

SAINT MATTHIAS

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Saint Matthias Messenger

Published Monthly

Volume 21 Issue 2–February 2024



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Office Hours

Monday-Friday
10AM-4 PM

Holy Eucharist

Sundays at 8 AM

Holy Eucharist

Sundays at 10 AM

10 AM Services Streamed at
facebook.com/stmatthiaswhittier

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE

by Kathy Adams

Kathy Underwood’s article in the January Messenger gave an update of where we are in the process of getting a new rector. We are nearing the point where the Search Committee can begin their formal search. She reminds us that during this time of waiting, “We are the ones through whom God is working today. With or without a hired priest, we are the church. God has begun a good work in us and is faithful to complete it.” (Paraphrase of Philippians 1:6)

We are very fortunate that there is a great group of people associated with St. Matthias that God is working through. St. Matthias isn’t just a church. It is a business in the sense that it has property that it maintains and rents out to various businesses. Through my being present at some meetings and my discussion with some people present at other meetings I have become aware of things various people have done. I want to share some of those good works and say thank you for blessing us with your presence. This in no way is meant to be all-inclusive. I do not profess to know everything that everyone does at St. Matthias. This is only meant to give examples of how God is working through the people of St. Matthias.

First is Ben Gonzalez, the facilities manager. He makes sure that everything on site is running smoothly and rooms are set up appropriately for designated events. Whenever there is a meeting or event he makes sure the requisite number of chairs and tables are set up beforehand and put away afterwards, trash thrown out, food items put away. Yes, many people will volunteer to help set up or put things away, but Ben will check in to make sure it is being done or else he will do it himself. Think of all the meetings and events we have and the needs of our renters, all the times he is there after his normal work day.

Next is Sophie McIntosh, our parish administrator. Sophie followed some big footsteps filling in after Dottie Andersen. And no, I don't think she knows everything yet. What strikes me as a great attribute is she knows how to think a situation through. If she sees a potential problem, she will try to resolve the issue. If she doesn't know how to fix it, she isn't afraid to reach out to people that might be able to help provide a solution.

Liz Villalva is our bookkeeper. One of her job duties is to attend meetings to report on finances. When the meetings are dealing with topics other than finances, Liz remains engaged. She will provide input if she has any knowledge of the issue being discussed. I think that is a sign she is not just there just doing a job. She cares about St. Matthias.

Mary Jean Christian wears so many hats here that she probably needs a neck brace to keep her head up. In addition to being the chair person of several ministries, she and her husband Larry help maintain the grounds. She is also our Finance Officer. As one of her responsibilities during this time, she worked with Liz Villalva and Carol McCracken to develop a compensation package for our new rector. I saw the worksheet they prepared and was very thankful I didn't have to do any part of it!!

Then we have our Energizer Bunny, Chris Lavagnino. He is responsible for live streaming and recording our services and sending out our Midweek Updates. As the chair of our Stewardship Committee he wrote many articles and arranged for speakers. He arranged for families to light candles during Advent. He drives a group to Dodger Stadium for Episcopal Night at a Dodgers game. He participates in

and contributes to our various events. If there isn't a planned event, he will come up with an idea for one and recruit people to help get it going. And he does it all with that big smile on his face!

As humble as she is, I know Sr. Warden Kathy Underwood is not expecting any praises or accolades for anything she does at St. Matthias, but she steps up and does whatever task needs to be done by her. She is one of the beautiful voices in our choir, schedules readers and chalice bearers for all services, and leads Bible Study. One of her responsibilities as Sr. Warden is scheduling a priest for our services. I think she has done a great job in being able to retain personable and caring priests for most of our needs.

Speaking of our choir, Kevin McKelvie does so much to set our table every week with the wonderful music he renders on the organ and with our amazing choir. His leadership of our Worship Commission ensures that all of our parishioners continue to grow in their worship experience at St. Matthias.

Stan Jamieson has been a member of St. Matthias for many decades. He is representative of many of our long-standing members. He has in the past and continues to participate in various committees. He has offered valuable and helpful insight on issues that arise. And of course the fact that he is crazy about the Dodgers, Rolling Stones and El Cholo about says it all!!

I could mention many more people by name and I am sure I would still be forgetting to include someone, but I want to say I am thankful God is working in various ways through everyone who is a part of the St. Matthias community. Your participation, no matter how great or small, whether in person or via Zoom or other streaming services, is noted and appreciated. All of the priests that have presided over our services during this period of transition have worked at churches that are in the same situation as St. Matthias. Several of them have commented that St. Matthias is doing quite well in comparison to other churches and they enjoy being here. I hope everyone feels the warmth and caring that surrounds St. Matthias.

God Bless,
Kathy Adams

Clerk of Vestry



Here we are, Loving One, Mystery, Light
Beginning to quiet ourselves
Beginning to be still

Remembering you created us
To flourish in your Love
Remembering an old desire to grow in you

We long to be more than we are living now
We long to live all we can become
But, fearful, wonder how we can

We try to choose the best and truest path
But stumble in our living and in our choosing
We want to handle things ourselves

We'd rather make it on our own
And besides, trusting you, God,
Can be very hard

But we need more Light, your Light,
To see the ways ahead
We need more wisdom, yours,
to choose the way that's well for us

Here we are beginning willingness
Beginning to trust, to open ourselves,
our lives, and our decisions
To your illuminating Light

Here we are, Loving One, ready to begin.
Amen.

by Nancy Bieber

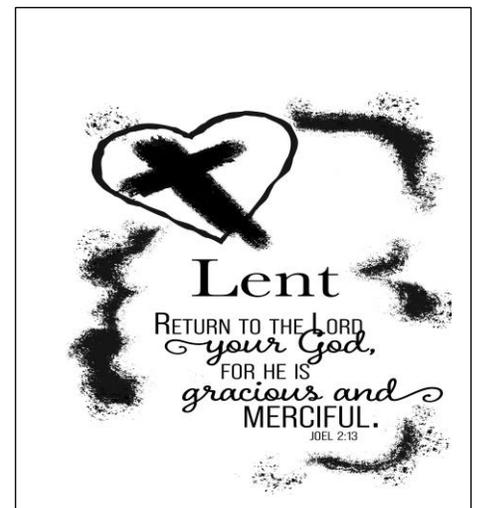
A LENTEN CALL TO FELLOWSHIP, GOOD FOOD AND SPIRITUALLY ENRICHING CONVERSATION

BEGINNING ON FEBRUARY 22, WE WILL MEET FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE THURSDAYS FOR OUR TRADITIONAL LENTEN POTLUCK SUPPERS AND, THIS YEAR, A JOURNEY THROUGH “LOVE IS THE WAY”, BISHOP MICHAEL CURRY’S BOOK THAT SUPPORTS OUR MISSION SPOKEN AT THE END OF EVERY EUCHARIST, ‘*GO FORTH IN PEACE TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD, DOING THE LOVING THING!*’

BISHOP CURRY’S BOOK MAY BE PURCHASED THROUGH MANY DIFFERENT VENUES. PRICES RANGE FROM \$27 NEW TO \$1.99 USED. JUST GOOGLE THE TITLE ON YOUR PHONE OR IN YOUR BROWSER, AND YOU WILL FIND SEVERAL SELLERS. EVEN IF YOU DON’T READ THE BOOK, THE STUDY MATERIALS THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE OFFER ENOUGH INFORMATION TO ALLOW FOR LIVELY DISCUSSION. IT IS A VERY ACCESSIBLE BOOK, WRITTEN IN THE WARM, PERSONABLE STYLE OF BISHOP CURRY’S SPEECH. ITS UNDERLYING MESSAGE IS ‘HOLDING ON TO HOPE IN TROUBLING TIMES’.

WE WILL MEET AT 6:30 P.M. FOR SUPPER FOLLOWED BY ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS OF ‘CHUNKS’ OF THE BOOK. IT PROMISES TO BE INSPIRING, PERHAPS CHALLENGING AND DEFINITELY AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!
KATHY UNDERWOOD
CO-SENIOR WARDEN



Abounding in Kindness

Theologian Elizabeth Johnson summarizes the prophetic path as following a merciful God who abounds in kindness:

Abounding in kindness, the holy mystery of God is love beyond imagining. Not enough people seem to know this, even those who practice the Christian religion. But the drumbeat of this good news resounds throughout the history of ancient Israel where, from the start of their liberation from slavery, people encountered “a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness” (Exodus 34:6). The drumbeat becomes unmistakably intense in Jesus Christ who preached and enacted divine compassion in startling ways, all the way to the cross and beyond. Its volume ramps up in the church wherever this word is heard and practiced amid the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of people of this age.

This is not a word that returns to its Maker empty. Working creatively for peace amid horrific violence; struggling for justice in the face of massive poverty and military oppression; advocating ecological wholeness for the earth’s life-giving systems and stressed-out species; educating the young and the old; healing the sick and comforting those in despair; creating beauty; taking joy in nourishing children; promoting freedom for captives: the list could go on because the needs are enormous. Even a simple cup of cold water given in Christ’s name symbolizes how the abounding kindness of God becomes effective in this world. [1]

For Johnson, God’s compassion and solidarity for those who are suffering requires us to show the same:

If the heart of divine mystery is turned in compassion toward the world, then devotion to this God draws persons into the shape of divine communion with all others: “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (Luke 6:36). To deny one’s connection with the suffering needs of others is to detach oneself from divine communion.

The praxis of mercy is propelled by this dynamic. So too is committed work on behalf of peace, human rights, economic justice, and the transformation of social structures. For those who engage in this work out of deep contemplative experience, it is far from mere activism or simple good deeds. Rather, solidarity with those who suffer, being there with commitment to their flourishing, is the locus of encounter with the living God. Through what is basically a prophetic stance, one shares in the passion of God for the world....

The preferential option for the poor must now include the vulnerable, voiceless, nonhuman species and the ravaged natural world itself, all of which are kin to humankind. Loving these neighbors as their very selves, committed religious persons develop moral principles, political structures, and lifestyles that promote other creatures' thriving and halt their exploitation. For the prophetic passion flowing from contemplative insight, action on behalf of justice for the earth participates in the compassionate care of the Creator God who wills the glorious well-being of the whole interdependent community of life. [2]

[1] Elizabeth A. Johnson, *Abounding in Kindness: Writings for the People of God* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2015), viii.

[2] Johnson, *Abounding in Kindness*, 47–48.



Every Sunday we come together at St. Matthias both at 8:00am and at 10:00 am to worship, to sing praises and to partake in Holy Eucharist.

Eucharist in the Episcopal church is a sacrament commemorating the Last Supper, in which bread and wine are consecrated and consumed. The bread and wine are referred to as the body and blood of Christ.

Each Sunday the altar is set with linen and a chalice (cup) to hold the wine and a paten (small plate) to hold the host (communion wafer) and the presiding priest will lift up the host and the chalice and the congregation is invited to come up to the altar to receive the “body of Christ” and the “blood of Christ”.

As we take part in holy communion each week, we should also give a thought to the Altar Guild members who have set up the altar and who also clears and puts away all the vessels and linens used each week.

It is a simple but essential task each week to set up the altar for communion and to clear it away. No special training is required and you will be guided by those who are in the Altar Guild.

Each item used in communion does have a specific name, but there is no pressure to learn a new vocabulary .

All that is required to be a serving member of the Altar Guild is a heart willing to serve and a pair of willing hands. And best of all, both men and women are welcomed to join the Altar Guild in service to God each Sunday.

Call me or text me at 562.256.6247 or email me at weisanmohindar@mac.com or talk to me in person. I am usually at the 10:00 am service sitting in a pew in what is known unofficially as the “church ladies pew”.

I really hope to hear from one and all even if all you have are questions about the Altar Guild. I will try to answer your questions and if you are ready and willing to serve in this very rewarding and essential service, I and any other Altar Guild member would be delighted to have you in our midst.

God Bless,

WeiSan Mohindar

Recipe Corner

Need a good recipe for Meatless Lent? WeiSan suggests this recipe from Pinterest! She likes this recipe because she has made it a number of times and she likes that the eggplant stays intact and the sauce and cheese does not smother nor overpower the eggplant.

Eggplant Parmesan Recipe

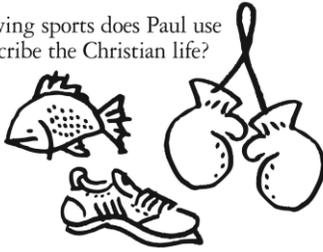
1. Pre-heat your oven to 400F and lightly grease a sheetpan, as well as a 9 x 12 casserole dish with butter or pam spray.
2. Prepare a quick breading station, mixing the flour with the salt and pepper in a bowl, whisking the eggs with a fork in a second bowl, and finally mixing the breadcrumbs and shredded Parmesan in a third bowl.
3. Taking one eggplant slice at a time, dip the slices into the flour, then the egg, and finally in the breadcrumb mix. Take each individually breaded eggplant slice and place it on the greased sheet pan.
4. Bake the slices for 20 minutes in the 400F oven flipping them once half way through.
5. While the eggplant slices bake, mix the tomato sauce, onion powder, brown sugar, minced garlic, and herbs in a bowl. Season with some salt and pepper.
6. Once the breaded eggplant slices are golden brown, spread a little sauce in the bottom of the casserole dish, and then place half of the baked eggplant slices out in the bottom of the greased 9 x 12 casserole dish.
7. Top the eggplant with half of the tomato sauce, and remaining cheese. Repeat with the remaining ingredients as though you are making lasagna.
8. Bake the assembled eggplant Parmesan casserole in the oven for another 25 to 30 minutes until the cheese is golden brown on top. Garnish with fresh basil or parsley and serve!



?? ? Bible Quiz ? ? ?

Which of the following sports does Paul use metaphorically to describe the Christian life?

- A. Fishing
- B. Running a race
- C. Boxing
- D. Both B and C
- E. All of the above



Answer: D (See 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.)



"The serpent sent over a lovely fruit basket."


Ash
WEDNESDAY
 12 NOON AND 7PM



PUZZLE

CONNECTED BY LOVE

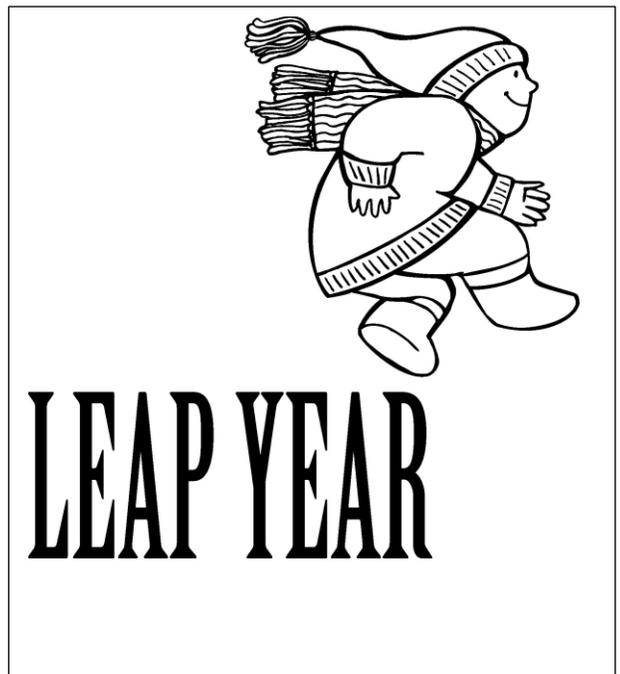
God's Word is filled with messages about love, which connects us to God and to one another.

Directions: Draw a line from the beginning of each Bible verse (on the left side) through the heart to the rest of the verse (on the right side). Use the Scripture references for help.

<p>a. We</p> <p>b. Above all,</p> <p>c. My command is this:</p> <p>d. And over all these virtues put on</p> <p>e. Greater</p> <p>f. See what great</p> <p>g. There is no fear in</p>	<p>1. each other as I have loved you. John 15:12</p> <p>2. has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13</p> <p>3. But perfect love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18</p> <p>4. each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8</p> <p>5. the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! 1 John 3:1</p> <p>6. because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19</p> <p>7. which binds them all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3:14</p>
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Answers: a,6; b,4; c,1; d,7; e,2; f,5; g,3



FEBRUARY SERVICES, EVENTS, & SMALL GROUPS

SUNDAYS AT 8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist (in-person only)

SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist (in-person and streaming live at
facebook.com/stmatthiaswhittier)

ASH WEDNESDAY (with REV. JUDITH LYONS): February 14th at 12 noon and 7p.m.

BIBLE STUDY/MORNING PRAYER: Wednesdays 10am, Chapel

MEN EATING BADLY: Saturday, February 3rd, 8:00 a.m. Greenleaf Café. Contact Tim Adams.

OUR TIME: Tuesday, February 13th 2pm. Contact Mary Jean Christian.

VESTRY MEETING: Tuesday February 13th, 7:00 p.m. Chapel.

VESTRY RETREAT: Saturday February 17th, 8a.m.-12, Chase Room

STITCHERY GROUP: Saturday, February 17th, 9:00 a.m. Chapel. Contact Ellen Mykkanen.

ST. ELIZABETH'S GUILD: Thursday, February 15th. Noon, Chapel, Contact Diana Jimenez.

BIBLIOPHILE: Tuesday, February 20th, 6:30 p.m.. On Zoom, Contact Fred Adams.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW) Saturday, February 24th, 10A.M. Chase Room.

LENTEN QUIET DAY: Saturday, February 24th 8:30a.m.-12 Chapel and Lewis Hall



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Ash Wednesday

**February 14th Imposition of
Ashes at Noon and 7pm**

Sunday Worship at St. Matthias: February 2024

- February 4** Isaiah 40:21-31, 1 Corinthians 9:16-23, Mark 1:29-39, Psalm 147:1-12, 21c
- February 11** 2 Kings 2:1-12, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6, Mark 9:2-9, Psalm 50:1-6
- February 14** Isaiah 58:1-12, 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21, Psalm 103:8-14
- February 18** Genesis 9:8-17, 1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:9-15, Psalm 25:1-9
- February 25** Acts 1:15-26, Philippians 3:13-21, John 15:1,6-16, Psalm 15

We look forward to offering our worship services on more than one platform for streaming in the near future. We are awaiting new equipment that will allow us to do so. So please be patient and stay with us till that happens.

FEBRUARY 2024

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