



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



2
0
2
5

Let God Be God

“Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?”

...Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; Yet I tell you, even Solomon and all his glory was not clothed like one of these. Matthew 6:26-29

Perhaps I speak for you, too, when I confess that I tend to waste my energies in regretting the past and worrying about the future. I've lost many present moments in this self-defeating process. Even though I know that there's only one who can cover the past with forgiveness and light the future with promise – and I know that his name is God – I often forget to let him be God. I forget what I've always known: that God takes care of his creatures.

When Jesus draws our attention to the birds and the lilies, he seems to be saying, “Be at peace with God's plan for you. Do only what you're equipped to do, and let God take care of the rest” the birds don't worry about things they can't do – like sowing and reap-

ing. And the lilies aren't bothered by the fact that they can't toil or spin. God feeds them and clothes them and frees them to do what they do best: the birds to sing, the lilies to grow in beauty and fragrance.

My distrust of God is my great burden. He knows this, and so he invites me to rest in his promise, to accept my humanity and rejoice in my dependence on him. He offers me this golden key to each new day: Let God be God.





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
Adult Study 9:00 am Sunday morning
Evening Prayer 6:00 pm Wednesday

- * St. Matthew's Vestry meeting will be Sunday, June 15 after church.
- * St. Matthew's Search Committee meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 22 after church.
- * A Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 21 at 10:00 am.

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



Search Committee Update:

Our Parish Profile has been submitted to the Diocese to be posted online in search of our new priest. When we get some candidates, we'll start the interview process. I hope to have a Search Committee meeting the fourth Sunday in June. During that meeting, we will formulate questions that we deem important to ask the candidates during the interviews.

We will have our Vestry meeting the third Sunday of June. If anyone has questions or concerns, please talk to me before our meeting. We have thought about having a presence at the Taste of Newton again. If there are any other community events that you think we should be involved in, please let me know.

Rick Glover
Senior Warden



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

June Birthdays

June 1 - James Lawrence Upton
June 11 - Jenna Teichler
June 13 - Chris Snow
June 24 - Sarah Teichler
June 26 - Barbara Gibson
June 29 - Margie Knupp, Brennan Parker Wald
June 30—Beckham Ducimetiere

June Baptisms

June 3 - William Christopher Beck, Charles Joseph Collier, Mollie (Collier) Partridge
June 4 - Brandon Ashcraft
June 7 - Ryan Simmonds

June Confirmations

June 3 - William Christopher Beck



June 2025 Coffee Hour Hosts



June 1 - Twila Lockaby
June 8 - Chris and Dave Simmonds
June 15 - Father's day/ OPEN
June 22 - Chris and Sarah Teichler
June 29 - OPEN

Please sign up to host coffee hour. You can buddy up with a friend, a group or committee. Your favorite dessert can be a hit, or it can be simple. We are not picky!! Any questions or concerns, please contact Melissa K. Thanks!!

St. Matthew's Outreach

Food Cart

16 non perishable food items were delivered to the Salvation Army "Harvest of Love" food bank in May. As everyone enjoys their summer vacations, and fun....please remember that hunger never takes a vacation.

Soldiers & Shut Ins

We currently do not have anyone on our shut in board. If you have a loved one and would like to have them receive cards and visits, please let us know! A picture to put on the board and some info about your person would be greatly appreciated!

UTO

The United Thank Offering (UTO) is Sunday, June 1st. There will be envelopes, and info for online donations. If writing a check, please make it out to St. Matthew's...with UTO in the memo. Thank you.

Upcoming outreach

Back to school in July
(more info to come)



Book of Leviticus

Third book of the Bible

Please join us for this intriguing study every Sunday morning at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

In the *Africa Bible Commentary*, Rev. Dr. Felix L. Chingota articulates a popular belief about Leviticus: "The instructions answer the question: How should profane and sinful Israel arrange its entire existence around the wondrous Holy One who has come to be in its midst? The answer was critical to Israel's continued existence in the promised land" (p.129).

Rev. Chingota describes the people of Israel as "profane and sinful." However, if Israel were truly profane and sinful, would we not expect the first sacrifices in the book of Leviticus to deal with their depravity? Leviticus does not begin with such offerings; rather, it begins with voluntary offerings, three to be exact (burnt, grain, and well-being). Why would Leviticus begin with voluntary offerings if Israel's profane and sinful state were of utmost importance? Leviticus is the third book of Israel's Primary Narrative (Genesis – 2 Kings, minus Ruth). The book of Exodus precedes Leviticus and, I believe, characterizes Israel differently.

When the time came for Israel to build the tabernacle, God's dwelling place, they abundantly gave – as a "freewill offering" – items that were necessary for its construction (cf., Exodus 25:1-9; 35:4-29; 36:2-7).

Israel is not characterized as a profane and sinful people at the end of Exodus; they were characterized by their hearts which prompted them to give freely to God from their own possessions.

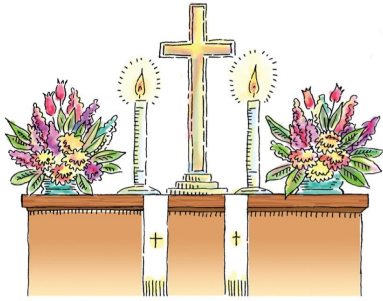
Perhaps Leviticus begins with voluntary offerings because Israel had a giving spirit. Perhaps these offerings come first because the focus is on Israel and their abundant giving, not on God. What do you think?

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 to someone that asks for help with a utility bill, rent, food or anything else that is presented to Fr. Richard. Please be generous.





Altar Guild

Altar Guild Team for June

Margie Knupp, Chris Simmonds,
Katie Reese, Elizabeth Hill

Altar Flowers for June

June 1

Charlie & Nancy Craig and Mary & Rick Beck
*"In loving memory of Dr. Richard and Betty Glover,
Margaret Hollingsworth, Marguerite and
Dr. Harold Glover."*

June 8

Bill Upton
"In loving memory of Jim Upton"

June 15

Mary Werner
"For blessings of children"

June 22

Margie Knupp
"In loving memory of Hal and Patty Knupp"

June 29

Stephanie and Katherine Lindgren
"In celebration of life"

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



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.

Thank you for doing your part to help our neighbors.



Everyone is encouraged to wear red on Pentecost Sunday, June 8th. Maybe your St. Matthew's shirt?

The color red signifies the "tongues of flame" that appeared among the disciples at Pentecost.

The birthday of the Church is celebrated on Pentecost, which occurs 50 days after Easter. This event marks the day when the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles, empowering them to spread the message of Jesus Christ and establishing the beginning of the Church. Pentecost serves as a reminder of the transformative power of the Holy Spirit and the unity of believers in Christ.

Pentecost and Season after Pentecost (Ordinary Time), Year C

We remain Easter people, now with the wind of the Holy Spirit in our sails. Our task for the months ahead in this season of Ordinary Time, which extends to the end of November, is to look at what Jesus so tenaciously taught his disciples and see what is in these teachings for us as we carry out the work we have been given to do. Jesus promised his disciples a helper, an Advocate, who would stand with them making the work possible. This same helper, the Holy Spirit, hovers over us still eager to quench the fire of fear and replace it with the powerful energy of love.



First Sunday after Pentecost—Trinity Sunday

Trinity Sunday is a feast that celebrates "the one and equal glory" of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, "in Trinity of Persons and in Unity of Being". It is celebrated on the first Sunday after Pentecost. Trinity Sunday is a day for the church to celebrate how it understands God and how it lives out that understanding. It is an opportunity for us to wrestle with, to struggle with, to celebrate the meaning of God in our lives and in the life of our faith community.





Episcopal Summer Mega Camp at Camp Wood YMCA

Please pray for all the kids and counselors at Camp Wood June 1-7, 2025. May they have lots of fun, learn about God and His Love for them, and find new friends and reconnect with old friends.



We pray especially for the campers and staff who will participate in Episcopal Summer Camp June 1—June 7.

God our Father, you see your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world:

Show them that your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following you is better than chasing after selfish goals.

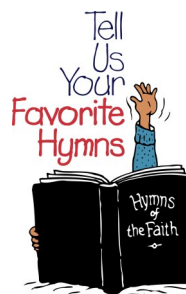
Help them to take failure, not as a measure of their worth, but as a chance for a new start.

Give them strength to hold their faith in you,
and to keep alive their joy in your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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.



Do you have a favorite hymn that you wish we would sing? Or maybe a hymn that you haven't heard for awhile and would like for us to sing on Sunday?

Then we want to hear from you! There is a form on the table at the back of the church that you can indicate a hymn or two that you would like to have Jerry add to the schedule for Sunday Worship.

These songs will be worked in during the summer months. Can't wait to hear your favorite hymns!



Honoring Twila Lockaby
After over 25 years of Service as
Altar Guild Director
She is turning over the Linens

A luncheon in honor of Twila was hosted by Katie Reese, Margie Knupp, and Chris Simmonds and attended by present Altar Guild members on Saturday, May 3rd.

We are thankful for the over 25 years Twila has served on the St. Matthew's Altar Guild. No one, including Twila, can remember exactly what year she took over as Director! But looking through old Annual Meeting notes, we know she was the Director in 1999.

Her service to St. Matthew's Church and the people of St. Matthew's will not be forgotten.

Twila's dedication to ensuring everything was set on the Altar as desired by the Priest and Deacon, and her attention to detail have always created a beautiful Altar here at St. Matthew's.

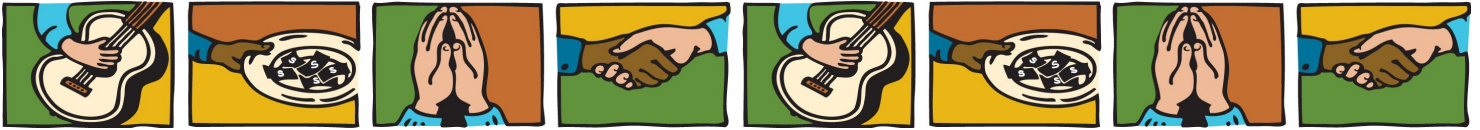
Of course, she is not going anywhere. She continues to serve on the Altar Guild and will remain a dedicated member of St. Matthew's.

Thank you, Twila.



Congratulations to Benjamin Teichler on his graduation from Newton High School. He celebrated with a party on May 17 at St. Matthew's with his family and friends. Benjamin will be attending Tabor College in Hillsboro next year majoring in Computer Science and Software Engineering. And most likely playing in the band! We wish you all the best next year!





Here is the worship schedule for June. 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!

	June 1	June 8	June 15	June 22	June 29
Season	The 7th Sunday of Easter	Pentecost	The 1st Sunday after Pentecost Trinity Sunday	The 2nd Sunday after Pentecost	The 3rd Sunday after Pentecost
Service	Communion in the Absence of a Priest	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	Fr. Richard Osborne Deacon Barbara
LEM& Acolyte	Mary Anne McCloud Ruth Cooper	Karen Wall Chris Iserhardt	Maggie Snow Ruth Cooper	Elizabeth Hill Chris Iserhardt	Fred Schroeder
Lector— Lessons	Jeremy Kitto	Fred Schroeder	Jeremy Kitto	Mary Upton	Rick Glover
Lector— Psalm	Elizabeth Hill	Kala Whiteside	Darlene Hall	Maggie Snow	Elizabeth Hill
Ushers (2)	Rick Glover	Elizabeth Hill	Rick Glover	Kala Whiteside	Melissa Keenan
	Mary Upton	Melissa Keenan	Mary Werner	George Whiteside	Elizabeth Hill
Counters (2)	Twila Lockaby	Mary Upton	Margie Knupp	Mary Upton	David Simmonds
	Margie Knupp	Fred Schroeder	David Simmonds	Fred Schroeder	Twila Lockaby
Altar Flowers	Charlie & Nancy Craig and Mary & Rick Beck "In loving memory of Dr. Richard and Betty Glover, Margaret Hollingsworth, Marguerite and Dr. Harold Glover."	Bill Upton "In loving memory of Jim Upton"	Mary Werner "For blessings of children"	Margie Knupp "In loving memory of Hal and Patty Knupp"	Stephanie and Katherine Lindgren "In celebration of life"
Coffee Hour Hosts	Twila Lockaby	Chris and Dave Simmonds	Father's day/ OPEN	Chris and Sarah Teichler	Open
Organist Flutist	Kelli Glann Sarah Teichler	Chris Teichler Sarah Teichler	Chris Teichler Sarah Teichler	Kelli Glann Sarah Teichler	Chris Teichler Sarah Teichler

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