

St. Matthew's Companion



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
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December 2025

Pastoral Ponderings

As we begin a new liturgical year, we are also completing a calendar year, 2025. Some are looking ahead to tax season and how you might maximize your deductions, while decreasing your tax liability. The church can help.

On the table outside the main sanctuary doors, are two new brochures from the Episcopal Church Foundation. One is entitled, *Stewards of God's bounty*. It covers planned giving – that process where we look at our estate to see how our legacy might impact organizations we support. In addition to our wills, there are a variety of Life Income Gifts we can explore, including a Pooled Income Fund, a Charitable Remainder Trust, a Charitable Gift Annuity, and a Charitable Lead Trust. All of these are explained in the brochure.

The other is entitled, *When there's a will, there's a way*. This brochure gives suggestions of ideas to consider before you head to your legal advisor's office. Some of the ideas include specific asset bequests, trusts within a will, and contingent beneficiaries.

Additional resources are available that we can acquire for you. They are listed on the back of both brochures. If you are interested in any of these additional topics, let me know and we will get copies of the brochures and booklets listed.

One of the projects we have undertaken as a congregation is memorial service planning. Rob has been a bulldog in getting each of us (me included) to fill out the planning guide so we have a copy on file. I can tell you this has been very beneficial for a couple of families already. By filling out the guide, you are telling us what YOU want for your memorial service. As with pre-planning your funeral desires at the funeral home, this is an additional step you can take to relieve your loved

ones of trying to decide what the service will look like. Thank you to all who have completed these guides. There are additional copies on the same table in case you want to update your planning guide.

As we complete 2025, may you have a blessed Christmas season and be ready for an exciting new year in 2026.

Rev. Chandler Jackson
Priest in Charge

COMMUNITY DINNERS FOR DECEMBER



December 3	Turkey Tetrizzini
December 10	Tacos
December 17	Ham
December 24	Closed for Christmas
December 31	Closed for Christmas



*From the Computer of the
Bishop's Warden*

By the time this is read, we will have already celebrated the first Sunday in Advent. So, I thought it might be a good idea to simply include six ideas about the Advent season. As we are all

busy during this season, I do not want to make this a long drawn out reflection about the Advent season.

1. Advent marks the beginning of the Christian liturgical year, typically starting four Sundays before Christmas. This year, 2025, Advent begins on November 30th.
2. It is a time of preparation and anticipation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. With all the “business” we bring upon ourselves, let us not forget the why and the whom we are celebrating.
- 3 The word "Advent" comes from the Latin "adventus," meaning "coming" or "arrival."
4. Many Christians use this season for reflection, prayer, and spiritual renewal. May we at St. Matthew's practice this especially in this season.
5. Advent calendars are popular, counting down the days to Christmas with daily reflections or treats. Do you remember getting an Advent calendar? I do and so do our children and grandchildren.
6. The season emphasizes themes of hope, peace, joy, and love, often symbolized by the lighting of candles on an Advent wreath. Especially in this year and in this season may we all practice HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE. May those four themes continue into 2026 and beyond.

May each one of you have a blessed and holy Advent Season
Rob

Reports from the Bishop's Committee for October

Bishop's Committee
October 5, 2025
Minutes

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

Fr. Jackson opened the meeting at 10:58am with a prayer and a devotion on St. Francis, whose feast day was yesterday.

Reports

Secretary - Rob moved and George seconded that the minutes of the September 7 meeting be approved. Motion passed. George asked about the audit. Rob responded that the auditor found we are doing better at our files than last year. He was very positive about our finances.

Treasurer - The September financial report was presented. Betty moved and George seconded that the financial report be accepted. Motion passed. It was pointed out that the \$295.30 under Miscellaneous was for the shirts. The income from those shirts was recorded along with the Giving Estimates. Jennifer also presented a first draft of the expense side of the budget for 2026.

Warden - Rob is waiting for the check from the diocese for the ad campaign. The grant committee has approved it, so it is a matter of just waiting for the check to arrive. He will then meet with the people at the paper to create the ad.

The Chamber of Commerce has not created their welcome packets yet. They hope to have them ready by the end of the year.

Marion Medical Missions has already received a check from Lisa's brother in honor of their wedding anniversary. That will be included in our amount for a grant request from the diocese. We have also received donations of \$400 from the congregation. After November 2, we will total the amount and apply for the matching grant.

Priest - While the diocesan budget for 2026 is still a work in progress, the revenue side is complete. Our assessment for 2026 will be \$4399, which is a decrease of \$271 from 2025.

The theme of the Stewardship Campaign this year is "Tell Out My Soul". We will announce that we would like the cards returned by November 30.

Since Diocesan Council will be meeting in Excelsior Springs Saturday, I will be going to the archives on Friday and staying overnight. I will be back Saturday evening.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Calendar -

- a. Our next meeting will be November 2, following the potluck brunch.
- b. Diocesan Convention is November 7-8 at the Cathedral.

Meeting adjourned at 11:29 with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Chandler Jackson for
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	1645.45	1830.17				
INCOME														
Giving Estimates	1697.65	2615.96	3407.00	3007.57	2105.75	2350.00	3060.00	3406.00	4107.68	5613.21			31370.82	35200.00
Ministry						1000.00				2400.00			3400.00	1800.00
TOTAL INCOME	1697.65	2615.96	3407.00	3007.57	2105.75	3350.00	3060.00	3406.00	4107368	8013.21			34770.82	37000.00
EXPENSES:														
OPERATIONS:														
Diocese	389.16	389.16	389.16	389.16	389.16	389.16	389.16	389.16	389.16	389.16			3891.60	4670.00
Clergy	1312.50	1312.50	1312.50	1312.50	1312.50	1312.50	1312.50	1312.50	1312.50	1312.50			13125.00	15750.00
OPC	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00			15000.00	18000.00
Misc.	0.00	0.00	165.00	17.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	295.30	40.55			517.98	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	156.00				156.00	142.00
Total Operations	3201.66	3201.66	3575.16	3218.79	3201.66	3201.66	3201.66	3201.66	3652.96	3242.21	0.00	0.00	32899.08	39396.00
MINISTRY:														
Altar Guild	0.00	0.00	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	270.00	270.00			2632.50	3510.00
Day by Day			25.00				25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			50.00	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	270.00	270.00	0.00	0.00	2682.50	4530.00
TOTAL OPERATING EXP	3471.66	3471.66	3937.66	3556.29	3471.66	3539.16	3496.66	3201.66	3922.96	3512.21	0.00		35581.58	43926.00
ENDING BALANCE	3396.26	2540.56	2009.90	1461.18	2066.93	1877.77	1441.11	1645.45	1830.17	6331.17				(6926.00)

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

December 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 <i>St. Andrew</i>	2 12:30P Quilters	3 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	4	5 <i>Sue BD</i>	6 8a Men's Breakfast at Village Inn
7 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Brunch 10:30A Adult Education 11:30A 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	16 12:30P Quilters 5:00P Blue Christmas Service	17 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	18 <i>Mark BD</i>	19	20 <i>Debbie BD</i>
21 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	22 <i>St. Thomas</i>	23 12:30P Quilters	24 <i>Jerry BD</i> Community Dinner Cancelled 5:30 Christmas Eve Service	25 <i>Christmas</i>	26 <i>St. Stephen</i>	27 <i>St. John</i>
28 9A Morning Prayer - IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	29 <i>Holy Innocents</i>	30	31 <i>Lynn BD</i> 5-6:30P Dinner Cancelled 6:45P Evening Prayer Cancelled			

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