



May 2021

The Messenger

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

9349 E. 65th Street, Raytown, Missouri 64133 Phone: 816.353.4592

Email: stmattsrayment@gmail.com

St. Matthew's Staff

Sherry Minzey
Admin. Assistant

Patti McGill
Music Director

Jim Minzey
Sexton

Officers

Judy Taylor
Senior Warden

Carl Turlin
Junior Warden

David Macey
Treasurer

Linda Gerding
Secretary

Service Times

10:00 a.m.
Sunday Service

**Check calendar for Holy
Eucharist and Morning
Prayer Sundays.**

Sr. Warden's Message



Happy May, St. Matthew's! It's nice to see summer nearly upon us, and summer brings more changes to St. Matt's worship services. As you know, we have a Reopening Committee tasked with determining when it is "safe" to return to inside services. The Reopening Committee is comprised of vestry members, plus Worship Commission chair Barbara Wegener, Music Director Patti McGill, St. Matt's Administrative Assistant Sherry Minzey, and Past Senior Warden Bill Noone. The consensus following our most recent meeting was that, while not everyone is quite ready to worship inside just yet, we *are* ready to gather again in person. We decided to resume our outdoor parking lot services (weather permitting) starting May 2nd. This will be a Eucharist service with Mtr. Elisabeth Sinclair as our supply priest. Outdoor services will be held weekly, alternating between Morning Prayer and a Eucharist service. Outdoor services will continue as long as we have nice (not too hot) weather. As soon as it starts getting too warm for outside, we will commence indoor services. (Keep an eye on your email, because if bad weather is predicted (e.g., heavy rain, thunder, and lightning), we will convert the service to a Zoom service.) We will let you know when it is time to make the switch from parking lot services to indoors, likely mid-June or thereabouts. One small deviation from our schedule will occur due to May having five Sundays. That means we will have three Sundays with morning prayer instead of the usual two. We'll have Morning Prayer on May 9th and May 16th, a Communion service on May 23rd, and we'll wrap up the month with Morning Prayer on May 30th.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

Sunday, May 23rd is Pentecost. Pentecost is observed 50 days after Easter and commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, after which they were able to speak in many languages and received the ability to perform miracles, allowing them to spread the Word of Jesus throughout the lands

“When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2: 1-4

We will celebrate Pentecost outdoors with a communion service, with Fr. Eric Anderson as our supply priest. Don't be surprised if Zella Forsythe has something special planned to help make the day extra special!

I hope all of you who aren't fans of Zoom services will join us in the parking lot to worship together in person. If the Covid numbers keep going down, we'll be back inside soon and MAYBE enjoying coffee hour together again. Keep your fingers crossed and keep praying that the pandemic will leave us soon!

Warmest wishes,
Judy Taylor
Senior Warden



Parking Lot Pentecost Celebration

Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd Outdoor Service at 10:00 a.m.

Everyone is encouraged to wear red clothing!



“THE “WATCH”

“Could you not watch with me one hour?”Jesus of Nazareth

Linda Gerding sent this question out to St. Matthew’s Parishioners inviting them to join her to participate in the "Watch" via Zoom, on Thursday evening 4/1/21 after the Maundy Thursday service, shown online from Redeemer’s Parish. The Watch would be from 8:00pm to 8:00am on Good Friday.

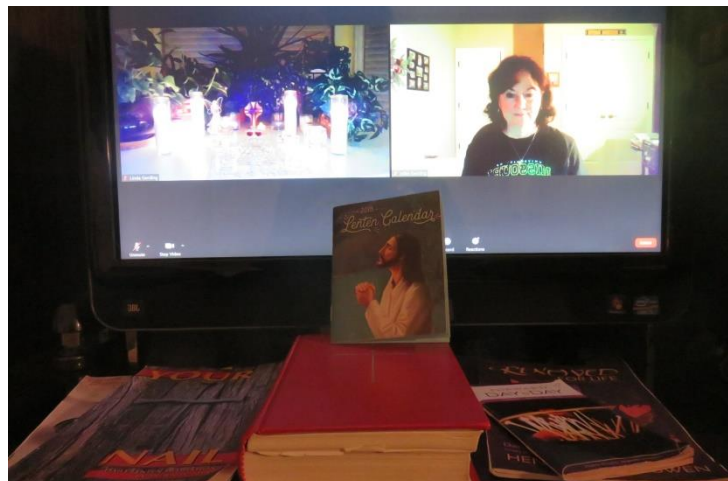
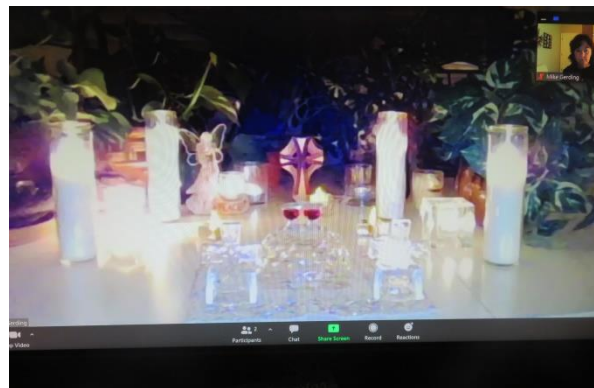
Linda’s version of an Altar of Repose, with the pre-consecrated communion kits, was set up with greenery and lots of candles in low light. Each participant could get comfortable in their home and log in at their designated hour, to read, meditate, and pray in silence.

Every time slot was filled in the 12-hour Watch with some people doing double shifts.

Peace and gratitude to the following:

Diane Hunter
Dave Batson
Zella Forsythe
Mary Cease
Carl Turlin
Christina Brooks

Brenda Laney
Linda Batson
Kay Gutierrez
Jim Laney
Judy Taylor
Linda Gerding



Linda Ge



ST. MATTHEW'S TEAM 2021
AIDS WALK STILL VIRTUAL
4-24-21



The 33RD annual AIDS WALK-Kansas City was AGAIN held **virtually**, this year on Saturday April 24, 2021.

This year's tag line was **"WALK 2 Stop HIV Stigma"**, and this was the fifteenth year St. Matthew's registered as a Team. Parishioners were given the information to go online to St. Matthew's Team and register as a virtual participant and donate. Virtual walkers this year were Darrel and Beth Cook and Linda Gerding, who walked 3 miles on the Rock Island Trail .

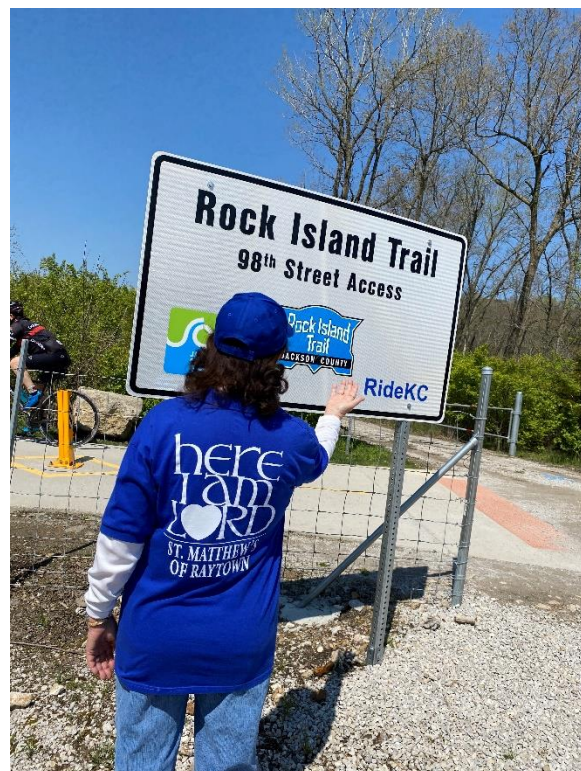
Donations totaled \$140.00 on Walk Day, with more pledged to come in. Many people are not comfortable making online donations and without being able to physically give a donation to someone, some checks had to be mailed.

A big "THANK YOU" to the Cooks for their support of the AIDS Walk both physically, (or virtually), and monetarily; along with Yael Abouhalkah and Mary & Charles Cease.

Linda Gerding
Service & Outreach Commission



Darrel & Beth Cook



St. Matthew's T-shirt & Linda Gerding



The vestry has approved a garage sale for the Fall of this year and here's some areas that we need to address and manage. It will be the weekend of Oct. 1 - 3 and maybe some weekdays prior. We'll decide when we see who is on the "team". We'll need lots of help before and during the sale. All the money will go to the parish, with the possible exception of the crafters. We'll have some fun too, with a bake sale and hopefully some music and whatever we can think of to make it fun for friends and neighbors.

This is a wonderful opportunity for us to make new friends and have fun, a great way to share our fun and faith with the community! So, please take a look at the areas below and let me know via email how you would like to help. It's also a great opportunity for us to shed some of the stuff that we have been hanging onto to benefit St. Matthew's. So, let me know what you think and how you plan on helping!

Publicity (local, diocesan, public service announcements...)

Pricing (assessing the worth of items and putting on color coded stickers or organizing into tables of certain prices or whatever)

Picking up things (arranging for transportation of items for those who can't deliver them)

Crafts (arrange for whoever wants to bring crafts and coordinate where they set up)

Food and entertainment (arrange for whatever food we want to sell, getting it donated hopefully, preparing it, collecting the \$ from it's sale and it's cleanup.

Removal of leftovers (find and arrange for the pickup of the leftover items and see that it gets done) You would think that that's just a phone call, but sometimes it's much more than that.

I'm sure I haven't thought of everything, and that's why we need to work together on this.

On the day/days of the sale, those of us who can help clean up should be prepared to do that and we'll take volunteers to help, like scouts, grandkids, maybe the AA folks too.

Thanks so much,
Carl
Jr. Warden

Preparing for a Peaceful Passage

Cathy had been diagnosed with stage 4 Lung Cancer, at age 84. Refusing Chemotherapy which only gave her a few more weeks of life.

In her Grateful Room, she spoke about acceptance. She recognized the confluence of those forces we cannot change---what we might see as inescapable fate or God's will---and our free will to decide how we perceive our circumstances, and we respond to them.

In her final weeks, Cathy emphasized a similar message: Everything begins and ends with God, but in the middle is our ability to decide what we will do with all we have been given, the good and the not so good. We get side-tracked trying to figure out the mysteries of birth and death. But that, Cathy explained, is not the point. In between is the fullness of life, and that's where our choices lie.

We may not choose the circumstances into which we are born or how events unfold for us, but we can find our power in how we react to life and what we do with what we are given. Each life has its share of pain, loss and regrets. Cathy regretted she never finished college. But we free ourselves when we understand that most of what we thought was important, ultimately doesn't matter much.

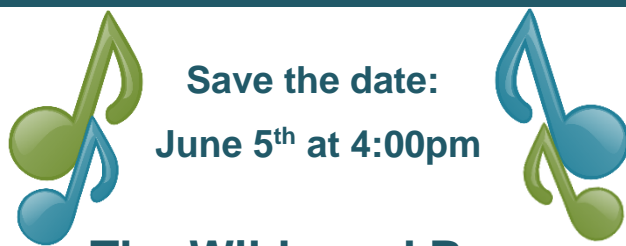


Cathy's lessons were simple in their truths. We may not choose the circumstances of our lives, but we can choose how we want to live. We can choose to surrender in peace and gratitude, embraced by the love we cultivate in life. "It all comes down to how well you loved. How you were able to give love and receive love,"-----"without reservation."

By Meg McConahey



*Linda Batson
Daughters of the King*



Save the date:
June 5th at 4:00pm

The Wildwood Boys

will be performing at St Matthew's!

So, bring you lawn chairs
and join in the fun.

Be sure and tell your friends and
relatives too!



June
Messenger/Calendar
Deadline

May 21st 



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/>