

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

Over the past few months, the Bishop's Committee has been discussing what we, as a church, like to do and how we could do it better. We have thought about what gives us joy in these activities. Last month, we discussed other ministries we could expand into. As we all know, any new ministry takes two things - people and money. Some would argue that we are short on both of these accounts, but I would disagree. While our average age might be higher than many of our sister congregations, we are not alone in having a congregation made up of mostly older people on retirement incomes.

If this is the case, how can we take on anything new? This is a fair question to ask and I will attempt to answer it. I have never worked with a group of people who, across the board, are more dedicated to service in the church than the people of St. Matt's. You give of your time, your talents, and your resources beyond anything I would expect. You humble me with your willingness to serve. But, take on something new? Yes, I believe it is possible.

Let me give you some examples of why I feel this way:

Every year for the past five years, we have had a progressively large negative budget at the beginning of the year. Each year the treasurer worries about making it through the year financially. Yet, every year for the past five years, we have paid all of our bills and have had money left over at the end of the year - usually more than what we had for a beginning balance. How is this possible? You step up and give generously. Beyond the budget, you also give to our outreach ministries. During this same period of time, we have given \$1000 to Marion Medical Missions for new wells in Africa. Our Wednesday dinners are actually generating more revenue than

you are asking for reimbursements for the food you provide (because you are not asking for full reimbursement). We also give money to Least of These so they can purchase food for those who need help.

A year ago (July 2023), I came to you with a need. We needed more people to assist with the various duties necessary for the Sunday worship. There were a few people I knew would step up, but I was not prepared for the response we got. Almost 100% of the regular attenders are actively engaged in some aspect of service to the church. Some are Eucharistic Ministers and lectors, others are greeters, serve on the Altar Guild, or count the offering. Many bring food for coffee hour and Wednesday dinners and still others serve on the Bishop's Committee or take communion to those who are unable to attend church. Many people do many of these ministries.

When the idea to resume potluck meals after church once a month was presented to the congregation, everyone loved the idea. Each month, on the first Sunday of the month, we have enough food to feed a small army - always wonderfully prepared and graciously shared.

Who does all of these things? YOU! And now we are looking at how we might further impact our community. One suggestion was to provide a free day at the laundromat for our neighbors who don't have washers and dryers in their homes. With a small grant from the diocese, we can provide quarters and laundry detergent to everyone who comes into the laundromat one Saturday each month. Or maybe some other day of the week. All it will take is a few of us to greet the people when they enter the place, offer to help them with their laundry, and wish them a wonderful day as they leave.

That's just one idea that has come up. What other ideas might we have to assist our neighbors who are in need? Jesus is calling us to find ways to positively impact our neighbors. This is the heart of the prayer we say each Sunday and Wednesday:

Lord Jesus Christ, you do not call us to sit and watch, but to go and do. You send us out to spread your message of love to all people. We ask this day that you would guide us in our efforts by your Holy Spirit. Direct us in our ministries and use us for your work. Help us to love all whom we meet, to share our love for you to our families and friends, and to be your messengers to Christian County and the surrounding area. Amen.

How can we more fully live out this prayer?

Rev. Chandler Jackson
Priest in Charge

COMMUNITY DINNERS FOR AUGUST



August 7

August 14

August 21

August 28

Macaroni & Cheese

Breakfast for Dinner

BBQ Chicken

Meat Loaf



From the Computer of the Bishop's Warden

This month I want to do something different than I have ever done before. I want to write just a bit about finances as we are approaching the end of the calendar year.

First, did you know that St. Matthew's actually has three different bank accounts? The first one is called the General Fund and is used to pay the expenses the church incurs on a monthly basis. Money is deposited into this account through our pledges and occasionally by other gifts.

The next account is called the Dinner Fund. As the name implies the income into this account comes solely from voluntary donations on Wednesday nights. We also get gifts from people who are not church members but who believe in what we are doing. It is used to reimburse church members - if they want - for the food that is provided. It is also used to provide Wednesday night supplies that support this important ministry.

The third account is the Priest's Discretionary Fund. Some time ago the church decided that the loose Sunday offerings from the fifth Sunday of the month (there is one a quarter) would be deposited into this account. What does this account do you may ask? If people contact Father Chandler with a valid request for assistance (of any sort) on a one time basis, Father Chandler

directs me to write a check for the assistance. The checks are never made out to the individual but instead to the organization. Here is my concern. First, recently we have had two requests for assistance that have severely depleted this account. Second, we have not been good stewards of providing enough loose offering to have a healthy Discretionary Fund. This is an important outreach that St. Matthew's provides. In September we will have an opportunity to make a healthy Discretionary Fund. Of course, we can do it at other times as well.

While I am speaking about outreach, let us not forget that in September and October we have the opportunity to once again support the Marion Medical Mission. If you do not know what the Marion Medical Mission is about, I suggest that you look at the posters on the bulletin board downstairs by the office. It costs about \$450.00 to build a well for safe drinking water in Africa. I believe that the Diocese will match whatever amount we raise up to one thousand dollars.

God Bless us all,
Rob

Rob Barns
Bishop's Warden

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

Bishop's Committee
June 9, 2024
Minutes

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

Fr. Jackson opened the meeting at 2:00 pm with prayer and a devotion on Luke 6:26. We, as a committee, are called to prophetic leadership. It is our job to make the tough, sometimes unpopular, decisions. Looking at the prophets of the Old and New Testaments, we see that they are not the people of wealth or power, but people with vision. That is the role of the Bishop's Committee.

Discussion question: In April, we said we loved food and fellowship, Wednesday meals, and quilting. Last month the question was, How has God gifted us to do these things? We concluded we are social in nature; great cooks who love to cook; talented quilters who minister through their

gifts with people who enjoy hospitality, service, and are willing to be involved. This month, we looked at the best things that might happen if we focus on doing what we say we really love to do.

Our thoughts:

People will use these gifts and enjoy.

They will benefit others.

We will step out of our comfort zone, possibly even redoing what our comfort zone is.

We will grow in population.

Others will want to join and be blessed - and bless us.

Reports:

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

Treasurer - The financials still look challenging in the months ahead, but are OK now. Rob moved and George seconded approval of the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Warden - No report this month.

Priest - I am now the co-chair of the Bishop's Consecration Committee. We are looking at venues to hold the main reception after the consecration service, including Union Station and the Kauffman Center in Kansas City. There are several events that we will be responsible for, so we are calling ourselves the "party planners." Most of my job is reminding people of items to consider, while those who live in the KC area will do most of the leg work.

I am working with the people in Cassville on the discernment of one of their members toward possible ordination as a deacon. I will meet with them a couple of times to finalize the process.

Old Business: Rob has completed the task of photographing everything St. Matt's owns, as suggested by both the auditor and the insurance representative. He is working on making print copies of all of the photos, as well as making a second copy of the electronic version so we can store them in separate places.

New Business: None.

Calendar -

Our next meeting will be July 7 at approximately 11:30, after the potluck dinner. It will not be hybrid.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Chandler Jackson for Debbie Smith

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

AUGUAT 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 <i>Theresa BD</i>	3 8A Men's Breakfast at OCC 9A Women's Breakfast at Village Inn
4 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10:30A Pot Luck 11:00A Bishop's Committee	5	6 <i>The Transfiguration</i> 12:30P Quilters	7 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer AT CHURCH ONLY	8	9	10
11 9A Morning Prayer – IN CHURCH ONLY 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	12	13 12:30P Quilters	14 <i>Barns AN</i> 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	15 <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>	16	17
18 9A Morning Prayer – IN CHURCH ONLY 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	19	20 12:30P Quilters	21 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	22	23 <i>Larsen AN</i>	24 <i>St. Bartholomew</i>
25 <i>Gary BD</i> 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	26	27 12:30P Quilters	28 <i>Rob BD</i> 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	29	30	31

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