

# *St. Matthew's Companion*



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## *Pastoral Ponderings*

Ecumenism - what is this word that is thrown about in church circles? In its most basic form, ecumenism is the effort of various denominations to work through their differences and find ways to be in ministry together. We see it in movements that include the Anglican-Roman Catholic dialogue that has been active for many decades, the Concordant between the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, and a variety of similar activities. However, there is a more practical sense of this movement that hits closer to home.

The Parochial Report - that wonderful statistical snapshot that every Episcopal Church is required to submit each year - includes a list of "services/programs/initiative" - which we might pursue. One of these is called "Ecumenical Collaboration." In our report, we answer that this is one initiative in which we do actively engage. You might ask how?

For over four years, we have been gathering for worship in a building owned by a congregation of another denomination - Ozark Presbyterian Church. Beyond just using this wonderful facility, we engage in a wide variety of activities with the members of OPC. As I look at similar arrangements - Church of the Transfiguration in Mountain Grove is one example - we see the sharing of facilities and, perhaps, a few joint activities. What is unusual in our situation is the depth of collaboration. In fact, Presbyterian Churches across the area are looking at our activities as a model for others to use.

From the very beginning of our journey together, St. Matt's and OPC have engaged in a wide range of ministries together. The quilters have created many quilts that have been distributed through a variety of avenues, including marvelous quilts to be auctioned at the bazaars. We have

joined forces for the annual bazaar, for the construction of the parking lot for the lower level, and for the collection of food for Least of These. Our collaboration in monthly men's and women's breakfast, the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, and Easter brunch are other examples of our working together. Perhaps the most unique part of our efforts is the level of sharing in worship together. This effort has set us apart from similar efforts.

Every year since we have been in this building arrangement, we have shared important services throughout the liturgical calendar. This year, we have invited the Presbyterians to join us for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday services. Since they are currently without a pastor, this is a way we can offer them participation in meaningful worship. As in past years, we welcome them at all our special services - Christmas Eve and Easter Vigil to name just two.

This spirit of togetherness is the heart of the meaning of ecumenism. I believe all of these activities are at the core of what we, as Christians, are called to do - be one in the Spirit as we serve God in this community. May 2025 give us even more opportunities for joint fun, fellowship, and worship together with our sisters and brothers of OPC.

Rev. Chandler Jackson  
Priest in Charge

## COMMUNITY DINNERS FOR FEBRUARY



February 5	Grilled Cheese Sandwiches
February 12	Hot Dogs
February 19	Chili
February 26	Baked Potato Bar



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

In a special edition of "From the Computer of the Bishop's Warden," we have the following column full of great information. Editor

### OPC and US

In the next few weeks we will have the chance to share ministries and events together with our Presbyterian colleagues. OPC is having a fun night of Chili, Chocolate and Bingo on February 15<sup>th</sup>. They are inviting us to come and enjoy the fellowship and fun. Rob and I have been to one before and it's a very good time. The time is 5:30p.m.

We, in turn, have invited them to share in our Shrove Tuesday's Pancake Supper from 5:30 to 6:30. Also, the following evening they will join us for the Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 pm. We'll be sharing together Holy Week services. Those services will all be at 6:30 pm. Again this year OPC will be hosting a brunch between the two services on Easter Sunday. It was great last year, put that and the other dates on your calendar.

As members of St. Matt's before Chandler came, we know what it's like to be without a Rector, wanting to keep programs flowing and welcoming. We have the chance to reach out in love and fellowship to the members of OPC and share time together.

From Lisa's desk.

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

Bishop's Committee  
December 8, 2024  
Minutes

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

Fr. Jackson opened the meeting at 11:38 am with prayer and a devotion on St. Nicholas whose feast day is December 6. Bishop of Myra in what is today Turkey, Nicholas died in 642. He was known for his giving of gifts, especially by tossing money through the window of the homes of poor people during the night. This is the origin of Christmas gift giving, which was brought to this

country by the Dutch in New York City, then known as New Amsterdam. Many of our ministries are aimed at the poor and needy of our communities.

Discussion - Planning evening activities during winter.

After discussing the issue of early darkness this time of year and the problem for many who can't drive after dark and trying to balance that with those who still work, it was decided to just leave everything as is.

Reports:

Secretary - November minutes - George moved and Rob seconded that the minutes be approved. Motion passed.

Treasurer - George moved and Debbie seconded approval of the treasurer's report. Motion passed. Rob announced that our main checking account is now an interest bearing account. The other two checking accounts will be changed over soon.

After some discussion, it was decided to leave the money from the bazaar in the main account for now and revisit this in February or March.

George suggested that we might look into a check writing program to assist the work of the treasurer. Fr. Chandler pointed out that the diocese is working on creating area bookkeepers to assist small congregations - at NO COST. After discussion, both pro and con, we will explore this for the main account. Fr. Chandler's check is already being handled by the diocese - we just send the money to them, along with our assessment.

Warden - We are in need of a treasurer soon. Also, we raised \$2500 for Marion Medical Mission which was matched with \$1000 from the diocese.

Priest - Since I was elected as the Diocesan Registrar at the Diocesan Convention, I am stepping down as Dean of the Southern Deanery. The election for my replacement will be January 4. This will free me up from several meetings each month.

Old Business: Bazaar outcomes - leave the money in the main account for now.

New Business: Draft budget for 2025 - due to computer issues, is will not be ready until next month. We have some additional pledges since last month, but the expense side is still around \$47,000, which will give us a significant negative budget.

Calendar -

Blue Christmas service - December 17 at 6:00 pm

Christmas Eve service - December 24 at 6:30 pm

Our next meeting will be January 5 at approximately 11:15, with no potluck dinner.

Annual Meeting will be January 19. We will have a potluck then.

Meeting adjourned at 12:41.

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	6662.58		
<b>INCOME</b>														
Giving Estimates	3052.00	1980.00	3401.12	3252.00	4415.00	3220.00	3002.00	2105.00	3409.00	2615.00	1632.00	3495.00	36473.87	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	150.00	1937.98	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	0.00	1580.87	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	3645.00	39992.72	35200.20
<b>EXPENSES:</b>														
<b>OPERATIONS:</b>														
Diocese	375.99	375.99	751.98	0.00	751.99	0.00	375.00	375.99	375.99	375.99	375.99	375.99	4510.90	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	1312.50	15750.00	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	1500.00	18000.00	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	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	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	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	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	3188.49	39238.26	39206.88
<b>MINISTRY:</b>														
Altar Guild	0.00	17.98	253.01	0.00	36.73	0.00	0.00	83.54	0.00	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	405.00	3645.00	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	0.00	81.25	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	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	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	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	405.00	4237.51	5401.13
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	3593.49	5617.36	3661.24	1985.00	5183.72	2003.50	3477.47	3542.03	3833.99	3458.49	3458.49	3593.49	43475.77	44608.01
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	9627.05	6973.67	7116.56	8915.19	8333.20	9716.70	9391.23	8104.20	8204.71	7511.22	6692.48	6714.49		(9407.81)

# *St. Matthew's Episcopal Church*

February 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.						<b>1</b> 8A Men's Breakfast at OCC
<b>2</b> <b>Presentation of Jesus in the Temple</b> CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Brunch 11:15A Bishop's Committee	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Kathy L BD</b>  12:30P Quilters	<b>5</b>  5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  Women's Breakfast Cancelled
<b>9</b> 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	<b>10</b>  Noon Jubilee Group	<b>11</b>  12:30P Quilters	<b>12</b>  5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  5:30-7P Chili, Chocolate. and Bingo
<b>16</b> 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  12:30P Quilters	<b>19</b>  5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Brunch 10:30A Annual Meeting	<b>24</b> <b>St. Matthias</b>	<b>25</b>  12:30P Quilters	<b>26</b>  5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	

### *The Bishop's Committee:*

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

### *Church Staff:*

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