

St. Matthew's Companion



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
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Pastoral Ponderings

Some might want to compare our summer weather with the afterlife - if you don't like the heat and humidity, get right with God. Having grown up in desert climates and, after living in Texas for over twenty years, I have never thought in such terms. Different parts of the country have their own special climate challenges.

Why do I bring this up? No matter where we choose to live, we must adapt to the conditions in which we find ourselves. When I lived in North Dakota and Montana, I knew I needed special clothing for winters. When I lived in Texas, summers could be challenging. Southern Florida had its own unique issues. However, I learned to adjust to whatever location I lived.

Missouri has its own challenges. I thought it unusual that Bishop Diane always had her water bottle with her, no matter what the occasion or setting. She knew that she needed to have that water handy at all times. After last Sunday, I understand.

When I was backpacking a lot, hydration was always stressed. But in my workplace - almost always in an air-conditioned space, hydration wasn't an issue - until now. You will see me with some container of water at all times. It may not be esthetically pleasing to some, but I have learned to put health over appearance. We are all God's children and God wants us to use common sense and take care of ourselves.

My message to each of you is this: Do whatever you need to do for your health and safety. If that means bringing a water bottle to church, do it. If that means fanning yourself during the service, do it. If you need to get up and move around, do it. We will try to maintain a comfortable

temperature in the building for services, but what is comfortable for one, might be uncomfortable for someone else.

I have been accused of being prideful in the way I have refused at times to take proper care of myself, because it didn't "look good." God does not care about appearances. We gather to worship God, not to put on a style show. Do what you need to do to be healthy and safe. God will take care of the critics.

Rev. Chandler Jackson
Priest in Charge

COMMUNITY DINNERS FOR AUGUST



August 6

August 13

August 20

August 27

Chicken Pot Pie

Meat Loaf

Lasagna

Chili



From the Computer of the Bishop's Warden

Sometimes when I sit down to write this monthly article I have in my mind what I want to write about. Sometimes I draw a complete blank as to what to say. This is one of those times. So, here is the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. I think it is especially appropriate for all of us to remember especially in these times.

*Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light; and
Where there is sadness, joy.
Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

And then there is this prayer:

I will try this day to live a simple, sincere and serene life, repelling promptly every thought of discontent, anxiety, discouragement, impurity and self-seeking; cultivating cheerfulness, magnanimity, charity and the habit of holy silence; exercising economy in expenditure, generosity in giving, carefulness in conversation, diligence in appointed service, fidelity to every trust and a childlike faith in God.

In particular I will try to be faithful in those habits of prayer, work, study, physical exercise, eating and sleep, which I believe the Holy Spirit has shown me to be right.

And as I cannot in my own strength do this, nor even with a hope of success attempt it, I look to thee, O Lord God my Father, in Jesus my Savior, and ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In Christ's Love,
Rob

August 3rd, an Important Date

Most of you know I'm from Rome, New York. Each year when I was a child, we went to the Fort Stanwix Days, a reenactment of the battle. Fort Stanwix is important for its role in the American Revolution. It was the fort that never surrendered in a long siege in 1777. It's where the new American flag flew during the battle.

The flag to me represents the vision of our Founding Fathers planning our freedoms. One of our freedoms is the freedom to worship as we choose. Not thing to take lightly. We can, and everyone else can, practice his or her religion as they choose.

So, on this anniversary of revolution and freedoms, let's remember what others did for us: to enable us the freedom of worship. We live in a wonderful country with many freedoms others would like to have, so let's remember this freedom and the others we have in our daily prayer life.

Lisa

Reports from the Bishop's Committee for June

Bishop's Committee June 1, 2025 Minutes

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

Fr. Jackson opened the meeting at 11:03am with a prayer for church meetings and a reading from Matthew Kelly's "Holy Moments. In the reading, "A Moment of Clarity", Kelly says that we each have a moment of clarity about our next steps. This is our moment.

Discussion - What is on our minds?

Reports

Secretary - May minutes - Rob moved and George seconded that the minutes of the May meeting be approved. Motion passed.

Treasurer - The May financial report was presented. Rob pointed out a correction that are needed - the balance going forward in June should read \$2066.93. Rob pointed out that he had spoken with the bank, and a mistake of \$1544.22 was discovered sometime before the beginning of this year. Therefore, the beginning balance for the year was adjusted and the amounts are now correct. Things are very tight. Betty moved and George seconded that the financial reports be accepted as revised. Motion passed.

Rob moved that we move \$1000.00 from the Dinner Fund to the General Fund to help with the tight finances. Betty seconded. Motion passed. With this action and the money received today, Rob will be able to pay the diocese for May.

Warden - Thank you to Debbie, especially, for her friendliness in greeting visitors. She introduces herself and gets to know them a little. This is a wonderful example for all of us.

Priest - I will be taking two weeks' vacation later this month to move my son to Seattle and visiting family. I will also be stopping at the church where I grew up to visit them on Sunday, June 22. They have not seen me in over 50 years and don't know I'm a priest. It should be fun.

Bishop Amy met with the clergy on May 6th at St. John's Springfield, to lay out her expectations. One major point she made was regarding Title IV, the disciplinary rules for clergy. Please be careful, but call her immediately if there is a problem. She doesn't like surprises. Also, she ask that we phase out using the individual cups for communion. After some discussion, I agreed to ask her about this as we have several people who, for various reasons, prefer them over the common cup.

Old Business: The new A/V system is up and running. James Marbut is handling it for us and doing some training for the Presbyterians. Thank you, James. The grant we applied for from the diocese has been approved to pay for this and as soon as the check arrives, we will pay our final portion to OPC.

New Business: Jennifer Marbut has expressed interest in being our treasurer. Debbie moved and George seconded a motion to appoint her as treasurer and a member of the Bishop's Committee. Motion passed.

Calendar -

Our next meeting will be July 13, following the potluck brunch.

Meeting adjourned at 11:48.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Smith, Secretary

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

August 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.					1	2 <i>Theresa BD</i> 8A Men's Breakfast at OCC 1P Deanery Picnic @St. James, Springfield
3 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Brunch 11:15A Bishop's Committee	4	5 12:30P Quilters	6 <i>Transfiguration</i> 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	7	8	9
10 9A Holy Eucharist - IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	11	12 12:30P Quilters	13 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	14 <i>Barns AN</i>	15 <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>	16
17 9A Holy Eucharist - IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	18	19 12:30P Quilters	20 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	21	22	23 <i>Larsen AN</i>
24 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	25 <i>St. Bartholomew Gary BD</i>	26 12:30P Quilters	27 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	28 <i>Rob BD</i>	29	30
31 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education						

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