

St. Matthew's Companion



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
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May 2024

Pastoral Ponderings

I would like to begin by thanking all of St. Matthew's for the wonderful vacation I was able to take the last week of April. And, especially, I would like to thank Lisa and Roland for taking care of the service on Sunday, April 28. While I did not go to any exotic destination, I was able to do some reading I have wanted to tackle and was able to spend two full days working in the diocesan archives. This, for me, is truly a pleasure and I was able to get a lot accomplished in that time.

Enough of the past - what does May hold for St. Matthew's? In the liturgical calendar, we wrap up the season of Easter with the celebration of the Ascension of Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Church as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. The final Sunday of May, on Memorial Day weekend, we celebrate the Holy Trinity. No, I will not try to explain the concept of the Trinity in my sermon that day, but we will honor the mystery of God in Three Persons. June will begin the long season "after Pentecost", also known as Common Time or the Green Season, as the altar frontal and vestments are green.

Summer will also bring an opportunity for a book study during the Adult Class on Sunday mornings. If you have a favorite book you think would be good to study, be it one of the books of the Bible or some other book, let Lisa or I know as soon as possible so we can begin planning.

Summer is also a time for us to begin planning for the fall season. Are there new ministries we should explore? How might we engage with our neighbors? Is there something we might add to our joint efforts with the Presbyterians? If any of these questions spark a thought, let Rob or I know. We are open to suggestions.

Meanwhile, we will continue to serve God in all we do. The Sunday services continue, Wednesday dinners and Evening Prayer will continue, and the men's and women's breakfasts will continue. Yes, we like to eat and that is a reflection of the activities of the early church - to gather regularly for meals. Here, again is an opportunity for ideas. Do we want to schedule regular (once a month) potlucks for after service? Do we want to hold class and a meal outside?

There are many opportunities for you to provide input into the activities of St. Matt's. I have only mentioned a few - let us know your ideas. This family is your family and we cherish your ideas.

Rev. Chandler Jackson
Priest in Charge

COMMUNITY DINNERS FOR MAY



May 1	Breakfast for Dinner
May 8	Meatloaf
May 15	Ham and Beans
May 22	Chicken Pot Pie
May 29	Hot Dogs



*From the Computer of the
Bishop's Warden*

The year was 2017. Lisa and I had the opportunity to visit dear friends in Columbia, Missouri to observe the total solar eclipse that year. Columbia was to be right in the path of the "total" eclipse. We had gotten our solar viewing glasses and so it was off to Columbia to spend some quality time with our friends at their son's house and also view what we thought would be a

“nice, once in a lifetime experience.” Were we wrong! The quality time with our friends was fantastic. As we sat on their porch waiting for the moon to do its thing, we could hear the birds chirping and watch the squirrels climbing the trees in the backyard. We were in a residential area so there was minimal traffic noise.

As the moon crept slowly over in front of the sun it got darker and darker. At the same time the birds chirped less and less, the squirrels ceased their climbing and even the residential traffic became less and less. Even the streetlights came on as the eerie scene represented midnight with no moon and no stars. The only noise at that time was the Cicadas. It seemed like the five of us were the only people on the planet. Gradually, as the moon moved on things returned to what we considered normal.

Fast forward to 2024 and the total solar eclipse on April 8th. Lisa and I were in St. Louis and, while the eclipse was only about 98% where we were, the reactions were much the same as in 2017. Many businesses even closed their offices so their employees could go outside and take in such a spectacular event.

And so here is how I believe this all ties together. Somewhere in the world a total solar eclipse happens about every 18 months. Perhaps this is one of the ways God is saying to us - slow down - relax - do not worry - I am in control. Even the pictures we saw on television showed everybody looking in one direction and most of those interviewed had similar comments. It made no difference where they were from, their religion, skin color, or any other difference. For those few moments we were all one. We were all seeing the same thing. Is this not what God wants for us? Does He not want all of us to get along with each other?

And so, since a total solar eclipse happens someplace on the earth about every 18 months, we do not have to wait for that opportunity to experience the awesome love and power of God. It is there every day for us to use if we avail ourselves of the opportunity.

In His love,

Rob Barns
Bishop's Warden

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

Bishop's Committee
March 3, 2024
Minutes

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

Fr. Jackson opened the meeting at 1:57 pm with a devotion on John 2:13-14. Jesus drove out the money changers and livestock. What would Jesus find if He visited our church? “People involved, hearts for the Lord, fellowship, food for fellowship.” What would Jesus find in your Temple - bodies, minds, hearts, spirit?

Reports:

Secretary - February minutes - Time of the beginning of meeting corrected. Rob moved and George seconded motion to approve corrected minutes. Motion passed.

Treasurer - Due to issues with the spreadsheet, George moved and Debbie seconded a motion to table the Treasurer’s Report until next month. Motion passed.

Warden - Contacted the *Christian County Newsliner* regarding putting our Wednesday Community Dinner in their “Community Calendar” each week. This will begin next week. He has been giving the dinner menus to Ozark and Nixa schools to put in student backpacks and sending them to Least of These. Betty requested some to post at Silver Sneakers and Rob asked for other suggestions. Other bulletin boards at Library, Apple Market, Cash Savers were suggested.

Green Planet Recycling - this is where we have been sending ink cartridges for recycling. They pay us a small amount even for cartridges they cannot recycle. They will also take many electronic devices, including cellphones, GPS devices, and similar. We need to get the word out for people to bring these to the church for recycling.

Priest - Will begin a class this week on Appreciative Living, led by the author of a book by that title, Jackie Kelm. This is a 6 week course which will lead to certification as a facilitator for such courses in the future. Appreciative Living is putting the concept of Appreciative Inquiry to work in our daily lives.

I have been selected to be on the Consecration Committee for the new bishop. This entails taking over the process after the election of the new bishop this November and planning all of the events surrounding the consecration, as well as planning the actual service. There is a joint retreat for the Transitions Committee and the Consecration Committee on March 16 where we will find out more of what we will need to do.

In the service today, I was really moved by the Holy Spirit at the end of the communion. I sensed a sweet spirit in our midst that almost brought me to tears of joy. Things are happening that thrill my soul.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Calendar -

Holy Week schedule is in the newsletter. Also, Fr. Chandler will be going up to the cathedral that Tuesday for Renewal of Ordination Vows. We will need Gary only for the Easter Vigil during Holy Week.

Our next meeting will April 7 at 2:00. It will be hybrid.

Meeting adjourned at 2:36 pm with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Smith, Secretary

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

MAY 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 St. Philip and St. James 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	2 Betty BD	3	4 9A Women's Breakfast at Village Inn 10-2 Plant and Bake Sale 11-2 Men's BBQ Lunch
5 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education 2P Bishop's Committee	6 Dennis BD	7 12:30P Quilters	8 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	9 Ascension Day	10	11
12 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	13 Noon Jubilee Study Group	14 12:30P Quilters	15 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	16	17 Stephanie BD	18
19 Pentecost 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	20	21 12:30P Quilters	22 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	23 Lay AN	24	25
26 Trinity Sunday Lisa BD 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	27	28	29	30	31 Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Sue W BD	

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