

St. Matthew's Companion



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
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December 2024

Pastoral Ponderings

This is a column I had hoped I would never have to write. However, life goes on even as we may experience sadness and joy in events that are part of all we do. It is with mixed emotions that I write this piece as I am sad for our loss, but joyful that one we love so dearly is accepting a new challenge that will be very fulfilling.

I first met Pastor Becky Schwandt at the first meeting between St. Matthew's and Ozark Presbyterian Church. Pastor Becky had just accepted the call to come to OPC as their pastor but had not yet begun her ministry here. Over the ensuing five years, I have come to view Pastor Becky as a dear friend, colleague, and confidant. We have spent many hours discussing service planning, event scheduling, and pastoral frustrations. There has been no topic in ministry which we have not broached. As you might expect, there are many subjects clergy cannot share with members of their congregations, but which we need to share with someone. Having another clergy member in the building has allowed us both to be open about situations that arise, knowing that confidentiality would be maintained.

Becky is a fun person to be around. She is generally one who has a smile on her face which is the front for a wonderful sense of humor. We have discussed sermon topics, music selections, and life's many twists and turns. She is someone I feel I can turn to with any situation which might arise, both in our congregation and in my life generally. She is a true friend.

I will miss our quick conversations on Sunday morning while she is trying to finish her sermon, our crazy phone calls about a detail in a service we forgot to cover, and her perky jaunt to her office while we are finishing our service. Our loss, though, is a great gain for the church in

Florida to which she has accepted a call. It will be a challenging new step for her, but an exciting one.

We give Pastor Becky our blessings as she moves south at the beginning of the new year and we wish OPC success in their call process. This is truly a joint ministry - two congregations sharing a building in mutual ministry to the community of Ozark and the surrounding area.

Rev. Chandler Jackson
Priest in Charge

COMMUNITY DINNERS FOR DECEMBER



| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| December 4 | Baked Pasta |
| December 11 | Beef Stew |
| December 18 | Ham - HOLIDAY DINNER |
| December 25 | Closed for Christmas |
| January 1, 2025 | Closed for New Year's |



*From the Computer of the
Bishop's Warden*

Ready or not, ***Christmas is coming!***

Where better to get ready than around the family Advent wreath. Here, for four Sundays and Christmas Day, we will refresh again what it means to be so loved that we are going to receive the gift of God's Son.

Advent means *to come*.

- To come together as a family for prayer, song, story, sharing or action.
- To come rub shoulders at the manger with the larger family of the world gathered there, too, through God's hospitality.
- To come through the darkness with angels and a star as guides.
- To come as little children, hands outstretched, to accept God's love.
- To come, finally, into the presence of Christ, a living Companion.

Advent is a time to slow down and practice the art of waiting patiently. Advent is a time to relish looking forward, a time to reinvigorate the spirit, to recall the reason why we celebrate. My hope and prayer is that we are beginning to rediscover the meaning and power of Advent. We are no longer captivated by the countdown of "20, 19, 18 days until Christmas." We should see the rich experience Advent can be when it is separated from the mad rush to buy, buy, buy. Advent is loaded with opportunities to prepare ourselves for the genuine joy our celebration of Christmas is meant to bring. Advent is a time to appreciate anew that Christ has come among us, in what our family already is: a place of love, security and hospitality. And, when we fall short of our ideals or God's commands, we are forgiven and called to forgive one another as well.

So then during Advent, we get ready to celebrate Christmas by telling stories that remind us why Jesus came. We all know that Jesus was born of Mary through the power of the Holy Spirit, and that shepherds and Magi came from the east to worship him. But why did it happen? What did God have in mind back then, and what does God have in mind today? Scripture provides some answers to questions like these, but God's ways will always be mysterious to the human mind. So during Advent we seek not only to understand what we can about the coming of the Lord, but to appreciate the mystery of the God who became human so that we might be saved and prepared to share the life of Jesus, both now and forever in heaven. Simply put, Advent is God's time to prepare us to welcome Christ in our hearts, our homes, and our churches.

So, this Advent, and every Advent Season, may you be blessed with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

In Christ's love
Rob, Warden

Reports from the Bishop's Committee for September.

Bishop's Committee
September 8, 2024
Minutes

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

Fr. Jackson opened the meeting at 11:17 am with prayer and a devotion on St. Matthew as his feast day is in a couple of weeks. Matthew was a tax collector, a Jew, who worked for the Romans. Jesus called him and he left everything behind! May we use him as an example for us in setting our priorities.

Discussion - Follow-up on our discussion last month.

- Ozark Community Fair - it will cost us \$150 to join the Chamber of Commerce. To do it this year, we would have had to pay for a larger booth and we decided to wait until next year. If we join the Chamber after the first of the year, it will cost us the same amount (\$150) and we will be able to get a smaller, non-profit organization booth.
- Laundry Day - It costs \$3/load for each washer and dryer load. We can get cards for the machines which would mean we wouldn't need to have a lot of cash on hand when we are there. 10 loads in each type of machine (washer and dryer) per hour for 4 hours would cost \$240 each time we were there. To finance this, we could apply for a diocesan grant of \$1500 and contribute \$500 from the Dinner Fund. This would give us 6 months or more for a trial run. Fr. Chandler will talk with Steven Bruce about logistics and marketing ideas as Mr. Bruce has done this and advised other churches. Lisa and Rob will contact the owner of the laundromat about possible days/times to do this and explore cost of the cards.

Reports:

Secretary - August minutes - Rob moved and George seconded motion to approve minutes. Motion passed.

Treasurer - Debbie moved and George seconded approval of the treasurer's report. Rob pointed out that the Discretionary Fund is low. The loose offering on the fifth Sunday of the month goes to replenish this fund. The money in Marion Medical Mission was a donation from the Praters which has already been sent on. Motion passed.

Warden - We need a treasurer!

Priest -

- The candidates for bishop will be touring the diocese the week of September 16. They will be in Carthage on the 16th and then come to St. Matt's first thing Tuesday morning. This is a time we can answer their questions about our sharing the building with the Presbyterians and our outreach ministries. Pastor Becky will be with us. After they leave us, they will go to the Council of Churches of the Ozarks for a tour of that facility, then on to St. James' to meet with the clergy. At 5:00 they will meet with youth and at 6:00 with everyone. On Wednesday, they head up to Lee's Summit and then to Kansas City. We will find out how they hold up under such a schedule.

- Consecration of the new bishop will be May 3, 2025. There will be limited seating at the cathedral so the committee is recommending people hold watch parties at area churches. The Consecration Committee is planning to have a reception in Springfield shortly after the consecration so people can have a chance to meet the new bishop.
- Archives - I requested a new flat file cabinet in my request for 2025. The Diocesan Council approved purchasing it out of this year's budget (\$7300). This will allow me to house blueprints and other large documents properly. When this comes in, the crew that moves it down to the archives will move a fireproof cabinet down from the second floor to house sensitive files.

Old Business: Phone - George has gotten the church a new phone. The contract gives us 7860 minutes, 10,000 texts, and 5.5 gigabytes of data through Sept. 15, 2025.

New Business: Facebook is becoming more problematic for livestreaming services. Another option would be to move to YouTube. Many other churches have already made this move and find it works well. Ruth commented that they have watched services from other churches on YouTube and it is nice. Fr. Chandler will look into making the switch.

Calendar -

September 17th - the candidates will be here around 9:15.

Least of These Food Bags collection wrap up on September 22.

September 22 - Feast of St. Matthew.

October 6 - Blessing of the Animals with the Presbyterians.

October 27 - the bishop will be with us for her annual visitation. We will have a potluck after the service.

Our next meeting will be October 6 at approximately 11:15, after the potluck dinner. Since Rob and Lisa will be out of town, we may cancel the meeting if there is no pressing business. We will still have the potluck.

There will not be a potluck on November 3 as we will have just had the one for the bishop the week before.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Smith, Secretary

| | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | YTD | BUDGET |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|------|------|----------|-----------|
| BEGINNING BALANCE | 9986.04 | 9627.05 | 6973.67 | 7116.56 | 8915.19 | 8333.20 | 9716.70 | 9391.23 | 8099.00 | | | | | |
| INCOME | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Giving Estimates | 3052.00 | 1980.00 | 3401.12 | 3252.00 | 4415.00 | 3220.00 | 3002.00 | 2100.00 | 3755.30 | | | | 28177.42 | 33400.20 |
| Ministry | 150.00 | 287.98 | 150.00 | 150.00 | 150.00 | 150.00 | 150.00 | 150.00 | 150.00 | | | | 1487.98 | 1800.00 |
| Extras | 32.50 | 860.00 | 253.01 | 381.63 | 36.73 | 17.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | | | | 1580.87 | 0.00 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 3234.50 | 3127.98 | 3804.13 | 3783.63 | 4601.73 | 3387.00 | 3152.00 | 2250.00 | 3905.30 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 31246.37 | 35200.20 |
| EXPENSES: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| OPERATIONS: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Diocese | 375.99 | 375.99 | 751.98 | 0.00 | 751.99 | 0.00 | 375.00 | 375.99 | 375.99 | | | | 3382.93 | 4511.88 |
| Clergy | 1312.50 | 1312.50 | 2625.00 | 0.00 | 2625.00 | 0.00 | 1312.50 | 1312.50 | 1312.50 | | | | 11812.50 | 15750.00 |
| OPC | 1500.00 | 3000.00 | 0.00 | 1500.00 | 1500.00 | 1500.00 | 1500.00 | 1500.00 | 1500.00 | | | | 13500.00 | 18000.00 |
| Misc. | 0.00 | 130.39 | 0.00 | 80.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 19.97 | 0.00 | 0.00 | | | | 230.36 | 0.00 |
| Advertising | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | | | | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Insurance | 0.00 | 188.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 208.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 208.50 | | | | 605.00 | 752.00 |
| USPS #704 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 142.00 | | | | 142.00 | 193.00 |
| Total Operations | 3188.49 | 5006.88 | 3376.98 | 1580.00 | 4876.99 | 1708.50 | 3207.47 | 3188.49 | 3538.99 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 29672.79 | 39206.88 |
| MINISTRY: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Altar Guild | 0.00 | 17.98 | 253.01 | 0.00 | 36.73 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 83.54 | 0.00 | | | | 391.26 | 600.00 |
| Organist | 405.00 | 472.50 | 0.00 | 405.00 | 270.00 | 270.00 | 270.00 | 270.00 | 337.50 | | | | 2700.00 | 3900.00 |
| Day by Day | 0.00 | 0.00 | 31.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 25.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 25.00 | | | | 31.25 | 100.00 |
| Continuing Education | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | | | | 0.00 | 300.00 |
| Convention | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | | | | 0.00 | 200.00 |
| Music License | 0.00 | 120.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | | | | 120.00 | 120.00 |
| Total Ministries | 405.00 | 610.48 | 284.26 | 405.00 | 306.73 | 295.00 | 270.00 | 353.54 | 362.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3242.51 | 5401.13 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 3593.49 | 5617.36 | 3661.24 | 1985.00 | 5183.72 | 2003.50 | 3477.47 | 3542.03 | 3901.49 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 32915.30 | 44608.01 |
| ENDING BALANCE | 9627.05 | 6973.67 | 7116.56 | 8915.19 | 8333.20 | 9716.70 | 9391.23 | 8099.00 | 8102.81 | | | | | (9407.81) |

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

| December 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 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education | 2 | 3 12:30P Quilters 6:30P Prayer Vigil | 4 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE | 5 Sue C BD | 6 | 7 8A Men's Breakfast at St. Matt's Women's Breakfast Canceled |
| 8 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education 11:15A Bishop's Committee | 9 Noon Jubilee Group | 10 12:30P Quilters | 11 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education | 16 | 17 12:30P Quilters 6P Blue Christmas | 18 Mark BD 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE | 19 | 20 Debbie BD | 21 St. Thomas |
| 22A 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education | 23 | 24 Jerry BD 12:30P Quilters 6:30P Christmas Eve | 25 Christmas 5-6:30P Dinner CANCELLED NO Evening Prayer | 26 St Stephen | 27 St. John | 28 Holy Innocents |
| 29 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education | 30 | 31 Lynn BD | | | | |

The Bishop's Committee:

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 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