



**Reaching out
Reaching within
Proclaiming God's Love**

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

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Newton, Kansas 67114
Church: 316-283-3310
www.stmatthewsnewton.org
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The Messenger



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Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe's Christmas Message

Dear People of God in The Episcopal Church:

Among the Christmas Gospels, Luke is surely the crowd pleaser. Nearly our entire visual vocabulary of Christmas—the manger, the shepherds, the angels—comes from the second chapter of Luke. Thanks to Luke, we all know the answer to the trivia question, “Who was Quirinius?”

But if you go to church on Christmas morning, or if your congregation's custom is to read a last Gospel on Christmas Eve, you will hear the beginning of the Gospel of John, which includes other words we all know: “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...” Christmas does not truly begin for me until I hear those words.

While Luke paints us a picture of a noisy and chaotic birth, in John we encounter the powerfully quiet mystery of the Incarnation. John brings us the astonishing truth that God lived among us as a person, “full of grace and truth,” ready to share the pain and sorrow of being human.

Especially this year, our hurting and divided world is desperate for the Incarnation. We live, as have many generations before us, in a time of fear, division, and instability. The Enemy has turned us against one another, sometimes in our own families and communities. The land of Jesus' birth is torn apart by violence and tremendous suffering, and across the globe, we have hardened our hearts against the strangers among us. All too often, we hear voices that claim the mantle of Christianity calling most loudly for exclusion and conquest.

As Episcopalians, we must resist the urge to retreat from this broken world. Instead, we have been called to model our life together on a different vision of God's kingdom. Contrary to the world's expectations, we have bound ourselves together in a global community,

following the Risen Christ together despite our differences. We know that death, suffering, and enmity are not the last word, and we proclaim it every time we gather at God's table.

At Christmas, we can make our unity a witness to the world. Every day, in congregations and communities across our church, you are feeding the hungry, binding up the brokenhearted, caring for the vulnerable, and transforming lives through the power of the gospel. We can also proclaim God's presence by giving to our church's historic ministries that are working to alleviate suffering at home and abroad:

- Episcopal Migration Ministries, which is working to resettle refugees and create welcoming communities for migrants in the face of fear.
- American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, which brings hope and healing to vulnerable families across the Holy Land.
- Episcopal Relief & Development, which advances lasting change in communities affected by injustice, poverty, disaster, and climate change.

Most of all, we can commit our lives to creating a world that is more just and more loving, in which the grace and truth that came down to us at Christmas is kindled all year long. Especially this year, as we begin our ministry together, I am grateful to be working toward this vision with you.

May God bless you and all those you love this Christmas and always.

The Rt. Rev. Sean W. Rowe
Presiding Bishop



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

- * St. Matthew's Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 19, 2025. The Vestry will meet following the meeting.
- * There will be a pot luck luncheon before the Annual Meeting. Please bring a dish to share
- * The St. Matthew's Epiphany party will be Saturday, January 11, 2:00-4:00. Bring a snack to share and a wrapped White Elephant gift.

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



Bible Quiz

According to Matthew, who was present at Jesus' baptism? (Choose as many as apply.)

- A. John the Baptist
- B. The Spirit of God
- C. Jesus' mother, Mary
- D. His first disciples



Answer: A and B (See Matthew 3:13-17.)



Birthdays, Baptisms, and
Confirmations

Birthdays

- January 3— Patrick Craig, Chuck Cooper
- January 5— Ginger King
- January 6— Nyla Friesen
- January 7— Beth Penner
- January 10— Mitch Young, Michael Southern, Jr.
- January 16— Caleb Woodward
- January 17— George Graybill
- January 20— Joy Robb
- January 21— Mary Werner
- January 22— Rick Glover
- January 26— Steve Stonehouse
- January 31— Mollie (Collier) Partridge

Baptisms

- January 2— Jake Partridge
- January 9— Juliana Loyd
- January 10— Jordan Loyd
- January 30 - Joe Robb



**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 shelf.

*January 2025
Coffee Hour
Hosts*



- January 5 -
- January 12 - Bishop's visit
- January 19 - Annual Meeting/potluck
- January 26 - Melissa Keenan

New Year, new calendar! The opportunities to host coffee hour are wide open.

Sign up today!

St. Matthew's Outreach

Food Cart

13 non perishable food items were delivered to the Salvation "Harvest of Love" food bank in December. Thanks for remembering those who don't have enough to eat.

Outreach Card Ministry

Christmas cards were mailed to our students, soldiers, former members, and special friends. Thanks to everyone who signed the cards.

Adopt a Family

Our family of 3, mom, son, and daughter were so excited to receive their gifts. Thanks to everyone for taking the time to pick a gift tag or a few, and taking the time to purchase and wrap....and getting them to the church in time!! It is always so fun to deliver these gifts and getting a chance to meet these families.

Shut Ins and soldiers

Sadly, we have lost Jerry Collier, and our shut in board has no living people to grace it with information or pictures. If you have a loved one or there is a member no longer coming to church, please let us know, so we can put them on our board in the Parish hall. Thanks.

**Upcoming Outreach
Superbowl of Caring**

This event happens in February on superbowl Sunday which is on February 9th. Please bring cans of soup which will be donated to the Salvation Army "Harvest of Love" food bank.



member spotlight

The Teichler Family—

Robert Christopher Teichler (Chris) was born May 31, 1977 in Elmhurst, IL, a suburb of Chicago. His parents put him in piano lessons in kindergarten, and he started playing trumpet in 5th grade. It was in high school that he decided to study music composition, and he enrolled at the Wheaton College Conservatory of Music (Wheaton, IL).

Sarah Beth Ortiz was born in Glendale, Arizona, on June 24, 1977, and moved to the beautiful mountains of Flagstaff, AZ, when she was 10 years old, where her dad worked for the water treatment plant (voted best water in Arizona!). She is the classic middle child of three sisters, always the peacemaker and trained to go with the flow. She also attended the Wheaton College Conservatory of Music, where one of the first friends she met was Chris Teichler, and they were "just friends" for two years before they started dating. They both graduated with their Bachelor of Music degrees in 1999, Sarah in Flute Performance and Chris in Music Composition, and were married the following week. Chris composed Sarah's wedding processional and many of their friends stayed in town after graduation to play in their wedding orchestra. Later, Chris earned a Master of Music and Doctor of Music in Music Composition from Northwestern University (Evanston, IL). Sarah earned a Master of Music from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (Fort Worth, TX).

Despite their 5-year (Chris) and 3-year (Sarah) plans, they were expecting within 6 months, and their family began to grow. Robert Daniel (age 24), plays the trombone and loves jazz, and recently married Irene (from

Atlanta, GA) at St. Matthew's. If you order your groceries for pickup at North Dillon's, he will likely be the one to help you!

Joshua Mark (age 22), plays the French horn, and works at Union State Bank in downtown Newton.

Jenna Renee (age 19) is a sophomore at Wichita State University, studying vocal music education. She sings beautifully, plays the harp, and would like to be a high school choir director.

Benjamin Christopher (age 17) is a senior at Newton High School. (You are all invited to his graduation party in May...stay tuned for details!) He plays the tuba in marching and concert band, and double bass and electric bass in jazz band. He made 1st chair tuba in the All-District band last semester! He plans to attend Tabor College next year and major in Computer Science.

Chris was Associate Professor of Music Theory and Composition at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary from 2012-2019. He is now enjoying being Associate Professor of Music and Director of Instrumental Music at Tabor College (Hillsboro, KS).

Sarah teaches music in a wide variety of capacities, including general music, private lessons, and Kindermusik, and plays flute and piccolo with the Salina Symphony (a lifelong dream-come-true).

With the move to Kansas, Chris and Sarah realized that they needed a change when it came to where they worshiped. They ended up deciding to join St. Matthew's Episcopal Church (Newton, KS), and although it is very different from what they were used to, they love the liturgy and have been very happy to be part of this caring and kind congregation.



ALTAR flowers



Please join
Deacon Barbara Gibson
and company
for Evening Prayer
every Wednesday
at 6:00 pm in the
St. Matthew's Covey Chapel.
Or join us on Facebook.
Everyone is welcome.
Come take
a few minutes to end your
day with prayer.

Altar Team for January:

Twila Lockaby, Scott McCloud, Ruth Cooper
and Maggie Snow

Altar Flowers for December:

January 5

Christmas Poinsettias

January 12

Dr. Charles and Nancy Craig
"For Blessings Received"

January 19

Ruth Cooper

"For those who have no one to pray for them"

January 26

Mary Werner

"For Blessings Received"

If anyone would like to give flowers, change
dates, or be removed from list please contact

Twila 316-215-1164 or
Margie Knupp 316-284-1790

FYI: Margie will be in charge of Altar starting in
2025! Thanks for all of your support. Twila

Discretionary Fund

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 util-
ity bill, rent, food or anything else that is presented to
Fr. Richard. Please be generous.

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 infor-
mation you give me is confidential and will not be
shared with others outside the prayer chain with-
out your permission.



St Matthew's
Annual Parish Meeting
Sunday, January 19, 2025

11:30 AM

Almighty and ever living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

All committee chairs are asked to submit their Annual Reports to office.stmatthewsnewton@gmail.com or leave with Charlie in the church office as soon as possible. It is requested that all reports be submitted by January 5, 2025.

One agenda item is election of new Vestry members and convocation delegates. The nominating committee will be meeting to name a slate of nominees for Vestry and a convocation delegate. Please prayerfully consider serving if asked by the nominating committee.

Being a Vestry member is an important leadership position. Working with the priest, the Vestry is responsible for the financial and spiritual health of the church community.

Convocation delegates and alternate attend three or four meetings per year of the SW Convocation. The delegates attend the annual Diocesan Convention in October, which will be in Olathe in 2025. The alternate is encouraged to attend meetings of the SW Convocation to learn about the responsibilities of the delegates and attend the convention if the elected delegate cannot attend.

At the beginning of the new year the Vestry will be organizing a Search Committee to begin the search for a new Rector at St. Matthew's. Please consider serving on this important committee.

Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting as we look at what was accomplished in 2024 and as we plan ahead for 2025.

All members of St. Matthew's are encouraged to attend this important meeting of our church. Each committee will have their report for 2024, the budget will be discussed, and plans for the new year will be talked about and voted on!

Of course we will also be planning a Potluck Lunch along with the Annual Meeting!

Please bring a dish to share.

**ANNUAL
MEETING**

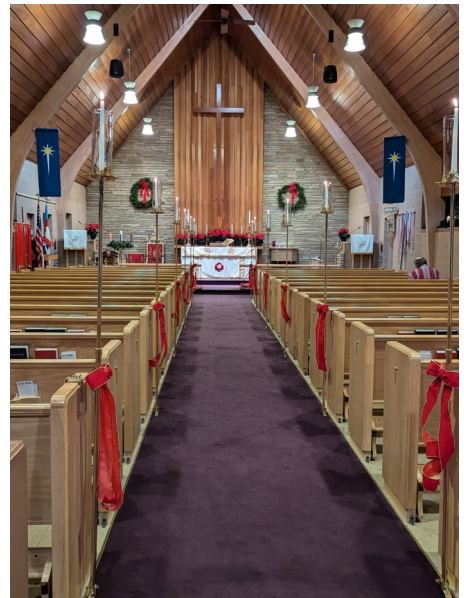


Christmas at St. Matthew's

Here are just a few pictures from Advent and Christmas. Thanks to everyone that helped at the services, helped decorate the church and special thanks to Jerry Wall and the Tiechler Family for the music on Christmas Eve.



Check out the Member Spotlight on page 4!



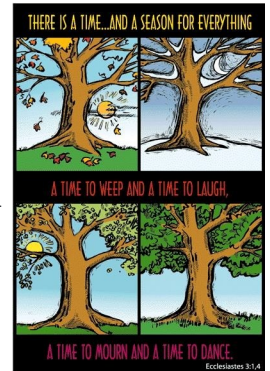


In liturgical churches, more than half of the church-year calendar is labeled as Ordinary Time. Ordinary time includes the Monday after the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord through the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, and the Monday after Pentecost through the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent. Although that merely means the weeks are designated by ordinal numbers (*First* Sunday after the Epiphany, etc.), people may assume that “ordinary” means not special, or not a church holiday.

Ordinary gets a bad rap, but it represents the bulk of daily life. Not all days contain mountaintop experiences that warrant Facebook posts. Yet “simple, consistent, sometimes boring faithfulness” can lead to out-of-the-ordinary results, according to blogger Karl Vaters. “When you’re following God’s will for your life and you string a bunch of ordinary but necessary actions together, extraordinary things can happen,” he writes at ChristianityToday.com.

Likewise, although Christians may strive to be radical, out-of-the-ordinary followers of Jesus, everyday discipleship leaves a powerful legacy. In *The Ordinary Christian Life*, pastor Michael Horton extols the value of “the regular preaching of Christ from all of the Scriptures, baptism, the Supper, the prayers of confession and praise, and all of the other aspects of ordinary Christian fellowship.” He says the result of participating in “the ordinary life of the covenant community” is quite extraordinary: “steady maturation in Christ.”

—adapted from *The Wired Word*

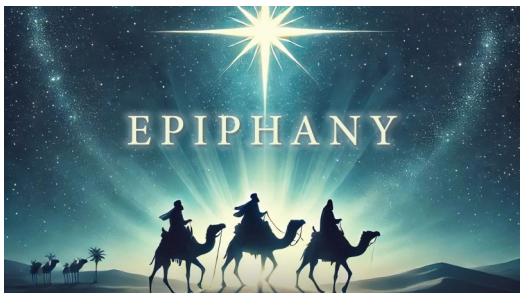


“Chalking the Door” is a way of marking our homes or churches with sacred symbols and asking God’s blessing upon those who live, work, or visit throughout the coming year. We mark our front or main entrance doors with chalk as a sign that we are inviting God’s presence into the places, relationships, and situations that we enter into.

This practice resonates with God’s instructions to the people of Israel in Deuteronomy 6. In verses 4 – 9, Moses says, “*Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie*

down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” Chalking the door is a tangible way to honor God in our lives. A common way of chalking the door is to write these symbols along the doorframe (updating the last two digits with each new year): **20 + C + M + B + 25**

The first and last numbers comprise the four digits of the current year (2024, 2025, etc.). The letters “C,” “M,” and “B” come from the three traditional names for the unnamed Magi in Matthew 2: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar (also spelled “Balthazar”). Some also suggest that the letters can represent “Christus Mansionem Benedicat,” which means “May Christ bless this dwelling!” A cross is placed between each set of numbers and letters.



January 6 marks the day of Epiphany, when the wise men (who were Gentiles) came to worship Jesus and bring him gifts. During the church-year season of Epiphany, we remember that God’s Son is the Light of the whole world.

To celebrate Epiphany, we will be having our annual St. Matthew’s Epiphany Party on Saturday, January 11, 2:00—4:00 pm. Please join us for a “white elephant” gift exchange, snacks and Chalking of the Door. Plan to bring a “white elephant” wrapped gift and join in on the fun. And bring your favorite snack to share. We will be “chalking the door” to bless the church for another year.



The Annual Visit to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church by The Rt. Rev. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, Bishop of Kansas, will be on Sunday, **January 12th.*** She will be here to officiate at the Holy Eucharist. She will also be able to baptize and/or confirm anyone that is ready. Please see Fr. Richard if you wish to be baptized, confirmed, or recieved.



The bishop would like to meet briefly with any young people between the ages of 14-30. She will also be meeting with the Vestry/Search Committee members.

*updated date due to weather cancellation

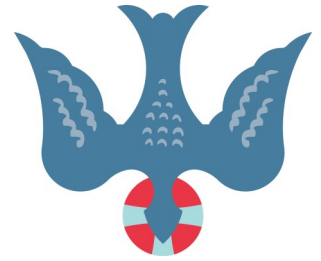
January 12
First Sunday
after the
Epiphany
The Baptism of
our Lord

Almighty God,
you anointed Jesus at his baptism
with the Holy Spirit,
and revealed him as your beloved Son;
grant that we who are baptised into his name
may give up our lives to your service,
and be found worthy of our calling;

through Jesus Christ our Lord
who is alive with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever.
Amen.

NZPB The Baptism of the Lord p. 561

A dove is a prominent symbol of the Holy Spirit. When the dove is shown flying downward, it reminds us of Jesus' baptism, when, the gospel writers tell us, the Spirit descended on him in the form of a dove. Doves also symbolize baptism in general, because many Christian denominations teach that the Holy Spirit and its gifts are bestowed at baptism. Sometimes a dove is depicted with a three-ray nimbus around its head, indicating that it is a member of the Trinity. Doves are also commonly used as a sign of peace.



Bible scholar William Barclay notes that John the Baptist was "startled and unwilling" when Jesus asked to be baptized. The evangelist thought *he* needed what *Jesus* could give, not the reverse!

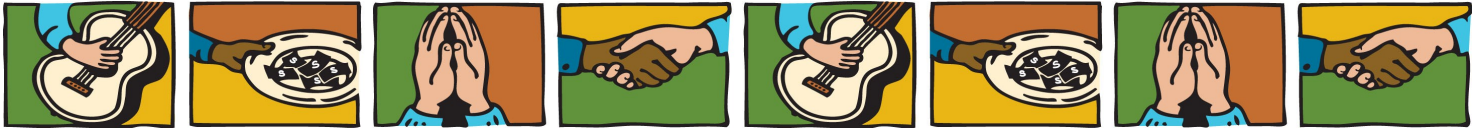
We are pros at taking our needs to God — indeed he invites this: "Call on me in the day of trouble" (Psalm 50:15). But God also comes to *us* with needs: "Mortal, I am sending you" (Ezekiel 2:3, NRSV); "Go ... make disciples" (Matthew 28:19); "Carry each other's burdens" (Galatians 6:2, NIV).

Apparently, God prefers partnership to acting solo. From the beginning, God has invited people to name the animals, tend the garden, welcome strangers, build the tabernacle, proclaim his word, ensure justice and mercy, share his love.

What does God need from you, as Jesus needed baptism from John? Salvation is God's alone to accomplish, but then he calls us to share work with him, for the world's sake. So we echo Jesus: "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this" (Matthew 3:15, NIV).

—Heidi Mann





Here is the worship schedule for January. 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!

	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26
Season	2nd Sunday after Christmas	1st Sunday after Epiphany	2nd Sunday after Epiphany	3rd Sunday after Epiphany
Service	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist
Leader	Fr. Richard Osborne	The Rt. Rev. Cathleen Bascom	Fr. Richard Osborne	Fr. Richard Osborne
Lector—Lessons	Jeremy Kitto	Mary Upton	Jeremy Kitto	Elizabeth Hill
Lector—Psalm	Elizabeth Hill	Rick Glover	Darlene Hall	Kayla Whiteside
Counters (2)	Twila Lockaby	Fred Schroeder	Mary Upton	Margie Knupp
	Margie Knupp	Margie Knupp	Fred Schroeder	Mary Upton
Ushers (2)	Elizabeth Hill	Kayla Whiteside	Rick Glover	Mary Werner
	Mary Upton	George Whiteside	Mary Upton	Melissa Keenan
Hosts		Bishop's Visit Confirmations	Annual Meeting Potluck	Melissa Keenan
Altar Flowers	Christmas Poinsettias	Dr. Charles and Nancy Craig "For Blessings Received"	Ruth Cooper "For those who have no one to pray for them"	Mary Werner "For Blessings Received"
LEM&Acolyte	Ruth Cooper Asa Garner and Micah Garner	Karen Wall Elizabeth Hill	Maggie Snow Asa Garner and Micah Garner	Fred Schroeder
Organist	Chris Teichler	Chris Teichler	Chris Teichler	Kelli Glann

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