

St. Matthew's Companion



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
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January 2025

Pastoral Ponderings

A New Year! A new beginning is always filled with anticipation, and a little anxiety. We never know what the future holds for us, but we step out in faith, trusting God to direct our ways.

2024 is now behind us. For some, that will bring sadness; for others joy. However we view the events of the past year, we have exciting things to look forward to in this new year. It is to that I would like to focus my energies.

On May 3 we officially welcome our new bishop. Bishop-elect Amy Meaux will actually be with us before that date, getting to know us as she begins shadowing Bishop Diane. But, May 3 is the big celebration. Our new Presiding Bishop, Sean Rowe, will be with us as the lead consecrator. We don't know yet who will preach and what music we will sing, but we can be assured that it will be festive. Planning for the service and the receptions to follow is already underway. For those who don't want to negotiate the traffic and headaches of attending the service at the cathedral, the service will be livestreamed and there will be a reception at Christ Church, Springfield on May 10, with our new bishop and her family.

At St. Matthew's, all of our various outreach ministries will continue as they have for many years. We will continue to feed the hungry, provide for wells in Africa, support Least of These, and provide space for Courage to Change. We will continue to hold services and welcome all who walk through our doors. In most ways, life will continue in 2025 as we have experienced in the past several years.

Is there anything new coming? One of the first activities is an evaluation of what we do and where we might improve. The Congregational Vitality Assessment is a tool the Diocese is rolling

out to help every congregation in the Diocese to see where our strengths and weaknesses are. This will help us plan for new efforts in our ministries. It will also give Bishop Amy a great snapshot of each congregation in the Diocese. There will be more information on this in the coming weeks.

What else will be happening? At some point in the year, we will welcome a new pastor for Ozark Presbyterian Church. We will continue to work with the members of the congregation in planning joint activities and ministries. We will also continue to hold them up in our prayers during their transition process.

While I have no crystal ball that can open the future to me, I am excited to see what 2025 holds for St. Matt's. Together, we will continue serving God and being God's messengers to Christian County and the surrounding area.

Rev. Chandler Jackson
Priest in Charge

COMMUNITY DINNERS FOR JANUARY



January 1	Closed for New Year's
January 8	Breakfast for Dinner
January 15	Turkey Tetrazzini
January 22	Mac and Cheese
January 29	Tacos



From the Computer of the Bishop's Warden

As we are in the middle of the holiday season we may hear the tune “The 12 Days of Christmas” playing in stores or on the radio. This classic has been around since 1780! But have we ever stopped to wonder about the meaning behind the lyrics? The twelve days of Christmas start on Christmas Day and continue until January 5th, also known as Twelfth Night. Each verse of the song represents a different gift that is given on each day of Christmas. While these representations are not of my own making, I believe they can be an important reminder of what the season is all about.

First day of Christmas: A partridge in a pear tree: The partridge in a pear tree symbolizes the ultimate gift of Jesus Christ, representing God’s love for us. This bird is known for its self-sacrifice, as it will protect its young from predators. This parallels with Jesus sacrificing himself for the salvation of others.

Second day of Christmas: Two turtledoves: These twin birds represent the Old and New Testaments. They symbolize the complete story of Christian faith and God’s plan for salvation.

Third day of Christmas: Three French hens: They symbolize faith, hope and love. They draw inspiration from 1st Corinthians 13.

Fourth day of Christmas: Four calling birds: They symbolize the four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These books serve as the foundation of the New Testament.

Fifth day of Christmas: Five golden rings: The five rings represent the Pentateuch – the first five books of the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

Sixth day of Christmas: Six geese a-laying: Each of these birds represents a day of creation as told in Genesis. These geese bring forth new life, just as the Creation story does. It reminds us of God’s power and the beauty of the world He formed.

Seventh day of Christmas: Seven swans a-swimming: Each one represents one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit as seen in Romans 12:6-8. These gifts are: prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading and compassion.

Eighth day of Christmas: Eight maids-a-milking: These maids represent the eight beatitudes that Jesus teaches us in Matthew 5. These are: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Ninth day of Christmas: Nine ladies dancing: These ladies represent the nine attributes of the fruit of the spirit as described in Galatians: They are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Tenth day of Christmas: Ten lords a-leaping: These lords represent the ten commandments. These lords, much like judges upholding the law, remind us of the moral guidelines God has set for us.

Eleventh day of Christmas: Eleven pipers piping: These eleven pipers represent the eleven faithful apostles who continued to spread the Gospel after Judas's betrayal.

Twelfth day of Christmas: Twelve drummers drumming: These drummers drumming represent the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed. These fundamental beliefs – encompassing God's nature, Jesus's life and the Holy Spirit's work – form the bedrock of Christian faith.

My prayer for each of us is to have a Merry Christmas filled with happiness and joy and a New Year filled with all good things for you and yours.

In Christ's love,
Rob

In Christ's love
Rob, Warden

Reports from the Bishop's Committee for November.

Bishop's Committee
November 3, 2024
Minutes

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

Fr. Jackson opened the meeting at 11:42 am with prayer and a devotion on the Collect for Proper 26. It is only out of what the Lord gives us that we are able to give.

Discussion - What to do with the proceeds from the Bazaar

The proceeds will be split 50/50 with OPC. It is estimated that the proceeds will be around \$1000-\$1500.

Possibilities - Roll it into the General Fund, give it to Least of These. Proposed - Bank it until Feb/Mar in a 90 day CD and decide later what we do with this money. George moved and Debbie seconded. Motion passed.

Reports:

Secretary - September minutes - spelling error was pointed out George moved and Rob seconded that the amended minutes be approved. Motion passed.

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

Warden - None.

Priest - Diocesan Convention is this week. The new bishop will be elected on Saturday. I am co-chair of the Consecration Committee so much to do before May 3rd - the date of the consecration. There is a 120 day consent period where a majority of the diocesan Standing Committees of the Church and a majority of the bishops with jurisdiction must approve the election. There will be a reception at Christ Church Springfield on May 10th so those who don't go to Kansas City for the consecration can meet the new bishop and family.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Stewardship Campaign - Rob reported that we have pledges of approximately \$30,000. We have expenses of \$47,000, so there is a \$17,000 deficit at this time.

George asked if it was possible to move some of the money we have on hand to an interest bearing account, either at the bank or to an account with Fidelity or Edward Jones. Is there a minimum amount required for any of these? Rob will check on these options.

George asked what happens if we get to a point in 2025 that we are unable to cover our bills, what happens? The answer is we go to the diocese and ask for assistance.

Calendar -

Diocesan Convention - November 8-9 with election of the new bishop

Bazaar - November 16, 10-2. Set up will be on Friday, November 15 beginning at 9:00.

Our next meeting will be December 8 at approximately 11:15, after the potluck dinner.

Meeting adjourned at 12:38.

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	8104.20	8204.71	7511.22			
INCOME														
Giving Estimates	3052.00	1980.00	3401.12	3252.00	4415.00	3220.00	3002.00	2105.00	3409.00	2615.00	1632.00		32083.12	33400.20
Ministry	150.00	287.98	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00		1787.98	1800.00
Extras	32.50	860.00	253.01	381.63	36.73	17.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	857.75		2438.62	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	3234.50	3127.98	3804.13	3783.63	4601.73	3387.00	3152.00	2255.00	3559.00	2765.00	2639.75	0.00	36309.72	35200.20
EXPENSES:														
OPERATIONS:														
Diocese	375.99	375.99	751.98	0.00	751.99	0.00	375.00	375.99	375.99	375.99	375.99		4134.91	4511.88
Clergy	1312.50	1312.50	2625.00	0.00	2625.00	0.00	1312.50	1312.50	1312.50	1312.50	1312.50		14437.50	15750.00
OPC	1500.00	3000.00	0.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00		16500.00	18000.00
Misc.	0.00	130.39	0.00	80.00	0.00	0.00	19.97	0.00	0.00	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		0.00	0.00
Insurance	0.00	188.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	208.50	0.00	0.00	208.50	0.00	0.00		605.00	752.00
USPS #704	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	142.00	0.00	0.00		142.00	193.00
Total Operations	3188.49	5006.88	3376.98	1580.00	4876.99	1708.50	3207.47	3188.49	3538.99	3188.49	3188.49	0.00	36049.77	39206.88
MINISTRY:														
Altar Guild	0.00	17.98	253.01	0.00	36.73	0.00	0.00	83.54	0.00	0.00	0.00		391.26	600.00
Organist	405.00	472.50	0.00	405.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	270.00		3172.50	3900.00
Day by Day	0.00	0.00	31.25	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	0.00		56.25	100.00
Continuing Education	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	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	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	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	295.00	270.00	270.00	0.00	3765.01	5401.13
TOTAL EXPENSES	3593.49	5617.36	3661.24	1985.00	5183.72	2003.50	3477.47	3542.03	3833.99	3458.49	3458.49	0.00	39439.28	44608.01
ENDING BALANCE	9627.05	6973.67	7116.56	8915.19	8333.20	9716.70	9391.23	8104.20	8204.71	7511.22	6692.48		6856.48	(9407.81)

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

January 2025						
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 Holy Name of Jesus 5-6:30P Dinner CANCELLED 6:45P Evening Prayer CANCELLED	2	3	4 8A Men's Breakfast Cancelled Women's Breakfast Cancelled
5 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education 11:15A Bishop's Committee	6 Epiphany	7 12:30P Quilters	8 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	9	10	11
12 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	13 Noon Jubilee Group	14 12:30P Quilters	15 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	16	17	18 The Confession of Peter
19 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Brunch 10:30A Annual Meeting	20	21 12:30P Quilters	22 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	23	24	25 The Conversion of Paul
26 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	27	28 12:30P Quilters	29	30	31 JoAnn BD	

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