

# SAINT MATTHIAS

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## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Saint Matthias Messenger

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Saint Matthias Episcopal Church  
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Office Hours  
Monday - Friday



9:00<sup>AM</sup> - 4:00<sup>PM</sup>

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Sunday Worship Services  
via Zoom at 10:00<sup>am</sup>  
<https://zoom.us/j/91597283264>  
or - via Facebook at 10:00<sup>am</sup>  
<https://www.facebook.com/stmatthiaswhittier>

## Christian Habits

My goodness things are a mess. As I write this I wonder where this pandemic is headed and when a means of slowing it down will arrive. People are in the streets demanding social justice reform. The people of our country are divided in a such a way that I wonder if we can ever get back to talking civilly and respectfully with each other.

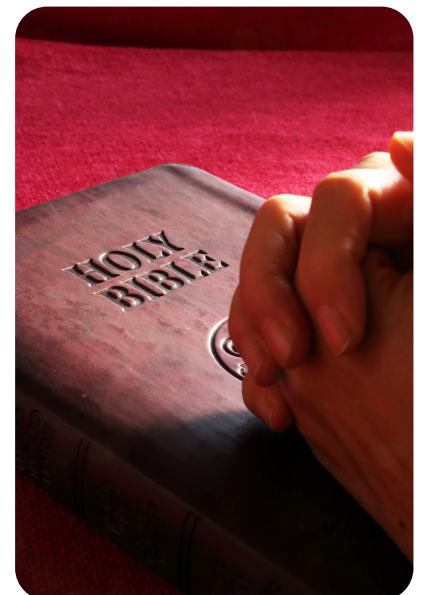
In our own community we yearn to get back home. We are experiencing our own diaspora. Zoom and Facebook are helping us remain in solidarity but nothing replaces worship and small groups meeting in person. And truthfully, as I write this, we don't know when we will be together again. We know it's going to happen but we cannot know when.

The ancient Israelites were held in captivity in Babylon in the sixth century BCE. They yearned to return to Jerusalem and Judea. They longed to rebuild the Temple which had stood for five hundred years. When would they return? Would they return at all?

What were they to do in the meantime? How might they remember who they were and whose they were? This was the job facing the priests. How were they to help their congregation get through this horrible time?

They found the answer in religious habits. Emphasizing eating Kosher and observing the Sabbath were emphasized. Festival days were to be remembered. Worship happened in homes. They did everything they could to help the people remember that they were God's chosen people and that through these habitual practices they would be able to maintain their community in captivity.

It took them over fifty years to get back home. It will take us much less than that. In the meantime, we too must remember who and whose we are. We are invited to emulate these ancient people. We are invited to do as they did. Weekly Sunday worship no matter how it might be done is important. Small groups meeting to talk and think about God are equally important. Praying at regularly scheduled times can be helpful. Reading scripture regularly is meaningful. Talking with other members of the community is recommended. Celebrating the Christian holidays as the arrive is important. Christian habits.



And in these tough times we can be Christian leaders. This is helpful not only to those around us but to our own selves too. Taking care of our neighbors. Being kind to others. Listening even when we don't necessarily agree. Remembering God's love for us and for those we meet. These are things we are called to do even in diaspora.

September begins our "program year." There is a lot to help us remember who and whose we are. Please get on board. There are many offerings. Pick a couple and join in. We are going to make it back to our Jerusalem. There is no question about that. Meanwhile partake of those things that keep each of close to God and in community with each other. Habits are important.

*Fr. Bill+*

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## Praying for Each Other

I miss you all like crazy every day but especially Sunday mornings. It's very quiet with only Fr. Bill, Ben and myself in the building. Too quiet! I miss choir members arriving, and hearing a preview of the hymns that day with Kevin directing from the pulpit. I miss our children and teachers coming into the chapel for Sunday School and eavesdropping on their sweet conversations while I vest for the service. I miss Tom and Andrea checking in to get the Facebook livestream set up. I miss all of you coming through the swinging doors, welcomed by the ushers, and settling into your customary pews. I miss sharing every bit of worship with you from lining up with our acolytes to process in until Deacon Kay sends us out to do the loving thing. I especially miss taking communion with you. I even miss Ben out on the patio when I arrive at 7:15 wielding the roaring leaf blower. His coffee I don't miss. Sorry, Ben.

But before I get too cranky thinking about who I can't see and what I don't hear and what we can't do, I stop and thank God that you're staying home and staying safe. And then – crazy as this might sound - I walk through the sanctuary. I stop at each pew, picture you sitting there whether you're an 8:00 or 10:00 person, and whisper a quick prayer saying your name and asking God to keep you healthy and give you joy. When Zoom starts and I look into the nave, it somehow seems less empty.

If you're tempted to call Fr. Bill or my husband, Bob, and ask when it was exactly that I lost my mind I wouldn't blame you. It's an unorthodox way to prepare for service. But these are unorthodox times. We are challenged to find ways of drawing closer to the heart of God and each other. Remembering each other in our prayers allows us to do this in a special way. So I wonder if you might want to try something: next Sunday morning, picture the people that sit near you and ask God to take especially good care of them. In this weird era of Covidtime, it's one way to follow Jesus' command to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, with all your mind" and "love your neighbor as yourself." Keep staying safe and let's pray for each other. We'll get through this. We'll be back.

*Blessings, Rev. Carole+*



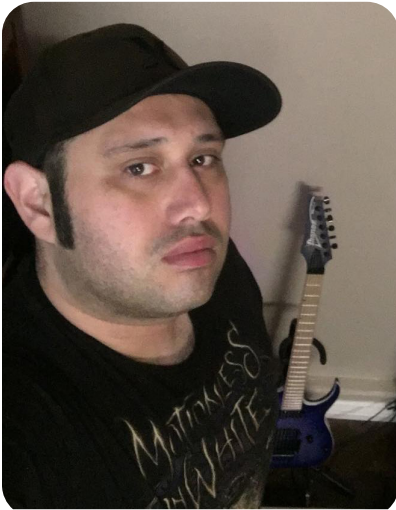
## Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped make Julian's baptism such a special event-- Fr. Bill, Rev. Carole, Dottie, and Ben for putting everything together with less than a week's notice, and everyone in our Saint Matthias family who watched from home. It was a beautiful day, and we were grateful to be able to share it with you all.

*-Andrea and Michael Schmid*



## Meet Vestry Member Geoff Biby: Growing Up at Saint Matthias



I have been going to Saint Matthias since I was born. My mother [Jan Biby] had me baptized at an early age. Some of my favorite memories at Saint Matthias are youth group lock-ins and trips, especially going to San Francisco--we took Mary Jean and Larry's Good Times van (with "Good Times" printed on the spare wheel cover), and had a blast traveling there and back. My Eagle Scout project was painting the youth room. We got the room painted, and then had a giant sub sandwich for lunch.

I served as an acolyte for a couple of years in the early 90s. Will Adkisson trained me. I used to usher when needed, and when Julie McAllister started the prayer ministry at the sides of the altar during communion, I did that as well for two years or so.

I'm currently working as a Systems Administrator for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts. I support the Time and Pay system for the U.S. sites (California, Florida, Hawaii). I love the job, but it can be stressful. In my free time, I enjoy playing guitar and studying music theory. I also like reading—the book I'm currently reading is Chris Hogan's *Everyday Millionaire*. When I was younger, I did indoor rock climbing. I zip lined down Fremont Street in Las Vegas--it was a ton of fun. I enjoy off-roading in the desert, but I don't get to do it as much as I would like.

I love that Saint Matthias is welcoming to all people. In my everyday life, I try my best to treat everyone the way I would like to be treated and to help people out where I can. I try to see things from other people's perspectives and be grateful for what I have.



Mary Jean Christian and the Good Times van on the trip to San Francisco, 1995 (Photo Courtesy of Mary Jean Christian)

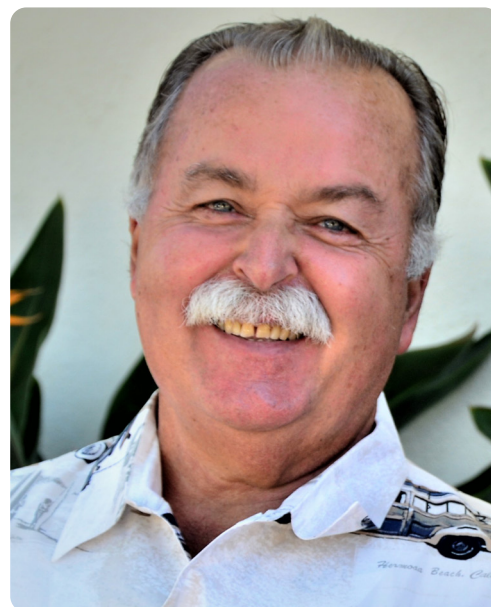


Serving as an acolyte and performing in a Christmas pageant



## From the Editor: Twenty-Seven Years of Newsletters

I first began doing the newsletter at Emmanuel Episcopal in Fullerton in 1993. The editor then, who was also the printer, wanted to quit doing it and the Church Secretary asked me if I wanted to take it over. Bonnie and I had just gone through a weekend retreat called Cursillo and I was doing the little newsletter for that group and so I had one issue of experience which qualified me for the new job. I remember I was replacing a faucet in the Sacristy when Jean, the Parish Coordinator, asked me, and I REALLY wanted the job. We were on strike at work at the time and money was a little tight and I knew I would have to buy new software to do the job without the quality suffering. I told Jean I would have to talk it over with Bonnie first. Well, Bonnie said to go ahead without a second thought and we would make ends meet somehow, and we did. The program being used then was Aldus PageMaker, before Adobe bought them, and I think the cost was five or six hundred dollars to purchase it. I was attending Rio Hondo on the GI bill at the time and being a student saved me over 50% of the cost. I was a little shaky at first but spent a lot of time with my nose in books. I continued as editor until two years AFTER we left the church. I told Fr. Rob I would continue until he found someone to take over. Well, you know how THAT goes in churches. I finally set a deadline and the next month an editor was found.



When we first came to Saint Matthias, Millie Morse was very capably doing the *Messenger* but when she found out I had experience, she asked me if I would consider taking over and she would continue to do the folding. I did and have been doing it since 2009. I have always loved doing the newsletter but I have also believed that by my doing it I might be keeping someone else from stepping in who would also love doing it, and so I asked Andrea if we could start looking for an enthusiastic replacement. As it turns out Julian Schmid's Mother was very enthusiastic about the job and so Andrea will be taking the job on. She has brought a very nice and fresh air to our Church Communications and I have no doubt that the *Messenger* will also start to reflect that, and in the tradition of Millie Morse, I will continue to do the folding.

*God Bless,  
Alan Selmanaj*

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### Bible Study is Back!

Bible study resumes Wednesday, September 9th, at 10AM on Zoom. We will continue our previous study in the Gospel of John. This gospel is especially interesting because its sources of material are completely different from those in the other three gospels. In addition, this gospel has had a tremendous impact on humanity for the last two thousand years. Please join us. You will find the study material at <http://www.stmatthiaswhittier.org/wednesday-bible-study>. If you are unable to print the material or do not have a color printer please let us know and we will get it to you.

*Fr. Bill +*

### Now I Lay Me...

My mother was raised, along with her siblings, in a Baptist orphanage in Canada in the early 1900s. She could recite the names of all the books of the Bible. She knew all the hymns, all the verses, and sang around the house all the time. When it came to bedtime, she thought it inappropriate for little children to pray about dying in their sleep, so she taught us this ending: "There are four corners on my bed, there are four angels at my head. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, bless the bed that I lay on."

*Courtesy of Grandma Penney  
From Rev. Kay*





# WISDOM FROM THE WORD

God makes a special promise to people who study Scripture.

Directions: Arrange the word list in alphabetical order. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Joshua 1:8, NIV.



- |         |          |
|---------|----------|
| school  | --○----  |
| paper   | --○--    |
| wisdom  | ---○-    |
| read    | ----○    |
| play    | -----    |
| learn   | ○-----   |
| grow    | -○-----  |
| pencils | -----    |
| pray    | --○---   |
| art     | -----    |
| student | -----○-- |
| kids    | ---○---- |
| apple   | --○----  |

"... meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be \_\_\_\_\_ and successful."

JOSHUA 1:8, NIV

Answers: apple, art, grow, kids, learn, paper, pencils, play, pray, read, school, student, wisdom, prosperous

## We Need To Know

Please let the clergy know of any members of the parish that are unable to come to church and would like to receive communion. **The Office now schedules the Lay Eucharistic Visitors and wants to include all who need a visit. Please contact Dottie or Father Bill in the Parish Office to schedule a visit.**

If you know of someone who has been admitted to a hospital, remember to inform the clergy. With the new privacy laws, the clergy can no longer check the roster for parishioners that may be hospitalized. It is "Better We Know Twice Than Not At All!"

## Support Our Advertisers

Each issue of the Saint Matthias Messenger is printed at no cost to our Parish, thanks to C&M Church Publications. They are able to do this by selling a single page of advertising in each issue. Please check the back of each issue's calendar and if you are in need of a service listed, consider using one of our supporters.

## A BUSHEL OF BOOKS



Design a handy bag to tote your books this fall.

### What you need:

- Plain canvas bag
- Cardboard scrap
- Acrylic paints (2 colors)
- 2 small paper plates
- Apple
- Knife (and adult help)
- Foam brush
- Scrap paper

### What you do:

1. Lay the bag flat on a table, and place cardboard inside for protection.
2. Pour a paint dollop on each plate.
3. Slice the apple in half, keeping the core intact.
4. Brush a thin layer of paint on the cut side of an apple half. Practice making stamps on scrap paper. Use the other color on the other apple half.
5. Paint and stamp the bag with your final design. When dry, remove the cardboard.
6. Use the bag for school and Sunday school. Happy reading!

### Saint Matthias Staff

#### Rector

Fr. Bill Garrison

#### Associate

Rev. Carole Horton-Howe

#### Associate

Rev. Carolyn Estrada

#### Deacon

Rev. Kay Lozano

#### Music Director

Kevin McKelvie

#### Communications

Andrea Schmid

#### Parish Administrator

Dottie Andersen

#### Facilities Manager

Ben Gonzalez

#### Treasurer

Kathel Harris

## Special Dates in September

- \* Labor Day, September 7
- \* Patriot Day, September 11
- \* Grandparents Day, Sept. 13
- \* First day of Autumn, Sept. 22



# Worship at Saint Matthias September 2020

**September 6**      **The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
Scripture:          Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 149, Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 18:15-20

**September 13**    **The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
Scripture:          Exodus 14:19-31, Psalm 114, Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35

**September 20**    **The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
Scripture:          Jonah 3:10-4:11, Psalm 145:1-8, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16

**September 27**    **The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
Scripture:          Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16, Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32

## 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.

- ✦ **Sunday Service**, 10am - <https://zoom.us/j/91597283264> or <https://www.facebook.com/stmatthiaswhittier>
- ✦ **Daughters of the King**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 1pm - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/618771589>
- ✦ **Women's Book Group**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays at 6:30pm - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83390445216>
- ✦ **Bible Study**, Wednesdays at 10am - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/778461428>
- ✦ **Inspiring Memories**, Thursdays through September 13<sup>th</sup> at 10am - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81472531411>
- ✦ **Men's Bibliophile Group**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 6:30pm - Contact Chuck Carrillo for the meeting ID and pass code.
- ✦ **Divine Connection Through Body and Breath**, Fridays at 10am - Email Cynthia Orsini-Dahl at [cynthia@cynthiaorsinidahl.com](mailto:cynthia@cynthiaorsinidahl.com) for log-in details.
- ✦ **Episcopal Church Women**, 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays at 10am - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85488418955>
- ✦ **Online Giving** - <http://www.stmatthiaswhittier.org/donate-pledge>



# Save the Date!

Mark your calendars, and look for details and Zoom links in the midweek update emails and at [stmatthiaswhittier.org](http://stmatthiaswhittier.org).

- **September 9** - Bible Study Resumes (See p. 4 for details!)
- **September 13** - Sunday School Meet and Greet
- **September 20** - Homecoming Sunday / Sunday School Resumes
- **October 3** - Parish Ice Cream Social



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED  
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