

# *St. Matthew's Companion*



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## *Pastoral Ponderings*

In place of a Pastoral Ponderings this month, I would like to share a reflection on the passage of scripture from Matthew 10:8 written by Pope Leo XIV.

"I was asked by my formators to prepare the Sunday reflection. In the formation house, that was a regular practice. Each of us would be given a reading to reflect on and share with the others.

After sharing, the brothers will give an honest review, and comment on what you needed to have done better in your presentation. Like, we were training our eyes to see beyond the words. I had shared my reflections before. I even looked forward to it, most times. But this one was different.

The Gospel reading for that Sunday was Jesus sending out the Twelve. "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons." That line sat in front of me for four days, and yet nothing. Not a single meaningful thought came to my heart. I started to feel empty—like someone who had always known how to cook but suddenly forgets what ingredients to use. I even told myself, maybe this is how spiritual dryness begins...

Out of frustration, I did something unusual. I went to the library and picked the original Greek text (Bible). Not because I'm some scholar, but because I needed to be sure of what was really said before the translators touched it. And maybe, I could catch something that got lost in transition. It was then that the light began to shine. The four phrases Jesus used were these:

1. Therapeuete tous asthenountas – Heal the sick.

But “asthenountas” doesn’t just mean physically ill. It refers to anything weak, feeble, or broken. So this command isn’t only about hospital beds. It’s also about strengthening tired souls, restoring broken confidence, helping someone who’s emotionally drained feel whole again.

2. Egeirete nekrous – Raise the dead.

But “nekrous” wasn’t just about corpses. It also spoke of things that are not functioning. A marriage that has stopped working. A dream that has died. A faith that has gone cold. “Raise the dead” means go and awaken what has fallen into lifelessness.

3. Katharizete leprous – Cleanse lepers.

The word “leprous” came from “lepros,” which means something considered filthy, rejected, untouchable. Jesus was saying: go and bring back dignity to those whom the society has thrown away. Wash off the shame. Don’t run from them—run toward them. (I’m sure you know how lepers were treated then)

4. Ekballate daimonia – Cast out demons.

And “daimonia” doesn’t always mean literal demons. It includes fears, lies, addictions, oppression, anything that chains a person from the inside. Jesus was saying: free people. Help them break what’s breaking them.

I remember sitting with all that and just being quiet. It was no longer just about giving a reflection for Sunday. It became personal. I could see that these weren’t superpowers Jesus was handing out. They were responsibilities—human, spiritual, and practical. And they weren’t for perfect people. They were for those willing to go close. To listen. To stand with people when life starts malfunctioning. That evening, I finally wrote my reflection. But more than that, something inside me came back to life too.”

May we all reflect on these words and understand there is more to each passage of scripture than we normally see.

Rev. Chandler Jackson  
Priest in Charge

## Stewardship Notes

### Contemplating Stewardship - Shaped for Ministry

“Stewardship is truly about transformed human existence in a community of faith. A theology of stewardship is the most fundamental undertaking of any community. It is about inviting others into a life of discipleship that will change them forever and bring them the gift of joy.” The Rev. E Angela Emerson.

Participation in a ministry or ministries at St. Matt’s signifies a deep level of commitment and a personal investment in our congregation’s life and our mission. Participation in ministry goes beyond that of a passive observer; it reflects an individual’s transformation into a contributor to the

life of our church. Those who participate dedicate their time, talents, and resources to advancing the mission and vision of St. Matt's. Participation in ministry serves as a direct indication of an individual's spiritual growth and progress in discipleship.

Contemplating participation in ministry might start by asking: how many successfully functioning ministries does it take to produce a Sunday service? Hint: it is more than twelve (12). If you can't get to ten (10) or more ministries in your counting, ask someone sitting close to you on Sunday or ask someone on your stewardship ministry to provide some insight.

Transformation happens in our lives and those around us when we see old things in new ways and we can use the God given gifts and talents we have been given to do the work God is calling us to do through active participation in ministry.

Someone once said, Stewardship is using the gifts God has given us to do the work He is calling us to do.

## COMMUNITY DINNERS FOR JULY



July 2

July 9

July 16

July 23

July 30

Pulled Pork Sandwiches

Mac and Cheese

Hamburgers and Brats

Spaghetti and Meatballs

Taco Salad



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

Once again we find ourselves in the month of July. A month when we celebrate not only the birth of our nation, but also the birth of many of the freedoms we enjoy. I know we have separation of church and state in the United States, but I believe that every now and then we need to be reminded of not only what some of those freedoms are but also how we observe them. Every year on July 4th, the skies light up with fireworks, families gather for backyard barbecues, and flags wave proudly in the summer breeze. But beyond the festivities, Independence Day is a powerful reminder of our country's journey toward freedom and unity.

### **A Glimpse Back in Time**

On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence, marking the birth of the United States of America. This bold move declared the 13 American colonies free from British rule, a revolutionary idea at the time.

The words of the Declaration should still resonate today:

***“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal...”***

### **How We Celebrate**

From coast to coast, Americans celebrate July 4th in many ways:

- **Fireworks** displays symbolize the rockets and spirit of the Revolution.
- **Parades** honor our veterans, service members, and local heroes.
- **Cookouts and gatherings** bring families and friends together, often featuring classic American dishes like hot dogs, burgers, and apple pie.
- **Community events** such as concerts, fairs, and flag-raising ceremonies foster unity and pride.

Whether you're enjoying a small picnic or watching a grand fireworks show, the heart of the holiday is about coming together and appreciating the freedoms we enjoy.

### **What are the freedoms we enjoy:**

We can worship where we choose, live where we choose, educate ourselves where we want, and hold whatever job we want. We also have freedom of the press, freedom of speech, freedom to assemble peacefully, and freedom to petition the government for redress of grievances. We also have the right (or freedom) to bear arms, as well as the right (or freedom) to a fair and speedy trial.

## **A Moment for Reflection**

Independence Day isn't just a celebration; it's also a moment to reflect on what our freedom means today. It's a chance to honor those who have fought to protect it and to consider how we can uphold the values of liberty, justice, and equality in our daily lives.

## **Wishing you a safe and happy Fourth!**

As you celebrate this Independence Day, take a moment to pause, reflect, and appreciate the journey that brought us here. Fly your flags high, enjoy time with loved ones, and remember freedom is both a gift and a responsibility.

Wishing you a Happy and Blessed Fourth of July!

May God Bless us all,  
Rob

## **ADULT STUDY of ESTHER**

"Just do It" has been a successful and popular slogan for Nike. It refers to getting in shape and participating in athletics no matter what the physical or mental strain. But the slogan brings something else to mind after spending time in the book of Esther. It reminds me to *just do it*---just do the right thing no matter what the consequences.

Esther will stir us to examine our character, the deep aspects of our hearts. It will encourage us in taking a stand for what is right and give us courage that God is still in control.

These are some thoughts and ideas of Patty Pell, author of one of the guides I'm using for our summer study. I hope you will enjoy the study that JoAnn suggested :).

Lisa

## ***Reports from the Bishop's Committee for May***

May 11, 2025  
Bishop's Committee  
Minutes

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

Fr. Jackson opened the meeting at 11:24am with a prayer for church meetings and a reading from Matthew Kelly's "Holy Moments. In the reading, "The Two Hungers", Kelly speaks to our sense hunger for meaning.

Discussion - Getting the word out that we are here: From a discussion at a Wednesday Evening dinner, the question was raised - how do people know there is an Episcopal Church in Ozark. Some suggestions - Chamber of Commerce Welcome Packet which is given to realtors, the Chamber Directory (Need to be a member), Newspaper calendar of events (free, we already have Wednesday dinners listed), participation in Chamber events, perhaps broadcast evening prayer on a local radio station, enhance our social media presence, post columns from the newsletter on Facebook, Episcopal Church Welcomes You sign.

## Reports

Secretary - April minutes - George moved and Betty seconded that the minutes be approved. Motion passed. April Special Meeting minutes - Betty moved, George seconded that the minutes be approved. Motion passed.

Treasurer - The April financial report was presented. Rob pointed out a few corrections that are needed - money for the A/V system was deducted twice. That will change the totals. Betty moved and George seconded that the financial reports be accepted as revised. Motion passed.

Warden - We are working with the Presbyterians to improve the A/V system in the sanctuary as we discussed in the Special Meeting in April. \$2178.50 is our share of the cost. We have applied for a grant for \$1500 from the Diocesan Central Grant Committee. They meet May 20. We should hear shortly after that if we got the entire grant request. The remaining \$678.50 will be taken from the Building Fund, the Men's Breakfast Fund, and the remained from the General Fund.

Priest - The Consecration Committee has wrapped up its work as of yesterday. I will need to make a report to the Diocesan Council at the June meeting, but that is all. Now, as the Diocesan Archivist, I will be gathering records from the three committees (Search, Transition, and Consecration) for the Archives. I will be going up to the archives tomorrow.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Audit - Ron Weil has offered to do our annual audit again this year. Betty moved and Rob seconded a motion to approve Ron doing the audit this year. Motion passed. Fr. Chandler will take the materials Ron needs in advance to Kansas City tomorrow.

Calendar -

Our next meeting will be June 1, following the potluck brunch.

Meeting adjourned at 12:13.

Respectfully submitted,

Fr. Chandler Jackson for  
Debbie Smith, Secretary

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## *St. Matthew's Episcopal Church*

July 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Online services are via the St Matthew's YouTube channel and the Wednesday services are on the Facebook page. Wednesday evening meals and service are downstairs at the church.						
		<b>1</b>  12:30P Quilters	<b>2</b> Vicki BD  5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9A Holy Eucharist - IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  12:30P Quilters	<b>9</b>  5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Brunch 11:15A Bishop's Committee	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  12:30P Quilters	<b>16</b>  5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> St. Mary Magdalene  12:30P Quilters	<b>23</b>  5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> St. James	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  12:30P Quilters	<b>30</b>  5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	<b>31</b>		

### *The Bishop's Committee:*

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

Debbie Smith, Secretary  
 George Keller, Member

### *Church Staff:*

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