

St. Matthew's Companion



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
1932 E Highway 14
PO Box 704
Ozark, Missouri 65721
stmattsozark@diowestmo.org
stmattsecozark@gmail.com
417.581.1350
January 2024

Pastoral Ponderings

As we begin a new year, it is a good time to stop and reflect on the year gone by before we jump into planning for the year to come.

2023 has been a year of ups and downs. We remember those whom we have lost, especially Bruce and Mary Sue. We might reflect on all they have contributed to St. Matt's through the years with fond memories of sermons preached and classes taught by Bruce, as well as the wonderful food Mary Sue contributed to our Wednesday dinners. These are wonderful memories that we will cherish for years to come. At the same time, we are grateful for those who have stepped up and added their contributions to our common efforts. Many have responded to the call for help in our ministries and almost everyone who is a regular attender is active in some aspect of our work together. Very few congregations can make that claim.

Financially, we had a few weeks of concern, but as with those who filled the gap in our ministries, so have many stepped up financially to carry us through. We were blessed with a generous donation from outside St. Matt's, but it is the continuing efforts of each of you that makes me most proud. I know we can do marvelous things if we only trust God to meet us along the way.

We have been busy - our ministries continue to impact Christian County and the surrounding area as we continue to feed the hungry and to provide an opportunity for fellowship for many who would be spending their Wednesday evenings at home alone. The Twelve-Step groups are growing as they reach more people in need of support in their efforts to move beyond

their addictions. As more places retreat from allowing such groups to meet in churches across the country, we cherish the opportunity to serve these people. The quilt group continues to provide comfort quilts to those in need, baby quilts for the newborns, and the center piece of our annual bazaar. In all, our ministries are making a difference.

What does 2024 hold for us? While my crystal ball is a little cloudy when it comes to predicting the future, I am confident that we will continue to minister to the needs of our friends and neighbors in this New Year. We will continue to pray for the needs of those who pass by our doors, feed the hungry, tend to the sick and needy, and carry out the commandment to love all we meet. Not only is St. Matt's the place to get a meal on Wednesday and to come for help with an addiction, we are also the people to call when prayer is the need of the hour. As we look at new ways of presenting ourselves to the community, let that be foremost in our efforts. God has work for us to do. Let's make 2024 a banner year for Christian County and the surrounding area.

Rev. Chandler Jackson
Priest in Charge

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church will take place on Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 11:30 in the lower level of the church. We will have a potluck brunch with it.



*From the Computer of the
Bishop's Warden*

As we start another year, most of us think about New Year's Resolutions. Whether we actually make any of those resolutions or not is not the subject for my writing here. What I want for us to consider here is what our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, identifies as Steps for Creating Your Rule of Life. What follows is taken directly from his book *Love is the Way*.

1. Identify one to three core values or principles that you would like to live more deeply into. Consider your own experience: What values drive the people you most love or admire? What might most contribute to your growth?
2. Use the value(s) you chose to write vows that summarize what the values specifically mean in the context of your life and your reason for wanting to translate them into changes to your daily life. For example, you might write, *I vow to spend more time listening to others than I have in the past, for better understanding and to find better, more loving solutions for the common good.*
3. Now brainstorm some habits that will allow you to practice the values you identified in various areas of your life. Look around and look at the stories of the wise ones who came before to see what others have practiced. Don't feel that you have to explore each one; instead, consider which are the most important for your life and your values. For each category that resonates, design one to three habits that will allow you to live your mission statement more fully.
4. While using a daily, weekly or monthly calendar to create regular habits works for many, don't be afraid to create a schedule that fits your personal schedule.

Below are several categories for action which Bishop Curry suggests:

BODY: How can you put yourself in the best physical and mental state to live into your vows? Examples might be to commit to daily movement, schedule an annual doctor's visit, take days off when you're sick or see a therapist regularly.

MIND: Commit to time for growth, learning and enrichment that support your vows. To carve out that time, is there social media or screen time that you might eliminate? For example, you might commit to thirty minutes of bedtime reading and reduce social media use or TV time accordingly.

SPIRIT: Commit to a regular schedule of prayer, meditation or rituals that offer freedom from the self, to connect with God and the greater universe. Examples might be saying grace or expressing gratitude at mealtimes with your family, praying or meditating daily, attending a weekly gathering at the church, or spending time in nature or in solitude.

RELATIONSHIPS: What practices would allow you to strengthen your most important relationships? Examples might say "I love you" to someone every day, or weekly quality time with your partner, children, or other loved ones.

GIVING BACK: Commit to sharing your resources of time, money, or attention with others. Ask yourself, *Where will my presence be most healing? What resources do I have to offer those in need?* Examples might include committing to a monthly nonprofit donation, tithing 10 percent of your income to give to others, or signing up to volunteer with a local organization.

COMMUNITY: Where can you find and join like-minded people who could support you over time in practicing your rule of life? Consider this question for all the categories listed above.

May we all have a Blessed 2024!
Rob, Bishop's Warden

COMMUNITY DINNERS FOR JANUARY



January 3	CLOSED for the Holidays
January 10	Enchiladas
January 17	Breakfast for Dinner
January 24	Goulash
January 31	Hot Dogs

Below are the reports from the Bishop's Committee for October and November.

Bishop's Committee
October 1, 2023
Minutes

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

Fr. Jackson opened the meeting at 2:57 pm with a reading Jeremiah 17:8.

Discussion: Stewardship Campaign - Rooted in Abundance. Pledge card includes options of setting up payments directly from checking accounts, estate planning, and making gifts through stocks and bonds. Should we keep these options? We already have online giving through PayPal.

Consensus is to keep them all. On the backside of the cards, there are opportunities to volunteer, to learn more about specific ministries, and to offer skills and talents to the church. It was decided to keep all of these.

Reports:

Secretary - Jerry moved, Rob seconded approval of minutes of September meeting. Motion passed.

Treasurer - There was a discussion about numbers. Correction on deposit in Dinner Fund from \$180.71 to \$180.70. Jerry expressed progress in comparison of budget to current financials. George suggested we look into possibility of moving some of the money we have on hand into a Fidelity Brokerage account to gain interest on it. Current market rate is 4.87%. After discussion, Jerry and Rob said they would look into it. George moved and Debbie seconded we approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

Warden - None.

Priest - Fr. Chandler went to Lebanon to join them in their 150th anniversary celebration. There was a full house.

Old Business: Jerry reminded us of his idea that each member of the committee create a job description of what they do for the benefit of those who come on the committee in the future. Fr. Chandler pointed out that a lot of that is included in the By-Laws and said he would get copies of the By-Laws to everyone.

New Business: George asked about how our non-profit status effects raising money/fund-raisers. Discussion concluded that most of the activities we would be involved in (bazaar, etc.) would not impact our status. If we were to open a gift shop or something like that, it would need to be handled as a separate entity.

Calendar -

October 8-11 is the annual Diocesan Clergy Retreat at Conception Abbey. Fr. Chandler and the other deans are hosting the event.

October 19 - Fr. Joe Behen will be installed as the new rector of Christ Church, Springfield.

October 28 - Deanery Council will meet at 11:00 at Christ Church, Springfield.

The new diocesan website is tentatively scheduled to go live on Nov. 1. After that, the diocesan communications director will have time to help individual congregations transition to the new platform.

Our next meeting will be November 5 at 2:00. It will be hybrid.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Smith

Bishop's Committee
November 5, 2023
Minutes

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

With no quorum present, no votes will be taken.

Fr. Jackson opened the meeting at 2:05 pm with a reading from 1 John 3:1-3.

Discussion: General state of St. Matt's and where do we go from here: There is not much more we can do physically. Financially, things are tight. If we lose one or two pledging units, we will be in very bad shape. Spiritually, we can grow. In all of this, we are holding our own, but it is not easy.

Reports:

Secretary - we will move this to next month.

Treasurer - we will move this to next month.

Warden - Snow plowing - in our agreement with the Presbyterians, we are responsible for getting the lot plowed when needed. We have heard from the company we used last year, Huff Asphalt of Sparta, and they are willing to do it again this year. We anticipate a slight increase in cost. They only come out when we call them and only salt when we specifically request it.

Printer cartridges - Rob has been in contact with Planet Green Recycle about recycling printer cartridges. If people will bring their used cartridges in as they replace them, we can send them to this company and they will pay us. They also pay the shipping. We will put an article in the December newsletter to get the word out.

Priest - Fr. Chandler was reelected as dean of the Southern Deanery for another two years. Fortunately, half the meetings are now on Zoom so travel is a lot less.

Old Business: Audit - Ron Weil has submitted his report on the audit he did for us. The major suggestion was the need for a photographic inventory of everything we own for insurance purposes. Fr. Chandler and Rob will do both still photos and videos of everything we own (tables, chairs, vestments, everything in the sacristy, etc.) and store them on a couple of thumb drives.

George asked about the status of the idea of moving some of our money into an interest bearing account. Rob and Jerry are still working on it, getting quotes from a couple of different companies.

New Business: None.

Calendar -

November 10-11 is the annual diocesan convention at the cathedral. Lisa is our delegate.

November 22 there will be no dinner as it is the day before Thanksgiving. Fr. Chandler will do Evening Prayer online only.

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

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Fr. Chandler Jackson

Treasurer's Report
October 2023

General Fund
Beginning Balance
Expenses
Deposits
Ending Balance

\$9763.14
6375.28
3563.88
\$6951.74

Itemized Expenses:
OPC \$3000.00
Organist 472.50
Diocese 2902.78

Note: Includes November
payments for each

Dinner Fund
Beginning Balance
Expenses
Deposits
Ending Balance

\$680.34
0.00
364.74
\$1045.08

Discretionary Fund
Beginning Balance
Ending Balance

\$655.41
\$655.41

Treasurer's Report
November 2023

General Fund
Beginning Balance
Expenses
Deposits
Ending Balance

\$6951.74
651.65
3523.34
\$9823.43

Itemized Expenses:
To Discretion Fund \$220
Funeral 193.65
Insurance 188.00
Marion Med M 50.00

Dinner Fund
Beginning Balance
Expenses
Deposits
Ending Balance

\$1045.08
193.55
262.00
\$1113.43

Discretionary Fund
Beginning Balance
Deposits
Ending Balance

\$655.41
370.00
\$1025.41

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

January 2024						
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.						2
	1 Holy Name of Jesus	2 12:30P Quilters	3 5-6:30P Dinner CANCELLED 6:45P Evening Prayer ONLINE ONLY	4	5	6 Epiphany 8A Men's Breakfast at OCC 9A Women's Breakfast at Village Inn, Ozark
7 The Baptism of Our Lord 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education 2P Bishop's Committee	8 Noon Jubilee Study Group	9 12:30P Quilters	10 Stephanie BD 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 Confession of St. Peter	19	20
21 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Potluck Brunch 10:30A ANNUAL MEETING	22	23 12:30P Quilters	24 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	25 Conversion of St. Paul	26	27
28 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	29	30 12:30P Quilters	31 JoAnn BD 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE			

The Bishop's Committee:

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