

Reaching out Reaching within Proclaiming God's Love

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 342 2001 Windsor Drive Newton, Kansas 67114 Church: 316-283-3310 www.stmatthewsnewton.org www.facebook.com/stmattsnewton

The Messenger

October

From the Interim Pastor—Fr. Richard Osborne

Halloween

At the end of this month, all throughout our land we will have big and little goblins and ghosts and spirits who will be patrolling the streets asking for tricks or treats. We celebrate this kind of secular day with fun, but after that, does it say anything to us? And behind "Halloweening", is there a Christian residue and message?

I'd like to share with you what are perhaps, some of the origins of Halloween, and accordingly, what we can do from a faith perspective to place this custom in our lives.

As far as we can tell, Halloween comes from the old Celtic celebrations of the end of summer. The reason they had a feast to mark the end of summer was because it was when the spirits began to have more time to roam the land. As lore has it, the Spirits come out at night. Well now that we're at the end of summer, you see, the days are shorter and the fall and winter nights are longer, and so it gives the Goblins and Spirits a greater time to work their habits. To appease such Spirits who now have a longer haunting time, the Pagans offered them treats so they would not be the object of their tricks. Of course, among them, there were those enterprising citizens of that island who took to disguising themselves as evil Spirits — number one, so they could fool the real Spirits, so they would leave them alone; and, number two, dressed up as evil Spirits themselves, they could go around stealing the treats.

Well, you should know it was this kind of thing that the Christians met when they came along, and as is the custom of good Christian tradition, they baptized the Pagan custom, that is, they sifted out what was true and they shucked off the superstitious.

(As a parenthetical remark this is where we differ from fundamentalists. A teacher told me years ago that a parent of a child in her 4th grade class would not allow her little boy to participate in any Halloween kind of celebration because it was not in the Bible, and it was a Pagan custom.)

But the larger universal Christianity has never had trouble with that. Christianity has always said that wherever there is truth, it is truth; whether Muhammad or Buddha, or, whoever speaks it. And the broader Christianity, therefore, both recognizes and validates the truth and builds upon it. So, you had this old Celtic end of summer celebration, and Christians came along. They remembered, in fact, that there is a spirit world, and so maybe it was a good opportunity to draw these pagans into remembering all the spirits, all the deceased. So this Pagan custom became "All Hollows Eve" - the word "hollows," as you know, means "holy," as in "hallowed be thy name." This was remembering all the holy ones who have gone before us. Around the 4th century it was easy to introduce The Feast of All Saints, which started out as The Feast of All the Martyrs, and place it at the end of the summer, right next to this remembering of the spirits. A few centuries later, it was easy to introduce what we call The Feast of All Souls, on the next day. For Christians, what came from a pagan origin was united with this incredibly beautiful concept from Jesus: "I am the vine, you are the branches;" or Saint Paul's concept of the mystical body of Christ; which is to say, that we have a great consciousness, in our tradition, that we are united with those in the past, present, and those to come.

I also remember the movie *Dead Poets Society*, with Robin Williams. On the walls of the school were the pictures of classes from previous years. He took his students around to view these pictures of students from previous years that were now dead. He explained that they had hopes and dreams just like them. But where are they now? They are all dead. He used the Latin phrase, *"Carpe Diem!" – Seize the day!*

We celebrate, for example, our Mass of Christian Burial; And in that Mass there are notes of celebration, because we say that this person has not had a period put at the end of his or her life, but that they have exchanged one kind of living here for a different kind of living hereafter. There is a firm Christian belief in the afterlife, and a firm belief in the intercessory connection with all those Saints who have gone before. What that means is that what we have here is a secular celebration, which is fine, and we should enjoy it, but what is even better, beyond that, here's what it can say to Christians:

First, dressing up for Halloween – yourself, or your children, or your grandchildren, can ritually join us to the past, present,

Halloween (Continued from page 1)

and those to come. In other words, when you (or members of your family) get dressed up in your ghostly costume, try to remember it's a ritual way of being connected to the Spirit world; A ritual way of saying that we believe in the unity of the entire human race.

Secondly, it's a way of affirming our traditional belief in the Spirit world, the supernatural. We believe in Angels. We believe in Saints. We believe that an end is not simply put to the lives of our parents who are deceased, but there is a livingness that continues.

Thirdly, when we download those horrible masks which are scary (but in a certain sense they are not, because we are in control like a parent who is reading a ghost story to a child – the child is both scared and comforted because the parent / savior is right there to keep him or her safe), it becomes a symbol that behind the horrors of the disfigurement brought on by hurt or pain or sin or sickness, or even death, behind those masks is the face of Jesus Christ. That God has the last word in Christ; that any ugliness will be made beautiful; any sin can be forgiven, and even the last enemy, death, shall give way to the life of Jesus. They can tell us that.

And finally, it seems to me, Halloween can be a little antidote to our pride and our arrogance in the sense that we don't know everything. That we live in mystery. Mystery is very uncomfortable, particularly to Americans who are raised up in a very positivistic attitude. We want to be able to dissect and control everything, and yet in much of our lives we don't. There are mysteries that we live every day, including the greatest mystery of all – the mystery of ourselves. And so, dressing up for Halloween, the fun of ghosts and skeletons and Spirits, remind us that we do live in mystery. So, Halloween can have its positive Christian side.

I have some suggestions before we go trick or treating for those who might want to think about them.

One is this: Those of you who do go celebrating or dress up and carry on in any way for Halloween – before you go out trick or treating, I suggest that you gather for a moment or two – in the living room or wherever – and offer a prayer for all deceased family members, friends, people of your past. Remember the Spirit world. That's what Halloween is all about. It's about a ghostly world – people who are dead, but who live; People who have passed on – but it's our belief that they live on in Christ. And in praying for those deceased, pray not only for the good, but for the wicked. People who have been wicked or horrible to you and made a mess of your life or hurt you in some way. That would be

the spirit of Bob Cratchit, you know, who on Christmas Eve toasts Ebenezer Scrooge, because, if he's a real Christian, he has to even pray for the wicked. So, remember those especially who shared the faith with you. Those who are responsible for your being in church on Sundays; All the holy people, whether they walk with us or not, from any tradition, who are struggling for peace and justice.

Secondly, I might suggest, to emphasize this, that you drag out the family album. Or if you have a picture of grandma or grandpa or somebody who's deceased, that you just take it off the wall, or out of the album or open it up on the coffee table. Light a little candle in front of it. Put some kind of emphasis to your children and your children's children that we come from a long line of people. We carry their genes, we carry their values, whatever and whoever we are. There was someone in our past — we are not disconnected atoms. Remind the family that we are just a moment in a long, common journey of all mankind, to God. It might be good to make this a Halloween custom. And maybe from October 31st. through November 2nd. keep the picture in a special place just to remind us of where we come from.

Thirdly I might suggest that as a part of Halloween you have your family members research their Saint's name. Whose name is it that they bear? What's the history of this hero or heroine? And maybe the next time they have a birthday they could share with the rest of the family whom they are named after and what that person says to them now.

And the final suggestion would be that all those things, not immediately perishable, that you get from trick or treating — that you place some of them in front of the altar. And we'll see that people who are less fortunate get a share of the goodies that you've collected.

So, Halloween which started out as a Pagan custom, had a basically good thought. Those Pagans were aware that they loved and lived in a world that was much larger than themselves. Christians have taken over and celebrate those who have meant so much to us — the great Saints, and even those who are yet to come.

So, as we go around, and we dress up and as we make ourselves scary, just try to recollect some of these thoughts. It's a Christian feast in many ways. **All Saints, All Souls,** both living and dead. And we can enter into the spirit; and we can realize that indeed we are not alone. We belong to this vast company of the gone-before, yet-to-come. We are not alone; we belong to the Communion of Saints. Might I add, Amen.



St. Matthew's Vision Statement

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church is living into God's vision for us as a beloved community and disciples of Christ.

We are always growing in relationship with God, embracing our neighborhood and our world, and leading through acts of service as a beacon of God's justice and love.

St. Matthew's Mission Statement

The Mission of St. Matthew's is to Welcome, Respect and Care for All People. We accomplish this by following Christ, the perfect example of God's reconciling love, as we promote justice, peace and healing for ourselves and our world.

Office phone: 316-283-3310

Office e-mail: office.stmatthewsnewton@gmail.com

St. Matthew's office hours:

- Monday-Thursday 9:00 am—2:00 pm
- Fr. Richard is in the office 10:00 am-2:00 pm Monday and Tuesday.

Services: Holy Eucharist 10:15 am every Sunday Evening Prayer 6:00 pm every Wednesday

- * The St. Matthew's Vestry's October meeting will be after church on Sunday, October 20
- * The PEF committee will meet after church on Sunday, October 13

Prayer for the Search of our Next Rector

Almighty God, look graciously on the people of St. Matthew's.

Be with us and lead us as we seek the next rector for our church.

We ask your direction and guidance for those who shall choose our new spiritual leader, that we may receive an upright and faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries.

Grant us perception, faithfulness and joy, so that we may hear your voice in all our deliberations.

Grant us also the desire and the ability to truly hear each other and those who have entrusted us with this process.

Give us courage to respond and act as you lead us.

Come Holy Spirit.

We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



Reminder: Please remember to fill out the survey that was emailed to all St. Matthew's members. There are also hard copies at the church. This is an important part of preparing our profile to search for a new Rector. Thanks for your help!



Ministry

The Card Guild will be held each quarter on the second Saturday of the month. We will begin at 9:00—12:00.

Next Card Guild: Saturday, October 13 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.—Church parish hall

All card materials are supplied. No experience necessary! Please join us for creative fun and great fellowship.



Birthdays, Baptisms, and Confirmations

Remember to pray for each of these persons on their special day

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

October Birthdays

October 8 - Christi Southern

October 10 - Jed Lockaby, Zoe Stonehouse

October 12—Joan Breit

October 13 - Mike Loyd

October 15 - Jordan Loyd

October 16 - Michael Southern

October 18 - Jim Reese

October 26 - Brooke Glover

October 25 - Katie Reese

October 28 - Jake Collier, Austin Penner

October 29 - Chris Simmonds, Donna Mills,

Maggie Snow

October 30 - Twila Lockaby

October Baptisms

October 3 - Melissa Keenan, Jessica Keenan

October 5 - Erik Jantz

October 20 - Zoe Stonehouse

October 21 - Sissy Robb

October 22 - Andrew Craig

October Confirmations

October I - Jill Loyd

October 2 - Jerry Wall

October 19 - Darlene Hall, Dave Simmonds, Chris

Simmonds, Ryan Simmonds, Mary Werner

October 26 - Cathy Woodward

October 2024 Coffee Hour Hosts



October 6 - Mary and Rick Beck

October 13 ~ OPEN

October 20 ~ OPEN

October 27 - Melissa Keenan

If you are interested in hosting coffee hour after our service on Sundays, please sign up on the calendar in the parish hall. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa. Thanks

St. Matthew's Outreach

Food Cart

11 non- perishable food items were delivered to the Salvation Army "Harvest of Love" food bank in September.

Please remember those who don't have enough to eat

New Hope Shelter

Totals for September outreach coming soon

Upcoming Outreach Events

November - Harvest of Love

December - Adopt a Family

Mitten Tree

LET'S FILL UP THE ST. MATTHEW'S FOOD PANTRY/BLESSING BOX

Let's fill up The Pantry and help our neighbors. Some items to include are easy open cans of vegetables, fruit, sauces, etc. Also microwave soups, mac &



cheese and single meals. Please take into account the weather when leaving items. It has been suggested to put items in the pantry on the weekends when city organizations are closed. Also, books are wanted for the top

sp tlight

Mary Anne McCloud

I grew up in Dexter a small town in Southeast Missouri. My great grandfather, Benjamin Moss Cowan, was a Presbyterian minister in Tennessee. We never considered "will we go to church" on Sundays; it was just what we did.

In high school I was lucky to have a group of friends who also attended churches in the community. If I went to church with a friend, Pop, my grandfather, reminded me that I didn't need to go to any of those "off brand" churches.

I attended Memphis University and majored in English. My friends in the dorm would visit each other's churches, and again Pop reminded me about "off brand" churches. One church I visited was the Episcopal Church. I liked the solemn liturgy. My senior year I took a journalism course and found that I loved the field, and I finished with minors in education and journalism. I married my first husband after college, and we moved to Beaufort, South Carolina, where he was stationed in the Marine Corps. My daughter Christi was born on the Naval base there.

I taught high school journalism for one year at Hays High. We moved to rural Hudson, Kansas, and I taught English and journalism at Ellinwood High School. We divorced when Christi was in first grade, and I found a job at Norton Community High School. There was no Presbyterian Church in Norton, so we visited local churches and decided to attend Trinity Episcopal Church. We were confirmed September 25, 1983. I finished my master's degree at Fort Hays State University.

We moved to Newton in 1984 where I taught journalism, and we started attending St. Matthew's right away.

St. Matthew's has played an important role in my life. I met my husband Scott at a potluck dinner one Sunday, we were married at St. Matthew's, and his three children and my daughter were part of the ceremony.

I advised students as they produced 30 yearbooks, 21 literary magazines, and numerous newspapers. In the summers I taught photography and writing at workshops in Kansas and other states. When I retired in 2005, I mentored beginning journalism advisers in Kansas and Missouri. I enjoyed meeting the young advisers and watching them develop their programs.

We are fortunate that our three daughters and 10 grandchildren live near by. Scott's son Ian and his wife Arlene live in Siloam Springs, Arkansas, but we see them as often as we can.

At St. Matthew's I have served on Vestry, been senior warden, taught Sunday school, and I believe I am the first woman to be allowed to flip pancakes at the annual pancake supper.

Mary Anne

Fred Schroeder

Fred was born and raised near Buffalo NY and moved to Ashtabula OH at age 5 months. Fred went to grade school, middle school and high school in Ashtabula. Fred joined the children's choir at St Peter the Episcopal Church at age 8 (and went to choir camp on South Bass island in Lake Erie for 2 summers at Camp WaLiRo (Walter Lincoln Rogers)) and move on to men and boys' choir and then adult choir before he went off to college.

Fred joined the acolytes after Confirmation at age 12 and served St Peter until he went off to college. Fred went to Miami University at Oxford OH (because his parents would not let him join the Navy and see the world) and majored in mathematics (because he enjoyed math). Fred joined with the Episcopalians at

Fred (Continued on page 6)

sp-tlight

Fred (Continued from page 5)

Holy Trinity the Episcopal Church, just a block off campus. Fred would acolyte for the 8am service, sing with the choir at the 10 am service and then join with fellow students for a student-led service at noon across the street from Miami U at Western College for Women where we celebrated communion with potato chips and grape juice. Fred was also a member of the United Campus Ministry House board and served as treasurer his 3rd year at college.

Fred became disillusioned with college/the state of the world and spent the spring of his junior year sitting in the stacks of the library and reading what he wanted to. Fred found a pamphlet in the Campus Ministry house called 'Invest Yourself' and applied to Mennonite Voluntary Service, the Peace Corps and Vista and the Mennonites wrote back promptly and Fred applied (a very eye-opening experience-ask Fred for details) and was accepted and assigned to Hutchinson KS and for the next 3 years communed with the Mennonites and became a paramedic. And also met Fr. Joseph Bayles who was Chaplain at KSIR where one of our Mennonite unit members was his secretary one year and where we visited with prisoners once a month in upper Room Fellowship.

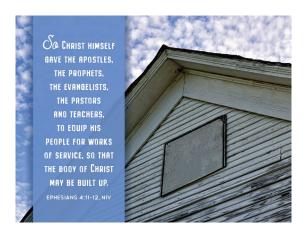
After 3 years in Hutchinson the unit sponsors convinced Fred to finish college in North Newton, Fred applied and was accepted and spent a year at Bethel College full time and then was recruited to and joined Newton Ambulance Department and finished his BS in 2 more years going part time. Fred worked for Newton Ambulance until 1995 and at Harvey County as a 9 -1-1 dispatcher 1982 to 2001.

Fred was given the chance to assist his parents in mov-

ing to assisted living and moved back to Ashtabula in 2001 and became chauffeur and chief cook and bottle-washer and worshipped with St Peter the Episcopal Church, sang in the choir, welcomed roving siblings and their children as they came through to visit the parental units. In 2006 my mother decided to live in an assisted living village and told Fred to go do something useful so Fred contacted the Mennonites again, applied (again, very eye-opening experience- ask Fred for details) and was assigned to Sioux Falls SD and assisted to resettle families with refugee status. Fred worshipped with the Mennonites.

In 2014 Fred decided he was getting tired of trying to furnish apartments for arrivals in 3rd floor with no elevators (and having torn off his 3rd watch band on hand rails in the stairwells) and applied to live at Kidron Bethel Village and was accepted and worships/does stuff at St Matthew the Episcopal Church.

Fred



St. Matthew's Member Spotlight

We hope to be spotlighting Members of St. Matthew's each month here in the Messenger. This is a way to get to know each other just a little better. Every month, we hope to spotlight 2-3 people who will write a few words to tell us a little about themselves. Things like where they were born, their family, how they came to be at St. Matthew's or what keeps them busy every day. Really, just whatever they want to share. It will be fun to hear more about each other.



Altar Team for October:

Twila Lockaby, Scott McCloud, Ruth Cooper, and Maggie Snow

Altar Flowers for October:

October 6 - Diane and Al Joseph
"In loving memory of Dick and
Joanne Oliver"

October 13 - Maggie and Chris Snow "In celebration of our wedding anniversary"

October 20 - Mary Upton
"In thanksgiving for the life and ministry
of Jim Upton"

October 27 - Thea Ferguson "In loving memory of Jay Ferguson"





Please don't forget your pledge through the end of the year. We will also be starting our stewardship campaign for 2025. Information will be available soon,

Discretionary Fund

Also, this is a reminder that on the first Sunday of each month any loose money in the collection plate goes to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. This gives the Rector resources to give someone that asks for help with a utility bill, rent, food or anything else that is presented to Fr. Richard. Please be generous.





The 165th Convention of the Diocese of Kansas is scheduled for October 18-19, 2024 at the Wichita Airport DoubleTree Hotel, 2098 S. Airport Rd, Wichita, KS.

Join us for a special celebration of Break-through-Episcopal Social Services on Thursday night, October 17 at 7pm. Hosted by the Break-through-ESS board, this social hour and dessert will connect us with the ongoing ministry of Breakthrough-ESS and some of the members of its Clubhouse ministry.

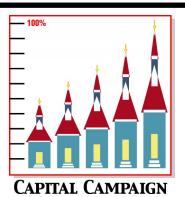


When Jesus asks a Samaritan woman for a drink, at which site related to the ancient Israelites is he resting?

- A. the edge of the Jordan River
- B. beside the Red Sea
- C. Jacob's well
- D. the Pool of Bethsaida



Answer: C (See John 4:6.)



The St. Matthew's Capital Campaign has begun. In October you will receive a pledge card in the mail. They will also be available at the back of the Nave.

St. Matthew's Prayer Chain



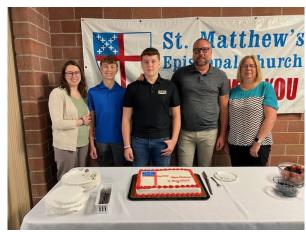
If you have a request for prayers for yourself or others, contact Mary Upton at **316-841-1736**. The information you share will be passed on to those on the prayer chain, The members of the chain will add your request to their prayers. The information you give me is confidential and will not be shared with others outside the prayer chain without your permission.





We were blessed with another baptism. As a Garner was welcomed into the family of God at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, on Sunday, August 11, 2024. As a is the Son of John and Melissa Garner and Jennifer Garner. Congratulations, Asa! We are glad you are here at St. Matthew's.





St. Francis of Assisi is one of the most beloved figures in the history of Christianity. One day in 1206 he knelt and prayed before the crucifix in the church of San Damiano, Italy. Here is one translation of the words he prayed that day.

Most High, glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart; Give me right faith, sure hope and perfect charity. Fill me with understanding and knowledge, that I may fulfill your command.



Blessing of the Animals

Please join us on

Saturday, October 5, 2024 2:00-4:00 pm

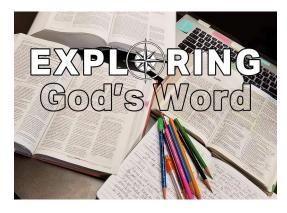
St. Matthew's Church

At the Church Gazebo 2001 Windsor Drive Newton, Kansas

Help us celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi With a Blessing of the Animals

All are welcome!

Please bring your pets on a leash or in a carrier



Join us every Sunday morning at 9:00 am as Jeremy Kitto continues to lead us in study as we focus on the second lesson assigned for the day in the Revised Common Lectionary in the Book of Common Prayer.

We will finish the book of James, journey through the book of Hebrews and whet our appetite with the book of Revelations. We will conclude this study the week before Advent. Jeremy will be using the New Revised Standard Version Edition. Feel free to use and bring your desired bible translation to class.

Thank you, Fr. Richard!

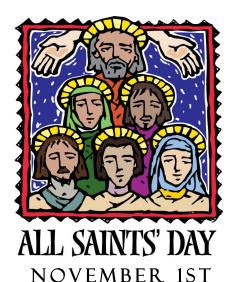
October is Pastor Appreciation Month, an observance that some clergy don't publicize. It's an ideal time to thank pastors for their dedication to God's people and the ministry. A written note, a card or even a free meal is a nice gesture of appreciation. But if you were to ask pastors what they'd like or what they need, most would probably reply, "Pray for me."

That's what the apostle Paul requested throughout his letters. To the church at Rome, he urged, "Join me in earnest prayer to God on my behalf, that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my ministry to Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company" (Romans 15:30-32, NRSV). As you appreciate and encourage your pastors, remember them in your prayers. Then let them know you're doing so!

"The fullness of joy is to behold God in all." —Julian of Norwich A priest told the children of his parish they could come trick-or-treating at the rectory, but only if they dressed up as a saint. So a group arrived on the eve of All Saints' Day: one dressed as St. Anthony, one as St. Joseph, another in a St. Clare costume — and then a child dressed as a dog.

"My boy," exclaimed the priest, "you were supposed to come as a saint."

"I did!" replied the child. "I'm St. Bernard."





















Here is the worship schedule for October. Please let the office know if you would like to sign up to read, usher and/or count. We can always use more hands! *If you are unable to serve when you are scheduled, please find a substitute.* Thanks for your service!

	October 6	October 13	October 20	October 27
Season	20th Sunday after Pentecost	21st Sunday after Pentecost PEF	22nd Sunday after Pentecost Vestry Meeting	23rd Sunday after Pentecost
Service	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Communion in the absence of a Priest (ComAP)	Holy Eucharist
Leaders	Fr. Richard Osborne	Fr. Richard Osborne	Deacon Barbara Gibson Maggie Snow	Fr. Richard Osborne
Lector— Lessons	Elizabeth Hill	Fred Schroeder	Jeremy Kitto	Fred Schroeder
Lector— Psalm	Bonnie Jones	Kayla Whiteside	Mary Upton	Darlene Hall
Counters (2)	Twila Lockaby	Fred Schroeder	Margie Knupp	David Simmonds
	Margie Knupp	Mary Upton	Fred Schroeder	Twila Lockaby
Ushers (2)	Elizabeth Hill	Melissa Keenan	Mary Upton	Kayla Whiteside
	Rick Glover	Mary Werner	Bonnie Jones	George Whiteside
Hosts	Mary and Rick Beck	Open	Open	Melissa Keenan
Altar Flowers	Diane and Al Joseph "In loving memory of Dick and Joanne Oliver"	Maggie and Chris Snow "In celebration of our wedding anniversary"	Mary Upton "In thanksgiving for the life and ministry of Jim Upton"	Thea Ferguson "In loving memory of Jay Ferguson"
LEM& Acolyte	Ruth Cooper Asa Garner and Micah Garner	Karen Wall Ruth Cooper	Maggie Snow Elizabeth Hill	Fred Schroeder Asa Garner and Micah Garner
Organist	Kelli Glann	Chris Teichler	Chris Teichler	Kelli Glann

Evening Prayer: every Wednesday night at 6:00 pm in the St. Matthew's Covey Chapel