



February 2024

The Messenger

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
9349 E. 65th Street
Raytown, Missouri 64133



Dear Church family,

We just concluded our Annual Parish meeting and our reorganizational vestry meeting in record time! Thanks to everyone who attended and for all the great food provided by the Hospitality Committee. We are pleased to welcome back Judy Taylor and Christina Brooks to the vestry for another term. Jason Brooks will take up the mantle from Judy Taylor as Senior Warden. We all thank Judy Taylor for her great

service as Senior Warden for 3 years. We will formally install all Vestry officers in the Sunday service on February 25th.

We expressed a special thank you in the meeting to Sherry Minzey who works so diligently with us to prepare us for this meeting as well as what Sherry does for us in bulletin preparation, email communications and conversation with the Rector about other special needs of the church. A special thank you to Christina Brooks for her continued work in copying our bulletins and other printed material needed.

With great sadness, we laid George E. Miller Jr to rest on Tuesday, January 23rd. The memorial service was attended by many friends, family and church members. George has left a legacy of faithful service for us to follow.

Love and Peace,

Fr. Jeff

St. Matthew's Staff

The Rev. William Jeff Hurst

Rector

Sherry Minzey

Admin. Assistant

Patti McGill

Music Director

Officers

Jason Brooks

Senior Warden

Carl Turlin

Junior Warden

Brenda Laney

Treasurer

Linda Gerding

Secretary

Service Times

Sunday Worship

Holy Eucharist Rite II

10:00 a.m.

Streamed on YouTube

LENT, HOLY WEEK and EASTER

Let's remember that the **Ash Wednesday service falls on Feb 14th** will be observed at 7 pm with imposition of ashes and the Eucharist.

Stations of the Cross will begin on the first Friday after **Ash Wednesday on Feb 23rd** and will be observed at 6:00 pm for 5 Fridays through March 22nd. A light supper is planned after the approximately half an hour service. Linda Gerding, Patti McGill, Fr Jeff and Judy Roberts will lead us in these services.

We will prepare the church building for the Lenten season as we gather on Saturday February 17th to cover the crosses in purple before the **First Sunday in Lent on February 18th**. Father Jeff will lead us in a discussion about Holy Week and the Easter season afterwards. Let's all try and meet at 10 am.

James Laney discovered a nice article concerning the Lenten Season that we used last year which has been sent to you by email and will be available in print too.

Palm Sunday is March 24th in the 10 am morning service which will begin with the blessing of the palms in the nave. People will be invited to process around the church outside and reenter to begin the service. After the Palm Sunday service, volunteers will set up the altar of repose for the upcoming Maundy Thursday watch night at the altar of repose

Our **Maundy Thursday** service is March 28th observed at 7 pm. Foot washing and hand washing will be offered with the Eucharist followed by the stripping of the altar and observing the watch service at the altar or repose. Linda Gerding will have a sign- up sheet for those who desire to observe blocks of time for devotion.

Good Friday service will be observed on March 29th at 12 pm. A narrative from John's gospel will be observed. Devotion to the cross will be offered.

Easter Sunday is March 29th at 10 am. We are hoping for great attendance and some worshipful assistance from our choir.

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

January 28, 2024

About twenty people stayed to attend this year's Annual Parish Meeting. The Hospitality Committee of Christina Brooks and Zella Forsythe, provided the meal of pizza, salad, and cookies, prior to the meeting.

Fr. Jeff officiated and followed the agenda as printed on the front of the APM booklet of reports. The meeting adjourned in record time lasting only a few minutes over an hour. With a closing prayer and "Go Chiefs" everyone helped to clean up, and go home to watch the Chiefs beat the Baltimore Ravens!



CHURCH via ZOOM

After receiving 7 to 8 inches of snowfall during the week on January 10th and 11th, and frigid temperatures creating ice, the decision was made to have Sunday's January 14th service via zoom. Fr. Jeff reported the wind chill temperature where he lived was -30° at service time. Seventeen folks joined in online, safe and warm from their homes. Many parishioners had consecrated communion kits already with them, but those that did not could also use their own bread and wine or juice, as Fr. Jeff consecrated it during the service. Patti was unable to provide music this time due to the placement of her microphone for her piano, but said she would check into figuring something out next time, if we have to do this again. No coffee hour, donuts were canceled, and everyone was reminded that in two weeks would be the Annual Parish Meeting and a light lunch with pizza would be served.

We are blessed and thankful that we have a diligent, hard-working, Junior Warden, Carl Turlin, who repeatedly went to the church to check out the building, and make sure there were no leaks, frozen pipes, and that the building was locked and secure. Thank you aCarl. And thank you to all the faithful parishioners who support St. Matthew's "in thought, prayer, word, and deed."

Linda Gerding-reporting



EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

January 7th was Epiphany Sunday and St. Matthew's parishioners watched and followed the Star as it was carried to and from the altar by Jordan Wagstaff.

The Hospitality team of Christina Brooks, preparing food, and Zella Forsythe, decorating the undercroft, truly made it a festival feast.

Zella Forsythe made the three Epiphany cakes which held the coin, bean, and little baby.

Charles Cease found the coin (prosperity), Jason Brooks found the baby (King for the day), and Linda Batson the bean (a year of good luck).

Linda Gerding-reporting





20 + C + M + B + 24

Did you see these markings at each entrance to the church building on January 7th Epiphany Sunday? It is called “Chalking the Door” and is a way to celebrate and physically mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God’s blessing of our lives and homes throughout the year. It is sometimes referred to as “holy graffiti”. The letters C, M, B, come from the traditional names for the wise men: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, whose arrival at Mary and Joseph’s home is celebrated on the Epiphany.

The letters are also an abbreviation for “Christus Mansionem Benedicat” which means “May Christ bless this dwelling “. The first and last numbers refer to the current year and the plus signs in between represent the cross.



A few ladies from the parish (Linda Gerding, Zella Forsythe, Patti McGill, Peggy Sutherland, and Janet Anderson-Brown) gathered at the front door of the parish, before the service, to read from Proverbs, say the prayers, and “chalk the door “.

Father Jeff had printed out the short chalking ceremony and bought chalk so each parishioner could have them to take home and bless their own homes for the New Year. May Christ bless us all.

Linda Gerding-reporting

Monthly Birthday Celebrations

A few years back, prior to Covid, St. Matthew's Daughter's of the King wanted to do something to recognize parishioners who were having a birthday. So, they gathered together lots of little special things, put them in a Birthday Bag, and delivered them. January through December the special bags were delivered. THEN...COVID hit and it all stopped.

It seems "The Daughter's" are back in action. This time they have decided to purchase a Birthday cake each month with the name of each person having a birthday. The cake will also be shared with parishioners during coffee hour.

Birthdays for January were Janet Carney, Pat Whitmore, and Jordan Wagstaff.

Pat Whitmore with her piece of cake. (Janet & Jordan were absent)

Linda Gerding-reporting





Flying Solo

The normal Flying Solo was cancelled on the third Saturday of the month because of the weather.

Last night three of us got the opportunity to go to a movie which was being shown across the country on January 23 only.

We went to see A CASE FOR LOVE which was inspired by the teachings and writings of Bishop Michael Curry. This feature length documentary examines the question of whether or not love, specifically-unselfish-love, is the solution for the extreme societal and political divide facing the world.

Jane Matson joined us for a good dinner afterwards at Palacio Maya Mexican Restaurant.

Mary Cease

SNOW & ICE REMOVAL

A BIG THANKS to our Jr. Warden, Carl Turlin, for recruiting “the guys” to come up to St. Matthew’s after the big snow. Carl, Jason Brooks, Carlos Arroyo, and Nicolas Turlin shoveled and salted the steps and walkways. It was a big job, but like Carl said “many hands made the job easier”. THANKS AGAIN, guys!



Pray for Others

I feel honored when someone asks me to pray with them or for a loved one. I'm aware it can be hard to trust and believe when weighed down worry. This is why it is my joy to hold the high watch in prayer.

No matter the situation or prayer need, I center myself in the truth there is no lack in God. As I pray, I envision them whole in every way, filled with health, prosperity, joy, and happiness. They may not be aware of their divine gifts right now, but I know the truth of their divinity.

I see those for whom I pray as they truly are, perfect spiritual beings. Knowing this I do not pray for specific outcomes. Instead, I pray for their highest good to come to them and for them to deeply feel the presence of God, with and within them always.

But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer.--Psalm 66:19

Linda Batson
Daughters of the King



**February 21st
March
Messenger & Calendar
Deadline**





George Miller Jr.

December 10, 1935 – January 18, 2024

George was born on December 10, 1935 in Kansas City, Missouri to his parents, George Miller Sr and Muriel Miller. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He was married to his wife, Doris Miller, for 69 love filled years. He enjoyed spending his time golfing, working in his lawn, reading, watching the Chiefs and spending time with his family. You could always find him practicing his golf swing on his porch. He loved his family fiercely and would do anything for them. His great-grandkids were his pride and joy. He enjoyed teaching them about golf, sitting with them on his lap and watching them as they played.

George worked for Butler Engineering for 50 years. In that time, he had several design paten's that are still being used to this day.

He was a faithful member of St. Matthew's for 63 years. He was the "go to" maintenance man, usher and facilities project manager.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Denny.

George is survived by his wife, Doris; daughters Denise and Janice (Mark); two granddaughters, Stacey (Jarrod) and Natalie (Bryan); 7 great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild and several nephews.

ST. MATTHEW'S SHROVE TUESDAY

PANCAKE SUPPER



FEBRUARY 13th 5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM

ALL YOU CAN EAT!

PANCAKES

SAUSAGE

COFFEE

JUICE



CARRY OUT AVAILABLE



\$6 PER PERSON

**Tickets at the door
or**



Advance tickets available from church members.

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9349 E. 65th Street, Raytown MO 64133**

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Officers & Lay Leaders 2024

Jason Brooks-Sr. Warden (Vestry)
Carl Turlin- Jr. Warden (Vestry)
Linda Gerding- Clerk of the Vestry
Brenda Laney-Treasurer (voice @ Vestry)
Robbie Tubbs-Bookkeeper (Staff)
Patti McGill-Music Director (Staff)
Christina Brooks-Finance Chair (Vestry)
Judy Taylor- Stewardship (Vestry)
Rick Roberts-Evangelism (Vestry)
Zella Forsythe-Convention Delegate
Jason Brooks-2nd Convention Delegate
Christina Brooks- Alt. Conv. Delegate

Other Committee and Commission Chairs for 2024:

Worship/Acolytes Commission- Jim Laney
Hospitality- Christina Brooks & Zella Forsythe
Altar Guild- Brenda Laney & Christina Brooks
Pastoral Care- Pat Whitmore
Telecare-Linda Gerding
Community of Chaplains- Linda Gerding, Carl Turlin, Marci Brown Turlin
Ushers- Rick Roberts
Service & Community Outreach-Linda Gerding
Sunday School- Judy Taylor, Zella Forsythe
Prayer Group-Judy Taylor, Linda Gerding, Zella Forsythe
Flying Solo Group- Mary Cease
Knitting Ministry- Pat Whitmore
Daughters of the King-Linda Batson
Clerks of the Works- Jason Brooks
YouTube Streaming/Facebook-Carlos Arroyo

Online Links

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

Facebook:

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church | Facebook

St. Matthew's Website:

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church (stmatthewsraytown.org)

St. Matthew's YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@st.matthewschurchraytown2730>

