



**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

A Note from Fr. Mike Loyd



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EPIPHANY-SEASON OF STARS

I'm using this opportunity to push a book and that book is *A Beautiful Year* by Diana Butler Bass. *A Beautiful Year* is a book of meditations on the seasons of our liturgical church year. Bass takes us through the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Palm Sunday, Easter, and Pentecost. And her reflections and meditations on the scripture readings for each season gives a new appreciation of how special our Christian faith is and how it is filled with wonder, as well as with examples and inspiration to deal with the challenges of our world.

As you know, January is our opening month in the season of Epiphany, and in her book, Bass expresses her opinion that what Epiphany has to offer to us is not always appreciated. Epiphany is often thought of just that period of time between the two big Holy Days of Christmas and Easter. It's cold, it's January and February and we're anxious for spring. But Bass believes that the scripture readings are extremely relevant to our lives. And look at what goes on in our gospel readings for January. We learn that the light and promise given with the birth of Jesus is threatened as Herod begins a horrible infanticide of male babies driven by his obsession of killing this infant of which he has so much about. On another Sunday we have the baptism of Jesus. And then we close off the month with Jesus calling the first disciples and inviting them to "come and see."

Here's some more of what Diana Butler Bass writes concerning the season of Epiphany. "We cannot create epiphanies, but, like the Wise Men, we can respond to them. Epiphanies grab a hold of us, we can't shake them. Epiphany beckons us

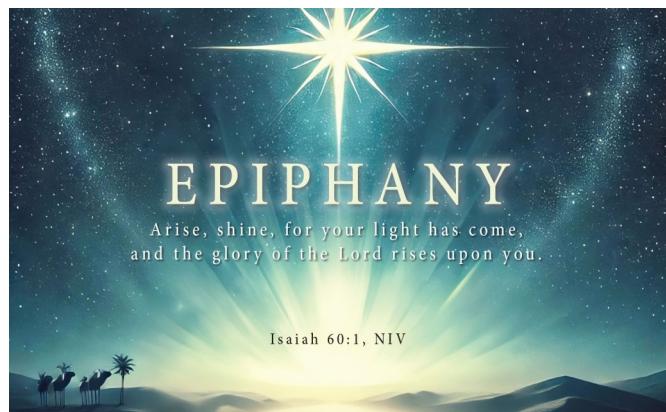
to pay attention and participate in widening the circle of light in the world. Whether a babe in Bethlehem or a burning bush, epiphanies guide us on a longer journey toward healing, liberation, and peace."

We also start off Epiphany on Sunday January 11 with Chalking the Door and follow that with an Epiphany party. Bring a white elephant gift and have some fun. And don't forget to attend the Annual Meeting on January 18 and be sure to get reports into Charlie by January 8. And that means me, your padre.

Besides Epiphany and the Annual Meeting, college basketball really gets going. I love both K.U. and K-State and maybe the Shockers will do something.

Words for Epiphany from the prophet Isaiah-Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. (Isaiah 60:1)

Fr. Mike





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.

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2001 Windsor Dr.
P.O. Box 342
Newton, Kansas 67114

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. Mike's office hours are Monday and Thursday 9:00 am-3:00 pm.

Services: Holy Eucharist 10:15 am every Sunday
Evening Prayer 6:00 pm Wednesday

- St. Matthew's Vestry meeting will be Sunday, January 11 after church
- Epiphany Party on Sunday, January 11 at 3:00 pm
- Annual Meeting is January 18 after church

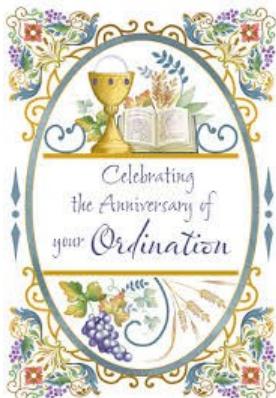
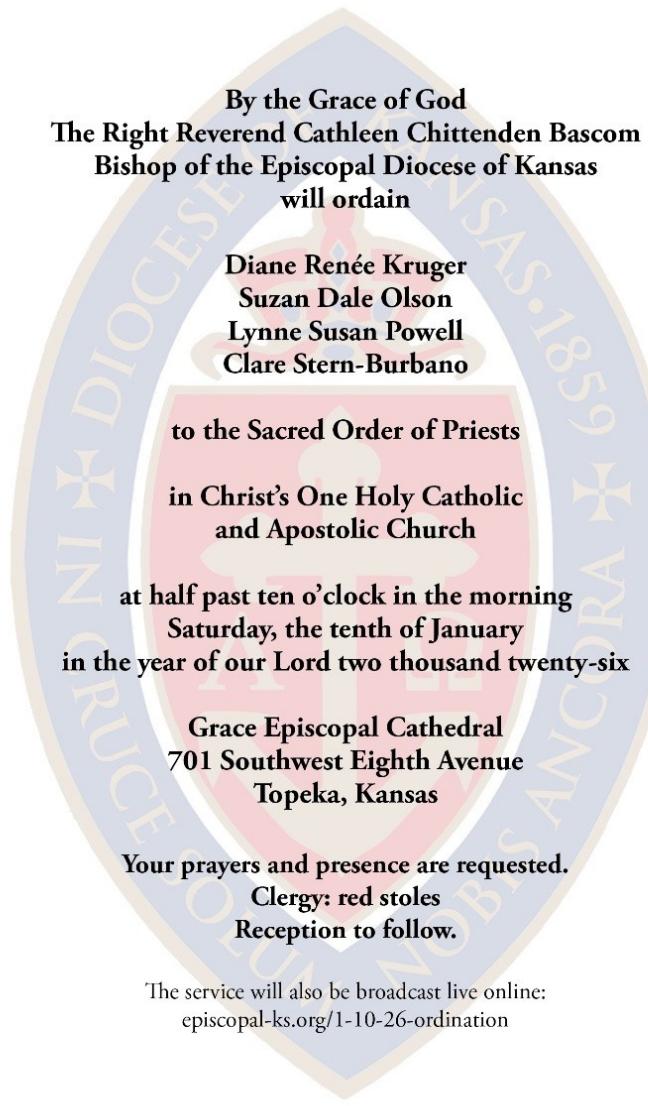
Discretionary Fund

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 asked of the church. Please be generous.



STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Don't forget to turn in your Stewardship Pledge card. Along with indicating any financial pledge for 2026, also please indicate if you would like to serve with your time and/or talents here at St. Matthew's. Would you like to serve at the Altar on Sunday mornings, be an usher, host during coffee hour, help in the kitchen, be a part of the Outreach Committee, help on the Altar Guild, donate towards Altar Flowers, help in the Payee program, serve on Vestry, share your musical talent, help with the maintenance of the church and/or the garden areas? There are so many ways you can help and share your gifts. Thank you for all you do.



Congratulations to Fr. Mike Loyd on the anniversary of his ordination on January 6 (2018)
Thank you Fr. Mike for all you do.
We are glad you are here at St. Matthew's!

Save the dates—Around the Diocese

January 18th 1pm-3:30pm, Christian Contemplative Prayer, Zoom

Have you always wanted to know more about meditation practices within Christian faith? This is a short course on Christian Contemplative prayer. Canon Lisa Senuta will guide this class and offer ways to support your own at home practice. [Learn more and register online.](#)

Feb 9, 2026, 9am-11:30am, Great is God's Faithfulness, Zoom

We all need a “bridge over troubled waters” yet we seldom intentionally learn what the scriptures, and spiritual teachers have to say about the importance of grief in our lives. This zoom course is for people who desire to spend some time reflecting on the positive process of grief that energizes us for new ways of being, living and trusting God. [Learn more and register online.](#)

February 14, 10 am - noon, Taste and See event, St. John's, Wichita

Hosted by current members of the community you are warmly invited to Taste and See our community. Expect a guided experience of our monthly in person meeting which will include all the elements including guided silent prayer and spiritual conversation. RSVP with Canon Lisa Senuta lsenuta@episcopal-ks.org or The Rev Les Jackson fatherles@trinityeldorado.org

March 2, 2026, Lay Parish Employee Renewal Day, St Francis OP, KS

Parish Administrators, Music Leaders, Bookkeepers, gather for a day of spiritual refreshment. Sharing the unique work context of the Episcopal Church this day is for you to reflect on your jobs, seek God's support, and consider what is needed in your ministry now for you to thrive. [Learn more and register online.](#)



JANUARY 2026

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

Birthdays

January 2—Jane Sanders
January 3—Patrick Craig, Chuck Cooper
January 5—Ginger King
January 6—Nyla Friesen
January 7—Beth Penner
January 10—Mitch Young, Michael Southern, Jr.
January 16—Caleb Woodward
January 17—George Graybill
January 20—Joy Robb
January 21—Mary Werner
January 22—Rick Glover
January 26—Steve Stonehouse
January 31—Mollie (Collier) Partridge

Baptisms

January 2—Jake Partridge
January 9—Juliana Loyd
January 10—Jordan Loyd
January 30—Joe Robb

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.

January 2026 Coffee Hour Hosts

January 4th - OPEN

January 11th - OPEN

January 18th - Annual Meeting/Potluck—please bring a dish to share

January 25th - OPEN



There are plenty of opportunities to sign up for hosting coffee hour after the service. We do not expect lunch or a feast!!

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.

Other Prayer Requests:

This is a reminder that you can add names to the Prayer List that is read during the Prayers of the People at the worship service. There is a white binder in the church office that you can have any name added to. The names will remain on the list for a month before being removed. If you need continued prayers, just let Charlie know, and the name(s) will remain on the list.



St. Matthew's Outreach

Food Cart

8 non-perishable food items were taken to the Salvation Army "Harvest of Love" food bank in December. Thanks for remembering those who don't have enough to eat.

Adopt a Family

21 plus gifts were delivered to our family of 4 during the week of Christmas. They were thrilled and so thankful by our generosity. Thanks for making this family's Christmas joyful.

Upcoming Outreach

Souper Bowl of Caring

Our annual Souper Bowl of Caring will be on Sunday, February 8th.

Mark your calendars! More info to come!



January 6 marks the day of Epiphany, when the wise men (who were Gentiles) came to worship Jesus and bring him gifts. During the church-year season of Epiphany, we remember that God's Son is the Light of the whole world.

To celebrate Epiphany, we will be having our annual St. Matthew's Epiphany Party on Sunday, January 11 at 3:00 pm. Please join us for a "white elephant" gift exchange, snacks and Chalking of the Door. Plan to bring a "white elephant" wrapped gift and join in on the fun. And bring your favorite snack to share. We will also be "chalking the door" to bless the church for another year.

A Note from the Junior Warden

St. Matthew's has been rekeyed. Your old keys will no longer work to get into the building. The new keys are different in that some of the new keys only work on exterior doors. Some of the keys work the exterior doors and open the doors to the office.

These keys cannot be reproduced without authorization. They operate much easier but lock a little different so check to make sure the door is locked when leaving.

If you need a new key you may come by the office to fill out a form and get a key.

We will now have records of all keys.

Thank you. Chris Simmonds

Bible Quiz

In the story of the Magi, what word is used to give a sense of Jesus' age when the wise men visited? What does it tell us?

- A. "baby"; Jesus was still a newborn in a manger
- B. "child"; when the wise men visited, Jesus had grown past infancy
- C. "youth"; Jesus was probably between 10 and 14
- D. No word is used to suggest Jesus' age at the time of the wise men's visit.



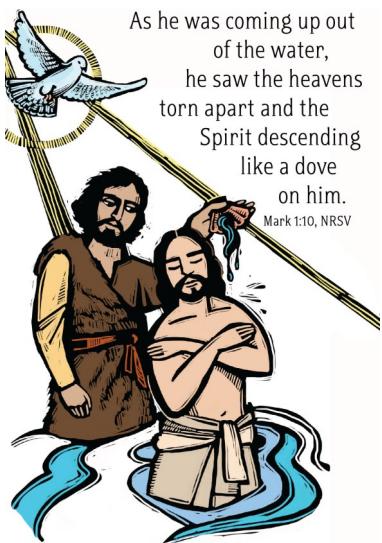
Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1-12.)



Morning Fog

Early morning fog floods
the neighborhood perhaps
the Universe's message to
Humanity n to slow down go
inward enjoy this time of
'God with us' touching our
divided hearts and cowardly
minds like the Lion in the
Wizard of Oz grow our Roar
live the Wisdom of Lady Liberty
on which our nation was founded
"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses
yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your
teeming shore. Send these, the
homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Joan Breit
Winter Solstice 2025



As he was coming up out
of the water,
he saw the heavens
torn apart and the
Spirit descending
like a dove
on him.
Mark 1:10, NRSV

January 11—Baptism of the Lord

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen

Making the most of ordinary time

In liturgical churches, more than half of the church-year calendar is labeled as Ordinary Time. Although that merely means the weeks are designated by ordinal numbers (First Sunday after the Epiphany, etc.), people may assume that "ordinary" means not special, or not a church holiday.

Ordinary gets a bad rap, but it represents the bulk of daily life. Not all days contain mountaintop experiences that warrant Facebook posts. Yet "simple, consistent, sometimes boring faithfulness" can lead to out-of-the-ordinary results, according to blogger Karl Vaters. "When you're following God's will for your life and you string a bunch of ordinary but necessary actions together, extraordinary things can happen," he writes at ChristianityToday.com.

Likewise, although Christians may strive to be radical, out-of-the-ordinary followers of Jesus, everyday discipleship leaves a powerful legacy. In *The Ordinary Christian Life*, pastor Michael Horton extols the value of "the regular preaching of Christ from all of the Scriptures, baptism, the Supper, the prayers of confession and praise, and all of the other aspects of ordinary Christian fellowship." He says the result of participating in "the ordinary life of the covenant community" is quite extraordinary: "steady maturation in Christ."

—adapted from *The Wired Word*



ALTAR GUILD

Altar Guild Team for January

Twila Lockaby, Ruth Cooper,
Scott McCloud and Maggie Snow

Altar Flowers for January 2026

January 4

Christmas Poinsettias

January 11

Dr. Charles and Nancy Craig
"For Blessings Received"

January 18

Ruth Cooper

"For those who have no one to pray for them"

January 25

Mary Werner
"For Blessings Received"

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. It is getting colder.

Thank you for doing your part to help our neighbors.

NOEL Hallelujah MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR
Noel Hallelujah Merry Christmas Happy New Year



St Matthew's
Annual Parish Meeting
Sunday, January 18, 2026

11:30 AM

Almighty and ever living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

All committee chairs are asked to submit their Annual Reports to office.stmatthewsnewton@gmail.com or leave with Charlie in the church office as soon as possible. It is requested that all reports be submitted by January 8, 2026.

One agenda item is election of new Vestry members and convocation delegates. The nominating committee will be meeting to name a slate of nominees for Vestry and a convocation delegate. Please prayerfully consider serving if asked by the nominating committee.

Being a Vestry member is an important leadership position. Working with the priest, the Vestry is responsible for the financial and spiritual health of the church community.

Convocation delegates and alternate attend three or four meetings per year of the SW Convocation. The delegates attend the annual Diocesan Convention in October, which will be in Topeka in 2026. The alternate is encouraged to attend meetings of the SW Convocation to learn about the responsibilities of the delegates and attend the convention if the elected delegate cannot attend.

Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting as we look at what was accomplished in 2025 and as we plan ahead for 2026.

All members of St. Matthew's are encouraged to attend this important meeting of our church. Each committee will have their report for 2025, the budget will be discussed, and plans for the new year will be talked about and voted on!

Of course we will also be planning a Potluck Lunch along with the Annual Meeting!

Please bring a dish to share.

**ANNUAL
MEETING**



Here is the worship schedule for December. 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!

	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25
Season	2nd Sunday after Christmas	1st Sunday after Epiphany	2nd Sunday after Epiphany	3rd Sunday after Epiphany
Service	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist <i>Annual Meeting</i>	Holy Eucharist
Leaders	Fr. Mike Loyd Deacon Barbara	Fr. Mike Loyd Deacon Barbara	Fr. Mike Loyd Deacon Barbara	Fr. Mike Loyd Deacon Barbara
LEM& Acolyte	Elizabeth Hill Maggie Snow	Karen Wall Chris Iserhardt	Ruth Cooper Chris Iserhardt	Fred Schroeder
Lector—Lessons	Jeremy Kitto	Bonnie Jones	Elizabeth Hill	Ruth Cooper
Lector—Psalm	Maggie Snow	Darlene Hall	Rick Glover	Jeremy Kitto
Ushers (2)	Mary Upton	Elizabeth Hill	Mary Werner	Melissa Keenan
	Bonnie Jones	Melissa Keenan	Mary Upton	Rick Glover
Counters (2)	Twila Lockaby	David Simmonds	Fred Schroeder	Margie Knupp
	Margie Knupp	Fred Schroeder	Mary Upton	David Simmonds
Altar Flowers	Christmas Poinsettias	Dr. Charles and Nancy Craig "For Blessings Received"	Ruth Cooper "For those who have no one to pray for them"	Mary Werner "For Blessings Received"
Coffee Hour Hosts	Open	Open	Annual Meeting Potluck	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