



January 2023

The Messenger

ST. Matthew's Episcopal Church
9349 E. 65th Street, Raytown, MO 64133

St. Matthew's Staff

The Rev. William Jeff Hurst
Priest-in-Charge

Sherry Minzey
Admin. Assistant

Patti McGill
Music Director

Officers

Judy Taylor
Senior Warden

Carl Turlin
Junior Warden

David Macey
Treasurer

Linda Gerding
Secretary

Service Times

Wednesday Zoom
Evening Prayer 7:00 p.m.

Sunday Worship
Holy Eucharist Rite II
10:00 a.m.



Dear Church family,

I would like to thank the St. Matthew's family for the generous Christmas gifts we received! I also am appreciative of the gracious manner in which we have been received and welcomed while we have been among you. We are truly blessed to be a part of this church family.

Now as we leave the Christmas season and enter Epiphany, we are still reminded that God always had a plan to send His son Jesus and to reveal Him to us and to the world. The Shepherds get to hear the grand Heavenly chorus and meet Jesus in the manger. The Magi travel a few years to follow a star bearing precious that leads them to their revelation of Christ the true King! In Christ's Baptism we also get a revelation of Jesus as the Father affirms Jesus as "my beloved son, in who I am well pleased." Truly God's mission to us was to save us out of great Love. God has called us to let the world know this love is also revealed in us. Now God's mission begins anew! Howard Thurman says it so well!

When the song of the Angel is stilled.

When the star in the sky is gone,

When the Kings and Princes are home,

When the shepherds are back with their flock

The work of Christmas (Epiphany) begins:

To find the lost,

To heal the broken,

To feed the hungry,

To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among all people,
To make music in the heart

Peace and Love,
Fr Jeff

St. Matthew's New Sexton

Our new sexton, Dean Patterson, has been hired and has jumped into the job with gusto! He seems very excited about the job and he and I talk every couple of days about where things are and what needs doing. Fr Jeff and the vestry collected some money for a Christmas gift for him and he was very surprised and delighted to receive \$75.00 in his Christmas card.

If you happen to drop by the church and see small motor scooter outside or inside the hall, that means that Dean is there working. So, be sure to say "hi".

Thanks and Happy New Year,
Carl Turlin, Junior Warden



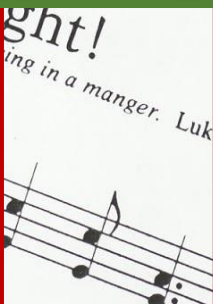
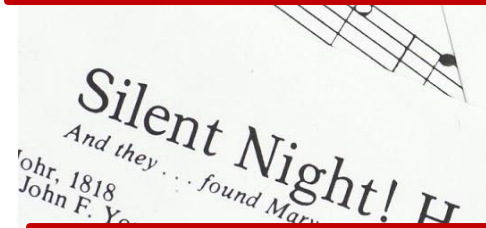
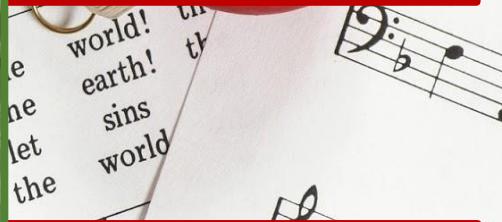
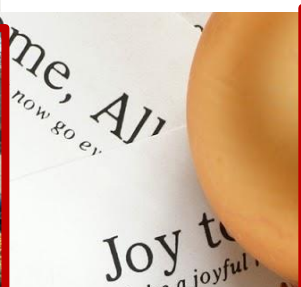
Giving Tree

This year St. Matthew's adopted a family from REAP and sat up a giving tree. We received a family with five children ages 17 to 2. Parishioners were invited to take an ornament from the tree that listed one of four gifts chosen by the child from the Amazon website. We are able to report that all ornaments were chosen and we were able to give each child four gifts for Christmas! Thank you everyone for your generosity. There will be some happy children at this household!

Christmas Carolers



Six members of St Matthew's went Christmas Caroling on Saturday, December 17. we sang Christmas songs to members of our parish who are not easily able to get out and to some community members too. In total we visit 7 households. Afterwards we meet in the parish hall to visit, enjoy homemade cookies and hot cocoa.



Cookies, Hot Cocoa
and
Popcorn



Christmas Craftiness



Bingo
Craft Making
Games
Gingerbread House
Decorating



[Kwanzaa](#) is an annual celebration of African-American culture from December 26 to January 1, culminating in a communal feast called Karamu, usually on the sixth day. It was created by activist Maulana Karenga, based on African harvest festival traditions from various parts of West and Southeast Africa.

Kwanzaa was introduced by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966 to the United States as a ritual to welcome the first harvests to the home. There are seven candles of which three are red, representing the struggle; three of the candles are green, representing the land and hope for the future; and one black candle, representing people of African descent.

The seven days of Kwanzaa

1. Umoja — Unity. To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race.
2. Kujichagulia — Self-Determination.
3. Ujima — Collective Work and Responsibility.
4. Ujamaa — Cooperative Economics.
5. Nia — Purpose.
6. Kuumba — Creativity.
7. Imani — Faith.

Kwanzaa Traditions

- Lighting candles in the kinara in recognition of the principles.
- Placing one ear of corn for each child under the [kinara](#).
- Putting a fruit basket and a unity cup on the straw mat that holds the kinara.
- Holding a feast that celebrates cultural expression.

[Kwanzaa](#) is the celebration of Black family and community, culture and traditions, history and heritage, and unbreakable hope for the future. It's where ancestors and elders are honored, and children are cherished. Kwanzaa is where the Black past is commemorated, and the Black future is celebrated. It's where struggle is acknowledged but the persistence, resilience and transcendence of Black people are heralded.

This year especially, so many Black families are feeling in need of the strength drawn from common cultural identity, community connection and shared faith. Kwanzaa means even more as the hard work of social justice continues.

Blessings,
Linda

Rev. Donald E. Becker & Eva M . Becker
2/28/1923 ~ 6/28/1999 4/15/1920 ~12/3/1998

For those who may not know, Fr. Becker was the first Rector of St. Matthew's and served the Parish while living across the street in the Rectory for over 30 years. He helped St. Matthew's grow from the Chicken Coop, to the Stone Chapel, to it's present location, and to a congregation size of about 300.

The Becker children, Chris, Peter, and John, decided it was time to get the ashes of their parents from the Cathedral storage and have them buried in the Cathedral Memorial Garden. Their sister Mary (Becker) Madison had passed away on 11/24/2019 in Doylestown, PA. from cancer. She was almost a 10 year survivor from breast cancer when it returned in the spine.

The Service of Committal was held on Saturday Dec. 27th at 10:00am and led by Canon Ryan Wiksell, who was filling in for Dean Andy Keyse who was out-of-town. It was extremely cold at the garden but the committal ceremony is abbreviated so our small group (8) was able to gather inside the Cathedral to be warm and visit a while after the service. It was a delight to see the Becker children and meet Chris' daughter Kimberly who was in town from Belfast Northern Ireland. She came the farthest as Chris lives in St. Louis, Peter is in Crystal Lake Chicago, and John is in Santa Fe New Mexico. We reminisced about the "good ol' days" of St. Matthew's in its hey-day and they asked about several parishioners they remembered from back in the day.

Fr. Becker was my first Priest; he confirmed me and married me (the first time). It made me happy to be in attendance when he and Eva were finally laid to rest, together, in the garden.

I shared these pictures with the family later to which they responded: "Words cannot fully express our gratitude for your thoughtfulness to take pictures". I hope some of St. Matthew's long-time parishioners appreciate seeing them too.

Linda Gerding



Canon Wiksell



Burying ashes



Putting in a handful of dirt



Chris, John, Peter, Kimberly



MANY THANKS to all those whose efforts went toward the celebration of a beautiful Christmas at St. Matthew's. We are especially grateful to the Altar Guild members who did so much to prepare for and supervise the hanging of the greens and who were ever-present before, during and after the Christmas season services to be sure that all was ready and in order for worship.

We are also grateful to all those who contributed toward the plants, flowers and greens for Advent and Christmas. Many commented on the loveliness of the sanctuary. Thank you! Those who contributed this year were:

George & Jeannie Miller

Jane Matson

Fr. Jeff & Brenda Hurst

Mike & Linda Gerding

Rick & Judy Roberts

Jim & Sherry Minzey



My sincere thanks to the Vestry and Parish for the generous Christmas gift I received, it was very much appreciated. I wish all of you good health and happiness in 2023.

*Many blessings,
Sherry Minzey*



January 19th

February



Messenger/Calendar

Deadline



Blessings to all for the New Year.

Linda Batson, Daughters of the King

