

# *St. Matthew's Companion*



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
1932 E Highway 14  
PO Box 704  
Ozark, Missouri 65721  
[stmattsozark@diowestmo.org](mailto:stmattsozark@diowestmo.org)  
[stmattsecozark@gmail.com](mailto:stmattsecozark@gmail.com)  
417.581.1350  
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## *Pastoral Ponderings*

In place of my usual Pastoral Ponderings, I would like to offer this reflection on our Stewardship Campaign this year.

Dear People of St. Matt's,

As Christians we are story tellers. We have an ancient narrative, one that describes the beginning of time and the relationship between God and God's Creation. We see this story grow through the prophetic tradition until our story recounts the life and gifts of the Son of God. But the story doesn't end with the Resurrection just as it did not end with the Cross, it continues on in each of us today as we encounter and are transformed by the Good News.

Luke's Gospel is bookended by the animated story-telling of two women named Mary. Early in the Gospel, Mary the mother of Jesus, tells us of her encounter with the Divine who informs her that she will bear a child who will change the world. She proclaims her joy: "Tell out my soul! The Greatness of the Lord!" At the end of the Gospel, another Mary, Mary Magdalene, visits the tomb to discover it empty and receives instructions from the Risen Christ to go tell the others. She carries this Good News with jubilation to the Disciples.

What is your Good News; the idea, dream, challenge placed in your heart by God, that needs to be shared? What is the ministry to which you are called which will change the world, sharing your talents, gifts, and love with your neighbors?

Our Stewardship Campaign this year focuses on these stories – the ones inside you, the ones you are still writing, the ones we tell about those who have gone before us. We are all a part of this ongoing narrative – the ongoing Creation. As you pray about how you will share your gifts with us this year, think about how God is calling you to tell out your soul, to spread the Good News far and wide. Hear the stories that we share weekly throughout the campaign that relate the creative spark in us with the ways in which we are called to serve God and love our neighbor.

Tell out my soul! The Greatness of the Lord!

Rev. Chandler Jackson  
Priest in Charge

## COMMUNITY DINNERS FOR OCTOBER



October 1	Baked Potato Bar
October 8	Chicken and Rice
October 15	Soup
October 22	Enchiladas
October 29	Macaroni and Cheese



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

For those of you who read the Forward Day by Day each day or at least once in a while, you will notice that on some days there is a name or names at the very top of the page. As I looked ahead to October 1<sup>st</sup> I found two names that were totally unfamiliar to me. Those names were Remigius of Rheims and Therese of Lisieux. Please do not ask me to pronounce either of them. But, I thought it would be interesting to find out something about these two who were important in the life of the church.

Saint Remigius (437-13 January 533) was the Bishop of Rheims and “Apostle of the Franks”. He studied at Rheims and soon became so noted for his learning and sanctity, and his high status, that he was elected Bishop of Rheims at 21 years old. At this point he was still a layman. On December 25<sup>th</sup> 496, he baptized Clovis I, King of the Franks. This baptism led to about 3000 additional converts and was important in the Christianization of the Franks. Because of the efforts of Clovis I, a large number of churches were established in the formerly pagan lands of the Frankish empire. He never attended any of the church councils but, in 517 Remigius held a synod at Rheims, at which after a heated discussion, he converted a bishop of Arian views. The tomb of St. Remigius was deliberately desecrated on October 7, 1793 by a Commissioner of the Convention during the French Revolution due to the link between the tomb and royal patronage. His feast day in France and in the Traditional Catholic Church in the United Kingdom and the USA is celebrated on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Remigius is also honored in the Church of England and in the Episcopal Church on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Therese of Lisieux (2 January 1873 – 30 September 1897) was a French Discalced Carmelite, who is widely venerated in modern times. In English she is known as the ***Little Flower of Jesus***, or more simply, the ***Little Flower***. She is one of the most popular saints in the history of the church, although she was obscure in her lifetime. Pope Pius X called her “the greatest saint of modern times”. At an early age, she felt a call to religious life and, after overcoming various obstacles, in 1888, at the age of 15, she became a nun, joining two of her elder sisters in the Carmelite community of Lisieux in Normandy. After nine years as a nun, in her last 18 months at Carmel, she fell into a night of faith, in which she felt Jesus was absent. She was tormented by doubts that God existed. Therese died at the age of 24 from tuberculosis. Pope John Paul II declared her a Doctor of the Church. Her feast day in the General Roman Calendar was October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1927 until it was moved to October 1<sup>st</sup> in 1969. She is well known throughout the world, with the Basilica of Lisieux being the second most popular place of pilgrimage in France after Lourdes.

So, why did I go on this mini history lesson about two ordinary people who became important? I did it to show that we, ordinary people, can have an influence in what goes on day

after day. I do not expect any of us to be listed on the top right corner of the pages of Forward Day by Day, but who knows!

In Christ's Love  
Rob

### **A CHALLENGE !!**

I've just reread the letter from the Bishop Amy, The Rev's. Canon Anne Meredith Kyle, and Charles Marks. They moved me to think on them these last two weeks. They are challenging me to do something more in my life. As you know I tend to have a busy life. In trying to understand how to add another thing seems to overwhelm my brain.

Then I thought of Mary. The sister of Martha. What did she do? She sat and listened to Jesus. How often do I listen, or do I hurry with prayers and devotion?

So I have a CHALLENGE for you and for me. Let's give more time with Jesus. For me, I'm going to add more to our devotion time. To read all the scriptures listed in Forward Day By Day. I'm going to pray about we've read and to think more each day of the scriptures.

When Esther was challenged, she FASTED and PRAYED before any action. Let's use these two women's life actions in our daily life. So my CHALLENGE to you is from October 1st to December 31st read the Forward Day by Day each day, to listen to the scripture and pray on it, and for wisdom for our leaders, for healing of divisions in our communities, mercy and justice in our land and for peace that only God can give.

Thank you for listening to me.  
Lisa

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

Bishop's Committee  
August 3, 2025  
Minutes

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

Fr. Jackson opened the meeting at 10:51am with a prayer for church meetings and a reading from Matthew Kelly's "Holy Moments. In the reading, "The Rest of Your Life", Kelly says that life is short and we all waste some of it. Using the story of the Transfiguration, Kelly says each Holy

Moment gives us a glimpse of what is possible. The rest of our lives is waiting for us. That life will be filled with moments. Will they be holy or unholy? The choice is ours.

## Reports

Secretary - Rob moved and George seconded that the minutes of the July 13 meeting be approved. Motion passed. Debbie asked about the question to the Bishop regarding the Common Cup. Fr. Chandler replied the Bishop has heard from several congregations about this and is asking for input. She plans to provide a directive this Fall. Fr. Chandler stated that he provided input on why we prefer to retain the individual cups, as well as the Common Cup.

Treasurer - The July financial report was presented. George moved and Debbie seconded that the financial report be accepted. Motion passed.

Warden - There is grant money available from the diocese for outreach activities. One possibility would be to ask for funding for an ad in the Christian County newspaper, giving service times, etc. We already have a listing in the free section of calendar events for the dinners. This would have more information about the church. George suggested the Rob explore the cost of such an ad for one year and, if it does not exceed \$1000, for Rob to go ahead and write the grant. Rob agreed to do that. It was decided that an ad in the Springfield papers would not be beneficial. Rob also pointed out that the Chamber of Commerce is planning a "Welcome Packet" for realtors to give out to new home buyers. We have already given them some of our tri-fold brochures to use in that packet.

Priest - Diocesan Council meets Saturday. There will probably be some discussion regarding the Common Cup. He will be going up to work in the diocesan archives this Friday. There will be a clergy conference in Branson in October, but not much information has been shared yet.

Old Business: The annual audit will be August 21.

New Business: None.

## Calendar -

Our next meeting will be September 7, following the potluck brunch.

Meeting adjourned at 11:41 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	1441.11						
<b>INCOME</b>														
Giving Estimates	1697.65	2615.96	3407.00	3007.57	2105.75	2350.00	3060.00	3406.00					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	3406.00					12833.93	37000.00
<b>EXPENSES:</b>														
OPERATIONS:														
Diocese	389.16	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	1312.50					5250.00	15750.00
OPC	1500.00	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	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	0.00
Insurance	0.00	0.00	208.50	0.00	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					0.00	142.00
Total Operations	3201.66	3201.66	3575.16	3218.79	3201.66	3201.66	3201.66	3201.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14697.27	39396.00
<b>MINISTRY:</b>														
Altar Guild	0.00	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	0.00					1215.00	3510.00
Day by Day			25.00				25.00	0.00					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
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXP</b>	3471.66	3471.66	3937.66	3556.29	3471.66	3539.16	3496.66	3201.66	0.00	0.00	0.00		15937.27	43926.00
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	3396.26	2540.56	2009.90	1461.18	2066.93	1877.77	1441.11	1645.45						(6926.00)

# *St. Matthew's Episcopal Church*

October 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>  5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  9A Women's Breakfast at Village Inn 11A Blessing of the Animals, Phelps Grove Park, Springfield
<b>5</b> 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Brunch 11:15A Bishop's Committee	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  12:30P Quilters	<b>8</b>  5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9A Holy Eucharist - IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	<b>13</b> <i>Auterson AN</i>  12:00N Jubilee Study	<b>14</b>  12:30P Quilters	<b>15</b>  5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <i>St. Luke</i>
<b>19</b> 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  12:30P Quilters	<b>22</b>  5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	<b>23</b> <i>St. James</i>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <i>George BD</i>  9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <i>St. Simon and St. Jude</i>  12:30P Quilters	<b>29</b>  5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

## *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