

DECEMBER 2021



THE MESSENGER

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ST. MATTHEW'S STAFF

SHERRY MINZEY
ADMIN. ASSISTANT

PATTI MCGILL
MUSIC DIRECTOR

OFFICERS

JUDY TAYLOR
SENIOR WARDEN

JASON BROOKS
JUNIOR WARDEN

DAVID MACEY
TREASURER

LINDA GERDING
SECRETARY

SERVICE TIMES

10:00 A.M.
SUNDAY SERVICE

5:00 P.M.
DECEMBER 24TH
CHRISTMAS EVE
SERVICE



Sr. Warden's Message



Happy December, Everyone! It's hard to believe that the Christmas season is upon us and it is time to get shopping (or finish it) with only about three weeks before the big day is here. The first Advent candle was lit the last Sunday of November and hanging of the greens will take place on the 12th (contact Barb if you can help or just stay around after the service.) Christmas Eve service will be **IN PERSON** this year - thank you God! It's also stewardship month! Stewardship packets were distributed last week, either in person if you were in church or by mail if you were not, so everyone should have theirs by now. We should have a decision on a new part-time priest in just a few weeks, so please be generous with your pledge of money, time, and talent so we can start the new year on a strong footing!

As many of you know, I grew up at St. Matthew's. I started giving quarters every Sunday at Sunday school and filled my little Mite Box to buldging whenever they were given out (was that Advent or Lent?) I made my first pledge when I was fifteen years old from wages at my first job as a Page at the Raytown Midcontinent Public Library. I was gone from St. Matt's for many years after moving away for college, then a job in Oklahoma and later, Kansas. I didn't return until my parents both died and Fr. McVey graciously performed their funerals. I started coming to his Saturday afternoon services, but I was admittedly a hit-and-miss attendee. Little by little, it began to dawn on me that my commitment to God and church was wholly inadequate. How could I claim to have a strong relationship with God if I only came to church when I was in the mood, gave a little money only if I had enough in my purse when the plate was being passed, and didn't participate in any church activities or help out in any significant way? It was not enough to just decide

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Grant continued..

to come more frequently or make sure I went to the bank before church. I realized I needed to make an actual *commitment* - my money, my time *and* my talent. I made my first pledge since I was a teen and little by little started to get involved. I started by offering to start a Vacation Bible School with Zella Forsythe, who taught me at St. Matt's VBS some forty-five years earlier! This was followed by committing to teaching Sunday school, again with Zella. My efforts grew from there, starting Prayer Group and Flying Solo and getting involved in a number of other activities. None of this would have happened had I not made that commitment several years ago. It has changed my life. This year, I will reassess my finances and see what more I can do, as I can always do more and do better when I commit to it.

Everyone have an excellent Christmas and a fun New Year's Eve!

Judy Taylor
Senior Warden



Christmas at St. Matthew's



Christmas Eve (on a Friday this year!) will be celebrated at 5:00 pm this year, with Fr. Mark Maguire serving as celebrant. As we have been, we will zoom the service online for those not attending in person. Our own Jessica Toro (Jessica Rowe) will be guest soloist for the evening.

There will not be a service on Christmas Day, however several of the churches in the KC metro are offering Christmas Day services. The Cathedral for example, has a service on Saturday, December 25 at 10:00 am.

The following Sunday, December 26, St. Matthew's will offer Lessons and Carols, which is always quite lovely!

Please see below for the schedule for December.

December 5 th	Fr. Jeff Hurst	Holy Eucharist Rite II	
December 12 th	James Laney	Morning Prayer	
December 19 th	Fr. Jeff Hurst	Holy Eucharist Rite II	
December 24 th	Fr. Mark McGuire	Christmas Eve Service	Holy Eucharist Rite II
December 26 th	Jason Brooks	Lessons & Carols	Morning Prayer

Barbara Wegener, Worship Chair



DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH GOALS COMMITTEE

“Your IOG application has been approved...and the grant will be fulfilled! God bless ya...Archdeacon Bruce Bower”. This was the email received announcing that the grant application to the International Outreach Goals Committee had been approved. It was followed up with a letter signed by The Rev. Jonathan Frazier-Standing Committee President which said:

“A check in the amount of \$523 was sent to Heart of America Crop Walk to support their efforts to provide sustenance for vulnerable communities around the world. These funds come from the IOG line item of the diocese’s 2021 budget. Congratulations on your outreach to those in need. We look forward to your application next year.”

With this matching grant St. Matthew’s parish was credited for donating a total of **\$1,046.00**. **Thank YOU**, Parish Family, for helping to reach this goal.

Service & Community Outreach Chair
Linda Gerding



We finally have the camera up and running and tested. Our IT guy, Shaun Glaubitz, Dave Macey and I spent Veterans Day running cables from the office modem, down into the ESL computer room, through the ceiling into the ECW room, and up through the floor grate into the sanctuary. After unloading a trunkful of equipment, Shaun setup the equipment and we spent the rest of the day wiring for sound and testing the sound to get it to work through the existing sound system. We ended the day nearly complete but in need of an adapter. We spent the bulk of our seven-

hour day in Raytown determining how to get around the stone walls then running wire. We returned to Raytown after Thanksgiving with the adapter and completed the hook up and testing. The plan going forward will be to run Zoom and the streaming camera concurrently as I work through using the system properly. If anyone here has a steady hand, we could sure use your volunteering skills to run the camera. If you are interested, contact Judy.



A VIEW FROM ZOOM

For those parishioners who join us on Sunday's via Zoom, and thanks to Lorrie Taylor, Judy Taylor's sister, we've included some shots of what it looks like from the "Zoom point of view".

Lorrie joins us quite often to worship and just happened to take pictures on November 7th when we had Fr. Jeff Hurst as our Supply Priest. The little bubble image in the corner represents Lorrie's computer.

Lorrie, thanks for taking these and then sending them.

Linda Gerding-Zoom Host





Parish Picnic

Members of St Matthew's gathered in the parking lot on Saturday, November 20th for a hot dog roast and s'mores. 15 parishioners attended as well as 5 guests. Carl Turlin took the time to make sure that area residence was invited and two did attend along with three people from AA. We had great weather for the event. Thanks to Carl Turlin for thinking to invite AA and the neighborhood. Thanks also to Judy Taylor for bringing her portable fire pit and cook stove.

Beth Cook, Evangelism





Center Back: Brenda Laney, Mary Cease, Linda Gerding Seated Left to Right: Patti McGill, Zella Forsythe, James Laney, Carl Turlin, Marci Brown Turlin

COMMUNITY OF CHAPLAINS

The Community of Chaplains held their November 14th Circle of Care meeting after coffee hour in the Church Library.

Mary Cease was the Host but everyone brought their own lunch. Linda Gerding brought a pumpkin pie to share (with REAL whipped cream!).

Mary read the November 14th daily reading from *The Rule of Benedict-Insight for the Ages: Chapter 36 "The Sick"*. This prompted some good discussion and comments of St. Benedict's statement: Care of the sick must rank above and before all else so that they may truly be served as Christ who said: "I was sick and you visited me" (Matt. 25:36). The Chapter ended with "How much of our own precious time do we spend on those with little time left?" Definitely some food for thought for the Chaplains.

Linda Gerding-COC



It's again time for our annual pledge drive. Our sincerest apologies for the delay. Thank you for your stewardship commitment in 2021. By being good stewards, our gifts have allowed St. Matthew's to continue to grow in our programs, our services, our building use and our community outreach with an outpouring of God's love and hope.

This is always a good time to examine how we can be stronger stewards everyday of our lives and increasing our pledge of time, talents and treasure. This will further benefit our church as well as the larger community around us. There are many opportunities. God gives us many gifts but what we do with them is our gift back to Him.

Commitment Sunday will be Sunday, December 19th. Please place your Time and Talent sheet and your pledge card in the offering plate. Or, you may mail the sheet and the card in the enclosed envelope. It is very important for you to try to return your documents this day so that our treasurer, David Macey, has time to work on a proposed budget for 2022, which is reviewed by the Vestry in December for approval and then presented to the congregation at the annual membership meeting.

God's Blessings,

Letisha Parker-Arroyo, Stewardship Chair

"Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the first fruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine."

Proverbs 3:9-10

"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse...And try Me now in this...If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it. 'And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,' Says the Lord of hosts;"

Malachi 3:10-11



YARD CLEAN UP SATURDAYS-2021

It was really nice Fall weather for the two Saturday's Carl Turlin, Jr. Warden and Properties Chair, selected for folks to come out and help spruce up the church property.

November 6th found Eric Story, Marci and Nicolas Turlin, Jim Laney, Charles Cease, Judy Taylor, Beth & Darrel Cook, Carlos Arroyo, Becky Bosley, and Linda Gerding: cutting, raking, pulling, trimming and bagging from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Jane Matson showed up to nourish everyone with Oreo cookies!

November 13th again found a crew hard at work: Mary & Charles Cease, Jim & Brenda Laney, Carl, Marci & Nicolas Turlin, Judy Taylor and Linda Gerding. Their efforts helped the over-all appearance and the plant-health of the exterior of the building.

Everyone's help was so appreciated, and as Carl sent out in an email: "Thanks to all those who helped on those two Saturdays! There's always more to do, but we accomplished a great deal, all by our dedication and persistent work. Blessings and thanks to all, Carl.

Linda Gerding-reporting



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YARD CLEAN UP





THE TRAIN:



At birth we boarded the train and met our parents, and we believe they will always travel by our side.

As time goes by, other people will board the train; and they will be significant i.e. our siblings, friends, children, strangers and even the love of your life.

However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone. Others will step down over time and leave a permanent vacuum.

Some, however, will go so unnoticed that we don't realize they vacated their seats. This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells. Success consists of having a good relationship with all passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is: We do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way, love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are. It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.

I wish you a joyful journey for the coming years on your train of life. Reap success, give lots of love and be happy. More importantly, thank God for the journey!

Lastly, I want to thank you for being one of the passengers on my train!

MERRY CHRISTMAS to my fellow passengers !!

Linda Batson, Daughters of the King.





Reminder: A faulty toilet (located in the Men's Room by the stairs in Parish Hall) fill valve that shuts the water off when the water level in the tank reaches the proper level caused our water bill to jump from \$30 to \$175 and the sewer bill to jump to \$197. I was able to get the sewer bill reduced to \$38 and the water bill reduced to \$140, but they said it would be a one-time adjustment only. They said this leak resulted in 21,000 gallons being used. The repair cost us \$125. Please help us avoid future unexpected bills like this by making sure the toilet has stopped running before you leave the restroom. Thanks to Charles Cease for discovering the leak and shutting the water off at the valve before it could get even worse. Thanks for your help keeping our water bill and repair costs down.

Dave Macey



GIVING REMINDER

Just a reminder that you have options on how you can send in your pledge.

By mail: Dave Macey's address: 2200 NW Summerfield Dr., Lee's Summit, MO 64081

You will also find a Special Christmas Offering envelope in your bulletin. You can also give a Christmas Offering online.

Online: Online Giving Link: <http://stmatthewsraytown.org/>



**January Messenger & Calendar Deadline
December 22nd**



Christmas CAROLING



Please come and join our parish in Christmas caroling to our home-bound parishioners on Saturday, December 18. We will meet at the church at 1pm. I will put together the route that we will follow. If you would like to join in, please let me know on or before Sunday December 12th.

If you have a neighbor, relative or friend that you would like added to the list that we will carol, please email me their name, address, and phone number so I can contact them about coming to carol to them. I will also need this information by Dec 12th to add them to the list.

Consider asking you kids and grandkids to join us in the fun.

Join us after for cookies and hot chocolate in the hall. You are invited even if you don't carol with us.

Beth Cook



But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: "to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11