

DECEMBER 2020



# THE MESSENGER

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## ST. MATTHEW'S STAFF

SHERRY MINZEY  
ADMIN. ASSISTANT

PATTI MCGILL  
MUSIC DIRECTOR

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

10:00 A.M.  
SUNDAY SERVICE

PARISH WILL RECEIVE  
INFORMATION ON  
EACH SUNDAY  
SERVICE.

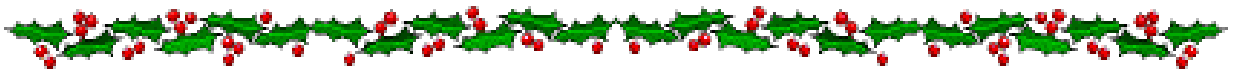
## St. Matthew's Receives Grant Request

The COVID-19 pandemic has been rough on this world, including on St. Matthew's, but here and there, we find a few bright spots. One such bright spot is that St. Matthew's has been compelled to come into the 21st century with our technology. Our march forward with technology started with a PA system and microphone that allowed us to hold our first service in over two months following the March shut down. We held one of our finest Pentecost celebrations ever, because we were together in our parking lot, enjoying the service from our lawn chairs. As the weather started to get cooler, we added an FM transmitter that allowed us to sit in our cars to avoid getting rained on. Now, just as the pandemic is worsening, God has sent us the means to hold our services on You Tube and Facebook like the many churches we've all been watching from our home computers.

Barb Wegener prepared a Deanery grant request seeking a little over \$4,000.00 for camera equipment to allow us to livestream our services over the internet. Carl Turlin, our Central Deanery Delegate, acted as our liaison with the Deanery. Just as the COVID numbers were spiking and we were all being told to stay home again; the Deanery approved our request. These grant funds will allow us to purchase top quality camera equipment and accessories that will make livestreaming our service a high-quality experience. It will take us a few weeks to pull it all together, but you'll soon be able to go online to watch St. Matthew's services live, or watch a recording later if you miss it during the livestream.

We are going online via Zoom for the next few Sundays because it just isn't safe for anyone to be in person at church while COVID-19 cases are on a steep rise. But we'll be back in the church, in person, as soon as the numbers start trending downward sufficiently that we'll feel safe going inside again. For those people who want or need to watch from home, we'll continue our livestream. So, hang in there with us, join us on Zoom for the next few weeks, and get

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Grant continued..

ready to watch us live on You Tube and Facebook in the near future! It is imperative that we stick together through these difficult times to keep our church going for many years to come.  
Judy Taylor

On behalf of the Reopening Task Force:

Bill Noone  
Linda Gerding  
Tish Arroyo  
Jason Brooks  
Christina Brooks  
Judy Taylor  
Sherry Minzey  
Barb Wegener  
Patti McGill



## **FLYING SOLO**



The St. Matthew's parking lot is certainly being put to good use these days! Flying Solo held our October 17<sup>th</sup> gathering there, where we enjoyed a nice little fire in our portable fire pit and enjoyed toasting marshmallows and squishing them between chocolate bars and graham crackers to make S'Mores. We boiled water over our camp stove and enjoyed some hot chocolate, then sat around and yakked for a couple of hours before it got dark. Judy Taylor and Janet Carney dug a hole and buried the dying embers so they wouldn't set Judy's truck on fire as she made her way back to Lecompton. Attendees included Darrell and Beth Cook, Charles and Mary Cease, Janet Carney, Zella Forsythe, Patti McGill and Judy Taylor. Join us for our November 21<sup>st</sup> gathering which will be held on Zoom!

Judy Taylor

See pictures on page 3.





## OCTOBER FLYING SOLO



**Flying Solo group: Judy Taylor, Patti McGill, Janet Carney, Mary & Charles Cease, Zella Forsythe, Darrel & Beth Cook**





## St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

FINALLY RE-OPENS TO CELEBRATE INSIDE  
(At a Social Distance!)

**November 1, 2020**

As Parishioners came back to worship inside again for the first time since March 15, 2020, they were greeted with the sight of hay bales, Indian corn, a pumpkin and colorful mums. (Thank you Judy Taylor!!)

There was excitement, along with anticipation, as folks entered the Narthex with their masks on to have their attendance recorded and their temperatures taken. Pews were taped off to prohibit sitting too close to each other, and blue arrows were taped to the carpet to show the flow of traffic. It was a nice day so the windows were slightly opened to allow for more air flow.

It was also All Saints' Day, and we were privileged to have Rev. Elisabeth Sinclair as our Supply Priest to celebrate the Eucharist. We were also happy to have Patti McGill, our newly hired Music Director, to play the organ and piano. The amplifier and transmitter sent the music and service out to those worshipping in their cars, and Rev. Elisabeth went out to offer for them to receive communion.

Everything seemed to flow pretty smoothly and everyone followed the "Protocols for Safety Practices" that had been emailed to the congregation earlier in the week. Everyone stayed in their pews as we passed the Peace...but that was OK for now, because we know this is temporary, and after all, we were back "home" in our St. Matthew's pews. Thanks be to God!



Mtr. Elisabeth Sinclair



Mtr. Elisabeth Sinclair & Barbara Wegener



## ST. MATTHEW'S COMMUNITY OF CHAPLAINS

The Community of Chaplains met at St. Matthew's after church on November 8, 2020 for their monthly Circle of Care meeting.

It was a beautiful afternoon so we met on the northeast front lawn of the Church. Our Host was Zella Forsythe, which meant things were decorated and treats served in "Zella style"; delightful and yummy! Marci Turlin also brought individual loaves of homemade Banana Bread to share with each Chaplain. Chairs were again distanced and masks were worn.

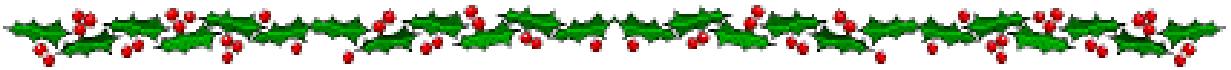
The Chaplains said prayers for the Church and took turns also praying for friends and loved ones. Home visits are not being made during the COVID virus, but St. Matthew's Community of Chaplains continue to reach out to others via phone calls, emails, and lifting them up in prayer.



L-R Patti McGill, Mary Cease, Zella Forsythe, Marci & Carl Turlin

Linda Gerding, Community of Chaplains





**Janet Anderson Brown**



**Mary Cease**



**Janet Carney**



**Ron Stockton**



**Tom Wagstaff**



**Jo Miller**



**Nicolas Turlin**



## **Stewardship Talk**

**by Stacy Wagstaff**

**(Stewardship talk given during November 8, 2020 service)**

Everyone has a story about how they got to St. Matthews and how it is important to them. This morning, I am going to tell you ours.

Nineteen years ago, when Jordan was about six months old, I started searching for a church. After visiting several churches in the area, we found St. Matthews. Over the years, we developed friendships and relationships with everyone in the congregation. Little did I know, how much we would need that in the coming years. For sixteen years, life was pretty normal. Christmas programs with the boys dressed as angels. Sprinkled donuts downstairs. Crop walks and bazaars.

And suddenly, in the blink of an eye, life changed forever. March 29, 2017, Tom was shot in the head in a home invasion call. I was notified by two police officers who showed up at my school and rushed me off to the emergency room, where they were prepping Tom for emergency surgery. Over the next few days, we realized what wonderful friends and family we had. From Tom's blue family, to my friends from school, to all the boys friends and families, and especially, my church family, everyone came to show their support for me and the boys. At one time in the waiting room, it looked like a frat house, with teens laying on pillows on the floor and pizza boxes stacked in the corner. We had food brought in, gifts for the boys and for myself, and mostly, lots and lots of prayers. And, that, was the most important thing. Never before did I REALLY know the power of prayer. Of course, I prayed before. I gave thanks to the Lord and asked for safe travels and comfort for people I knew, I prayed for healing for friends, and good days for my boys. But never before did my prayers mean so much. Have so much at stake. We had prayers for Tom from everyone we knew. The city, across the state and country, even other countries prayed for Tom. And, I like to picture in my head, God saying "OK, OK! I hear you! I will give him back to you!" Because just like that, Tom opened his eyes and started communicating and coming back to us.

But now, we had the long road of the future in front of us. They say it takes a village to raise children. And, now I needed my village. I left for Nebraska with Tom on April 14, 2017. It was Good Friday. For two months, the boys stayed in our home with our friend Michelle. My parents would come up for a week at a time and watch them as well, and Christina took them into her home as well, giving the boys the stability and safety and routine of being at home and in school during those challenging months. People from all over raised money for us. The spaghetti dinner held at St. Matthews was a huge donation. Thank. You.

Through all of those days and months, I knew we were supported in prayer by you all. My church. My family. I knew God was there with me and he let his presence be known in many ways. When I needed him most, I could feel his arms around me, supporting me during my darkest moments. Sometimes I felt like I had a direct line to him. I would ask for a sign from him, help with how I would handle all of this, and he would send it. In an improvement from Tom, a card or call from a friend, a double rainbow directly over the facility. There would always be a sign.

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Stewardship continued..

You all, Tom's injury was so severe, that he was not expected to live. The bullet that entered his head above his right eye, traveled through the brain, crossed the midline, and settled in the back of his head, millimeters before striking the sagittal sinus, which he would have bled out from. The mere fact that he survived this, was a miracle. But, our good Lord was not done there. It was not good enough for him to survive. After months of rehab, Tom came home. Not a vegetable like was predicted, but ALIVE. The doctors and surgeons and physical therapists and all other medical professionals did everything they could, but I know who really saved him. It was the multitude of prayers received from all over and the gift of God.

So now, as I stand here telling you the story of my miracle, I ask for one more. A miracle for St. Matthews. As we are in this time of the unknown, with so many things against our little parish, I pray for a way to be shown. A way for us all to stay together as the family we are. And, part of it is up to us. In this season as you get your stewardship packet, please think of the miracles that God has provided in your life. Because they are there. They may not be as pronounced as the miracle of Tom, but God provides for us all the time. Please, do your part to help us stay alive.

One more thing, my prayers to God are much more like a conversation. I talk with him like he is sitting right next to me. One day, I was on my way to school. The weather was looking like rain, but it had not started yet. I asked him, why. Why did he spare Tom. I asked if it was because I believed and offered him freely up, prepared to give him up, even though I desperately did not want to. Immediately, upon asking this question, the brightest streak of lightning zigzagged horizontally across the sky right in front of me. My question was answered. God is listening. He is always listening.

Stacy Wagstaff



## **Tips for Accessing Church Services Online or By Phone Via Zoom**

For the safety of all of our parishioners as the COVID-19 pandemic grows increasingly worse, the Reopening Task Force made the difficult decision to once again close St. Matthew's to in-person services and move to an online format using Zoom. Much thanks to Linda Gerding for all she did to put together a Morning Prayer service with a little more than two-day's notice. The decision to move online was made Thursday evening, November 19th, at about 8:30 p.m. Linda was robed up and ready to go Sunday morning, November 22nd, from her home, with a makeshift altar that included candles, flowers and a cross!

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Zoom continued..

The service went pretty darn well for our first foray into the online world, with twenty-two people in attendance, including a few people who attended by phone. Many parishioners have already been using Zoom for work, family gatherings and club meetings. Vestry and the Reopening Task Force hold all of our meetings via Zoom. For those who have not had a lot of experience with Zoom, we are providing a few tips to make the experience easier for all parishioners.

1. **Invitation:** Someone, usually Linda Gerding, will send out a Zoom invitation a day or two before the service. This Zoom invitation will have a link to the meeting as well as several phone numbers that can be used for those who need to call into the service, either because their home computers are not set up with the video and microphone needed to access Zoom or because they are travelling and unable to access a computer.

2. **Using the Link:** In most cases, the meeting link will be highlighted in blue text and underscored, like this:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/873434709762?pwd=bHFDN1YzeEdQTlFtTVRLd2xmSmVwZz09>

Occasionally, the link will *not* be blue and underscored, leaving you unable to click on the link to go straight to the meeting. (We think this has to do with the browser and/or whether you are using a computer, iPad or phone.) *Don't panic!* Just copy the link, then paste it into the search bar of your browser (at the top of your screen.) Once you have copy and pasted the link into the search bar, just press the Enter key and you should go into the Zoom meeting. Type in the Passcode if prompted.

Another tip you can use if the link isn't blue and underscored, is to click the Forward button. This will make the invitation editable. Place your cursor at the end of the link, then press the space bar. This will usually turn the link blue, allowing you to click on it and go into the meeting.

3. **Calling in by Land-line or Older Cell Phone:** If your don't have a computer available, or your computer is not equipped with a webcam and microphone, just call in. The invitation will list several phone numbers you can use. (These are *not* toll-free numbers, so there will be a charge if you don't have an unlimited calling plan.) Most people use the phone number for Chicago (1-312-626-6799) since it is in the same time zone. Any of them will work, however. You will be prompted for the Meeting ID. Key in the

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Zoom continued..

Meeting ID that appears on the invitation just under the list of phone numbers, followed by the # key. You will then be asked for the "Participant ID or just press # key". Since there is no Participant ID on the invitation, skip this by just pressing the # key. You will then be asked for the Meeting Passcode. **DON'T LET THIS TRIP YOU UP!** Those people using the computer have a Passcode made up of letters. Phone-in users use the numeric Passcode listed beneath the phone numbers. After you key in the Passcode and press #, you will be in the meeting.

**4. Second call in option for Smart phone users:** Smart phone users have a "One tap mobile" call in option that is a little quicker. Open the Zoom invitation email using your phone. Locate the "One tap mobile" option and click on one of the links (either city will work). It will ask for the Meeting ID but will then automatically type in the Meeting ID for you. When prompted, for the Participant ID (which you won't have), just press the # key. When prompted for the Meeting Password, type in the numeric Passcode that appears after the list of phone numbers. This will take you into the meeting.

You can practice accessing the meeting online or by phone ahead of time, so give it a try the night before. There won't be a meeting going on, so don't worry about messing things up. Keep practicing until the recording says "You are in the meeting now. You are the first participant." If you want to practice online access, you can do that too. You'll know you are successful when you see yourself and a message appears saying, "Host is not in the meeting yet".

Call Judy Taylor if you have any problems (816-506-0167). Good luck, and we'll "see" you at the next Zoom service!

Judy Taylor

## **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/>







Submitted by,  
Linda Batson  
Daughters of the King



January Messenger & Calendar Deadline  
December 22nd

