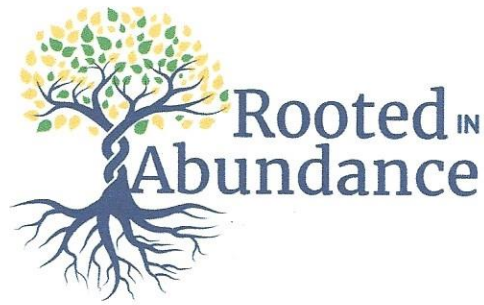


St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
243 Barrow St.  
Houma, La. 70360

985-872 5057

September 10, 2023

Dear



Thank you for worshipping with us at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. God has blessed this community throughout our 168 years and we stand on a solid foundation. This is a community that is growing in numbers as we strive to discern the will of God and eagerly develop new ministries to awaken our community. The Holy Spirit is breathing "New Life" within us!

Prayerfully, we have already begun this process of renewal. Our vestry has been "walking out in faith" and has empowered us to initiate many new programs such as:

1. **The Way of Love Small Prayer and Faith Sharing Groups** (49 members participating)
2. Our monthly **Rooted in Faith Monthly Social Gatherings** (60 per month)
3. **Youth Ministry Group**, ( 25 pre-teens and teens)
4. **Godly Play Sunday Morning program** (beginning in Oct. for our children pre-K – fourth grade.)
5. **Sunday Morning Childcare** for our youngest children that will begin in Oct.
6. **The Lunch Bunch** – weekly opportunities for our church members to gather to share lunch and fellowship (10 participants)
7. **Our weekly Wednesday Healing Mass** (average attendance – 15)
8. **Walking the Mourner's Path** – a ministry that reaches out to provide support and prayer for those suffering from grief. (beginning on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>)
9. **St. Matthew's Go Green** – a new ministry that will work in partnership with our school to promote, encourage, and educate our community on being good stewards of the earth.
10. **Music Ministry** – the redevelopment of our choir and music program
11. **The Finance Committee** – a small group that will work with the rector, Sr. Warden and treasurer to manage the budget.
12. **The Stewardship Committee**, a small group that works to help our community recognize and respond to the resources at our fingertips to allow our church to empower our ministry and outreach.

This is an exciting beginning and we are all feeling the joy of seeing our church blossom with new members and ministry. What else will our Lord call us to do? More Bible Studies, more opportunities for outreach, greater outreach to the sick and imprisoned, more continuing education on the Episcopal Faith and practices, opportunities for mission outreach, educational travel, book studies....the possibilities are endless and all so exciting!

*They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of the drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. Jeremiah 17:8*



Keith Hampton has accepted a call to lead our Stewardship Ministry. Bruce Jenkins, Larke Lenard, Harvey Chauvin and Keri Kelley have also accepted a call to serve. They have chosen, “**Rooted in Abundance**” for our 2023 Theme. It is under this banner that we celebrate the abundance of the blessings of the past, the blessings of the present and the blessings yet to come. With gratitude we celebrate the gifts so freely given by God.

Throughout the next few months, invitations will be extended to you from our committee members and church staff on the joys and challenges we face as a growing community, invitations to become more supportive in prayer and action. I encourage you to listen with fresh ears and eager hearts! God is doing something wonderful in this community and we are blessed to be able to support its full vision! Together we are “Rooted in Abundance.”

Sincerely,



Fr. Jim Morrison

*They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of the drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. Jeremiah 17:8*