



## GET IN TOUCH

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SAINT MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
*Growing as God's Family*

**MINISTRY BOOKLET**  
**2025**





# WELCOME!

Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church is a Christian community and a part of the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona, the Episcopal Church, and the worldwide Anglican Communion.

Following Christ's example, we invite you to "come and see" our faith community - where all are welcome, regardless of ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or any of the other "labels" our modern world creates. We are a sacramental and worship-oriented church promoting thoughtful discernment about what God is calling us to do as followers of Christ.

Thank you for worshiping with us! Explore our expanding ministry options. We hope you will come again and join us in Growing as God's Family.

Yours in Christ,  
The. Rev. Monica Whitaker, Rector

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# ADMINISTRATIVE/ STANDING COMMITTEES



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**Junior Warden**  
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**Treasurer**  
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**Clerk**  
**Susan Cyr**

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## **VESTRY**

The Vestry serves as the “Board of Directors” for the church and is defined by the Saint Matthew’s bylaws as follows: The Vestry shall be agents and legal representatives of the Corporation in all matters concerning its Corporate property and may delegate responsibility for day-to-day operations to individuals or committees. The Vestry shall comprise the Rector, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and no more than twelve nor less than six other regular Vestry members.

## **VESTRY MEMBERS**

### **CLASS OF 2025:**

Christopher Cordes, Joel Van Over, John Wennes, Sharon Werner

### **CLASS OF 2026:**

Gloria Adams, Barb Michael, Nick Spence, Sandy Williams

### **CLASS OF 2027:**

Susan Cyr, Doug Marley, Heather Stewart, Hillson Thangasamy

# ADMINISTRATIVE/ STANDING COMMITTEES

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## **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

The Buildings and Grounds Committee is responsible for overseeing the operation, maintenance, safety, and security of our buildings, grounds, furnishings, and equipment. We meet monthly, or as needed, to review the progress of ongoing projects and necessary repairs, ranging from cleaning and painting to gardening and more. In addition to planning and oversight, we also roll up our sleeves and complete many of these projects ourselves.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The Finance Committee is a required committee per Saint Matthew's bylaws. The bylaws have defined the committee as follows: A Chair appointed by the Rector from the Vestry, the Treasurer, the Parish Administrator and other lay members with a background in finance, administration, accounting or other relevant skills. The Finance Committee will review monthly statements, track spending and expenses, guide the annual budget process and offer insight on long-term strategic and financial planning.

## **OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

Saint Matthew's Outreach Committee serves the community through partnerships and justice initiatives, each led by dedicated ministry leaders. Our outreach includes hands-on volunteering, donation drives, and advocacy for social and environmental justice. These efforts help us address urgent needs, support vital organizations, and extend our impact beyond the parish.

## **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Stewardship Committee helps educate our church on the spiritual practice of giving of time, talent and treasure. We have two major focuses each year. In the spring we organize and facilitate a Ministry Fair to help promote good stewardship in the areas of talent and time. In the fall we focus on our annual pledge drive known as "Consecration Sunday," which teaches financial stewardship based on the spiritual question "What is God calling me to do?" vs "What does the church need in order to pay its bills?" This approach enables people to truly enjoy (rather than feel negative) about stewardship programs.

# MEET OUR STANDING COMMITTEE LEADERS



## **Building & Grounds Committee** **John Wennes**

wennes80@yahoo.com

509-280-1255



## **Finance Committee** **Joel VanOver, Treasurer**

joel.vanover@gmail.com

714-287-4552



## **Outreach Chair** **Jennifer Downey**

jamlow@hotmail.com

480-227-8008



## **Stewardship Committee** **Hillson Thangasamy**

hillson.t@indo-mim.com

602-856-0153

# WORSHIP MINISTRIES BEHIND THE SCENES

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## **ALTAR GUILD**

Altar Guild works mostly behind-the scenes to prepare the sanctuary for services by setting the altar before, between and after services, changing seasonal hangings, and cleaning and maintaining service equipment. They also go beyond standard services by preparing the sanctuary for seasonal holy days, baptisms, weddings and funerals or memorial services. New members are always welcome and will be trained and partnered with an experienced team member while receiving exclusive behind the scene access.

We serve in teams that generally support one Saturday per month plus the altar reset for the service that you choose to attend. We also have three or four ‘all-call’ meetings a year to support special services like Holy Week, Easter and Christmas.

## **DIGITAL WORSHIP**

The purpose of our Digital Ministry at Saint Matthew’s is to encourage congregation members to share their technological gifts to help grow our Online Worship Service and connect with other parishioners digitally through our online presence on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, our website, and newsletters. Members of our Digital Ministry will collaborate with office staff, and other ministry members as needed. We meet quarterly to collaborate on new Online Worship Service ideas/formats and refresh our digital media plan. Meetings 1:1 with Natalie are available as needed. We livestream the 9:00 service weekly and special services as needed. New members should plan to be involved behind the scenes during services about 1x per month. Serving on our Digital Ministry Team is a six month, renewable commitment.

## **USHERS**

The ushers ministry involves greeting parishioners as they enter the church, handing out service bulletins, assisting as needed with seating, bringing the Communion elements to the altar, offertory collection and processing, releasing communicants to the altar rail for Communion, guiding clergy/lay persons to those needing Communion at their pew, taking a count of the number of attendees for the service, collecting used bulletins at the completion of the service for recycling, and a brief cleanup of the pews after the service to collect bulletins, children’s activity bags, etc. If a parishioner requires assistance for illness or injury, ushers may summon professional medical help and guide responders to the parishioner upon arrival on site.

# WORSHIP MINISTRIES LITURGICAL LEADERS

## ACOLYTES

Acolytes assist during worship by carrying the Gospel book during the procession and the Gospel reading. Their role adds to the beauty and reverence of the service, ensuring a well-organized flow of the liturgy. Children and youth, (9 years old and up) are welcome to serve.

## CRUCIFERS

Crucifers participate in worship services by carrying the processional cross during the procession and the reading of the Gospel, symbolizing the centrality of Christ in our lives and worship. Adults and youth, (7th grade and up) are welcome to serve.

## EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER (EM) / CHALICE BEARERS

A Eucharistic Minister, or Chalice Bearer, helps our priests serve Communion by offering the chalice (the Blood of Christ) to those receiving Holy Communion. Typically, Eucharistic Ministers also serve as Lectors on the same day, but this is not required. We ask that those serving as Eucharistic Ministers be either confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church. Adults and confirmed youth (9th grade and up) are welcome to serve.

## LECTORS (READERS)

Lectors read scripture lessons and also lead the Psalm or Prayers of the People. We invite parishioners—those who regularly attend Sunday services, receive Communion at least three times a year, and actively participate in the church's life by sharing their time, talent, and treasure—to take part in this meaningful ministry. Adults and youth (9th grade and up) are welcome to serve.

## VERGERS

Vergers participate during worship services by carrying the virge (staff) during procession and Gospel reading, assisting the priest in preparing Holy Communion and rings the bells at the consecration.

**WE ENCOURAGE VOLUNTEERS TO SIGN UP ONCE A MONTH FOR ANY OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES AT:**

**[WWW.SAINTMATTHEWSCHURCH.ORG/SIGNUP](http://WWW.SAINTMATTHEWSCHURCH.ORG/SIGNUP)**



# MEET OUR WORSHIP MINISTRY LEADERS

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**Altar Guild**  
**Pat Needham**

patneedhamaz@gmail.com  
480-545-8127



**Altar Guild**  
**Caren Swisher**

swisher5678@cox.net  
480-773-2498



**Digital Ministry**  
**Natalie VanDeVeire**

natalie@saintmatthewschurch.org  
480-818-4664

# MEET OUR WORSHIP MINISTRY LEADERS

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**7:30 Usher**  
**Pat Janensch**

patjanensch@gmail.com  
480-634-5297

**9:00 Usher**  
**Jeff Pavlica**

azvikingjp@aol.com  
480-242-6731

**Liturgical Leader Coordinator**  
**Darlene Abel**

thehummingbirdranch@gmail.com  
480-223-2649



# WORSHIP MINISTRIES

## FAMILY & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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### CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Children's Chapel is held year-round at both the 9 AM and 11 AM services. Children begin the service with their families and, after the Gospel reading, are escorted to the SMEC Chapel for an age-appropriate lesson and prayer. Children rejoin their families at the Peace. Lessons are geared to ages PreK-2nd grade, but all elementary aged children and parents are welcome.

### CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Each Advent, Saint Matthew's children perform a special Nativity play at the 9 AM and 11 AM services. Children retell the story of Christ's birth with a script written by Harlie Youngblood according to the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. It has been lovingly depicted for over 20 years and is a holiday favorite.

### NURSERY

Saint Matthew's offers a safe, bright environment with warm and caring staff and volunteers who provide quality childcare while parents attend worship services. The nursery is available Sunday mornings from 8:45 AM –12:10 PM in Room C-2 for children, ages newborn to four.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is offered for children ages 4 to 6th grade most Sundays throughout the school year from 10-10:50 AM in the classrooms. Teachers provide a positive atmosphere where learning about Jesus is FUN!

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OPTIONS

Parent/child Communion classes meet for four sessions in the Fall for those seeking a deeper understanding of the Eucharist. Lenten and Advent lessons/crafts occur at select services and soup supper gatherings. A Lending Library for children, filled with children's Bibles and other wonderful books is available in Room C-1.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Each summer, Saint Matthew's hosts a fun and engaging week- long Vacation Bible School. Children, ages PreK through entering 6th grade, find fun and friendship at this half-day camp, while learning about God's love through games, crafts, skits, songs and snacks. Children also enjoy a day of play outside with a giant inflatable waterslide.

# WORSHIP MINISTRIES

## YOUTH MINISTRY

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Our youth ministry brings students into a relationship with Jesus Christ and one another. Weekly Sunday meetings, outreach in the community, and participation in church events are just a few of the ways our youth discover and foster their faith. During the school year, High School (9-12th) and Middle School (6th-8th) youth groups meet in person on Sundays from 12:15–2:00 PM—lunch is provided! The summertime calendar is more relational and event-oriented. Examples include volunteering for Vacation Bible School (both for setup week and the program week), serving the community on select Sundays, attending a week-long mission trip or pilgrimage (High School Students), enjoying pool parties, lunches, and coffee meetups, as well as other fun gatherings that help maintain strong connections.

### YOUTH CONFIRMATION

We offer a meaningful opportunity for young people to explore their faith, deepen their understanding of the Episcopal tradition, and prepare to make a personal commitment to Christ. Through discussion, fellowship, and guided learning, students are invited to ask questions, grow spiritually, and take an active role in their faith journey.

### YOUTH MISSION TRIP

We are thankful for the parents who share their children with us, the leaders who love every one of these youth, and the Saint Matthew's community who support our youth and children immensely. We utilize the expertise and spiritual guidance of Wonder Voyage -an extraordinary non-profit organization that creates personalized pilgrimages and mission trips. Our voyages encourage an encounter with the heart of God through exploration and sacrificial service to distinctive communities around the globe. Through Wonder Voyage, each event becomes a journey and every participant becomes a pilgrim. Youth Mission Trips happen every summer with an International Pilgrimage in its place once every four years. Mission trips are service focused and are taken all over the US. International pilgrimages are spiritually and culturally focused.

### YOUTH OUTREACH

We partner with Eternal Springs Memory Care Center where we volunteer once to twice a month. While there, youth facilitate music, games, puzzles, and more to love and care for the seniors living there. We volunteer at Matthew's Crossing Food Bank to help sort and bag items after they host food drives, and work with other organizations as needs arise.

### YOUTH SUNDAY

Once a year our youth are in charge of our worship services! From music to readings, even the sermon, they take the wheel!

# WORSHIP MINISTRIES

# MUSIC MINISTRY

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All parishioners are invited to offer their musical gifts to the glory of God. We invite newcomers with musical experience to participate in our ensembles or as soloists. Our services are designed for active congregational singing. Our 9:00 service is led by our traditional choir with organist/pianist, flautists, our handbell choir, and other classical instrumentalists. Our 11:00 service is led by our contemporary band, composed of singers, guitarists, keyboardists, and drummers.

## **ADULT CHOIR – TRADITIONAL**

Our adult choir leads spirit-filled congregational singing at the 9:00 AM service and sings a wide variety of choral anthems, ranging from Renaissance polyphony, music from the Sacred Harp tradition and spirituals, to contemporary sacred choral works. In addition to Sundays, the choir sings at festive services throughout the church year including Advent Lessons and Carols, Christmas Eve and Holy Week. Choir rehearsals are Tuesday evenings from 6:45-8:30 PM August-May, and year-round on Sunday mornings at 8:30 AM.

## **CONTEMPORARY BAND – STATE OF GRACE**

State of Grace Band leads a contemporary array of music at the 11:00 AM service. Musical instruments currently include piano, guitar, bass and drums and are sometimes accompanied by others. The vocalists lead the congregation so that all can join in the praise and worship. We meet every Monday at 6:00 PM.

## **HANDBELL CHOIR – TRADITIONAL**

Our handbell choir provides inspirational music at the 9:00 AM service and other festive services year-round. The goal of the handbell choir is to give glory to God and provide a worshipful experience for parishioners. Experience reading music is helpful. We have 4 octaves of Malmark handbells, and 3 octaves of Malmark choirchimes. The work of the handbell choir is a team effort; rehearsals are selected Saturdays at 2 PM.

## **YOUTH RINGERS / YOUTH CHOIR – TRADITIONAL**

Youth Ringers and Youth Choir provides children and youth the opportunity to learn musical skills including note and rhythm-reading, experience a team-oriented musical tradition, play with a fun music ensemble, and participate in the music ministry of the parish during worship services. We meet select Sundays, 11:00 – 11:30 AM in the Parish Hall, during the school year.

# MEET OUR MINISTRY LEADERS

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## **Children & Family Minister Amy Trias**

amy@saintmatthewschurch.org  
480-899-7386 ext: 6



## **Youth Minister Kadi Strong**

kadistrong@gmail.com  
480-899-7386 ext: 5



## **Music Director – Traditional Rachel Salemi**

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480-899-7386 ext: 7



## **Music Leader – Contemporary Steve Gripp**

sgmusicblaine@yahoo.com  
612-636-9380

# PASTORAL CARE MINISTRIES

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## COMFORT MINISTRY

All are welcome to join our fun and meaningful group! We support our parish family by creating and blessing comfort items—lap blankets, prayer shawls, prayer pocket squares, and small quilts—offered in prayer for those facing long-term or terminal illnesses. We meet the third Tuesday of each month from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM in the Living Room. Our Blessing Sunday takes place the Sunday before each meeting.

## DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

All women are welcome to join our chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King. Please contact our office if you are interested in learning more about this ministry. Reaffirming the promises made at Baptism and Confirmation, a Daughter pledges herself to a life-long program of prayer, service and evangelism. As a Daughter, this pledge is a vow to uphold our commitment to the 'order', and is shared with a worldwide community of like-minded women. The cross we wear daily serves to remind us of this vow. No matter where you are on your Christian journey, join us to better know Jesus Christ and to make Him known to others.

## EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS (EV)

Eucharistic Visitors are trained parishioners who volunteer to bring Communion to anyone who cannot join us at the Lord's table in-person. If you are interested in participating in this ministry, or if you would like a Communion visit for yourself or a loved one, please contact our office or Deacon Keith.



# PASTORAL CARE MINISTRIES

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## HEALTH & WELLNESS MINISTRY

Our Health & Wellness Ministry promotes holistic well-being by enhancing physical, mental, and spiritual health. Through education, support, and community engagement, we foster self-awareness, preventative care, and interconnectedness within our Faith Community, empowering individuals to achieve lasting wellness and wholeness. Join us in nurturing body, mind, and spirit for a healthier, more balanced life.

Explore our resources and workshops: [www.saintmatthewschurch.org/wellness](http://www.saintmatthewschurch.org/wellness)

## TELECARE

The Ministry of Pastoral Care, through Telecare, is dedicated to fostering open communication channels between parishioners and clergy/staff. Team members reach out to individuals listed in the parish directory in the spring and fall, from their homes, to check on their well-being and inquire about prayer needs. In addition to these calls, team members participate in quarterly one-hour Zoom meetings to discuss concerns and questions. Prospective members are required to undergo training, including watching a one-hour video, reading a short booklet, and completing a four-hour online Safe Church course. The Telecare Team ministers to all members of Saint Matthew's listed in the parish directory. While any adult willing to engage in calling other parishioners can participate, individuals with comfort in praying with others and possessing active listening skills are preferred.



# MEET OUR PASTORAL CARE LEADERS

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## **Comfort Ministry** **Ruth Betts**

rbtruely@gmail.com  
703-307-5514



## **Daughters of the King** **Sandy Williams**

sandyw0601@gmail.com  
480-390-4484



## **Eucharistic Visitors** **Deacon Keith Mackenzie**

called603@gmail.com  
248-766-9520



## **Health & Wellness Ministry** **Karl Hurst-Wicker**

kw291@redbuttehealth.com  
801-946-0189



## **Telecare** **Ash Bennett**

ash244@icloud.com  
480-492-8796



# OUTREACH MINISTRIES COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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Saint Matthew's Outreach Committee serves the community through partnerships and justice initiatives, each led by dedicated ministry leaders. Our outreach includes hands-on volunteering, donation drives, and advocacy for social and environmental justice. These efforts help us address urgent needs, support vital organizations, and extend our impact beyond the parish.

## **FOR OUR CITY - CHANDLER**

For Our City - Chandler is a collaborative ministry that brings together nonprofits, service groups, businesses, faith communities, and the City of Chandler to foster compassion and cooperation in meeting local needs. Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church plays an active role, partnering on efforts like Operation Back to School, where we focus on collecting and distributing shoes for students, and the Gratitude Gathering, an annual interfaith celebration that promotes unity through music, prayer, and reflections from diverse traditions. These shared events strengthen relationships across the community and allow Saint Matthew's to live out its mission of service and connection.

## **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

Habitat for Humanity helps people obtain a decent, affordable and safe home in the Phoenix metro area. Tasks include helping with construction of the home for a family in need. Saint Matthew's is typically assigned 1 or 2 work Saturdays during the home construction. The Episcopal Habitat Coalition sponsors usually 2 houses per year.

# OUTREACH MINISTRIES

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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## **HELEN'S HOPE CHEST/HELPING FOSTER KIDS**

This outreach opportunity serves foster children in our community. Anyone interested can: Serve on a Foster Care Review Board (FCRB); Be a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA); Or donate time to help Helen's Hope Chest, which provides clothing, toys, school supplies, and hygiene items to kids in foster care. Every year, the parishioners of Saint Matthew's hold a drive to donate holiday gift cards for foster teenagers, many of whom live in group homes and rarely receive Christmas presents. Helen's Hope Chest is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and a Qualifying Foster Care Organization (QFCO). Donations up to a yearly maximum QFCO credit donation amount (based on filing status) may qualify for a dollar-for-dollar state tax credit. Making a tax credit donation will increase the amount you receive back from the state. Check with your tax advisor for eligibility.

## **MATTHEW'S CROSSING FOOD BANK**

In 2001, Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church recognized a need for supplying nutritional food to the hungry families in the surrounding community and with the help of 3 volunteers, Saint Matthew's Food Bank was established. By 2005, the food bank grew beyond capacity and the need for an independent space became apparent. Matthew's Crossing became a 501(c)(3) community based non-profit organization and moved down the street to its own location at 1368 N. Arizona Ave, (between Ray and Warner) in Chandler. The Food Bank provides nutrient support to those in need (children, teen, college and family programs). Volunteers are always needed to sort donations from local stores and food drives, front desk data entry, assembling food boxes, and packing weekend backpack meal bags for students. We collect non-perishable food throughout the year in the blue bin in our Narthex along with providing all of the Thanksgiving sides every fall.

# OUTREACH MINISTRIES

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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## MEMORY CAFE

Step into the heart of community compassion at the Memory Cafe — an inviting space for care partners and individuals navigating memory impairment. This isn't just a meeting; it's an oasis free from judgment, pressure, and stigma. Join us for coffee, pastries, and engaging cognitive activities. The air is alive with shared experiences, laughter, and genuine connections. Meets the first and third Friday of the month from 10:00 - 11:30 AM in the Parish Hall.

## TOY DRIVE

Each December we collect toys to support Arizona families who have a child battling a life-threatening medical condition. New and unwrapped toys may be placed in the Blue Bin in our Narthex in December.

## WISH LIST AND GIFT IDEAS:

- Barbies, dolls, baby dolls, Squishmallows, LOL Surprise toys, and Disney Princess toys.
- Lego sets, superhero toys, Star Wars toys, Beyblades, Pokemon toys, video games.
- Board games, card games
- Baby toys, play dough, Paw Patrol/Cocomelon/Bluey toys
- Sensory friendly toys that light up or make sounds, kinetic sand, fidgets, etc.
- Craft or science activity sets (good for "Tweens") - Such as friendship bracelet kits, magic set, etc.

## VALLEY BLOOM

Our Outreach Committee supports Valley Bloom, an organization dedicated to meeting real needs in our community through targeted programs that assist students, individuals in crisis, and local adults seeking connection. Each spring, we hold a donation drive and gladly accept gently used items such as jewelry, clothing, accessories, housewares, and children's books to support their thrift shop, located just down the street at 2326 N Alma School Rd, Chandler, AZ 85224. These items can also be donated year-round during the thrift shop's regular hours.

# MEET OUR COMMUNITY PARTNER LEADERS



## Outreach Chair

Helen's Hope Chest | Holiday Toy Drive

### Jennifer Downey

[jamlow@hotmail.com](mailto:jamlow@hotmail.com)

480-227-8008



## Habitat for Humanity

### Wayne Needham

[wmn@ieee.org](mailto:wmn@ieee.org)

480-545-8127



## For Our City – Chandler

### Jess Trias

[jess.trias@cox.net](mailto:jess.trias@cox.net)

480-276-1854



# MEET OUR COMMUNITY PARTNER LEADERS

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**Matthew's Crossing**  
**VACANT**

**Memory Cafe**  
**Shafeeka Brown**

chandlrmemorycafe@gmail.com  
480-688-4070

**VALLEY BLOOM**  
**Maria Hesse**

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480-221-4707



# OUTREACH MINISTRIES WORKING FOR JUSTICE

## BECOMING BELOVED COMMUNITY

The Becoming Beloved Community (BBC) group seeks to expand and deepen personal connections within Saint Matthew's community by conducting one-on-one relational meetings as well as monthly Deepening Community Sessions. We also collaborate with other member congregations of Valley Interfaith Project (VIP), a nonpartisan organization, to influence local public policy for community betterment. We currently are working to get city, county, and state government officials to enact policies that increase the supply of affordable housing and to increase access to mental health services for youth and adults.



## CREATION CARE

Project "Creation Care" - a program dedicated to saving our planet, "God's Creation" - has been active at Saint Matthew's since February, 2021. This program was a result of the Diocesan convention of October, 2020. Creation Care strives to decrease Saint Matthew's campus footprint. Be sure to check the Sunday bulletin for published updates or the link below to view our latest advice and suggestions. The link includes the Green Gift Guide which is continually updated and a helpful resource for Earth conscious consumers. Meets every three months and by email communication.

## HISPANIC MINISTRY/BORDER MINISTRY

This part of the outreach committee looks to reach out to Hispanics in the community and migrant communities and support Episcopal Church ministries in Latin American countries. Meetings are ad hoc as needs or opportunities are identified.

# MEET OUR WORKING FOR JUSTICE LEADERS

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## **Becoming Beloved Community** **Larry Dumka**

ilarion@hotmail.com  
480-241-4910



## **Creation Care** **Gina Bowers**

ginabowers5@gmail.com  
602-499-5116



## **Hispanic Ministry/Border Ministry** **Joe Albo**

joe\_albo@aol.com  
602-316-9885

# EDUCATION MINISTRIES



## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The members of the Thursday Adult Bible Study Group (AKA the “Thursday Mob”) are enthusiastic, welcoming Christians eager to read and understand the Word of God. From September through May, we meet in the Parish Hall on Thursday mornings from 10:00 to 11:30. Whatever we may be studying at the time, our goal is to come away from each meeting with a deeper knowledge of scripture which will, hopefully, increase our faith. We are currently completing a 2-year study of the Gospel of John. The Thursday after Labor Day 2025, we will delve into the Book of Acts. Whether you’re a “Bible scholar” or a novice just beginning your journey to understand scripture, we would love to have you join us.

## FAITH FORMATION

Guided by Rev. Monica, this ministry invites all to explore and deepen their spiritual journey through opportunities rooted in the Episcopal tradition. These include small group book studies, classes, and discussions designed to encourage reflection, learning, and connection. A key offering is our Introductory Class on Episcopal Beliefs and Practices, ideal for newcomers to The Episcopal Church and lifelong Episcopalians alike. Using *Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices*, along with video presentations and hands-on experiences, participants delve into the richness of Episcopal worship, liturgy, and theology. Together, we reflect on how God is calling each of us to live out the ministry of all the baptized.

## MEN’S MINISTRY

Our Men’s Ministry is a new and growing community dedicated to building connections among the men of Saint Matthew’s. We are laying the foundation for ongoing faith formation and strong fellowship through study, prayer, and conversation. As we begin this journey together, we welcome ideas for gatherings, events, and activities that help us grow in faith and friendship. Come as you are and help shape the future of this ministry.

## RETREATS

Throughout the year, we offer seasonal retreats that provide space for spiritual renewal and deeper reflection. These gatherings are designed to support participants on their faith journey through prayer, conversation, and time apart from daily routines. Whether you’re new or a seasoned participant, each experience offers a unique opportunity to listen for God’s voice, build community, and grow in faith.

# MEET OUR EDUCATION LEADERS

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## **Adult Bible Study** **Ann Port**

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480-840-6047



## **Faith Formation** **The Rev. Monica Whitaker**

revmonica@saintmatthewschurch.org  
480-818-4578



## **Men's Ministry** **Ted Telepak**

ttelepak@asu.edu  
480-682-8854



## **Retreats** **Genine Telepak**

aztelepak@gmail.com  
480-234-1060

# HOSPITALITY MINISTRIES

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## COFFEE HOUR

Coffee hour at Saint Matthew's is legendary. As a congregation we don't take serving and being served lightly. If you have a gift for baking brownies to buying crackers, we'd love your help. Coffee hour isn't just a service - it's a life line in our church community. We hope you'll join us during the 10 o'clock hour for fellowship in the Parish Hall. Coffee hour teams serve two weeks in a row, three times during the academic year.

## COMMUNITY LIFE

Our community life ministry works throughout the year to bring members of the church together outside of regular Sunday service hours. Events include the annual Fall Festival, potlucks, dinner groups, craft nights, game nights, celebrations, and other activities. We would like to expand fellowship opportunities for young couples and singles, as well as older adults!

## NEWCOMER MINISTRY

Whether you're a new member yourself or have been attending for decades, our newcomer ministry is a great way to get involved. We strive to build new relationships and help visitors feel more welcome. From get-to-know-you events throughout the year to our team of greeters offering warm smiles and making connections on Sunday mornings, we'd love for you to get involved today!



# HOSPITALITY MINISTRIES

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## SAINTS IN ACTION

A committee of caring parishioners who hope to make a difference when it comes time to having a reception following a celebration of life or memorial service at Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church. At the request of a grieving family, SIA will coordinate the reception in the Parish Hall. Coordinated as needed to help lessen this burden on grieving family members.

## TWO O'CLOCK TALK – COME CHAT WITH US!

Join us every Tuesday at 2:00 PM on Zoom. The conversation is casual—sometimes serious, sometimes silly—and always welcoming. What started as a simple way to stay in touch has become a weekly dose of laughter, stories, and connection. All are welcome!

## WEDDING COORDINATION

Our wedding ministry works with couples to be wed at Saint Matthew's to ensure the start of their married life together is a smooth event. This ministry works with the Rector, Music Director, office staff and Altar Guild to guide a cohesive and meaningful planning environment and oversees church wide wedding activities. Meets seasonally as needed.



# MEET OUR HOSPITALITY LEADERS

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## **Coffee Hour** **Bob & Caren Swisher**

swisher5678@cox.net  
480-227-2928



## **Community Life** **Natalie VanDeVeire**

natalie@saintmatthewschurch.org  
480-818-4664



## **Newcomer Ministry** **Tammy Halter**

tammy.halter@gmail.com  
602-570-1115

# MEET OUR HOSPITALITY LEADERS

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## **Saints in Action**

### **Sandy Williams, DOK President**

sandyw0601@gmail.com

480-390-4484



## **Two O'Clock Talk**

### **Sonja White**

sonjajwhite@msn.com

480-895-1986



## **Wedding Coordination**

### **Susan Cyr**

susancyr@cox.net

925-858-9870



# THE REV. MONICA WHITAKER

## RECTOR

[revmonica@saintmatthewschurch.org](mailto:revmonica@saintmatthewschurch.org)  
480-818-4578



Pastoral Emergencies: ext 9

Rev. Monica, a cradle Episcopalian, was baptized, along with her two sisters, by their father, who dedicated over 30 years to the priesthood in the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan. Valuing the ministry of all the baptized, she passionately encourages seekers and believers of all ages to explore their spiritual gifts in service to God's mission in both the church and the world. Rev. Monica is deeply committed to addressing the issue of affordable workforce housing and actively supports the LGBTQIA2S+ community.

Her commitment to justice is evident in her service on the Anti-Racism Committee for the Diocese of Arizona and her ongoing collaboration with Becoming Beloved Community. Rev. Monica currently holds a significant role on the diocesan Council for Native American Ministry and the Listening & Healing Pilgrimage, playing a vital role in the Church's journey toward reconciliation and healing from the intergenerational trauma of the Indian Boarding School Era.

As a fourth-generation Chinese American, Rev. Monica actively engages with her multiracial heritage and ministry through regular gatherings with Episcopal Asiamerica Ministries and AAPI Leaders. In addition to communal worship and private devotional prayer, she finds spiritual connection with God through activities like hiking, music, swimming, and listening to audiobooks. Rev. Monica feels blessed to share her home with two feline companions, Mario and Felipe.