

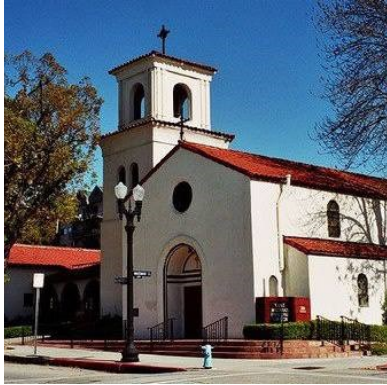
SAINT MATTHIAS

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Saint Matthias Episcopal Church

7056 Washington Avenue

Whittier, CA 90602

(562) 698-9741

office@stmatthiaswhittier.org

www.stmatthiaswhittier.org

Office Hours

Monday–Friday

9 AM–4 PM

Rector

The Rev. Bill Garrison

bill@stmatthiaswhittier.org

Associate

The Rev. Carole Horton-Howe

carole@stmatthiaswhittier.org

Associate

The Rev. Carolyn Estrada

poco138@gmail.com

Holy Eucharist

Sundays at 8 AM & 10 AM

First Saturdays at 5 PM

10 AM Services Streamed at

facebook.com/stmatthiaswhittier

Ethics Filtered through Faith

Fr. Bill Garrison

Would I be mistaken to think that ethics have taken a hit in the last few years? Yes, I know, poor ethics have always been a problem, but these days lying and other ethical issues have almost become a sport. Who can stray the farthest from doing the right thing? As kids return to learning, however that might be accomplished these days, now seems like a great time to talk about ethics.

For several years I taught kids from 8th through 12th grade at an Episcopal School here in Southern California. In doing so I found that ethics were a subject rarely talked about, and that kids knew very little about how to make an ethical decision. I guess the truth is that most of us don't really know how to teach others about ethics. We know it when we see it, but describing it can be a bit daunting. Well here goes with a little, I hope, useful information that perhaps we can pass on.

Most of us think about ethics in one or two ways. The first is the idea of helping the most people that can be helped in any given situation. The idea is to spread resources as far as they will spread in order to help the most people with those available resources. Think in terms of a famine perhaps. There are many people to be fed but only enough food for some. How do we choose who gets fed? By definition some sort of ranking process of importance must be entered into to make this decision. This is a pretty common decision making process. All the kids need shoes. We only have a limited amount of money. So who gets the new shoes? This process of ethical thinking is called Utilitarian.

The second way of making ethical decisions is called Deontological. It is all about rules. You must not murder. You must not drive a car faster than the posted limit. You must not take other people's stuff. You must do what the boss tells you to do. We are all familiar with the rules of life. We all think about these rules prior to keeping or breaking them, at least we hope so.

Now there are lots of ways to think about making ethical decisions, and I do not want to make this treatise too simplistic by saying that the foregoing are the most commonly used ethical systems, but the truth is that I think they are the most commonly used with one huge exception.



(Continued on p. 2)

(Continued from p. 1)

That exception is when we take into account a religious lens through which we view our ethical decisions. I am an Episcopal priest so it is easy for me to talk about how Christianity impacts my ethical decision making. For the most part I hope to run every situation through the lens provided by the person of Jesus Christ. If I were Jewish I would look to Torah to be my lens. If I were Buddhist I would bring into focus the Eight Fold Path as my lens. So as I continue with this discussion think please about your own religious influence.

I don't know if people are still doing it, but there was a time many people were getting WWJD tattoos. For those not conversant, the foregoing means What Would Jesus Do? Well, simply put, when faced with an ethical decision to be made, what would Jesus do when faced with the same situation?

Bringing the life and teachings of Jesus into our everyday ethical lives makes a difference, and sometimes a grand difference, in how we handle decision making. When facing a situation that requires us to make lists of who gets helped first, and who perhaps does not, the influence of our understanding of God can make a huge difference in our decision making. When facing a decision based on rules we can examine the rule through the eyes of Jesus, and the individual situation where the rule may and should be broken.

Dr. Martin Luther King made ethical decisions based on his Christian faith that might not have been made under other circumstances. He chose to consciously break laws that were deemed immoral, when examined in the light of Jesus Christ. These decisions, which were prominent in the civil rights movement, changed the face of this country and promoted the dignity of all human beings.

Making ethical decisions is the responsibility of every human being. Our faith understanding can help each of us immensely in this endeavor. So let's each of us be clear about our process for making these types of decisions, and invite our understanding of God into the process. What would Jesus do?

Fr. Bill +

Women's Retreat 2021

Eighteen women attended this year's retreat at Mary & Joseph Retreat Center in Rancho Palos Verdes. It was our first year at this location, and we enjoyed it so much that we've already reserved a weekend there for next year's retreat: July 15-17, 2022.



Ice Cream and Bingo!

There's no better way to end the summer than with Ice Cream and Bingo! EVERYONE is invited to ECW's Ice Cream Social! It will be on Sunday, September 5th, right after after the 10 o'clock service. Please come, scoop up some ice cream, add some delicious toppings, and grab a Bingo card. You may even win a prize!!!

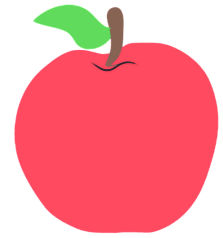


ECW's Teacher Appreciation

If you are a teacher or a school counselor, we want to show you our appreciation. Please contact Kathy Adams (ktouch52@gmail.com)

or Janice Webster (w.webster6@yahoo.com).

Thank you!



Faithful Commitment

Rev. Carole Horton-Howe

We have several groups at St. Matthias that read books together. Our Daughters of the King chapter is currently reading "Ruth: More Than a Love Story." If you haven't looked at Ruth in scripture lately, it contains the lovely verses that are often read or sung at weddings: "Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God." (Ruth 1:16) Interestingly, this beautiful statement of faithful commitment is not spoken by a bridal couple but by Ruth to her mother-in-law, Naomi. They are women from two very different worlds who were united by Ruth's marriage to Naomi's son. But he has died as has Naomi's husband and second son. Naomi is a woman in a desperate situation. Save yourself, Naomi tells Ruth, go back to your people. Nothing good can happen to you as long as you stay with me.

And we recently heard the verses from the Gospel of John where Peter makes a declaration of faithful commitment to Jesus. After hearing Jesus' teaching on the Eucharist, there are some in the crowd who cannot continue to follow him. This is too hard to accept, they say. They drift away. Jesus puts Peter on the spot and asks him what he's going to do. Peter responds saying they have nowhere else to go now that they know that Jesus is the son of God. (John 6:68-69)

Both Ruth and Peter have done something extremely difficult: they have made their faithful commitment in a complete absence of information about the future. If they had to guess, the future that they can imagine is difficult or bleak or both. Ruth probably has some idea of what happens to two women without the protection of a man. Peter can have no idea what's ahead but he's already had his world turned upside down by Jesus. And so has reason to expect more of the same.

For many of us, making a commitment to any path without reliable information and the chance to evaluate predictable outcomes is practically unthinkable. Yet there are times that we have no choice. We, too, have to step into a place where we can't see the path ahead much past our own toes. But there is Good News: when that happens, we can remember Ruth's commitment to let go of uncertainties for a relationship with Naomi's God and all that represents: a love so strong that not even death can shatter it. And if Jesus were to say to us as he did to Peter "what about you?" that we too might express an epiphany moment as Peter did that the truth of God's love and care made real in Jesus Christ for each of us is personal, profound and eternal. Can you just image the faithful commitment we'd receive from Jesus in the smile and the hug we'd get from him?

Blessings, Rev. Carole+

Parishioner Profile: Ellen Mykkanen



I've been living in Whittier and attending St. Matthias for almost ten years, which is the longest I've ever stayed anywhere. I was baptized and raised Presbyterian, but when I moved to Portland in 2003 I felt more at home in the Episcopal Church there, and was confirmed in 2004 at Trinity Cathedral in Portland. The thoughtful open mindedness and willingness to discuss ideas and questions really appealed to me. I moved around for several more years – usually out of some sort of necessity - and in 2012 I moved to Whittier after I started a textile design job in Commerce. My grandparents had lived here during my childhood and it seemed like a good location between LA and OC. I had been attending St Andrews in Fullerton for a while but figured I should check out the local Episcopal parish because I was hoping to put down some roots, so I decided to visit St. Matthias.

I arrived early and sat in the front row so it was obvious that I was a newcomer. During the Peace several people came up to greet me and seemed very friendly without being pushy or overly inquisitive. I really enjoyed the service and when Fr. Bill walked over after to greet me I told him that I was going to return, and that I was interested in joining the choir as a start. He immediately introduced me to choir member and wonderful person Kathy Bias, and she immediately introduced me to Don Brown the Director/Organist. All were so friendly and welcoming, so of course I wanted to come back.

I joined the choir, and for the first year that was my main involvement in the parish. In July of 2013, I was diagnosed with breast cancer and before my surgery was scheduled I was encouraged by a few women to go on the Women's Retreat later that summer. At the retreat I shared my situation and fears to this group of women that I had just met, and I was so warmly supported that it really helped me to feel less nervous and alone as I did my surgeries and treatment. Now I strongly encourage women to come on the retreats because they are a wonderful way to get to know women from several generations at a deeper level.

After my recovery I served a term on the Vestry and encourage people to do that as well. It's the best way to really know what's going on in the parish and be part of the decision-making processes. Lately I've begun volunteering with The Soup Hour and have found little ways to help out wherever I can. I don't really like to be in charge of things but do like to be a part of what's happening.

When I was growing up I was very involved at a Presbyterian church in the City of Orange. They had a fantastic youth choir ministry and there was a member there who made wonderful banners for all of the holy days and special events. I admired those banners so much and really wanted to do something like that someday. Many years later I started getting opportunities to do sewing and banner projects at the parishes where I attended. I was sort of self-taught, but later was able to find some good resources for how to make them the traditional way – sometimes by being able to take apart and reconstruct some beautiful older pieces. In 2014 had a conversation with Fr Bill about my skills in that area and he asked if I might be able to do a blue set of paraments (textiles hung on and around the Altar) for Advent and I agreed to give it a try. I'd never done a whole set from beginning to end using my own design ideas, so this was an exciting and terrifying prospect. The project was a big challenge and satisfying accomplishment, and it really got me going in a ministry of ecclesiastical textile art. I've been able to make other banners and hangings for St. Matthias, and I've also made them for other parishes



and denominations in Southern California. I'm a member of the Diocesan Altar Guild which assists with Convention and other special events, and we make hand-crafted stoles for the new priests in the diocese. We are always looking for new members there, so if anyone is able to come up to the Diocesan Center in Echo Park on Thursdays, let me know!

My love of sewing and craftsmanship also led me to volunteer to facilitate the St. Matthias Stitchery Group and I really enjoy spending time with the people in that group. I hope we can encourage more women, men and older children to join us as we mentor and encourage each other in our needlework and textile projects.

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Homecoming

Tim Adams

For most of us that word conjures up a lot of different images in our minds -- the Annual High School or College Football games when alumnae are celebrated and welcomed back home (I would be surprised if, in our number, there isn't at least one Homecoming King and Queen); family reunions whereto we may travel many miles to join our family for a summer visit or Holiday Season gathering – joyous and memorable times, for sure.



St. Matthias celebrates Homecoming every year, and for good reason. This year, our Homecoming event will be celebrated on Sunday, September 19, 2021. That date marks the beginning of our Church calendar year. It's an opportunity to take a look at the programs at St. Matthias and see if there is something that catches your fancy. Our Episcopal Church Women (ECW) will have a table setup for you to learn about all of the wonderful things they do each year, in which you, too, can take part.

Our young people's Sunday Xschool will resume after a brief summer break. Our Sunday School teachers have a great program in store for them when they return. And, if you're interested in becoming a Sunday School teacher, Homecoming will provide a great opportunity for you to come onboard. Our smaller kids are in need of some leaders, and I'm sure they would benefit from your loving participation.

Father Bill will begin a class on the Apostle Paul. Dr. Larry Budner will join him for select presentations. It is certain to be full of meaningful information about Paul's ministry to the new Church. The classes will take place between the conclusion of the 8AM service and the beginning of the 10AM service.

Homecoming Sunday is a great opportunity for you to update your photo for the Parish Directory. Bob Howe has graciously consented to be on-hand to take new photos of everyone. And what a great way to help all of us become acquainted with each other and to provide a means with which to stay in touch!

We have struggled through this pandemic and no words can describe the myriad ways it has affected all of us. St. Matthias has established an effective approach to minimizing our exposure to the virus. During this time, many of us have taken the wise precaution to stay safe and stay at home. Now, in light of the safe environment that we have created at St. Matthias with masks, hand sanitizing stations, and an overall clean and hygienic environment, we extend a warm invitation to you to set September 19, 2021, on your calendar for your Homecoming to St. Matthias.

We would love to see you and we are looking forward to it. St. Matthias is **YOU**. For those of you who have been here through it all, and those who have understandably stayed at home for safety's sake, we value your attendance and participation. Homecoming Sunday will give you the opportunity to celebrate each other and to celebrate St. Matthias, in fellowship with one another. Please join us!

PUZZLE

Teach us to pray

In Luke 11:1-13 (NIV), Jesus teaches about prayer.

Directions: Add or subtract the letters indicated and unscramble the letters to form a new word, using hints from the passage. Then unscramble the circled letters to answer the question below.

- party - t = p r a y (v. 1)
- lady + i = _ _ _ l a _ _ (v. 3)
- drab + e = _ _ _ d _ _ _ (v. 5)
- rod + o = _ _ _ r _ _ _ (v. 7)
- bask - b = _ _ _ _ _ (v. 9)
- keeps - p = _ _ _ _ _ (v. 9)
- define - ee = _ _ _ _ _ (v. 9)
- shift - t = _ _ _ _ _ (v. 11)
- sneaky - y = _ _ _ _ _ (v. 11)
- sift + g = _ _ _ _ _ (v. 13)



What will the Father give to those who ask of him?
 _ _ _ _ _ (v. 13)

Answer: pray, daily, bread, door, ask, seek, find, fish, snake, gifts; Holy Spirit



"The serpent sent over a lovely fruit basket."

Bible Quiz

How many times in the Old Testament do people cross a body of water on dry ground?

- A. once
- B. twice
- C. three times
- D. four times



Answer: C (See Exodus 14; Joshua 3; 2 Kings 2.)

Puzzle!

Fit these words from the book of Daniel into the squares. Then transfer them to the blanks below, using the numbers and arrows (across and down) as guides.

- WORD LIST:**
 up, God, his, ever, sets, wise, name, power, times, kings, praise, wisdom, changes, seasons, deposes, knowledge, discerning

"_____ be to the _____ of _____ for _____ and _____;
 _____ and _____ are _____. He _____
 and _____; he _____ and _____
 them. He gives _____ to the _____ and _____ to
 the _____." DANIEL 2:20-21

Answer: "Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning." Daniel 2:20-21



Let us Welcome the Newly Baptized!

Twins Oliver and Oliana received the sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, August 8, with big sister Olivia by their side.



September Services, Events, and Small Groups

- ◆ **Holy Eucharist**, Sundays at 8am (in-person only) and 10am (in-person and streaming live at facebook.com/stmatthiaswhittier).
- ◆ **Divine Connection Through Body and Breath**, Sundays at 2pm, Zoom - Contact Cynthia Orsini-Dahl at cynthia@cynthiaorsinidahl.com for log-in details.
- ◆ **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)
- ◆ **Parish-Wide Ice Cream Social**, Sunday, September 5 at 11 am, Lewis Hall
- ◆ **Women's Book Group**, next meeting September 12 at 7pm at the home of Feppy Rahn to discuss *Absolution by Murder (Sister Fidelma Mysteries #1)* by Peter Tremayne and *The Expats* by Chris Pavone - Email Andrea Schmid at andrea@stmatthiaswhittier.org for details.
- ◆ **Homecoming Sunday**, September 19
- ◆ **Our Time**, Third Tuesdays, 2:00-3:30 pm, Chapel - Contact Rev. Carole for details.
- ◆ **Men's Bibliophile Group**, Third Thursdays, 6:30 pm, Zoom - Contact Chuck Carrillo for the meeting ID and pass code.
- ◆ **Stitchery Group**, Third Saturdays, 9am-noon, Chase Room - Contact Ellen Mykkanen for details.
- ◆ **Daughters of the King**, 3rd Sundays at 1pm, Chase Room - Contact Rev. Carole for details.
- ◆ **Whittier Pride**, Saturday, September 25th, 9-5, Uptown - Contact Kathy Adams or Rev. Carole for details.

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Worship at Saint Matthias: September 2021

September 5 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Isaiah 35:4-7a, Psalm 146, James 2:1-10-17, Mark 7:24-37

September 12 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 116:1-8, James 3:1-12, Mark 8:27-38

September 19 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 54; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

September 26 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Numbers 11:4-6,10-16,24-29; Psalm 19:7-14; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50



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