



March 2023

# The Messenger

ST. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
9349 E. 65<sup>th</sup> 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,

It is my great privilege to enter a second Lenten season with all of you. In fact, I was hired to be your Priest-in-Charge last March 1st. So, as we begin this journey with Jesus into each of our hearts, I pray that our hearts will remain open and pliable to God as we engage in this new reset for observing holy habits of reading, prayer, fasting and almsgiving. There is no prescription for all since each one will discover how to bring the coals of one's heart closer to the fire of God's love. It's not just to give up something we love like chocolate or wine for a while, but a beginning again our intentions to know and love God and discern more deeply God's will and then do God's will in our ministry to the world.

One avenue of expressing devotion and rekindling our affection to Jesus is by attending any of the Stations of the Cross gatherings on Friday evenings at 6 pm. Another way is to join a specific Lenten study. Our dear brother James Laney is now leading us into a study of the Book of Common Prayer and how it's a rich and often untapped resource for us in communal and home worship and study. We are rediscovering that the Anglican way of life and worship involves certain practices and forms that are vehicles that aid us in our intentions to love and know God. However, this formation is more than a person who knows how to flip through a prayer book and knows all the gestures in worship. The supreme goal of all our activity is to be formed in the image of our Savior Jesus Christ. God has predestined us to be conformed to the image of God's dear Son Jesus Christ ( Ro 8:29). That is the goal of the use of our prayer book and the time we spend in study and practice. May our hearts burn within us as we pray!

Let us truly experience a holy and happy Lenten season. Easter is just around the corner!

Fr Jeff

**ST. MATTHEW'S SHROVE TUESDAY**  
**Charlie Matson**  
**PANCAKE SUPPER**  
**FEBRUARY 21, 2023 5:00-7:30 PM**



Thanks to Head Usher Rick Roberts, St. Matthew's was able to hold the Annual Pancake Supper in the Fellowship Hall instead of via Zoom like in 2021 and 2022! Rick was again able to schedule the catering help of "Two Men & A Grill" (actually 1 guy, 1 gal and 2 grills) to carry on the tradition of "Charlie Matson's Pancake Supper". All you can eat pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee were provided at a cost of \$5.00 per adult and \$3.00 for children. The Ushers Group (Linda Gerding, Rick Roberts and Pat Whitmore) along with several volunteers from the congregation (Jim & Brenda Laney, Zella Forsythe, Carl Turlin, Christina Brooks, Patti McGill, and Jordan Wagstaff), served everyone and then pitched in for an easy cleanup. The Caterers had again provided paper goods for the event, eliminating the need to use the dishwasher. (except for the silverware, other than that Pat Whitmore washed by hand and refolded into clean napkins.)

Attendance was about 115 this year with several guests coming from the Stone Chapel Building. "Carry-out" was again also provided and was taken advantage of by several people. Rick & Judy Robert's son-in-law, David Fox broke the record he set in 2018 (21 pancakes-14 sausages) eating 22 pancakes-15 sausages! He always gets his money's worth!

This event is not intended to be a fundraiser, but a social activity prior to the Season of Lent. Mardi Gras attire was encouraged and welcomed. Thanks to several guests making donations we were able to pay the Caterer's bill of \$575 (plus a \$40 tip to the cook and server) and deposit \$65 profit into the Usher's Fund. A big THANK YOU to the Ushers, Dave Macey for printing the tickets, Sherry Minzey for the Flyers, Janie Matson for "Charlie's placemats", and everyone else who helped sell tickets and invite friends. Thank you ALL for a fun evening and for your support!

Linda Gerding  
for the St. Matthew's Ushers-2023

Pictures on page 3

# ST. MATTHEW'S SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER





**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES**  
**NOON and 7:00pm**  
**February 22, 2023**



Thanks to Fr. Jeff Hurst parishioners from St. Matthew’s, and visitors, had the opportunity this year to attend Ash Wednesday service either at 12:00pm or 7:00pm. The noon service was abbreviated with no music and a shortened sermon. The evening service was complete with music and Ash Wednesday liturgy. Both services allowed parishioners to receive the placing of ashes, in the sign of the cross, on their foreheads. These services were not streamed on YouTube or Zoomed, and both had about the same amount of attendees: 15 at noon and 14 at 7:00pm. Before the noon service Fr. Hurst also visited the Stone Chapel and placed ashes on 7 individuals attending that meeting.

**“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”** And so begins the first day of Lent, the six weeks of penitence before Easter.

**MANTRA: “God, be merciful to me a sinner.”**

Linda Gerding

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**REFURBISHED PARISH SIGN**

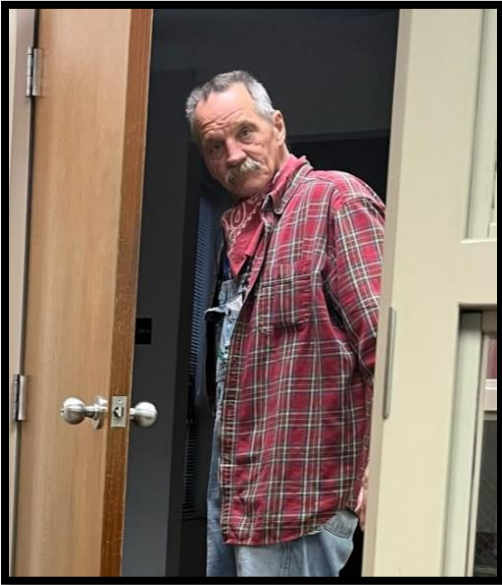


Thanks to Zella Forsythe for bringing to the attention of the Vestry the need to replace one of the outside directional signs. The Vestry took action, and thanks to Vestry member Christina Brooks, for volunteering the expertise of husband Jason Brooks.... a New Sign is in place!

**Thank you, Brooks Family!**

**YOU ARE AWESOME!**

## SEXTON/HANDY-MAN



It seems St. Matthew's has acquired quite the handyman along with our Sexton, in Dean Patterson.

As a parishioner, one may not have noticed anymore, the raggedy, torn screens that were on the windows of the "Damron" side of the building. Over the years, the screens had just deteriorated on almost all of the windows. At the end of 2022 Linda Gerding had taken this on as a private project, replacing one screen a month, when Dean happened upon her putting in one of the new screens. After a short conversation about what she was doing, Dean offered to do the screen repair himself. It seems he had done this type of work at Ace Hardware years ago and had the expertise, tools, and material.

To date Dean has repaired 8 screens on all the windows and has included it in the time he reports for Sexton duties.

What a blessing as a little "facelift" to the building



Thank You Dean!  
Linda Gerding-Reporting

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### FREE

Today I release regrets over past events I wish I could revisit and redo, and say "no" to worrying about the future. Over the years, I have learned that trying to live in the past or the future binds my attention and keeps me in a prison of distraction.

I find spiritual freedom by living mindfully in the present moment. Distracting thoughts and feelings fall away as I focus my attention on whatever I am choosing to do. Time expands until there is only the eternal now stretching out before me.

In this place of mindful presence, I discover my oneness with God anew. I am receptive to the nudges of my guidance, Spirit within, showing me the way forward. In freedom and with gratitude, I follow my path of the highest good.

Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me in a broad place. Psalm 118:5  
Teresa

God's Blessings during this Lenten Period.

Linda Batson, Daughters of the King



## Flying Solo

Five of us went out to see “80 for Brady” and to eat at Summit Pizza afterwards. The movie was enjoyable (funny) and the pizza was great.

Mary Cease

**APRIL  
MESSENGER/CALENDAR  
DEADLINE  
IS  
MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup>**



## Online Links

### Online Giving Link:

<http://stmatthewsraytown.org/>

### Facebook:

[St. Matthew's Episcopal Church | Facebook](#)

### St. Matthew's Website:

[St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
\(stmatthewsraytown.org\)](http://stmatthewsraytown.org)



## To the Parish Directory

Please replace Peggy Sutherland's phone number with the one listed below.

**Peggy Sutherland's correct  
phone number:**

**816-812-7547**