



AUGUST 2020

# THE MESSENGER

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## ST. MATTHEW'S STAFF

**Sherry Minzey**  
Admin. Assistant

**Jim Minzey**  
Sexton

## OFFICERS

**Bill Noone**  
Senior Warden

**Jason Brooks**  
Junior Warden

**David Macey**  
Treasurer

**Linda Gerding**  
Secretary

**Dave Chullino**  
**George Miller**  
Clerk of the Works

## SERVICE TIMES

**Sunday Services**  
**Cancelled due to**  
**Coronavirus.**

## ***FROM THE SR. WARDEN***

It should surprise no one that we are living through difficult and unusual times. I can't recall anything in my life time that compares to this.

It is really a test of our faith and our resolve. It has become more of a challenge for me personally because I don't fully understand some health conditions with which I am dealing and I don't fully understand how the Corona virus will continue to shape our lives.

Yet we have to go on and do our best to persevere because if we give up, then life loses its meaning. So, we need to focus on things that we can control and do our best to live in the faith. It's not easy. I always thought of myself as resilient and that I could overcome obstacles and took my health pretty much for granted. It's not easy to admit that I can't control events in my life as I once could and I am sure that I not alone, just probably late to the party.

The other members of the Vestry are performing well and are working hard for you and our parish. Please contact them with questions you may have. I am working through some issues and will not be fully engaged because I need to reduce stress levels for the time being.

Please direct your prayers so that the Vestry can make informed and decisions which will lead our parish into the future. They need your support and your ideas.

Thanks for helping them in this.

Bill Noone, Senior Warden

# St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Celebrates June 28<sup>th</sup> Outdoor Service (at a Social Distance!)

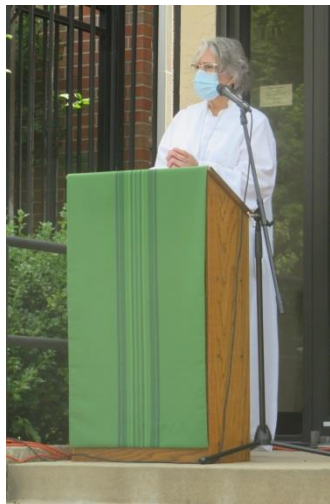
The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost on June 28, 2020 found St. Matthew's Parish Family gathering again on the driveway, this time to celebrate Morning Prayer. A statement from Dean M. Goulburn reads: "When you cannot pray as you would, pray as you can." This seems to be so very true for St. Matthew's Parish during the COVID virus; we are all praying as we can.

We were very fortunate that it was not extremely hot and there was a nice breeze blowing. Jim Laney actually had his umbrella blow inside-out, and Charles Cease had to rescue the flowers that were blown off their pedestal. Amazingly, the offering plate that was also on a pedestal with envelopes in it...didn't budge. Barbara Wegener did a very nice job of leading the 27 in attendance through Morning Prayer. Jim Laney gave a Reflection on the readings and remarked that with the strong breeze it even seemed like the trees were clapping.

It was joyous to hear St. Matthew's bell ring again, and to see all those who had come out to worship together...but at a social distance.



Altar Flowers



Barbara Wegener



James Laney



Congregation social distanced



Jim & Brenda Laney w/umbrellas

Continued on next page.



Becky Jewell



Grace Udaemor



Linda & Dave Batson



Zella Forsythe & Grandson



Diane Hunter & Flower Mask



Jason, Dominic and Christina Brooks



Madison, Tish, and Carlos Arroyo

Linda Gerding-Reporting



## ST. MATTHEW'S COMMUNITY OF CHAPLAINS

The Laney's hosted the July meeting of Circle of Care for the Community of Chaplains in their lush and serene backyard. This was the first in-person gathering the group had attempted and excluded sharing any food. Chairs were distanced and masks were worn as required by Jackson County. It was pleasant in the shade of all their trees and a slight breeze was blowing as the group prayed together the Prayer for the Parish: *Heavenly Father, pour down your Holy Spirit upon this Parish, and grant us a new vision of your glory, a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your Word, a new consecration to your service so that, through our renewed witness, your Holy Name may be glorified and your Kingdom advanced; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*



Jim & Brenda Laney



Brenda, Jim, Patti, Marci & Carl Turlin, Zella Forsythe



Patti McGill



Community of Chaplains



Patti McGill admiring Fairy Garden

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## Answering the Call

Rick and I answered the call of area churches to stage a demonstration prayer vigil on Troost, as part of The Black Lives Matter Movement. It was not my first demonstration, but it was Rick's, and we both agreed to "work for justice" as Christians. Our granddaughter painted our signs that said "Black Lives Matter," with a list of some of the Black Americans who have lost their lives in an unjust system, and "I will never be able to completely understand, but I stand with you!"

We feel all lives matter, but attention must be paid to this group of people who have not been heard, been invisible Americans, and treated unequally because of the color of their skin.

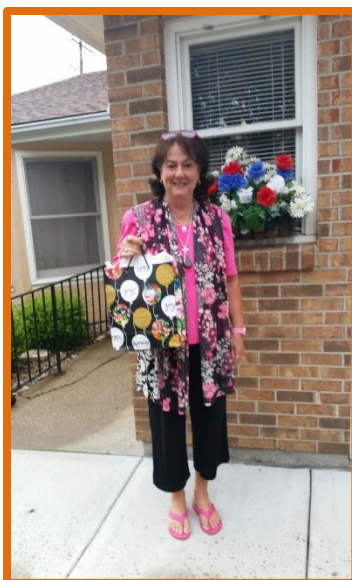
As an educator in the inner city, I have shared experiences of life through Black eyes, not completely, but enough to arouse empathy in both of us. This movement has made some people uncomfortable and even angry. It is difficult to have an open mind and try to see things through the eyes of persons of color, when nothing in the white experience has affected us so that we have to act in a certain way, as to not be perceived as a threat or problem to society. Such treatment has been a source of centuries of anger, hurt, frustration, even betrayal. Using "The Minister's Black Veil" by Hawthorne as a lesson, I had my white students at Notre Dame wear a black veil over their face for 24 hours and keep a journal of the experience. This experiment produced fear, distrust, separation, and finally anger. Another teacher finally yanked mine off my face and said she couldn't stand it anymore. Imagine if it could never be removed, that black veil. The student journals and discussions were as close as they could get to the feelings of the Black experience.

The moment of enlightenment for Rick and me, the most Christian moment, was car after car of Black families with children hanging out the windows waving and shouting at us, proud for the first time to see all those white people saying how important they are and how much they matter. The honking horns and BLM signs were a celebration of them, of their color, their culture. What a wonderful moment for them. What a beautiful moment for us.

Judith Towse Roberts and Rick Roberts



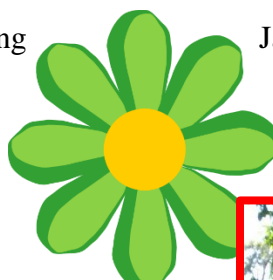




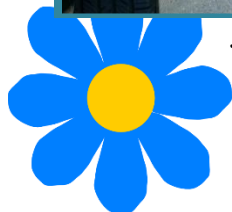
Linda Gerding



Jane Matson



James Laney



Manny & Kay Gutierrez



Christina Brooks





**ST. MATTHEW'S**

## **Operation Backpack 2020**

**2020 Backpack Weeks**

**July 26, Aug 2, 9, & 16**

**Due to the COVID-19 Virus, collection for donations on Backpack Sunday's will not happen. Instead, the Service and Outreach Committee is asking that you send any donations directly to REAP anytime between July 26<sup>th</sup> and Aug. 16<sup>th</sup>. Simply write "Operation Backpack" in the memo line. Mail to:**

**REAP**

**9300 E. 75<sup>TH</sup> St.**

**Raytown, MO 64138**



**Just \$20 buys a backpack or supplies!**

**\$25 will buy a new pair of shoes**



**\$45 helps send a child to**

**school with a smile and mask....priceless!**

Service & Outreach Committee  
Linda Gerding



## **BIRTHDAY PRESENT SURPRISES!!**

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! To the Daughters of the King and the Prayer Group, but especially to Zella Forsythe, Linda Batson, and Stacy Wagstaff, for thinking of ME!

It was really different to celebrate what my kids call my “COVID Birthday” and have them stand at the end of my driveway...very far apart. No birthday cake and ice-cream with my grandchildren or any of their hugs and kisses; but at least I got to see them and I know we were all smiling under our masks!

So, I was simply thrilled when I saw all the little goodies I received in my Birthday Bag. I just know everyone who receives a bag during this “special project” for 2020 will have to feel a little extra special on their Special Day. I know it sure made me feel that way... and very happy too. Thanks be to GOD for St. Matthew’s Parish Family and all the Love we share.

Blessings,  
Linda Gerding

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**It has been found by  
experience that a person  
increases his blessings by being  
grateful for what he has.**

### **PRAYER FOR OUR NATION**

**Our nation is hurting. Lord, we need you!  
Please sweep through this nation and heal this land.  
Restore our strength, renew our minds, and cast out anything  
that’s not of You.  
In Your Son, Jesus’ name, We pray.  
Amen**



Daughters of the King,  
Linda Batson



## GIVING REMINDER

Just a reminder that you have options on how you can send in your pledge.

By mail: Dave Macey's address: 2200 NW Summerfield Dr., Lee's Summit, MO 64081

Online: Online Giving Link: <http://stmatthewsraytown.org/>

