



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
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The Messenger

From the Interim Pastor—Fr. Richard Osborne



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*...one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind
and straining forward to what lies ahead,
I press on toward the goal for the prize
of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 3:13-14

The truly Christian memory is adept at forgetting what needs to be forgotten and remembering what needs to be remembered. It can sort through the remembrances of a lifetime, tossing out the bad, saving the good. It can discriminate.

We sometimes regret our inability to remember, but we often ignore our failure to forget. We lose sight of the fact that Christ has made us his own. Because of him, our goal is not to collect all the data of our lifetimes, but, as Paul puts it, to concentrate on “the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”

When we fail to forgive, we retain memories which become intolerable baggage on the inward journey. When we cling to resentments

and jealousies, we cripple ourselves with increasing bitterness. Whenever we refuse to let go of the trivial, we sap our strength for shouldering what's essential.

As we grow in age and in grace, we should remember that people suffer more depression and despair because they can't forgive and forget than because they can't remember.

Forgiveness is a beautiful form of forgetfulness. This Christian absentmindedness is truly heaven-sent.





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, May 18 after church.
- * PEF will meet on May 4 after church

Prayer for the Search of our Next Rector

Almighty God, look graciously on the people of St. Matthew's.

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





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

May Birthdays

May 1 - Ethan Moulds
May 6—Erik Jantz
May 7—Drew Holstine
May 8—Cathy Woodward
May 9—Brie Plummer, Amanda Irving
May 11—Ashley Lundblom-Hinderliter, Cathie Ashcraft
May 14—Mark Ekerberg
May 26—Haley Southern
May 31—Stephanie Lindgren

May Baptisms

May 8—Elizabeth (Betsy) Robb
May 9—Matthew Bogner

May Confirmations

May 3—Margie Knupp, Mary Beck
May 12—Charles Craig
May 14—Darla Stonehouse
May 17—Jennifer Beck, Jordan Orr, Betsy Robb, Rose Jones, Jordan Loyd, Darlene Hall, Elizabeth Hill
May 23—Mike Loyd
May 28—Drew Holstine
May 31—Ruth Cooper, Cathie Collier Ashcraft

If you know of other birthday, confirmation, or baptism dates that are not listed, or any corrections, please contact the office so they can be included. Thank you.

May 2025 Coffee Hour Hosts



May 4—Open
May 11—Mother's Day
May 18—Fred Schroeder
May 25—Open

There are plenty of openings to host coffee hour. It doesn't have to be a fancy spread, or break your budget. We are not picky!!

St. Matthew's Outreach

Food Cart

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

UTO (United Thank Offering)

It's that time again!
Our annual UTO ingathering will be on May 25th. Monies collected will help commutes worldwide. There will be UTO boxes available, plus info to give online. There will also be envelopes that Sunday to put in the alms basins. More info to come!

Easter Cards

Easter cards were mailed to our college students, shut ins, and friends of St. Matthew's. Thanks to all for participating in this outreach!

New Jerusalem Mission

We collected a total of 96 food and personal items, and \$100.00, that were donated to the New Jerusalem Mission during Lent. Thank you!



We have lots of gardeners here at St. Matthew's. Many who could give us lots of advice. Here are a few things to help anyone that needs to get their garden and yard ready for summer! Thanks to all the people who keep the flowers, lawn and trees healthy and looking beautiful here at St. Matthew's. Happy Gardening!

May Garden Calendar

Blooming flowers and healthy grass are signs of one of the best months for gardening in Kansas. Wildlife, bird, and insect activity also picks up this time of year.

Vegetables and Fruits

- Plant tomato, pepper, and eggplant transplants in early May
- Seed sweet corn, cucumbers, squash, beans, and other warm season vegetables
- Lightly cultivate soil with a hoe to control weed growth
- Mound soil around potato plants to encourage tuber formation
- Harvest fresh asparagus until the spear size decreases
- Remove rhubarb seed stalks to encourage leaf growth
- Plant kitchen herbs for summer use in dishes or food preservation
- Treat fruit trees with needed pesticides to control insects and disease
- Thin heavy fruit set on apples to increase fruit size and next year's crop

Flowers

- Plant annual flowers for summer color
- Continue to plant and divide perennials
- Mulch perennial and annual gardens for weed control and moisture retention
- Begin pinching chrysanthemums for bushier plants
- Do not remove foliage from spring bulbs until it dies down naturally, this develops stronger blooms for next year
- Plant container gardens and hanging baskets using a good quality potting mix

- Keep a garden journal for permanent reference

Lawns

- Reduce thatch layers from zoysia by verti cutting or core aerating
- Sod or sprig zoysia lawns to fill in bare areas
- Fertilize zoysia lawns with high nitrogen to promote green up and summer growth
- Mow zoysia at 1 to 2 inches tall
- Apply slow release nitrogen fertilizer to bluegrass and tall fescue to promote summer growth if watering during the summer. Lower maintenance lawns skip this application
- Mow bluegrass and tall fescue at 3 inches
- Spot treat broadleaf weeds
- Withhold early summer watering until needed to promote more drought tolerant lawns

Trees and Shrubs

- Plant new trees and shrubs
- Prune spring flowering shrubs after bloom to shape plant and encourage flowers next year
- Mulch around young trees and shrubs to conserve moisture and control weed growth
- Water young ornamentals as needed
- Remove tree wraps for summer growth
- Remove tree stakes that have been in place more than one growing season
- Fertilize trees to help increase growth rates
- Caution, use line trimmers around trees and shrubs so as not to damage tender bark

Houseplants

- Move plants outdoors for summer by gradually increasing the exposure to sunlight
- Fertilize plants to promote summer development
- Rotate plants to develop a well-rounded plant
- Wash dusty leaves in the shower under room temperature water
- Four to six inch cuttings are a great way to start new plants, root in potting mix under low light
- Repot plants into a one-inch larger pot
- Check for insects



Book of Leviticus

Third book of the Bible

Please join us for this intriguing study starting May 4, 2025 at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Hidden Blessings

The book of Leviticus begins, "And then he [YHWH] called to Moses and spoke to him from the Tent of Meeting" (1:1). Although this is the beginning of Leviticus, the narrative does not begin here. Leviticus is one part of Israel's Primary Narrative (Genesis – 2 Kings, minus Ruth), and it continues where Exodus left off: "And the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of YHWH filled the Tabernacle. Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of YHWH filled the Tabernacle" (Exodus 40:34-35).

The first 'hidden blessing' in Leviticus can be found in the phrase "from the Tent of Meeting" (1:1). Moses is neither inside the cloud nor the Tabernacle; he is in the courtyard. YHWH called out to Moses where he was among Aaron and all Israel. And as one among all Israel, Moses had to learn the requirements for bringing an offering to YHWH.

The second 'hidden blessing' in Leviticus can be found in the second verse of the first chapter, "He [YHWH] spoke to the sons of Israel and said to them, 'if/when a person brings an offering from among you...' (1:2). The word translated as "person" is the Hebrew word *אָדָם* (*adam*). 'adam is not the personal name "Adam" that we find elsewhere in Scripture; it refers to people, as a collective whole. Thus, 'adam includes every male and female. However, this expression is more profound within Leviticus because it includes the resident alien, foreigner, and slave, among whom Moses and Aaron and numbered.

In the presence of God, we are all equal: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28). These 'hidden blessings' are a mere taste of what Leviticus has to offer, should we look for them.

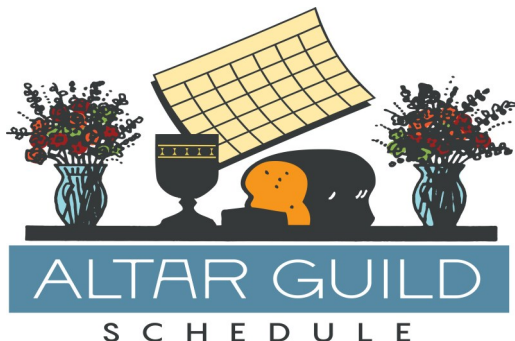
I encourage you to join me this summer as we journey through this book of blessings – Leviticus – where we will discover the heart of God for his people, you and me and our neighbors. We will meet at 9 am on Sunday mornings prior to the service. Please be on the lookout for more details this month.

Jeremy Kitto



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.



Altar Team for May

Karen Wall, Melissa Keenan,
George Whiteside,
Kala Whiteside, Ginger King

Altar Flowers for May:

May 4

Mary Upton

*"In loving memory of Jim Upton,
Kay Geiman, Marian Helmer
and thanksgiving for Maggie and Lennon"*

May 11

Mike and Jill Loyd

*"In loving memory of Mary Ellen, Paul,
and Tom Loyd"*

May 18

Thea Ferguson

"For Blessings Received"

May 25

Kala and George Whiteside

"In memory of Jace Garrett Kinzie"

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



Please join
Deacon Barbara Gibson
and company
for Evening Prayer
every Wednesday
at 6:00 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

I volunteer at Newton Medical. I see patients and offer them magazines, newspapers, puzzle books, and other items to make their hospital stay a bit more enjoyable. If you have magazine subscriptions, we could use the magazines you've finished to donate to patients. Some of the popular ones are People, AARP, Better Homes and Gardens, travel, cooking, hobbies, gardening, and Reader's Digest. I will put a container under the stairs, and you can leave them for me to take to the hospital.

Thank you, Chris Simmonds





EASTER SEASON

- The primary focus of the Liturgical Year
- Easter celebrates the wonder and joy of Christ's resurrection
- Lasts for 50 days after Easter, until Pentecost
- The Sunday readings will focus appearances of the risen Christ and the growth of the early Church
- It is a time of joy and hope because we can hope for our own Resurrection and eternal life
- 2 special feasts:
 - The Ascension of Jesus: 40 days after Easter
 - The Coming of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost): 50 days after Easter
- Colour: White, then Red (Pentecost)



member spotlight

William Beck

I was born and raised in Colby, Kansas to Bill and Miriam Beck. I was the youngest of three children and my sisters, Pam and Cathy, were 10 and 8 years older so I was definitely spoiled. My father taught band in the public schools and we were all musicians, myself playing the trumpet which I continued into college, playing in the symphonic and marching bands at KU. Colby had about 100 students in each graduating class so being a small 3A school at that time, allowed many opportunities to participate in multiple activities, including sports year-round. I was in scouting and became an Eagle Scout, as did my youngest son Alex. Our family attended the United Methodist church regularly; I have fond memories of the wonderful structure before it was razed after I left. I still today try to imagine all the details and ambiance of it as I walk from room to room in my mind.

I attended KU and graduated with a BA in Chemistry in May 1977. While in college I lived in the Delta Upsilon fraternity. The first summer after my freshman year, I went to summer school and lived at the fraternity on the 2nd floor. The third floor was rented out to women summer students and that is where I met Mary. After graduation Mary and I were married at St. Matthew's on June 11, 1977 by Father Jerry Jones. He left shortly afterwards for gambling with money from the discretionary fund. Mary and I lived in Valley Falls for our first year of marriage where she taught English in the high school. Valley Falls was where my mother grew up and my father taught music. I started medical school at KU in Kansas

City the following year. Mary and I loved our eight years in Kansas City, the four years at KU Medical school, a year in internal medicine at St. Luke's Hospital and 3 years of ophthalmology residency at KUMC. Mary completed her MBA at Rockhurst during that time while teaching English and Spanish. Our first son Chris was born in Kansas City in 1983.

We moved to Newton in 1987 and Jennifer our daughter was born soon afterwards. First, we rented Mary's grandmother's old home on Morningside Road. Then we moved into our present home on Hillcrest Road in 1990 and have lived there ever since. Alex, our third child, was born in 1991.

Chris lives in NYC with his wife Charly, and he works as the Education Director for Planet Labs. Jennifer is married to Brian; they have one child, Juniper, and live in Prairie Village, Kansas. Jen is a graphic designer for an advertising company in NYC. Alex is married to Nicole and they have two sons, Reid and Ellis. They live in Kansas City, Missouri, and Alex works as a geographer in an engineering firm.

Despite being raised a Methodist, I started attending St. Matthew's with Mary after moving to Newton. Father Mike Combs visited us and asked me to join the church softball and volleyball teams. More importantly I was drawn to the church by the inclusive, caring members. Before long, I was helping with the Pancake Supper and serving on Vestry. By coincidence, the philosophy of *tolerance for others* that is embraced by the Episcopal Church is a perfect fit for my world view.

—Rick



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 [Parent Handbook](#) 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: [online via UltraCamp](#) the priority deadline is May 1. [Register by clicking here.](#)

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.



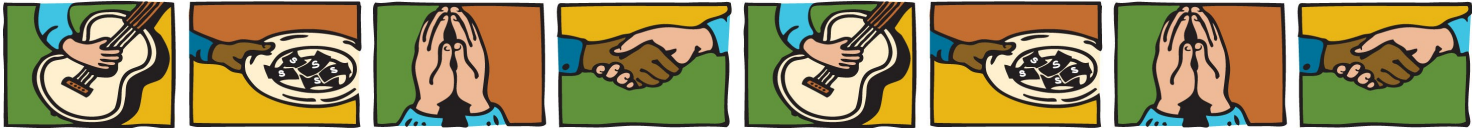
Everyday saints

Everyday things, relationships with other people, daily work, love of our family — all these may breed saints.

Jesus of Nazareth taught us to live every hour of the day as saints. Every hour of the day is useful and may lead to divine inspiration, the will of the Father, the prayer of contemplation — holiness. Every hour of the day is holy. What matters is to live it as Jesus taught us.

And for this, one does not have to shut oneself in a monastery or fix strange and inhumane [regimens] for one's life. It is enough to accept the realities of life. Work is one of these realities; motherhood, the rearing of children, family life with all its obligations are others.

—Carlo Carretto, Letters From the Desert



Here is the worship schedule for May. 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!

	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25
Season	The Third Sunday of Easter	The Fourth Sunday of Easter	The Fifth Sunday of Easter	The Sixth Sunday of Easter
Service	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist
Leader s	Deacon Barbara Gibson	Fr. Richard Osborne Deacon Barbara	Fr. Richard Osborne Deacon Barbara	Fr. Richard Osborne Deacon Barbara
LEM& Acolyte	Karen Wall Asa Garner Micah Garner	Elizabeth Hill Ruth Cooper	Maggie Snow Asa Garner Micah Garner	Fred Schroeder
Lector— Lessons	Jeremy Kitto	Mary Upton	Jeremy Kitto	Maggie Snow
Lector— Psalm	Darlene Hall	Elizabeth Hill	Rick Glover	Mary Upton
Ushers (2)	Melissa Keenan	Kala Whiteside	Rick Glover	Melissa Keenan
	Mary Upton	George Whiteside	Mary Upton	Mary Werner
Counters (2)	Twila Lockaby	Fred Schroeder	Mary Upton	Margie Knupp
	Margie Knupp	David Simmonds	Fred Schroder	Mary Upton
Altar Flowers	Mary Upton "In loving memory of Jim Upton, Kay Geiman, Marian Helmer and thanks- giving for Maggie and Lennon"	Mike and Jill Loyd "In loving memory of Mary Ellen, Paul, and Tom Loyd"	Thea Ferguson "For Blessings Received"	Kala and George Whiteside "In memory of Jace Garrett Kinzie"
Coffee Hour Hosts	Open	Mother's Day	Fred Schroeder	Open
Organist Flutist	Chris Teichler Sarah Teichler	Chris Teichler Sarah Teichler	Chris Teichler Sarah Teichler	Kelli Glann Sarah Teichler

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