

SAINT MATTHIAS

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Saint Matthias Messenger

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Saint Matthias Episcopal Church
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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](https://www.facebook.com/stmatthiaswhittier)

OUR MISSION: *We are called to seek God with an open mind, serve all in the Spirit of Christ and share God’s love with a kind heart through open discussion, common worship and compassionate action.*

Recently I have been asked, “How are we doing in our search for a new priest?” We said good-bye to Fr. Bill Garrison in May of 2022. That was over thirteen months ago. It is easy to feel anxious in times of uncertainty. Waiting for a much desired outcome is uncomfortable. You might say our faith is being stretched.

However, I must encourage us to look at the positive manifestations of God at work among us. We have been blessed with a group of visiting priests, each of whom has brought a special gift of ministry. Many talented people have stepped up to continue the administrative and pastoral services usually covered by a priest. Our worship services are still enhanced by

dedicated Readers, Chalice Bearers, Audio-Visual Personnel, Altar Guild Members, Ushers and Musicians. We have continued to “linger” at the Peace, offering handshakes, fist bumps and even hugs, depending upon comfort levels post-pandemic. Behind the scenes volunteers as well as capable Staff Members keep various ministries going during each week, including “The Loving Thing”.

(continued on pg 2)

(cont from page 1)

Daily, Monday through Friday, needy people are supplied with food, articles of hygiene and mail service. We are a Center of Grace.

We also recognize being in a process of several stages, some of which appear tedious, yet necessary. Our Transition Committee has completed the St. Matthias Church Profile and submitted it to the Diocese of Los Angeles. This profile will aid prospective candidates in deciding whether to apply for consideration by our Search Committee. There are a few requirements which must be met before the Search Committee can begin its official business.

One is the completion of an outside audit of our books from 2021 and 2022. An auditor has been engaged, and we are in the process of providing him with the information needed to complete the audit. Another is the completion by all staff and lay leaders of several required online courses in safety in relationships within ministries. These relate to recognizing and avoiding inappropriate behaviors and mandated reporting of such behaviors when observed or experienced. The third is perhaps the most challenging. We must complete and present to the Diocese our proposed compensation package for any prospective priests. This requirement entails much honest calculation and discernment both financially and spiritually. Our negotiable and non-negotiable needs and expectations must balance with our resources. This is the point at which all of us, being a people of grace, in this Center of Grace, need to approach the throne of grace to express with thanksgiving our requests for the supply of our needs, knowing that God, who has begun a good work in us, will surely complete it.

To give just a tiny bit of perspective, let's remember that between the end of the ministry here of Fr. Bruce Gray and the hiring of Fr. Bill Garrison was a span of two and a half years. Trials, small or great, produce perseverance, perseverance character, and character hope. Let's not grow weary in doing good!

Kathy Underwood
Co-Sr. Warden



ATTENTION: I am going to start this out with a short quiz about your attractions to St. Matthias. I don't need written answers, just think about each question and how you would answer it.

- What aspects of the Episcopal Church first brought you to St. Matthias?
- What then, kept you here at St. Matthias?
- Was it the liturgy, the welcoming atmosphere, the music, the Rector, the volunteer opportunities, or the beautiful facility?

Regardless of the outcome of your answers you more than likely had enough positive answers that have kept you coming back every Sunday to St. Matthias.

When I first walked through those big awesome doors of St. Matthias I was immediately welcomed with open arms. This was not like other churches who had immediately started asking me if I wanted to join various groups etc.. ***I CHECKED THIS OFF AS A POSITIVE.*** I listened to the homily and was impressed by the fact that the Priest joined together the gospel lesson and a good story lesson to compliment the gospel reading. ***I CHECKED THIS OFF AS A POSITIVE.*** I listened to the beautiful music coming from the choir. ***I CHECKED THIS OFF AS A POSITIVE.*** I attended coffee hour after church and was greeted by many wonderful parishioners and began to feel right at home. ***I CHECKED THIS OFF AS A POSITIVE.*** After leaving coffee hour my thoughts were "wow what a wonderful first visit". This was in the year 1975 after moving from Idaho to California. As a little history, I first joined the Episcopal Church in 1972 in Pocatello, Idaho.

Over my 48 years at St. Matthias, I have been blessed to have been able to serve my church community in many ways (Vestry, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Stephen minister, Stephen leader, usher, greeter, reader, chalice bearer, stewardship chair, lay eucharistic minister, soup hour, convention delegate, and buildings and grounds.) During this time, I was also blessed to become friends with many parish members. What a wonderful church life it has been.

If you are reading this and are also a long-time member of St. Matthias you have more than likely been blessed to serve your church community in many, many ways. If you are new to St. Matthias, please take the time to look around at all the opportunities that the church has to offer you. Look at the various organizations and groups to see if you could be a contributing member. You will find volunteering to be a great experience and you will know you are truly answering God's calling.

Let's all make the best of the opportunities that God has given us at St. Matthias and let's give back to Him by giving of our time and talent. AMEN

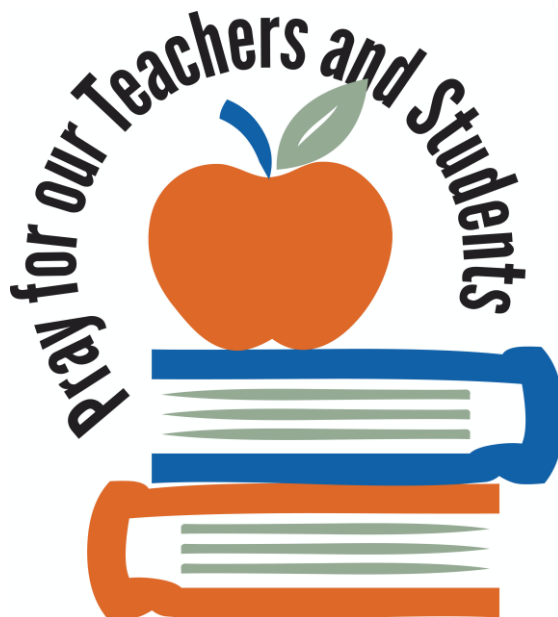
By Stan Jamieson

Due to the continued hard work of Kathy Underwood, we are glad to announce that we have Priests coming every Sunday to celebrate the Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:00 through October 1st as follows:

8/6 Rev. Katherine Feng
8/13 Mother Vienna McCarthy
8/20 Rev. Valerie Hart
8/27 Mother Vienna McCarthy
9/3 Mother Vienna McCarthy
9/10 Rev. Hartshorn Murphy
9/17 Rev. Hartshorn Murphy
9/24 Rev. Rob Bethancourt
10/1 Rev. Rob Bethancourt

Mark your Calendars!!

On Sunday August 20, we will be having only one 9am service with a potluck afterwards to encourage a time for fellowship. Bring your favorite summer yummys to share.



Food for Thought

Seek God in Nothing (the prequel to July's "Pay Attention to the Nothing").

If someone tells you that God is here or there,
pay then no heed.

And if they tell you that God is
this or that, ignore them.

For you will only find
God when you remove every something and
seek him in nothing,
and you will only see
him when you become blind
and remove every
something from him.

If you do this, you will
finally have only God,
and God will have only you.

This is what matters;
the rest will take care of itself.

Meister Eckhart's Book of Secrets p. 22

On Sunday July 9th Feppy Rahn, the liaison to the vestry for
Doing the Loving Thing (soup hour), held a meeting to hear how people felt
about the soup hour 1) going forward, 2) expanding or 3) folding.

15 people attended and their voices were mostly in unison to keep
the soup hour going as it is, not to expand any services,
but to continue to provide sack lunches, hygiene kits and
an address for mail.

With the bread donations that the church receives, as well as fruit, pizza
and/or pastries, the main expense is **peanut butter and jelly**,
and **items for the hygiene kits**.

Thank you for your donations during the past donation
drive!! We will let you know when we run low of certain
items and need help again.

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

In Matthew 13, to what does Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven?

- A. A farmer sowing seed
- B. A mustard seed
- C. Yeast
- D. Hidden treasure
- E. A merchant who finds a pearl
- F. A fishing net
- G. All of the above



Answer: G (See Matthew 13:24-51.)

Puzzle!

Jesus instructs us to give and serve. What does Proverbs 3:27 (NIV) tell us *not* to do? To find out, cross out all the following letters. Then write the remaining letters in order on the spaces below.

B J K Q X Z

BWJITJHQHOB LZDGBOK

DKFQROMTBHJOBSQEXZT

OKXWJHOBMIZTIJSDQKU

EWXBHEQNITKISIZNYOU

RPJZOWBEQRTOAXCZTXJ

DO NOT _____

_____ , _____

_____ .

PROVERBS 3:27, NIV



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



AUGUST SERVICES, EVENTS, AND 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](https://www.facebook.com/stmatthiaswhittier))

BIBLE STUDY/MORNING PRAYER: Wednesdays 10am, Chapel

MEN EATING BADLY: Saturday, August 5th, 8:00 a.m. Greenleaf Café. Contact Tim Adams.

OUR TIME: Tuesday, August 8th 2pm. Contact Mary Jean Christian.

VESTRY MEETING: Tuesday August 8th, 7:00 p.m. Chapel.

STITCHERY GROUP: Saturday, August 19th, 9:00 a.m. Chapel. Contact Ellen Mykkanen.

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING: On vacation July and August

ST. ELIZABETH'S GUILD: On vacation July and August. Contact Diana Jimenez.

BIBLIOPHILES GROUP: Thursday, August 17th, 6:30 p.m.. Contact Charles Carrillo.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN: Saturday August 26th 10:00 a.m. Chase Room. Contact Kathy Adams.

Looking for a Part-Time Tax/Admin. Assistant for a small Local Accounting firm. Should have good customer service skills, be comfortable using Microsoft Office, answering phones and playing with numbers. Flexible schedule – about 20 hrs. per week, with heavier hours during tax season. Email resumes to mwa.acctg@yahoo.com. Thank you!!

CENTURY 21

Cornerstone



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Sunday Worship at St. Matthias: JULY 2023

- August 6** **Proper 13 Transfiguration**
Exodus 34:29-35; 2Peter 1:113-21; Luke 9:28-36; Psalm 99
- August 13** **Proper 14**
1Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 85:8-13; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33
- August 20** **Proper 15**
Isaiah 56:1,6-8 Psalm 67; Romans 11:1-2a,29-32
Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28
- August 27** **Proper 16**
Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

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.

AUGUST 2023



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