

St. Matthew's Companion



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
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April 2024

Pastoral Ponderings

We have survived Holy Week and Easter. That is the conventional wisdom - survival. To me, though, our journey from Palm Sunday, through the Passion and Death of our Savior, to the glorious Resurrection on the third day, is not something to survive, but rather something to rejoice in. Each year, we remember this sequence of events, not as our own version of trial, but as a celebration of all God does for us as an expression of God's love for us.

This year, I personally felt the Holy Spirit present with us on our services. And, I think I am not alone. The various observances seemed to be more impactful, carrying more spiritual weight as we progressed through the week. The reality of Jesus' suffering, the stark reality of the cross, the time of solemnity in the tomb, and the glorious celebration of the Resurrection made an impact on me like I have not often experienced.

I credit this reality of the movement of the Holy Spirit to the unity of spirit among all of us together. Each week, we join in worship, celebrating all that God is doing through us. We sing the praises of God, listen to God's Word, and pray for the needs of many in this world. And, we do it together, as one body in Christ. I see it in your faces and I feel it in our worship. God is with us each step of the way and wants to be part of our celebration.

As we progress through the Easter season, we need to keep this spirit alive in our lives - looking toward the opportunities God will open for us. We know God is with us in worship; let us also remember that God is with us in ministry. Each of us has a role to fulfill in this work - fixing and serving meals, visiting those who are lonely, donating from our resources to help those in need,

whatever else God lays on your heart. We are all one body, working for the furtherance of God's Kingdom in this world by being open to the gifts God has for us.

In this Easter season and beyond, let us rejoice in worship, love through service, and remember all who have traveled this road before us, and seek God's will for each of us. God is with us to do a great work in Christian County and the surrounding area.

Rev. Chandler Jackson
Priest in Charge

COMMUNITY DINNERS FOR APRIL



April 3

April 10

April 17

April 24

Baked Ham

Breakfast for Dinner

Grilled Cheese Sandwiches

BBQ Chicken



*From the Computer of the
Bishop's Warden*

The year was 2003 and some of us were attending what was simply called The Episcopal Church in Christian County. Actually, we had been meeting since about 2001. But in 2003 it was decided that another name was needed for this small but growing congregation. So, several congregational meetings were held and after many votes the decision was made to call ourselves Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church. (We are still the only Episcopal Church in Christian County).

So, why St. Matthew's? What do we know about our patron saint? I will try to answer the "why St. Matthew's" and also I will try to pass on some knowledge about who St. Matthew was. So, why did we pick Matthew as our patron saint? To try and explain why, we first need to know what

it means to be a disciple of Christ. Matthew believed that the most important need as a disciple is to know what the Lord is like. How can we disciple others? Christian bookstores are full of “disciple how to manuals”, but the early church had a disciple manual too – it was the book of Matthew. Matthew was written in part to teach us how to disciple others. *Discipleship is the application of Christian truth into the present.* What does Bishop Curry say, “If it’s not about love, it’s not about Jesus.” What does God want us to do about this relationship? We need to know what God expects of us on a daily basis. Discipleship is a very practical matter; and Matthew was a very practical person. Matthew draws on his entire background as he writes.

The Bible tells us that Matthew was also called Levi and that he was the writer of the First Gospel. His name appears seventh or eighth in the New Testament list of apostles. We know that Matthew was a Jew who collected taxes for the Roman government and was thus despised by loyal Jews. Mathew’s Gospel was written originally for the Jews and it presents Christ as the son of David and the son of Abraham. Only in Matthew does Christ speak of “his glorious throne”. Since this is the Gospel of the King, Matthew is also the Gospel of the kingdom; in it the word “kingdom” appears more than fifty times and the expression “the kingdom of heaven,” which is found nowhere else in the New Testament, appears about thirty times.

Of all the Gospel writers, Matthew identifies the events and utterances in the life of our Lord more than any other. Throughout his Gospel writings he also teaches us how to be good disciples to Christ and to others. Perhaps that is why, in 2003, we chose St. Matthew to be our patron saint. Do I believe we are doing and living up to what Matthew expects of us? Only each one of us can answer that question.

In Christ’s Love,

Rob Barns
Bishop’s Warden

A HEARTFILLED THANK YOU

I want to thank everyone that came out on March 23rd to help with the polishing of the altar items. Everything looked wonderful. Those that put all the elbow grease into the downstairs, we appreciate how lovely it looks. The bathrooms, refrigerator, the kitchen floor, the fellowship room and the chairs that received a shampoo all benefited from your time and care.

I also want to thank everyone who helped with setting up for the different services that made Holy Week so very special. The services enriched my walk-through Holy Week as I hope it felt for you also.

It was awesome to see so many Mite Boxes come in on Easter. They will enrich the altar linens. Thank you.

Faithfully,
Lisa

Below are the reports from the Bishop's Committee for February.

Bishop's Committee
February 4, 2024
Minutes

Present: Fr. Chandler Jackson, Rob Barns, George Keller, Jerry Larsen.

Fr. Jackson opened the meeting at 2:07 pm with a devotion on Mark 1:37-39.

Discussion: Parochial Report - we reviewed the attendance numbers and the financial pages, filling in information as needed. There was much discussion about the narrative questions, especially those related to the future. The conversation surrounding the outreach ministries was gratifying as we saw all that this congregation does in outreach. The committee accepted the report and approved submission.

Reports:

Secretary - January minutes - George moved and Jerry seconded motion to approve. Motion passed.

Treasurer - January financial report - Rob moved and George seconded approval of financial report. Motion passed. Discussion - Misc. amount was for new checks. Jerry raised the possibility of moving money from the dinner fund to the general fund. Rob moved that we transfer \$800. George seconded. Motion passed.

Warden - Nothing to report.

Priest - Reflected on Annual Meeting and all we have been able to accomplish. Very positive about the coming year. Also updated Pastor Becky's situation following a severe car accident.

Old Business: Review of minutes from the Annual Meeting. No corrections.

New Business: None.

Calendar -

Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner on Feb 13 5:00-6:30. We will supply food and cook, Presbyterians will set up and provide drinks.

Ash Wednesday - we will have our regular meal, followed by the Ash Wednesday Liturgy at 7:00. Due to Becky's health situation, Chandler will celebrate and preach.

Our next meeting will be March 3 at 2:00. It will be hybrid.

Meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev Chandler Jackson

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

| April 2024 | | | | | | |
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| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| Online services are via the St Matthew's Facebook page. Wednesday evening meals and service are downstairs at the church. | | | | | | |
| | 1 Monday of Easter Week | 2 Tuesday of Easter Week 12:30P Quilters | 3 Wednesday of Easter Week 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE | 4 Thursday of Easter Week | 5 Friday of Easter Week | 6 Saturday of Easter Week Walker AN 8A Men's Breakfast at OCC Women's Breakfast CANCELED 2P Party for Lynne at Barns' home |
| 7 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education 2P Bishop's Committee | 8 The Annunciation Noon Jubilee Study Group | 9 12:30P Quilters | 10 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education | 15 | 16 12:30P Quilters | 17 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education | 22 | 23 12:30P Quilters | 24 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH Only | 25 St. Mark | 26 | 27 |
| 28 9A Morning Prayer – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education | 29 Roland BD | 30 | | | | |

The Bishop's Committee:

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| Rev. Chandler Jackson, Priest | Debbie Smith, Secretary |
| Robert Barns, Warden | George Keller, Member |
| Jerry Larsen, Treasurer | |

Church Staff:

Rev. Chandler Jackson, Priest in Charge
Gary Bancroft, Organist