

# *St. Matthew's Companion*



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
1932 E Highway 14  
PO Box 704  
Ozark, Missouri 65721  
[stmattsozark@diowestmo.org](mailto:stmattsozark@diowestmo.org)  
[stmattsecozark@gmail.com](mailto:stmattsecozark@gmail.com)  
417.581.1350  
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## *Pastoral Ponderings*

School is back in session. Our thoughts have turned to cooler weather (it might happen). And we all know Fall brings new challenges into our lives. While we might not have to get kids up and off to school, our lives do change when we see school buses rolling down the street. If nothing else, traffic patterns change for all of us.

In church, Fall also brings new things, as well as some very familiar events. Yes, we still have a couple of months of the Season after Pentecost. It truly does encompass half the year. But, we are already planning for the bazaar in November and there is an unusual excitement surrounding the Diocesan Convention this year as we will be electing our next bishop. But, Fall brings another annual tradition - our campaign to engage each member of the church in the three T's: time, talent, and treasure.

The theme for our campaign this year will probably sound very familiar. I say these words every Sunday morning: "Walk in Love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God." Walk in Love.

Not only is this the theme for this year's campaign, it is also a major theme for us year round. As we look at our various outreach ministries, love of our neighbor is central to them all. We do walk in love. We do not just talk the talk; we walk the walk. It is at the core of our existence. So, this year, we are taking it to the next level. We are looking for new ways we can walk in love. We are exploring new ministries to help our neighbors. But, as you might guess, this takes your participation - your time and talent.

This year, I challenge each of us (myself included) to look for ways we can add to our commitment in the three T's. Most of us cannot increase our financial pledge. I understand that. That is understandable. Some may not feel they can offer more time - we do have a lot of activities happening. That's OK. Some may wonder what talents they might have to contribute. This is where we begin to think outside the box at what might be a talent.

The exciting thing is that, while some may not be able to contribute more in one area, they might be able to increase their effort in another area. Even in a congregation the size of ours, we all have differing levels of ability to contribute in any one of these areas.

In a few weeks, we will begin to distribute the "pledge" cards - or promise cards. Please look at the back of the card this year as you pray about your contributions. There is much more here than asking for money, although that is what the front of the card does. After all, it does take money to pay the bills. But, there are so many other ways you can contribute to our ministries. Be creative, think outside the box, imagine new ways you might be able to help St. Matt's move forward in the New Year.

By the way, when you look at the front of the card, there are some additional ways you can contribute to the church financially. If any of those options appeal to you, let's talk. Some of them will have a direct impact on your taxes, even if you don't itemize your deductions.

Let's make this year's theme shine. Let's Walk in Love in everything we do.

Rev. Chandler Jackson  
Priest in Charge

## COMMUNITY DINNERS FOR SEPTEMBER



September 4	Chicken Divan
September 11	Red/White Chili
September 18	Baked Potato Bar
September 25	Hot Dogs

## ***BAZAAR PLANS***

Do you know that the BAZAAR is only ten weeks away on Nov. 16th from 10 to 2? That may seem a long time, but it's just around the corner. The Tuesday sewing group has completed another pretty quilt named "Butterflies and Blooms". We will be bringing it to the church for display in a week. There are raffle tickets to take and offer for sale. Remember the quilt raffle is important to the success of the bazaar.

We are also asking for some crafted items and baked goods. Do you knit or crochet? Woodworking or quilting? There are so many ways we can share our special gifts or talents. If not, we will need goodies for the home baked tables. Calling in all those brownies, cookies, cakes, breads, and cinnamon rolls (Betty's specialties).

We will split the earnings between the two churches so help us to make this year's Bazaar another great success.

Set-up will be Friday Nov. 15th at 9 a.m. and the Bazaar will be Saturday Nov. 16th from 10 to 2. We will be serving a lunch menu and door prizes during the sale. So, help us as you can.

Thank you, Lisa Barns



*From the Computer of the  
Bishop's Warden*

This month when I was doing some reading, I came across the following points about leadership and what leaders should inspire to do. I believe that we are all leaders in one setting or another. While all of the points may not apply to everyone or in all situations we encounter, I trust that this will be read in the spirit of growth. The points come from a booklet entitled "Leaders Don't Command". The booklet is designed to Inspire Growth, Ingenuity and Collaboration. So, here are the ten points:

- Leadership is influence, Not Authority: True leadership is about influencing others through trust and respect, not commanding or exerting authority.
- Lead by example: Leaders should embody the values and behaviors they wish to see in their team. Leading by example fosters credibility and trust.
- Empower others: Effective leaders empower their team members by giving them autonomy and encouraging their personal and professional growth.
- Listen Actively: Active listening is crucial for understanding the needs, concerns, and ideas of your team. It helps in building strong relationships and making informed decisions.

- Foster Collaboration: Collaborative environments lead to better decision-making and innovation. We should all emphasize the importance of teamwork and shared responsibility.
- Emotional Intelligence is Key: A leader's ability to manage their own emotions and understand those of others is essential for building strong, empathetic teams.
- Adaptability is Essential: Leaders must be adaptable and open to change. The ability to pivot and adjust strategies in response to new challenges is crucial for long-term success.
- Build a Positive Culture: A positive organizational culture drives motivation and encouragement. The importance of creating a culture where people feel valued and supported is essential.
- Develop Future Leaders: Part of a leader's role is to mentor and develop future leaders. Investing in the growth of the team ensures the long-term success of the organization.
- Humility and Servant Leadership: Great leaders serve their teams rather than dominate them. We should all advocate for humility and a servant leadership approach where the leader's role is to support and uplift their team.

If you have read this far I am certain you will see that these ten points were written with emphasis on the business world. But, in addition to that, I believe that we can apply the points to St. Matthew's as well. I will let each of you to substitute words as necessary so that the ten points apply to St. Matthew's as well as in our personal lives.

In God's Love,  
Rob

Rob Barns  
Bishop's Warden

## **JUBILEE BIBLE STUDY**

OPC is again offering a morning Bible study on the second Monday of each month starting Sept.8th from 12 to 1-ish. We bring a little something to share for lunch.

I'm looking forward to this year's program as the writer was a professor Pastor Becky had in seminary. My sister in Atlanta also met Patricia K. Tull at the teaching seminar. They are both very pleased and excited about the subject and presentation. The title is "Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation".

This describes her call for creation justice in this way: "When I first learned of the climate crisis, I wondered how a biblical scholar with few practical skills could help and found my purpose in learning about ecology and teaching people of faith what I could. Such is not everyone's skillset or desire, but each of us has something to do with our hearts." Join us as we explore, with our hearts, God's call to care for our neighbors and for creation.

There is no cost again this year. If you want to join us the books are available now. See me and I will get you the book. Tull will be joining us in January by zoom. Feels like an interesting study.

Lisa Barns



*Below are the reports from the Bishop's Committee for July.*

Bishop's Committee  
July 7, 2024  
Minutes

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

Fr. Jackson opened the meeting at 11:10 am with prayer and a devotion on Luke 10:38-42. Martha and Mary - Martha was so busy with all her chores that she failed to acknowledge the presence of God. In our labors, we need to be aware of God's presence with us, but also join Martha in inviting others to work alongside us.

Discussion - Over the past few months, we have discussed what we enjoy doing and what might be some of the best things that could happen as a result of us doing these things. We identified we enjoy eating and hosting meals, making quilts, and having opportunities for fellowship. The question for today - how do we make these core activities more productive for our congregation? (Those others in attendance were invited to join in this discussion)

When we donate to Least of These, every dollar we donate equals \$10 of food they can purchase.

What would we do if we had \$50,000 in the bank?

Purchase a van to provide rides for people who cannot get out to our location

Have a table or food trailer on the square or in the park when there are events

Participate in the Ozark Community Fair at the OC and at the similar event in Nixa to advertise our services and our ministries

Look at the youth program in Lebanon to see if there is something there we could mirror

Laundry Day - provide detergent and quarters for people at the laundromat once a month

(Both of these last two would be candidates for grants from the diocese)

Reports:

Secretary - June minutes - Rob moved and George seconded motion to approve minutes.

Motion passed.

Treasurer - The financials still look challenging in the months ahead, but are improving.

George moved and Debbie seconded approval of the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Warden - Reminder - the Discretionary Fund is getting low. Please consider contributing to it. Jerry suggested we might want to look at transferring money from the dinner fund to the discretionary fund. That will be on next month's agenda for discussion.

Also, our support for Marion Medical Missions is usually collected in October. Please be thinking about your contribution to this.

Priest - I am going on vacation this week. I will be traveling to the northwest corner of the state, visiting Lewis and Clark sites. On Thursday, I will be joining a crew in Maryville, cleaning out St. Paul's, which has been sold. Various churches, including St. Matt's, will be receiving items from there.

Old Business:

a. Audit - scheduled for August 2. Are we prepared?

Short answer - Yes. Some materials have already been shared with Ron Weil, the auditor.

The photos of all we own have been taken and prints are at Rob's house. He will be making a couple of copies of the digital files to be stored in separate locations.

New Business: None.

Calendar -

Our next meeting will be August 4 at approximately 11:15, after the potluck dinner. It will not be hybrid.

Meeting adjourned at 11:56 am with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Chandler Jackson for Debbie Smith



# *St. Matthew's Episcopal Church*

September 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.						
<b>1</b> 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	<b>2</b> Keller AN	<b>3</b> 12:30P Quilters	<b>4</b> 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 8A Men's Breakfast at St. Matt's 9A Women's Breakfast at Village Inn
<b>8</b> 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10:30A Pot Luck 11:00A Bishop's Committee	<b>9</b> Noon Jubilee Group	<b>10</b> 12:30P Quilters	<b>11</b> 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	<b>12</b> 10:30A-noon Feasting on the Word Bible Study	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Holy Cross Day
<b>15</b> 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 12:30P Quilters	<b>18</b> 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	<b>19</b> 10:30A-noon Feasting on the Word Bible Study	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> St. Matthew
<b>22</b> 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 12:30P Quilters	<b>25</b> 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	<b>26</b> Jill BD	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	<b>30</b> St. Michael and All Angels					

### *The Bishop's Committee:*

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

### *Church Staff:*

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