

St. Matthew's Companion



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
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Pastoral Ponderings

Many times, I hear people say, “We survived Holy Week!” I have said it myself from time to time. But, is that accurate? Do we “survive” the most sacred week of the liturgical year?

I would like us to consider a different thought - We thrived through Holy Week. Yes, there are a lot of services packed into one week, which means a lot of work from many people, but each service was a refreshment for our souls. We went from the highs of the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, to the lows of the crucifixion, and back to the highs of the Resurrection. But, for all of the emotional swings, we had an opportunity to reflect on what all this means to us in our spiritual walk.

Easter is not just a single day, but a season of fifty days. During this time, the readings on Sunday recount the work of the early church as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. We see the great successes they had as they preached to the people of Jerusalem and beyond. We also see the attempts by the authorities to shut them up. What does this tell us?

I believe we should use this time of the Easter Season to examine what we are doing to follow the apostles' teaching and participate in the breaking of the bread - as we hear the new converts did. We have much for which to rejoice and we have many ideas of how we might reach out to others (see Rob's article). As I told our bishop-elect a few days ago, there is much happening just under the surface at St. Matt's that is coming from you, not me. That is the sign of a healthy and vibrant church.

I invite each of you to spend time in the next several weeks examining how you are participating in the teachings of the apostles and what you might do to aid their efforts. We are all

called into this work through our baptism and I fully believe the people of St. Matt's - that's YOU - desire to help in every way you can do reach out to those around us who need to hear the message of Jesus Christ and the love of God.

May you be blessed by God in all your efforts.

Rev. Chandler Jackson
Priest in Charge

COMMUNITY DINNERS FOR MAY



May 7	Lasagna
May 14	Meat Loaf
May 21	BBQ Chicken
May 28	Hamburgers

DO YOU LIKE LISTS?

Do you like lists? I do. When I need to get things done I often make a list then check items off when the task is completed. There's a sense of accomplishment when everything gets done.

The church family also has lists that need to be checked off. I just finished making the Coffee hour list. We then have a snack to go along with visiting and into the Adult Study time.

There's the ongoing sign-up for the Wednesday night dinners. Even if you don't attend the dinners, there are chances to help out with the fill-ins for each meal. We use relish trays to round out a meal from time to time. The simplest thing like a pickle or olive can mean a great deal to our guests. When you live alone relishes are a real treat.

Last week the Flower sign-up sheet went up. We try to spend no more than \$25 per time. We usually get the flowers at Price Cutter here in town as their flowers tend to last longer. We also will keep any flower that's still good for the next bouquet unless a special flower is requested. We try to keep the bouquets for three weeks. It's also a chance to give flowers in memory of a loved one.

So please check out the board next to the office and find a place you can help.

Thank you, Lisa



From the Computer of the Bishop's Warden

What is a “normal” day? Is there such a thing as a “normal” day? We at St. Matthew's have just come through a week which was not normal at all. Whether you came to several, one, or none of the five church services offered in Holy Week, going from one service a week to an additional four is anything but normal. Traveling with Christ from Palm Sunday through the darkest point of His crucifixion changed our week to extra ordinary. And yet, through each day I tried to follow a usual routine. Among the many things I wanted to do, I tried to pay attention to what I had to do. So, at the close of each day I looked back on what had happened that day. Although I had thought of it as perhaps a normal day with very little disruption, I was left with one thought: Above everything else, this has been a good day!

Can we help try and make a normal day for others in our community? I believe we can! In addition to our Wednesday night dinners, here is another opportunity. Lisa told us about this outreach program. She had mentioned it once in our Sunday school class and so here are the particulars. Working within the Christian County Homeless Alliance, Ozark Presbyterian Church has collaborated with the Ozark Methodist Church. Ozark United Methodist Church has created a process to distribute emergency supplies to those who are released from jail or found to be on the streets by law enforcement. Listed below is a list of needed items to stock the emergency bags. All the items can be purchased at Wal-Mart, Amazon, or Dollar General. There is even a donation box in the fellowship hall.

Some suggestions are:

Socks

Hot Hands – hand warmers and toe warmers

Rain poncho (found in camping supplies)

Emergency blanket (found in camping supplies)

Snacks – such as granola bars

Travel size toothpaste and toothbrush
Small hairbrushes and combs
Chapstick
Travel size razor and shaving cream
Deodorant

And so the question is why? Why might we want to join in with this worthwhile project? I believe the answer is simple. It is to make someone's day as "normal" as we can. As I stated at the start, no day is "normal" but every day is a valuable gift given to us by the Maker of days. And so, we are to use each day wisely.

In Christ's love,
Rob

Reports from the Bishop's Committee for March

Bishop's Committee
March 2, 2025
Minutes

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

Fr. Jackson opened the meeting at 11:00 am with the Thanksgiving for the Beginning of Recovery. With so many of us dealing with medical issues, this thanksgiving seems appropriate for us. God is working healing miracles in our midst.

Discussion - Parochial Report Trends.

There was a general discussion about the trends we have seen as reflected in the Parochial Reports since 2015, the first year we submitted one. While the number of members and attendees has declined, giving has done well. This gives us hope for the future and confidence as we go forward.

Reports:

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

Treasurer - The January and February financial reports were presented. Debbie moved and George seconded that the financial reports be accepted as presented. Motion passed.

Warden - Rob brought our attention to his article in the March newsletter. He explained his feelings about how God spoke to him while he was in St. Louis to visit his doctor. Rob reminds us that God can speak to all of us as we need to hear that voice in our hearts.

Priest - Still busy working on the Consecration service. I will be taking a week vacation the end of the month to do some research on the history of the Diocese.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Calendar -

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

Ash Wednesday - March 5th. Dinner at 5:00. Service at 6:30.

Farewell Party for Bishop Diane at Christ Church, Springfield- March 15 1-4pm.

Our next meeting will be April 6 at approximately 11:15, with potluck dinner.

Holy Week schedule:

April 13 - Palm Sunday.

April 16 - Normal Wednesday evening schedule.

April 17 - Maundy Thursday service at 6:30.

April 18 - Good Friday Stations of the Cross and service at 6:30.

April 19 - Holy Saturday service at 9:00 am and Great Easter Vigil at 6:30.

April 20 - Easter Sunday with brunch between services with the Presbyterians.

May 3 - Consecration for Bishop-elect Amy at the Cathedral. Please register.

May 10 - Reception for Bishop Amy and her family at Christ Church, Springfield at 11:00.

Meeting adjourned at 11:48.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Smith, Secretary

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St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

May 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 St Philip and St James	2 Betty BD	3 8-2 OPC Plant Sale 10A Consecration of 9 th Bishop of West Missouri
4 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	5	6 Dennis BD 12:30P Quilters	7 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	8	9	10 8A Men's Breakfast at OPC 9A Women's Breakfast at Village Inn, Ozark
11 Mother's Day 9A Holy Eucharist - IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 11:15A Bishop's Committee	12 Noon Jubilee Group	13 12:30P Quilters	14 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	15	16	17 Stephanie BD
18 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	19	20 12:30P Quilters	21 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	22	23 Lay AN	24
25 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Brunch with OPC	26 Lisa BD	27 12:30P Quilters	28 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	29 Ascension Day	30	31 Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Sue W BD

The Bishop's Committee:

Rev. Chandler Jackson, Priest
Robert Barns, Warden
Vacant, Treasurer
Betty Gloyd, Member

Debbie Smith, Secretary
George Keller, Member

Church Staff:

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