



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



Persistence in Prayer

This Sunday as I am writing this, we heard a request from the disciples asking Jesus to teach them how to pray! With Jesus's response, the Christian community receives the prayer that is central to its faith. It is not a private prayer. The petitions are expressed in the plural. Pray this way, says Jesus.: give us, forgive us, save us. This community – gathered or separated – voices its common need and its trust in the creator of the universe.

The teaching on prayer then continues with the almost humorous story of the persistent, annoying friend who will not let his neighbor get any rest until his need is met. Not unlike Abraham, who insistently argues with God over the lives of those who live in Sodom, this needy neighbor gains what he needs through persistence. “Knock,” says Jesus, “and the door will be open for you.”

Such advice should not be construed, however, as permission to whine. It is not haranguing, but steadfast courage and trust in God's graciousness that enables the person of faith to knock, knowing that a friend's door will be opened.

Within discipline instruction, Jesus reveals something about the character of God. In contrast to some of the religious leaders of his

time who gave the impression that God is stingy with mercy, Jesus suggests that his Father is lavishly generous in the care of all created things. Thus, when the church gathers in worship, as we did today, the people of God witness this generous giving.

God draws a community of faith together, speaks the word of life, invites us to pray, washes, anoints, and clothes new sisters and brothers in baptism, sets a table before us, and feeds us with the life of the Son in bread and cup.

What a surprise it may be to discover that the door has already been opened and the table set. There are no snakes and scorpions here. There is only the gift of finest wheat.





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 Wednesday

- * St. Matthew's Vestry meeting will be Sunday, August 17 after church.
- * Church Potluck—Sunday, August 31

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



Don't
Forget
Your
Pledge
This Summer

Back to School Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we embark on a new school year, we ask for Your guidance and protection. Help our students to find joy in learning and to build strong friendships. May they feel Your presence in every classroom and hallway. Grant our teachers wisdom and patience as they nurture and educate. We trust in Your plan for each of us. In Jesus' name, 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

August Birthdays

August 6—George Whiteside
August 7 - Charles Craig
August 8 - Daniel Teichler
August 9 - Darlene Hall
August 10 - Elizabeth Hill
August 11 - Benjamin Teichler
August 12 - Alison Loyd
August 14 - Clay Hedrick, Jr., Vince Collier
August 18—Steve King
August 22 - Creed Ekerberg
August 23 - Connie Osborne, Maggie Tyner
August 29 - Joe Robb, Taten Penner

August Baptisms

August 6 - Lance Taylor Woodward, Scott McCloud
August 24 - Caleb Woodward
August 29—Mariah Dove, Valerie McCutcheon

August Confirmations

August 18 - Nyla Friesen

August 2025 Coffee Hour Hosts



August 3—Melissa Keenan
August 10—Scott & Mary Anne McCloud
August 17—Rick and Rochelle Glover
August 24—Open
August 31—Church Potluck!

Please be sure to sign up to host coffee hour. We have plenty of openings... it can be crackers, cookies, fruit, cake... whatever you desire. We are not picky!!

St. Matthew's Outreach

Food Cart

17 non perishable food items were delivered to the Salvation Army "Harvest of Love " food bank in July. Hunger never takes a vacation. Thanks for remembering those who don't have enough to eat.

School supplies

Totals soon for our donation of school supplies for Salvation Army here in Newton.

Soldiers & Shut Ins

Our Shut In board is empty. In you have a loved one who can't get out, or can think of a church member who can no longer come to church....and would like to receive cards and visits, please let us know!! Thanks.

Upcoming Outreach September

We will be collecting items for the New Hope shelter here in Newton.
More info to come.



member spotlight

Long Time Member—Jim Reese

Jim Reese was baptized at St. Matthew's Church when it was located at the corner of Poplar and Broadway. His mother and grandmother were members of the Swedish Lutheran Church in Wichita. When they moved to Newton the Lutheran Church here was Missouri Synod and had closed communion. They became members of St. Matthew's so that they could take communion. This was in the early 1930's. Jim was an acolyte at the Poplar location as well as the current location. Jim had an older brother John who was also active as an acolyte at the Poplar location.

Jim graduated from Newton High School in 1965. He attended Southwestern College in

Winfield where he met and married the lovely Katie Conner. They were married at Grace Episcopal Church in Winfield.

Jim and Katie moved to Newton in 1971. They began attending St. Matthew's and soon became involved with the youth group. In later years Jim was senior warden more than once. Jim continued to be active at St. Matthew's in various positions. Both of his children were baptized and confirmed at St. Matthew's. His daughter was married here and her children were confirmed here.

Jim owned Newton Realty for 30 years. Prior to his real estate career he was in the savings and loan business. Jim retired in 2021.

?? Bible Quiz ??

For years, King David showed special kindness to the son of King Saul's son Jonathan, because David and Jonathan had been dear friends. Which of the following statements is not accurate?

- A. The name of King Saul's grandson was Mephibosheth.
- B. He was lame in both feet.
- C. His feet had been injured when he was 5.
- D. He was injured while playing with his brothers.

Answer: D (See 2 Samuel 4:4; 9:1-7; 21:7)



Honoring the Gift of Work

The Bible affirms both the value and dignity of work. From the beginning, God placed Adam in the garden "to work it and keep it" (Genesis 2:15, ESV). In the fourth commandment, we are reminded not only to observe the Sabbath, but also to labor diligently throughout the week: "Six days you shall labor, and do all your work" (Exodus 20:9).

Work is more than a routine obligation; it is an opportunity to engage our God-given abilities in meaningful ways. Whether using our hands, minds, or hearts, we reflect the image of our Creator—bringing order, care, and creativity into the world.

Our labor allows us to contribute to the common good, find personal fulfillment, and practice faithful stewardship of the talents and strengths God has entrusted to us. As Paul writes, "We are God's fellow workers" (1 Corinthians 3:9, ESV).

As we approach Labor Day, may we take time to recognize the blessing of work and celebrate those who serve, build, teach, lead, & labor with purpose and care.





Swinging

Like a child. I swing back and forth
on the gate of golden hinges
my aging heart walking in the
garden of olden things loving
childhood school days knowledge
books teachers my own teaching
years classrooms of spirited
children youth concerned parents
exuding love of life into my life
with gratitude still swinging back
and forth on life's golden hinges

Joan Breit

Summer 2025

From the Junior Warden:

I have designated August and September as "TAKE A TASK" months. As we did before, this replaces a workday. I will post a list of things that need to be done in and around the church. There are outdoor tasks and indoor tasks. You sign up for what suits you best.



Most of the tasks would be best done by more than one person. You may team up with others or just sign up for part of a task. If you sign up for a task that needs several people make sure you let others know what you have done. Example: cleaning pews--if you did one fourth on back left side--communicate that so someone else doesn't do the same part.

There will be cards with more complete instructions available. Mark on the chart when you have completed the task you signed up to do.

Thank you, Chris Simmonds



You are always welcome here at St. Matthew's.

No matter what is going on in your life, good or bad.

Especially during the summer, you are welcome to come as you are! Shorts and flip flops are welcome!

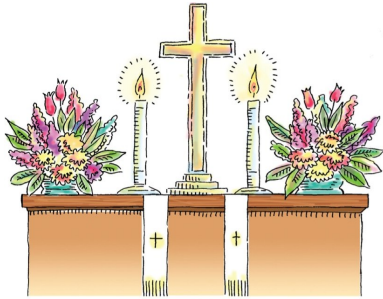
"Come as you are" expresses a foundational truth about God's heart: He opens His arms to anyone, inviting us into His presence without prerequisites. This invitation is anchored in Scripture--seen in Jesus' welcoming posture toward sinners and the New Testament authors' teachings on grace. So Come as You are to St. Matthew's. You are loved.

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.

*Time spent in prayer is
never wasted."*

—François Fénelon



Altar Guild

Altar Guild Team for August

Karen Wall, Melissa Keenan, George Whiteside,
Kala Whiteside

Altar Flowers for August

August 3

Mary Anne and Scott McCloud

"For blessings received"

August 10

Ruth Cooper

"To the Glory of God."

August 17

Elizabeth Hill

"In loving memory of Mary and Elmer Weyand."

August 24

Rich Stinnett and Charlie Robinson

"For blessings received"

August 31

Darlene Hall

"In memory of Charles and Dorothy Elliot."

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**

Don't forget that you can add items
to the Blessing Box anytime. Just
an extra can or two when you are at
the grocery store is appreciated. Please keep the
weather in mind when donating an item. There's
been lots of rain and hot sun this summer.

Thank you for doing your part to help our neighbors.



KITCHEN TEAM



We're wanting to build a fantastic Kitchen Team to keep our space clean, stocked, and ready for events, including potlucks, meetings, weddings and funerals. Want to be part of this awesome crew at St. Matthew's? Everyone's invited! Once we gather enough enthusiastic folks, we'll meet up to plan and organize our team. Thank you so much for helping us bring this group back to life and taking care of our kitchen! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board next to the Host Sign-up, if you're interested in joining the fun and helping out.

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.



Don't miss being here on Sunday, August 31, for an End of Summer Potluck.

It's always a delicious and fun time at a St. Matthew's Potluck so plan to be here! Share your tried and true recipes or try out a new one on us.

Sunday, August 31
After Worship
Parish Potluck

Bring a dish to share

Coffee, Iced Tea and Water will be provided

Jesus' followers aren't meant to pursue faith by themselves. In fact, that's impossible! A family and the body signify plural members. It is among brothers and sisters in Christ that we:

- experience our Savior's presence, living and incarnate;
- unite in worship, confess our sins, hear the gospel and receive Communion;
- accept church discipline through the gentle guidance of others;
- learn — through other people's examples and experiences — what it means to live a life of discipleship;
- and lovingly serve together as Jesus' hands and feet.



Education for Ministry (EfM)

Celebrates 50 Years

There is something about Education for Ministry that makes some of us feel as if we have tumbled down the rabbit hole. Maybe we find ourselves in an encounter like this.



"Who are you?" asked the caterpillar.

This was not an encouraging opening for a conversation.

Alice replied, rather shyly, "I . . . I hardly know, Sir, just at present. At least I know who I was when I got up this morning, but I think I must have changed several times since then."

"What do you mean by that?" said the caterpillar. "Explain yourself."

"I can't explain myself, I'm afraid, Sir," said Alice, "because I'm not myself you see."



That is a conversation about identity. Alice's Wonderland has a Cheshire cat that maintains, "We're all mad here." Alice protests that she is not. The Cat replies, "You must be, or you wouldn't have come here."

Mad or not we keep coming back; finally understanding that there are more doorways into the mystery than we ever knew and that question of 'who are you' is put to us over and over again – requiring new and different responses to address new and different circumstances, companions, challenges.

Living out our baptismal vows is always a journey into the mystery of God and of other human beings – and into the mystery of ourselves.

For half a century an odd adventure called Education for Ministry has confronted a lot of Alice's like us, with the caterpillar's question – "Who are you? Then without warning, the whole process pushed us into the even deeper mystery of "whose" are you?

"A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; you shall be my people, and I will be your God."

Ezekiel 36:26

"Who are you?" asks the world, in every Christian generation. "I hardly know," replies the Church, "just at present. At least I know who I was when I got up this century, but I think I must have changed several times since then." "What do you mean by that?" says the world. "Explain yourself."

EfM is for all the confused and frightened Alices in the Wonderland of our time and place. After the 'who are you' and 'whose are you' questions, EfM has more questions.

"So what?"

What are you going to do about it?

How will we put flesh on God's stories, by how we live, by what we proclaim, by how we dare to act in the name of God for the sake of God's creation?



Week after week, in myriad EfM gatherings all over the country and beyond, how often have you and I tumbled down yet another rabbit hole, facing questions we cannot answer, exploring metaphors we are not sure we like, shocked at the stuff we never learned in Sunday School, invited to commit out loud to do EfM and ministry differently.

But it wasn't a white rabbit who led us to EfM. Rather, a crucified and risen Lord, bids us follow and then a Holy Spirit pushes us one more time, into another blasted rabbit hole –

We are celebrating 50 years of Education for Ministry this year, because of all the ways it has given us the tools to ponder identity, to probe the mystery, to gather community, to take Gospel truth to our troubled world, and to commit ourselves to another half-century of the same.

Adapted a great deal from the Very Rev. Joy Rogers, Focus Lead for Year 3, EfM's 5th Curriculum Revision: at Education for Ministry (EfM) education-forministry@substack.com



Are you looking to deepen your faith?

Do you want to know more about the Bible, Christian Tradition, and Church History? Are you hoping to understand how your personal experiences and beliefs bring you closer to God and God's people?

If "yes," EfM (Education for Ministry) may be for you.

EfM is a four-year Christian Formation program (taken one year at a time) founded and administered through the School of Theology of the University of the South at Sewanee. Through study, prayer, worship, and reflection, EfM seminar groups journey together through scripture, church history, and theology.

A seminar group can be comprised a mentor (Deacon Barbara Gibson) and up to twelve participants. The group meets weekly for 36 times beginning the Wednesday after Labor Day. September 3.

Years 1 & 2 study the Hebrew Scriptures, the Gospels, and the New Testament. Year 3 looks at Church History. Year 4 studies Christian ethics and systematic theology, developing and enhancing their own practice. Wide-Angle is a 1-year "taste" of the traditional four years of the program.

For more information, check out <https://theology.sewanee.edu/education-for-ministry/> or Deacon Barbara at bgibson10@cox.net



Book of Job—Jeremy Kitto

Job is my favorite book in the Bible; it has held me captive since my first semester in seminary, 10 years ago. One reason why I cannot escape the clutches of this book is best explained by Robert Alter, in his book *The Art of Biblical Poetry*: "The choice of the poetic medium for the Job poet... was not merely a matter of giving weight and verbal dignity to a preconceived message but of uncovering or discovering meanings through the resources of poetry" (p. 256)

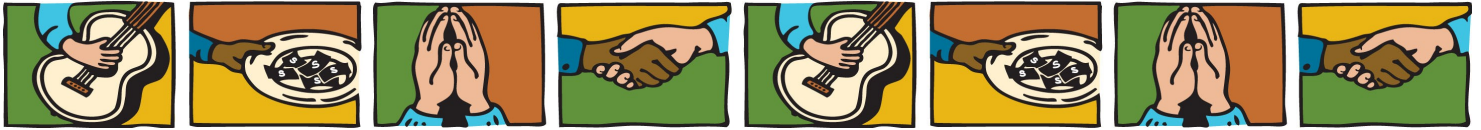
The function of poetry is to "appeal to the whole human person, attending to his emotions, motivations, desires, and imagination" (*Poetic Ethics in Proverbs*, p. 3). As far as I am concerned, Job is poetry, par excellence.

However, the prologue (Job 1:1-2:13) and the epilogue (42:7-17) were not composed in poetry but in prose. The function of prose "is to help the reader hear the voices, take part in the action, [and] get involved in the plot" (*How to read the Bible as Literature*, p. 34).

The prose in Job creates a narrative frame, and it is in this frame that one key to understanding the book is uncovered, namely speech. In the prologue, the satan wants to find a way to make Job curse God (Job 1:11). In the epilogue, we learn that Job spoke the truth about God (Job 42:7). To reinforce the significance of speech in Job, there are 1068 verses in the book, and among them, 1016 are devoted to speech. That is roughly 95%

Speech is an ambiguous expression, and it would be best to be more precise as to what kind of speech the poet is desiring to communicate. I believe one message the poet is communicating is how to speak about God in the midst of suffering, especially with others we are close to, those to whom we would like to say comforting words.

The book of Job is raw, honest, and gut-wrenching. There is hardly any relief while experiencing it. But is that not the point? Even chapter 28, with its Hymn to Wisdom, does not bring relief, but points out that even having wisdom does not ease one's pain. Indeed, the book of Job teaches us that nothing eases the pain; this divinely inspired book is about getting through the pain.



Here is the worship schedule for August 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!

	August 3	August 10	August 17	August 24	August 31
Season	8th Sunday after Pentecost	9th Sunday after Pentecost	10th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Vestry</i>	11th Sunday after Pentecost	12th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Potluck Lunch</i>
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	Ruth Cooper Chris Iserhardt	Elizabeth Hill Maggie Snow	Fred Schroeder Chris Iserhardt
Lector— Lessons	Jeremy Kitto	Mary Upton	Jeremy Kitto	Maggie Snow	Elizabeth Hill
Lector— Psalm	Darlene Hall	Elizabeth Hill	Rick Glover	Mary Upton	Ruth Cooper
Ushers (2)	Melissa Keenan	Elizabeth Hill	Rick Glover	Mary Werner	Kala Whiteside
	Mary Upton		Mary Upton	Melissa Keenan	George Whiteside
Counters (2)	Twila Lockaby	Dave Simmonds	Mary Upton	Margie Knupp	Mary Upton
	Margie Knupp	Fred Schroeder	Fred Schroeder	Twila Lockaby	Dave Simmonds
Altar Flowers	Mary Anne and Scott McCloud "For blessings received"	Ruth Cooper "To the Glory of God."	Elizabeth Hill "In loving memory of Mary and Elmer Weyand."	Rich Stinnett and Charlie Robinson "For blessings received"	Darlene Hall "In memory of Charles and Dorothy Elliot."
Coffee Hour Hosts	Melissa Keenan	Scott and Mary Anne McCloud	Rick and Rochelle Glover	Open	Parish Potluck
Organist Flutist	Chris Teichler 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