

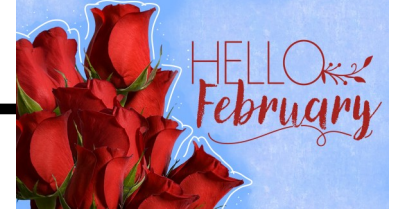


**Reaching out
Reaching within
Proclaiming God's Love**

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



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From the Interim Pastor—Fr. Richard Osborne

When You Can't Pray

It's often when I most need to pray that I'm least able. Sometimes I'm too crushed and dispirited; at other times, I'm too confused and panic-stricken. I find it impossible to marshal my thoughts or command the right words. A flood of feeling drowns all coherence, and I can't talk with God in an orderly way.

Does this sound familiar to you? Let me share something with you that's worked for me at times like these.

When my inner self is in chaos and I'm simply unable to pray, no matter how much I want or need to, I find comfort in recalling and speaking the many biblical names of God. I say them slowly, one at a time, allowing myself to experience him, asking myself what each name means to me. I try to settle back with each name, sinking my whole weight into it and breathing deeply in faith. I don't make any attempt to explain anything to myself or to God. Rather, I let him speak to me through his names.

God. Maker. Ruler. Eternal One. Father. Lover of the World.

Jesus. Lord. Christ. Savior. Redeemer. Messiah. Emmanuel.

Son of God. Son of Man. Prince of Peace. Good Shepherd.

Bread of life. Light of the World. Living Water. The Way. The Truth.

The Life. Lord of Lords. King of Kings. God's "Yes." Master.

Teacher. Friend. Holy Spirit. Comforter. Spirit of truth.

Spirit of Christ. Creator Spirit. Life-giving Spirit.

These are only some of God's names, and each one is a gift of himself to me. In them, I meet him, and he makes himself known.

Then I mingle the names of people I love with these names of God. I mentioned those who are in special need, especially those on our Prayer List, naming them before God, simply bringing them to him and leaving them there. I rest in the understanding that God doesn't need my opinion about any of them. He doesn't even need me to tell him why I'm saying their names. I know that he knows why.

God asks only that I call upon him. His answer awaits my call.

AND ^{now} these
THREE remain:
FAITH, HOPE & LOVE.
But the greatest of
these is LOVE.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13, NIV



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 Vestry meeting will be Sunday, February 16 after church.
- * Starting in February, Communion in the Absence of a Priest will be the 1st Sunday of each month.

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

The short Old Testament book of Lamentations is a set of communal laments (sorrowful songs) about the destruction in 587 B.C. of which city, by which people?

- A. Babylon; the Assyrians
- B. Jerusalem; the Babylonians
- C. Rome; the Greeks
- D. Caesarea Philippi; the Romans



Answer: B (See Bible commentaries.)



Birthdays, Baptisms, and
Confirmations

February Birthdays

- February 2—Jeremy Kitto
- February 7 - Kenny Wall
- February 8 - Aurora Farmer
- February 9 - Darla Stonehouse
- February 11 – Rick Beck
- February 13 – Dave Simmonds
- February 14 - Kala Whiteside
- February 15 - Stan Scudder
- February 17 - Jordan Orr
- February 19 - Conner Ekerberg
- February 19 - Jeff Upton
- February 24 - Andrew Craig

February Baptisms

- February 4 – Stan Scudder
- February 9 – Rick Beck
- February 19 – London Orr-Thompson
- February 21 - Jennifer Beck
- February 28 - Steve Stonehouse

February Confirmations

- February 7 – Twila Lockaby, Stan Scudder
- February 18 – Clay Hedrick

If you know of other birthday, confirmation, or baptism dates that are not listed, please contact the office so they can be included. Thank you.

If you donated to the Capital Campaign in 2024 (not just made a pledge, but gave a check), we sent out tax information forms last week.

There was a problem and the ink smeared on the mailing labels so that about half of them have been returned to sender. We re-typed envelopes by hand and sent those out. If you have not received a tax information statement from Capital Campaign for your 2024 donation, please contact Dave Simmonds (simmonds@cox.net) and I will re-send a form to you.

February 2025
Coffee Hour
Hosts



- February 2—Open
- February 9—Melissa Keenan
- February 16—Chris and Sarah Teichler
- February 23—Open

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

St. Matthew's Outreach

Food Cart

7 non-perishable food items were delivered to the Salvation Army "Harvest of Love" food bank in January. Please remember those who don't have enough to eat.

Super Bowl of Caring

Mark your calendars!!! 1, 2, 3, hike!!
Sunday, February 9th is Super Bowl of Caring!!
Please bring 2 cans of soup....1 for each hand!
We'll open the door for you.
There will be a display in the front hall.
All the soup that will be brought in each hand of all of us, will be donated to the Salvation Army "Harvest of Love" food bank here in Newton.

TOUCH DOWN!!!! YAY!

Soldiers & Shut Ins

We have a new person on our shut in board!
Tom Robinson is a member of St. Matthew's.
He is at Kansas Christian Home located in Newton.
He is Kala Whiteside's dad, and George's father-in-law. You can find Tom in room #315B in the main building.



Study Group

Jeremy Kitto will be leading a class/discussion on the Apostles' Creed from February 9th to March 2nd. This will be a short study that will lead us into Lent. Join us as we look at this ancient creed. The Apostles' Creed is the basis for the baptismal covenant in the BCP (p. 304), and it is used in the Daily Offices. It may be used at the Celebration Blessing of a Marriage, at the Burial of the Dead, and at the Consecration of a Church. This creed is used every week at Evening Prayer.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen. (BCP, p. 96)

"Some of us have winter souls. We go on the inward journey by an ancient instinct, seeking solitude when light and dark dance more closely than at any other time. There are secrets in the gray clouds and revelations in the cold wind. Hidden deep beneath the snow are memories, reminders of the long path that has brought us this far. Some of us have winter souls, drawn to deeper thoughts, sitting in a chair by the window, looking out at infinity above the bony-fingered trees."

The Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston



Dr. Rick Glover, our Senior Warden, has provided a devotional booklet to guide our reflection during this holy season.

From **March 9 through April 6, 2025 we will meet at 9:00 am each Sunday** to discuss this devotional.

Living Well Through Lent 2025: Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit in Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind is a resource from Living Compass.

As a time of introspection and self-reflection, Lent is a time to consider the core of what it means to live a Christian life amid great change and uncertainty. As we cultivate the fruit of the Spirit over the forty days, we have a powerful opportunity to make our faith the central "compass" that guides that life, helping us to receive and share God's transformative love.

The themes begin with faithfulness for the first week in Lent, progress through peace, joy, generosity, and patience, culminating in love during Holy Week. **To participate, you may pick up a copy of the devotional booklet at the back of the church.**

Purchase as an e-book from Amazon for \$0.99 (U.S.).

Download this publication as a free PDF file.

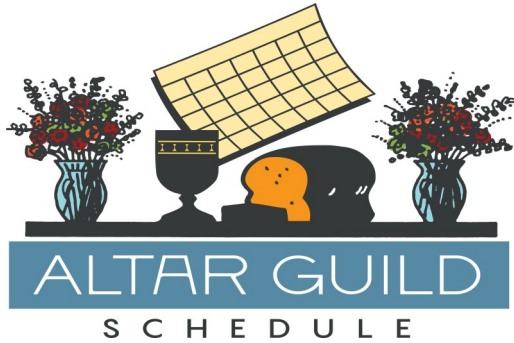
Sign up to receive a daily email of each reflection.

Listen to the Living Compass podcast on a website or by searching for "Living Compass" on any podcast app.

Living Well Through Lent 2025



Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit in Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind



ALTAR GUILD
SCHEDULE

Altar Team for February:

Karen Wall, Melissa Keenan, Ginger King,
Kala Whiteside and George Whiteside

Altar Flowers for February:

February 2

Steve and Ginger King

"In Loving Memory of Lee and Ed"

February 9

Vincent Collier

"In loving memory of Chuck and Jerry Collier"

February 16

Fred Schroeder

February 23

Steve and Darla Stonehouse

"For Blessings Received"

If you have any questions regarding Altar Guild or
Altar flowers please contact Margie Knupp at
316-284-1790

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.



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.

**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.



**Call to Action
from the
Episcopal
Church Office
of Government
Relations**

On January 21, the Rt. Rev Mariann Edgar Budde, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, delivered a sermon (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwwaEuDeqM8>) at Washington National Cathedral. She spoke powerfully about unity and the foundation not only of our faith, but also of our nation.

As the Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations continues its work in this radically changed political environment, we have been asked to read statements of our values and policies below. Affirming Our Values We urge our leaders to remember in their decision-making the tenets that are the pillars of our faith: love, dignity, and compassion. We ask you to join us in advocating on these same points to your elected officials. In this spirit, below we outline some domestic U.S. policies that we support while opposing policies that seek to discriminate, marginalize, and harm members of our communities.

- We affirm the rights and freedoms of transgender and gender non-conforming people, and we oppose efforts aimed at restricting their rights or limiting access to care. In 2022, General Convention expressed support for policies at all levels of government that ensure access to gender-affirming health care. Prior to this, in 2018, our office was directed by General Convention to support

policies that protect transgender and non-binary individuals from discrimination. In a letter offering mourning and condolences for a murdered transgender teen, our Presiding Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Rowe, stated, "LGBTQIA+ people are beloved children of God who should be treated with dignity and respect." We ask elected officials to oppose such restrictions on human rights. We call for Congress to pass the Equality Act to protect the rights of all.

- We urge action to ensure the safety and security of all people in protecting our communities against gun violence. We oppose legislation like the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act, which would seek to allow concealed carry across state borders. States with weakened concealed carry laws have seen a fifteen percent increase in violent crime, and in twenty-seven states, residents are generally able to purchase and carry firearms without a background check or safety training. Creating reciprocity for concealed carry could mean that individuals who are not legally allowed to own a weapon in one state can carry a weapon from another state with less stringent concealed carry laws. General Convention has passed many resolutions urging us to prioritize life and safety over firearms, you can find an exhaustive list here. We call on Congress to take further action to reduce gun violence.
- We call for an expansion of voter registration, protection of voter eligibility, and making voting processes more accessible to bolster our democracy. We oppose efforts that

(Continued on page 7)



(Continued from page 6)

undermine democratic processes, including legislation that limits access to the polls, like the SAVE Act, which would implement overly restrictive voter ID requirements, disenfranchising millions of eligible voters. We call on Congress to repair the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by finally passing the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

- We urge action to support the economically vulnerable through a robust social safety net program. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid represent two of the most important social safety net programs, covering around forty million and seventy-two million people, respectively. Benefits for these programs are already modest, and cuts will mean many people are forced to choose between necessities like food, shelter, and healthcare. We oppose cuts to these programs generally and adding additional steps to access such as work requirements. For Medicaid, not only do most recipients already work, but in states that have tried implementing work requirements, there has been mass unenrollment due to many enrollees being unable to navigate, the often extensive, red tape. For SNAP this also rings true, as most recipients of working age are employed. We believe that nutrition and healthcare are basic human rights and as such we oppose cuts that will limit benefits and services covered, the number of people who can be enrolled, and create additional barriers to access.

Our faith tradition proclaims that 'God is love.' With this biblical decree in mind, we call on

Congress, the Trump Administration, career and elected officials, and each person in our communities to prioritize the dignity of all people, defend the rights of the vulnerable and marginalized, and work toward policies that reduce harm and hardship.

Statement on Creation Care

We oppose efforts to roll back significant investments in environmental regulation, combatting climate change, and international agreements and processes especially the plan to withdraw the United States from the United Nations climate change treaty, known as the Paris Agreement.

Advocate for Refugees – We support resumption of the U.S. Admissions Program (USRAP). The Executive orders suspending the program threatens thousands of vulnerable refugees, undermines a decades-long successful program, and harms the communities that are prepared to welcome new members. As Episcopalians, we must act to protect those seeking safety. Contact your representatives today to voice your support for this successful, bipartisan program.

***Speak out for those
who cannot speak, for
the rights of all the
destitute. Speak out,
judge righteously,
defend the rights of
the poor and needy.***





Parish Council Meeting

There will be a Parish Council Meeting on Saturday, February 15 at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall. Anyone involved on a committee or in a ministry is encouraged to attend. We will be planning the calendar for March, April and May. This will include Lent and Easter.

Everyone is welcome. Your thoughts and ideas are appreciated on what you think we can do to enrich our church services, continue with our outreach, serve our members and enhance our church.

Please join us if you can.

**85th Annual
Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper**



**Tuesday, March 4
5 to 8 pm**

**St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
2001 Windsor Drive
Newton**

Pancakes, Ham, Applesauce & Beverage

**\$7 Adults
Children 10 and under \$5**



Random Acts of Kindness Day, observed each year on February 17, is a reminder of the power of altruism. Followers of Jesus express kindness selflessly, out of love for God and our neighbors. Yet in return, we reap emotional — and even physical — benefits.

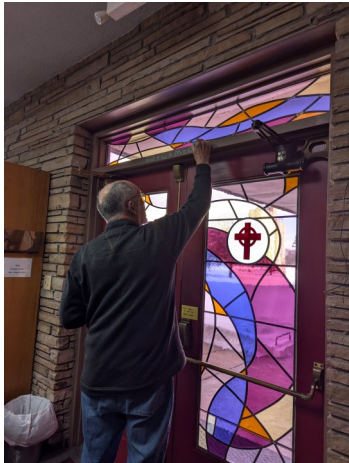
Researchers have identified a "helper's high" that can ease anxiety and depression. Spontaneous or planned acts of "pro-social spending" have been shown to reduce blood pressure, improve heart health, reduce pain and even extend longevity.

For maximum impact, experts recommend getting creative with random acts of kindness and mixing them up. But no matter how you spread kindness, you're bound to experience blessings in return!

**Practice Random Kindness &
Senseless Acts of Beauty**



Looking back on January 2025 at St. Matthew's



Chalking the Door—Blessing our Church for 2025

Fun times at the Epiphany party



Annual meeting
Caption this photo!



Newly confirmed and newly received! A wonderful day!

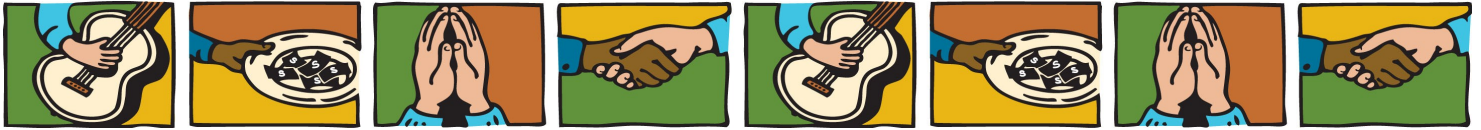


Let there be cake!



Bishop Bascom's visit to St. Matthew's





Here is the worship schedule for February. 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!

	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23
Season	4th Sunday after Epiphany	5th Sunday after Epiphany	6th Sunday after Epiphany	7th Sunday after Epiphany
Service	ComAP Communion in the absence of a Priest	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist
Leader	Deacon Barbara Gibson	Fr. Richard Osborne	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	David Simmonds	Fred Schroeder	David Simmonds
Ushers (2)	Elizabeth Hill	Kayla Whiteside	Rick Glover	Mary Werner
	Mary Upton	George Whiteside	Mary Upton	Elizabeth Hill
Hosts	Open	Melissa Keenan	Chris and Sarah Teichler	Open
Altar Flowers	Steve and Ginger King “In Loving Memory of Lee and Ed”	Vincent Collier “In loving memory of Chuck and Jerry Collier”	Fred Schroeder	Steve and Darla Stonehouse “For Blessings Received”
LEM&Acolyte	Maggie Snow Ruth Cooper	Karen Wall Asa Garner and Micah Garner	Elizabeth Hill Asa Garner and Micah Garner	Fred Schroeder
Organist Flutist	Chris Teichler Sarah Teichler	Chris Teichler Sarah Teichler	Chris Teichler Sarah Teichler	Kelli Glann Sarah Teichler

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