

St. Matthew's Companion



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
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March 2026

Pastoral Ponderings

St. Matthew's has been selected by Bishop Amy Meaux to be the venue for the Rev. Dr. Christopher Dodson during his diaconal experience. Chris was one of six new deacons ordained by Bishop Amy on February 21 and we have the privilege of helping him learn about ordained ministry. He is scheduled to be ordained to the priesthood on August 29th and will be spending the next six months split between St. Matt's and Shepherd of the Hills in Branson.

Chris was raised up by St. James, so coming here will be an opportunity for him to learn what small church ministry is like. During this time with us and Shepherd of the Hills, Chris will assist Fr. Bill Myrick and myself in all aspects of ministry. Beyond preaching and assisting in services, it is hoped that he will have an opportunity to experience several special functions in the church, including baptisms, weddings, and funerals. Obviously, these will only happen if the opportunity arises. He will also be asked to take communion to the sick and hospitalized as these situations arise.

Some of the things that our Eucharistic Ministers and lectors now do will fall to Chris as part of his role with us. During communion, he will carry the Gospel Book in the procession, he will proclaim the Gospel, introduce and lead the Prayers of the People, bid the Confession of Sin, set the altar, lift the chalice at the Invitation to Communion and be the chalice bearer. At the end of the service, he will dismiss the congregation. There are many other small details that Chris will handle, so I ask all to be flexible as we learn together.

For those unfamiliar with having a deacon around, it would be appropriate to address Chris as "Deacon Chris". He will probably assist as we switch things out after the service and help teach the class. Obviously, there will be a time of adjusting to having him with us. It will be as much a learning experience for each of us as it will be for him. And, knowing how things usually go, there will be times when things don't go as smoothly as we might hope. That is part of learning.

I am looking forward to working with Chris during his transitional diaconate and I know you all will welcome Chris and his family with open arms. I'm sure we will be blessed by his ministry among us.

Rev. Chandler Jackson
Priest in Charge

COMMUNITY DINNERS FOR MARCH



March 4	Stuffed Shells
March 11	Breakfast for Dinner
March 18	Meatloaf
March 25	2 Soup Supper



*From the Computer of the
Bishop's Warden*

The mentioning this morning in the Day by Day booklet of St. Matthias got me to thinking what do we know about St. Matthias. What follows is part of what I found out about him.

Matthias was, according to the Acts of the Apostles, chosen by God through the Apostles to replace Judas Iscariot after Judas betrayed Jesus and then his (Judas') death. The calling of Matthias as an apostle is unique because he was selected by the casting of lots after Jesus' Ascension into Heaven. However, it is believed that Matthias knew Jesus throughout his earthly ministry.

Matthias was born in the 1st century AD in Judaea and died in either Jerusalem, Judaea or Colchis. While there is no mention of Matthias in the list of disciples or followers of Jesus in the

three synoptic gospels, according to Acts, it is believed that he had been with Jesus from his baptism by John until Jesus's Ascension. In the following days, Peter asked the assembled disciples (about 120) to nominate two men to replace Judas. They chose two men: Joseph who was called Barsabbas (whose surname was Justus) and Matthias. Then they prayed, "Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all [men], shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, that he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place." They then cast lots and the lot fell to Matthias and so he was numbered with the eleven other apostles. All other information about his ministry and death appears to be vague and contradictory so I will leave it alone.

How does Matthias apply to us today? Here are my thoughts. Matthias did not seek to be an Apostle. He probably did nothing out of the ordinary that made him stand out in a crowd. He was chosen by God and answered that call in his life. I believe we do the same at St. Matthew's. We did not seek the roles we are in now. We are simply good Christians trying to do our best for our piece of the kingdom of God.

May God bless us as we go forth,
Rob

Reports from the Bishop's Committee for January
Bishop's Committee
January 4, 2026
Minutes

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

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

Reports

Secretary - George moved and Rob seconded that the minutes of the December 7 meeting be approved. Motion passed.

Treasurer - The November financial report was presented. Rob noted that the Men's Breakfast line will have an increase in January as we hosted the January breakfast.

We were notified by the Diocese that there was money left over in the IOG fund. This was distributed to the projects already funded. An additional \$905.43 was sent to Marion Medical Missions. This means we were responsible for funding 8 new wells in Africa.

The grant money for the ad is in the budget, but has not been expended yet as we have not received an invoice from the paper. Rob will contact them this week about that.

We received a nice Christmas donation from Scott Pope's parents. Rob will send them a thank you note. George moved and Betty seconded that the financial report be accepted. Motion passed.

Warden - Rob reminded us of the Green Recycle program. At no cost to us, we can send them electronic devises and printer cartridges and they will pay us for them. Tell you friends about this.

Priest – Had a good vacation. The main effort was a project for the diocese on the history of congregations. The end result will be a video by Rev John Spicer that will be on the diocesan

website. We had a great turnout for the Christmas Eve service, including many from the Presbyterians.

The Bishop's visit has been postponed until later this spring as one of the other churches in then diocese is having a special event on the day she was scheduled to visit us, so we swapped date.

I will be attending the Diaconal Ordinations later this month as I am the sponsoring priest for one of the ordinands – Anite Philbrick. I have not heard where the bishop will be assigning her.

Old Business: None.

New Business: The budget for 2026 is not ready yet due to Jennifer's illness. We will have a brief meeting after the service next week to approve the budget.

The Parochial Report is due March 31. We will need to approve it at our March meeting.

Calendar -

- a. Diaconal Ordinations at the Cathedral, January 24
- b. Annual Meeting, February 1 with brunch
- c. Next meeting, February 1 after the Annual Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 11:22 with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev Chandler Jackson

Bishop's Committee
January 11, 2026
Minutes

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

Rob opened the meeting at 10:27.

Purpose of this meeting: Approved proposed budget for 2026.

Rob moved and George seconded a motion to approved the 2026 budget and submit it to the Annual Meeting. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev Chandler Jackson

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

March 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 Bishop's Committee	2	3 Jennifer BD 12:30P Quilters	4 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	5	6	7 8a Men's Breakfast at OCC
8 Daylight Savings Time Begins 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 12:30P Quilters	18 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	19 St. Joseph	20	21
22 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	23	24 12:30P Quilters	25 Annunciation of Our Lord 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	26 Dave BD	27	28
29 Palm Sunday 9A Holy Eucharist – IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	30	31 12:30P Quilters				

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