

St. Matthew's Companion



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
1932 E Highway 14
PO Box 704
Ozark, Missouri 65721
stmattsozark@diowestmo.org
stmattsecozark@gmail.com
417.581.1350
September 2025

Pastoral Ponderings

On September 21 each year, the church celebrates the Feast of St. Matthew. This year, that day falls on the third Sunday of the month. But, who was St. Matthew? We should be interested in knowing this since our congregation is named for him.

The short answer to the question of who is St. Matthew is - who knows? He seems to be a mystery in church history. The first Gospel is named for him, but scholars generally believe that the man named in the gospel as Matthew was probably long dead before the book bearing his name was written. In the ninth chapter of this Gospel, we read that Matthew was “sitting at the tax booth” when Jesus called him. At the beginning of the next chapter, Matthew is listed among the twelve disciples, again as a tax collector. However, in both Mark and Luke, Matthew is not named at all, but rather a man named Levi is listed as a tax collector. Same person? We don't know.

There is a tradition that this man, Matthew, did collect a group of sayings and stories about Jesus that may have been used in the writing of this gospel, but there are no copies of such a document still in existence. Many scholars subscribe to this belief, in spite of the lack of its existence because early Christian writers mention seeing such a document.

There are also several traditions about what became of this man after the Resurrection as he never is mentioned again in scripture. The most widely accepted is that he went to India to evangelize there, but there is no evidence to back this up. We also have no idea of the circumstances of his death. Some stories say Matthew died peacefully, while others list various forms of horrific torture. As with everything else about Matthew, we will never know.

So, why do we honor this man Matthew? I believe the most compelling reason to accept the idea that such a man really existed and was an early disciple of Jesus is the fact that no good Jew (or Christian) would have associated with such a person. Tax collectors were shunned like a dreaded disease. The fact that his name appears anywhere near the gospels is evidence that he must have been real. There is no other reason to include him at all.

As we gather on the third Sunday to commemorate St. Matthew, let us remember the deeply flawed man who Jesus called to travel with Him. Let us remember the tax collector who gave up everything he had to follow Jesus. Let us look for ways in our own lives to drop everything and follow Jesus.

Rev. Chandler Jackson
Priest in Charge

COMMUNITY DINNERS FOR SEPTEMBER



September 3	Breakfast for Dinner
September 10	Turkey Tetrazzini
September 17	Grilled Cheese Sandwiches
September 24	Stuffed Shells

REVITALIZATION

Boy that's a two bit word if I ever heard one. What is church revitalization?

Turning a plateaued or declining church around and moving it back towards growth would be a mission work of church revitalization. From what I've read, this generally takes three to five years for this to become reality. It's been quite a while since we had this discussion about how to get more people into our congregation. There have been several round table talks about it, but not involving all of us. We do have ads in papers, and there are flyers available. Perhaps we need outside help on this topic as well.

With that said, we really need to get back to the basics of what God is calling us to do as a church.

Yours in Christ,
Roland Dobson



*From the Computer of the
Bishop's Warden*

Here we are getting into the Fall of the year. And we are also rapidly approaching Labor Day. That leads me to thinking that in one way or another we all work. Some of us go to work in a traditional job where we leave our homes for one or more days of the week. Some of us work from our homes. Some of us are retired from what we considered our full time job and yet somehow we still work. And we all, in one way or another, work for St. Matthew's and especially for the Lord.

I realize that we do not own the building we worship in, but I believe there are many thoughts and ideas in our congregation. And so here are a few questions I would like each and everyone of us to think about and pray about:

1. "Is there something I can do to make St. Matthew's more meaningful?"
2. "Is there something I can suggest to others to improve St. Matthew's?"
3. "Are there any unspoken ideas that I have for St. Matthew's?"
4. "What can I or we do to make St. Matthew's better known in the community?"
5. "We have a fairly large AA group which meets in the downstairs. Are there ways to better interact with this group?"
6. "Any other ideas?"

So, here is what I am asking each of you to do. When you have thought and prayed about something, please let me know. While we may not be able to do everything, I believe we can do something. No idea is too big or too small. Let's put on our thinking caps and see what the Lord and St. Matthew's can accomplish.

In Christ's Love,
Rob

Creation Care Opportunity

The Episcopal Churches in the greater Springfield area have been looking at a variety of activities to do together while raising the awareness of the Episcopal Church overall. The next opportunity will happen on Saturday, September 20. We will be gathering at Sequiota Park in South Springfield at 9:00am to clean up a section of Galloway Creek from the park to Republic Road. If you are interested in joining me for this activity (should only take a couple of hours), contact me as they need about 20-30 people to get it done.

Chandler

“SAVE THE DATE”

Ladies it's time for our BREAKFAST OUT on October 4th. It was decided a year ago that a monthly breakfast wasn't working, so we meet only twice a year now.

So put a red circle around October 4th and we'll gather at Village Inn for some talk, laughter, fellowship, and oh yes food. See you all!!!

Reports from the Bishop's Committee for July

Bishop's Committee
July 13, 2025
Minutes

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

Fr. Jackson opened the meeting at 11:10am with a prayer for church meetings and a reading from Matthew Kelly's "Holy Moments. In the reading, "The Moment of Decision", Kelly says that we

each make many decision. If we only master one moment in our life, let it be the moment of decision. We possess incredible power - to choose good and holy or what is unholy and destructive. Our choices have power.

Reports

Secretary - George moved and Rob seconded that the minutes of the June 1 meeting be approved. Motion passed. George asked about the question to the Bishop regarding the common cup. Fr. Chandler replied that he has emailed the Bishop and has not heard back yet, but is confident we will hear.

Treasurer - The June financial report was presented. Rob pointed out that the \$1000 shown as ministry income was the funds transferred from the Dinner Fund last month. Debbie moved and Betty seconded that the financial reports be accepted. Motion passed.

Warden - Feels like he is beating a dead horse, but needs to remind us about the General Fund balance. On a brighter note, he has been looking at the files with the information for Emergency Contacts, Register information, and Memorial planning forms. If those of us on the Bishop's Committee will get ours filled out, he will have most of the files complete. He is asking us to have it done by next month's meeting.

Priest - Gave update on position changes at the diocesan level from the Diocesan Council meeting yesterday. Although new positions will be created and a couple increased to full time, the money to cover these changes will come from within the budget.

He will be going up to work in the diocesan archives this week, probably tomorrow. Also, he will be attending ordinations later this month at the cathedral.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Calendar -

Deanery picnic will be August 2 at 1:00 at St. James, Springfield.

Our next meeting will be August 3, following the potluck brunch.

Meeting adjourned at 11:53 with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Smith, Secretary

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD	BUDGET
BEGINNING BALANCE	5170.27	3396.26	2540.56	2009.90	1461.18	2066.93	1877.77							
INCOME														
Giving Estimates	1697.65	2615.96	3407.00	3007.57	2105.75	2350.00	3060.00						12833.93	35200.00
Ministry						1000.00							0.00	1800.00
TOTAL INCOME	1697.65	2615.96	3407.00	3007.57	2105.75	3350.00	3060.00						12833.93	37000.00
EXPENSES:														
OPERATIONS:														
Diocese	389.16	389.16	389.16	389.16	389.16	389.16	389.16						1556.64	4670.00
Clergy	1312.50	1312.50	1312.50	1312.50	1312.50	1312.50	1312.50						5250.00	15750.00
OPC	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00						7500.00	18000.00
Misc.	0.00	0.00	165.00	17.13	0.00	0.00	0.00						182.13	0.00
Advertising	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						0.00	0.00
Insurance	0.00	0.00	208.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						208.50	834.00
USPS #704	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						0.00	142.00
Total Operations	3201.66	3201.66	3575.16	3218.79	3201.66	3201.66	3201.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14697.27	39396.00
MINISTRY:														
Altar Guild	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						0.00	600.00
Organist	270.00	270.00	337.50	337.50	270.00	337.50	270.00						1215.00	3510.00
Day by Day			25.00				25.00						25.00	100.00
Convention													0.00	200.00
Music License													0.00	120.00
Total Ministries	270.00	270.00	362.50	337.50	270.00	337.50	295.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1240.00	4530.00
TOTAL OPERATING EXP	3471.66	3471.66	3937.66	3556.29	3471.66	3539.16	3496.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		15937.27	43926.00
ENDING BALANCE	3396.26	2540.56	2009.90	1461.18	2066.93	1877.77	1441.11							(6926.00)

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

September 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 Labor Day	2 Keller AN 12:30P Quilters	3 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	4	5	6 8A Men's Breakfast at OPC
7 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Brunch 11:15A Bishop's Committee	8 12:00N Jubilee Study	9 12:30P Quilters	10 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	11	12	13
14 9A Holy Eucharist - IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	15 Holy Cross	16 12:30P Quilters	17 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	18	19	20 9A Galloway Creek Clean-up
21 St. Matthew 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	22	23 12:30P Quilters	24 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	25	26 Jill BD	27
28 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	29 St. Michael and All Angels	30 12:30P Quilters				

The Bishop's Committee:

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

Church Staff:

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