



SEPTEMBER 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

Our lives have been changed by events over which we have no control. We have the Corona Virus with which we must deal. We have serious long-term problems with race which linger because we have never really dealt with the nature of it. We must treat everyone as God's children and do our best to see each person for who they are and not how they look. Those of us who grew up in the 1950's and 1960's lived through a time in which that was not true. I hope that we can accept others of different races and cultures and celebrate those differences. That we can live together and move forward.

For all of us it is essential that we follow the guidelines which medical professionals have been telling us are important. This is not a joke and it is not a hoax. Recently a family friend went to a hospital in Florida for back surgery, contracted Covid and died. He was about 60. For those of us who are older, it means that we should take this very seriously.

Linda Gerding headed up a task force of people to present our plan for reopening our Parish. She did an excellent job and the Bishop has approved our plan. We plan to have an indoor service in November and will stay with worship from home and outdoor services until then. This will be a big step and there will be social distancing that goes with it. Linda has sent the details out in an email and will do so again as the time gets nearer. If you get a chance please let Linda and her team know that you appreciate the hard work.

Finally, we should offer our congratulations to all the children who are returning to school this year and offer prayers that the school districts have good plans in place for their safety. This year my oldest grandchild will begin his college career at the University of

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Kansas. His name is Gaston Meya and his mother is my oldest daughter Amy. Gaston has been awarded enough scholarship money to attend school at virtually no cost. A lot of hard work went into that achievement and the entire family is very proud of him.

I will close with a favorite verse which has been with me and provided comfort always. "May the Lord bless you and keep, may the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you, may the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace."

Bill Noone
Sr. Warden

Blessed By Diocesan Episcopal Church Women

I want to share a blessing that I have received. Many thanks to Linda Gerding for prompting me to look into an Episcopal Church Women (ECW) scholarship that was announced in the E-spirit in June. ECW from the Diocese of West Missouri gives out scholarships to all women of the diocese who apply and are working towards Ordination. I applied and was very grateful to be granted a scholarship to cover my entire first year at Bishop Kemper School for Ministry!

I attended orientation online in July, as well as my first class the second weekend in August. Classes will all be online at least through December, which is bittersweet. I'm grateful for the decision to be online so that I won't worry about exposure to the virus, however I very much would like to meet my classmates in person. There are several individuals in the Kansas City area attending BKSM, and although we haven't been able to be together physically, we do feel that we've already begun to create a community. Even though class is once a month we meet several times a week for prayer and presentations from individuals across the country connected to the church Locally ad nationally. For example, did you know that there's an A Episcopal "Church in the Woods" (no building) in New Hampshire? It's not horribly far from my son Jeffrey's home and I hope to visit it sometime in the future. Just recently I learned about the United Thank Offering beginnings from the National Church Representative in New Mexico. The first thing UTO did was build a church in Alaska. Isn't that wonderful? I have included a link with UTO history I hope you enjoy.
https://episcopalchurch.org/files/uto_history_brochure_eng.pdf (You may be hearing more about UTO from me in the future).

I thank you for your continued prayers and I am grateful for every one of you! Each one of you are present with me in this journey and look forward to the day when I can give each of you a hug!!

Barbara



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Celebrates July 26th Outdoor Service (at a Social Distance!)

This was the third Outdoor Service in which St. Matthew's Parish Family had gathered together in the parking lot to pray and offer praise and thanksgiving to our Lord. We were again led by the Rev. Christy Dorn as our Supply Priest, and received communion wafers (no wine) via tongs.

It was a little warmer this time than last, but umbrellas were used for shade and several parishioners elected to sit under the trees by the parking lot rather than in chairs on the asphalt. A nice group of 28 were able to social distance but still wave, (smile under their masks), and greet their Parish Family.

Responses from the Parishioners who have attended the outdoor services have been very favorable.



Rev. Christy Dorn & Barbara Wegener



Patti McGill-Lector



Rick & Judy Roberts



Charles & Mary Cease, and Carl Turlin



Becky Jewel & Guest, Grace Udeanor, Jane Matson,
Dominic, Christina & Jason Brooks, Linda & Dave Batson

July 26th Outdoor Service



Pat Whitmore



Zella Forsythe



Kay & Manny Gutierrez



Carl Turlin & Umbrella



Tom, Stacy, and Tary Wagstaff



Richard & Jo Miller

Linda Gerding-Reporting

ST. MATTHEW'S SERVICE & OUTREACH R.E.A.P. – OPERATION BACKPACK 2020



2020 was the 28th Anniversary of REAP handing out school supplies and certificates for a pair of new shoes to children in the Raytown School Dist.

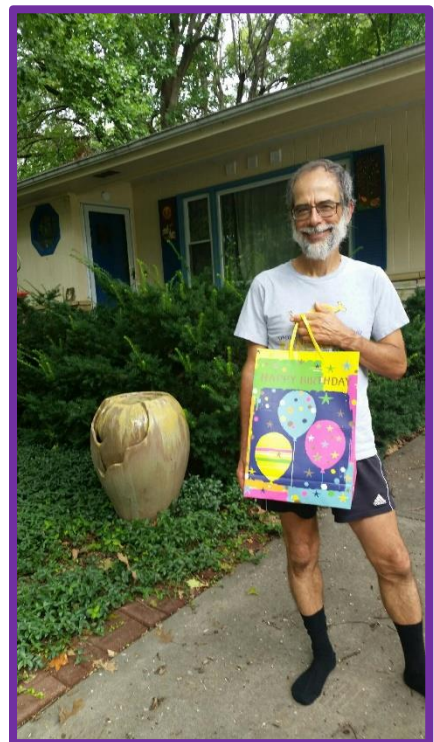
Due to the COVID virus things had to be handled a little differently...both for REAP and St. Matthew's. Donations that were typically collected in church and taken to REAP from St. Matthew's, were asked to be sent directly to REAP. Backpacks, school supplies, and shoe certificates were still provided for those in need, even though school in Raytown would begin with a virtual format.

As always, the Service and Outreach Committee thanks everyone in the congregation who was generous enough to mail in a donation directly to REAP. Over \$100.00 was donated.

Blessings,
Linda Gerding
Service & Outreach Commission



Charles Cease



Yael Abouhalkah

From Andy Stanley:

"Sometimes I just want it to stop. Talk of COVID, looting, brutality. I lose my way. I become convinced that this "new normal" is real life. Then I meet an 87-year-old who talks of living through polio, diphtheria, Vietnam protests and yet is still enchanted with life.

He seemed surprised when I said that 2020 must be especially challenging for him. "No," he said slowly, looking me straight in the eyes. "I learned a long time ago to not see the world through the printed headlines, I see the world through the people that surround me. I see the world with the realization that we love big. Therefore, I just choose to write my own headlines:

"Husband loves wife today." "Family drops everything to come to Grandma's bedside." He patted my hand. "Old man makes new friend." His words collide with my worries, freeing them from the tether I had been holding tight. They float away. I am left with a renewed spirit and a new way to write my own headlines."

Story by Andy Stanley.

"Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise!
Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the
highways to Zion!" Psalm 84:4-5

Daughters of the King – Linda Batson

GIVING REMINDER

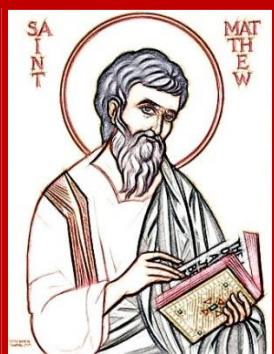
Just a reminder that you have options on how you can send in your pledge.

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

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



October Messenger & Calendar Deadline September 23



ST. MATTHEW'S DAY

Sunday, September 27th

10:00 a.m. Outdoor Eucharistic Service

**We are pleased to have Fr. Mark McGuire
as our celebrant.**

Wear your red!