



SEPTEMBER 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,

I will try and share a synopsis of the time we spent studying and discussing the book. "Unstoppable Outreach." We spent several months and gathered by Zoom each Wednesday evening with an average of 7 in attendance. Many thanks for your attendance and your part in

leading discussion many times! It was a collaborative study time!

We first understood that one book doesn't fit all churches. We rightly understood with the author that we weren't getting caught up with statistics and cookie cutter programs. What we recognized was that our church DNA was unique and so was our approach to outreach. The issue we all recognized is that St. Matts and other parishes in the diocese will not last indefinitely without attaining new members.

We read a lot about welcoming new people and working to retain them and to work at being invitational, inclusive and caring. We underscored that we already do this well. As one member told me, "When someone visits us a few times, they usually stay."

However, St. Matts doesn't not get many visitors! Perhaps partly due to our location a bit from the main roads and restriction from the city about sign placements. As far as nurture. several members personal stories how they first visited the church and how they felt the love of God through various caring people. The telecare ministry and the chaplaincy ministry through the COC were underscored as the loving way our church has cared for member for decades.

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Perhaps most important of all, we got to know each other and was illumined by the stories we shared and by the recognition of our actual involvement in other area joint outreach ministries. That means some wear many hats but we actually do a lot for our size. I've been calling us "small but mighty" since I've been with you as your priest. As a priest, I've noticed individuals growing in their expressions of their own vision for new possibilities for ministry, I've sensed the deep enthusiasm and holy fire igniting and inspiring us to do the impossible.

What did we learn? We recognized to be upbeat and positive about all our communications such as group emails, the bulletin and the newsletter---and that it coincides with our vision and mission statement, Thus, you now see that statement each Sunday in the bulletin as a gentle reminder of why we are here and what we about. We learned that citywide invitational events like our Garage sale as a springboard for indirect evangelism is one way to let Raytown know we are here for them. We have new plans to strengthen fellowship internally by things like potlucks and by reaching out to others through our October Fall festival.

Thinking ahead, I've asked a few members to think about a clothing ministry we could offer to community since I've had some calls asking about it. I'd like to find a way to reconnect with the Recovery Plus ministry as a congregation to see what their needs might be. Many thanks to Rick and Judy Roberts for their continual care and love in the transformational ministry!

Peace and love to all,
Fr. Jeff



An Update from St. Matthew's Candidate to the Diaconate

Hello St. Matthew's family, and happy September! I pray that September brings us all cooler temperatures and much-needed rain. I don't know about you, but I am very ready for Fall!

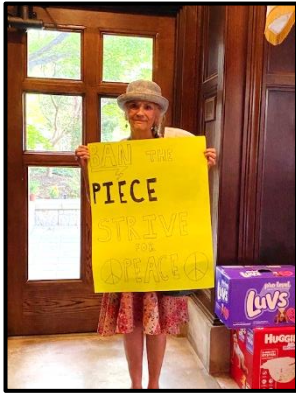
As I began my discernment in 2019, my intention was to provide frequent updates of my progress, what I was learning and next steps. Well, you know what they say about best laid plans. No one could have predicted what 2020 (and beyond) had in store for us, just as no one could have predicted all the changes at St. Matthew's!

As you may be aware, I graduated from Bishop Kemper School for Ministry (BKSM), in May. The graduation service was very moving for me, made more so by the presence of St. Matthew's parishioners in the pews! As I was standing in the front of Grace Cathedral in Topeka looking out on the congregation, my heart was overflowing. In addition to support from St. Matthew's, my friends, and colleagues from BKSM will be with me always.

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After graduation, I prepared for the General Ordination Exams (GOE's), controlled, and evaluated by the Diocese of West Missouri Board of Examining Chaplains (DBEC). The board consists of Professors, Clergy, and Lay individuals from throughout the Diocese. All those taking the exams were given two weeks to respond and believe me I took full advantage of the entire two weeks! After another *long* two and a half weeks, I received word that I had successfully completed the GOE's and was recommended for Holy Orders to Bishop Bruce.

Following the GOE's, the Diocesan Commission on Ministry (COM) voted and referred to the Standing Committee who also voted and sent my name, along with that of Adam James and Vicky Anderson (also candidates for the Vocational Diaconate) to Bishop Bruce. The three of us are now waiting for word from Bishop Bruce regarding her decision. As students, we were all reminded several times that we are not ordained until the Bishop takes her hands *off* of our heads.



I have enjoyed attending events and getting to know people from throughout the Diocese. I couldn't attend the picnic at St. Anne's, but earlier in the Summer attended a service to end gun violence, which was powerful. I was thrilled to meet Judy Roberts after the service and have included a picture. If you happen to see people wearing orange, it is the designated color to wear in support of an

My internship at St. Andrew's has been going well. Although much different than St. Matthew's, it has been a deeply thought filled learning experience for me. For example, I had not previously met so many new people at one time and remembering names has been a challenge. However, I have a different connection with same new faces at the altar, no longer a stranger, but a friend seeking Christ.

If you've gotten this far in this long article, then you are pretty much up to date on my status, except for my parish assignment once I am (*God willing*) ordained. As a Deacon, I report to the Bishop and have always communicated my willingness to go wherever she determines I am needed. I was recently notified my assignment is to Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral following my ordination. I was surprised, and am nervous, but I keep reminding myself that God and St. Matthew's are with me, supporting me and loving me forward. I couldn't do this otherwise.

I miss all of you and look forward to our time together on October 2, the day after my (*God willing*) Ordination. The service will be formally announced by the Diocese, but is set for 10:30am, October 1st at St. Andrew's in Brookside. I hope to see all of you at the service, which will include some old familiar faces. I am sending much love--

In Christ,
Barbara



Back row (L-R): James Laney, Brenda Laney, Patti McGill, Linda Gerding, Carl Turlin
Front row (L-R): Zella Forsythe, Mary Cease, Marci Brown Turlin, Fr. Jeff Hurst

COMMUNITY OF CHAPLAINS

The Community of Chaplains held their August Circle of Care meeting on August 14, 2022 in the new home location of Jim and Brenda Laney. This was just the second time the Chaplains had met since the COVID outbreak in 2020. Hors d'oeuvres have taken the place of the pot-luck as the meeting time has been changed to the second Sunday at 4:30.

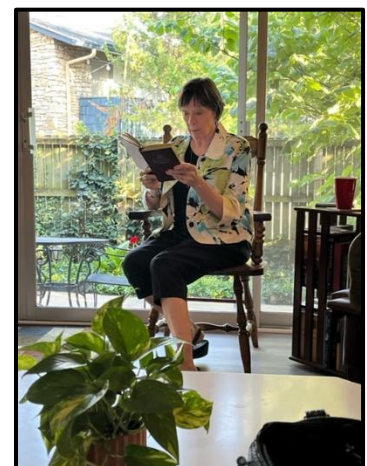
The highlight of this meeting was the simple Home Blessing for Jim and Brenda read by Fr. Jeff, Brenda Hurst, and other Chaplains. They both agreed their new location has simplified their lives and they love their large sliding glass doors that open up onto a beautiful patio area with lots of foliage and flowers. With sidewalk paths, bar-b-que area, exercise room, and large in-door and out-door pools...apartment living with amenities is perfect.

As Chaplains we agreed to continue with telephone contacts as an alternative to visits, if needed. With St. Benedict and his Rule as our guide, we look forward to each month and our Circle of Care.

Linda Gerding –COC 2022



James & Brenda Laney's Home Blessing



RAYTOWN SUMMER LUNCH MINISTRY-2022



Beth Cook

The “Raytown Summer Lunch Ministry” is hosted by Raytown Christian Church. When school ends for the summer, this program’s volunteer’s step up and prepares grocery sacks for the week, filled with breakfast and lunch food. One half gallon of milk was always given out, and sometimes extra bags of onions and potatoes. Cars lined up from 4:00pm-6:00pm to drive through and be handed their food.

Over the eleven weeks of the program, 1,583 bags of groceries with approximately 16 meals per bag, or 25,328 meals, were handed out. The program reached 6,556 people which included 3,807 children during the 11 weeks.

Volunteer teams of 3 people worked on the Tuesdays that food was distributed. St. Matthew’s team was Beth & Darrel Cook and Linda Gerding. This Team worked the first Tuesday of the schedule (It was hot at 98 degrees outside) and the last two Tuesdays of the schedule (it rained on the last day!). St. Matthew’s team handed out 455 bags.

Front center: Linda Gerding
Back row: Beth & Darrel Cook



A big “Thank you”

St. Matthew’s Team for representing our Parish in the Community.

Linda Gerding, Service & Outreach





ST. MATTHEW'S SERVICE & OUTREACH R.E.A.P. – OPERATION BACKPACK 2022

2022 was the 30th Anniversary of REAP handing out backpacks and school supplies to children in the Raytown School Dist. It is amazing that St. Matthew's has been supporting this ministry for that long!!

Linda Gerding announced that Backpack Sundays would be on July 17, 24, 31, and Aug. 7, and 14th. Donations were again collected in church and taken to REAP from St. Matthew's by Linda on August 15, 2022. Backpacks and school supplies were distributed on Aug. 17, 2022.

As always, the Service and Outreach Committee thank everyone in the congregation who was generous enough to make a donation.

A total of **\$320.00** was donated this year by the following:

Jim & Brenda Laney
Jane Matson
Mary & Charles Cease
Janet Anderson Brown

Carl & Marci Turlin
Rick & Judy Roberts
Linda & Mike Gerding
Anonymous Cash donation

Blessings,
Linda Gerding
Service & Outreach Commission



July Flying Solo



On August 20th, Flying Solo took a trip to the Arts and Heritage Center of Johnson County Kansas. The Center offers a museum that focuses on the history of Overland Park from before the Civil War. There was also a fully electric house from the 1960's and examples of fashion from that time. Many of the landmark businesses that are now closed were represented. There was a very informative special exhibit on the history of redlining in the Kansas City area, including maps of Kansas City showing the most desirable areas, where people of color were not allowed to live, to the least desirable, where poor and people of color could buy, but often rented do to increase interest rates for home loans. When we were finished at the museum, we had an enjoyable dinner at Strang Hall.

Beth Cook
Evangelism

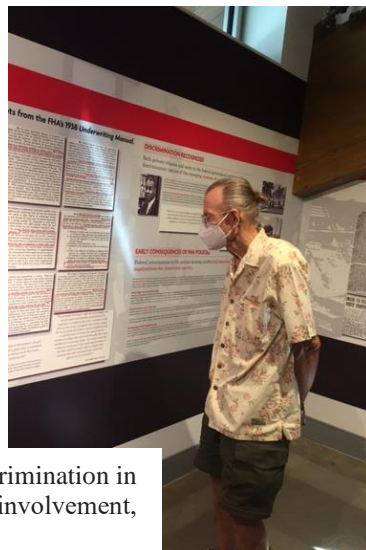
Photos by,
Judy Taylor



Beci Bosley as Whizzo the Clown
in Whizzo's Wonderland.



Mary Cease looks over map of red lining in Johnson County, KS and Jackson County, MO involving JC Nichols and other developer properties.



Charles Cease reads about discrimination in housing and the government's involvement, both positive and negative.





GO placidly amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons.

SPEAK your truth quietly and clearly, and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.

AVOID loud and aggressive persons; vexatious to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

ENJOY your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

EXERCISE caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism.

BE yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment, it is perennial as the grass.

TAKE kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.

NURTURE strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

BEYOND a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars, you have a right to be here.

AND whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore, be at peace with God, whatever you conceive him to be. And whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

Max Ehrmann 1927



Linda Batson, Daughters of the King

HOSPITALITY & COFFEE HOUR



Just a gentle reminder, and reality check, to those of us who enjoy refreshments after church at Coffee Hour.

It has become very obvious, since we are back in church, that the cost of our weekly donuts (\$20.77) is not being met by the few people that are coming to coffee hour. The Hospitality Fund had a negative balance of \$42.36 in July. This does not even include the purchase of coffee, stirs, sugar and creamer, that has been purchased from time to time and donated. An anonymous Donor has graciously gifted an amount to this fund but if each Coffee Hour attendee would be diligent in paying \$3 a week or \$15 a month, the Hospitality Fund could hopefully stay out of the **red** and maybe even have funds for some future events.

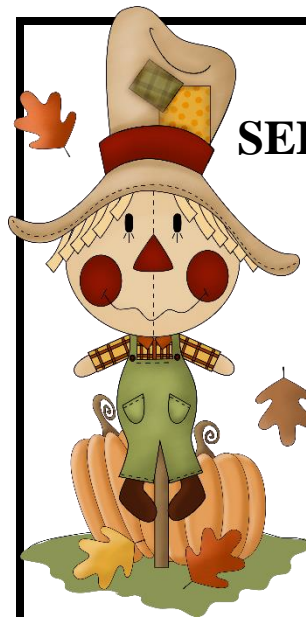
Blessings,
Linda Gerding, Vestry

GIVING REMINDER

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/>



SEPTEMBER 26th

**OCTOBER
MESSENGER
&
CALENDAR
DEADLINE**

ST. MATTHEW'S SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 18TH

DON'T FORGET TO WEAR YOUR RED!



St. Matthew's Ice Cream Social

Sunday,
September 25th
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

St. Augustine's Parish
has been invited to
join us.

We hope you will too!

ORDINATIONS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2022
10:30 AM

at

ST. ANDREW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Kansas City, Missouri

Join us in person, or

WATCH ONLINE
[diowestmo.org/live](https://spirit.diowestmo.org/live)



THE BISHOP AND PEOPLE
OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCHES OF WEST MISSOURI
joyfully invite you to the

ORDINATION

of

VICKY LYN ANDERSON
ADAM ANTHONY JAMES

and

BARBARA J. WEGENER

to

THE SACRED ORDER OF DEACONS



the Episcopal Diocese of
WEST MISSOURI
the festal color is red

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 6401 Wornall Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64113

The link to watch live.

<https://spirit.diowestmo.org/2022/08/ordination-of-vicky-lyn-anderson-adam-anthony-james-and-barbara-j-wegener-to-the-sacred-order-of-deacons/>

**A celebration in honor of Barbara's Ordination will be held
Sunday, October 2nd after the
10:00 a.m. Service at St. Matthew's.
You are welcome to attend the service and the celebration!**