

SAINT MATTHIAS

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Saint Matthias Messenger

Published Monthly

Volume 16 Issue 9 - September 2019



Saint Matthias Episcopal Church
7056 Washington Avenue
Whittier, CA 90602
(562) 698-9741

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
9:00^{AM} - 4:00^{PM}

Rector
The Rev. Bill Garrison
Bill@stmatthiaswhittier.org

Church e-mail:
office@stmatthiaswhittier.org
Web Page:

<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



A Human Being

I have several friends who send me fun things like cartoons and quotes. Part of what makes me laugh is that there is some truth in them, usually a reality uniquely described. One of these came from a woman who is highly accomplished in her area of expertise, even teaches hundreds of people at national conferences. She is a mom of a couple incredible kids. She takes care of her own mom with compassion and good humor. She is a leader in professional organizations and in a thriving faith community. She's traveled all over the world. She works out – both physically and spiritually. She has a host of lifelong friends. We love spending time together but it's not easy to coordinate our calendars. She is, by all accounts, very busy leading a very successful life.

And what quote did she send me? "I just ordered a Life Alert bracelet. So if I ever get a life I'll be notified immediately." Did you laugh out loud like I did? There's humor quickly followed by sobering truth. Because underneath all the activity, all the accomplishments, what she really craves is one very special connection, someone with whom she can just be. For her that would be getting a life.

This reminds me of one of our recent gospel readings and a dilemma that comes up frequently for many of us. Not too long ago we had the story of Martha and Mary. By way of a refresher, it's the story of Jesus stopping at the home of Martha and her sister Mary. Martha welcomes Jesus and then is "distracted by many things" which we presume to include the tasks of hospitality by providing a comfortable space, food and drink to serve to the guests. However her sister Mary chooses to sit as Jesus' feet and absorb everything he says and does. Martha points out to Jesus that her sister is slacking and wants Jesus to order Mary to leave Jesus' company and get to work helping Martha. Can't you just hear her exasperated tone of voice? And sense her narrow but total focus on doing the work? No doubt she is shocked at Jesus' reply that in this time and place, there is need only of one thing. What is of greater value is to Be with Jesus. Doing versus Being. Doing tasks that seem like they add up to a life versus Being in life-giving situations intentionally chosen.

Providing hospitality was critical in first century Jewish life. After all someone had to get dinner together, clean the house, take care of family and friends. That's as true today

as it was then. The critical piece is in how we approach what we have to do and the importance we attach to Doing tasks versus Being in holy presence. What if Martha had not focused on the drudgery of doing tasks alone but on the life-giving joy of Jesus stopping at her home? Do the dishes later, Be in the presence of the rabbi now? Doing joyfully the tasks of serving, anticipating Being in closer knowledge of God?

One of the most difficult things I heard in my chaplain days was from older folks – people full of valuable wisdom and experience - who were so focused on the things they could no longer do that they questioned their very lives. "I'm no good to anyone," they'd say. "Why doesn't God just take me?" Sadly this



"Only **one** thing is necessary. **Mary** has chosen what is **best**, and it will not be taken away from her."

LUKE 10:42, CEV

thinking comes out of a lifetime of valuing Doing over Being. When we can no longer Do, it's hard to see that the better choice all long was to Be.

For most of us Doing is our default setting and it's a hard one to override. It's a near constant discernment process to be able to recognize this and to fight off our own version of Martha's exasperated voice demanding that we step away from what is life-giving. My prayer for all of us is that Being with God will find a regular place in our lives so that we will be well served by it for the rest of our lives.

Rev. Carole+

Futures Fund

Following is an update on your Futures Fund as of the end of July:

During the month of July the fund gained \$1,796.79 ending at \$463,094.55

During the year ending July 31 the fund gained \$48,236.96 ending at \$463,094.55

The fund is currently yielding 2.4%.

If you have any questions or would like to find out how you can contribute, not only spiritually, but also by becoming a philanthropist please contact one of the following members of the committee:

Larry Christian, Doug Halliday, Mike Taylor, Stan Jamieson or Fr. Bill Garrison.

Stan Jamieson - Member

Happy Birthday to -and for -You!

Birthdays are unique because they celebrate who someone is, not what they've done. Henri Nouwen wrote, "It is more important to celebrate a birthday than a successful exam, a promotion or a victory. Because to celebrate a birthday means to say to someone, 'Thank you for being you.' ... On a birthday we do not say, 'Thanks for what you did, or said, or accomplished.' No, we say, 'Thank you for being born and being among us.'"

To rejoice over someone purely for who they are is an echo of God's joy over us. Some families celebrate "baptism birthdays" (anniversaries) by lighting candles, sharing scripture and prayer, perhaps looking at photos and recounting stories of that milestone event that marked the beginning of their faith life.

On a birthday, said Nouwen, "we lift someone up and let everyone say, 'We love you.'" In baptism, God lifts us to his very heart and declares, "You are my precious child. I love you."



Labors of love

Thomas Merton, an American monk, writer and social activist, said, "It is in the ordinary duties and labors of life that the Christian can and should develop his spiritual union with God." As the United States observes Labor Day, may we find meaning not simply in marking summer's end but in celebrating the ways nearly all "duties and labors of life" can empower ministry and faith.

Whether as a dentist, parent, artist, teacher, mechanic, gardener, city councilor, farmer, day laborer, attorney or anything else, a Christian can begin each workday or shift by praying for opportunities to serve whoever they'll encounter. We also can pray for and seek ways to grow in "spiritual union with God": cultivating spiritual fruits; actively loving God and neighbor; seeing Jesus in the vulnerable; practicing humility, gratitude and praise.

In Labor Day, may we find inspiration to make all our labors loving and faithful!

Let's All Pitch In!

BYOP...Bring Your Own Pitchfork

All hands on deck...Saturday October 5 to spruce up the grounds around St. Matthias.

7am-10am

Be prepared to do some weeding, trimming, sweeping, raking, etc. Bring your own gardening gloves and small hand tools.

*Cheers,
Mary Jean*

Back-to-School Humor

What kind of school do you go to if you're ...

... an ice cream man? Sundae school

... a giant? High school

... a surfer? Boarding school

... King Arthur? Knight school

Teacher: What's the chemical formula for water?

Student: H-I-J-K-L-M-N-O

Teacher: What are you talking about?

Student: Yesterday you said it was H to O.

Math teacher: A person from LA drove toward New York at 250 miles per hour as a person from New York drove toward LA at 150 miles per hour. Where did they meet?

Student: In jail!

Worship at Saint Matthias September 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

September 1 The Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Proverbs 25:6-7, Psalm 112 , Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16, Luke 14:1, 7-14

September 8 The Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 1, Philemon 1-21, Luke 14:25-33

September 15 The Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Exodus 32:7-14, Psalm 51:1-11, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-10

September 22 The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Amos 8:4-7, Psalm 113, 1 Timothy 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-13

September 29 The Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Amos 6:1a,4-7, Psalm 146, 1 Timothy 6:6-19, Luke 16:19-31

Stephen Ministry

Last month we focused on Crisis Care and Follow Up Care. In this issue we would like to cover Chronic Care.

Chronic Care is for a long term problem; chronic illness or suffering can be like a crisis that never ends. Chronic sufferers have to learn to live with major problems that can detract greatly from the quality of life. Needs for chronic care are prevalent. Studies indicate that eight out of ten will suffer chronic condition sometime in their life.

Chronic sufferers experience unique problems. Research has shown that suffering a chronic, incurable condition can be similar to being treated for chemical dependency. For example, a stigma or shame can be attached to being chronically ill. People can feel that they have somehow brought this on themselves. Some health care organizations might provide inadequate care in chronic cases. More attention is often given to acute, short term cases because chronic cases do not fit the favored "you're sick, we make you better, you gradually go home" model.

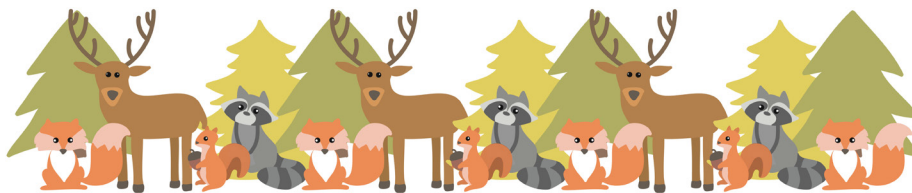
Persons in need of chronic care include those who are (1) disabled (2) aged (3) in nursing homes (4) home-bound (5) experiencing chronic pain such as arthritis or (6) living with degenerative diseases.

Again, we always stress the point that your caring relationship with a Stephen Minister is always kept confidential.

If you or someone you know is experience 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



From the Senior Warden's Desk

Don't look now, but it appears that another beautiful summer is coming to an end. That is, indeed, the unofficial end of the season that we see in the rearview mirror as we turn the corner past Labor Day. It won't be long before we will find ourselves soaking up the World Series, football, and plenty of pumpkin spice lattes in preparation for Fall and the approaching holiday season.

Before we leave Summer too far behind, I want to say, "Thank You" to everyone who participated in our Summer Breakfasts. If you prepared a meal, shared in setup or cleanup or just attended one of the many summer offerings, your presence was felt and appreciated. And, it contributed to an enjoyable pastime.

Let's spend a moment talking about the Annual Soup Hour Fundraiser. This year, something entirely new and different will head up the program and festivities for this year's fundraiser. Mary Ellen De La Vega and the Soup Hour Committee have put together something truly special. By now, you should have received an e-mail invitation. Hopefully, that has piqued your interest. This year's fundraiser is going to be all about FUN! The committee has worked hard to put together a great event with great entertainment and a fantastic silent auction. So, please mark Saturday, September 28, 2019, from 6PM to 10PM, on your calendar. SEE YOU THERE!!!

Within the next couple of weeks our sanctuary will get a new coat of paint. We've checked out samples for new colors and we are excited about the new look we will have. It's a great opportunity we have to brighten up our house of worship and we are certain you will all be pleased with the outcome.

The painting will take care of the interior of our sanctuary. And, as is often the case, one project completed points to another that needs to be done. On October 5, 2019, from 7AM to 10AM, EVERYONE is invited to participate in an effort to beautify our Parish grounds. Be prepared to do some weeding, trimming, sweeping, raking, etc. Please bring your own garden gloves and small hand tools. We'll break a light sweat (we'll get started and finished before the heat of the day) and share in an opportunity to freshen up our grounds.

These projects will be completed just in time for a visit from John Harvey Taylor, Bishop Los Angeles in the Diocese of Los Angeles of the Episcopal Church. This is certainly an auspicious event in our Parish life, and it is one in which we hope you all were participate. Bishop Taylor will join us for worship at both the 8AM and 10AM services on Sunday, October 13, 2019. A welcome reception will be held immediately following the 10AM service, in Lewis Hall. We hope you all will attend.

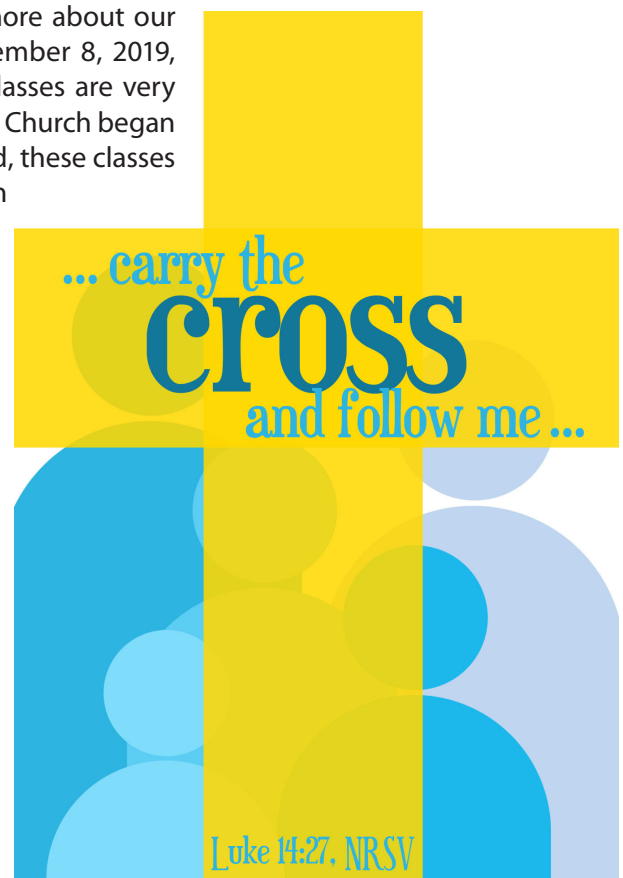
And if any of you would like to take an opportunity to learn more about our Episcopal tradition, Inquirers classes will begin on Sunday, September 8, 2019, between the 8AM and 10AM services, in the Chase Room. The classes are very informative as they tell our history and provide insight as to how our Church began and who and where we are in the world, today. And if you are so led, these classes offer preparation for confirmation when Bishop Taylor joins us in worship on October 13.

Sometimes it feels like we're moving from the lazy quiet time of summer to a busier season at St. Matthias. In retrospect, Rev. Horton-Howe did an outstanding job guiding us through some busy summer months, highlighted by an extremely well received Women's Retreat. We saw record numbers at our last Men Eating Badly breakfast (don't forget the first Saturday each month, 7AM at the Greenleaf Café). Our young people attended Vacation Bible School, had an enjoyable weekend getaway with their families in Santa Barbara along with some other fun stuff throughout the Summer, led by Sally Schacht, and they've begun plans for some exciting activities this fall.

The holiday season is just around the corner. Our calendar will continue to fill up quickly. We pray that you will be with us in as many ways as possible.

And Welcome Back, Father Bill!!!

Tim



PUZZLE

Grandparents of the Old Testament

Can you name these biblical grandparents? If you get stuck, find an Old Testament family tree in your Bible or online.

Directions: After filling in the crossword, unscramble the circled letters to complete Psalm 145:4, NIV.

ACROSS

2. David's grandfather
5. Jacob's grandfather
6. Esau's grandmother

DOWN

1. Judah's grandmother
3. Joseph's grandfather
4. Solomon's grandfather
7. Jesse's grandmother

One G _ N _ _ _ _ N commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. Psalm 145:4, NIV

Answers: ACROSS 2. Obad, 5. Abraham, 6. Sarah; DOWN: 1. Rebekah, 3. Isaac, 4. Jesse, 7. Ruth; Generation

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.



GROWING generations

Honor your grandparents with a gift that all generations can enjoy.

What you need:

- Cups (various sizes)
- Pencil
- Family photos
- Scissors
- Colored paper
- Hot glue (and adult help)
- Clothespins
- A small potted tree or bush

What you do:

1. Use a cup to trace a circle around faces in the photos. Cut out the circles.
2. Cut larger circles out of paper. Glue each photo onto a paper circle.
3. Glue a clothespin to the back of each photo. Clip photos to the branches.
4. Present the gift to your grandparents, and tell them you're glad to be in their family 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 September

- * Labor Day, September 2
- * Grandparents Day, September 8
- * Patriot Day, September 11
- * First day of autumn, September 23



"Wow, Mrs. Hoover — 40 years of teaching Sunday school. You were in it for the long haul!"

Non-Profit
Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #204
Whittier, CA



Saint Matthias Episcopal Church
7056 Washington Avenue
Whittier, CA 90602
(562) 698-9741
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL



ANNUAL BENEFIT FOR
The Soup Hour at St. Matthias



Fiesta



— Enjoy an evening of —

TACOS, COMEDY, RAFFLES, & AUCTIONS

while raising funds for The Soup Hour

Saturday, September 28, 2019

**6:00 PM at St. Matthias Episcopal Church
7056 Washington Ave, Whittier, CA 90602**

**\$50 General Ticket
\$250 Joker Sponsor**



Tickets on Eventbrite
(562) 698-9741



THE SOUP HOUR IS A 501 (C)(3) REGISTERED NON-PROFIT SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

