



Reaching out
Reaching within
Proclaiming God's Love

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 342
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Newton, Kansas 67114
Church: 316-283-3310
www.stmatthewsnewton.org
www.facebook.com/stmattsnewton

The Messenger



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From the Interim Pastor—Fr. Richard Osborne

And he said to him **“Follow me.”**
Matthew 9:9

Whether you're 8 or 80, the call is still **Follow me.** Jesus calls us to a challenge continually new. To follow him is to participate, not just to observe; to get involved in new meanings and concerns, new experiences and responsibilities.

No one is ever **“over the hill.”** That expression suggests that life is downhill the rest of the way. It implies that one's future is somehow in the past.

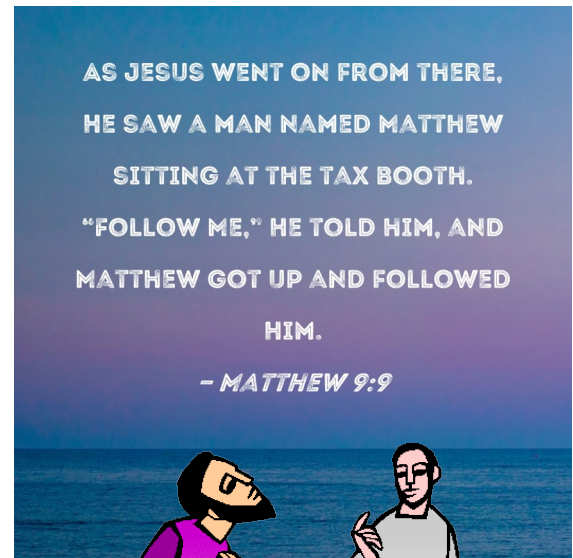
Some folks seem to confuse **retired** with **retarded.** They talk down, look down, think down to older people. They urge them to avoid challenge and confine themselves to busy work and hobbies for the rest of their lives. But when there is nothing to stretch us, we shrink. When our initiative and courage aren't tested, we grow flabby and fearful. When we start thinking less of ourselves, we become less than ourselves.

Recreation is fine, but it's not a career, nor does it give life enough meaning. It can lead to an artificial and trivial existence and make retirement the hardest work of all. No one has ever **“had it”** when it comes to doing good or leading a worthwhile life.

The Lord is always on the move. In order to keep up with him, we need to keep our spirits active and be willing to move beyond the known into the unknown and untried. We must reach deep with-

in ourselves to find the trusting child who still lives there, the one who isn't afraid to take risks.

The call is still **Follow me;** the speaker is the ever-contemporary Jesus.





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 April meeting will be after church on Sunday, April 14
- * The PEF committee will meet on Sunday, April 28 after church
- * The Parish Council will meet on Saturday, April 27 at 10:00 am

Clergy Retreat—April 19-21

Bishop Cathleen Bascom will be gathering all clergy of the Diocese of Kansas at St. Crispin's Episcopal Conference Center and Camp in Oklahoma on April 19-21. From her letter to clergy, she said that the purpose of the gathering is to "listen and reflect on how God calls us into something new: as a diocese and as individual clergy leaders. Exploring our callings past, present, and future we will listen to God through scripture and song, through silence and reflection, through walks outdoors, and in guided and not-so-guided conversations with our clergy fellows.

"God invites us to partner in the work of Resurrection! Yet we recognize that call and our discernment changes as we walk the winding path of ordained ministry. God's call gets entwined with our own real-life needs as well as the needs and desires of the institutions and communities we serve. Acknowledging the complicated realities of our sacred calling at this time, we will lean in together and listen to God's voice calling us to that which does not yet exist."





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

April Birthdays

- April 1 - Lance Woodward, Maddie Stonehouse
- April 3 - Brett Irving
- April 7 - Ruth Cooper
- April 17 - Alex Beck
- April 18—Joshua Teichler
- April 26—Kent Dove

April Baptisms

- April 2 - Patrick Craig, Sean Hall, Todd Dove
- April 3 - Jerry Wall, Renea Dove
- April 4 - Mike Loyd
- April 7 - Vincent Ochs
- April 8 - Suzie Luginbill, George Graybill
- April 10 - Twila Lockaby, Jill Loyd
- April 11 - Elizabeth Hill, Sarah Hill, Allison Hill,
Katrina Southern
- April 14 - Maggie Tyner, Judy Sheahan, Jonathan
Sheahan
- April 17 - Cathy Woodward
- April 25 - Stephan Hall, Darla Stonehouse
- April 27—Karen Wall

April Confirmations

- April 10 - Chris Beck, Patrick Craig, Kristan Bogner,
Matt Bogner, Amanda Luginbill, Evalie Ainsworth,
Vincent Ochs, Gloria Ochs, Elizabeth Wall
- April 22 - Jane Orr
- April 24 - George Graybill
- April 27 - Karen Wall

**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.**



The St. Matthew's Card Guild will meet in April on **Monday the 8th, 10:00—2:00.**

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

What Got Jesus Killed

Teaching a Scripture class in the past I remember a student asking, "what got Jesus killed?" I opened this great question to the class for further discussion about this unusual man, his healings, teachings, associating with the rejects of society, touching lepers, being invited to a meal by a tax collector for the Roman Empire, curing a deaf man with spit, defending an accused woman of adultery, inviting the surrounding men to cast the first stone if they had not sinned. This unusual man Jesus acted out of a love-filled heart with great compassion for the oppressed in body, mind and spirit, in his homeland ruled by the Roman Empire. Temple priests judged him harshly trying to entrap him using both Jewish and Roman law.

The dismissal bell rang with students continuing the discussion and me sharing a comedian Steve Martin quote "Be so good, they can't ignore you."

Joan Breit
Winter. 2024

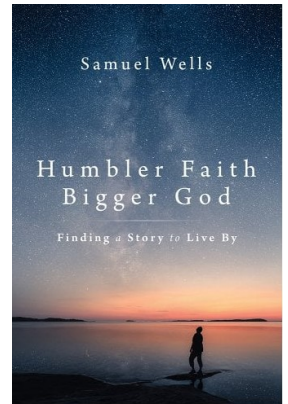


Humbler Faith, Bigger God

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 available at Amazon, but used copies may be found.

Deacon Barbara Gibson will introduce the 10-week study at St. Matthew's on the First Sunday after Easter, April 7, at 9:00 A.M. in the Parish Hall.

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. At least one person from St. Matthew's has registered to attend. For more information check the diocesan website: <https://episcopal-ks.org/2024-tocher/>

Humbler Faith, Bigger God: Finding a Story to Live By. Reading and Discussion Schedule			
Sunday 9:00 AM	Chapter(s)	Criticism or Topic	Pages (Count)
4/7/2024	Introduction & 1. Crutch for the Deluded?	"It's all made up"	1-26 (26)
4/14/2024	2. Catalogue of Betrayals?	"God is a failure"	27-54 (28)
4/21/2024	<i>Break for Clergy Retreat</i>		
4/28/2024	3. Fairy Tale for the Infantile?	"The Bible is unreliable, inaccurate, and sometimes immoral"	54-79 (26)
5/5/2024	4. Drug for the Poor?	"Church has failed the poor"	80-100 (21)
5/12/2024	5. Intolerant Poison?	Church's bigotry: sexuality	101-120 (20)
5/19/2024	6. Perpetrator of Terrible Harm?	Church is a source of more harm than good	121-142 (22)
5/26/2024	7. Cause of Endless Conflict?	Faith as source of all conflict	143-164 (22)
6/2/2024	8. One Path among Many?	All religions are equal OR All religions are wrong	165-183 (19)
6/9/2024	9. Arrogant Narcissism?	Science disproved religion"	184-205 (22)
6/16/2024	10. Cruel Fantasy?	Mental belief vs. faithful trust	206-227 (22)
6/23/2024	Wrap-Up Discussion	A Faith to Live By	229-230 (2)



*April 2024
Coffee Hour
Hosts*



April 7 - OPEN
April 14 - Rick and Mary Beck
April 21 - Chris and Sarah Teichler
April 28 - OPEN

Please sign up to host coffee hour. You can buddy up with a friend or a group or committee can host. It can be a good opportunity to showcase a favorite dessert....
You do not have to provide a feast, we are not picky!

St. Matthew's Outreach

Food Cart

14 non-perishable food items were delivered to the Salvation Army "Harvest of Love" food bank in March. Please remember those who don't have enough to eat.

Soldiers & Shut Ins

We have recently received the sad news that Kathleen Leid has passed away. There will be a service for her here at St. Matthew's on Saturday, April 13. Please watch for more details.

We have 1 shut in on our board at this time. Jerry Collier is presently at Kansas Christian Home, 1035 S. E. 3rd, Newton, KS.....RM. 410

If anyone has a loved one that is homebound or in a nursing home, and would like them to receive cards and visits....please contact Melissa, and we can add them to the board.

Valentine Cards

Our wonderful card group made beautiful Valentine cards that everyone signed for our college students, soldiers, shut ins, assorted friends, and members of St. Matthew's. We are so blessed to have this wonderful group. Everyone is always welcome to participate in this outreach opportunity.

Upcoming Outreach

UTO (United Thank Offering) on May 5th. Details to follow. Get those Blue Boxes filled up and bring them in on May 5th.



Please join
Deacon Barbara Gibson
and company
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.





**Altar Guild Team for
April 2024**

Twila Lockaby, Ruth Cooper,
Scott McCloud, Maggie Snow



**Altar Flowers for
April 2024**

April 7

Easter Lilies

April 14

Fred Schroeder

"For Blessings Received"

April 21

Steve and Darla Stonehouse

"For Blessings Received"

April 28

Barb Plummer and Jan Plummer and family

"In loving memory of Evelyn Bacon"

Blessed are you

The Beatitudes receive little attention, lamented novelist Kurt Vonnegut. "But, often with tears in their eyes, [Christians] demand that the Ten Commandments be posted in public buildings. And, of course, that's Moses, not Jesus. I haven't heard [anyone] demand that the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, be posted anywhere."

Jesus' Beatitudes have much to teach about selflessness, mourning, peacemaking and more. Jim Berger, author of *Being Sermon on the Mount Christians*, explains that those teachings were once "viewed as a mandate for the faithful." Post-Reformation, they became less law-like and more of a "liberating directive." Berger writes, "For Jesus, being and doing are inseparable. The Sermon is at once theory and praxis. It is not enough to read it or hear it. Jesus intends it to be how we live."

..... **THE BEATITUDES**

Matt. 5:3-12

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Bible Quiz

What does the newly risen Jesus tell his disciples – twice – when he appears in the locked room where they are hiding?

- A. "Love one another as I have loved you."
- B. "Peace be with you."
- C. "The last shall be first and the first shall be last."
- D. "I am risen!"



Answer: B (See John 20:19, 21.)



Parish Council Meeting

The St. Matthew's Parish Council will meet on Saturday, April 27 at 10:00 am. We will be talking about and planning for the next few months here at the church. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

The JOY of Jesus

The joy that Jesus offers his disciples is his own joy, which flows from his intimate communion with the One who sent him. It is a joy that does not separate happy days from sad days, successful moments from moments of failure, experiences of honor from experiences of dishonor, passion from resurrection.

This joy is a divine gift that does not leave us during times of illness, poverty, oppression or persecution. It is present even when the world laughs or tortures, robs or maims, fights or kills. It is truly ecstatic, always moving us away from the house of fear into the house of love, and always proclaiming that death no longer has the final say, though its noise remains loud and its devastation visible. The joy of Jesus lifts up life to be celebrated.



— *"Jesus Christ, Liberator" now commonly known as "Laughing Jesus" originally created by Willis Wheatley, a Canadian artist.*

Dear Members of Saint Matthews,

I am continuing to update the Prayer Chain. I need to know if you wish to continue being part of the prayer chain or if you would like to have your name removed. If you are interested in joining the Prayer Chain, please talk to me after church, email or call.

Mary Upton, Prayer Chain Coordinator
316-841-1736

Prayer Chain Practices

- Requests are submitted directly to Mary Upton, or you may call the church office at 316-283-3310.
- The first name of the person for whom prayers are requested will be shared unless a last name is needed to avoid confusion.
- The reason for the request should be brief.
- Prayer Chain is not shared with others outside the prayer chain without their permission.
- Without permission, the name will not be shared on Sunday during Prayers of the People.
- Participants on the Prayer Chain will receive a list divided into groups based on the way that they need to be contacted.

St. Matthew's Prayer Chain

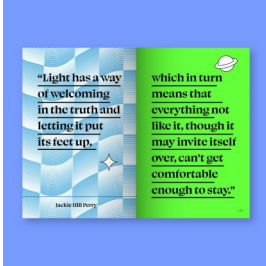
If you have a request for prayers for yourself or others, contact Mary Upton at

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.





Junior High Retreat registration on-going



Youth in grades 6-8 are invited to explore the identity they have been given through their faith. It's a new program, with new activities, and all-new experience this year!

This event also includes the popular PEEPS OLYMPICS ... that's right, we've got a variety of games all played with those sugary Easter treats! And no junior high event would be the same with out a TALENT SHOW!

High school youth are invited to lead younger students through exploring their identity through faith...and plan and lead the peeps olympics!

When: April 27-28, 2024 (youth and adult staff arrive April 26)

Where: St. Michael & All Angels, Mission

Who: Youth in grades 6-8 ... those in grades 9-12 are needed serve on staff

Fee: \$65 (includes all meals and your own workbook!), youth staff get a \$10 discount.

Priority deadline: Friday, April 19

More info and sign-up online at: edokformation.wordpress.com/junior-high-retreat

Episcopal Summer Camp registration on-going

Camp Wood YMCA features a variety of activities such as horseback riding, archery, climbing tower, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, water slide, mud slide, arts and crafts, and sports. The volunteer Episcopal staff provides solid Christian education, featuring worship, music, small group discussions, and prayer.



When: June 2-8, 2024

Where: Camp Wood YMCA, Elmdale, KS

Who: Young people in grades 3-12 for 2023-24 school year (you must have *finished* third grade to attend)

Cost: \$525 through May 1, *payment plans are available.*

Registration: [online via UltraCamp](https://edokformation.wordpress.com/camp); priority deadline is Wednesday, May 1

Scholarships: You can apply for scholarships on the registration form. **St. Matthew's also has scholarships available!**

Want to serve on Episcopal Camp staff?

We need close to 50 adult volunteers to make camp happen. If you love working with young people, and want to experience a life-giving, spirit-filled week, [sign-up here](#). *Note: signing-up does not guarantee you will be approved to be a staff member. The Youth Missioner will be in touch.*



Outdoor Spring Workday—Saturday, April 20th, 10:00 am

Let's get together and make the surroundings of St. Matthew's look good.

Bring your rakes, clippers, hedge trimmers, and other favorite yard tools and our gardeners can tell us where to put them to use. Some leaves need to go, low hanging limbs on trees, and some roses and shrubs need to be clipped.



Earth Day, celebrated on **April 22**, is a wonderful opportunity to **honor our planet** and take meaningful actions to protect it. Here are some ways you can celebrate Earth Day:

Walk or Ride Your Bike: Going car-free for the day reduces harmful carbon emissions. Even if it's just for one day, walking or biking makes a difference. If your daily commute is too far, consider using public transportation, carpooling, or exploring electric or hybrid cars in the future.

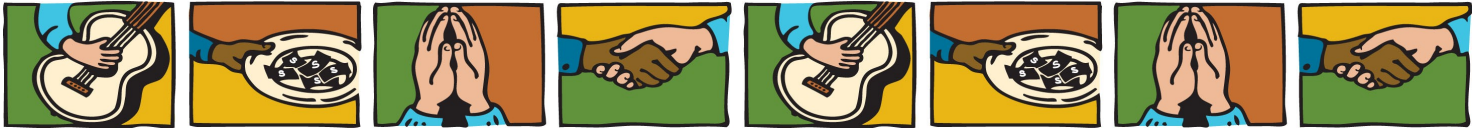
Go on a Nature Walk: Spend time outdoors and appreciate the beauty of our world. Explore nature trails at your local park, go bird watching, visit a botanical garden, or plan a beach day with friends or family.

Plant a Tree: This simple act has a lasting impact. Trees save energy, clean pollution, prevent erosion, and provide homes for wildlife. Choose a native tree species, find the right planting spot, and water it well to give it a good start. You can also participate in community tree-planting events or donate to environmental non-profits that plant trees on your behalf.

Pick Up Litter: Whether individually or as part of a community group, take a moment to pick up litter you encounter. Keeping our surroundings clean contributes to a healthier planet.

Scatter Wildflower Seeds: Choose native wildflowers and scatter their seeds. Wildflowers support local ecosystems, attract pollinators, and add beauty to your surroundings. Let's beautify our world!

Remember, every small action counts. Let's celebrate Earth Day by appreciating nature, raising awareness, and making a positive impact!



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!

	April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28
Season	2nd Sunday of Easter	3rd Sunday of Easter	4th Sunday of Easter	5th Sunday of Easter
Service	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Communion in the absence of a Priest (ComAP)	Holy Eucharist
Leaders	Fr. Richard Osborne	Fr. Richard Osborne	Mary Anne McCloud Maggie Snow	Fr. Richard Osborne
Lectors	Ruth Cooper	Elizabeth Hill	Jeremy Kitto	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	Open	Rick and Mary Beck	Chris and Sarah Teichler	Open
Altar Flowers	Easter Lilies	Fred Schroder <i>"For Blessings Received"</i>	Darla and Steve Stonehouse <i>"For Blessings Received"</i>	Barb Plummer and Jan Plummer and family <i>"in Loving Memory of Evelyn Bacon"</i>
Acolyte & LEM	Ruth Cooper	Karen Wall		Fred Schroeder
Organist	Kelli Glann	Chris Teichler	Chris Teichler	Kelli Glann

Evening Prayer: every Wednesday night at 6:30 in the St. Matthew's Covey Chapel