

# SAINT MATTHIAS

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## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Saint Matthias Messenger

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Holy Eucharist  
Sundays at 8:00 & 10:00 AM  
First Saturdays at 5:00 PM

Services streamed live on  
Sundays at 10:00 AM at  
[https://www.facebook.com/  
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## The Kingdom of God

What follows is a portion of my sermon from June 13th. It struck me that it might make a good summertime Messenger article. I hope you agree. It comes directly from my soul to each of you.

Have you ever gone to see someone, maybe even for the first time, and know before you knock on the door that the house is empty and no one is home? Isn't that odd? The house is unremarkable. The features around the house are what you would expect. But you know the people inside have left. There is a real difference in an empty home, but it is one we feel more than can describe.

On the other hand, sometimes we can be approaching the door and are faced with the exact same outward appearance yet we know the occupants are home. When we knock, we knock with confidence. If they don't answer immediately, we will continue to knock because we know they are there. On the other hand, on the door of the house we instinctively know to be empty we sometimes don't even want to knock at all.

Today we are talking about the Kingdom of God and it's something like this experience of approaching a home. One has life inside and the other does not. The life of the occupants, inside or gone, is what makes the difference in our perception. We are aware of life or no life being present on some instinctual level that is just a bit beyond our intellectual reach.

In the gospel we heard two parables today. The first is one of my favorites.

We find a farmer sowing seed on the ground. Nights and days pass by. The next thing you know plants begin to emerge from the ground. There comes a little rain and the sun beats down and the plants get bigger and before you know it the crop is ready to harvest.

Yet though we know the ingredients, we don't know how it all happened. We know it took seed and we know it took sun and earth and water, but we don't know how it all came together to produce a plant that, in time, yielded a harvest. What was that invisible something that made it all work, that made it live?

Jesus said that he came to tell us about that invisible life force and to attempt to point it out and explain it to us. He said that this is the Kingdom of God at work. That within the Kingdom of God exists an invisible something that, when added to the mix of other ingredients, produces life and growth.

Have you ever laid on your back and looked up and gazed at the stars? If you grew



*(Continued on p. 2)*

*(Continued from p. 1)*

up here you might not have as the lights of the city can drown out the light of the stars. But, having said that, perhaps you have found a way to look up at the sky at night. There is an odd thing that happens when we do. There are stars on the edges of our vision we can see, but can't see when we look directly at them. It's the oddest thing. It seems like a good metaphor for what we are talking about. If you haven't experienced it give it a try.

Ever since I have been a small child I have felt at home in places of worship. There is an atmosphere in most of them I can feel. Some call it a "well prayed in space". I can sense it. I like it, but I can't see it. I always feel at home in these places.

I think for most of us nature has a wonderful appeal. The mountains are beautiful. The beach and ocean are stupendous. The desert has its own atmosphere and the quiet becomes incredibly loud. The plains and fields in the middle of America are breathtaking. I think what we are truly experiencing in these places, why we love to visit them so much, is that these special places amplify our awareness of God, and I guess specifically the Kingdom of God.

So, I want to leave you with this. God is everywhere. God is just beyond our vision, to be seen out of the corners of our eyes. God shows up in the beauty of the world, in the growth of living things, and in the atmosphere we breath. We are invited this week to be especially aware, to look around, and to see God in the beauty, in the growth, and once in a while we might even see God directly, but out of the corner of our eyes.

*Fr. Bill +*

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## Reopening Day

As I write this it's a milestone day – Reopening Day. So many of the restrictions that started on March 17th last year are lifted today. There are exceptions, of course, but those who are fully vaccinated – and that's the vast majority of us at St. Matthias -- don't have to be concerned about having a mask when we leave the house. We don't need to look for lines or logos to stand on to make sure we're socially distanced from other shoppers. The color-coded tiers have been retired and businesses can fully welcome customers again.

How does the whole idea of reopening feel to you? Getting to normal hasn't gone as smoothly as many of us would have hoped. It's not as easy as say flipping a switch and turning the lights back on. There are more of us out and about and I notice that we seem to be less patient and more easily irritated by the presence of everyone else. Most people I saw today were wearing masks and standing apart. It feels like we are reluctant to make the transition.

Change – even positive change – can be hard. We're wired with certain needs including a need for certainty. When we don't know what to expect our brains respond to information or lack of information as a threat. Many of us also feel a need for routine. We're creatures of habit who take comfort in living our lives in a routine way that gives security in our immediate world when the larger world feels chaotic.

These times of chance and change remind me of the disciples who followed Jesus during his earthly ministry. Almost everything Jesus did and said presented them with one life-changing idea after another. A group of followers who had spent their lives believing that the way to God was following the law found themselves in the company of a rabbi teaching them that the way to God is to immerse yourself in the way of Love: relieving suffering whenever they have the chance, loving those who disagree with them, forgiving over and over again, feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, offering a cup of water. Jesus taught them that relationship with God wasn't based a showy offering of gold at the temple treasury or praying longer and louder than everyone else. It was in humility and service always offering thanks and praise to God for the opportunity to do so knowing that together they belong to God who created them and loved them exponentially no matter what.

What's amazing about the disciples is that they stayed with Jesus and his message even though they didn't always understand where he was coming from. They didn't always adapt well to change. But they let their need for certainty be satisfied in the message of love of God that they saw lived out in Jesus Christ and adopting his routine of living love as their own. My prayer for all of us is that the certainty of God's love will refresh and strengthen us and the teachings of Jesus Christ will inform all we say and do no matter what is changing in our world.

*Blessings, Rev. Carole+*

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN  
**Pastoral Search Committee**

The Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles requires priests to retire by their 72nd Birthday. In anticipation of his 72nd birthday in November 2022, our Fr. Garrison and the diocese have agreed upon the date of May 15, 2022, as his last day in the pulpit at St. Matthias. Clearly, Fr. Bill has left huge shoes to fill. He will be greatly missed and the challenge to fill those shoes will be a great one.

In light thereof, we intend to create a Pastoral Search Committee who will, along with seeking a pulpit replacement for Fr. Bill, assess the needs of our parish, both spiritual and physical. By combining these two very important tasks we will position ourselves to make the appropriate decision for leadership at St. Matthias.

As we move forward over the course of the next few weeks, we will approach members of our congregation to gauge their interest in participating in this important, exciting and fulfilling committee role. We hope, if you are asked to join the Search Committee you will rise to the occasion and take advantage of this opportunity to play such a meaningful role in the life of St. Matthias.

Additionally, if you are moved to want to be a part of this process, please do not hesitate to reach out to me to express your desire to participate. We hope to create a committee with a perspective that reflects the heart of St. Matthias. If you would like to join in this effort please let us know. In the meantime, your prayers for direction, patience and wisdom will be greatly appreciated.

*-Tim Adams*

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**Let Us Welcome the Newly Baptized!**



Congratulations and welcome to Briar, who received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism during the 10 AM service on Sunday, June 6.





# Episcopal Church Women

## THE BAKE SALE WAS A SWEET SUCCESS!

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!! ECW would like to thank all of the bakers and the buyers of St. Matthias for making the Bake Sale such a success. Because of your generosity, we were able to raise \$1,063.00 to support various ministries right here at St. Matthias. Our parish is truly blessed with amazing people!

## SOCK DRIVE COMING SOON

ECW will be having their annual Sock Drive for the Soup Hour clients during the month of August. Please check the August Messenger and the Midweek Update at the end of July for details on how to contribute. Thank you!



*-Janice Webster, ECW Co-Chair*

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## Stephen Minister Introduction: Kathy Underwood



Twenty years, I think, and counting, is how much time has flown by since I first stepped foot on the premises of St. Matthias. In the choir room, upstairs over its current location, Peter Fennema, the choir director at the time, put me through sight singing paces before accepting me into the choir as the Alto section leader. So the adventure began!

Having come from a theological upbringing in the Salvation Army and the Baptist Church, the Episcopal Church was a spiritual culture shock. That I am still here, happily having now been confirmed by Bishop Sergio Carranza, speaks highly favorably of the warmth, openness and support of the laity and clergy of St. Matthias. The choir has been the "home base" of my involvement here, but over the years other ministries have been made available to me. Two of my favorite ongoing ministries are the Stephen Ministry and the scheduling of readers for all Sunday services and most special, seasonal services. (Hint: if you are interested in being a reader, let me know by phone or email! I'm in the directory!).

As a Stephen Minister, I have had the privilege of meeting with and encouraging people facing a variety of life challenges. Being a caregiver who realizes that only God is the "cure" giver, is, for me, the principal objective of Stephen Ministry. I can listen! (Awareness of the "two ears, one mouth" physiology is crucial!) I can pray! I can believe in God's faithfulness! And, most importantly, I can keep all of our communication CONFIDENTIAL! Trustworthiness is a non-negotiable.

My preparatory training for Stephen Ministry has also proven to be useful in life outside the church. Since I retired after thirty-five years as a public school teacher in mostly intermediate grades five and six, I have been teaching voice, ie. singing lessons. This change of vocation would seem strange were it not for the fact that, along with public education, I also was gifted with opportunities to follow a semi-professional singing pathway that led through genre from Gilbert and Sullivan to Bach and Art Song of several cultures. Realizing that the singer's instrument is his/her entire being, I as teacher must minister to that whole being from which the voice cannot be separated. I apply all of the Stephen Ministry principles to teaching voice, yes, even the prayer, though the student doesn't always know it at the time!

So you see, this girl born in Texas, raised in Richmond, California, college educated at Biola, (Bible Institute of Los Angeles, at its formation), now Biola University, CAL State LA and in various singing performance classes at USC and UCLA, (therefore having no particular allegiance to either) now spends her "golden years" singing and ministering where possible at St. Matthias Episcopal Church in Whittier. She is blessed to be a part of this family!

So the adventure continues!

*-Kathy Underwood*

## HOW TO PRAY WITHOUT CEASING - PART V

### The Night I Woke Up

*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*

*-1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

One night years ago I stood at the edge of the ocean, staring out over the dark water. The waves crashed. The moon shone. And as I looked out over the water, I became aware of a sensation inside my chest that I had never noticed before.

It felt like some part of my soul that had been asleep for most of my life woke up - as if I had been digging a hole in the ground to install a new pipe or tank, and struck some ancient treasure - as if water was starting to bubble and spill out of a spring in my depths that had long been dry, and now it was drenching my entire being in cold, fresh water. As I continued to look out over the silver water, this sense of something fresh spilling into my soul continued, and a moment later it had completely filled me - and now I felt like I was really breathing, really seeing the ocean, really aware of my surroundings for the first time.

I walked closer to the water and stopped. The waves washed over my feet... and retreated back into the deep. Washed... and retreated... washed, and... wait... was I just imagining it or... did Someone just call out my name? From out over the water... I listened. The Wind picked up. My heart burned.



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Sometimes when I am sitting quietly by myself on the green sofa in our living room, my mind wanders back to that night. And for a moment I am returned to the smell of the ocean, the sound of the waves, and that sense of being called by name. And as I have reflected on this experience and a few others like it, I have come to think that they are windows. Windows from which I can peer into the deeper life and world that God is inviting me into at all times. Windows which God occasionally and almost always leads me to without any prior notice. Windows which make my heart start pounding, and pull me into prayer.

I want to share more of these windows with you in the coming months. And if you have any of your own, I'd love to hear about them. Email me at [sam.hayashida@gmail.com](mailto:sam.hayashida@gmail.com) and tell me about your "window" moments. Moments when you were reading a book, or quietly sitting in your backyard... and your eyes were opened. Your heart started beating a little faster. You became aware of eternity. Something inside you woke up. You wondered. You felt fresh water flowing out of your depths.

And as we share these stories with each other, let us not forget to pray. For in prayer we go from looking at the world through these windows to living in it. From marveling to meeting. From vision to virtue. From wonder to worship.

Windows, visions, memories, moments of awakening - these show us what we really want.

And prayer takes us there.

*-Sam Hayashida, Youth Sunday School Teacher*

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## Friendly Signposts

We need friends. Friends guide us, care for us, confront us in love, console us in times of pain. Although we speak of "making friends," friends cannot be made. Friends are free gifts from God. But God gives us the friends we need when we need them if we fully trust in God's love.

Friends cannot replace God. They have limitations and weaknesses like we have. Their love is never faultless, never complete. But in their limitations they can be signposts on our journey towards the unlimited and unconditional love of God. Let's enjoy the friends whom God has sent on our way.

*-Henri Nouwen, Bread for the Journey*

# PUZZLE



## As sweet as honey



Honey is both a sweetener and a medicine. How can our words be used in the same ways?



Directions: Use the hexagon key to fill in the missing vowels and complete Proverbs 16:24, NIV.



Grocooos words

oro o honooocomb,

swoot to tho soo

ond hoolong

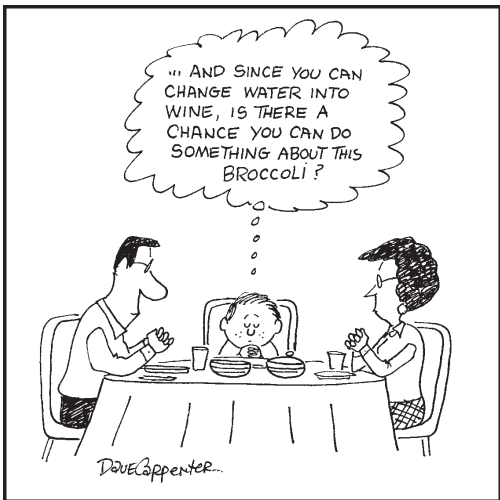


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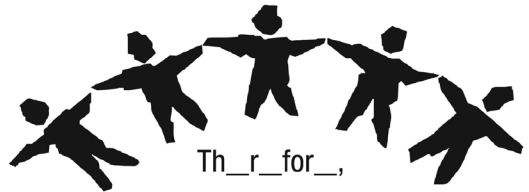
PROVERBS 16:24, NIV

Answers: Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. Proverbs 16:24, NIV



# Puzzle!

Complete this Bible passage by adding the missing vowels.



\_s G\_d's ch\_s\_n p\_\_pl\_,

h\_ly \_nd d\_\_rl\_ly l\_v\_d, cl\_th\_

y\_rs lvs wth c\_mp\_ss\_n,

k\_ndn\_ss, h\_m\_l\_ty, g\_ntl\_n\_ss

\_nd p\_t\_nc\_. B\_r wth

\_\_ch\_ th\_r\_nd f\_rg\_v\_ \_n\_

\_n th\_r\_ \_f \_ny \_f y\_ \_h\_s \_

gr\_v\_nc\_ \_g\_nst s\_m\_n\_.

F\_rg\_v\_ \_s th\_ L\_rd f\_rg\_v\_ y\_.

C\_l\_ss\_ns 3:12-13, N\_V

Answers: Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:12-13, NIV

Answer: A (See Acts 23:12-22, esp. v. 16.)

## Bible Quiz

An unnamed relative of Paul obstructed a conspiracy to kill the apostle. What was this rescuer's relation to Paul?

- A. nephew
- B. niece
- C. brother
- D. sister





## Women's Retreat: July 16-18

The Annual Women's Retreat is back! After a year of Covid isolation, we'll gather safely at the beautiful Mary and Joseph Retreat in Rancho Palos Verdes to spend time together reflecting and sharing one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit - Joy! Cost will be \$220 for shared room, \$295 for single room. Payment in full will be due by July 1st. Scholarships are available.

## Services, Events, and Small Groups

Many of our small groups are currently in the process of returning to in-person meetings, some are using a hybrid model, and others are choosing to stay on Zoom for now. Contact the small group leader or see the church website for the most current info.

- ✦ **Holy Eucharist**, Sundays at 8am (in-person only) and 10am (in-person and streaming live at <https://www.facebook.com/stmatthiaswhittier>)
- ✦ **Men Eating Badly**, First Saturdays at 8 am, Greenleaf Cafe - Contact Fr. Bill for details.
- ✦ **Evening Healing Service with Holy Eucharist**, First Saturdays at 5pm (in-person only)
- ✦ **Family Fellowship**, Sunday July 11th at 11:15 am, playground- Email Andrea Schmid at [andrea@stmatthiaswhittier.org](mailto:andrea@stmatthiaswhittier.org) for details.
- ✦ **Summer Compline**, Mondays at 8pm, Zoom - Contact Rev. Carole for details.
- ✦ **Our Time**, Third Tuesdays, 2:00-3:30 pm, Chapel - Contact Rev. Carole for details.
- ✦ **Men's Bibliophile Group**, next meeting July 15 at 6:30 pm to discuss *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall Smith - Contact Chuck Carrillo for the meeting ID and pass code.
- ✦ **Daughters of the King**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 1pm, Chase Room - Contact Rev. Carole for details.
- ✦ **Women's Book Group**, next meeting July 11 at 7pm at the home of Feppy Rahn to discuss *Unorthodox* by Deborah Feldman- Email Andrea Schmid at [andrea@stmatthiaswhittier.org](mailto:andrea@stmatthiaswhittier.org) for details.
- ✦ **Divine Connection Through Body and Breath**, Fridays at 10am, Saturdays at 10:30am, and Sundays at 2pm; Zoom - Email Cynthia Orsini-Dahl at [cynthia@cynthiaorsinidahl.com](mailto:cynthia@cynthiaorsinidahl.com) for log-in details.

## Thank You for Sponsoring the *Messenger*

If you're interested in sponsoring the *Messenger* by purchasing space on this page, please contact Andrea Schmid at [andrea@stmatthiaswhittier.org](mailto:andrea@stmatthiaswhittier.org).

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## Worship at Saint Matthias - July 2021

**July 4**

Scripture:

**The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

Ezekiel 2:1-5, Psalm 123, 2 Corinthians 12:2-10, Mark 6:1-13

**July 11**

Scripture:

**The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

Amos 7:7-15, Psalm 85:8-13, Ephesians 1:3-14, Mark 6:14-29

**July 18**

Scripture:

**The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 23; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

**July 25**

Scripture:

**The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

2 Kings 4:42-44; Psalm 145:10-19; Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21



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