

# *St. Matthew's Companion*



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October 2024

## *Pastoral Ponderings*

Each month I try to think of something inspiring to write in this space. Some months are easier than others, as I have some burning issue to discuss. Other months are more difficult as I ponder what I might possibly say that would connect with you. This month is one of those easier months as I was inspired and challenged by our dear friend, Fr. John Spicer. His sermon at the installation of The Rev Dr. Sean Kim as the rector of St. Mary's, Kansas City hit me where I needed to be hit, I guess. I came away from that service with a renewed sense of mission and an uncomfortable feeling that I was the target of his sermon. I am sure Fr. Spicer was not aiming at me, but I think the Holy Spirit was. Therefore, I would like to share a little of what I took away for this very thought-provoking sermon.

Fr. Spicer was talking about the experience Fr. Kim had at St. Andrew's when he first arrived there. Dr. Kim was new to the area and was looking for a church home. He went to St. Andrew's one Sunday for service and appeared to enjoy the service. This newly minted university professor was invited to return, not just by the clergy, but also by members. He was also invited to join the adult class. Subsequent weeks included invitations to get more involved in activities at St. Andrew's and to consider what ministries of the church might fit with his own interests. These invitations were not just after service on Sunday morning, but also emails, phone calls, and visits by members of the congregation as well as the clergy. After many such interactions, someone suggested that Dr. Kim might consider ministries. This ultimately led to a discernment for ordination.

One word kept coming up in Fr. Spicer's sermon - invite! Many times, an invitation was extended. Many different people invited Dr. Kim to join in some activity of the church - beginning

with the invitation to return the next week for church, but also for meaningful engagement in the life of St. Andrew's. Obviously, it worked. Dr. Kim became Fr. Kim, and is blessing the people of St. Mary's with his ministry.

How often do we invite people to come to church, to come back again, and to consider how they might enrich our lives by their presence? I am pointing the finger at myself as much as anyone here. Do we make a conscious effort to extend an invitation to people to join St. Matt's in ministry? It all begins with an invitation to come to church on Sunday, or to join us for dinner on Wednesday. When someone does show up, we need to be intentional in our efforts to invite them to return - and to follow up with a phone call, text message, or email.

Personal invitation is the most successful means of attracting people to church. Follow up invitations are the most successful means of getting people to engage with us. Invitations from members, as well as clergy, are critical in showing the vitality of our ministries. If you are interested in assisting with this type of welcoming ministry, talk to me. This is an area of our church life that is open to everyone, including those who are unable to be active in other ministries. You can send note cards or emails, make phone calls or send text messages. Most of all, you can make a difference in someone's life by showing you (and we) care about them.

Our prayer for the mission of St. Matt's states that God does not call us to sit and watch, but to go and do. Invitations are all about going and doing. Will you join me?

Rev. Chandler Jackson  
Priest in Charge

### *Commitment Sunday, October 20*

You might ask, what is Commitment Sunday? This is our chance to pledge our commitment to the work of St. Matthew's. It is an opportunity to share your gifts and talents as we prepare for a new year of activities. Yes, this includes offering your time as well as your financial resources to aid in the various ministries of St. Matt's.

In days of old, we might have called this "In-Gathering Sunday" or some similar term when pledge cards were collected, placed on the altar, and blessed. But there is much more needed to our efforts than mere money. The annual bazaar needs crafts and baked goods. As we are experiencing this month, we need more people to assist in services, as well as additional teachers for the adult class and people to help on Wednesday evenings.

On October 20<sup>th</sup>, we will gather your pledge cards for 2025, which include information about how you might desire to assist in ministry, and gather money for the Marion Medical Mission's African Wells Project. This is our opportunity to *Commit* to the work of God's Kingdom.

# COMMUNITY DINNERS FOR OCTOBER



October 2	Chicken Pot Pie
October 9	Enchiladas
October 16	Goulash
October 23	Grilled Cheese Sandwiches
October 30	Meat Loaf

## ***FALL BAZAAR!! NOVEMBER 16TH***

Why should this be important? At the last joint planning meeting, we talked about the importance of the bazaar. It's a joint effort with OPC and a way both churches share a common goal. We show the community a bit of ourselves and how we can work together to serve the greater needs of the community. We earn some monies to enrich our serving of outreach.

So come be a part of the bazaar. Bake some cakes, cookies, pies or whatever your special recipe may be. Make a fall or Christmas decoration or an item for the home. We also ask that you price your items. There will be a list for baked goods and prices available.

So save the DATE, plan to COME, BUY a raffle ticket for the quilt (even if you don't need one it makes a great gift) have some lunch and a good time. Who knows you might WIN one of the door prizes given every half hour.

Thank you, Lisa Barns



## *From the Computer of the Bishop's Warden*

There are many different ways to read the Bible. Some say that it should be read from page one in Genesis to the last page in Revelation. Others say that Romans should be read first. However, recently Lisa and I were at a Christian music concert featuring the group Casting Crowns. Their lead singer suggested that one of the ways to read the Bible is to start with the book of John. So, that is where I want to begin.

Most of us believe that life is too short for instruction manuals so packages state it very plainly: If you cannot read the manual, at least read this very important part. "Read This First" – it is for your own good. The Gospel of John makes a similar claim. One commentary states that it is the only book in the Bible that states its purpose clearly and succinctly: It was written to tell individuals how to find eternal life. As it says in chapter 20, verse 31 "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

John was the son of Zebedee and one of the Twelve. With his brother James and Peter, he belonged to the inner circle of disciples. When John wrote his book – about A.D. 85-90, it was not a biography; it was and is a theological argument. John wanted to convince all of us that Jesus of Nazareth is God the Son. Then, John wanted to show us how accepting that fact will change our lives in some amazing ways. It is in believing in Jesus Christ as the Son of God that we all find life – real life, eternal life, and a whole new kind of life.

Every event that John records was designed to show us that Jesus is God. In the first twelve chapters of his book, John records seven miracles. These miracles were not performed simply to relieve human suffering or to meet human needs. They pointed to the truth of Jesus' claim to be the Son of God.

Let's take a look at those seven miracles and what were/are their meanings:

Miracle number 1: Jesus turns water into wine.

The meaning: Jesus is the source of life.

Miracle number 2: Jesus heals a nobleman's son.

The meaning: Jesus is master over distance.

Miracle number 3: Jesus heals a lame man at the pool of Bethesda.

The meaning: Jesus is master over time.

Miracle number 4: Jesus feeds 5,000.

The meaning: Jesus is the bread of life.

Miracle number 5: Jesus walks on water and stills the storm.

The meaning: Jesus is master over nature.

Miracle number 6: Jesus heals a man blind from birth.

The meaning: Jesus is the light of the world.

Miracle number 7: Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

The meaning: Jesus has power over death.

What else is there to say other than I hope that each and everyone who reads this has a blessed day.

In Christ's love  
Rob

Rob Barns  
Bishop's Warden

### *Least of These*

Each year, St. Matthew's and Ozark Presbyterian Church join together to collect food and hygiene items for Least of These. This year, we collected 22 bags of food for the pantry, as well as additional money (still coming in). With the money donated, Least of These is able to purchase \$10 worth of food for every dollar donated. Thank you to all who brought bags of goodies and envelopes of money.



### *Reports from the Bishop's Committee for August.*

The August reports have not been approved by the Bishop's Committee yet. They will appear in next month's Companion.

# *St. Matthew's Episcopal Church*

October 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.						
9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10:30A Pot Luck		<b>1</b> 12:30P Quilters	<b>2</b> 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	<b>3</b> 10:30A-noon Feasting on the Word Bible Study	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 8A Men's Breakfast at OPC 9A Women's Breakfast CANCELLED
<b>6</b> 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 12:30P Quilters	<b>9</b> 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	<b>10</b> 10:30A-noon Feasting on the Word Bible Study	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <span style="color: red; font-size: small;">Auterson AN</span> 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	<b>14</b> Noon Jubilee Group	<b>15</b> 12:30P Quilters	<b>16</b> 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	<b>17</b> 10:30A-noon Feasting on the Word Bible Study	<b>18</b> <span style="color: red; font-size: small;">St. Luke</span>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">COMMITMENT SUNDAY</span> 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 12:30P Quilters	<b>23</b> <span style="color: red; font-size: small;">St. James</span> 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	<b>24</b> 10:30A-noon Feasting on the Word Bible Study	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <span style="color: red; font-size: small;">George BD</span>
<b>27</b> <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">BISHOP'S VISITATION</span> 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10:30A Pot Luck Conversation with Bishop Bruce	<b>28</b> <span style="color: red; font-size: small;">St. Simon and St. Jude Bill BD</span>	<b>29</b> 12:30P Quilters	<b>30</b> 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	<b>31</b> 10:30A-noon Feasting on the Word Bible Study		

### *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