

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Summer (July & August) 2025 Newsletter

Calendar of Events

Sundays

Worship & Episcopal 101 Class Sanctuary

Tuesdays

Angels in Motion

9:00 AM – Parish Hall

Narcotics Anonymous

7:00 PM – Parish Hall

Wednesdays

Women's Talking Circle

5:30 PM – Library

Monday, August 25

Diocesan Convention Committee

1:00 PM – Parish Hall

Tuesday, September 9

Finance Committee

5:30 PM – Library

Thursday, September 11

3 services from Daily Office

10:00am, 12pm, & 4:30pm – Sanctuary

Vestry

5:30 PM – Library

Sunday, September 21

St. Matthew's Sunday

10:30 AM – Sanctuary

Bishop's Visit & Baptisms

Wednesday-Saturday, October 1-4

Clergy Conference & Convention

Varied – Varied.

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St. Matthew's July 2025 Vestry Meeting Minutes Approved at August Meeting July 10, 2025

Call to order: 5:31 p.m.

Vestry Present In-Person: Tom Marsh, Val Adams, Allen Todd, Joanne Bryant, Lorraine David & Maggie Castellini, Eliza Winfrey

Also Present: Fr Steve Reed

Absent: Maureen Mayo

Quorum established.

Agenda Approval: Allen Todd moved to accept the agenda. Maggie Castellini seconded. Passed unanimously.

Finance Report: Allen Todd gave finance report.

Eliza Winfrey joined meeting in person during finance report.

We are a little over half way through the year and have nearly reached our \$10,000 fundraising goal. We are only about \$75 short of that goal.

Lorraine David made motion to accept finance report. Val Adams seconded. Passed unanimously.

Approval of June 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Allen Todd made a motion to accept the last meeting minutes with the changes of adding Lorraine David to the absent list. She was on travel. Also on page 3 under Diocesan Convention: correct the spelling of "on" Lorraine David seconded. Passed unanimously.

Parish Administrator Report: Read by Val

Air Filters: Subscribe & Save OR One Time Purchase

Lorraine David made a motion to purchase air filters “Subscribe & Save 40%.” Maggie Castellini seconded. Passed Unanimously.

Maggie Castellini would like to have the air purifiers mounted on the walls. When the air purifiers are sitting on the window sills, people tend to reach over and turn them off due to their noise. No one objected. Maggie C. will ask her husband Mike Castellini if he can help with getting them mounted.

Bread Line Request to Borrow Tables:

Val Adams thinks we need a policy NOT to lend our tables to individuals. In the past they were returned dirty and damaged and sometimes we would be missing tables & chairs. Maggie Castellini made a motion to NOT lend tables to “individuals.” Val Adams seconded. Passed unanimously.

Lorraine David made a motion to lend tables to the Bread Line this time and St Matthew’s needs to develop a policy and take a deposit on lending our tables & chairs out to organizations in the future. Also before the tables go out the door “St Matthew’s Church” needs to be written on each table with permanent marker. Allen Todd seconded. Passed unanimously.

Convention Discussions:

Fr. Steve let the vestry know that “Workspace’s” can be removed from the list as it will take too long to shuttle people to and from. Also, there is no longer need to reach out to our neighbors, the Methodist Church.

The following vestry members offered to help during Convention.

Val volunteers to help where needed on Saturday.

Joanne volunteered to help with driving, cleaning & helping in the kitchen.

Eliza offered to help. Also Tom said Bonnie Marsh would be helping as well.

Other Ideas: Native dancing & singing during convention. Maybe the Stevens Village dance group. Also during Thursday service during convention maybe the Takudh singers can sing.

Fr. Steve said that St. Jude offered to do hamburgers and hot dogs one day of clergy conference. Diana Childs has done convention before and is very knowledgeable in that area.

Vestry Member Report:

Maggie Castellini gave columbarium progress report.

Junior Warden Report:

Lorraine David asked Senior Warden Tom Marsh where we are on the roof repairs. Tom stated he did not know.

Senior Warden Report:

Tom Marsh spoke about the Jackie Bloom funeral & how it was done so nicely. He said the whole family participated in the service and they came back for church the next Sunday.

There was also discussions on Bonnie Marsh's Golden Days bake sale. Allen Todd will bring starting change, Lorraine will donate baked goods & bottled water, Val will donate as well.

Rector Report: Fr. Reed gave his report.

Building: Steve will compile a letter to Lang/the Diocese of Texas & Dallas & Trinity Wallstreet Parish. More on this after Fr. Reed does the letter.

Fish Fry: During Golden Days Parade: Tom Marsh said we needed a Health Dept. permit to cook & sell fish outside. Fr. Steve will go to the Health Dept. and speak to them tomorrow. Golden Days is fast approaching on July 19th.

Ten Ideas: The vestry thinks this is a good idea and would like to develop a strategic plan for St Matthew's. Shirley Lee does strategic planning. Fr Steve will reach out to Shirley to see if she would like to assist with this.

Discretionary Fund Policy & Eval. Form: Fr. Steve handed these out for the vestry to review. More on these at next meeting.

Old Business

VPOD Sign Up: Val passed around the VPOD sign up sheet. See attached. We at least have one vestry person signed up for Sundays until the next vestry meeting in August.

Columbarium: Maggie already reported on this prior.

Vestry Vacancy: Val will call a prior vestry member to see if she would like to serve again.

New Business

All new business items have been discussed prior.

Upcoming Events:

All upcoming event items have been discussed prior.

Vestry Out of Town Dates Discussed.

Executive Session: One item was discussed in executive session.

Next Regular Meeting Dates:

Finance: August 12, 2025

Vestry: August 14, 2025

Meeting Adjourned: 7:15 p.m.

TO: Warden and Vestry of St. Matthews Episcopal Church

FROM: Rev. Stephen K. Reed, Rector

DATE: July 10, 2025

SUBJECT: July 2025 Rector's Report

Parish Hall TVs – three TVs are in place. No additional TVs are going up. The use of the TVs enables overflow worship, Sunday School education, Winter movie nights, etc. Jackie Bloom's son-in-law Cliff was the driving force installing the TVs.

Staff: Kaylee began working here 2 years ago this month. She was previously baptized, married, and her daughter was also baptized here.

Building: I have not heard anything more from Bishop Mark or Lang about redevelopment and fundraising for a new Parish Hall. Bishop has been on vacation. I believe that we need a subcommittee specifically for grant writing to Texas, Dallas, and Trinity Wallstreet.

Newsletter: I have not received any feedback about the June 2025 Newsletter.

Host Site: We will be hosting the 2025 Diocesan Convention. We met today and we need committee chairs.

Discretionary Fund Policy: what is the Policy for the Clergy Discretionary Fund? What is the limit? What will we pay for and what will we not pay for?

Prayers Requests

Our prayers have been asked for:

LINDA GEORGE ANNA JACK MERNA BOB JENNA KEESHA DONALD BILL
MICHAEL MARGARET BARB LONNA PATRICK MACKENZIE CYNTHIA



Dear Lord, We come before You seeking Your divine touch for those in need of healing. May Your grace flow through their bodies, restoring strength and vitality. Grant them comfort in their pain and hope in their struggles. Surround them with love and support and let Your healing light shine upon them. In Your mercy, we trust and pray. Amen.

St. Matthew's Vestry Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2025

Call to order: 5:37 p.m.

Vestry Present In-Person: Tom Marsh, Val Adams, Maggie Castellini, Linda Demientieff

Present On-Line: Maureen Mayo

Also Present: Fr. Steve Reed, Brad Johnson

Absent: Eliza Winfrey, Joanne Bryant, Lorraine David, Allen Todd

Quorum established.

Agenda Approval: Val Adams moved to accept the agenda. Maggie Castellini seconded. Passed unanimously.

Finance Report: Brad Johnson gave finance report.

Val Adams made a motion to move \$20,000, after tithe, from the Moody bequest to the operating fund. Maggie Castellini seconded. Passed unanimously.

Val Adams made a motion to move \$200,000 from the money market to the 6-month cd account (1080) that now has a 3.1 rate. Maggie Castellini seconded. Passed unanimously.

Vestry members had questions regarding why Office 65150 (under expenses) was so high. Brad said that there has been a \$500 annual increase in Quickbooks. Also a big part of it is the cell phones, land line and internet 65109 and computer hardware & software 6515. Brad provided an itemized breakdown of Operating Income & Expenses.

Maggie Castellini moved to accept finance report. Tom Marsh seconded. Passed unanimously.

Approval of July 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Tom Marsh made a motion to accept the last meeting minutes. Maggie Castellini seconded. Passed unanimously.

Parish Administrator Report: Read by Val

New Accounting Computer

Val made a motion to purchase a new tower/hard drive for the accounting computer from Costco for \$499.99. Linda Demientieff seconded. Passed unanimously.

Downloading Facebook Lives

Kaylee is downloading all (Facebook) live-streaming to Podcasts & YouTube because FB automatically deletes them after 30 days.

Delegates: All primary delegates are going and are registered.

Vestry Member Report: None

Junior Warden Report: None-Absent (Excused)

Senior Warden Report: Tom said he had no report

Rector Report: Fr. Reed gave his report.

Eval Form: Fr. Reed distributed an evaluation form at the last meeting. He would like the vestry to please go over it by the next meeting.

Fish Fry: Did not work out for July but the hot dog/bake sale did.

St Matthew's an outlet for food boxes for Food Bank:

How this would work is that we would need someone in office to answer the phones for two hours on Friday mornings. People wanting these food boxes would call into the church giving their information i.e. how many people are in their household, if they are homeless, etc. St Matthew's would call this info into the Food Bank. The Food Bank would pack food boxes according to this information (family size, etc.) and deliver the boxes to St Matthew's. St Matthew's would then hand the boxes out when people come in to claim their food boxes.

A concern with this is that Kaylee doesn't work Friday mornings so help/volunteers are needed to answer phone calls and take the info to pass along to the food bank. Maureen Mayo and Linda Demientieff volunteered.

The vestry feels a schedule needed for volunteer sign up to help take food box orders.

Billie out of town Fr. Steve said Billie will be gone next March for 6 months.

Discretionary Fund Policy & Eval. Form: Fr. Steve handed these out for the vestry to review at the July Vestry meeting. He asked the vestry to please review this for the next meeting in September.

Executive Session: One item was discussed in executive session.

Old Business

VPOD Sign Up: Val passed around the VPOD sign up sheet. See attached. VPOD is covered until the September meeting.

Columbarium: Maggie gave report. There is unfinished landscaping, still need to finish the wall, Ft Knox is donating granite or marble. Tom has been helping water the newly planted grass.

Vestry Vacancy: Has been filled by Linda Demientieff. Vestry is very happy to have her back.

Air Purifier Filters: Still have not been attached higher up on the walls.

New Business

Delegates: In Admin report. All primary delegates are going and are registered.

Outside Faucet: Maggie said it isn't working properly for watering & Mike doesn't know about faucets. Tom said it's a frost proof outlet and that he thinks the valve is the problem. Tom will take a look at the faucet.

Discretionary Fund: Fr. Steve tabled this until the next meeting.

Upcoming Events: 2025 Clergy Conference & Diocesan Convention:

Clergy Conference: October 1-2, 2025 Diocesan Convention: October 2-4, 2025

Next Meeting Dates: Finance: September 9, 2025 Vestry: September 11, 2025

Meeting Adjourned: 7:25 p.m.

TO: Wardens and Vestry of St. Matthews Episcopal Church
 FROM: Rev. Stephen K. Reed, Rector
 DATE: August 14, 2025
 SUBJECT: **August 2025 Rector's Report**

Staff: I distributed a Parish Administrator evaluation form for your review. Kaylee was hired in July of 2023. Two people in addition to the administrator need to be present for evaluation.

Building: I have not heard anything more from Bishop Mark or Lang about redevelopment and fundraising for a new Parish Hall.

Fundraiser Idea: Fish Fry didn't work, but the bake sale & hot dogs did.

Newsletter: We are working on a July / August 2025 Newsletter.

Opportunities: Bone Builders & Food Bank Food Box Distribution. Food box distribution consists of taking orders from families from 10:00 am to Noon, calling those orders into the Food Bank, where they would assemble a food box for each family. The boxes would then be delivered to St. Matthews for distribution Friday afternoon. Families would be coming here to pick up their Food Box. The challenge here is having someone to take calls / orders on Friday from 10am – Noon and assisting with moving the food boxes into the parish hall.

Host Site: We will be hosting the 2025 Clergy Conference & Diocesan Convention. Our next meeting is on Monday August 25th at 1pm. Who will chair subcommittees? Billy is chairing the meal prep subcommittee. We need a chair for the following: Tech Support; set up / cleanup; worship; and transportation.

Parish Hall TVs: Thank You card to Jackie Bloom's son-in-law Cliff. He was the driving force in getting the three 75" TVs and three outlets installed in the Parish Hall. The TVs, outlets, cables, and labor were all donated. Each tv is plugged into a surge protected power strip. Each strip is turned off during the week, except for funerals and Sunday morning worship. People regularly attend service in the Parish Hall and we bring communion.

Clergy Discretionary Policy: I distributed a clergy discretionary policy your review and vote.

Ten Ideas: Ten Ideas for St. Matthew's Episcopal Church – future thinking / visioning.

Pictures:





Rector's Article for Summer 2025 Newsletter

Dear People of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church,

A year ago, I was called to be your rector. It has been quite a year with a remarkable series of events. Time has quite literally flown by. We have been witness to numerous services including Sunday Worship, baptisms, funerals, daily office, services and visits at FMH and Pioneer Home, and even a wedding. I have been honored to be joined at the altar by clergy from across the interior and our Bishop. We will host Clergy Conference and the Diocesan Convention the first week of October.

In brief the time that I have been your rector, I have worked on many little projects for the good of the whole. One night I replaced 22 burnt out lights in the Parish Hall to bring light into darkness, thanks to a donor who provided the replacement lights. I have since replaced more lights. I see that as my way of facilitating a return of light into St. Matthew's. A team of us installed large televisions, outlets, and cables in the Parish Hall and shelves in the Parish Hall closet. I look forward to watching movies on cold dark winter days and nights. We already use the TVs for Sunday worship and funeral overflow. We don't have any plans for additional TVs.

Throughout all this work, I have marveled at the team that God has called to serve at St. Matthew's. Many, many people work together to provide worship, readings, music, prayers, tech support, laughter, and much, much more. We work on the shoulders of the giants that came before us. Last October we celebrated our 120th birthday as a church by hearing stories and memories from many members in attendance at the October 16, 2024, service.

We returned to providing Newsletters starting in May of this year with the goal of transparency by getting you a calendar of upcoming events, unofficial Vestry meeting minutes, my report to vestry, Kaylee's report, and occasionally guest columnists such as Helen Howard with her report from the Interior Deanery. The survey below is part of the visioning work for the future. We have been in discussions about a new roof or a new building. People have stepped forward to donate towards a new building, I invite you to dream a little about what you would like to see in a new Parish Hall. To be clear, we are not talking about making any changes to the sanctuary.

It is truly an honor to serve as your rector.

Fr. Steve+

Admin Report

I am currently working on downloading our Facebook Lives, Facebook sent us a message stating that they will start deleting Facebook Live Video's after 30 days.

I reached out to the delegates for the Convention, all primaries confirmed they can go. All Primary Delegates are Registered.

Meeting for the Convention Prep is scheduled for **August 25th @ 1PM**

Praying for all who have lost their loved ones this year.

Alot of loss in our community, I pray for all those who are grieving.

Future Thinking:

Where do you see St Matthew's in:

- | | | | |
|-------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. One Year | 2. Three Years | 3. Five Years | 4. Ten Years |
|-------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|

I wish St Matthew's Episcopal Church had:

- | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. |
|----|----|----|----|

I wish St. Matthew's Newsletter had:

- | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. |
|----|----|----|----|

I wish St. Matthew's Parish Hall had:

- | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. |
|----|----|----|----|

I wish St. Matthew's Website, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and / or YouTube had:

- | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. |
|----|----|----|----|

I would like to learn more about opportunities in

1. Ministry 2. Worship 3. Music 4. Community 5. Prayer 6. Tech Support

I would like to help out / volunteer / get involved by

- | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. |
|----|----|----|----|

Topics / Questions for the next St. Matthew's survey

- | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. |
|----|----|----|----|

Please email answers to the above questions to admin@stmattsfbks.org