



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
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The Messenger



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A Note from Fr. Mike Loyd

SEASON OF CREATION AND JUSTICE

“Oh, it’s long, long while from May to December, but the days grow short when you reach September.” Those are some of the lyrics from the “September Song”, which was a song from the 1938 Broadway musical, “Knickerbocker Holiday.” It was later made popular by Jimmy Durante and Frank Sinatra. Basically, the song expresses how time passes quickly and how the singer wants to spend those precious days with the one he loves.

It has been a long and hot summer, but I have a feeling as we get into September, things will speed up. Before we know it, Halloween will be here and of course, the Halloween stuff is already out in the stores. Anyway, September is an important month in the life of St. Matthew’s. This year, there will be an emphasis on creation and justice.

The churches recognize the time from September 1 to October 4 as the Season of Creation and this past spring, a feast day was proposed for September 1 and many churches have observed September 1 as Creation Day. So, Creation Day is the beginning of the Season of Creation that will last until October 4, which is the feast day of St. Francis.

And, September will also be the month when the work of the justice ministry of central Kansas really begins to get going. On September 8, we will have the first house meeting

in which we will discuss the social issues that the churches will take to political leaders at the city and county level so that action can be taken to improve the lives of the people of central Kansas. Thank you to Rick Beck and Maggie Snow for taking on being Team Leaders for St. Matthew’s. Thank you to Rick and Maggie for taking that leadership role, and it’s great that St. Matthew’s is at the forefront of the churches in Newton doing the work of justice.

So, spoiler alert, it means that my sermons this month will focus on creation care and our call as followers of Jesus to work for justice. Both creation care and justice work are part of stewardship. We are to be careful and wise stewards of the abundance that God has provided in creation, and stewardship also involves being active in the world to improve the lives of others and to work toward creating God’s kingdom here on earth where we are to live together in peace as God intended for humanity.

Creation
(Continued on page 2)





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.

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
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
Rite 1 Eucharist 5:00 pm every Sunday
Evening Prayer 6:00 pm every Wednesday

- St. Matthew's Vestry meeting will be Sunday, September 20 after church

Creation
(Continued from page 1)

And let's not forget that September 21 is St. Matthew's Day which we will observe on Sunday September 20. Please wear red as part of our St. Matthew's tradition.

I will also begin having Eucharist services on Sundays at 5:00 pm. It will be a Rite 1 spoken service, no music, and in place of a sermon, there will be a short discussion on the readings for the day. Rite 1 consists of beautiful, spiritual language and having that service as we head into Sunday evening each week could be a special time.

Finally, we begin September with a neighborhood watermelon feed on Thursday, September 3 at 5:00 pm. It will take place outside by our church sign. We will have a dedication prayer for the sign also at that time. It will be a fun time and a great way to begin this busy month. Yes, the days will grow short and before we know it, it will be Advent. But let's not worry about Advent just yet, and let's enjoy this very special month.

Fr. Mike

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 use for when someone asks for help with things like a utility bill, rent, food or gas. Please be generous.



St. Matthew's Outreach

Food Cart

18 non perishable food items were delivered to the Salvation Army "Harvest of Love" food bank here in Newton in August.

Thanks for helping those who don't have enough to eat.

Back to School

A total of 214 items were donated to Salvation Army to distribute for families of school age children in Newton. Children need the correct tools to enable them to learn and grow in knowledge. Thanks to all of you, we are helping these children have a education for their futures!! Here's a breakdown of items:

34 ink pens
2 pencil boxes
2 Backpacks
4 glue bottles
14 24 packs of crayons
2 48 packs of crayons
4 dry erase markers
3 scissors
64 pencils
6 12 packs colored pencils
2 24 packs colored pencils
10 10 packs colored markers
40 glue sticks
22 spiral notebooks
1 pk filler paper
4 pink erasers

Thanks again!!

Soldiers & Shut Ins

Some of our soldiers were featured recently in the messenger. If you missed this news, please check out the outreach board. We are so proud of these amazing young people!!

September Outreach

Every September we collect much needed items to help New Hope shelter in Newton, and it's residents with supplies to aid the shelter and also with personal items for the residents.

This collection will be for the entire month. There will be lists and a small display in the front hall. Thanks.



New Sunday Night Service at St. Matthew's

Fr. Mike will be offering an Eucharist service on Sundays at 5:00 pm beginning September 6. It will be a Rite 1 spoken service, no music, and in place of a sermon, there will be a short discussion on the readings for the day. Rite 1 consists of beautiful, spiritual language. Please plan to join us for this service every Sunday evening at 5:00 in the St. Matthew's Covey Chapel.



Altar Guild Team for September, 2026

Margie Knupp, Chris Simmonds,
Katie Reese, Elizabeth Hill

Altar Flowers for September 2026

September 6

Joe and Joy Robb
"For blessings received"

September 13

Stephanie and Katherine Lindgren
"For blessings received"

September 20

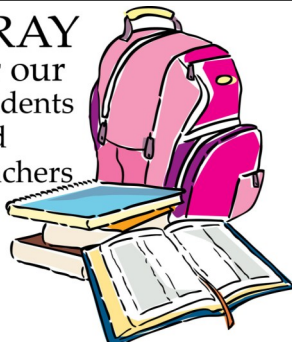
Rich Stinnett & Charlie Robinson
"For blessings received"

September 27

David and Chris Simmonds
"For blessings received"

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

PRAY
for our
Students
and
Teachers



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



Thursday, September 3— 5:00-7:00—
On the church lawn. Come join in on
the fun as we share and enjoy some wa-
termelon with the students, parents, and
teachers, at Northridge School, along
with our neighbors.



September

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

September Birthdays

September 2—Adam Simmonds
September 7—David Hughes
September 10—Charles Robinson
September 14—Jennifer Beck, Toby Tyner
September 17—Mariah Dove
September 22—Jill Loyd
September 24—Brier McCloud
September 26—Jill Jantz
September 28—Jane Orr
September 29—Taten Penner

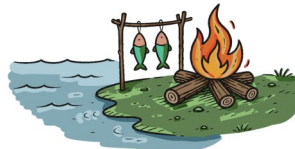
September Baptisms

September 9—Bonnie Tandoc

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.

?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ?

After his resurrection, Jesus asked one of his disciples the same question three times: "Do you love me?" The disciple felt hurt, wondering why Jesus kept asking. Who was this disciple?



A. James
B. John
C. Philip
D. (Simon) Peter

Answer: D (John 21:17)

September 2026 Coffee Hour Hosts



September 6 - Cookies/ using
some of our cookie stash!

September 13 - OPEN

September 20 - St. Matthew's Day – Open

September 27 - OPEN

Please sign up to host coffee hour after the service on Sundays. It does not have to be fancy, or a feast. Just a little something for us to nibble on is fine!!

St. Matthew's Prayer Chain

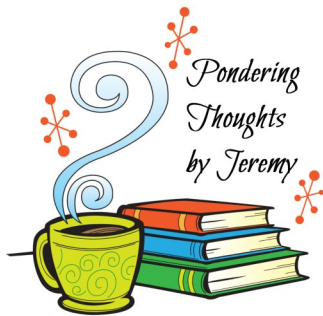


If you have a request for prayers for yourself or others, contact Mary Upton at **316-841-1736**. The information you share will then be passed on to the chain leaders who will pass the information on to their team. The members of the chain will add your request to their prayers. The information you give me is confidential and will not be shared with others outside the prayer chain without your permission.



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 picking up 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's hot! Thank you for doing your part to help our neighbors.



The book of Ecclesiastes, along with Job and Proverbs, were generally ignored prior to the discovery of Egyptian instructional literature in the early twentieth century. In the last century, these books, commonly designated as Wisdom Literature, went from obscurity to a position of prominence.

For over a decade, biblical scholars have approached the book of Ecclesiastes with fresh eyes, informed by ongoing research in other fields. My own research on Ecclesiastes took me down a similar path of discovery, one which Knut Heim, one of my professors in seminary, had already taken and later had published in a commentary.

The message of Ecclesiastes is something akin to Resistance Literature rather than Wisdom. It was composed as a dialogue between Qoheleth and his heart – a soliloquy (talking to oneself). The connection between Ecclesiastes and the Greek poets suggests that Ecclesiastes was likely performed before an audience, perhaps in a theater located in Jerusalem. Qoheleth is critiquing a repressive foreign regime, Egyptian Ptolemaic kings, employing humor to get his point across. The message and method of delivery of Ecclesiastes is notably relevant today. If you would like to learn more about Ecclesiastes, which is “intellectually sophisticated, theologically rich, emotionally deep – and full of humor” (Heim, Ecclesiastes, TOTC), join me Sunday mornings at 9 am, beginning September 20th.



The Feast of Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist is celebrated on September 21st

Matthew is also known as Levi in the Gospels of Mark and Luke. Matthew is one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus. As one of the four Gospel writers, Matthew is one of the four Evangelists.

Little is known about St. Matthew, except that he was the son of Alphaeus, and he was likely born in Galilee. He worked as a tax collector, which was a hated profession during the time of Christ.

According to the Gospel, Matthew was working at a collection booth in Capernaum when Christ came to him and asked, “Follow me.” With this simple call, Matthew became a disciple of Christ.

From Matthew we know of the many doings of Christ and the message Christ spread of salvation for all people who come to God through Him. The Gospel account of Matthew tells the same story as that found in the other three Gospels, so scholars are certain of its authenticity. His book is the first of the 4 Gospels in the New Testament.

Many years following the death of Christ, around 41 and 50 AD, Matthew wrote his gospel account. He wrote the book in Aramaic in the hope that his account would convince his fellow people that Jesus was the Messiah and that His kingdom had been fulfilled in a spiritual way. It was an important message at a time when almost everyone was expecting the return of a militant messiah brandishing a sword.

It is thought he departed for other lands to escape persecution sometime after 42 AD. According to various legends he fled to Parthia and Persia, or Ethiopia. Nothing is recorded of Matthew's passing. We do not know how he died, if his death was natural or if he was martyred.

Join us Sunday, September 20 as we celebrate St. Matthew's Day. Remember to wear red.



Come Meet the Candidates for Bishop at Area Meet and Greets

All members of the diocese are invited to a variety of opportunities to meet the candidates in person through a series of Meet and Greets held in each convocation of the diocese. The Meet and Greets will be held September 15-18.

Question and Answer Sessions—Open to all members of the Diocese. *NO RSVP required.*



Tuesday, September 15	7:30 – 9:00 pm	St. Thomas the Apostle, Overland Park
Wednesday, September 16	7:30 – 9:00 pm	Epiphany, Independence
Thursday, September 17	7:30 – 9:00 pm	St. Stephen's, Wichita
Friday, September 18	7:00 – 8:30 pm	Grace Cathedral, Topeka

Election

The election of the eleventh bishop will take place at the 167th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas October 23-24, 2026 at Grace Cathedral, Topeka.

Ordination of the Eleventh Bishop of Kansas

The ordination of the eleventh bishop will be April 17, 2027 at Grace Cathedral, Topeka, Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe as chief consecrator.

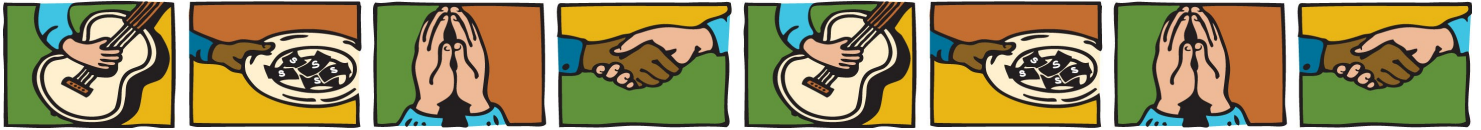
A Prayer for the search of a Bishop for the Diocese of Kansas:

**Almighty God, giver of every good gift:
Look graciously on your church, and so
guide the hearts and minds of those who
search for a new bishop to lead the
Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, that we
may receive a faithful pastor, who will
care for your people and equip us for our
ministries; through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.**

*“By this all people will know
that you are my disciples, if you
have love for one another.”*

JOHN 13:35, ESV





Here is the worship schedule for September. 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!

	September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27
Season	15th Sunday after Pentecost	16th Sunday after Pentecost	17th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Vestry Meeting St. Matthew's Day</i>	18th Sunday after Pentecost
Service	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist Healing Service	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	Fred Schroeder Ruth Cooper	Ruth Cooper Karen Wall	Karen Wall Ruth Cooper	Elizabeth Hill Maggie Snow
Lector— Lessons	Jeremy Kitto	Mary Anne McCloud	Mary Upton	Elizabeth Hill
Lector— Psalm	Mary Upton	Maggie Snow	Darlene Hall	Jeremy Kitto
Ushers (2)	Mary Upton	Open	Melissa Keenan	Mary Werner
	Melissa Keenan	Rick Glover	Open	Mary Upton
Counters (2)	Mary Anne McCloud	Margie Knupp	Fred Schroeder	Elizabeth Hill
	David Simmonds	Fred Schroeder	Margie Knupp	David Simmonds
Altar Flowers	Joe and Joy Robb <i>"For blessings received"</i>	Stephanie and Katherine Lindgren <i>"For blessings received"</i>	Rich Stinnett & Charlie Robinson <i>"For blessings re- ceived"</i>	David and Chris Simmonds <i>"For blessings received"</i>
Coffee Hour Hosts	Cookies	Open	Open	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
Sunday Evening: Rite 1 Eucharist every Sunday at 5:00 pm in the St. Matthew's Covey Chapel