



NOVEMBER 2022

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

10:00 A.M.
SUNDAY SERVICE
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

**SUNDAY SERVICES ALSO
STREAMED ON YOUTUBE**



Dear Church family,

It has been a wonderful October as I've watched the leaves turn to brilliant hues of red and gold. Surprisingly, the weather remained mostly pleasant which afforded us a great Fall Festival in our church

parking lot filled with the joyful tunes of Bluegrass music and the laughter of children watching old folk dancing! Thanks again Wildwood Boys!

I am writing this long overdue article on the last day of October as I reflect on our stewardship theme that underscore each year. We will host special talks, perhaps a few sermons and some encouragement to rethink our last year's pledge. The theme of stewardship is measured by how we employ our time, talents and treasures. John Wesley told those early Methodists, "Make all you can, Save all you can, and Give all you can." Now how in the world do we do that? It is truly a paradox at times how we balance our lives as good stewards.

I am thinking of the many ways we are plugged into various local and outreach ministries and other good intentioned organizations in our community. We have our own gifts that are revealed in our particular service and interactions that is sometimes visible and sometimes behind the scenes. I think of those behind the scenes acts of kindness as the core of what makes us so special. You have been recipients of that care and continue to offer it others unconditionally. Those times are immeasurable in their impact and influence but nevertheless are seen and will be rewarded by our Lord.

Continued

Let us not give what's left over from our day, our resources, or our visions we might share with the church. Let's offer ourselves with the best our lives, with our lips and our hearts.

Blessings to all,
Fr. Jeff

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISSI BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS October 16, 2022

Fr. Jeff Hurst performed the "Blessing of the Animals" on Sunday Oct. 16th at 1:00pm. The service was held on the east lawn of the church with five pets being presented for blessings: Ollie Seese, Sparky Arroyo, Jasmine Cease, Maggie Cook, and Maggy Mae Batson. Fr. Jeff also blessed a picture of Jane Matson's deceased Kitty.





FALL FESTIVAL

Some residences in Raytown joined us for the food, and bluegrass music by the Wildwood Boys on Saturday, October 8th. There were outdoor games to play and activities for the children. Thanks to all the parishioners who helped with this event!





Trunk or Treat

On Saturday October 29th, St. Matthew's held its second annual trunk or treat. Ten parishioners donated their trunks for the event. There were approximately 50 trick or treaters with 34 parents or guardians attending. In addition to candy, we also provide a Halloween craft this year. A good time was had by all.







Words of Gratitude for Thanksgiving

“Let us therefore proclaim our gratitude to Providence for manifold blessings—let us be humbly thankful for inherited ideals—and let resolve to share those blessings and those ideals with our fellow human beings throughout the world. On that (this) day let us gather in sanctuaries dedicated to worship and in homes blessed by family affection to express our gratitude for the glorious gifts of God; and let us earnestly and humbly pray that He will continue to guide and sustain us in the great unfinished tasks of achieving peace, justice, and understanding among all men and nations and ending misery and suffering wherever they exist.”

President John F. Kennedy

Linda Batson, “The Light of Christ” Chapter of DOK

Trust the movement of the Holy Spirit

In just a few days, we will gather for our Diocesan Convention. We will come together to elect deputies to General Convention, as well as members of the Standing Committee, the Diocesan Council, the Commission on Ministry, and the Board of Examining Chaplains. We will also be voting on resolutions and on the Plan for Ministry. These are all important decisions for the Diocese of West Missouri. We won't agree on every issue, and some may be disappointed their favorite candidates were not elected to open offices. There may be things said that some may not agree with and others may love. That is part of what coming together in convention can bring out among us as siblings in Christ in the Diocese of West Missouri.

One thing I trust is the movement of the Holy Spirit. It may not always move the way I would prefer, but I trust in the Holy Spirit to move us to we learn to have a civil conversation with those around us? Our Presiding Bishop has developed a program called [*From Many, One: Conversations Across Difference*](#). This work is available in English and in Spanish for churches, vestries, bishop's committees, and individuals to use. Centering around four questions, the guide and videos show us a way to listen to each other even when we disagree on issues. I commend this work to you all.

As we come together in a few days at our Diocesan Convention, I want to remind you of something I shared from my first *From the Mission Field* with you all: the Bishop's Address from the Journal of the Primary Convention of The Diocese of West Missouri held at Grace Church in Kansas City on June 3-4, 1890, offered by the Rt. Rev. Daniel Tuttle, Bishop of Missouri and Provisional Bishop of West Missouri. I was struck by the following where we need to be as a diocese. You will notice at this convention that more times of prayer are built into the business session of the meeting by chaplains who will be praying for all of us through the convention. We need their prayers. We need ALL of our prayers. We will also have a commissioning service at the end of the business session for all who have been elected.

By trusting the Spirit and offering our work in prayer, the Church sets a powerful and countercultural example. While the culture around us defaults to mistrust and entrenched divisions, we need to work together to model walking the way of love that Jesus taught and about which our Presiding Bishop has spoken so eloquently. This is not only true for our Diocesan Convention, but also for our communities of faith, our cities, counties, and states. We need to see it not just in church gatherings but in electoral campaigns. How do we learn to speak together and truly listen to each other? How can we engage people across the divides that seem to separate us? How can words, which I have excerpted and offer to you:

"Yours is a glorious Missionary field. Talk Missions, work Missions, love Missions from the very start. All around the horizon, there is Missionary work for you, and that, too, of a most promising kind... Kansas City, St. Joseph, Springfield, Sedalia, Carthage, ye that

are strong, I beg you uphold the weak. I beseech you as for your life, stand by the Missionary work... Here and now, you are to give tone to your Diocese. You are to start the making of its future history. Be prudent, prayerful, earnest, kindly, unselfish, generous."

Let us come together in a few days, and work together in the months ahead, to strengthen this Diocese, focused on the words of Bishop Tuttle so that we may recall our roots to grow anew.


Blessings and love,



CONGRATULATIONS MADISON KINGSLEY!

Back on June 18, 2022 St. Matthew's helped out a young lady who needed a place to have her baby shower. Madison Kingsley rented the Fellowship Hall and pretty much by herself did all the decorations, prepared food, and had a very nice event for her soon to be born little boy. St. Matthew's even gave her a baby quilt, thanks to Beth Cook.

Linda Gerding had asked Madison to please let St. Matthew's know when her baby was born...and so she did. Her son, was born on 08/20/22, 9lbs 2oz at 11:02pm.

His name is Dre'len . She also said "Thank you guys so much again for all that u did!"

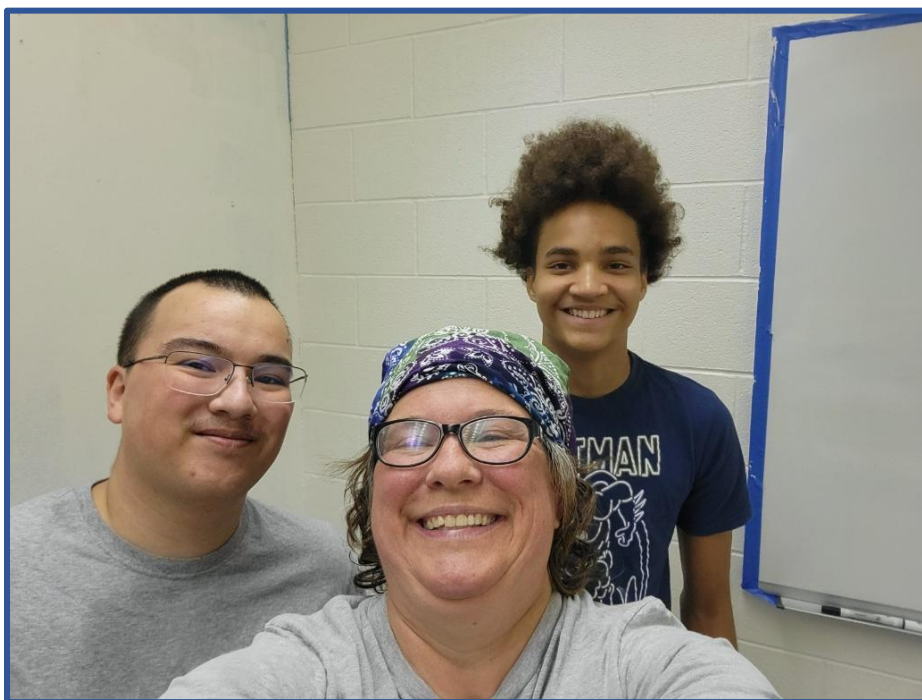
Linda Gerding
Community Outreach



Painting



Painting has begun in the classrooms. Thanks to funds from ECW. Painting from volunteers. If you are interested in donating time or supplies, please contact Christina.



Happy Crafters would like to thank all the members of St Matthew's for their donation to the pillow project. We collected twenty-one pillows and took them to Micah this last Monday October 17th. We also took some clothing items.

Please continue to remember Micah when you are cleaning closets. They could use any coats, blankets, sheets, towels or warm Winter clothing.

Beth Cook
Evangelism

Flying Solo



Flying solo met Saturday afternoon, October 15th, for dinner and a movie. We saw Amsterdam starring, among others, Christian Bale, Margot Robbie, John David Washington, Taylor Swift, Chris Rock and Robert DeNiro. For dinner and desserts, we met at La Fuente Mexican Restaurant in Lee's Summit. We were joined by Zella Forsythe, Linda Gerding, Mary Cease, Charles Cease, Mary Ellen Svoboda and Judy Taylor. Join us for the November 19th Flying Solo. Watch your email for Beth Cook's announcement for the time and location.



Judy Taylor (for Beth Cook)
Photos by Linda Gerding

Left: Judy Taylor, Linda Gerding, Mary Cease
Right: Zella Forsythe, Mary Ellen Svoboda, Charles Cease



Mary and Charles Cease sharing a humongous fried cinnamon ice cream



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

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

NOVEMBER 21



**DECEMBER
MESSENGER
&
CALENDAR
DEADLINE**



Find us on
Facebook

**St. Matthew's Facebook page is now online.
Please contact Carlos Arroyo if you have any problems finding it.
Lots of great pictures and information on upcoming events!**



*St. Matthew's Episcopal
Thanksgiving Luncheon
Sunday, November 20th
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.*

Bring your favorite side-dish or dessert

Sign-up sheet in the narthex

Meat provided by Hospitality Committee

