



MARCH 2020

# 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

Bill Noone  
Senior Warden

Jason Brooks  
Junior Warden

David Macey  
Treasurer

Linda Gerding  
Secretary

Dave Chullino  
George Miller  
Clerk of the Works

## SERVICE TIMES

11:00 a.m.  
Sunday Service  
RITE II

## From the Rector



Dear Saints,

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

This is my last letter to you before departing Raytown. It is sad to say 'goodbye' because you made me feel like I belonged here from the first day in the parish. I joined you midway through the 2016 Lenten journey to Easter. Now, I am writing a parting letter to you during our Lenten pilgrimage as I prepare to leave town on Easter Day.

One of the practices of Lent is reflection and I have been doing a lot of reflection since announcing my departure. As I reflect on ministry with you, I am very grateful for how you have shaped my life. You have helped to mold me for the next chapter in my life. So, I say with confidence that I have learned a lot about God and about myself during this time. I have learned to rely more on God than on my own inner resources. Also, you have given me strength when I needed it most. Thank you!

I have learned from disappointments too. I recall the logic behind the experiment in Shared Ministry. I intentionally call the past four plus years an experiment because it was a course of action tentatively adopted without being sure of the eventual outcome. Still a work in progress?!

Many of you have imagined 'shared' to be much more than a clergy. Suffice to say that I had hoped, prayed and worked for deeper levels of sharing between you and BRT that never really materialized. That was probably the fault of a top-down approach to ecumenism. However, my departure could serve as a corrective. Now, you (collectively) get to come up with goals and work toward achieving them.

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Let's not use this time to list disappointments. Make Lent a time for renewal and preparation for Easter. In your penitential practices, pray for discernment. Through study of God's word and meditation, seek inner renewal and be open to where the Holy Spirit is leading you individually and collectively to new life.

Finally, remember that the success of our witness is guaranteed by God's provision. God has called each of you through Jesus Christ, who sent the Holy Spirit to show us how to make disciples and build up the church. He promised: "I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). So, be hopeful for the future.

God's peace be with you always!

Fr. Orin

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### *From the Sr. Warden*



As we enter the Lenten Season, we have important considerations to add to our normal prayers. As a parish we should pray for discernment, wisdom and guidance as we prepare for the departure of our Priest, Orin Cummings. We wish him and his family all the best and will miss his sermons, his leadership and spiritual guidance.

Dr. Stephen Rottgers will be with us through this process and the first step will be his presence at mass on Sunday February 23. He is here to guide us in making decisions for our future. He and Bishop Martin Field are committed to helping us move into the future. Of course, we will have to do a lot of the work and the Vestry will need your prayers and help. We must stay focused on the positive. What do we want the future of St. Matthews to be? It is our decision to make so that we can move forward. We might stumble from time to time, but we have to move into the future unafraid so that we can emerge stronger. We move forward by working together toward the common goal for our parish. We are more than the building at 9349 East 65th Street. We are a community of people with a purpose. Let's not forget that.

Thanks for your support,

Bill Noone, Senior Warden

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## COMMISSIONING NEW PARISH LEADERS

On February 2, 2020 Fr. Cummings commissioned the following newly elected Vestry members and appointed leaders of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church:

### **Vestry Members:**

Bill Noone -Sr. Warden

Jason Brooks- Jr. Warden/Properties

Linda Gerding- Clerk of the Vestry

Dave Macey-Treasurer

Christina Brooks – Vestry/Stewardship

Trish Arroyo- Vestry/Worship Liaison  
- Vestry Member

### **Other Committee and Commission Chairs for 2020:**

Finance Chair-Bill Noone

Convention Delegate-Carl Turlin

Alt. Convention Delegate-Barbara Wegener

Evangelism-Judy Taylor

a. Prayer Group, Flying Solo

Worship Commission- Barbara Wegener

a. Altar Guild, Acolytes, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers

Music Director- Ron Stockton

a. Choir

Pastoral Care- Pat Whitmore

Telecare-Linda Gerding

Community of Chaplains- Linda Gerding, Carl Turlin, Marci Brown Turlin

Ushers- Rick Roberts

Service & Community Outreach-Linda Gerding

Hospitality- Pat Whitmore

Sunday School- Judy Taylor, Zella Forsythe

Happy Crafters-Beth Cook

Daughters of the King-Virginia Sembower

Women of St. Matthew's- Nancy Anderson

Men of St. Matthew's-Rick Roberts

Clerks of the Works- George Miller & Dave Chullino



L-R Tish Arroyo, Christina Brooks, Jason Brooks, Bill Noone, Fr. Orin, Linda Gerding, Barbara Wegener, Dave Macey.  
(Picture courtesy: Kay Chullino)

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## CANON To The ORDINARY

On Sunday February 23<sup>rd</sup> St. Matthew's Parish was visited by the Rev. Dr. Steven Rottgers, Canon to the Ordinary and the Transition Officer for the Diocese. Canon Rottgers and his wife Mary came to worship with us and share some time during coffee hour. Canon Rottgers delivered a very uplifting and encouraging message regarding the pending transition period that St. Matthew's will have after Fr. Orin leaves. He also committed to "working with us and praying for us" as we go down that path to find a solution.



Canon Steve Rottgers addressing the Congregation

We were also blessed that Transfiguration Sunday, the last Sunday to sing Alleluia until after Lent, with the choir singing and the accompaniment of Patti McGill and Barbara Wegener playing the Memorial Bells, gifted in memory of Esther Eckerle, during the Hymn *Sing alleluia forth in duteous praise*. Thank you, ladies, for your talent.



Choir in background, Barbara Wegener & Patti McGill

Linda Gerding-Article &Photographer



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## ST. MATTHEW'S USHER'S/MEN'S GROUP SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Again, this year the Head Usher, Rick Roberts, was able to schedule the catering help of "Two Men & A Grill" to carry on the tradition of "Charlie Matson's Pancake Supper". All you can eat pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee were provided at a cost of \$5.00 per adult and \$3.00 for children. The Ushers and Men's Group served everyone, and then pitched in for an easy cleanup, as the caterers had again provided paper goods for the event, eliminating the need to use the dishwasher. (except for silverware)

Attendance was about 120 this year with several guests coming from the Stone Chapel Building. "Carry-out" was also provided and was taken advantage of by several people. A surprise guest was Canon Steve Rottgers and his wife Mary and Fr. Bob and Mtr. Anne.

This event is not intended to be a fundraiser, but a social activity prior to the Season of Lent. Thanks to a very generous donation of \$100 we had the biggest profit we have had in years at \$229.00. A big THANK YOU to the Ushers & Men of St. Matthew's, Sherry Minzey, Janie Matson for "Charlie's placemats", and everyone who helped sell tickets and invite friends. Thank you ALL for a fun evening and for your support!

Linda Gerding  
for the St. Matthew's Ushers-2020



Back Row: Dave Batson, Darrel Cook, Rick Roberts, Dave Macey  
Front Row: Linda Gerding, Dave Chullino, George Miller, Pat Whitmore

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## Bishop's Day-February 22, 2020 Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral

On a beautiful Saturday morning the Vestry: Bill Noone, Jason Brooks, Linda Gerding, Christina Brooks, and Tish Arroyo, represented St. Matthew's Parish at the annual Bishop's Day. Also attending was Barbara Wegener. The Diocese had put together an array of topics covering many areas of interest. The following is a list of the workshops attended:

1. Vestry 101- Christina & Tish
2. Church Finances –Linda, Tish
3. Care & Nurture of Clergy; Communications Tools & Tips- Christina
4. Warden's Forum –Bill
5. Youth Ministry Updates
6. Communicating in the Twenties- Jason
7. Welcome to the Diaconate -Barbara
8. Missional Church-Jason
9. Diversity & Reconciliation
10. Christian Formation-Linda, Bill & Barb
11. Leadership Formation- Bill, Barb, Linda

Below are some overviews and comments from those who attended.

### **CHURCH FINANCES:** Presented by Tom Kokjer & Ron Weil      Attendee-Linda Gerding

There are now 47 Parishes in The Diocese of West Mo. as the church in Maryville closed in 2019, at their decision, not by the Diocese. Much of the information covered was similar to last year's presentation. They reviewed the formula used for church assessment and how money sent to the Diocese was used to fund the Diocesan budget. The budget is 1.9 million and 68% goes out to ministries. They also reviewed at age 70 ½ doing your IRA Distribution (RMD) and paying your pledge so you are not taxed on that money; and be open to Legacy giving. The Diocese will still do the audit for small churches (Ron Weil) or you can use a committee. The Diocesan Business Manuel has been updated and will soon be requiring Conflict of Interest forms to be signed by Staff and Vestry. As a rule of thumb, if you have a negative budget try not to take more than 5% from your endowment or investments. Place the importance of pledging on "participation" and not the dollar amount.

### **WARDEN'S FORM:** Presenter Mark Galus      Attendee - Bill Noone

Mark is the past Senior Warden at Grace and Trinity Cathedral. As one might expect the Cathedral has weightier issues than St. Matthews, but I found some ideas which we might want to consider as a Vestry. One is that we should define the roll of the Rector and having an annual review process in which the Vestry would review the Rector. To the best of my knowledge we have never done that. Because we are in a transition phase, this is something that will have to wait until we have completed our discernment process. It would be a good first step to define the roll of the Rector going forward.

**CHURCH MISSION:** Bishop Martin Field's presentation is summed up with: Out of the house thinking. Attendee – Jason Brooks

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This presentation explained church history in respect to evangelism. This history begins with our start as an outsider belief system, the faith communities rise to prominence and currently our return to a missionary role.

Parishioners are challenged to be the source of excitement that draws people to Jesus Christ. Places of worship & institutional associations are not viewed by our neighbors as a path to spiritual or educational growth. Our approach should be kingdom focused, promote service as a form of worship, demonstrate our values, connecting or integrating relationships, shape not script dialog and share testimony. These activities should not be isolated to a community that resides in any single church building. Pooling our resources with our regional partners will help us compete in our churning culture of opposing interests.

### **CARE AND NURTURE OF CLERGY, COMMUNICATIONS TOOLS & TIPS**

Attendee – Christina Brooks

One of the workshops that I attended on Bishop's Day was "Care and Nurture of Clergy, Communications Tools and Tips". The group I attended was small and led by Cannon Steve Rottgers. I appreciated that it was a small group, it felt more personal sitting around a table being able to talk directly to one another. The importance of this particular topic needs to be addressed in many parishes. There are so many different and appropriate ways to show our appreciation. We must start with offering fair and reasonable compensation. Having reasonable expectations of their time and talents. Not expecting that we get their family as a bonus ... choir member, organist, or secretary. Encouraging them to take well-earned time off and family days, continuing education and sabbaticals for reflection as well as renewal. We also need to be doing our part as members and vestry to support and stand beside our clergy who give so much of themselves to us.



Your mind will always believe everything you tell it. Feed it faith, feed it truth, feed it with love.

You teach people how to treat you by what you allow, what you stop, and what you reinforce.

The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new.

*Socrates*

We do not see things as they are,  
We see things as we are.

Linda Batson  
DOK, "The Light of Christ" Chapter

## BIRTHDAY RECOGNITIONS



Peyton and Linda



Madison and Linda



Linda and Grace

Birthday bags were handed out by Linda Batson, Daughters of the King.  
Pictures taken by Linda Gerding



### Stations of the Cross Fridays During Lent

**ST. MATTHEW'S**  
**6:00 P.M.**  
**MARCH 6, 13, 20, 27**  
**APRIL 3**  
**A DINNER WILL FOLLOW IN**  
**PARISH HALL**

### Women of St. Matthew's Luncheon March 14<sup>th</sup>

11:30 a.m. at  
Black Bear Diner  
4053 S. Little Blue Pkwy  
Independence  
Contact Nancy Anderson for  
Reservations

**TIME CHANGE!**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>**



**MARCH 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**APRIL**  
**Messenger/Calendar**  
**Deadline**

