



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



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A Note from Fr. Mike Loyd

SO MANY BLESSINGS

October is a great month for us and I'm not even going to mention pumpkin spice. Oops, I guess I just did. Anyway, October starts off with the Blessing of the Animals on Sunday October 4 when we can just enjoy the joyful chaos of having a bunch of our beloved non-human family members join us for worship. Even though we give our pets a blessing, it's really us humans that are blessed by our animal companions.

It's also a time to enjoy the fall weather. But there are important things going on between Blessing of the Animals and Halloween. Actually, on October 31, there will be a meeting in Salina of the churches involved with the justice project which includes St. Matthew's. At that meeting we will learn the outcomes of the listening meetings and select the two issues that will be brought to local and county officials at the Nehemiah Event on May 1. Thanks go to Rick Beck and Maggie Snow, team leaders, for hosting the listening meetings.

October is also the time when the stewardship campaign for St. Matthew's begins. I believe that any stewardship campaign needs to begin with reflecting on our many blessings in each of our lives. There have been so many blessings! As we reflect on our blessings, we can prayerfully discern what we can give back to our church and God through our finances,

time, and talents. What we give goes on to bless the lives of so many others. St. Matthew's is known in Newton as a very giving church and may we continue being that church.

The annual diocesan convention happens in October and this convention is especially important as clergy and delegates will vote for our new bishop. The slate of four candidates is very strong and each of the candidates have their own gifts to bring to the churches of this diocese. Two of the candidates in particular recognize how we are in a time of change for the churches, especially the smaller churches such as St. Matthew's. The challenge is how the churches respond to this

Blessings
(Continued on page 2)

St. Francis





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, October 18 after church
- PEF will meet on October 25 after church
- Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 14 for a Parish Council Meeting

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.

Blessings *(Continued from page 1)*

time in which things aren't like they were. One candidate developed a program that has been in use for the past few years titled, Requiem or Renaissance. It's a program of discernment and exploration for smaller churches that guides whether to begin the process of closing a church, requiem. Or renaissance, looking at new ways in which the church can meet the demands of the future. I believe that St. Matthew's is to be a renaissance church. Anyway, more on that later as we get into the stewardship campaign.

In the meantime, pray for our diocese and for us as we select a new bishop that will lead us into the challenging, yet exciting future. And reflect on having so many blessings and how we can give so that the love and blessing of God's presence can change our lives and the lives of others.

Fr. Mike





St. Matthew's Outreach

Food Cart

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

New Hope Shelter

We will have totals of the items that were donated to the shelter in the November Messenger. Thank you everyone!

Upcoming Outreach

As you all know, the holiday season is almost upon us. Here are a few of the outreach that we will be participating in.

Harvest of Love
Adopt A Family
Mitten Tree

Details and information to come

It is so wonderful to have opportunities to do God's work by helping those in need.



Sunday, October 4 10:15 a.m.

Bring your pets of all kinds to St. Matthew's as we worship together and celebrate the **Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi**, the patron saint of animals.

During the service, each pet will receive a special religious blessing in honor of St. Francis and all of God's creatures.

Weather permitting, the service will be held in the front churchyard.

Bring your furry, feathered, or scaly friends—and come celebrate with us!

New Sunday Night Service at St. Matthew's

Fr. Mike will be offering an Eucharist service 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. Please plan to join us for this service every Sunday evening at 5:00 in the St. Matthew's Covey Chapel.

Stewardship

As the year begins its downhill slide toward December, the Vestry and Finance Committee have been working diligently on St. Matthew's budget. As they prepare for 2027, they are looking ahead to the coming year and hope to have the proposed budget available to the congregation before the Annual Meeting in January.

With this in mind, now is the time to prayerfully consider your pledge to support the ministry and maintenance of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. By returning a pledge card with your estimated giving for 2027, you will help the Vestry prepare an accurate and responsible budget for the year ahead.

Along with a financial pledge, please consider how you might share your **time and talents** with St. Matthew's. Would you like to:

- Serve as an Acolyte or LEM?
- Be a Lector?
- Serve on the Altar Guild?
- Help with Outreach?
- Teach a class?
- Take part in another ministry or activity?

There are many ways to serve, and every gift of time, talent, and treasure helps strengthen our parish community.

Please watch your mail and email for more information about this year's Stewardship Campaign.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and for all that you do to support the life and ministry of St. Matthew's.



Altar Guild Team for October 2026

Twila Lockaby, Ruth Cooper, Scott McCloud,
Maggie Snow

Altar Flowers for October 2026

October 4

Diane and Al Joseph

"In loving memory of Dick and Joanne Oliver"

October 11

Maggie & Chris Snow

"In celebration of our wedding anniversary"

October 18

Mary Upton

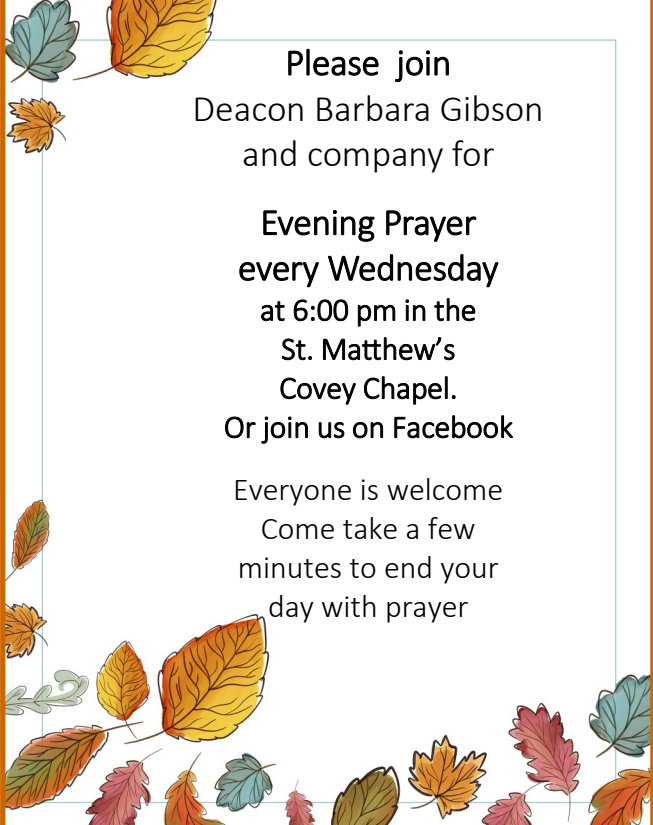
*"In thanksgiving for the life and
ministry of Jim Upton"*

October 25

Thea Ferguson

"In loving memory of Jay Ferguson"

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



Bible Quiz

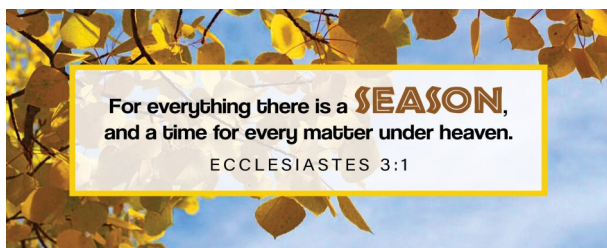


Psalm 103 (ESV) begins:
"Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his _____."

What should we "not forget"?

A. goodness	C. gifts
B. kindness	D. benefits

Answer: D. benefits (Psalm 103:2)



October gives us a special opportunity to thank the clergy who teach, encourage, pray and care for our congregation. May we honor their faithful service, support them with our prayers and remind them that their ministry makes a meaningful difference in the lives of many. Thanks for all you do, Fr. Mike Loyd, Deacon Barbara Gibson, and Fr. Richard Osborne!



OCTOBER

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

October Birthdays

October 8 - Christi Southern
October 10 - Jed Lockaby, Zoe Stonehouse
October 12—Joan Breit
October 13 - Mike Loyd
October 15 - Jordan Loyd
October 16 - Michael Southern
October 18 - Jim Reese
October 26 - Brooke Glover
October 25 - Katie Reese
October 28 - Jake Collier, Austin Penner
October 29 - Chris Simmonds, Donna Mills, Maggie Snow
October 30 - Twila Lockaby

October Baptisms

October 3 - Melissa Keenan, Jessica Keenan
October 5 - Erik Jantz
October 20 - Zoe Stonehouse
October 21 - Sissy Robb
October 22 - Andrew Craig

October Confirmations

October 1 - Jill Loyd
October 2 - Jerry Wall
October 19 - Darlene Hall, Dave Simmonds, Chris Simmonds, Ryan Simmonds, Mary Werner
October 26 - Cathy Woodward

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.

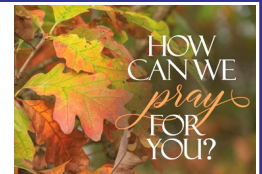
October 2026 Coffee Hour Hosts



October 4 - OPEN
October 11 - Elizabeth Hill
October 18 - Steve and Darla Stonehouse
October 25 - Open

Please sign up to host coffee hour after the service on Sundays. It is always fun to host with a buddy, or a committee, etc. Showcase your favorite dessert or whatever tickles your fancy!! Donations are always welcome if you can't host, and still want to contribute something. Thanks!

St. Matthew's Prayer Chain



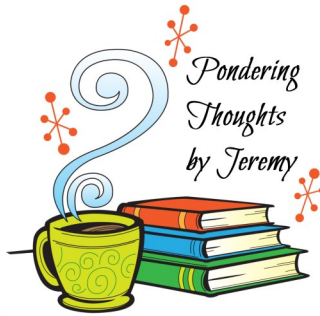
If you have a request for prayers for yourself or others, contact Mary Upton at **316-841-1736**. The information you share will then be passed on to the chain leaders who will pass the information on to their team. The members of the chain will add your request to their prayers. The information you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

Other Prayer Requests:

Remember that you can add names to the Prayer List that is read during the Prayers of the People at Sunday 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.



The Sonship of Christ



While a student at Baptist Bible College in Clarks Summit, PA, I discovered a doctrine that arrested my attention: the eternal sonship of Christ. Christians will either affirm Jesus as the eternal son of God or Jesus becoming the son of God at a point in time, namely his incarnation. This doctrine does not call into question whether Jesus is God; the attention is limited to Jesus as God's own son.

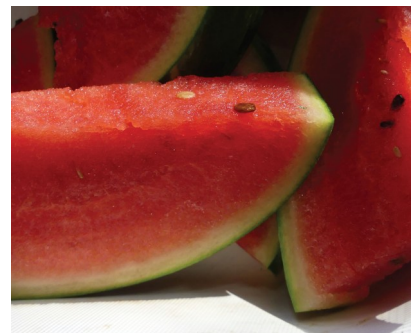
One prominent voice in Evangelical circles, John MacArthur, once held to the incarnational sonship of Christ. After several years of study, MacArthur later changed his position and announced that Jesus always existed as the son of God. This change, however, occurred after the publication of his New Testament commentary series.

Do you believe Jesus exists eternally as the son of God?

In Matthew 3:17, God announces Jesus is his son after he was baptized in the Jordan by John (cf., Mark 1:10-11, Luke 3:21-22). At the Transfiguration, God announces Jesus is his son (Matthew 17:5, Mark 9:7, Luke 9:35). And in the first chapter of Hebrews, we read Jesus is the son, superior to the angels (Hebrews 1:5). In each NT occurrence, Jesus was incarnate. Yet, in Psalm 2:7 we read, "You are my son; today I have become your father."

Jesus is identified as the son of God in the Bible. But does it matter? Yes! Among our neighbors and across the state and nation, the biological sex of children is a subject that is very real and hits home for many people and their families, and it can be very difficult to engage with. How might Jesus as the son inform your position regarding the sex and gender conversations taking place today?

Jeremy



We had a great time on September 3, serving up watermelon to the students and parents from Northview Elementary, along with other community members.

We also dedicated St. Matthew's wonderful new sign.

It was a hot day but everyone enjoyed the watermelon and fellowship!

Thanks to everyone who came out and everyone that helped.



The 167th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas

October 23-24, 2026
Grace Cathedral, Topeka

The 167th Diocesan Convention is coming up October 23-24, 2026, at Grace Cathedral, 701 SW 8th Avenue, Topeka, Kansas. The convention is expected to elect the XI Bishop of Kansas.

Representing St. Matthew's will be:

- Rev. Mike Loyd
- Deacon Barbara Gibson
- Delegates Elizabeth Hill, Maggie Snow, and Scott McCloud

If you have been listening to, learning about, or researching the candidates for Bishop, we would love to hear your thoughts, observations, and impressions. In particular, if there are things you have learned about a candidate's experience, ministry, leadership, or vision for the Diocese of Kansas that you think would be helpful for our delegates to consider, please share them.

Our delegates will be participating in the election and would appreciate hearing from members of St. Matthew's as they prayerfully discern how to cast their votes.

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 minis-
tries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMPLETES TWO YEARS

In the fall of 2024, St. Matthew's embarked on a capital campaign to renovate and replace HVAC systems and other identified needs of the church building. We established a goal of \$100,000 for the campaign.

Good news! Between pledges and one-time gifts, the campaign brought in \$104,584. After two years of fundraising and payments on pledges, we have taken in \$70,369.....which happens to be 2/3 (67%) of the pledged total. Right on track after two years!

What have we done so far? We installed new toilets in the women's restroom. New floors in the main bathrooms and the kitchen. Paid for a complete inspection of all the HVAC units. Repaired the Parish Hall ceiling. Replaced a faulty HVAC unit for the chapel and conference room. Removed a sink and fixed a water leak at the front of the Nave. Replaced 2 room-size heat pumps on the Clover St. side of the building. Painted the church exterior. Installed new lighting in the Nave and in the Chapel. Repaired/replaced main water valves into the church building. New kitchen faucets. Much has been done!

What remains to be done? We have contracted with a local company to paint the tower and cross this fall. All remaining funding is reserved to replace the main HVAC unit.

We have cash on hand of about \$50,000 for the HVAC, after we pay for the remaining painting work. There are about \$35,000 in remaining pledges. Will we collect all that outstanding money? Probably not. Some people's circumstances have changed. We do believe that we will bring in enough money to cover the cost of the large HVAC.

If you have completed your pledge, or if you made a one-time donation, we thank you very much!! If your pledge is not complete, we will send you a letter reminding you of the amount you pledged and the amount you have paid toward your pledge so far. If you need to talk about your pledge status, please notify Dave Simmonds, Campaign Treasurer at simmonds@cox.net or in person after Sunday service.



St. Matthew's Justice Ministry Update

We are proud to announce we have completed the House Meeting Listening Sessions for the Central Kansas Justice Ministry! Thank you to everyone who was able to attend and share your thoughts on what issues in our local community are keeping you up at night.

Rick Beck and Maggie Snow have submitted the themes of the discussion to the CKJM Leader. The next step is for the CKJM team to compile the answers from all of the listening sessions and begin analysis on the results so that four main problems can be identified. Then, on October 31st, we will all gather at Trinity United Methodist in Salina to review the results and vote on the two problems CKJM will be researching for our first year.

We're now up to seventy-two completed listening conversations throughout the Central Kansas Justice Ministry region. Of those seventy-two, sixty-three have reported 670 participants with 459 joining the justice ministry network! St. Matthew's has 18 members of the Justice Ministry and we welcome anyone else who would like to join!

Please see Rick Beck or Maggie Snow for more information. We invite you all to join us in Salina for the Problems Assembly on October 31st at 10:00 AM!



What's next?

You've attended a Listening Session at your congregation. Now, mark your calendars!



The role of a NETWORK MEMBER

ATTEND THE **4** MAIN EVENTS

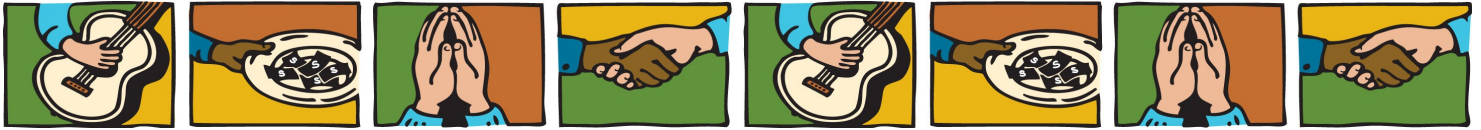
BRING ALONG **3** + PEOPLE TO THE NEHEMIAH

'CONSIDER' INVESTING **2** HUNDRED DOLLARS IN THE WORK

STAND TOGETHER AS **1** UNITED VOICE

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- Book of Common Prayer



Here is the worship schedule for October. 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!

	October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25
Season	19th Sunday after Pentecost	20th Sunday after Pentecost	21th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Vestry Meeting</i>	22th Sunday after Pentecost
Service	Holy Eucharist Blessing of the Animals	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	Elizabeth Hill Maggie Snow	Ruth Cooper Karen Wall	Karen Wall Ruth Cooper	Fred Schroeder
Lector—Lessons	Jeremy Kitto	Mary Anne McCloud	Elizabeth Hill	Mary Anne McCloud
Lector—Psalm	Rick Glover	Mary Upton	Darlene Hall	Jeremy Kitto
Ushers (2)	Mary Upton	Bonnie Jones	Mary Upton	Mary Werner
	Rick Glover	Elizabeth Hill	Elizabeth Hill	Melissa Keenan
Counters (2)	Margie Knupp	Elizabeth Hill	Margie Knupp	Fred Schroeder
	Dave Simmonds	Fred Schroeder	Dave Simmonds	Mary Anne McCloud
Altar Flowers	Diane and Al Joseph “In loving memory of Dick and Joanne Oliver”	Maggie & Chris Snow “In celebration of our wedding Anniversary”	Mary Upton “In thanksgiving for the life and ministry of Jim Upton”	Thea Ferguson “In loving memory of Jay Ferguson”
Coffee Hour Hosts	Open	Elizabeth Hill	Steve and Darla Stonehouse	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