



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



From the Interim Pastor—Fr. Richard Osborne

Valentines

Little Chad was a shy, quiet young fella. One day he came home and told his mother. He'd like to make a valentine for everyone in his class. Her heart sank. She thought, *I wish he wouldn't do that!* because she had watched the children when they walked home from school. Her Chad was always behind them. They laughed and hung on to each other and talked to each other. But Chad was never included. Nevertheless, she decided she would go along with her son. So she purchased the paper and glue and crayons. For three whole weeks, night after night, Chad painstakingly made thirty-five valentine's.

Valentine's Day dawned, and Chad was beside himself with excitement! He carefully stacked them up, put them in a bag, and bolted out the door. His mom decided to bake him his favorite cookies and serve them up warm and nice with a cool glass of milk when he came home from school. She just knew he would be disappointed...maybe that would ease the pain a little. It hurt her to think that he wouldn't get many valentine's – maybe none at all.

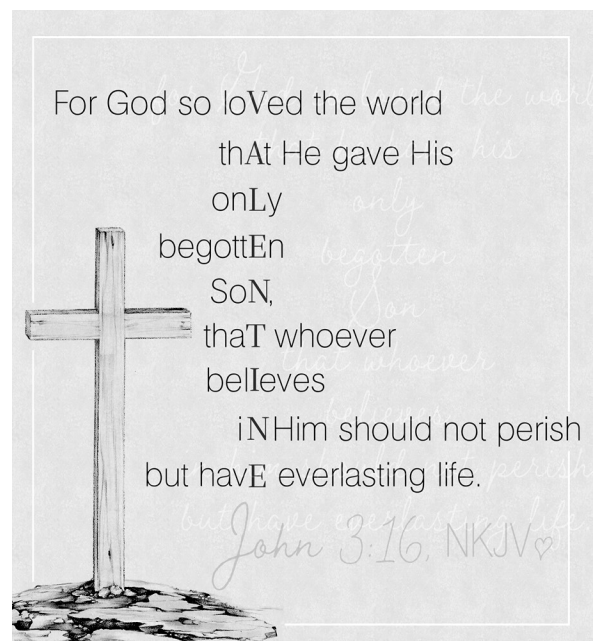
That afternoon she had the cookies and milk on the table. When she heard the children outside she looked out the window. Sure enough here they came, laughing and having the best time. And, as always, there was Chad in the rear. He walked a little faster than usual. She fully expected him to burst into tears as soon as he got inside. His arms were empty, she noticed, and when the door opened, she choked back the tears.

“Mommy has some warm cookies and milk for you.”

But he hardly heard her words. He just marched right on by, his face aglow, and all he could say was: *“Not a one... not a one.”* And then he added, *“I didn't forget a one, not a single one!”*

Doctor Victor E. Frankel, survivor of three grim years at Auschwitz and other Nazi prisons, has recorded his observation on life in Hitler's camps:

We who lived in concentration camps can remember the men who walked through the huts. Comforting others, giving away their last piece of bread. They have been few in number, but they offer sufficient proof that everything can be taken from a man but one thing: The last of the human freedoms – to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way.





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 6:30 pm every Wednesday

- * The St. Matthew's Vestry's February meeting will be after church on Sunday, February 11, 2024
- * The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Tuesday, February 13, 5-8:00 pm
- * Lenten Study, each Sunday during Lent 9:00 am
- * Stations of the Cross during Lent, every Friday starting February 16, 12:00 noon and 6:00 pm
- * Ash Wednesday Service, February 14, 7:00 pm



ANNOUNCING

2024 St. Matthew's Vestry/Leadership

- Rick Glover, Sr. Warden*
- Chris Simmonds, Jr. Warden
- Mary Anne McCloud
- Elizabeth Hill, & Clerk*
- Bonnie Jones*
- Maggie Snow and Rich Stinnett co-treasurers

Clergy

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

St. Matthew's Convocation Delegates

- Mary Anne McCloud
- Fred Schroeder
- Elizabeth Hill, alternate*

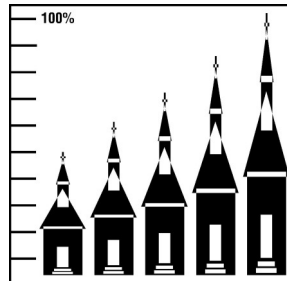
*newly elected

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!



Rector SEARCH COMMITTEE

One of the missions for the Vestry in 2024 is to organize a search committee for our next rector. If you are willing to serve on this important committee, please contact the church office or any Vestry member.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Chris Simmonds, Jr. Warden, is still seeking more volunteers to be on a Capital Campaign Committee. Please talk to Chris with any questions and let her know if you would be willing to serve on this committee.



♥ FEBRUARY ♥
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

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 - Conner Ekerberg
- February 19 - Jeff Upton
- February 24 - Andrew Craig
- February 25 - Betsy Robb

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, 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.



*Card
Ministry*

The St. Matthew's Card Guild will meet in February on **Monday the 12th**.

The Card Guild meets the 2nd Monday of each month at the church between 10:00am to 2:00pm.

Bring a snack or your lunch.

All card materials are provided, but if you have paints or other materials, bring them to share your ideas. Be prepared for good fellowship, an outlet for your creativity, and loving ministry to our church family and friends in Christ.



CROSS OF ASHES — On Ash

Wednesday, as Lent begins, worshipers' foreheads are often marked with ashes in the sign of the cross. The ashes traditionally come from burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. In the Old Testament, ashes were a sign of mourning and repentance. Today, some worshipers wipe off the ashes before leaving church, to symbolize being cleansed from sin by Jesus' death; others wear the ashes the rest of the day, carrying the cross of Christ into the world. Reciting Genesis 3:19 often accompanies the placement of ashes: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."



LET'S FILL UP THE ST. MATTHEW'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.



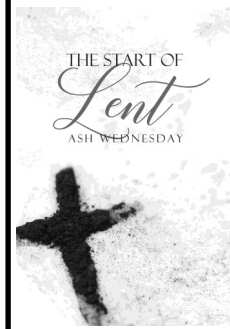
84th Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Tuesday, February 13
5 to 8 pm
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
2001 Windsor Drive
Newton

Pancakes, Ham, Applesauce & Beverage

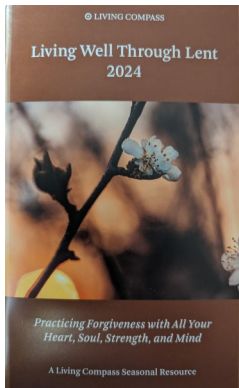
\$7 Adults
Children 10 and under \$5



Ash Wednesday Service
February 14
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.



Lenten Study
Beginning on
Sunday, February 18
9:00 am in the Church Lounge
Continuing every
Sunday during Lent

Living Well Through Lent 2024:
Practicing Forgiveness with All Your
Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind

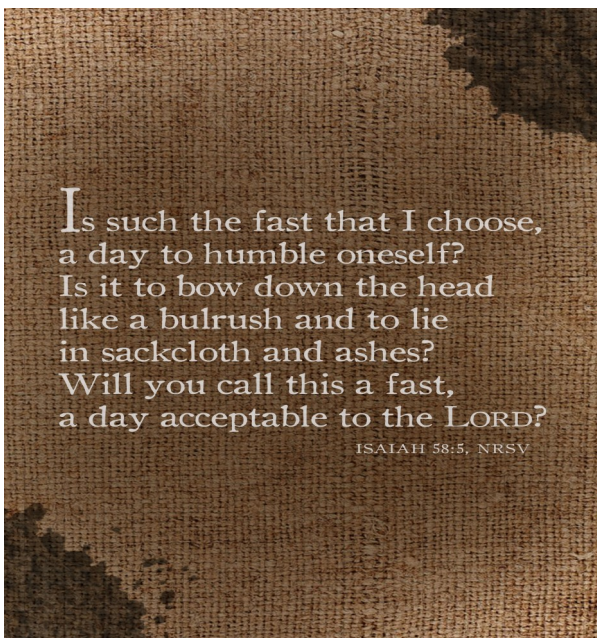
Beginning the First Sunday in Lent and continuing through Palm Sunday, we will gather in the Lounge to discuss the previous week's daily readings in this year's devotional material.

We have often heard people come to the season of Lent with an attitude of, "I feel like I have to do something to be a good Christian, and I certainly don't want God to be disappointed in me."

Let us all approach Lent this year, not from a place of guilt or obligation, but from a place of love and as a wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth. Practicing forgiveness will help us grow our spiritual life and deepen our relationships with God and others.

One of the contributors to this year's material is the Rev. Lisa Senuta, an Episcopal priest serving the Diocese of Kansas as director of Spiritual Formation & Clergy Care. Trained through Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation in Washington DC, her vocation focuses on spiritual guidance and faith development.

Pick up your copy of the study guide at the church. A Kindle Edition is available on Amazon for \$0.99.



Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head
like a bulrush and to lie
in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

ISAIAH 58:5, NRSV



February 2024



Join us for Coffee Hour
after the Worship service

Coffee Hour Hosts

February 4 - Jeremy & Elisabeth Kitto

February 11 - Melissa

February 18 - OPEN

February 25 - OPEN

There are plenty of openings on the calendar in the parish hall. Sign up today!

Let's have fun!

Any concerns or questions, please contact
Melissa

St. Matthew's Outreach

Food Cart

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

Superbowl of Caring

SAVE THE DATE!!

FEBRUARY 11th.....same day as the Super bowl!!

Please bring cans of soup to church on February 11th. (One for each hand!!) 😊

These will be donated to the Salvation Army Harvest of Love food bank.

25...43...62...HIKE!!

Lenten Outreach Opportunity

During Lent we will be collecting items for the New Jerusalem Mission on East Broadway, here in Newton. More details to come!

Soldiers & Shut Ins

If anyone has a loved one that they would like to add to either our Shut In or Soldier board, please contact Melissa. These individuals will receive cards, visits, altar flowers, and goodies from St. Matthew's. Please include a picture. Thank you.



Please join
Deacon Barbara Gibson
for Evening Prayer
every Wednesday
at 6:30 pm In the
St. Matthew's Covey Chapel.
Or join us on Facebook.
Everyone is welcome.
Come take
a few minutes to end your
day with prayer.

Even the liturgy "fasts" in preparation for the glorious season of Easter.

The Lenten season is marked by two very distinct liturgical omissions. The hymn known as the Gloria (Glory to God in the Highest) is not sung nor is Alleluia said during the worship service. To help us remember to omit any Alleluias we will be "hiding" the Alleluias. On the first two Sunday's of February there will be a print out of Alleluia and Hallelujah provided to decorate during coffee hour. These will be collected and on Shrove Tuesday we will "hide" the Alleluias. Then they will be brought back out for Easter Sunday! Get your "Alleluia" and decorate in your own unique way.



**Altar Guild Team
for
February 2024**
Melissa Keenen,
Karen Wall and
Ginger King

**Altar Flowers for
February 2024**

February 4 - Steve and Ginger King
"In Loving Memory of Lee and Ed"

February 11 - Jerry Collier
"In loving memory of Chuck Collier"

Ash Wednesday is February 14

**February 18 &
February 25
LENT**

No flowers on the Altar during Lent

We have two openings for Altar Flowers: June 9 and August 11.

If you have any questions, call Twila Lockaby at 316-215-1164 if you would like to fill either of those dates.

Also if you would like to recycle the green containers, please put them on the top shelf of the coat rack at the front entrance.

**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.



Milk of Human Kindness

Jesus in today's Gospel healed another leper "moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him." 'Pity' is not often used in contemporary language but very alive in the hearts of those around me after a second heavy snowfall a kind-hearted friend cleared my driveway a second time later hopelessly spinning my aging Toyota wheels in the grocery parking lot an observant farmer-type jumped out of his aging pickup and offered to give me a 'push' which I gratefully accepted sending me on my way knowing the 'milk of human kindness' which the Master modeled was flowing and alive and well in my Kansas town and the Master's message of 'pity' continues to live on in our hearts and lives of those who 'see'

Joan Breit
Winter 2024

Bible Quiz

Use one word (perhaps in different forms) for all the blanks to complete this Scripture passage:

"Dear friends, let us ____ one another, for ____ comes from God. Everyone who ____ has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not ____ does not know God, because God is ____."

- A. believe
- B. help
- C. love
- D. forgive



Answer: C (See 1 John 4:7-8, NIV)

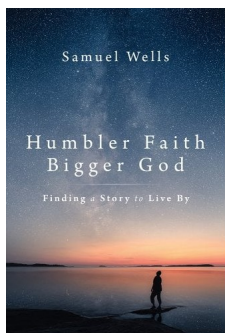


Hot Times in the Heartland Documentary Preview Rescheduled for Feb. 25 at 2 pm

Bishop Cathleen Bascom is among those featured in a new, feature-length documentary entitled “Hot Times in the Heartland.” The documentary spotlights individuals and organizations directly involved with research and implementation of approaches designed to mitigate the impact of climate change and to help communities develop more resilience as we adapt to changing conditions. The documentary explores a range of activities taking place primarily within the Kaw Valley of Kansas and the metropolitan Kansas City area. Bishop Bascom describes the current situation as a “Kairos moment” for Earth stewardship and shares how the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas is responding through the Creation Trustees Network and the ministries of Bethany House & Garden.



Members of the diocese are invited to attend a screening of the documentary on Sunday, February 25 at 2 pm at Grace Cathedral, Topeka in All Saints Hall. The film will be shown in its entirety, and there will be a discussion facilitated by the bishop and producer Dave Kendall, former host of the “Sunflower Journeys” series on public television. An eight-minute preview of the documentary can be viewed here on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lut-BLiXB7E). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lut-BLiXB7E>



Diocesan-Wide Book Study After Easter

Bishop Bascom invites the diocese to participate in a collective read of the Rev. Dr. Sam Wells’ *Humbler Faith, Bigger God: Finding a Story to Live By*. The book is currently backordered at Amazon, but used copies may be found.

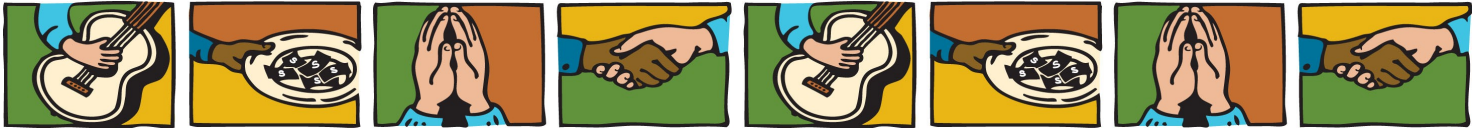
St. Matthew’s will begin the study on the First Sunday after Easter at 9:00 A.M. in the Lounge.

Each of the ten chapters in *Humbler Faith, Bigger God* considers a timely and timeless criticism of Christianity or the Church. Wells tells the “old, old story” of traditional, orthodox Christianity before challenging it with the criticism of the “rival story – what an educated, rational, contemporary person would generally think.” Wells concludes each chapter with “a story to live by,” a response to both the “old, old,” and the “rival,” that serves “as a constructive vision for a renewed Christian faith.”

The Rev. Dr. Samuel Wells is vicar of St. Martin-in- the-Fields, London, and will speak at the 2024 Tocher Lecture on May 15-16 at St. Michael and All Angels, Mission. Interested participants can see a reading schedule or the Lecture will fond information on the diocesan website: <https://episcopal-ks.org/2024-tocher/>

Want to keep up with news from around the Diocese and from the Diocesan Office in Topeka? Sign up to receive the DioLog e-newsletter at: <https://mailchi.mp/episcopal-ks/diolog-jan-23-2024?e=a130c99423>The the weekly newsletter provides resources on Youth Events, Spiritual Retreats, Parish Happenings, Mission and Ministry, Church-wide News and other reminders.

To subscribe to DioLog, scroll down at: <https://episcopal-ks.org/diolog/>



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 4	February 11	February 18	February 25
Season	5th Sunday after Epiphany	Last Sunday after Epiphany <i>Vestry Meeting</i>	1st Sunday in Lent	2nd Sunday in Lent
Service	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Communion in the absence of a Priest (ComAP)	Holy Eucharist
Leaders	Fr. Richard Osborne	Fr. Richard Osborne	Deacon Barbara Gibson Maggie Snow	Fr. Richard Osborne
Lectors	Bonnie Jones	Elizabeth Hill	Darlene Hall	Fred Schroeder
Counters (2)	Twila Lockaby	Fred Schroeder	Mary Upton	Margie Knupp
	Margie Knupp	David Simmonds	Fred Schroeder	David Simmonds
Ushers (2)	Elizabeth Hill	Melissa Keenan	Rick Glover	Kala Whiteside
	Mary Upton	Bonnie Jones	Mary Werner	George Whiteside
Hosts	Jeremy & Elisabeth Kitto	Melissa Keenan	Open	Open
Altar Flowers	Steve and Ginger King <i>"In Loving Memory of Lee and Ed"</i>	Jerry Collier <i>"In loving memory of Chuck Collier"</i>	Lent	Lent
Acolyte & LEM	Fred Schroeder	Karen Wall	Maggie Snow	
Organist	Chris Teichler	Chris Teichler	Chris Teichler	Kelli Glann

Ash Wednesday Service: Wednesday, February 14, 7:00 pm

Stations of the Cross, every Friday during Lent: 12:00 noon and 6:00 pm