

# The Messenger

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
 9349 East 65<sup>th</sup> Street, Raytown, Missouri 64133  
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 Please visit our website at [StMatthewsRaytown.org](http://StMatthewsRaytown.org)

## St. Matthew's Staff

**Gary Gilbertson**  
*Interim Rector*

**Laurie J. McKim**  
*Deacon*

**Sherry Minzey**  
*Administrative  
 Assistant*

**Patti McGill Rowe**  
*Music Director*

## Officers

**Jane Petrie**  
*Senior Warden*

**Dave Chullino**  
*Junior Warden*

**David Macey**  
*Treasurer*

**Linda Gerding**  
*Secretary*

**George Miller**  
*Clerk of the Works*

## Service Schedule

**Sundays:**  
**9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
 & Healing Prayer**

## An Overview of the Rector Search Process

Saint Matthew's Vestry is using as it's model for the search process one provided by the Disciples and recorded in the Books of Acts. As you remember, one of the first tasks the disciples faced following Jesus' ascension was to name a replacement for Judas. The selection of Matthias is described in this manner:

*"So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection. So they proposed two, Joseph called Barabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles." Acts 1:21-26*

The disciples had a mission—to bear witness to the resurrection of Jesus. The reason for engaging in the search for a new apostle was to fulfill this mission. What is the mission of Saint Matthew's? It is recognized that when parishioners are able to articulate their purpose, their congregations are likely to be dynamic and growing. A detailed examination of the text reveals three distinct steps taken by the disciples in their discernment process:

First, the disciples began their search by establishing a set of criteria that would determine who was qualified for the position. They decided that the person selected should have been with them throughout Jesus' whole ministry and witnessed Christ's resurrection; this was essential to them. The members of Saint Matthew's Vestry are currently visiting with the many ministry groups in our Parish to catalogue what is essential to the future of this congregation and what is essential in our next Rector. **On the third Sunday in August, the 16<sup>th</sup>, they will report their findings to the Parish and receive additional input from individual members.**

Next, the disciples used their agreed upon criteria to assess potential candidates. This fall the Vestry will begin receiving nominations from Parish members, the National Church Deployment Office, our Bishop, and other Bishops. Some candidates will be recruited if their skills are a good fit for our needs. The Vestry may well ask other members of our congregation to assist them in some aspects of the process. Ultimately those priests who fit our criteria the best will have the opportunity to visit in person.

The third distinct step that your Vestry will take is discerning who is to be called. The disciples cast lots; today, it is more likely that prayer and discussion will lead to a consensus about who God is leading us to call as the next rector.

Your prayers and participation, especially on the 16<sup>th</sup>, are sought with gratitude.

*The Rev. Gary R. Gilbertson*  
 The Interim Rector



Our June numbers were not good, but a number of factors contributed to our bad month. Our pledge income was slightly less than the budgeted pledge and we had higher expenses.

The expenses had been budgeted and including a quarterly premium for our property insurance. We anticipate a return to more normal numbers this month.

We received a check from the Diocese as payment of our participation in the Parish Partnership Grant program. We would not have been eligible for that program if we had been delinquent on our Diocesan Assessment. Overall our financial picture is still precarious but we are working within the overall budget we adopted at the beginning of the year. At our last meeting we recommended changes to the budget of less than 1% of the total budget. Our treasurer Dave Macey has provided us with excellent tracking and projections on future expenses and parish income. Without these records we would be working based on guesses. The good news is that if our expenses can be controlled as well in the second half of the year as they were in the first half of the year our budget deficit will be much less than projected in January.

We continue to ask for your help and prayer for our work in bringing our Lord's message to Raytown. Thanks for your continued support.

*Bill Noone*  
Chair



## What's New with the ECW

We've been discussing ways for all of us at St. Matthew's to stay energized. We really like Jim Laney's wonderful Reel Time late summer movie idea. Everyone is invited to St. Matthew's on August 22 at 7:00 p.m. for an evening of fun and fellowship. Jim Laney will choose the movie and the ECW will furnish the beverages. Movie fans are asked to BYOS (Bring Your Own Snacks). We encourage you to bring family, friends and neighbors.

Each year Episcopal Church Women of West Missouri select one woman to be our Diocesan Honored Woman. Our parish ECW has nominated Brenda Laney, Julia Smith and Pat Whitmore. The woman selected from the diocese will be recognized at the Annual ECW Fall Conference and at the Diocesan Convention.



Preparation is underway for the Fall Bazaar and Bake Sale. If you would like to help make this event a success, please help us create items for the Bazaar. Workshops take place at the church on Saturdays and Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. For more information contact Jeannie Miller (816-356-3451) or Carolyn Harris (816-356-9072).

Our next meeting will be August 15 at 10:30 a.m. I promise to reduce the time of our meetings!

*Nancy Anderson*  
ECW President



Has your address, email address, phone or cell number changed? If so, please inform the office so we can update your record.

## “What in the name of God is going on here?”

The instructor at a training session that the Vestry attended said that he had opened many a sermon with that question. After a stunned silence in the pews, he went on to say “quite a lot, I hope.”

At St. Matthew’s we are not just hoping about it. We are doing something about it. There is a whole lot going on here in the name of God.

I never cease to be amazed at how much happens in this small church. Besides the fact that we all really do care about each other, we do something about it. We really do have an impact on our community in the things that we do and support. Things like our ESL program, furnishing a home for Recovery Plus, our steadfast support for REAP, the Circle of Hope, supplying a meeting place for numerous community groups, our OSL healing ministry. It just goes on and on. That is the real meaning of Stewardship and we can be justifiably proud.

We need to constantly do our best to make others aware of what we do and that we need more people to share with us. Share with us the wonderful fellowship that we have and the work that we do. More importantly, share with us the wonderful blessings our Lord gives us through our worship.

We really do have something special. We may be going through difficult times financially, but what we have is priceless. I know that our financial stewardship has grown wonderfully. We need to keep this up and even try harder in these difficult times while we weather the storm.

I am confident that we can do it.

*George Smith*  
Stewardship Committee

## THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Marilyn King and George Smith have just completed the audit for St. Matthew’s for 2008. It requires a great deal of time and strict adherence to detail. We appreciate your gifts of time and talent required to do this work and we thank you so much.

*Jane Petrie*  
Senior Warden



Summer has flown by and we’re now looking forward to Labor Day, school starting and the choir returning to their pews at the back of the church. I’m looking forward to some potential new members and of course the return of our other members.

I hope the choir has enjoyed their vacation and feels ready to launch into a new year. I’m always amazed at how quickly I’m looking at music for the holidays and our special festival Sundays like St. Matthew’s Day.

One of my projects this summer was doing an inventory of the choir room. I had no idea how much music was actually in that room until I started sorting and counting. My goal before we start in September is to take that inventory a step further and make that room more organized. I will make it easier to find music for the appropriate occasions.

So, I hope that you will be in church September 13 to celebrate the return of our wonderful choir who enhances our worship so much.

Hope the rest of your summer is enjoyable.

Yours faithfully,

*Patti McGill Rowe*  
Music Director



## *Liturgy and the Present Moment*

*Note: This is the fourth in a series of articles taken from notes on this past year's Lenten study. The study was based on Mark Galli's book, Beyond Smells and Bells, The Wonder and Power of Christian Liturgy. This summary is taken from the blog at <http://wonderandpower.blogspot.com/>.*

"But now....."

This brief little phrase recurs often in Scripture and it is the focus of this week's readings in Smells and Bells. Well, at least one of several.

A new sense of time - Chapter 7: We are invited to consider that the liturgy "is an experience of the kingdom in which the past and future coincide in joyous present...We are remembering a blessed past, anticipating a glorious future, looking expectantly now in the face of our Master." (p. 66)

A new sense of place - Chapter 8: We are invited to "conceive of the liturgy as a journey into the kingdom ...It is as if the places we call heaven and earth have merged, for as we approach the Eucharistic table, we have ascended into heaven. Or maybe it's that heaven has descended to earth. Or both...." (pp. 74-75).

A new sense of waiting - Chapter 9: Nothing to achieve; simply to receive. We are invited to consider that the liturgy "is the place where we wait for Jesus to show up. We don't have to do much. The liturgy is not an act of the will. It is not a series of activities designed to attain a spiritual mental state." He shows up in the reading of Scripture; he shows up in the preaching; he shows up in the Eucharist. "This is not something we can achieve as much as simply abide in." (p. 79)

In various ways, during our conversation, I think it was clear to all of us that we can easily slip into rote participation in the liturgy and miss the sense of the blessings described above. But we also noted that we are learning much by talking about what is happening as we worship, and as we enter into the service with intentional focus on such dimensions of the liturgy and with mindfulness of the present moment, we do indeed experience more fully those very things.

"But now....."

Chapters 10, 11 and 12 for next Sunday, March 15.

*J. Laney*, Adult Education

**SEPTEMBER MESSENGER/CALENDAR DEADLINE AUGUST 20<sup>TH</sup>**

## ESL Updates: a new year begins.....

### Language Lab

ESL classes are not in session during the summer, but the language lab is open on Monday and Wednesday evenings throughout the summer. A few of our ESL students have been faithful to take advantage of the opportunity to study, and even some St. Matthew's folks have ventured in to explore learning a new language or get some help with using the Internet or Microsoft Office programs. Remember, the Lab facilitators are still available to help you, no matter what you might be interested in!

Thanks to all the volunteers who have helped staff the computer lab this summer. Particular thanks to George Chase who has donated so many extra hours to cover the lab, and open it for others!

### New ESL School Year

We're already looking ahead and making plans for the new year – St. Matthew's ESL classes will resume on **Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**. Thanks to Jason Brooks for working to update the advertising fliers - these will be ready to distribute in the community by mid- August. We'll put some on the table in the Narthex – you can help us get the word out by taking a few to distribute in area stores and businesses as you move around town.

### Thank You Picnic

We had a lovely time at the Laney's on Sunday evening, July 26, honoring all the volunteers for their many hours of service last year and looking ahead with anticipation to this our third year of ESL. We even had a few of our ESL students come and help us host the event!

### New Volunteers

If you haven't been involved with ESL before but are interested, this is a great time to begin! There are a great variety of ways you can be involved. Just see James or Brenda Laney to learn more. And tell your friends and neighbors about the program too – we'll be happy to find a place for them! It's been very exciting to see how many of our regular volunteers have emerged from the Raytown area as they've learned of this community service we're providing at St. Matthew's. We invite everyone to come and be a part of it!

The ESL Ministry Team

## ESL: Getting the Word Out



Recently we have had two opportunities to let others know more about what we are doing with ESL at St. Matthew's.

We had a visit from two representatives of the Youth Advisory Council of the Truman Heartland Community Foundation. Last year the foundation provided us a \$6000 grant for textbooks, whiteboards, nursery and youth group equipment and supplies. We have requested a grant for this year as well and the Youth Advisory Council wanted to find out for themselves what we are up to. The Foundation empowers them with their own funds to distribute as they see fit based on their assessment of the different grant requests. Interestingly enough the council has students from a number of area high schools, fourteen of whom attend Raytown South, many of whom I have either taught or coached over the past few years. So we gave them the full tour and answered all their very good questions about our ESL work.

I also was blessed to spend an hour or so with eight college and high school students from the Vineyard Church of Overland Park, who were in Raytown for the week on a Youth Group learning adventure. Tim Truesdale, pastor of the newly planted Vineyard Church of Raytown and reporter for the Raytown Post, had asked me whether they could come by and learn about the ESL program at St. Matthew's. He was teaching them how to do investigative reporting by taking the students around to talk with various groups and agencies in Raytown, so that at the end of the week they could better answer the question: "What is God doing in Raytown?"

We had a great time, showing them around our facilities and explaining how we approach teaching English as a Second Language. On Sunday afternoon they reported back to the Raytown Vineyard Church and I decided to go hear what they had to say. It was a pleasure listening to young people talk knowledgeably about what they see God doing in Raytown. We at St. Matthew's can be happy to know that we are viewed as an active part of what He is doing, members of the larger body of Christ, making a difference in the community.

*James Laney*, ESL Ministry Team

## REAP



### ST. MATTHEW'S "OPERATION BACKPACK 2009"

St. Matthew's Parish has designated two Sundays in August, the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> as "Operation Backpack Sundays" for REAP. A \$10.00 donation will pay for a backpack and \$45.00 will pay for a backpack, supplies and shoes. Lets do what we can to help the children in our community start out the new school year with smiles on their faces. **Please make checks payable to REAP and in the memo portion of your check indicate "Operation Backpack".**



### "LOAVES & FISHES"

The count for July for Loaves & Fishes was **141**. This is the most that has been collected all summer. BIG thank you to ALL parishioners who support this program! Our next Loaves & Fishes Sunday is August 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mark Your Calendar - Saturday, August 22

## Reel Time Meal Time: St. Matthew's Dinner and a Movie Series

Adult Education and ECW are jointly sponsoring the first in a three part series of Dinner and A Movie evenings. Details are still being hammered out, but this much I know:

BYOS: Bring Your Own Snacks; the ECW will provide drinks.

Each of the movies focuses on 'breaking bread' around the table and the building of relationships.

ECW has stepped forward to co-sponsor the first event. The hope is that Adult Education will find two other groups within St. Matthew's that would like to sponsor the other two evenings. Sponsor as in planning and providing help in pulling it off, not financial sponsorship. Please contact James Laney if your group is interested.

The three movies proposed by Adult Education are Tortilla Soup, Mostly Martha, and Babette's Feast. Each of them both entertaining and instructive.

Plan on attending the first movie on August 22!

Doors open at 7:00 PM, movie begins at 7:30 after a brief introduction.



**Big  
Thank  
You!**

St. Matthew's had not had an inventory taken for many, many, many years and if we ever would have a disaster we would have a huge problem to complete an inventory before a claim could be settled with our insurance company. And that would have been a slow painstaking process with the possibility of not recalling everything.

But thanks to many of our parishioners, we now have three sets of inventory consisting of some 35 pages of lists, some 300 plus pictures plus discs. There is a set at the church, and a set at two different sites off our premises.

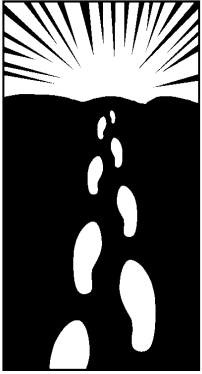
This was accomplished by many of our people spending long, tedious hours (and not complaining!). Especially many thanks to Julia Smith, Jeannie Miller, Pat Madgett, Carolyn Harris, Pat Madgett, Nancy Anderson, Janet Anderson, George Miller, Dave Chullinot, Patty McGill Rowe, George Chase, Bill Noone, Jim Laney, Brenda Laney, Pat Whitmore, Sherry Minzey, Jacqueline McCoy, and to our main photographer Jane Matson, and other picture takes-Virginia Sembower, Barbara Chase and Sherry Minzey. And Sherry helped me get it put together. (my apologies to those I failed to list)

So now that we have all the stoles, candlesticks, chairs, mops, etc, etc. counted, all we will have to do is add or delete items each year!

To all that worked on this project--thank you, thank you, thank you. A task well done! Blessings to you all.

*Marilyn King*

(And a **VERY BIG THANK YOU** to Marilyn for heading this task. She put in many hours at church and at home organizing everything.)



## Walk with Me

And so the walk continues and I have some catching up to do about the journey. As most of you are now aware, I completed my CPE training at St. Joseph Hospital on June 1. The experience was humbling, incredible, blessed, joyful and at times very sad – just a few of the attributes that can be associated with being a Chaplain.

CPE training is not teaching you about compassion. Rather, it helps to more fully develop the compassionate nature that is already present. During this process, you come to learn more about yourself than you had ever thought possible. It also reminds you of the things that you've done in your own past – the good and the bad. Early in my training when I was preparing one of my weekly process reports, I told my supervisor that, after a particularly hectic Friday night on call, I felt as though my soul had been exposed. When I discussed this with my therapist, it was then I realized that everything that I had done previously in my life was coming to the forefront to help me help others. Everything that we are or ever have been when we enter CPE training is what helps to form us into the chaplains we become.

Through my time in Community of Hope and visiting with our own parishioners, I had the voice of the Holy Spirit with me, gently guiding me that this is where I needed to focus my ministry. This was more than once brought home to me during CPE. It was long days, long nights, soul-searching and incredible. I had completely forgotten what the word “tired” could really mean and remembered quickly.

Now another part of the journey has come. I leave you. As you know, beginning August 2<sup>nd</sup>, I will be at St. Mary Magdalene's on State Line for my internship under the direction of Fr. Jason Lewis and Deacon Peisha Roumas. It is an exciting time and sad as well.

St. Matthew's has been my family since 1995 when I walked through the doors for the first time. Through the years, I've watched this congregation change, raise its children and see them off and I have been privileged to be with many, many members of this family in their final days. This leave taking is hard. Part of me will still be here in that I'm leaving Stan in your care. He will be here almost every Sunday.

I will be learning new things, new ways of doing and being with a congregation. All of the incredible things that I've learned here at St. Matthew's will go with me and hold me in good stead. You, too, will go with me – in my heart and in my prayers.

Blessings

*Nancy*