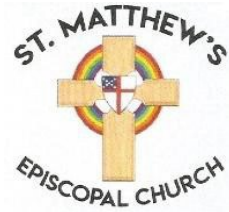


St. Matthew's Companion



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
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May 2026

Pastoral Ponderings

As we enjoy this Spring weather – warm days, rainy days, any type of weather you might want days, it is critical that we remember that we are charged with the care and nurture of our environment. This planet is very fragile and much of the destruction that has happened to this world has been at the hands of humans. We have the responsibility to do our best to help overcome the damage done.

What can we do? While it may seem futile at times, every little effort helps. As we cut down on the number of plastic bottles and single use plastic containers we use, it helps the environment. Each time we stop and pick up a piece of litter, that is one less item that might end up in our rivers and streams. Even something as simple as turning off extra lights in our homes will help.

As you might guess, I have been called a tree hugger in the past due to my stance on the environment. I wear that moniker with some pride as I feel it is our duty as Christians to protect God's creation.

If we all pitch in and do a little extra, we can make an impact on our community as our neighbors see what we do. We owe it to ourselves and future generations to act responsibly now, so there will be a quality environment for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.

Happy Earth Day (a little late).
Rev. Chandler Jackson Priest in Charge

View Us Online

Hello fellow friends of St. Matthew's. I have recently taken over the church's website and Facebook page. There is a picture of Deacon Chris and his family welcoming them to St. Matthew's. Some of you may have seen the invitations I put on our Facebook page for the Holy Week services. I am trying to remember to put all of the Sunday services that post to Youtube onto the Facebook page. I would like to make it as easy as possible for you to find the church's website and Facebook page. For the website, type stmattsozark.diowestmo.org into your search bar or follow this link <https://stmattsozark.diowestmo.org/>. For Facebook, type St Matthews Episcopal Church into your Facebook search icon; then click on our St Matthews Episcopal Church Facebook page. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask me. I look forward to seeing you in person and online.

Kimberly

ADULT STUDY

We are about done with letters of John. We've been reminded in his letters the importance of LOVE. In the first two letters John writes against deceivers, false prophets, and anti-messiahs. In several places John emphasizes the physicality of Jesus—that he had a body—and warns his readers to reject those who say Jesus did not come in the flesh.

John tells us that the Spirit enables us to witness to what the Father has done in sending His Son. Our witness needs to come in word and also in deed.

To continue to study John, we'll continue with "The Revelation to John" starting the second Sunday in June. That will give us a couple of weeks to do the study of the Gospel.

As outside persecution against Christians increased in the 1st century, the church also faced internal problems. They struggled with suffering, spiritual warfare, heretical doctrine and practice, and spiritual apathy. Christ had promised to return—but when? And how? And what would He do about the problems facing the church?

We too have some similar problems. So let's look at the Book that often scares people away from studying. Let's continue to read and study the writings of John. Roland and I will be leading the conversations.

Lisa

COMMUNITY DINNERS FOR MAY



May 6

Tacos

May 13

Lasagna

May 20

Macaroni & Cheese

May 27

Hot Dogs



*From the Computer of the
Bishop's Warden*

Somebody a long time ago said: "Many hands make light work." Nothing could have been farther from the truth as we were preparing for the lead up to Easter and the season which is following. My attempt here is simply to write about all the various things which were accomplished. I will not try to list any names as I am sure to forget or get wrong one or more persons. You know who you were! My goal here is to let everyone know how grateful I am for all that was done.

So we start on Saturday March 28th and all those who came to polish the brass for Palm Sunday and beyond. Due to those who came, it did not take long and the brass looked beautiful.

Then on Sunday March 29, Palm Sunday, I really appreciated those who responded to read their part of the Passion story. Some had never read before. I believe it made a meaningful contribution to the service.

Maundy Thursday service was very meaningful. I believe that those who participated in the foot washing found it humbling. There were people from both congregation participating. The stripping of the altar was also done by both congregations.

The Good Friday service was attended by both congregations. The reading of the stations of the cross was also done by both congregations, some of whom had never read before. Once again the reading of the Passion story was done by both congregations – some of whom were different than those who read on Palm Sunday. We even had piano music.

There were two services on Saturday. In the morning was a short service primarily for the altar guild after which the church was made ready for the Easter Vigil that night.

Then there was the Easter service itself. The sanctuary looked beautiful! And, after the service we enjoyed a brunch shared by both congregations. The Presbyterians set up everything while we had our service and then we cleaned up while the Presbyterians had their service.

I hope I have gotten everything correct. If I have not I apologize. As I said in the beginning, my aim was to say how truly grateful I am for all those who stepped up – no matter how large or small part you played.

God bless you all,
Rob

Reports from the Bishop's Committee for March

Bishop's Committee
March 1, 2026
Minutes

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

Fr. Jackson opened the meeting at 11:10.

Devotion: Fr. Jackson read from W. Nicholas Knisely's book *Lent is not Rocket Science*.

Reports

Secretary - Rob moved and Jennifer seconded that the minutes of the February 1 meeting and the special meeting on February 22 be approved. Motion passed.

Treasurer - The February financial report was presented. Fr. Chandler and Rob each pointed out minor corrections that needed to be made. Rob moved and Betty seconded that the financial report as amended be accepted. Motion passed.

Bishop's Warden: No report.

Priest: Deacon Chris will be joining us beginning next week. He will alternate weeks between St. Matt's and Shepherd of the Hills, Branson.

I will be in Kansas City this Friday.

Old Business:

- a. Review of Minutes from 2026 Annual Meeting

Fixed spelling on name in attendees. Also, information on Deacon Chris had some mistakes and those were corrected.

New Business: Need to have a planning meeting with the Presbyterians regarding Holy Week.

Calendar -

- a. Since Easter is on the first Sunday of April, our next meeting will be April 12. We will have a joint brunch with the Presbyterians on Easter, so we will not have brunch of April 12, but we will have class.

Meeting adjourned at 11:37 with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev Chandler Jackson

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

May 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 St. Philip and St. James	2 8A Men's Breakfast at St. Matt's
3 9A Morning Prayer - IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Brunch 10:30A Bishop's Committee	4	5 12:30P Quilters	6 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	7	8	9 OPC Plant Sale
10 Mother's Day 9A Holy Eucharist - IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Brunch with Presbyterians	11 12:00N Jubilee Study	12 12:30P Quilters	13 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	14 Ascension Day	15	16
17 9A Holy Eucharist - IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	18	19 12:30P Quilters	20 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	21	22	23
24 Pentecost 9A Holy Eucharist - IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education	25	26 12:30P Quilters	27 5-6:30P Dinner 6:45P Evening Prayer CHURCH & ONLINE	28	29	30
31 Trinity Sunday 9A Holy Eucharist - IN CHURCH & ONLINE 10A Coffee Hour 10:30A Christian Education						

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