

# SAINT MATTHIAS

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## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Saint Matthias Messenger

Published Monthly Volume 16 Issue 12 - December 2019



Saint Matthias Episcopal Church  
7056 Washington Avenue  
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(562) 698-9741

**Office Hours:**  
Monday - Friday  
9:00<sup>AM</sup> - 4:00<sup>PM</sup>

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Web Page:

<http://www.stmatthiaswhittier.org>

**Sunday Worship Services**  
8:00<sup>AM</sup> - Holy Eucharist  
10:00<sup>AM</sup> - Holy Eucharist

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

**Wednesday Bible Study**  
10:00<sup>AM</sup>  
Wednesday Eucharist  
11:00<sup>AM</sup> - Holy Eucharist



## Go Have Some Fun

I am so tired of everything being so serious. Everywhere we look it's the same. It seems nobody is having any fun. Worry, fret, and be afraid. These seem to me to be how most people are living. I hate to admit it but I have all but stopped watching and listening to the news.

So as I was thinking about this month's article for The Messenger I started reviewing some I had previously written. I came across one that still speaks to me and seems like a good antidote to the seriousness that is bugging me right now. I thought I would share some of it again with you.

Can you remember as a child when it seemed like you were the same age forever? We all thought our next birthday would never come. We would be a one digit age forever for sure. What would it be like to be ten? What would it be like to be sixteen? How glorious it would be to arrive at age twenty one.

We remember the fresh eyes of youth. We think about what it was like to be amazed with something new that we just discovered, perhaps a beautiful flower we had never seen before. Maybe it was the idea of how big some dinosaurs could be or how incredible the stars looked at night. Maybe it was the taste of ice cream or the smell of cookies baking. Big eyes and hearts pounding in our chests were common to each of us as we raced through life like human sponges, soaking up every piece of knowledge we came across.

Ever since I was a small child I have loved to read. It has taken me places I could never go and still does. I remember Paddy the Beaver and Jimmy the Crow and all their friends as written by Thornton W. Burgess. There was Peter Pan and I don't think that I would like Green Eggs and Ham either. I read everything I could get my hands on and each of these books took me away to magical places I remember fondly.

We sometimes think as adults, especially when the stress of our daily lives takes its toll, that this sort of magic isn't available to us anymore. Our routines have crushed it out of us and we are just too mature, busy, and experienced to be surprised. Delight and wonder is for others, most likely the young, but not for us. Isn't that sad?

When did that happen? When did we become blasé about life? When did the things around us stop surprising and delighting us? I guess it really doesn't matter when it happened. What does matter is whether we would like to feel joy again and then know how to recapture those feelings that we no longer seem to feel.

Well, the answer to that question is all around us. All that is necessary is to regain our sense of curiosity. We might remember that everyone we encounter is



interesting and is leading a life from which we could make a movie. There are a million foods we have never tasted. There are places we have never been. There are movies we have never seen and books we have never read. There are walks we have never taken, car rides we have never been on, songs we have never heard, poems we have never considered. There are children playing that would love to know us. There are people hurting that could use our care and love. There's a whole world out there we know less about than we think, and we can make a difference in it. All that is necessary is to start asking questions and being curious.

And most important, we need to remember that God is in the very middle of it all. God is the source of all the joy in the universe. I am absolutely convinced God loves us and wants each of us to have wonder and joy in our lives, for the entirety of our lives.

So reach out, grab God's hand, get out of that chair, and go take a walk. Pick a flower. Call a friend. Go out to dinner. Skip a rock across a pond. Go have some fun and see something in a way you haven't seen it before. And be sure to know that God is right there beside you all the way.

*Merry Christmas!  
Fr. Bill+*

## Stephen Ministry

Questions and answers in regards to Stephen Ministry at St. Matthias:

QUESTION: What is Stephen Ministry? ANSWER: Stephen Ministry is a system through which members of St. Matthias are trained and organized to help provide Christian caregiving to members of our church congregation. This will multiply the amount of caring ministry St. Matthias can provide by giving us a whole team of skilled caregivers who are equipped to bring Christ's healing love to people who are grieving, in crisis, or experiencing other stresses in their lives.

QUESTION: Why Lay Ministry? ANSWER: Stephen Ministry is based on the idea that all Christians are ministers. The responsibility for passing on God's love is for all Christians, not for just a chosen few. God has given us all gifts or ministry and called us to put these gifts to use. Stephen Ministry is a place where people with special gifts for caring ministry can use these gifts to bring Christ's love to people in need.

QUESTION: Why Stephen Ministry? ANSWER: We have many needs for care in our congregation: people experiencing divorce, grief, a terminal illness, loss of a job, relocation, an empty nest, retirement, hospitalization, loneliness and many other stresses or challenges. Often people with needs suffer silently or do not request or receive the level of care they really need. With the number of clergy available for a congregation the size of St. Matthias you can quickly see why it would be impossible for our clergy to meet

every single need of every single person. Stephen Ministry expands the care that St. Matthias can offer by equipping and organizing members to provide Christian care. This gives us a larger pool of people with the gifts, skills and calling to bring Christ's love and care to those who most need it.

QUESTION: Who benefits from Stephen Ministry? ANSWER: Those receiving care from Stephen Ministers benefit because they receive prayer and support throughout the crisis they face. Stephen Ministers benefit through the spiritual growth they experience from being involved in meaningful ministry. Our Clergy benefit because caring ministry at St. Matthias is expanded and fewer people will fall through the racks.

*Stan Jamieson - Stephen Leader*

## This Day

I recently preached Luke's parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector who encounter each other in the temple saying their prayers. It's about a Pharisee who is confident of his righteous goodness and so he fills God in on what a terrific guy he is compared to the scoundrels of the day and especially compared to the Tax Collector, a man whose very existence is based on extorting the life blood of other Jews on behalf of their Roman oppressors. But, for some reason, that day the Tax Collector comes begging for God to have mercy on him. Jesus tells us that it is the hated Tax Collector who comes away from the temple in closest relationship to God: "for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted." (Luke 18:9-14)

Here is a bit of the sermon including "This Day" which several people have asked me to share with them:

The beauty of this parable is that when we acknowledge that we are all engaged in sinful behavior, we have found a level of humility before God in which we concede that we cannot save ourselves and we are completely dependent on God's love through grace to save us. Humility seems like an increasingly rare trait these days. But what is it? What does it mean to be humble? Humility before God is the act of being modest, reverential and submissive. It is the opposite of aggression, arrogance, pride and vanity.

*(Continued next page)*



# Worship at Saint Matthias December 2019

- + 8:00<sup>AM</sup> - Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- + 9:00<sup>AM</sup> - Adult Christian Education
- + 10:00<sup>AM</sup> - Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- + 10:00<sup>AM</sup> - "The Works" - Children's Education

## **December 1      The First Sunday of Advent**

Scripture:      Isaiah 2:1-5, Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44, Psalm 122

## **December 8      The Second Sunday of Advent**

Scripture:      Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

## **December 15      The Third Sunday of Advent**

Scripture:      Isaiah 35:1-10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11, Psalm 146:4-9

## **December 22      The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Scripture:      Isaiah 7:10-16, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25, Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

## **December 24      Christmas Eve - Eucharist at 5:00<sup>pm</sup> and 10:30<sup>pm</sup>**

Scripture:      Isaiah 9:2-7, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14, Psalm 96

## **December 25      Christmas Day - Eucharist at 10:00<sup>am</sup>**

Scripture:      Isaiah 62:6-12, Titus 3:4-7, Luke 2:8-20, Psalm 97

## **December 29      The First Sunday after Christmas, Lessons and Carols**

Scripture:      Genesis 17:1-7, Isaiah 9:2b-2, 6-7, Isaiah 11:1-9, Luke 1:26-33,  
Luke 2:1-7, Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11, John 1:1-18

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Years ago I found an art piece in a thrift store that I thought I'd share with you. It's a collection of sayings that at first seemed random. But reading this parable and spending some time thinking about humility before God, it occurred to me that these are perfect guidelines. There's no author. It's called "This Day."

*This Day... (Author unknown)*

Mend a quarrel. Seek out a forgotten friend. Dismiss suspicion, replace it with trust. Write a love letter. Share some treasure. Give a soft answer. Encourage youth. Manifest your loyalty in words and deeds. Keep a promise. Forego a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Listen. Apologize if you were wrong. Try to understand. Examine your demands on others. Think first of someone else. Appreciate. Be kind, be gentle. Laugh a little. Laugh a little more. Deserve confidence. Take up arms against malice. Decry complacency. Express gratitude. Go to church. Welcome a stranger. Gladden the heart of a child. Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth. Speak your love. Speak it again. Speak it still once more...

We're in the midst of Advent now, the season of waiting for the birth of the child sent to be God on earth, to be God among us. I invite us all to take a bit of time, to step away from the inevitable busyness and excitement that comes with the run up to Christmas and open our hearts to receive this humble event... This Day.

*Rev. Carole+*



## From the Sr. Warden's Desk

I've paused a moment from reviewing my balloting information in preparation for the upcoming Annual Diocesan Convention. Fr. Bill, Rev. Carole, Doug Overstreet, Kathy Adams and I will be delegates from St. Matthias while Barbara Khan and Stan Jamieson will attend as alternates delegates. In addition, Ellen Mykkanen will again serve on the Altar Guild for the convention. We all like to think that St. Matthias will be well represented. The theme for this year's convention is "Lifelong Way of Love." It will be held in Riverside, CA. I look forward to sharing our experiences with you in next month's Messenger.

Fall at St. Matthias has been full of exciting events on which to reflect. Among the notable happenings was a very successful Soup Hour Fundraiser; participation in the First Annual Whittier Pride Fair; book clubs; reflection and prayer at Discernment; a great bus ride to Santa Barbara to discover new wines and cuisine; a memorable visit from The Reverend John Taylor, Bishop of our Los Angeles Diocese; the celebration of ten new Confirmands; and a solemn and beautiful Feast of Lights. By the time you read this, another Thanksgiving has past and our Soup Hour will have, again, sponsored and served a wonderful Thanksgiving meal to hundreds. Each of these events was a significant time in the life of our congregation. It is so exciting to see the ongoing growth and vibrant activity at St. Matthias.

Advent is upon us now. A bit of trivia to note this year -- the first Sunday of Advent falls on December 1. That only occurs in those years when Christmas Day falls on a Wednesday. So, I hope you got your Advent Calendars out in timely fashion! Advent is the period of four Sundays and weeks before Christmas. It is defined as a time for waiting and anticipating the arrival of something or someone who is important or worthy of note. In Latin, it means Coming – the Coming of Jesus into the World. Truly the most important and noteworthy arrival in all of history. Advent is a time of contemplation and preparation. So often our attention is focused on Christmas Day, but there is much comfort and time for introspection in these days leading up to the Nativity.

One of the events we hope you will make every effort to attend is our Christmas pageant. Mary Jo Call has written and composed the music for "Papa Panov's Special Christmas." It will be presented during the 10AM service on Sunday, December 15, 2019. Rehearsals are well under way and it promises to be an uplifting program for our entire church family. Please mark the date on your calendar and we will look forward to seeing you there.

There are a host of events this holiday season. Daughters of the King will host an Advent Quiet Day of reflection on Saturday, December 7, from 9AM to 1PM. At 5PM on December 8, our Caroling Party will be held where we will bring carols to our shut-in members. On the evening of December 15, the Annual Christmas Party will be held at 5PM. Christmas Eve worship and Choral presentation will take place at 5PM and 10:30PM on the 24th. Christmas Day worship & Eucharist will be presented at 10:00AM Christmas morning. And on Sunday, December 29, there will be one service at 10AM wherein we will celebrate with Lessons & Carols.

Before closing, Kathy and I thank everyone for the honor bestowed on us at the Feast of Lights last month. We are so proud to call St. Matthias home. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and I pray that the gifts of love and peace in Christ will be yours.

*Tim+*

## The Promise of the Future

A nursing home resident who longed for fresh Georgia peaches discovered a pit overlooked in his serving of canned fruit. In an old coffee can, he planted the stone, which sprouted! The man gave the small tree to friends to plant. Years later, the peaches were so abundant the neighbors had to give some away.

Lila Docken Bauman recounts this story for the Christian Century, saying the man who took that gamble "did not live to see [it] grow into the tree that ultimately produced this harvest. But when he looked at that pit years ago he saw the promise of fresh fruit. ... 'Who despises the day of small things?' asks the prophet Zechariah. It's in those small things that the promise of the future rests."

Just so, some 2,000 years ago, in a small baby born in a tiny town — both seemingly inconsequential — rested "the promise of the future" — the salvation of the whole world.



# PUZZLE

## Symbols of the *season*

Many traditional decorations convey the meaning of Christmas.

Directions: Use the picture clues to the right to complete the words. Then write the boxed letters in order to complete 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV.



- shepherd's staff    \_ □ □ \_ \_ \_ \_ □
- tree that keeps its leaves    \_ \_ \_ \_ □ \_ \_ \_
- shines to lead the way    \_ \_ \_ □ \_ \_
- green for eternal life, red for Jesus' blood    □ \_ \_ \_ \_ & \_ \_ \_ □ □ \_ \_
- sounds to announce good news    □ \_ \_ \_ \_
- has no beginning or end    \_ \_ \_ \_ □ \_

Th □ □ ks b □ to □ od fo □ □ is  
indesc □ □ ba □ le gif □ !

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15, NIV

Answer: candy cane, evergreen, star, holly & berries, bell, wreath. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV

### 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.**

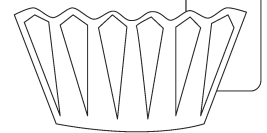
If you know of someone who has been admitted to a hospital, remember to inform the clergy. With the new privacy laws, the clergy can no longer check the roster for parishioners that may be hospitalized. It is "Better We Know Twice Than Not At All!"

### 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.

# Light the way

Make some Christmas candles to remember Jesus, the Light of the world.



#### What you need:

- Unlined white notecards
- Hot glue (and adult help)
- Yellow tissue paper
- Mini muffin liners
- Clothespins

#### What you do:

1. Roll a notecard from side to side into a "candle" tube. Secure with glue.
2. Insert a piece of tissue paper "flame" in one end.
3. Glue the other end to a muffin liner. Then glue the liner to a clothespin.
4. Repeat to make many paper candles. Pin them to the branches of a Christmas tree.

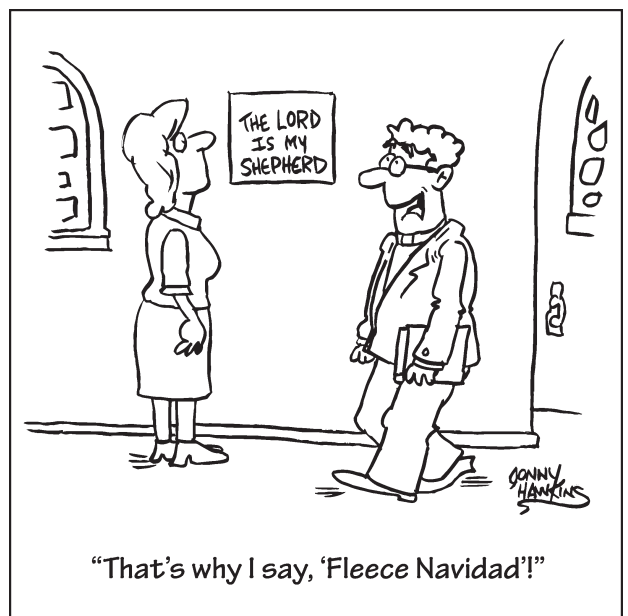
### Saint Matthias Staff

- 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 December

- \* First day of winter, December 21
- \* Christmas Eve, December 24
- \* Christmas Day, December 25
- \* New Year's Eve, December 31

Peace & Goodwill to All



# HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- ✦ First Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2019
- ✦ Second Sunday of Advent, December 8, 2019
- ✦ Third Sunday of Advent, December 15, 2019
- ✦ Christmas Pageant
- ✦ First day of winter, December 21, 2019
- ✦ Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22, 2019
- ✦ Christmas Eve, December 24, 2019
- ✦ Eucharist 5:00<sup>pm</sup>
- ✦ Eucharist 10:30<sup>pm</sup>
- ✦ Christmas Day, December 25, 2019
- ✦ Eucharist 10:00<sup>am</sup>
- ✦ New Year's Eve/Watch Night, December 31, 2019



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