

September 2021

The Messenger

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

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St. Matthew's Staff

Sherry Minzey
Remote
Admin. Assistant

Patti McGill
Music Director

Officers

Judy Taylor
Senior Warden

Carl Turlin
Junior Warden

David Macey
Treasurer

Linda Gerding
Secretary

Service Times

10:00 a.m.
Sunday Service
First & Third Sundays
Holy Eucharist
Rite II
Second and Fourth
Sundays
Morning Prayer

Sr. Warden's Message

Why do we pray and not seem to get what we prayed for? I've heard many explanations for this question: It's not the right time; God wants something different for us; it's not God's will. Sometimes it's only in hindsight that we can see how God truly was looking out for us by *not* answering our prayer. Sometimes the reason for unanswered prayer is not so easy to understand even with hindsight, and we must struggle to understand why our prayer wasn't answered. Sometimes, however, unanswered prayer stems from a simple lack of faith.

Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:20. You may have tried this out – looked at a mountain and told it to move, or just looked at the saltshaker on your table and told it to move, willing it with all the faith you could muster – and it didn't move! Why not? The answer lies in the phrase "if you have faith...". It's hard to have faith that an object will move, especially something as big as a mountain, when you don't need it to move and, deep down, you know it would wreak havoc on many levels if it *did* suddenly move. Same thing with a saltshaker. You don't need it to move through spiritual means when you can reach over and move it with your God-given hand, a tool, or a simple request for someone to "pass the salt." Faith must start with a righteous prayer request because it's tough to have faith in something you can't believe will happen.

Don't get tripped up on whether your prayer request is sufficiently "righteous" for God's consideration. If your heart is in the right place, your intentions are good, and your prayer request is not frivolous or borne out of laziness, bring it to God with faith that your prayer will be answered. It is your *belief* that all things are possible for God that matters.

He will sort out all the tangled and difficult aspects of your problem, no matter how egregious your sin or how unworthy of help you feel you are. Nothing will shoot a hole in your faith efforts like praying but continuing to worry and trying to sort out the details of the problem in your mind. When you pray, put the burden on God. He wants that. He likes that. He needs that as proof of your belief in him. Jesus said, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Believing with every fiber of your being that God can get it done, and *wants* to get it done for you, is *essential* to your positive prayer outcome.

Faith also requires a continuous demonstration of your belief that God will get it done. Good intentions while you’re saying your prayers will not alone get it done. Why? Because the nagging worries, negative thoughts, self-doubt, guilty feelings, and waffling about what you really want all erode your faith until faith is lost. Without even realizing it, you’ve taken your problem back from God so you can chew on it yourself for a little while longer. You inadvertently sabotage your prayer request.

Faith also requires that you have faith in others to do their part in contributing to the answer to your prayers. Sometimes God answers your prayer request directly, but often he uses others to achieve His response. If you get the thought that your neighbor or friend might be able to help in some way, consider it a prompting from God (the “still small voice” – 1 Kings 19:12) that he wants you to reach out and ask for help. If they can’t or won’t help, don’t get discouraged. Look to God for the next prompting.

Sometimes the prayer answer is multilayered and requires multiple steps to be taken on your part. Remember that you must take action to help make things happen. God will not typically (though he can) just snap his fingers to make things happen for you. Your faith journey may take weeks or months or even longer to play out. You may only be able to see the next step in the solution process because seeing the whole solution laid out before you might create fear or doubt or cause you to become overwhelmed. Continue looking for those mental prompts and putting one foot in front of the other so God can lead you to your answer.

Here’s what I do when I pray for something important in my life:

1. I pray intensely for the thing or outcome that I need and visualize it coming to fruition.
2. Every time a negative thought comes into my mind that erodes my faith, I push it out and tell myself “This problem is solved. God is with me.”

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1. I pray for those who might help me - for God to soften their hearts, open their minds, and instill within them a desire and willingness to help me.
2. Each time I face an obstacle, I say, "One way or another, through positive means, this problem is solved" and remind myself that God is with me.
3. Despite negative thoughts, discouragement, doubts about others' willingness or lack of ability to help, doubts about myself, and worries that plague me throughout the time that I await the answer to my prayers, I persevere with positive affirmations and prayer, believing in a positive outcome.
4. Finally, I repeatedly THANK THANK THANK God in Jesus' name with each little triumph *and* when my prayers are ultimately answered.

Jesus said, "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe you have received it, and it will be yours." Mark 11:24. Pushing all the doubts and negative thoughts from your mind and constantly affirming your belief that God is with you, helping you, will aid you to realize answers to all your prayers that are consistent with God's will for you.

Happy September!

Judy Taylor

Senior Warden

ST. MATTHEW'S SERVICE & OUTREACH R.E.A.P. – OPERATION BACKPACK 2021

2021 was the 29th Anniversary of REAP handing out backpacks, school supplies, and certificates for a pair of new shoes to children in the Raytown School Dist. It amazes me that St. Matthew's has been supporting this ministry for that long!!

Fortunately, St. Matthew's was back inside and worshipping in the Sanctuary. Linda Gerding was able to announce that Backpack Sundays would be on July 18, 25, Aug. 1, and 8th. Donations were again collected in church and taken to REAP from St. Matthew's by Linda on August 10, 2021. Backpacks, school supplies, and shoe certificates were still provided for those in need.

As always, the Service and Outreach Committee thank everyone in the congregation who was generous enough to make a donation.

\$415.00 was donated this year.

Blessings,
Linda Gerding
Service & Outreach Commission



VIOLATION OF CODE 46-58-Tall Grass & Weeds

After receiving a Letter of Citation from the City of Raytown regarding the brush along the Church fence line, Carl Turlin-Jr. Warden, jumped into action. The letter said if within 10 days from the date of the letter the overgrowth along the fence had not been cleared, there could be issued a fine of up to \$500 or 90 days in jail. By the time the Vestry reviewed the letter and Carl could get bids for the job, it had already been almost 30 days...BUT, he had been in touch with City Hall and they knew we were working on it. We had bids from approximately \$15,000 (and included removing the dead locust tree by the Stone Chapel), to \$3,000. The Turlin's, Judy Taylor, and Kurtis Waters, did some preliminary work, then Kurtis finished the job at the low bid.

St. Matthew's task now, will be to try to keep the fence line clear by having annual yard clean-up days. The pictures below show the finished product and completion of all the work. (but not the locust tree.)



COMMUNITY OF CHAPLAINS

The Community of Chaplains met on August 8 on the front lawn of St. Matthew's church. Everyone brought their own chairs, drinks, and snack or lunch. James Laney brought some incense in an effort to divert any chiggers or bugs and it also provided a delightful aroma to the air. Despite sirens in the background, motorcycles, mowers, neighbor garage noises, and having to move farther under the trees due to an unexpected light shower, It was still a productive and prayerful gathering.

Blessings,

Linda Gerding

COC



Compassion



I am grateful for my loving heart that prompts me to reach out in kindness and compassion to bolster the spirits of others.

The more I choose compassion, the more easily it becomes a habit. My actions don't especially have to be grand. I can open a door or pay for the order of the person behind me or at a drive-up window. Listening, holding a hand, and giving a pat on the back are also simple yet sincere expressions of compassion.

In helping others, I am blessed by the reciprocal effect of giving, and good flows to me abundantly. Every act of kindheartedness, no matter how small, creates a ripple effect that inspires kindness and generosity in others and ultimately blesses the world.

In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets. --Matthew 7:12

Daily Word

Linda Batson, Daughters of the King



Happy crafters would like to thank everyone who donated pillows to our pillow project. We collected 21 pillows, put them into pillowcases and took them to Micha last Thursday. There were very happy to receive them! Some homeless people will have a soft place to lay their head.



Thanks again. Happy Crafters

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](http://stmatthewsraytown).



September 22nd

**October
Messenger and
Calendar Deadline**