

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
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Pastoral Ponderings

As I look at all of the construction happening around Springfield and the surrounding area, I see land being cleared, infrastructure being installed, and buildings going up. In the early stages, it looks like chaos and destruction, but everything seems to come together about midway through the process. When I think about all of this, it is obvious that someone had a vision of what the finished product would be - how the new structure would look on that piece of land. The vision is becoming a reality.

I mentioned a book I am currently reading that discusses the process of visioning. As we look to the future, we have two options - to see how bad and dysfunctional everything will be or to look at all of the benefits that will come from the project. A developer does not look at the chaos which happens during the clearing of the land and the construction of the building, but on the benefits which will come from the finished work. The attitude with which we enter the project will, in many respects, determine the final outcome. Henry Ford is quoted as saying, "Whether you think you can, or think you can't, either way you are right." How we approach any endeavor determines the outcome.

I tend to look for the positives in any situation and look for the joy that might come from it. However, I am not a total optimist. Yes, failure happens, but what do we take from that experience? Some might say we didn't do enough research before we began or didn't do enough planning. Others might say that we bit off more than we could chew. I would rather look at what positives came out of the experience and build on those.

So, where am I going with this? That is a very good question and, by asking that question we are engaged in the future. Lent is almost half over. By the end of the month we will have

experienced the Passion and Death of our Lord Jesus Christ and celebrated His victory over death. The disciples (and the church) might have looked at this experience and given up and joined Peter in the fishing boat. But, they remembered what Jesus told them and they got excited. They told other people about all they had heard and seen and others got excited. What started out as a small band of somewhat discouraged peasants in a back-water country on the edge of the Roman Empire literally changed the world.

We can look around at the empty pews on any given Sunday morning and wonder if it is worth the bother of keeping the doors open. What good are we doing? Or, we can look at the faithful people who not only come week after week and give of their financial means to pay the bills AND bring food on Wednesday evenings to provide a meal and a time of social interaction for those who seek us out each week. We can walk around with our heads down, feeling sorry for ourselves, or we can rejoice in all that God is able to do with this small gathering of dedicated saints.

You might guess I look at the later, and you would be correct. I am amazed at all we are able to do because we look to the future, not with doom and gloom, but with the joy that comes from serving a great and powerful God who is able to turn our meager efforts into a lighthouse of joy for the people of Christian County and the surrounding area.

Each time we gather, we make a statement about who we are and what is possible. May we never lose that determination to do all we can for the Kingdom of God and let God work out the details. Our vision is to be a welcoming community for all. Let us continue in that work and trust that God will bless our efforts and we WILL see our vision fulfilled.

Rev. Chandler Jackson
Priest in Charge

COMMUNITY DINNERS FOR MARCH



March 6	Mac & Cheese
March 13	Chili
March 20	Baked Potato Bar
March 27	Two Soups



From the Computer of the Bishop's Warden

This month I am doing something different but if you bear with me, I will try to tie it all together in the end. This is a true story.

Early on February 3, 1943, an enemy torpedo struck the Army transport *Dorchester* as it carried 902 officers and enlisted men, Navy armed guard, merchant seamen, and civilian workers in the North Atlantic. The Coast Guard cutter escorts *Comanche* and *Escanaba* rescued 230 men. As *Dorchester* took on water, four Army chaplains: Lt. George L. Fox (Methodist), Lt. Alexander D. Goode (Jewish), Lt. John P. Washington (Roman Catholic) and Lt. Clark V. Poling (Dutch Reformed) calmed frightened soldiers, aided the wounded, and guided the disoriented toward safety. On deck they opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. When there were no more available, the chaplains removed their life jackets and gave them to four young men. "It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven," said John Ladd, a survivor. As the ship went down, men in rafts saw the four chaplains, arms linked and braced against the slanting deck, singing hymns, and praying.

Here is who they were:

Lt. George L. Fox: As a medical corps assistant during World War 1, Fox was highly decorated for bravery and awarded the Silver Star, Purple Heart and the French Croix de Guerre. He studied at Moody Institute, Illinois Wesleyan, and Boston University School of Theology. He and his wife, Isadore had two children. While serving as a pastor in Gilman, Vt., he joined Walter G. Moore American Legion Post 41. He also served as the Legion's state chaplain and historian. Fox went on active duty August 8, 1942, the same day his son Wyatt enlisted in the Marine Corps. He was assigned to the Chaplains School at Harvard and reported to the 411th Coast Artillery Battalion at Camp Davis in Holly Ridge, N.C.

Lt. Alexander D. Goode: Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1911, Goode became a rabbi like his father. He applied to become a Navy chaplain in early 1941 but was not accepted. After Pearl Harbor he tried again, this time with the Army and received an appointment on July 21, 1942. He went on active duty on August 9, 1942 and was selected for the Chaplains School at Harvard. He was assigned to the 333rd Airbase Squadron in Goldsboro, N.C. In October 1942, he was transferred to Camp Myles Standish in Taunton, MA. He and his wife, Theresa, had one daughter.

Lt. Clark V. Poling: Poling attended high school in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., where he was student body president and football halfback. He was ordained in the Reformed Church in America and served as pastor of First Reformed Church in Schenectady, N.Y. He and his wife, Betty, had a son, Clark Jr. When America entered World War 11, he decided to become a chaplain. Talking with his father, who served as a chaplain in World War 1, he learned that chaplains in that war had the highest mortality rate of all military personnel. On June 10, 1942, Poling was appointed a chaplain

with the 131st Quartermaster Truck Regiment and reported to Camp Shelby in Mississippi. Two months after *Dorchester's* sinking, Betty gave birth to their daughter.

Lt. John P. Washington: Born into a poor immigrant family, Washington took a newspaper route to help support his family. He loved music and sang in the church choir. In seventh grade he sensed a call to the priesthood. Washington attended Immaculate Conception Seminary in Darlington, N.J., where he was ordained a priest in 1935. Shortly after the Pearl Harbor attack, he received his appointment as an Army chaplain. In June 1942, he was assigned to the 76th Infantry Division at Fort Meade, MD. In November 1942, he reported to Camp Myles Standish in Taunton, MA., where he was reunited with Fox, Goode and Poling – his classmates at Chaplains School at Harvard.

So, what does all of this have to do with us at St. Matthew's in 2024 as we are in Lent. These four chaplains came from different backgrounds and different economic situations – just like we at St. Matthew's. I believe what these four men showed and what is important for us to remember is that the greatest gift we can give is to care for others and to put others first. I think we do that well at St. Matthew's.

We are mere mortals but remember, as we are in Lent that God gave all of us the greatest gift of all.

In Christ's Love, Rob Barns
Bishop's Warden

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 24	Palm Sunday	9A Holy Eucharist 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education
March 27	Wednesday	5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer
March 28	Maundy Thursday	5:30P Maundy Thursday Liturgy
March 29	Good Friday	5:30P Stations of the Cross 6:00P Good Friday Liturgy
March 30	Holy Saturday	10:00A Holy Saturday Liturgy 6:00P Great Easter Vigil
March 31	Easter Day	9A Holy Eucharist 10A Brunch with Presbyterians

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

Bishop's Committee
January 7, 2024
Minutes

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

Fr. Jackson opened the meeting at 11:38 am with a devotion on Psalm 121 "I lift up my eyes to the hills."

Discussion: Annual Meeting - Discussion of an additional member of the Bishop's Committee. With only 4 voting members, there are times when we can't get a quorum. Roland Dobson declined at this time and Loyal Auterson might be willing in the future. JoAnn Raines' name was also suggested. Decided to wait until later to add a member to the committee.

Reports:

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

Treasurer - December financial report - George moved and Rob seconded approval of financial report. Motion passed. Discussion - Giving Estimate sheets for 2023 will be out next week.

Warden - Nothing to report.

Priest - A look at our average weekly attendance is encouraging. Our ASA only dropped by ½ percent and that was because both New Year's Day 2023 and New Year's Eve 2023 were both on Sunday so we had 53 Sundays this year. The actual total attendance was the same for the two years.

Old Business: None.

New Business: 2024 Budget - Discussion tabled as final draft is not yet ready. Amount sent to the diocese each month will increase, primarily because of Fr. Chandler's salary increase. The total expense for the year will be approximately \$44,500 (an increase of approximately \$1600 from 2023) while the revenue might be a little lower than 2023.

Calendar -

Annual Meeting - January 21 at 10:30 with brunch. Kellers will provide Honey-Baked ham. Our next meeting will be February 4 at 2:00. It will be hybrid.

Meeting adjourned at 12:09 pm with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Smith, Secretary

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

March 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.					1	2 8A Men's Breakfast at St. Matt's 9A Women's Breakfast at Village Inn, Ozark
3 Alicia BD 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education 2P Bishop's Committee	4	5 12:30P Quilters	6 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	7	8	9
10 Daylight Savings Time 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	11 Noon Jubilee Study Group	12 12:30P Quilters	13 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	14	15	16
17 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	18	19 St. Joseph 12:30P Quilters	20 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	21	22	23
24 Palm Sunday 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	25	26 Dave BD 12:30P Quilters	27 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	28 Maundy Thursday 5:30P Maundy Thursday Liturgy	29 Good Friday 5:30P Stations of the Cross 6:00P Good Friday Liturgy	30 Holy Saturday 10:00A Holy Saturday Liturgy 6:00P Great Easter Vigil - IN CHURCH & ONLINE
31 Easter Sunday 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Brunch with Presbyterians						

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