

St. Matthew's Companion



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
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February 2026

Pastoral Ponderings

After a snowy end of January, we are back into our normal routine of Sunday and Wednesday activities, Jubilee Book Study, and Quilters, along with various other activities that happen throughout the month. It is great to be back together.

We will have our Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 1, where we will conduct the business of the church after a wonderful brunch. I hope all can be there for this.

We are trying something new this year. We have many people who do not like to drive after dark, so we are going to have two services on Ash Wednesday. You may attend either, or both if you desire. The first service will be at noon on Wednesday the 18th. The second service will be at 5:30, which will be a joint service with the Presbyterians.

By having the noon service, we will also be able to serve dinner that evening as is our usual Wednesday practice. We have some new people attending our weekly dinner so we will be able to serve them, as well as having a solemn service for Ash Wednesday. This will also allow those who come to the evening service to get home at a reasonable hour as it is still getting dark early.

As we begin the Lenten season, I encourage each of us to find a little extra time to focus on our spiritual walk. There are many great resources to aid in your devotional time, especially the Forward Day by Day. You might also browse the bookshelves downstairs for other options. There are many good books there for you to use.

May God bless us as we continue to strive for a closer walk with God and each other.

Rev. Chandler Jackson
Priest in Charge

COMMUNITY DINNERS FOR FEBRUARY



February 4	Chicken Pot Pie
February 11	Spaghetti
February 18	2 Soup Supper
February 25	Enchiladas



*From the Computer of the
Bishop's Warden*

Here we are already into February and what do I write about this month. A couple of months ago, I looked at a person who was mentioned on the first page in *Forward Day by Day*. So, in February, the first name I came across was that of Anskar.

Anskar was born near Amiens, France in 801 and became a Benedictine monk. Having visions which seemed to call him to missionary work, he dedicated himself to living a holy life. The king of Denmark, King Herold, had been exiled by his people. While exiled, he converted to Christianity and was baptized. His plan was to go home and asked Anskar to go with him and so he began his missionary work in Scandinavia.

His task was not easy and he saw many setbacks in his lifetime. Bishop Ebbo of Rheims had already tried to convert the north of Europe and failed. Part of the problem was that the Vikings prided themselves on oath-breaking and revenge. Imagine trying to convince them that truth and forgiveness were virtues! Anskar's approach was to establish a school at Schleswig with the help of another monk, Autbert. This proved successful. However, King Harold, however, did not know how to manage people. He pushed them so hard to become Christians that they threw him out of the country again. Anskar and Autbert had to leave, too.

But King Bjorn of Sweden had heard of the success of Anskar's school. He invited the monk to Sweden and, in the company of a French embassy, Anskar headed north. The embassy was attacked and robbed and even Anskar's religious books were taken, but although his companions wanted to turn back, he would not. He pressed on to Sweden where he converted Herigar, the chief royal counselor, who then built Sweden's first church in 832. A year and a half later, Anskar left Sweden as the pope had appointed him bishop (and later Archbishop) of Hamburg. Now, he was responsible to oversee most of Northern Europe, including Iceland and Greenland. He was given an abbey in Flanders where he opened a school.

Charles the Bald, King of the Franks, took away Anskar's abbey school. But the gallant evangelist would not give up. He went to Jutland, won Eric's friendship, convinced the king to treat slaves more kindly and got permission to start a church. That's when he introduced the bells. Are bells magical? When Bishop Anskar introduced them in Denmark, the pagans resisted their use, probably thinking that their gods would be angered or frightened by their pealing. But, Anskar wouldn't give up.

The archbishop died on February 3, 865. He spent the night before in prayer for his mission. On the morning of his death, "he lifted up his hand and prayed that God in His goodness would forgive whoever had done him any wrong. Then he began to say over and over again the verses: 'According to Thy mercy think thou upon me, according to Thy goodness, O Lord,' [Ps 25:6] and 'God be merciful to me a sinner,' (Luke 18:18) and 'Into Thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.'" (Luke 23:46) When he could not speak for lack of breath, he ordered one of the brethren to continue saying the same words for him. "And so, with his eyes fixed on heaven, he breathed forth his spirit which had been commended to the grace of the Lord."

Unfortunately, his death brought the worst setback of all. The faith he had labored so hard to spread had evidently not been firmly grounded; Christianity virtually disappeared from Scandinavia. Those who came after him had to rebuild almost from scratch.

I hope you found this as interesting as I did.

In Christ's love,
Rob

Ash Wednesday Services

We will have two services on Ash Wednesday at Noon and at 5:30. You are invited to attend either.

Reports from the Bishop's Committee for December

Bishop's Committee
December 7, 2025
Minutes

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

Fr. Jackson opened the meeting at 10:56 with a prayer and historical ideas about St. Nicholas.

Reports

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

Treasurer - The November financial report was presented. Rob moved and Betty seconded that the financial report be accepted. Motion passed.

Warden - Rob reported that we need to change companies for the snow plowing. Our previous company is no longer doing that service. It was suggested that he find out who plows the vet clinic next door. As a result, he met with Mike Ryan, who quoted a price of \$150 to plow the upper parking lot. Since this is lower than what we paid last year, Rob moved that we accept the offer from Mike Ryan. Betty seconded the motion. Motion passed. Rob will contact Mr. Ryan whenever we need the lot plowed, which was agreeable to Mr. Ryan.

Priest – Yesterday, Rev. Benjamin George-Thoms was installed as rector at St. John's, Springfield. There was a very good turnout for the service. Rev Canon Chas Marks is officially the new Canon for Common Mission. He will begin his new role the first of the year. One of his first tasks will be to help St. Augustine's find a new rector as he will be resigning from that position.

I will be taking the last week of the year as my final week of vacation. The service on December 28 will be Morning Prayer with a carol sing in place of the sermon.

Old Business: None.

New Business: It is necessary each year to pass a resolution regarding clergy designating a portion of their salary as housing allowance. George moved and Rod seconded the following resolution.

Resolution of the Bishop's Committee of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Ozark, MO
to Designate a Portion of Clergy Salary for IRS Parsonage Exclusion

WHEREAS, St. Matthew's employs certain clergy ("Clergy") to provide ministerial services; and
WHEREAS, St. Matthew's does not provide housing to the Clergy; and
WHEREAS, Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code permits members of the clergy to exclude from gross income (in computing federal income taxes) a designated allowance paid to the clergyperson as part of their compensation (the "Parsonage Exclusion") to the extent such funds are used by the clergyperson for actual expenses in owning or renting a home (including furnishings, utilities, and maintenance); and

WHEREAS, the Parsonage Exclusion must be authorized by the governing body of the clergyperson's employer; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that St. Matthew's, as the employer of the Clergy, through the Bishop's Committee, its Board of Directors, hereby authorizes the Parsonage Exclusions for the Clergy listed below for the calendar year 2026:

The. Rev. Chandler C. Jackson \$7,800.00

Motion passed.

It has been suggested that we move the Annual Meeting from the third Sunday in January to the first Sunday in February. Since we normally have a potluck with the Annual Meeting and also on the first Sunday of each month, this will lighten the load for our cooks. Rob moved and Betty seconded a motion to move the Annual Meeting in 2026 to February 1. Motion passed. In the future, we can consider a change to the By-Laws.

Calendar -

- a. Blue Christmas, December 16 at 5:00
- b. Christmas Eve, December 24 at 5:30
- c. December 28, Morning Prayer with carol sing
- d. No Wednesday evening activities on December 31
- e. Next meeting, January 4

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev Chandler Jackson

	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	3911.19	3098.78		
INCOME														
Giving Estimates	1697.65	2615.96	3407.00	3007.57	2105.75	2350.00	3060.00	3406.00	4107.68	5613.21	2684.25	5476.00	39531.07	35200.00
Ministry						1000.00							1000.00	1800.00
TOTAL INCOME	1697.65	2615.96	3407.00	3007.57	2105.75	3350.00	3060.00	3406.00	4107368	5613.21	2684.25	5476.00	40531.07	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	389.16	389.16	4669.92	4670.00
Clergy	1312.50	1312.50	1312.50	1312.50	1312.50	1312.50	1312.50	1312.50	1312.50	1312.50	131250	1312.50	15750.00	15750.00
OPC	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	18000.00	18000.00
Misc.	0.00	0.00	165.00	17.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	295.30	40.55	0.00		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				217.75	644.00	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	3201.66	3419.41	39737.90	39396.00
MINISTRY:														
Altar Guild	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.98	0.00		55.73	600.00
Organist	270.00	270.00	337.50	337.50	270.00	337.50	270.00	0.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	337.50	3577.50	3510.00
Day by Day			25.00				25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	25.00	100.00	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	289.98	295.00	362.50	3733.23	4530.00
TOTAL OPERATING EXP	3471.66	3471.66	3937.66	3556.29	3471.66	3539.16	3496.66	3201.66	3922.96	3532.19	3496.66	3781.91	43471.13	43926.00
ENDING BALANCE	3396.26	2540.56	2009.90	1461.18	2066.93	1877.77	1441.11	1645.45	1830.17	3911.19	3098.78	4792.87		(6926.00)

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

February 2026

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 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Brunch 11:00A Annual Meeting	2 <i>Presentation in the Temple</i>	3 12:30P Quilters	4 <i>Kathy BD</i> 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	5	6	7 8a Men's Breakfast at OPC
8 9A Holy Eucharist - IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	9 12:00N Jubilee Study	10 12:30P Quilters	11 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	12	13	14
15 9A Holy Eucharist - IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	16	17 <i>Shrove Tuesday</i> 12:30P Quilters 5P Pancake Supper	18 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Noon Ash Wednesday Liturgy 5-6:30P Dinner 5:30P Ash Wednesday Liturgy	19	20	21
22 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	23	24 12:30P Quilters	25 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	26	27	28

The Bishop's Committee:

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

Church Staff:

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