

SAINT MATTHIAS

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Saint Matthias Messenger

Published Monthly

Volume 18 Issue 1 - January 2021



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<https://zoom.us/j/91597283264>
or - via Facebook at 10:00^{am}
<https://www.facebook.com/stmatthiaswhittier>

Preparing for 2021, Inwardly and Outwardly

Well a new year is beginning and we hope that it will be a bit less manic than last year. As we prepare for the year ahead it is probably a good idea to touch base “inwardly and outwardly” and take stock of how we are doing and how prepared we are for the year ahead.

First let’s chat about reviewing things that are “outward.” By this I mean those things that help us get through life as we deal with the world around us. It’s a good time to take stock. Is the home in which we live in good shape? Are there items that need to be take care of? How’s our cash situation? How’s our debt situation? Are things going ok at work or school or home? How’s our health? Is it time to schedule an appointment for a checkup? Now might be a good time to start preparing for tax season by getting checks and receipts together.

And then there are things “inward.” How’s our prayer life? How’s our relationship with church? How are we felling about the people that are close to us in our lives? Even more importantly how are we feeling about ourselves? Is there work to be done shoring up any of these areas?

Finally, a written plan to remediate any of these important areas that need attention is vitally important. Hoping for change or improvement generally is a waste of time and worry. A plan with timelines and goals on the other hand can change one’s life in every important area. It’s also a wonderful stress reliever. We do the work and let the written plan do the worrying.

Blessings to each of you and those you love and care about for 2021.
Blessings to each of you this year.

Fr. Bill+



PARISHIONER PROFILE: FAYE JACKSON
The Relocated Stephen Minister

INTRODUCTION

I, Faye Evans Jackson, met my husband, Jackawa, in 1957 at TSU (Texas Southern University) in Houston, Texas. This was at the Freshmen Ball. After 2 years courtship, we married and had 3 sons: Two sons are Texas born and one son is a native Californian. Our awesome family includes a retired teacher, a retired LA County Assistant Fire Chief, a Captain (LBFD), a Retired Firefighter/Paramedic with Corona FD, an Engineer and two Firefighters with LAFD and LACFD, an EMT with a private company ,and a Police Officer (LBPD). I am a grandmother of twelve, a great-grandmother of sixteen, and have two more great-grands on the way.

THE MOVE FROM TEXAS TO CALIFORNIA IN 1968

Upon graduation, at the top of my class with a BS Degree in Elementary Education, I was recruited to teach by three district Superintendents who were integrating their school districts: Seattle, Washington, Denver, Colorado and Long Beach, California. After considering the climates, I chose Long Beach in sunny California. The challenge of finding housing in Long Beach was just short of hilarious. A Black family (2 sons and a dog) had been informed that we could get an apartment in the high-rise apartment building on Ocean Blvd. in Long Beach. What a joke?

FINDING A CHURCH HOME

My family and I chose St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Long Beach mainly because it was the same name as our church in Houston. However, it was a great choice; the Rector, Fr. Hall, made a home visit which turned out to be a real winner. My family and I remained active members until we moved to Whittier in 1988. After visiting all Episcopal churches in the surrounding area and several other denominations, St. Matthias Episcopal Church was selected because there was a welcoming atmosphere within the congregation.

BECOMING A STEPHEN MINISTER AND STEPHEN MINISTER LEADER

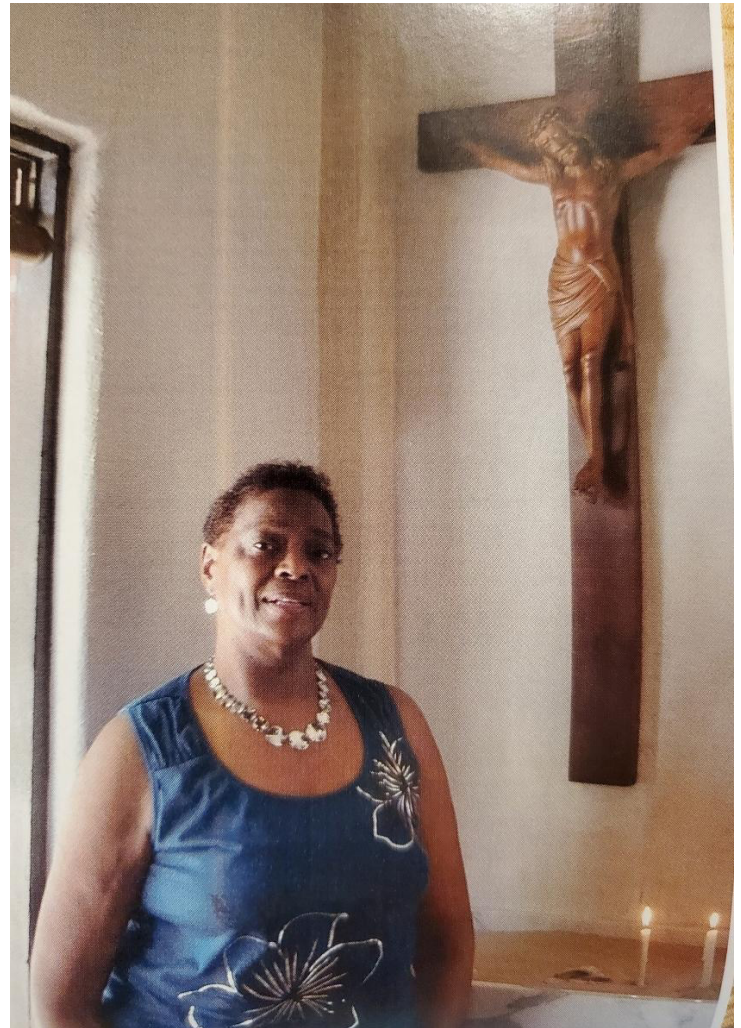
Rev. Shirley Rose (may her soul rest in peace) after two years persuasion, convinced me that Stephen Ministry was a good ministry for me; therefore, I completed 50 hours of training. Rev. Shirley introduced me to my first care receiver, a nice lady who had lost her husband to Parkinson’s disease after 10 years of caring for him. The scenic drive from my job in Cerritos to Hacienda Heights, once a week for three years, was quite rewarding. Then, The Rev. Vern Woodlief (may her soul rest in peace) and I took the Stephen Minister Leadership training (5 grueling days).

MY PASSION

- The love of family and friends
- To pay my pledge (10% of family income) 1st of the month
- Singing in the church choir
- Being a prayer partner
- A Stephen Minister care giver and Stephen Minister Leader
- Care giving and coordinating the in-home care for my husband, with Alzheimer’s disease

“A Stephen Minister is the Caregiver, and God is the Cure giver”

--Faye Jackson, Stephen Minister Leader



Diocesan Convention

In each of the past three years I've had the privilege of attending the Annual Diocesan Convention. They have provided different experiences every year. But if you can accept my corruption of the tongue, this year was certainly "different-er" than the others. As with so many things, COVID-19 made a dramatic impact on our annual gathering. Instead of the two-day meeting in a large convention center (most frequently, the downtown Riverside Convention Center) we were relegated to a one-day event. Our Diocesan Staff shared central and remote locations to present this year's gathering.

The Convention theme was "Servants of the Spirit -- Gifts for Ministry." Even in the midst of the COVID exile and new infections rising, Southland Episcopalians remain

"servants of the Spirit of the risen Christ and not the spirit of the age." These words were spoken by Bishop John Harvey Taylor in his opening remarks at the 125th annual – and first-ever virtual – meeting of the Episcopal Diocese. Bishop Taylor stressed a new theme of evangelizing servanthood, galvanizing community, and a new financial paradigm. With extraordinary coordination the annual voting process was completed smoothly, with, perhaps, some credit given to the process made necessary by our ZOOM platform.

Bishop Suffragan M. Diane Jardine Bruce celebrated the 10th anniversary of her consecration this year. She congratulated congregations for "stepping up" in spite of stay-at-home order. She praised Southland Episcopalians for their efforts across the board, reaching out to membership to seek the needs of the surrounding community and becoming "Servants of the Spirit" by feeding and caring for those most in need spiritually and physically. She presented numerous examples of our ongoing efforts to expand and galvanize our communities.

Bishop Taylor called for a new financial paradigm to help fund "a brighter" future for diocesan mission and ministry. He shared the challenges of balancing next year's diocesan budget, noting the need to reach into cash reserves in a measured and prudent fashion. He suggested that the two pillars of the new financial paradigm are the Mission Share Fund and the upcoming capital campaign, which aims to raise up to \$40 million in endowment funds to support local congregations, to keep serving their neighborhoods. "The time has come for a new conversation about the core purpose of parish giving," Taylor said. He pointed out that Mission congregations are required to contribute 10% of annual plate and pledge income to the mission share fund. Parishes are required by canon to give 12-15% of their general operational budgets.

Our Eucharist began with Bishop Taylor reminding us to put safety first "at this time when we're all reading about the spike in infections and serious illness as a consequence of the global pandemic." We shared pre-recorded scripture lessons and musical offerings from around the Diocese. We were blessed by the Eucharistic homily offered by Canon Stephanie Sellers from her home in New York. She challenged us to "be brave and take risks" in light of the opportunities that lie ahead.

All in all, a very different Diocesan Convention. It was presented at a time when we are faced with and surrounded by significant challenges. But we were reminded of our resilience and adaptability that will support us as we stay the course and prepare to go even further.

Our convention delegation consisted of Parish clerics, Fr. Bill Garrison and Rev. Carole Horton-Howe. Our Lay delegates were Janice Webster, Stan Jamieson and Doug Overstreet. Alternate Delegates were Kathy and Timothy Adams. Also in attendance were Mary Jean Christian and J.D. Neal. A reminder to all, that each member of our congregation is welcome to attend. We hope that next year, you, too, might consider serving as an official Lay or Alternate Lay delegate.

-Tim Adams



New Year's Blessings

Father Bill invited us in his article to think about what the new year might look like for each of us. The new year might also be a good time to think about blessings. The thing about blessings is that often they don't seem like good things. The Beatitudes are like that. Jesus says that the poor, the hungry, the sorrowful and the hated are all blessed. (Luke 6:20-31) That doesn't make much sense to us just as it probably didn't to ancient folks who heard it -- until Jesus shared with them the Good News that God sees them, loves them and has wonderful things in mind for them like full stomachs, lots of laughter and nothing less than the entire Kingdom of God laid at their feet. Here are a few 2021 Beatitudes that come to mind:



Blessed are you when the long dark days of winter get you down, for you shall be gifted with a night sky full of stars and a little more light each dawn.

Blessed are you as you reluctantly put Christmas decorations back in their boxes, for you shall know joy between now and when you see them again.

Blessed are you when you drag the crunchy Christmas tree out to the curb, for you will remember God's gift of life that constantly renews itself.

Blessed are you when you skip a meeting because you just can't Zoom another Zoom, for you shall be find peace in self-care.

Blessed are you when all around you are half hidden by masks and keeping their distance, for these acts of love say, "I care about your life even though I don't know you."

Blessed are you when you are shocked and saddened by the numbers of COVID victims and the stories about them even after hearing them for many months, for your tender heart has not hardened to the suffering of others.

We may have to dig a little in these early days of 2021 to find the blessing in all the discomfort and the craziness. But every day we are one day closer to the end of these strange days. God's promise of light, of joy, of compassionate caring and renewal are with us. We are seen and loved through every joy and sorrow that we experience for ourselves and through others. What wonderful Good News for 2021!

Rev. Carole+

Services and Small Groups

If you do not have internet access, you can still join Zoom meetings by telephone. (A standard landline is fine; a smart phone is not necessary.) Just dial (669) 900-6833, and, when prompted to enter the meeting I.D., enter the number that you see below at the end of the web address for the meeting you want to attend.

- ✦ **Holy Eucharist**, Sundays at 10am - <https://zoom.us/j/91597283264>
or <https://www.facebook.com/stmatthiaswhittier>
- ✦ **Sunday School** - Sundays after church - Email Andrea Schmid at andrea@stmatthiaswhittier.org for details.
- ✦ **Advent Quiet Day**, Saturday, December 5th at 9am - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/618771589>
- ✦ **Daughters of the King**, 3rd Sundays at 1pm - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/618771589>
- ✦ **Bible Study**, Wednesdays at 10am - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/778461428>
- ✦ **Men's Bibliophile Group**, 3rd Thursdays at 6:30pm - Contact Chuck Carrillo for the meeting ID and pass code.
- ✦ **Divine Connection Through Body and Breath**, Fridays at 10am, Saturdays at 10:30am, and Sundays at 2pm - Email Cynthia Orsini-Dahl at cynthia@cynthiaorsinidahl.com for log-in details.

Episcopal Church Women - January Events

SCARF, BEANIE, AND GLOVE DRIVE

As the weather cools down at night and we are warm and snuggly in our homes, let us remember that there are some who are not as fortunate. Please join ECW in their Scarf, Beanie and Glove drive. We will be collecting scarves, beanies and gloves during the month of January for our Soup Hour clients. Gender-neutral styles and dark colors are preferred. Take advantage of the Christmas sales. A donation of any one of these items is greatly appreciated. You may drop off your donation at the church office or shop online from your favorite retailer and have it shipped directly to the church. The address is 7056 Washington Ave., Whittier, CA 90602. Thank you for your generosity!

JANUARY MEETING

All women of the parish are welcome! Please join us as we kick off the new year and plan some upcoming fun events. We will be meeting via Zoom on Saturday, January 23, 2021 at 10AM. The link to join this fun and creative group of ladies will be in the midweek update closer to the meeting date. Looking forward to seeing you!

-Janice Webster, ECW Co-Chair



Funds for the Future Update

The year 2020 was an extremely tumultuous time for the St. Matthias Funds for the Future. Once the pandemic raised its ugly head the market was all over the map. It remained unpredictable until November when the good news about vaccines made the headlines. November was a good month for our fund as it grew by \$33,335.36. As for the year through November 30th the fund grew by \$43,159.45. The November statement shows the fund total to be \$524,802.56. The fund continues to maintain close to a 2.5% interest rate. Who knows what the next year will bring but at the current time we are doing just fine. Remember the fund cannot be used for operating expenses and was set up to fund future capital needs and new ministries. It is also safeguarded by the fact that only the vestry has the final say on any withdrawals that are made. You can help the fund grow even more with your bequests, insurance and properties.

-Stan Jamieson

Live in the light

Often we want to be able to see into the future. We say, "How will next year be for me? Where will I be five or 10 years from now?" There are no answers to these questions. Mostly we have just enough light to see the next step — what we have to do in the coming hour or the following day.

The art of living is to enjoy what we can see and not complain about what remains in the dark. When we are able to take the next step with the trust that we will have enough light for the step that follows, we can walk through life with joy and be surprised at how far we go. Let's rejoice in the little light we carry and not ask for the great beam that would take all our shadows away.

-Henri Nouwen, Bread for the Journey



Puzzle!

Complete each saying below. Then place the words from those blanks in the correct order to complete Proverbs 23:4.

1. When the going gets tough, the tough _____ going.
2. People who live in glass houses should _____ throw stones.
3. If the shoe fits, _____ it.
4. "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is _____ to enter the kingdom of God."
5. Good things come _____ those who wait.
6. When in Rome, _____ as the Romans do.
7. Don't wear _____ your welcome.
8. If you want something done right, do it _____.

Write the unscrambled proverb here:

PROVERBS 23:4

Answer: Do not wear yourself out to get rich. Proverbs 23:4



"Because he works from home. That's why we never see God in person."

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ? ?

In the story of the Magi, what word is used to give a sense of Jesus' age when the wise men visited? What does it tell us?

- A. "baby"; Jesus was still a newborn in a manger
- B. "child"; when the wise men visited, Jesus had grown past infancy
- C. "youth"; Jesus was probably between 10 and 14
- D. No word is used to suggest Jesus' age at the time of the wise men's visit.



Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1-12.)



KEEP SEEKING HIM

Newsletter News

At the end of last month, C&M Publications, *The Messenger's* longtime printer, permanently closed. As a result, Saint Matthias is now printing our newsletter in-house.

Each month, we send out approximately 245 copies of *The Messenger*. They go to parishioners, friends in our community, and--in a few cases--to friends and former parishioners who live out of town.

C&M was able to print our newsletter for free because they included a page of advertisements, most of which were submitted by business people in our own congregation. Now that we are taking on the job of printing, we would like to continue seeking sponsors to offset the costs to the church. You might consider purchasing a space for any of the following:



- advertisements
- graduation announcements
- engagement or wedding announcements
- birthday wishes
- thank-you messages

Please take a look at the chart below for pricing, and contact me at andrea@stmatthiaswhittier.org if you're interested in placing an ad.

-Andrea Schmid

HALF PAGE - 7.5"X5", \$50/ISSUE

<p><i>Your ad here!</i></p>	<p><i>Your ad here!</i></p> <p>1/8TH PAGE - 3.75"X2.5", \$20/ISSUE</p> <p><i>Your ad here!</i></p>
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QUARTER PAGE - 3.75"X5", \$30/ISSUE

Worship at Saint Matthias January 2021

January 3

Scripture:

Second Sunday after Christmas Day

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a; Luke 2:41-52; Psalm 84:1-8

January 10

Scripture:

First Sunday after the Epiphany: Baptism of Our Lord

Genesis 1:1-5, Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11, Psalm 29

January 17

Scripture:

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-10; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51; Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17

January 24

Scripture:

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

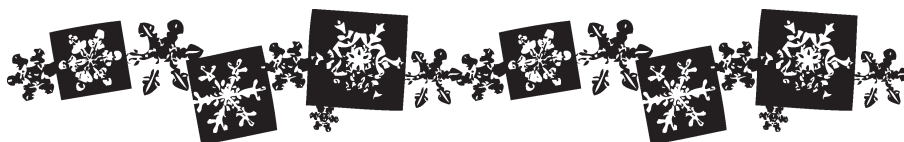
Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20; Psalm 62:6-14

January 31

Scripture:

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20, 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28, Psalm 111



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