lent? This 40-day season of repentance and reflection that begins on Ash Wednesday has three important purposes. Lent helps us STOP, LOOK and LISTEN.

We observe Lent because it tells us to STOP and rest awhile — and to stop sinning. Lent tells us to LOOK inward for an honest self-examination, to look upward to see the cross of Jesus with healing and love, and to look forward to the hope of the Resurrection. And we observe Lent because it tells us to LISTEN — to the voice of God, the words of Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

STOP, LOOK and LISTEN! These commands that are so crucial for travel safety are also important for our journey through Lent

People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:15-16

Shining Lights

Two of Jesus' teachings had to do with where to put our lamps not under bushel baskets and what we measure will be measured in return

as a girl I was brought up to believe that hiding my light under a bushel basket was the correct way to behave as time passed I evolved more into my namesake Joan of Arc a seeker of truth and equality rattling the cages of the world around me a balance of burning my light without burning the eyes and ears of those around me no small task learning what I measure out was measured to me in return striving for the balance mentioned in Paul's letter to Timothy "For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power love and self-control." spiritual gifts to staying the course holding our unique God lamps high burning some eyes and ears hoping we emerge confidently from under the darkness of our bushel baskets


Joan Breit
Winter 2023



From the Treasurer—

As we mentioned at the Annual Meeting, the Budget for 2023 underwent significant revisions after the report was put together due to math errors on my side (mea culpa!). I had revised budgets available for review, but in the interest of transparency wanted to provide a summary here. The full budget report is available. Please let me know if you would like a copy of the budget or have any questions or concerns! On another Treasurer's note, you should have received your 2022 year end financial giving statements either at the annual meeting or via snail mail if you were not able to attend. If you have any changes that need to be made or if you did not receive your statement, please contact Maggie Snow and we will get the situation taken care of.

<u>High Line Budget</u>					
2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2022 Variance	2022 Percent Change	2023 Budget	2023 Budget
<i>Income</i>	109,420.00	146,616.37	-37196.37	33.99%	230,500.00
<i>Expense</i>	125,237.00	134,515.87	-9278.87	-7.41%	180,964.43
<u>Surplus/Deficit Indicator</u>					
	\$49,535.00	Surplus			



St. Matt's Little Food Pantry

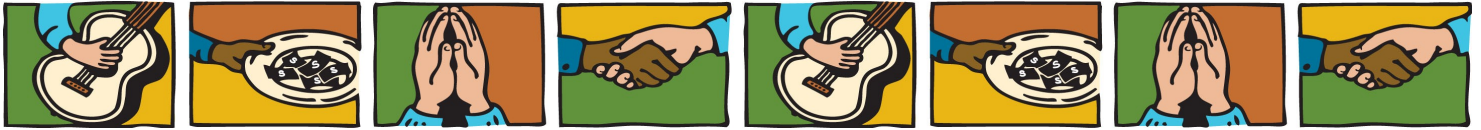
Don't forget to add to the St. Matthew's Food Pantry outside, at the entrance to the parking lot. Remember to add things that will not freeze! Thanks for helping our neighbors.

Come by the church Mon-Wed 10am-3pm, Thur 10-12, or Fri 10-1, and introduce yourself to our new Secretary.



Hi, my name is Charlie Gibson, a recent graduate of Bethel College. I'm from a small town in Kansas called Ashland, where my family owns a small cow-calf operation. At Bethel I studied Bible and Religion, and I lived with my grandma, your own Deacon Barbara! I've recently moved to Hesston with my fiancé and our cat, and we're keeping ourselves busy with wedding planning. Both my fiancé and I enjoy reading, playing video games, singing and are involved in the Central Kansas Master Chorale, a local choir. I'm glad to be here!





Here is the worship schedule for February 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!

	February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26
Season	Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	Sixth Sunday after Epiphany	Last Sunday after Epiphany	First Sunday in Lent
Service	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Communion in the absence of a Priest (ComAP)	Holy Eucharist
Leaders	Bishop Bascom	Fr. Richard Osborne	Deacon Barbara Gibson Maggie Snow	Fr. Richard Osborne
Lectors	Elizabeth Hill	Fred Schroeder	Jeremy Kitto	Bonnie Jones
Counters (2)	Twila Lockaby	Fred Schroeder	Mary Upton	Margie Knupp
	Margie Knupp	David Simmonds	Fred Schroeder	Twila Lockaby
Ushers (2)	Melissa Keenan	Charlie Craig	Dave Simmonds	Elizabeth Hill
	Mary Upton	Rick Glover	Bonnie Jones	Mary Werner
Hosts	Maggie Snow	Chris and Sarah Teichler	Cookies	Open
Altar Flowers	Steve & Ginger King <i>"In Loving Memory of Lee and Ed"</i>	Jerry Collier <i>"In loving memory of Chuck Collier"</i>	Fred Schroeder <i>"For Blessings Received"</i>	LENT <i>No Flowers on Altar</i>
Acolyte & LEM	Michael Southern Fred Schroeder	Karen Wall	CoMap	TBD
Organist	Chris Teichler	Chris Teichler	Chris Teichler	Kelli Glann