

St. Matthew's Companion



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
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April 2025

Pastoral Ponderings

As many of you know, I took a few days of vacation the end of March to do some research on the history of the Diocese of West Missouri. My focus these days was on Christ Church, Boonville, which has a fascinating story to tell. Contrary to popular belief, this church was not founded by Bishop Jackson Kemper when he first came to Missouri. It was already meeting.

Bishop Kemper was the first Missionary Bishop in the Episcopal Church, being selected in 1835 to preside over a vast territory spanning both sides of the Mississippi River. St. Louis already had an Episcopal Church, Christ Church, which held its first services on October 24, 1819. Bishop Kemper was installed as the rector upon his arrival and he began looking for other locations to establish congregations. He look up the Missouri River and traveled to an important outpost on the river - Boonville, which was located on the south side of the river near where the Boone brothers (sons of Daniel Boone) had established a thriving business. Somewhat to his surprise, Kemper found a small group of Episcopalians already gathered for worship in a girl's school operated by the Rev. F. F. Peake.

Why am I telling you all of this history of a church over 150 miles from Ozark? As I was doing this research, I found a couple of histories of this congregation in Boonville which were litanies of the clergy who had served the congregation and very little about the people who were there, year after year, supporting these priest. It took a lot of digging to find out that the first senior warden was a medical doctor and even more digging to find out that the good doctor's wife was also a medical doctor. To me, the fact that a woman doctor was practicing in a small town in

Missouri in the 1830s and 1840s is important historically. I doubt there were many anywhere in the entire county at that time.

Although there were many plantations along the Missouri River in those days, and one would guess that the core of the Episcopalians would be plantation owners, as many moved into this area from the plantation regions of Virginia and Kentucky, I can find no record of members of Christ Church, Boonville being plantation owners. In fact, most were school teachers, lawyers, and small business owners. The church building, the oldest Episcopal Church building still in use west of the Mississippi River, was actually constructed of bricks which were made on the adjacent lot by members of the congregation and their priest, not by slaves as might be expected.

All of this research has directed me to the conclusion that the laity of the church - you! - are the most important aspect of this church, not me or any other member of the clergy who has served here. It is you who are here day after day, year after year, keeping this congregation going - serving the people of Ozark and Christian County. It is you who attend the services, make the meals we serve on Wednesdays, and donate your finances to pay the bills. Without the lay people and their efforts, St. Matthew's, like every other church in the country, would not exist.

As we near Holy Week and the Great Easter celebration, I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for all you do to keep the doors open and the lights on at St. Matt's. You are St. Matt's and it is through your efforts that this church exists now and will be here in the future. Clergy come and go, but it is you, the members, who are the church. I thank you for allowing me to serve alongside you.

Rev. Chandler Jackson
Priest in Charge

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 13	Palm Sunday	Holy Eucharist with Blessing of the Palms	9:00am
Wednesday, April 16		Community Dinner Evening Prayer	5:00pm 6:45pm
Thursday, April 17	Maundy Thursday	Holy Eucharist with Feet Washing	6:30pm
Friday, April 16	Good Friday	Stations of the Cross/Good Friday Liturgy	6:30pm
Saturday, April 18	Holy Saturday	Holy Saturday Liturgy Great Easter Vigil	9:00am 6:30pm
Sunday, April 19	Easter	Holy Eucharist Brunch with Presbyterians	9:00am 10:00am



From the Computer of the Bishop's Warden

A couple of weeks ago in the Old Testament reading in the Sunday service and again in our Sunday school adult class the name Eliezer of Damascus was mentioned. Chandler told us that this Eliezer was mentioned only once in the Bible and that we know nothing else about him other than he was one of Abraham's servants. So, after a very shallow search here is what I was able to find out about the name Eliezer.

There are actually eleven people in the Bible who bear the Hebrew name Eliezer. Let's look at some of them. The name Eliezer means "God is my help." Of the eleven the most notable is Abraham's trusted servant, Eliezer of Damascus, who would have inherited Abraham's fortune if Ishmael and Isaac had not been born. Eliezer of Damascus was probably the same "senior servant" who was in charge of all of Abraham's possessions was commissioned to go and find a wife for his son Isaac from among Abraham's relatives. He traveled about 450 miles but that story is for another time.

The next Eliezer named in the Bible is the younger son of Moses and Zipporah. Moses sent away Zipporah and their two sons. His father-in-law received them and one of them was named Gershom and the other one was named Eliezer for Moses said "My father's God was my helper; he saved me from the sword of Pharaoh."

A grandson of Jacob's youngest son, Benjamin was also named Eliezer. He is listed with the sons of Becher in the genealogy of the tribe of Benjamin.

In 1 Chronicles 15:24, a priest and musician named Eliezer was among seven to blow the trumpets before the ark of God when David brought it to Jerusalem. Another Eliezer mentioned during King David's reign was the son of Zichri, a tribal ruler of the Reubenites.

A prophet named Eliezer, the son of Dodavahu of Mareshah, prophesied against King Jehoshaphat of Judah these words: "Because you have made an alliance with Ahaziah, the Lord will destroy what you have made." As punishment for joining forces with the wicked King Ahaziah of Israel, Jehoshaphat's fleet of trade ships was wrecked and unable to set sail for Tarshish, just as the prophet Eliezer had said.

Another Eliezer is one of the eleven priests commissioned by Ezra to find ministers for the house of God in Jerusalem from among the inhabitants of Casiphia. Three other men named Eliezer – a priest, a Levite and a lay person – were among the sons of priests who had married foreign women. Each was required to divorce his foreign wife.

Lastly, in Luke 3:29, a man named Eliezer is listed in the genealogy of Christ.

As we look toward Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday and beyond may we all have a holy and blessed Easter season.

In Christ's love,
Rob

COMMUNITY DINNERS FOR APRIL



April 2	Mac and Cheese
April 9	Breakfast for Dinner
April 16	Soup
April 23	Ham
April 30	Taco Salad

Reports from the Bishop's Committee for February

Bishop's Committee
February 2, 2025
Minutes

Present: Fr. Chandler Jackson, George Keller, Betty Gloyd, Debbie Smith.

Fr. Jackson opened the meeting at 11:10 am with the Collect for the 4th Sunday after Epiphany.

Discussion - Joint activities with OPC.

Since OPC does not have a pastor at this time, we have invited them to join us for all of the special services during Lent.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - they will set up, we will cook, Lisa has full list of who is providing what. It will be 5:00-6:30.

Ash Wednesday service will be at 6:30.

Palms for Palm Sunday - since the smallest quantity of palms is 100, OPC will reimburse us for half of the cost.

Holy Week services will be at 6:30 (Maundy Thursday and Good Friday). They are invited to join us for the Easter Vigil service.

The Presbyterians will have brunch between the services on Easter. We will join them by bringing food and then we will clean up while they are in service.

February 15 - OPC has invited us to join them for Chili, Chocolate, and Bingo night. Begins at 5:30.

Reports:

Secretary - January minutes - George moved and Betty seconded that the minutes be approved. Motion passed.

Treasurer - The January financial report will be presented at the March meeting along with the February financial report.

Warden - Rob is out of town.

Priest - Busily working on the Consecration service and receptions. Today is Bishop-elect Amy's last day at the cathedral in Little Rock.

Registration for the service, along with a lot of other information should be up on the diocesan website soon. The overflow area will be Founders' Hall, with the Presiding Bishop distributing communion there. The service will be live streamed so congregations can have watch parties. St. John's Springfield is planning to host a watch party.

There will be a reception at Christ Church Springfield on May 10 at 11:00.

Old Business: Annual Meeting minutes. No issues as presented. Will be presented at next year's Annual Meeting for approval.

New Business: Parochial Report - On "How much spent for outreach" is no longer on the report, therefore the diocese is discussing how to capture that information as our diocesan assessment is impacted by that amount. On the line for Outreach beneficiaries, suggested that those who received wells in previous years are still beneficiaries and should be added to this number.

Betty moved and George seconded we approve the Parochial Report as amended. Motion passed.

Calendar -

Shrove Tuesday - March 4th. Dinner will be served 5:00-6:30.

Ash Wednesday - March 5th. Service at 6:30.

Our next meeting will be March 2 at approximately 11:15, with potluck dinner.

Meeting adjourned at 11:44.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Smith, Secretary

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

April 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 12:30P Quilters	2 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	3	4	5 8A Men's Breakfast at OPC 9A Women's Breakfast at Village Inn, Ozark
6 <i>Walker AN</i> 9A Holy Eucharist - IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Brunch 11:15A Bishop's Committee	7	8 12:30P Quilters	9 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	10	11	12
13 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	14 Noon Jubilee Group	15 12:30P Quilters	16 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	17 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 6:30P Maundy Thursday Liturgy	18 <i>Good Friday</i> 6:30P Stations of the Cross and Good Friday Liturgy	19 <i>Holy Saturday</i> 9A Holy Saturday Liturgy 6:30P Great Easter Vigil
20 <i>Easter</i> 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Brunch with OPC	21	22 12:30P Quilters	23 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	24	25	26
27 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	28 <i>St. Mark</i>	29 <i>Roland BD</i>	30 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE			

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