



FEBRUARY 2017

THE MESSENGER

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ST. MATTHEW'S STAFF

REV. ORIN CUMMINGS
RECTOR

SHERRY MINZEY
ADMIN. ASSISTANT

RON STOCKTON
MUSIC DIRECTOR

JIM MINZEY
SEXTON

OFFICERS

MARK MULLER
SENIOR WARDEN

YAEL ABOUHAKAH
JUNIOR WARDEN

DAVID MACEY
TREASURER

LINDA GERDING
SECRETARY

DAVE CHULLINO
GEORGE MILLER
CLERK OF THE WORKS

SERVICE TIMES

4:00 P.M. SATURDAY
SERVICE RITE II

11:00 A.M. SUNDAY
SERVICE
RITE II

From the Rector



Dear Saints,

Greetings in the name of our crucified and risen Lord and coming Savior Jesus Christ!

As acknowledged in my last letter to you, we are an *Advent People* and it is characteristic of Christians to wait. We wait upon God to answer our prayers (Hab. 1:2), firmly believing that “those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint” (Isa. 40:31).

Then, too, we wait upon the Lord’s return. This kind of active waiting is seen in worship of God, love of neighbor, care for the suffering and one another, and service to others. Each generation before us has strived to fulfill this mission and has passed it on to the next. That is who we are.

Instead of being shaped by distraction or discouragement owing to perceived obstacles such as our numbers, we press on and redefine ourselves as a church in the community rather than a community church. Shifting the focus from *who we were* to *who we are becoming* unleashes our creative energy to carry forward the mission of this parish and to do so in ecumenical partnership with BRT.

Living into this identity, we must ask ourselves: What will it take to be in the community? How might our community benefit from gifts we possess? For instance, what would it take to reintroduce the ESL program? Who/where are the children to benefit most from such a mentoring program? Is there a need for reading/math tutors at the elementary or middle school in our neighborhood or volunteers at the library to read to children?

We need to be in the community more than in the sanctuary where Jesus can be seen, encountered, and confessed as Savior and Lord of all. With discerning hearts, a prayerful attitude, and willing spirits, we can be creative, bold, and committed evangelists.

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Remember, at the heart of waiting upon the Lord's return is hope. We cannot live without hope. Hope is not only looking for things to happen, but also making things happen such as we observe that on the day of Pentecost: "Those who welcomed [Peter's] message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:41-42).

Better days are ahead of us (Phil. 3:13) when we truly believe that we are people of the Spirit sent into the world to be witnesses (Acts 1:8) who are not merely waiting on the Lord for our salvation.

In Christ's service,

Fr. Orin

Coming Up With a Game Plan



Inclement weather caused the postponement of the E.C.W. Planning Committee meeting. All committee members, Janet Anderson Brown, Jane Petrie, Pat Whitmore and Nancy Anderson were present at the rescheduled meeting on January 20. We evaluated charitable contributions, expenses and fundraising options for 2017. Throughout the meeting, there were productive discussions with each member of our group contributing ideas for consideration. After looking at our choices, we developed a plan that we believe will be most appropriate for St. Matthew's.

All St. Matthew's and BRT ladies are invited to attend our new E.C.W. bi-monthly weekday meetings starting Monday, February 6 at 1:00 p.m. The Planning Committee will present our recommendations for the year to everyone.

If approved by our membership we will prepare for our first event to take place on March 11, 2017.

Blessings,

Nancy Anderson, E.C.W. President



The Loaves and Fishes count for the months of,

December: 137 items - \$66.00

Year End Total for 2016: 1,693 Items - \$622.00

Remember, every Sunday is a REAP Sunday!

*Linda Gerding
Service & Outreach*

FOOD FOR THE POOR, INC.

On Sunday, Jan. 22, 2017, St. Matthew's was privileged to have Fr. Bruce Torrey from the Diocese of New York, fill-in for Fr. Orin. The Cummings made Fr. Torrey a guest in their home and Fr. Orin provided transportation for him to and from the airport.

Fr. Torrey supplied his services at no charge to the Parish, as he was on a mission. He is a spokesperson for Food for the Poor, Inc. and travels throughout the United States helping to spread the word about the hunger in the world, but most specifically in 17 countries in the Caribbean and Latin America. Fr. Torrey brought along his banjo and played Amazing Grace before and after his talk. It was very evident he has a passion for helping to feed the hungry, and as we always do...St. Matthew's opened their checkbooks and their hearts.

Linda Gerding
Service & Outreach Commission





- The Hospitality Fund is in trouble.
- The Hospitality Fund pays for the coffee and doughnuts.
- It also pays for any special congregational events where food is served.
- For most of these events, a basket is placed out for contributions.
- With some events, a basket is not appropriate, such as the Bishops visit.
- The Hospitality Fund is currently **\$240.00** in the red.



Please be generous to the collection basket when you get your coffee and doughnuts, or any event where a basket is set out for contributions. These contributions are the only funding for the Hospitality Fund.



The season of The Epiphany began January 6th, 2017: we celebrate the adoration and gifts of the Magi to the Christ Child.

Celtic Benediction

The stillness of God be mine this night, that I may sleep in peace. The awareness of the angels be mine this night, that I may be alert to unseen mysteries. The company of the saints be mine this night, that I may dream of the river of love. The life of Christ be mine this night, that I may be truly alive to the morning, that I may be truly alive. ~ J. Philip Newell

Linda Batson, President
"The Light of Christ", DOK Chapter

PANCAKE SUPPER

FAT TUESDAY

FEBRUARY 28TH 5:00 PM To 7:30 PM

ALL YOU CAN EAT




**PANCAKES
SAUSAGE
COFFEE
ORANGE Juice**



**\$5 PER PERSON
\$3 FOR CHILDREN**

See USHERS For TICKETS

**St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
9349 E. 65th St., Raytown, MO**



**February 16th
March
Messenger/Calendar
Deadline**

