

DECEMBER 2021

CONNECTIONS

LOVING GOD, LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR, CHANGING THE WORLD

Monthly publication of the St. Matthews Episcopal Church

"If we want to participate in this Advent and Christmas event, we cannot simply sit there like spectators in a theater and enjoy all the friendly pictures. Rather, we must join in the action that is taking place and be drawn into this reversal of all things ourselves. Here we too must act on the stage, for here the spectator is always a person acting in the drama. We cannot remove ourselves from the action."

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "God Is In the Manger" p.42



Dear St. Matthew's Family -

What great joy it is to be spending another Advent and Christmas Season with you all. I never forget how much God has blessed me by calling me to serve at St. Matthew's.

As we enter into this new Church year, I encourage you as Bonhoeffer did, to enter into the Greatest Story Ever Told. To realize that the events we celebrate are not just a part of our history, but are also a part of our present day. The Incarnation, that is the birth of God into the world, is an ongoing event, for each new day is yet another opportunity for us to experience the love of God being born in us and into world. It is also an opportunity for each of us to participate in this great work of God by allowing God's Holy Spirit to work through us so that others might also experience the Incarnation in their own lives.

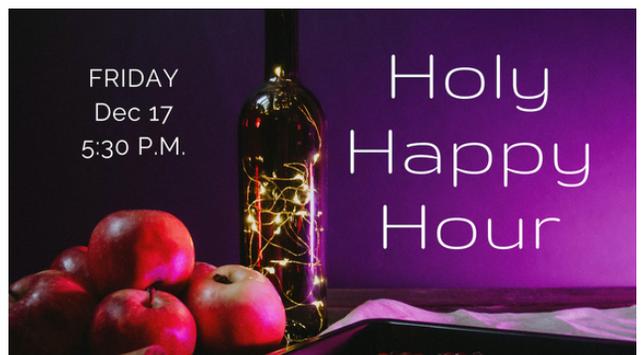
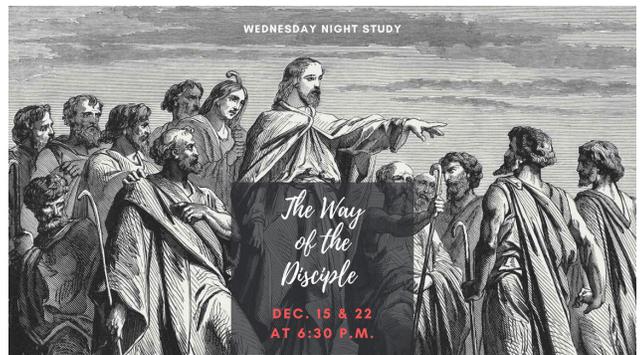


This Advent Season and throughout this year, step out onto the stage and join in the action.

The Children's Choir sang for us on Christ the King Sunday. Looking forward to hearing from them all again on December 12th during the Christmas Pageant.

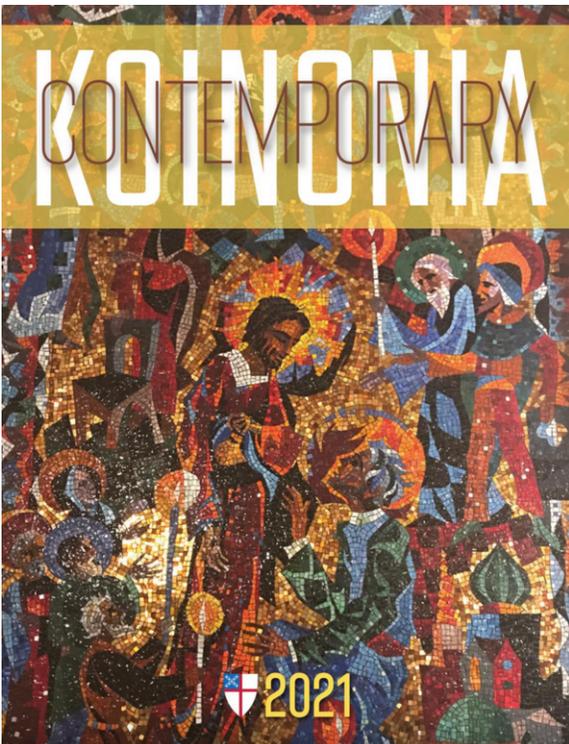
THANK YOU ELIZABETH AND NANCY
FOR WORKING WITH THEM!





**Contribute to the Christmas Flower fund
in memory / honor of loved ones.**

Cut along line, complete form on back and return to the church.



For the last year, Fr. Sean Ekberg and Fr. John have been working on a project: Contemporary Koinonia. It is a journal for The Episcopal Church highlighting the work and ministry of our bishops, other clergy, laity and more.

This is the story of our Church.
This is OUR story.

You can find it online at (there are no spaces in the address):
issuu.com/contemporarykoinonia/docs/coko_2021_v.2



**New Boat Boy (Max Baker) and
Acolytes (Clara Baker & Kevin Baker)**

Christmas Flowers

Name: _____

Amount: _____

In [] Memory / [] Honor of: _____

Place in offering plate or return by mail.



The **Bishop's Appeal** in 2020 was a remarkable success in an unprecedented time. You, our parishioners, clergy, members of our institutions, and friends gave sacrificially to bless ministries at Historic Vernon A.M.E. Church that were life-changing, far-reaching, and community building. Effectively, the Bishop's Appeal acted as an outreach arm of the Diocese as a whole. As we reflected on last year, we began to explore other ways that the Bishop's Appeal could make a significant, tangible difference for good in Oklahoma. After discernment and prayer, we now have our answer.

Over the last two years, a group of Episcopal clergy and lay leaders in Oklahoma City began wrestling with the high rates of women's incarceration in our state. While only 5% of the world's female population lives in the United States, nearly 30% of the world's incarcerated women are in the U.S. Oklahoma ranks first in incarcerated women per capita in the entire world. This group of clergy and lay leaders began dreaming of ways to support women coming out of prison, by helping them break cycles of addiction, trauma, sexual exploitation, poverty, and recidivism. Inspired by the work of the Rev. Becca Stevens in Nashville, TN, and

Thistle Farms, the vision for Magdalene House OKC was born.

The Thistle Farms/Magalene model has effectively started 60 homes in cities across the US. The model is an overwhelming success, with 75% of graduates remaining sober, employed, and living independently five years after completing the program. Magdalene House OKC will house eight women during a two-year program that offers health care, dental, mental health, legal assistance, and spiritual support. During the program, women work toward education and job training goals so that upon graduation, they have experience and skills that lead them to financial self-sufficiency. Statistics show that intervening in these women's lives can dramatically impact their family's societal trajectory and break the cycle of generational poverty.

Let's come together in this year's Bishop's Appeal to establish a home for these women and secure the first two years of programming for the Magdalene House OKC. Please consider making a gift online at www.epiok.org/donate or use the enclosed commitment card and envelope.

Thank you for all that you do in your congregations, institutions, families, and communities to help build the kingdom of God. I am proud to serve with you in this great Diocese, and I wish you and your family a safe and blessed Christmas season.

Faithfully,
The Rt. Rev. Poulson Reed
Sixth Bishop of Oklahoma



Time for some fun and frolic on ice

Ice Skating Party



December 19

following the 10 a.m. service
at the ice skating rink downtown.

All are welcome!

18 AND UNDER SKATE FOR FREE!

PLEASE RSVP

WITH SHOE SIZE

TO STM.ENID@ICLOUD.COM

Meet our new ◆ Parish ◆ Administrator



GINA RICH

Gina comes to us with plenty of experience on managing an office. She begins Monday, Dec. 6th. Marilyn will remain on staff through Dec. to help Gina become familiar with our office.

As Gina is a member of our Parish Family, please remember that on Sundays she is here to worship with her family.



Thank you for your participation in the diaper drive for the CDSA Diaper Bank!



Friendsgiving 2021

DECEMBER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Advent 1 8:00 AM Eucharist 10:00 AM Eucharist	10:00 AM Morning Prayer	10:00 AM Morning Prayer	10:00 AM Morning Prayer 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist	10:00 AM Morning Prayer 5:45 PM Choir / Handbell Practice	9:00 AM Labyrinth 10:00 AM Morning Prayer	10:00 AM Morning Prayer
Advent 2 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:00 AM Christmas Pageant Practice 9:15 AM Adult 10:00 AM Eucharist 11:30 AM Compass	10:00 AM Morning Prayer 6:30 PM CIC Mass and Meeting	10:00 AM Morning Prayer	10:00 AM Morning Prayer 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist 6:30 PM Game Night	10:00 AM Morning Prayer 12:00 PM Finance Committee 5:45 PM Choir / Handbell Practice 7:00 PM Vestry	10:00 AM Morning Prayer 6:00 PM KNO / Pageant Practice	10:00 AM Morning Prayer
Advent 3 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:00 AM Christmas 9:15 AM Adult 10:00 AM Christ- 10:00 AM Eucharist 11:30 AM Pageant	10:00 AM Morning Prayer	10:00 AM Morning Prayer	10:00 AM Morning Prayer 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist 6:30 PM Wednesday Night Study	10:00 AM Morning Prayer 5:45 PM Choir / Handbell Practice	10:00 AM Morning Prayer 5:30 PM Holy Happy Hour	10:00 AM Morning Prayer
Advent 4 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Eucharist 11:30 AM Ice Skating Party	10:00 AM Morning Prayer	10:00 AM Morning Prayer	10:00 AM Morning Prayer 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist 6:30 PM Wednesday Night Study	10:00 AM Morning Prayer 5:45 PM Choir / Handbell Practice	Christmas Eve 10:00 AM Morning Prayer 6:30 PM Christmas Eve Mass 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass	Christmas Day 10:00 AM Christmas Day Mass
Christmas 1 8:00 AM Eucharist 10:00 AM Eucharist	10:00 AM Morning Prayer	10:00 AM Morning Prayer	10:00 AM Morning Prayer 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist	10:00 AM Morning Prayer 5:45 PM Choir / Handbell Practice	New Year's Eve 10:00 AM Morning Prayer	New Year's Day 10:00 AM Morning Prayer

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 stm.enid@icloud.com

Treasurer
 stm.treasurer@suddenlinkmail.com



Christmas Eve / Day Mass

Join us and celebrate the birth of our Savior.

December 24
 6:30 & 11 PM

December 25
 10 AM



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church 2022 Pledge

My 2022 Pledge is \$ _____ per Week Month Quarter Year
(Please check one)

If giving quarterly or annually, please indicate the appropriate timeframe so that we may budget appropriately.

2022

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Please remember to return your 2022 Pledge Card. Thank you!