

January 2024

The Messenger

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



Christmas Eve Service

This year's Christmas Eve service was at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Helping to make this service more special, and the Altar fully staffed, was Dominic Brooks and Nicholas Turlin serving as acolytes.

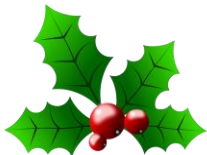
The Choir was full on Christmas Eve including Marci Turlin's sister Christi Brown as a guest singer. They all sang beautifully to gloriously praise our Lord.

Carl Turlin as Junior Warden filled in for Judy Taylor, Sr. Warden who was out of town, to present a gift from the parish to Fr. Jeff and Brenda.

Linda Gerding

Reporting & Pictures

Pictured: Fr. Jeff
Jason Brooks
Dominic Brooks
Nicolas Turlin



Pictures on page 2.



CHRISTMAS EVE

St. Matthew's Staff

The Rev. William Jeff Hurst
Rector

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

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





From the Music Director

Merry Christmas to all and a New Year full of good health, happiness and joy for all. Advent and Christmas at St. Matthew's was full of beautiful music and singing by our choir, with your participation. Even when it was only 2 choir members, there was cheerful singing and leadership.

I want to thank the Vestry and congregation for the nice Christmas gift. It's so appreciated. Also, to the choir members for their gift. We had a nice "party" after our Dec. 20th rehearsal and exchanged little gifts with each other including some delicious treats. This is a tradition that must go back to

Helen Brotemarkle's days. Every Christmas Eve after the service we would gather in the Bride's Room and celebrate each other and Christmas. Much fun was enjoyed by all. Covid days messed that up for us, but the tradition lives on.

I was so happy with our Advent 4/Christmas Eve combined service. The choir rehearsed one evening and early on Sunday the 24th to put together some nice music. I want to thank all of them and our guest, Christi Brown, Marci's sister. She is a good singer and I'm hoping she will sing more often with us. Maybe my favorite music from that service was the "Peace, Peace, Peace" sung with "Silent Night". Thanks to Carl Turlin for leading the congregation for the "Silent Night" part. And thanks to Zella Forsythe and Marci Turlin. And to Janet Anderson Brown, who cantered during the Alleluia. Six very strong singers who sure do put out a beautiful sound!

We are now getting ready for the next special day, The Epiphany, and then will move toward Lent and Easter.

Yours faithfully.

Patti McGill/Music Director

Stewardship Campaign



We had 100% participation in the stewardship campaign by our active members. The results will not be available until funds are tallied and the budget for the new year is reported. Thank you to everyone who pledged this year! Thank you also to Sherry Minzey and Christina Brooks for their help in getting the pledge materials compiled and distributed.

Judy Taylor
Stewardship Chair



Flying Solo

On December 16, five of us went to the Texas Roadhouse restaurant in Lee's Summit, for an extremely loud, but exceptional meal. Afterwards, we spent 2 hours traveling to the Longview Christmas in the Park light show (because the line was sooooo long). But the time passed quickly, listening to carols, just talking and sharing, enjoying being together once again. It only took us 30 minutes to get back where our cars were parked.



Mary Cease



St. Matthew's Community of Chaplains



The Host for the December meeting of Circle of Care was Patti McGill. This was the last meeting for 2023 so chaplains were reminded to turn in their reports, and a new sign-up sheet to Host for next year was passed around. Patti had table decorations of evergreen, berries, and candy canes. The daily reading of the Rule of Benedict was read, then Chaplains shared about a special Christmas memory. Chaplains were happy to welcome Fr. Jeff, Brenda Hurst, and Charles Cease as guests. Brenda Laney is not pictured but joined us later after having a training session by Dave Macey, for the Treasurer's position.

Linda Gerding
COC Facilitator

ANOTHER ONE IS....GONE!



On Monday December 4, 2023 the large Pine tree next to the bell tower came crashing down! It died rather quickly from some unknown disease and needed to be cut down. Jr. Warden Carl Turlin obtained three bids and the best one was from Kurtis Waters, who also does our lawn service. Two guys worked all day getting the tree cut down, loaded onto a trailer, and hauled off. The cost was \$800 labor and \$150 disposal fees. They did an excellent job and clean-up. Thank you Carl for arranging to get this taken care of. There is still a large stump to be removed so everyone be aware of that when walking on the west lawn.

Linda Gerding, reporting



For The New Year

Now the dance begins again;
we circle' round a star
Just imagine what we look like from afar:
Moving on in to the future,
moving on beyond the night
Let's stay close to one another;
come, let's start the New Year right

Let's all shine the light of love
Let's all show how much we care
Let's get very good at being very kind
Let us all enjoy the gift of peace of mind

Alyce Kaufman

Linda Batson
Daughters of the King



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024



The Annual Parish Meeting
will be held in the Church
Parish Hall, following the
10:00 a.m. Eucharist on
Sunday, January 28.

All Parish officials and group leaders,
please remember that **Annual Reports**
are due on January 8. Reports must
be in Word format (doc and) to Sherry
Minzey's email:
sminzey.stmatt@gmail.com.

January 24th
February
Messenger & Calendar
Deadline



CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS

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:

Given By:

Linda & Mike Gerding – In Memory Of: Gramma Mickey, Grandad Merle, Ronald Woody, Esther LaRoe, Julia Seese, Leroy & Carrie Anne Gerding; **In Thanksgiving For:** Community of Chaplains

Jane Matson – In Memory Of: Charlie Matson, Frances Medley, Jphn Ansley, Nellie McVay; **In Thanksgiving For:** Cathie & Rob Muschany Family



To the Vestry & Parish,

My sincere thanks for the Christmas gift. It was very much appreciated and I can assure you will be put to good use. I wish for all of you a healthy, happy, and prosperous New Year.

You all are greatly missed.

Love,
Sherry

NEW ALTAR FLOWERS

St. Matthew's was recently gifted two beautiful new flower arrangements to be used on the altar when fresh flowers are not available.

Sherry Minzey may be living in Florida and working offsite as the church Administrative Assistant, but she still keeps her eye on the altar when she streams our services on Sundays. Sherry has made most of the extra flower arrangements we use during the year, and thought a couple of new ones might be nice for us to have.

Conveniently her son Michael visited for Christmas, so Sherry, used him as our "floral delivery man". Special Delivery at no cost!

Thank you Sherry for the gift of your talent at arranging flowers for St. Matthew's, and thanks to Michael Minzey for the delivery service.

Linda Gerding-reporting





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>