

THE WIDOW'S MITE

"...but she, out of her poverty, put in all the livelihood that she had" Luke 21:1-4

Interim Rector's Corner

Rev. Susan Sloan

As the holy season of Advent approaches, we are invited once again to pause, to watch, and to wait for the coming of our Lord. Advent is a time of quiet preparation—a season of hope, reflection, and renewal. It reminds us that even in the midst of busyness and change, God is doing something new among us.



Advent calls us to make room—for Christ, for one another, and for the new beginnings that grace brings. As we light each candle on the Advent wreath, may we pray for our parish family, and for hearts open to the Spirit's guidance.

Let us enter this season together with gratitude and hope, trusting that the same God who once came to dwell among us continues to lead and renew us today.

May Christ, the Light of the world, bless you and your loved ones this Advent and always.

During Advent, beginning Sunday December 7, we will offer a service at 8:15 am in St. Matthew's nave. There will be Eucharist, a lesson, the gospel and a homily. There will be no choir. The goal is to set aside time for simplicity and silence, something similar to our Wednesday service at noon. Just quiet.

This Advent we will make room in our hearts for peace!



Search Committee Corner

Sandra Vaughn - Chair

Our search committee is completing the challenging task of understanding our parish story. Our self-study has been both data collection and a spiritual process. Thank you to everyone who has participated in completing our survey and attending a listening session. This information will inform the Parish Profile which will function as a statement of values and vision and a marketing document that will draw candidates into discernment.

Our last listening session will be in the Christian Ed building after the service on Sunday, 11/2. Please sign up on the link or talk to someone from the committee about attending. Please join us to share your thoughts and hopes for our next rector.

Thank you everyone for your patience and support. Finding our next rector is a process, and we will get there. Look for our Parish Profile soon.

Timeline for Search Process:

Summer/Fall 2025 – Survey, analysis, and Parish Profile

January 2026 – Parish Profile shared in search for candidates

February 2026 – Interviews and Visits to candidates

Spring 2026 – Call for a new rector





Tickets: \$50

Nov. 7th,
at 6pm

786 Hughes Road
Madison, AL



"A TASTE
OF
KENYA"

Join us for a
Kenyan
cuisine inspired
dinner at
St. Matthew's
Episcopal
Church!

Proceeds go towards
our medical mission
team!



Christian Formation

Jenifer Woytowich, Director

Growing
Together
in Faith



Christian Formation: *Jenifer Woytowich, Director*

Hello! My name is Jenifer Woytowich and I am honored to serve as the Christian Formation Director here at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church.

I'm a proud mother to three amazing young men—Nolan, Liam, and Caden—and our family has been a part of the St. Matthew's community for many years. It has been a joy to grow in faith together with such a warm and supportive church family.

Before stepping into this role, I was an elementary school teacher. I'm also a military brat: a background that taught me the value of flexibility, connection, and strong community. I'm excited to be part of the incredible ministry of Christian education and look forward to the journey ahead!

I'm looking forward to meeting you all over the coming weeks. Please feel free to say hello after a service or set up a time for us to sit and chat! I'm eager to hear your stories, discover what is life-giving to you, and witness how God is moving among us. In the meantime, know that I am praying for each one of you as we begin this new journey together. I believe God has great things in store for us as we seek to grow together in faith.

Sunday School Information for Parents:

If you haven't already, please help us keep our records current by emailing me or filling out the student information forms in the Christian Ed classrooms. We still need this information even if your child only occasionally attends. This information helps us care for your children and communicate effectively.

Please include:

- ☒ Parent name ☒ Phone number & email address ☒ Child's name(s) & age(s) ☒ Any allergies

Sunday School Teachers:

The rotation schedule and lessons for next semester have been emailed to you. A printed copy is also available in the Christian Ed classrooms.

Please review the schedule and let me know if you have any conflicts or questions.

Interested in Teaching?

We are always excited to welcome new volunteers into our Sunday School teaching team. If you feel called to teach or assist with our youth, please reach out! I'd love to connect and share more about this rewarding ministry.

Gratitude Tree:

The Sunday School classes will be creating a Gratitude Tree! We will be decorating the tree with seasonal cutouts listing things / people we're grateful for and we would love for the entire parish to join us in this expression of gratitude! More information coming soon.

Save the Date: Children's Christmas Pageant:

We're thrilled to announce that we'll be having a Children's Christmas Pageant during the Children's Christmas Eve Service.

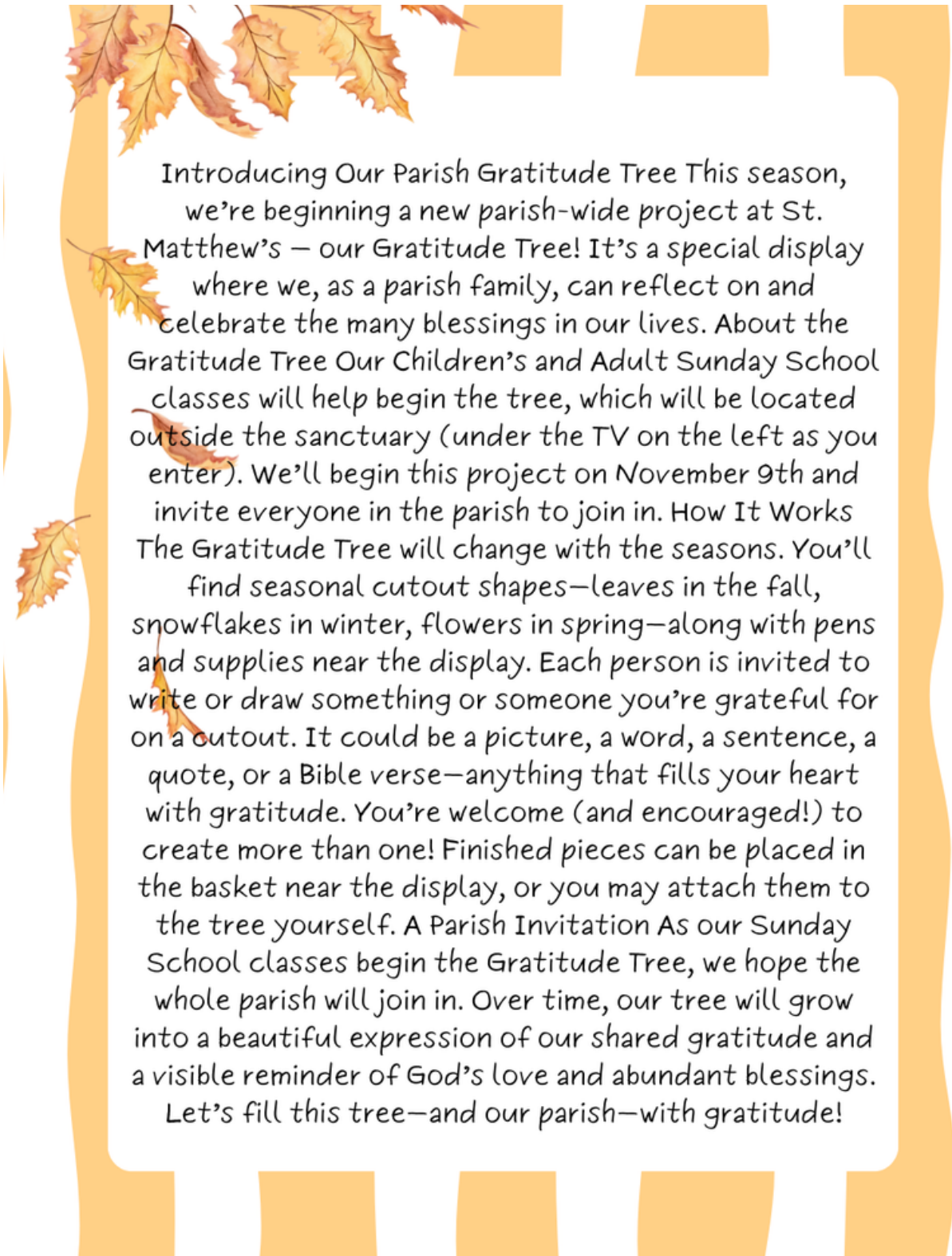
More information coming soon—stay tuned!

I'm so grateful to walk this journey of faith and learning with all of you!

Blessings,
Jenifer Woytowich

Christian Formation - cont.

Jenifer Woytowich, Director



Introducing Our Parish Gratitude Tree This season, we're beginning a new parish-wide project at St. Matthew's — our Gratitude Tree! It's a special display where we, as a parish family, can reflect on and celebrate the many blessings in our lives. About the Gratitude Tree Our Children's and Adult Sunday School classes will help begin the tree, which will be located outside the sanctuary (under the TV on the left as you enter). We'll begin this project on November 9th and invite everyone in the parish to join in. How It Works The Gratitude Tree will change with the seasons. You'll find seasonal cutout shapes—leaves in the fall, snowflakes in winter, flowers in spring—along with pens and supplies near the display. Each person is invited to write or draw something or someone you're grateful for on a cutout. It could be a picture, a word, a sentence, a quote, or a Bible verse—anything that fills your heart with gratitude. You're welcome (and encouraged!) to create more than one! Finished pieces can be placed in the basket near the display, or you may attach them to the tree yourself. A Parish Invitation As our Sunday School classes begin the Gratitude Tree, we hope the whole parish will join in. Over time, our tree will grow into a beautiful expression of our shared gratitude and a visible reminder of God's love and abundant blessings. Let's fill this tree—and our parish—with gratitude!

Episcopal Church Women



"SENIOR" WOMEN'S LUNCH

PLEASE JOIN THE LADIES OF
ST. MATTHEW'S AT BIG WHISKEY
ON HWY. 72

Tuesday, Nov. 18th - 11:30 a.m.

Sign up in the narthex
POC: Barbara Carpenter
256-527-9593

TO CONNECT WITH OLD FRIENDS AND MAKE
NEW ONES

You get to decide if you qualify as a "senior"!

Episcopal Youth Community

Jann Eich, Director



November 2025 EYC

Friday, November 7th-Taste Of Kenya- Teens may volunteer to help with fundraiser for Kenya Relief Team 4 2026. Sign up sheet in Narthex
Meet at 4 pm in the kitchen!

Sunday, November 16th EYC get together 2-4 pm. Snacks provided(Surviving the holidays)

Sunday, November 23rd EYC get together 2-4 pm (Friends Giving)

Sat. Sun, November 29th-30th-Wreath Pickup.
Email Mrs. Jann for more details!

Sunday School: Nov. 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd.
Intergenerational Advent Series begins
Nov.30th at 9 am



Prayer List

Please pray for St. Matthews's members who are distressed in body, mind, or spirit:

Bill Byrd, Chuck, Lorna, and Roy Vickers, Dottie Aldredge, Gina Centanni, Terry Schuster, David Osmond, Anna Post, Bev Ryberg, David Newton, Jane Prince, Mary Travers, Anne Sullivan, Judy Elkins, Lynda Johnston, Bob & Eileen Bogard, Roger & Rhoda Kitchen, Brenda Kirkendall, Chris King, Eileen Lewis, Molly Killian, the Sloan Family, Trudie Gruman, Ray and Shirley White, George and Sandra Burgess, Norm Smith, Keith Ulrich, Tyron Newton, Clarissa Dozier, Andy Williams, Darryl Carpenter, Carmen M. Colon, Robert Sampson, Deborah Harrison, Dennis Blanco, Scott Cechovic, Beau Womack.

Also pray for our friends and family members, especially:

Brenda Anderson, Diana Parks, Martha Bergmann, Chuck Sewell, Wes Patterson, Mike Rice, Richard Hattoway, Jenny Williams, Rosie Brown, Jewell Newton, Ginger Eich, Catherine S. Williams, Joe Allen, Caroline Thomas, Elyssa Nelson, Bill Fischer, Sally Flanigan, Theresa Richerson, Scott Marbut, Todd Newman, Cathy Taveras, Fran Woytowich, BB McCalpin, Stephen Byrd, Bronwen Murray, Katie Ray, Peggy Wagner, Joe Frank Trevino, Emmy & Drew Champion, Ron Mandelbaum, Dave Knowles, Wade Allen, Emily Nebrig, Bobby Paysinger, Barbara Lemley, Steve Sands, Felicia Temple, John David Landin, Mike Bolton, Dr. Mark Bronner, Ashley Jenkins, Kim East, John Freedman, Mark Anderson, Judy Tuck, Kathleen Glor, Ann Reid Cronin, Elizabeth Hodges, Jill Kanuchok, Mike Mumfrey, Joyce Lewis, Allan Scott, Christine Van Dyke, Christopher Taveras, Mike Rice, Suzette Rice, Vaughn Cassell, Shannon Carpenter, Jarilyn Alleman, Jake Sowder, Cheryl Lavazza, Margaret McHugh.



November Readings

November 2nd	November 9th	November 16th	November 23rd
Isaiah 1:10-18 Psalm 32:1-8 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12 Luke 19:1-10	Job 19:23-27a Psalm 17:1-9 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 Luke 20:27-38	Malachi 4:1-2a Psalm 98 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19	Jeremiah 23:1-6 Psalm 46 Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43
November 30th Isaiah 2:1-5 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44 Psalm 122			

November Servers

	Nov. 2nd	Nov. 9th	Nov. 16th	Nov. 23rd	Nov. 30th
VOD	B. Womack	R. Franz	M. Ott	C. Stagner	R. Centanni
Altar Guild	A.Turner S.Bagwell	B.Combs, K. Price	D. Buzby, G. Lo	B. Carpenter N. Snell	S.Cape S.Bagwell
Ushers	T. Sampson R.Sampson	D. Utt A. Utt	M. Harrison. J. Anderson	J. Weaver. N. Snell	T. Sampson A.Abercrombie
Lector.	J. Anderson	B.Buzby	B. Pope	J. Salmon	B. Carpenter
Epistoler.	A. Coiner	J. Burch	B. Womack	P. McGraw	S. Peterson
Intercessor	F. Looney	M. Harrison	S. Fletcher	A. Utt	P. Marques
LEM.	K. Barr B. Carpenter	S. Weaver S.Smith	J. Vaughn K. Scheuer	A. Williams B. Williams	T.Christopher W.Christopher
Crucifer.	A. Utt	A. Maddox	C. Bagwell	E. Bruce	A. Utt
Gospeler.	B. Watson	E. Maddox	A. Wales	B. Watson	S.Jones
Torch Bearer.		S. Pezzula	N. Lapacek-Trout	N. Rasmussen	M.Pezzula
Torch Bearer.		M. Pezzula	C.Trout	M. Rasmussen	S. Pezzula
Counter	M. Harrison S. Cox	K. Modrall H. Tidwell	W. Christopher P. Lewis	D. Mack J.Cooper	M. Barton A. Coiner
Hospitality	M.Pezzula	M. Brown	M. Couch	J. Glor	D. Kleinjung
Nursery.	A. Anderson M. Brown	A. Anderson M. Brown	A. Anderson M. Brown	A. Anderson M. Brown	A.Anderson. M.Brown



November 2025 Church Calendar

Weekly Recurring Events

Sunday

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 am - Sunday School

10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, Nave

Monday

5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. - Scouts BSA #628

6:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. - Bells Angels

Tuesday

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. - Men's Breakfast

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - Reunion Group

Wednesday

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Reunion Group

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Noon Eucharist

Thursday

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Ladies Bible

Study

Friday - Office Closed

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Cleaning crew

Other Scheduled Event

Friday, Nov. 1- Rummage Sale Day 2

Friday, Nov. 1 - Daylight Savings Time

Sunday, Nov. 2- Search Committee Listening Session at 11:30 a.m. in CE rm 2

Tuesday, Nov. 4 - Wing and a Prayer at 5:30pm at Cricket's

Friday, November 7 - Taste of Kenya Dinner at 6pm in Gruman Hall and Kitchen

Saturday, Nov. 8 - Ukrainian Bake Sale 10am in Gruman Hall and Kitchen

Sunday, Nov. 9 - Search Committee Listening Session - CE rm 2

Monday, Nov. 10 - Sewing Sisters at 9am in Gruman Hall

Tuesday, Nov. 11 - Veterans' Day - Church Office Closed

Thursday, Nov. 13 - Madison Quilt Guild in Gruman Hall

Sunday, Nov. 16 - DOK Meeting at 11:30 in CE rm 2

Sunday, Nov. 16 - EYC Surviving the Holidays at 2pm in Gruman Hall

Monday, Nov. 17 - Sewing Sisters- 6pm in CE Building rm 1-2

Tuesday, Nov. 25 - Wing and a Prayer at 5:30pm at Crickets

Wednesday through Friday - Nov 26 - 28, Thanksgiving - Church office closed

Sunday, Nov. 30 - First Sunday of Advent

