



# The Widow's Mite

## St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

### Monthly Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2023

Dear Ones of St. Matthew's,

Fall is in the air with our Pig Roast, Chili Cookoff, Changing of colors in nature, College Football and our Transition into Advent. Personally, fall causes me to desire travelling, as if the road is calling out to me, But also I become somewhat nostalgic. With that thought in mind, I was looking back and through some of the books in my office that I have read prior AND found them to be impactful, even formational in my Christian construct. One of these such books is Christianity After Religion, The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening, by Diana Butler Bass. I believe that I have shared this with you before, maybe even in a Widow's Mite article. She has several books worth your time, and I was happy to be refreshed by it.

Basically, the book is about the phenomenon of Christian Community. Note here that she does not say the Christian Church specifically, because so many are estranged/disenchanted by the church even organized religion as a whole. Bass mentions three steps to community that are wonderful descriptors of how the phenomenon works. In so many ways, they echo the St. Matthew's community, and are the reason that we will remain viable in the future.

First, she mentions Believing. We are a community of faith, after all. It is the one component that we all share in common, at least. By measure & merit of our baptism, we become a part of this community. It is as it is described at the end of Acts chapter 2, exactly. Believing ... Conversion ... Baptism are the entrance point to this wonderful community. Next, she speaks of Behaving. As all religions, our faith effects our ethics, AND our ethics effect our faith. As we move within community, we lean into the teachings of Jesus and desire to be more like Him. Yet, behaving is more than just a moralism. As community, we support & encourage each other while holding each other in accountability, as well. Our actions are for the benefit of the whole, resisting personal agendas or selfishness. Finally, she mentions Belonging. The benefits of community include the realization that we are amidst and a part of something bigger than ourselves. This something has worldwide intentions and is associated with God, Godself (not just a celebrity or someone of great success ... with GOD).

Now Dear Ones, I wish to take the liberty and add another component to this happening. It is Becoming. As you know, it is one of my more favorite words. As we find ourselves believing, behaving and belonging, we have the opportunity with some discernment to discover our meaning in God's kingdom. Identification of Spiritual gifts and equipping give us the lens through which we find our own, personal calling. We Become as intended.

This is community, Dear Ones, and this is St. Matthew's.

Amen

### **CONFIRMATION – Sunday September 17th at St. Matthew's**

**WE WILL HAVE ONE SERVICE ON THAT DAY** at 10:00am with Confirmation by Bishop Pryor.

Pig-roasting will be taking place all night on Saturday night (*stop by and check on the pig roasters!*) and the church picnic will follow the service on Sunday. Sign up to bring a covered dish. Meat and drinks are provided.

## The Associate's Account

Dia duit, a chairde! Greetings from Ireland! As I take this vacation, this temporary pilgrimage from you, St. Matthew's, my home parish, for ten days, I am participating of sorts in what was, is, a distinct feature of 'Celtic' spirituality—a voluntary exile. This exile serves to highlight a love for homeland and a discernment of the ways God is always wonderfully working there. As I travel here, I can see in my mind's eye back home the field, the flowers, and the hills of our wonderful corner of God's kingdom. I can see the row of trees that climb skyward and flank the labyrinth, keeping watch as it winds its way mystically toward a mysterious center. I'm thinking of you, the living stones of St. Matthew's, and the altar in this world that you create every time you gather in worship of our one true God. What a blessing it is to be a part of this family! This month I encourage you to reach out to someone you don't often speak to at St. Matthew's and discern God's face there. Walk the property and sense God's presence in the wind through the trees. Walk the labyrinth and, when you reach the center, realize that God was, is, and will be with you every step of the way.

Blessings, friends!

-Fr. Dillon+



## LIVE GIVE THRIVE AT ST. MATTHEWS... SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS!

Great news! As we move from summer into fall, it means that our favorite time of year is near... Stewardship! (I bet you thought I was going to say football 😊). We do love football season but also love the season of giving that is represented in our annual stewardship campaign. It is never too early to start considering how you will participate in this campaign- what your response will be to the call to give the best, our first fruits of our time, talent and treasure. Pledging your time and talents as well financial support is a tangible act of commitment to St. Matthew's and the worship community we have created. It is a way to show gratitude for the gifts we have been given.

The annual campaign will begin Sunday October 1 – it will be here before you know it! Join us in this celebration of gratitude- we want everyone to be part of the fun!

Let's continue to **LIVE GIVE THRIVE** together!

Your grateful and joyful Stewardship Committee

Lisa Cooper, Janet Wetzel, and Laura Weatherbee

## Vestry Notes



Your Vestry has been hard at work all year to support our wonderful parish and staff. We recently received a donation and wanted to share with you the way in which the Vestry allocated it to support our church and ministries. This generous donation was an anonymous one made from the proceeds of a life insurance policy. Your Vestry elected to do the following with this gift:

- ❖ \$12,000 donation to the Buildings and Grounds to cover the cost of some very needed erosion and drainage issues around the Columbarium (in addition to the same work we had done in the Prayer Garden to address flooding there).
- ❖ \$8,000 donation to the Building Fund. This fund is for future capital improvements including new buildings so this is seeding future growth.
- ❖ \$5,000 to the Endowment Fund. This fund is designed to support St. Matthew's long after most of us are gone. We are hopeful that our parish family will support St. Matthews being present in Madison for generations to come by contributing to the Endowment.

Please let me know if you have any questions concerning Vestry activities in general or this decision in particular. This gift reminds us of the opportunity to include St. Matthew's into our estate planning and also that we do have the Endowment Fund available for long-term giving.

Lisa Cooper, Senior Warden 2023



On Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, from 6 to 8 p.m. (including a potluck) in Gruman Hall, Kathy Jones will be giving a presentation on Voter Rights Restoration (VRR) in Alabama. She will be speaking about who is eligible to have their voting rights restored and the process. This will include information about the Alabama law pertaining to this subject and how the League of Women Voters of Alabama are involved with VRR. If time permits, she also will talk about disability voting rights. Below is her biography.

Kathy Jones is an Alabama native originally from Birmingham. She worked as a space flight systems engineer and project manager at NASA Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, AL, until retiring in 2016. In the summer of 2017, with the guidance of the League of Women Voters of Alabama, Kathy established and was President of the Tennessee Valley Local League, as well as serving as its Voter Services director, from 2017-2020. She served as Secretary for 2019-2021 and is currently the President of the LWV of Alabama General and Education Fund Boards and considers herself very fortunate to collaborate with amazing and strong people across Alabama dedicated to increasing the ability for every person to vote and to make their voices heard.



## Men's Fellowship Opportunities

**WING & A PRAYER** men's fellowship & prayer group, will meet this month on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at Crickets in Madison. Meetings are every three weeks on Tuesdays. **All men are welcome.**  
**MEN'S BREAKFAST** is every Tuesday, 7:00am at St. Matthew's. **All men are welcome.**

## ST. MATTHEW'S MISSIONER TO KENYA *by Lauren Eich*



Hi St Matthews Family!

I hope you all are doing well! It is September, which means I've been here in Kenya for a whole month! It has been a quiet few weeks on campus, as the kids were gone from August 10th thru the 27th! I spent the break traveling to different homes to visit my kiddos, and it was so great to see them and meet their families!

I was also able to go get groceries for one of the kids when they called me to let me know that they didn't have any groceries at home. I'm so thankful for my friends that helped me get to the grocery store and then to his home (which was about 45 minutes away!) I've tried to post pretty regular updates & photos onto my Friends of Lauren's Creative Corner page on Facebook!

I also borrowed a few items from my Care Closet during these visits, things like crayons, coloring books, and little dolls!

Excited to see what this month brings, especially since all the kids are back on campus!

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN *by Melissa Barton, President*

The Tennessee Valley Episcopal Church Women are working on our Annual Fall conference scheduled for **October 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>**. This year it will be held at Nativity church in Huntsville; All Episcopal women of north Alabama are invited. Be sure to put the dates on your calendars; There will be more details next month.

The calendar for the rest of the year is:

**September 6<sup>th</sup>** Rummage sale meeting; **13<sup>th</sup>** ECW general meeting in Gruman Hall

**October 4<sup>th</sup>** Rummage sale meeting; **11<sup>th</sup>** ECW general meeting in Gruman Hall;

**13-14<sup>th</sup>** Tennessee Valley Fall Conference; **29<sup>th</sup>** Rummage Sale kick-off

**November 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>** Rummage sale; **8<sup>th</sup>** General Meeting; Fall UTO ingathering date TBA.

**December**-Dinner out DTBA



# CHRISTIAN FORMATION

By Lee Ann Mack

Welcome back to Sunday school as we kick off our 2023 – 2024 year! **Our first classes meet on September 10<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m.**

**Christian Education Open House/Meet and Greet** was held on **August 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.** Great things are happening in the world of Christian Education. A big “shout out” goes to those who are teaching this year! A special thanks also goes to the teachers who are taking a break. They are appreciated for all that they have done to make the St. Matthew’s Christian Formation Program so strong.

If you are not already attending Sunday school, now is the time! It’s never too late to introduce your child to these classes or to attend them yourself.

**We are very excited to offer fun, educational and spiritual curriculum this year! We will be studying everything from Psalms to Parables in the Rotation model elementary classes and The Great Divorce to Maccabees in the Adult classes! There is never a dull moment in our Sunday school classes!**

**Ladies’ Bible Study** – our group is back in full swing! We are currently following the study, “Share the Dream: Shining a Light in a Divided World through Six Principles of Martin Luther King” Join us on Thursday mornings at 9:30. Bring your Bible and get ready to be inspired by a great group of ladies!

## Musical Musings by Tom Killian

LESSONS AND CAROLS, FOR A CHANGE (?): Earlier in August, the St. Matthew’s Choir conducted a luncheon and kickoff rehearsal in support of our annual Service of Lessons and Carols. [This year’s service is scheduled for December 10<sup>th</sup>; and it isn’t too early to mark that date on your calendar!] In the seventeen-plus years I have served as your music director, we have traditionally modeled our service after the historic Advent Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, which was created by the Rev. Eric Milner-White, Dean of King’s College, Cambridge, in 1918, and premiered there on Christmas Eve of that year. The body of that Service consists of nine scripture readings (Lessons) detailing the prophecies concerning the birth of Jesus Christ, the acclamation of that birth, visitations from shepherds and Kings from the East, and the great mystery of the Incarnation. Each reading is accompanied by a choral anthem (Carols) which amplifies and supports that scripture. However,

whereas the nine selected Carols vary annually, the nine Lessons are historically fixed, and are repeated from one year’s service to the next. So I began to cast about for an alternative service which offered a little more scriptural variety.

My search landed on a model called Darkness to Light: an Advent Service of Lessons and Carols (although for the sake of brevity, we’ll refer to it as Darkness to Light – or just D2L). A 21<sup>st</sup>-century variant of the original Service, Darkness to Light was developed jointly at the great English Cathedral at Salisbury, UK, and at St. James Cathedral in Chicago. Like the original, D2L uses scripture readings (Lessons) and choral anthems (Carols) for an in-depth retelling of Christ’s Nativity. But in a marked departure from the original, the scriptures in D2L are presented in pairs: an Old Testament reading speaks of God’s promise, while a New Testament reading proclaims how that promise is being fulfilled in Christ. [Spoiler alert: the first scripture in D2L is taken from the first chapter of Genesis; the last reading comes from the 22<sup>nd</sup> (final) chapter of Revelation!] Furthermore, each scriptural pairing is introduced by an antiphon (a verse from “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”, sung by choir and congregation), then followed by the corresponding choral anthem (Carol) for that pairing. Other elements of the service, such as the opening Bidding, plus additional petitions, prayers and hymns, share a basic commonality between the King’s College version and Darkness to Light; so there should be a familiar “look and feel” to these.



We are excited to offer Darkness to Light as our 2023 Service of Lessons and Carols. I hope you will join us on December 10<sup>th</sup>, and give us your feedback at the reception afterwards!



# Youth Group News

By: Jann Eich  
Youth Director

The EYC is a group open to all teens! We have a Jr. EYC group for grades 6th through 8th and the Sr. EYC which includes teens in 9th through 12th grade. Sunday School is in the Amy West House (across the parking lot. We meet at 10 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. Friends are always welcome as well as new members of the EYC. Jann Eich- [youthdir@stmatthewsmadison.org](mailto:youthdir@stmatthewsmadison.org)

Confirmation will be on **September 17th**, 2023 with Bp. Prior! We will have only one service at 10 a.m. If you are being confirmed or received, please have your form in to Cathy Williams no later than September 5th.

## September 2023

**September 9th**-National Wonderful Weird Day and National Teddy Bear EYC Celebration at noon. Come celebrate just being yourself! Pizza and Funny games!!

**September 10th**-Sunday School starts at 10 a.m. Amy West House both jr and sr high (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)

**September 10th**-Confirmation Classes @3 pm, meet in Gruman Hall. All confirmands are encouraged to attend.

**September 17th**-Confirmation at 10 a.m. service. Pig Roast Afterwards. No Sunday School. Bring shorts/swimsuit to change into after church.

**September 18-19**-Mrs. Jann out of office for EYC Formation Retreat Birmingham

**September 20th**- Pizza with the Padre @5:30- 7:00 pm

**September 24th**-Sunday School at 10 a.m. in Amy West House

**September 24th** -5 o'clock service-speaker talking about voting rights from outreach. Potluck-Bring your favorite dish to share.



## FOYERS KICKOFF Sept. 23, 6:00 Gruman Hall

It's that time of year to kick off our Foyers Groups! If you are interested in making new St. Matthew's friends in a non-St. Matthew's environment (i.e. restaurant, ballgame, etc.), then this is for you! Your group of eight will plan a get-together monthly. POC: Joy Werka and Lynn Lanier

*Our Christian love & sympathy is extended to Pamela Muery & family at the passing of her mother Darlene Davis.*

*May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon them.*

## PRAYER NEEDS:

*Please pray for St. Matthews's members who are distressed in body, mind, or spirit:* Norm Smith, Bill Byrd, Chuck Vickers, Dottie Aldredge, Gina Centanni, Terry Schuster, George & Sandra Burgess, Ray & Shirley White, Canellia Patterson, David Osmond, Colleen Turner, Dick Pendleton, Turner Owen, Anna Post, Bev Ryberg, David Newton, Jane Prince, the King family, Mary Travers, Eric & Mel Seemann, Marie Lutz, Josie

Cooper, Anne Sullivan, Judy Elkins, Lynda Johnston, David Lawrence, Rebecca Franz, Maurice Hale, Jack Brown, Bob & Eileen Bogard, Joe Centanni, Rose Ann Goss, Tyron Newton, Roger & Rhoda Kitchen, Maurice Hale, Karey Holcomb, Scott Martin, Sheila Cape, Lynn Beasley, Diane Loehr, Pamela Muery. *Also pray for our friends and family members, especially:* Nancy Laws, Brenda Anderson, Diana Parks, Martha Bergmann, Steve Sands, Chuck Sewell, Cindy Williams, Claire Williams, Wes Patterson, Mike Rice, Samantha Rice, Richard Hattoway, Jenny Williams, Rosie Brown, Jack Cooper, Michael & Nancy Laws, Jewell Newton, Ginger Eich, Catherine S. Williams, Joe Allen, Caroline Thomas, Elyssa Nelson, Vaughn Cassell, Bill Fischer, Sally Flanigan, Theresa Richerson, family of Madison Gilbert, Scott Marbut, Todd Newman, Jessica Goodwin, Cathy Taveras, Taylor Christopher, Fran Woytowich, BB McCalpin, Bob & Peggy Wagner, Nancy Ford, Stephen Byrd, Bronwen Murray, Katie Ray, Sherry Sampson, Will Scott, Kate Winkler, Angela Loehr & Meghan Lochr, Joe Frank Trevino, Kim Wright, John David Landin, Joyce and Jim Savage.

## September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Church Closed	2 8:00am Kairos Outside
3  8:30am HE 11:00am HE 5:00pm HE	4  HOLIDAY - church closed	5  7:00am Men's Breakfast	6  10:00am STAFF  12:00pm HE 6:30 Float Mtng 6:30pm Choir	7  9:30am Ladies Bible Study	8  Church Closed	9  8:30am Deacons Fall Meeting  12:00pm EYC Weird Day event
10  8:30am HE 10:00am CE 11:00am HE  1:00 L&C rehearsal 5:00pm HE	11  9:00am Sewing Sisters  4:30pm BSA 6:30pm Bell's Angels	12  7:00am Men's Breakfast  6:30pm Vestry WG	13  10:30am ECW 12:00pm HE 6:30pm Choir	14  9:30am Ladies Bible Study  6:00pm Madison Quilters	15  Church Closed 9:00am Quilters Workshop	16  Pig Roasting 8:00am Kairos Outside 9:00am Madison Quilters
17  10:00am BISHOP'S VISIT - Confirmation  11:30am Parish Picnic	18  4:30pm BSA 4:00pm Journey Class  6:30pm Bell's Angels	19  7:00am Men's Breakfast  6:00pm Wing & A Prayer 6:30pm Vestry Meeting	20  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 12:00pm HE 5:30pm EYC Pizza With the Padre 6:30pm Choir	21  9:30am Ladies Bible Study	22  Church Closed	23  8:00am Kairos Outside
24  8:30am HE 10:00am CE 11:00am HE  12:30 DOK 2:30 GriefShare 5:00pm HE  6:00pm Beloved Community	25  4:30pm BSA 4:00pm Journey Class  6:30pm Bell's Angels	26  7:00am Men's Breakfast 5:00pm DAR	27  12:00pm HE 6:30pm Choir	28  9:30am Ladies Bible Study	29  Church Closed	30  8:00am Grounds Workday  10:00 Ukrainian Bakesale

Meetings and events are placed on the calendar, and meeting spaces are assigned/reserved, by Cathy in the church office on a first come basis. Available meeting spaces are: Gruman Hall, Kitchen, Breezeway, CE building, AWH. [office@stmatthewsmadison.org](mailto:office@stmatthewsmadison.org)

## SEPTEMBER READINGS (Track 2)

**Sept 3 – Pent 14**  
 Jeremiah 15:15-21  
 Psalm 26:1-8  
 Romans 12:9-21  
 Matthew 16:21-28

**Sept 10 – Pent 15**  
 Ezekiel 33:7-11  
 Psalm 119:33-40  
 Romans 13:8-14  
 Matthew 18:15-20

**Sept 17 – Pent 16**  
 Genesis 50:15-21  
 Psalm 103:8-13  
 Romans 14:1-12  
 Matthew 18:21-35

**Sept 24 – Pent 17**  
 Jonah 3:10—4:1  
 Psalm 145:1-8  
 Philippians 1:21-30  
 Matthew 20:1-16

## SEPTEMBER 2023

### St. Matthew's Worship Team Schedule

### St. Matthew's Worship Team Schedule

	Sept 3	Sept 10	Sept 17 – 10am only	Sept 24
<b>VOD</b>	Tanya	Mike	Rick	Barbara
	<b>8:30 Servers:</b>	<b>8:30 Servers:</b>	<b>10:00 Servers:</b>	<b>8:30 Servers:</b>
<b>Nursery</b>	Anderson/Brown	C Bruce/E Bruce	Anderson/Brown	Anderson/Brown
<b>Altar Guild</b>	J Combs	Hamilton	Turner	Cape
<b>Hospitality</b>	Smith	Boyd		Sampson
<b>Ushers</b>	Buzby/Owen	Stagner/Driesbach	Carpenter/T Sampson	Stagner/Wilson
<b>Lector</b>	A Williams	A Modrall	C Lanier	B Pope
<b>Epistoler</b>	J Glasgow	B Buzby	L Lanier	W Christopher
<b>Intercessor</b>	L Mack	D Buzby	B Loshuertos	D Carpenter
<b>LEMs</b>	Scheuer	Centanni		Glasgow
<b>Counters</b>	Cechovic/Modrall	Christopher/Lewis	Tidwell/Byrd	Mack/Cooper
<b>ACOLYTES:</b> <b>CR</b> <b>GSP</b> <b>TB</b> <b>TB</b>	A Utt F Williams C Pezzula	S Bruce L Hartley A Wales C Pezzula	L Hartley S Bruce A Wales B Watson	A Maddox E Maddox E Anderson J Nixon
	<b>8:30 Servers:</b>	<b>8:30 Servers:</b>		<b>8:30 Servers:</b>

<b>Nursery</b>	Anderson/Brown	Brown/Maddox		Anderson/Brown
----------------	----------------	--------------	--	----------------

<b>Altar Guild</b>	Carpenter	Weaver		Bagwell
<b>Hospitality</b>	Brown	Hastings		Weimer
<b>Ushers</b>	Anderson/Barton	Weaver/Beasley		Cassell/Weaver
<b>Lector</b>	A Hartley	A Coiner		S Vaughn
<b>Epistoler</b>	T Killian	D Loehr		M Harrison
<b>Intercessor</b>	S Fletcher	L Weatherbee		P Marques
<b>LEMs</b>	Vaughn	Price		Bishop
<b>Counters</b>	Harrison/Rasmussen	Barton/Coiner		Bishop/Monroe
<b>ACOLYTES:</b> <b>CR</b> <b>GSP</b> <b>TB</b> <b>TB</b>	J Nixon C Bagwell L Barton W Barton	C Beech V Mullins B Mullins N Rasmussen		C Bagwell A Utt L Barton W Barton

**If you cannot serve when you are scheduled, please find a replacement. Your service is a valuable ministry to St. Matthew's. Thank you for your willingness to serve in this way.**