

SAINT MATTHIAS

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Saint Matthias Messenger

Published Monthly

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Saint Matthias Episcopal Church
7056 Washington Avenue
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Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
9:00^{AM} - 4:00^{PM}

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<http://www.stmatthiaswhittier.org>

Sunday Worship Services
8:00^{AM} - Holy Eucharist
10:00^{AM} - Holy Eucharist

Saturday Worship Service
The First Saturday of the Month
5:00pm - Healing Service

Wednesday Bible Study
10:00^{AM}
Wednesday Eucharist
11:00^{AM} - Holy Eucharist



Keeping Score

I recently came across a story I thought I would share with all of you. The author is unknown. Here it is. Please enjoy.

In the beginning, God didn't make just one or two people. God made a whole bunch of us 'cause God wanted us to have a lot of fun. God said, "you can't really have fun unless there's a whole gang of ya'". So God put us all in this park ground called Eden and said, "Why don't you enjoy yourself?"

At first, we had fun just like God expected. We played. We rolled down the hills, we waded in the streams, we climbed the trees, we swung on the vines, we ran in the meadows, we frolicked in the woods, we hid in the forest. We acted silly. We all laughed a lot.

Then one day this snake told us that we weren't having fun 'cause we weren't keeping score. When he explained it we still couldn't see the fun in that but he said we should give an apple to the person who was best at playing. We'd never know who the best was unless we kept score and we could all see the fun in that 'cause secretly we all knew we were best.

Well, it was different after that. Now we yelled a lot at each other. We had to make up new scoring rules for everything we played. Other games like frolicking, we had to stop playing because how do you keep score when you frolic? That's what I want to know.

By the time God found out about our new fun, we were spending 45 minutes a day playing and the rest of the time working out the score. God was upset about that, very, very upset.

God said we couldn't use the garden anymore because we weren't having fun. We said we were having lots of fun and we were. God shouldn't 'a got so upset because it wasn't the kind of fun God had in mind.

Well, God wouldn't listen and kicked us out of the garden and said we couldn't come back until we stopped keeping score. To rub it in and get our attention, God told us we were all going to die someday and our scores wouldn't mean anything anyway.

Well, I've decided God was wrong 'cause my cumulative all game score is now 16,548 and that means a lot to me. I figure I can raise it to about 20,000 before I die. And I'll know I've accomplished something. Even if I can't, my life has a great deal of meaning 'cause I've taught my children to score high. They'll be able to reach 20 or 30 thousand, I know.

Really, it was the life in Eden that didn't mean anything. Fun has meaning now because we keep score. Don't you think that's a lot better way to have fun? God must have a very superficial view of life. I'm glad my children are being raised away from God's influence. We were lucky to get out. We must be very grateful to the snake.

Not much needs to be said after that does there? We can be thankful for God's unconditional love. Our loving God knows who we are and loves us, and doesn't care at all about the score. Have a great November.

Fr. Bill+

Stephen Ministry

In the past issues we covered the subjects of Crisis Care, Foillow Up Cae and Chronic Care. In this issue we would like to discuss Preventive Care

Preventive Care helps people anticipate and prepare for potentially difficult upcoming events. It is based on the belief that the negative impact of crises can be lessened or even averted by talking through feelings and clarifying expectations prior to the anticipated event. This can help individuals come to a realistic picture of what an upcoming event will be like and to prepare for it emotionally, physically and spiritually. Preventive care is proactive care, It offers an opportunity to deal with problems before they start.

Preventive care can be helpful in situations such as the following:

- A woman is expecting her first child
- An executive is approaching his or her retirement
- A young man is getting married in a few months
- A 19 year old goes off to college or to the military
- The person has just recently received a promotion

People often think of these as wonderful life events. but for some they can become difficult times of personal crisis. Stephen Ministers can be caring and listening in all of these situations.

Again, we always stress the point that the caring relationship between a care receiver and a Stephen Minister is always kept confidential.

If you or someone you know is experiencing any type of crisis and would like a listening and caring Stephen Minister please contact Fr. Bill or Rev. Carole.

**WE ALWAYS KEEP GOD
AS THE CENTER PIECE
OF OUR CARING MINISTRY.**

Stan Jamieson - Stephen Leader



About the Kids

There is so much to be thankful for this November at St. Matthias. There are 33 kids at St. Matthias and if they would ever all show up they would be the life of the church. We begin November with the Feast of Lights Service and Dinner on Sunday, November 3 at 5:00 pm. On Friday November 15, the youth group will travel to Los Angeles and visit the Wilshire Temple for a Shabbat service and then to Canter's Delicatessen for dinner. The month closes with the Great Turkey Scavenger Hunt on Sunday, November 24.

*God Bless,
Sally*

Futures Fund

Hear are some snippets from an article several years ago and are still relevant:

Ideas to ponder regarding your will:

- When was the last time your will had a checkup? Does it have and include a gift for the furtherance of the Gospel?
- The cost of writing a will may be the best bargain you ever receive. It costs little compared to what you can save for our heirs-and it makes possible a gift for the church.
- Have you known people who died without a will? It can take years to settle an estate without a will. Your will can help your family and your church and save many unnecessary expenses when you die.
- Question: when is the best time to write your will? Answer: Now. And remember a bequest to your church goes a long way in helping in years to come.

If you have any questions regarding your will and/or other ways to give to St. Matthias please contact one of the members of YOUR futures fund committee: Larry Christian, Stan Jamieson, Doug Halliday, Mike Taylor or Fr. Bill Garrison.

Stan Jamieson- Member



Worship at Saint Matthias November 2019

- + 8:00^{AM} - Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- + 9:00^{AM} - Adult Christian Education
- + 10:00^{AM} - Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- + 10:00^{AM} - "The Works" - Children's Education

November 3 The Twenty - First Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Isaiah 1:10-18, Psalm 32:1-8, 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12, Luke 19:1-10

November 10 The Twenty - Second Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Job 19:23-27a, Psalm 17:1-9, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17, Luke 20:27-38

November 17 The Twenty - Third Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Malachi 4:1-2a, Psalm 98, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13, Luke 21:5-19

November 24 Christ the King Sunday

Scripture: Daniel 7:1-3,15-18, Psalm 149, Ephesians 1:11-23, Luke 6:20-31

Peace

As I write this, it is the day that the annual Nobel Peace Prize winner is announced. This prestigious award is given annually to someone who, according to the selection criteria, "shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses." The winner this year is the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Abiy Ahmed Ali, for his efforts to achieve peace and resolve long standing conflicts with neighboring Eritrea.

To be honest Mr. Abiy Ahmed's work feels remote to me in many ways. I'm only vaguely aware of the historical, social and political strife in northeastern Africa. So I had a chance to read up about it. The new Prime Minister spent his first 100 days lifting the country's state of emergency, granting amnesty to thousands of political prisoners, discontinuing media censorship, legalizing outlawed opposition groups, dismissing corrupt leaders, and significantly increasing the influence of women in Ethiopian political and community life. He has pledged to hold free and fair elections.

And that's not even the basis for the Nobel award. He earned that by simply extending a hand to long time adversaries in neighboring Eritrea. He made it clear during his campaign for office that he wished to resume peace talks. Once elected he quickly worked out a peace agreement to end the long stalemate between the two countries with Isaias Afwerki, the President of Eritrea.

Blessed are the peacemakers, Jesus tells us, for they shall be called children of God. As a follower and worshipper of the ultimate messenger of God's peace, Jesus Christ, I am always interested in the ways that peace happens. In Jesus' time when the Pax Romana or Roman peace was in place, true peace came from the idea of shalom and meant resisting the false peace imposed under military rule by a human empire.

The beauty of shalom is that it is global, local and personal. It means the end of hostilities and war. The wise woman of Abel Beth Maakah maintained her city's shalom, its peacefulness, by averting a siege and war. But shalom does not mean only reconciliation between warring factions or nations. It means living in socially just relationships between individuals and classes. Unless there is an end to oppression, greed and violence in our relationships, there can be no shalom. And it means living in personal safety of body and mind.

They didn't use "shalom" in the Nobel prize announcement but it certainly feels that way. The Nobel committee observed "peace does not arise from the actions of one party alone. When Prime Minister Abiy reached out his hand, President Afwerki grasped it, and helped to formalise the peace process between the two countries."

The search for peace within ourselves, at home and around the world is a holy endeavor. It means reaching out a hand with a willingness to set aside hurts of the past for a chance at healing in the future. Peacemaking is never a sure thing. It takes courage to step into the unknown, the improbable, to ignore the critics and hecklers and our own fears and doubts for that chance to create something more perfect than ourselves that will outlast us. And that is surely the stuff of building the Kingdom of God on earth.

Rev. Carole+

From Our Senior Warden

As you might imagine, there is a deadline for submission of material to The Messenger. And before I go any further, thanks to Alan Selmanaj and his staff for the fantastic job they do preparing this publication each month! I really pressed the deadline this month because I couldn't decide how to begin this month's submission. I want to talk about the great things that have been going on at St. Matthias during the past several weeks. So, let's start at the beginning!

ECW staffed a booth at Whittier's first Pride Festival on September 28. Support for their effort was provided by GLEAM (Gathering LGBTQ Episcopalians in Active Ministry). Our ECW members prepared beaded cross necklaces for distribution at the Festival. It was extremely well attended by the Whittier citizenry and by our members, as well.

Later that evening, the Soup Hour Fundraiser was held in Lewis Hall. It, too, was well attended and everyone found something to enjoy, I'm sure. Great food from one of the best taco carts, I've ever experienced; fun entertainment; and a great auction and raffle. The fundraiser exceeded its expectations by a significant amount, and most importantly, it provided another opportunity for making new friendships and fellowship.

The following Saturday was a busy day at St. Matthias. It began with a dozen or so of our members sprucing up our grounds. A little later, the Greenleaf Café was the site for "Men Eating Badly", where more members of our congregation enjoyed great conversation and some good food, too. At 10AM, Blessing of the Animals began, and several feline and canine St. Matthias members came to receive the annual blessing. And at 5PM, the monthly Healing Service and Eucharist was held.

At the beginning of October, Father Bill began conducting an exercise in prayer and meditation with a focus on St. Matthias. It is simply called, "Discernment". For thirty minutes we focus our thoughts and prayers on St. Matthias and we reflect on how our Church has affected our lives, however great or small. This time provides an opportunity for quiet introspection and a time to pray for the ongoing life of our Church.

On October 13, 2019, the Rt Rev. John Taylor, Diocesan Bishop of Los Angeles, led our 10AM worship service wherein 11 new confirmands were received into our congregation. Bishop Taylor provided an inspiring message for all of us with a reminder of how important Love and Grace are and should be in our everyday lives. Thank you to Mary Jean Christian for arranging and presenting the delicious luncheon reception for Bishop Taylor and our new members!

And the beat goes on! The Feast of Lights will be celebrated on November 3 at 5PM with dinner to follow. And then we will really dig in for the Holidays. Thanksgiving service and Eucharist will be held on November 28, with the Soup Hour sponsored Thanksgiving Meal. There is plenty to do in preparation for the Thanksgiving Meal and we hope you will look for opportunities to participate in this important event on our holiday calendar.

The Greening of St. Matthias will take place on November 24, and we hope you will join us in preparing our Sanctuary for the Advent season which begins on December 1.

There is a lot ahead of us. The calendar St. Matthias is the place We look forward seeing you and sharing this special time with you.

*Grace and Peace.,
Tim+*





PUZZLE

A feast of praise

Throughout the Bible, God's people give thanks and praise for his goodness.



Directions: Draw lines to match the scriptures (all NIV) with the correct speaker.

- | | |
|---|--------|
| "I thank my God every time I remember you." Philippians 1:3 | Hannah |
| "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Luke 1:46-47 | David |
| "He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him." Exodus 15:2 | Mary |
| "My heart rejoices in the LORD." 1 Samuel 2:1 | Paul |
| "I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving." Psalm 69:30 | Moses |

Answers: Philippians 1:3, Paul; Luke 1:46-47, Mary; Exodus 15:2, Moses; 1 Samuel 2:1, Hannah; Psalm 69:30, David

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.

GRATITUDE game

Start a fun tradition by playing this game on Thanksgiving.



What you need:

- M&M's or other colored candies
- A bowl
- The list below (adapt the colors, as needed)

- Red:** a need God has provided for
Orange: a gift you've received
Yellow: something you've recently learned
Green: something in nature
Blue: a special memory
Brown: someone you love

What you do:

1. One at a time, people pick a candy and share what they're thankful for (according to the color).
2. Pass the bowl around and continue reflecting on God's goodness until all the candy is gone!

Saint Matthias Staff

- Rector**
Fr. Bill Garrison
- Associate**
Rev. Carole Horton-Howe
- Associate**
Rev. Carolyn Estrada
- Deacon**
Rev. Kay Lozano
- Youth / Senior Ministries**
Sally Schacht
- Music Director**
Kevin McKelvie
- Parish Administrator**
Dottie Andersen
- Facilities Manager**
Ben Gonzalez
- Treasurer**
Kathel Harris
- Bookkeeper**
Kent Meyers

Special Dates in November

- * All Saints' Day, November 1
- * Daylight-Saving Time ends, November 3
- * Veterans Day, November 11
- * Christ the King Sunday, Nov. 24
- * Thanksgiving November 28



"... And after he saved the animals, he started turning up on the mailing lists of environmental organizations."

Saint Matthias History of Thanksgiving Meals

In the fall of 1974, a wicker basket was introduced to the narthex and parishioners were invited to bring nonperishable food items when they came to church on Sunday morning. During the following year, three or four bags of food were given out weekly to those seeking such assistance. In the decade that followed, that number grew to 125 bags a day and gave birth to the Ecumenical Food Center.

In 1975, twenty five parishioners gathered in Lewis Hall to share their Thanksgiving Dinner in hopes that others in the city of Whittier would join them. The elderly, those without food to put on their own tables, and individuals living alone were especially invited to take part in this First Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner. That first year there was but one guest who came from the old William Penn Hotel. Under the leadership of two parishioners, this Thanksgiving Day experience grew year by year. Now, four decades later, over 800 meals are being served' on Thanksgiving Day by our Parish.

For this Thanksgiving our own Dave Donovan, who WAS one of the two parishioners who took charge of that first Thanksgiving meal in 1975, will be out in front of the Church to accept Thanksgiving sign ups and donations after both 8:00 and 10:00 services. You can donate a turkey or two, Pumpkin Pies, and you can donate your time to help and, of course money is gratefully accepted. Look for Dave



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