

SAINT MATTHIAS

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Saint Matthias Messenger

Published Monthly

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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:
saintmatthiaswhittier2016@gmail.com

Web Page:
<http://www.stmatthiaswhittier.org>

Sunday Worship Services
8:00^{AM} - Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:00^{AM} - Holy Eucharist Rite II

Saturday Worship Service
The First Saturday of the Month
5:00pm - Holy Eucharist Rite I

Wednesday Bible Study
10:00^{AM}

Wednesday Eucharist
11:00^{AM} - Holy Eucharist



Maybe Some Perspective is in Order

I recently saw a picture of the earth taken from the Voyager One spacecraft in 1990, from a distance of six billion kilometers as it moved away, that really moved me. The earth was just a speck of light surrounded by the black reality that is interplanetary space. The emotions brought forth from inside me were many and varied.

I imagine you too might have seen the picture. At first glance we are struck by the apparent insignificance of our island home as compared to the rest of the universe. Then invariably we are led to think about ourselves in relationship to the earth and to the cosmos. We are immediately reminded of the craziness involved in our political posturing, our economic concerns, and our land grabbing ways as we see the fragility of this orb upon which we live. Our overwhelming self-interest, egos, and vanities once again become obvious.



The sheer size of God and God's creation comes home to us in a cataclysmic rush. I quote from Isaiah, chapter forty. "Even the nations are like a drop from a bucket and are accounted as dust on the scales; see

he takes up the isles like fine dust. Lebanon would not provide fuel enough, nor are its animals enough for a burnt-offering.

All the nations are as nothing before him; they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness. To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compares with him?"

It's all pretty heady stuff isn't it?

Well the good news is that God chose to plant us on this little speck of a planet in the vastness of the creation. God cared enough about us to spend time with us, living as one of us, dying for all of us, and coming out of the tomb for our salvation. How in the world could all that have happened in the midst of everything else that God obviously has going on? I don't have a clue; but there it is.

So maybe it's time to relax a bit and not take ourselves so seriously for a little while. Maybe it's time to go to the beach or the mountains. Maybe it's time to take a nap here and there, go to the movies, or read a fun book.

Happy August everybody!
Bill+

Senior Warden's Corner

- ◇ Senior Warden reported to the vestry that Father Bill's mother had passed and for everyone to keep Fr. Bill and his family in their prayers.
- ◇ Attendance numbers indicate we are maintaining good numbers and we continue in a growth pattern.
- ◇ Junior Warden Tim Adams reported on the expenditures being made of the Fr. Kevin fund. See his full report in this Messenger.
- ◇ Carole Horton-Howe was not present (returning from Texas) and Mary Jean Christian gave the report on Women's groups. Great things are happening in regards to women's ministries at St. Matthias.
- ◇ Senior Warden reported on the progress being made in regards to the fundraiser scheduled for Oct. 13th, progress on getting our soup hour approved for non-profit status, and the futures fund.
- ◇ Director of Communications Andrea Schmid gave a report on the many, many avenues she is pursuing in regards to getting our communications into today's realm. She is going to be using all the media (social media, print media, etc.) that is available to see that St. Matthias makes sure that everyone knows what is happening with our groups and committees and that no one or no event falls through the cracks. Stay tuned.
- ◇ Director of Education Sally Schacht was not present; however, she left a full report on the past, current, and future activities of all the youth groups. It was noted that there were 34 youth at Vacation Bible School, which is the most ever. Great news indeed.
- ◇ Stewardship Chairman Ben Corbitt updated the vestry on future plans for Stewardship which include a second letter and speakers in the fall.
- ◇ Bookkeeper Kent Myers reported on the finances of the church, and we are in great financial state. Pledges are down (most likely due to vacations, summer, etc.) and he urges everyone to please keep pledges current during the summer.

Next vestry meeting will be August 14th.

Next finance meeting will be August 13th.

Stan Jamieson, Senior Warden



The Episcopal Church's General Convention

I took some time off in July that included a few days at the Episcopal Church's general convention to feed my inner church geek. By way of background, the national church gathers every three years. Delegates both lay and clergy from each diocese who have been elected at their individual diocesan conventions make up the House of Deputies and bishops from all diocese make up the House of Bishops. During the ten days of convention, there is much that goes on but the primary purpose is looking at the laws (called "canons") of the church, amending existing ones or enacting new ones. Each House meets in legislative sessions twice per day to consider various resolutions that have come mostly from one of the committees within the national church. Neither House can pass a resolution on its own. Whenever a resolution comes up on the docket, delegates who want to speak either for or against its adoption may do so. It's interesting to watch the church wrestle with issues from current budgets to reconciliation of longstanding wounds. As a visitor I was welcome to observe either House. Over and over I was struck by the heartfelt and passionate arguments of the speakers.

From early morning until late at night during each of the ten days of general convention there were multiple activities happening at once: legislative committee meetings, seminary alumni gatherings, a separate ECW convention, gatherings of the various guilds and orders and meetings of ministry organizations.

It's not surprising that when members of a liturgical tradition gather, much time and energy is spent talking about how we worship. And a wide range of opinion about our Book of Common Prayer was expressed from those who want to keep it exactly as it is to those who believe it needs an immediate major overhaul and every variation in between those extremes that you can imagine. Just as there was no shortage of opinion, there was no lack of passion behind those opinions. While discussion among deputies was always civil, it was sometimes acrimonious with predictions of dire consequences for the future of the church if certain liturgies were adopted -- or if they were not.

(Continued on next page)

Worship at Saint Matthias August 2018

- + 8:00^{AM} - Holy Eucharist, Rite I
- + 9:00^{AM} - Adult Christian Education
- + 10:00^{AM} - Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- + 10:00^{AM} - "The Works" - Children's Education

August 5 The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a, Psalm 51:1-13, Ephesians 4:1-16, John 6:24-35

August 12 The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33, Psalm 130, Ephesians 4:25-5:2, John 6:35, 41-51

August 19 The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14, Psalm 111, Ephesians 5:15-20, John 6:51-58

August 26 The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: 1 Kings 8:[1, 6, 10-11], 22-30, 41-43, Psalm 84 , Ephesians 6:10-20, John 6:56-69

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And at the end of each day of convention, there was Eucharist. Hundreds gathered daily to pray, listen to scripture and preaching and come together at the altar. As I watched communion being offered and received among delegates who a short time before had been speaking in opposition to each other I was reminded of Rumi's saying that in the end we're all just walking each other home.

I'm very proud of my church, how we struggle together with questions of faith and process. We hold differing opinions. We strongly advocate for them. We get it right. We make mistakes. We make up for them as best we can most of the time. And we are always siblings in Christ and members of The Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement as our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has named it. There's no other group of people I'd rather kneel with at an altar or have walking me home.

General convention was well covered by social media. If you have any questions or you'd like information about specific legislation, check out the website at www.generalconvention.org. Or ask me and we'll find out together.

Carole+

ECW Meeting

Our next meeting will be Saturday, August 25th at 9:00 a.m. in the Chase Room. All women of St. Matthias are welcome to come, to learn about the projects and ministries that are on-going and to assist with plans for the future. Contact Rev. Carole for more information at carole@stmatthiaswhittier.org.



The Soup Hour Report

The Soup Hour Planning Committee met on June 17th and continued the planning stages for fundraiser on October 13th. There is still a lot of planning to do, but things are falling nicely into place.

The Soup Hour 501(c)3 progress: Needed paperwork was submitted to Banc of California, and a checking account has been created. Forms have been submitted to the IRS which, when approved, give "The Soup Hour" tax exempt status. We held our first Board of Directors Meeting, and we are in contact with the church insurance company for the purpose of separate insurance for "The Soup Hour." Almost there!

Stan Jamieson

Funds For The Future

The amount in the Futures Fund account on June 1 was \$439,475,20, and the amount at the end of June was \$438,232,30.

If you have any questions on how you can help the future of St. Matthias, please let one of the Futures Fund members know: Larry Christian, Stan Jamieson, Mike Taylor, Doug Halliday or Father Bill.

In future reports we will again start looking at the many, many ways you can contribute.

Stan Jamieson

The Father Kevin Facilities Fund

Father Kevin Taylor was larger than life when he was with us here at St. Matthias. His legacy will live on because of his generous bequest to our congregation that was received earlier this year. Our Vestry voted to dedicate a portion of that gift to the establishment of the Father Kevin Facilities Fund. The purpose of the fund is to preserve and improve our facilities at St. Matthias and to add to the beautification of our parish.

Several improvements have already taken place. The bright splashes of color on the St. Francis patio were made possible by the addition of new umbrellas. We are acquiring new banquet tables for Lewis Hall. Small appliances for our kitchen have been obtained and others are on the way. Soon, Lewis Hall will receive a new coat of paint, as well.

Several other critical projects are underway. A major concern for St. Matthias, as it seems to be for every structure in Southern California, is the presence of drywood termites. Unfortunately, they have been discovered in various areas throughout the older portions of the parish. However, each of the bids we received indicated that they can be treated locally,

thereby precluding the need for tenting. In addition to chemically treating to remove the presence of termites we will be required to repair those areas that have been damaged so far. This work will take place soon and will, in no way, impact any activity at St. Matthias.

Additionally, a new electrical panel has been installed to insure that the demands of our air conditioning, both present and future installations, will be adequately served. And plans are in design stages to create and install a new sign for St. Matthias. A tremendous word of thanks to John Maidlow for his support in obtaining bids and assisting with acquiring great prices for some of the work that has been completed.

While assessing for termite damage, it was decided that the doors on the parking lot storage structure need to be replaced. Which brings us to a major improvement that will take place this summer. Our parking lot will be repaired, resurfaced and re-stripped. Measures will be taken to make the lot more secure and reduce the likelihood of unwanted intrusions of unauthorized parking and the litter and damage that accompanies it.

Maintaining a thriving and growing parish facility requires ongoing care and maintenance. The Father Kevin Facilities Fund will go a great distance to establishing our ability to keep up with the wear and tear that will occur. We can all be grateful for the blessing that was Father Taylor and for the gift he so generously shared with us.

If you would like to consider contributing to the ongoing preservation and maintenance of our facility, consider a special donation, however great or small, to the Father Kevin Facilities Fund. Each of us has a role in sustaining, maintaining and preserving St. Matthias. What a great way to contribute to that effort!

Tim Adams, Junior Warden



PUZZLE

GOD'S amazzzzing BEES

God created bees to pollinate flowers and make honey. Psalm 119:103 says God gives us something that's even sweeter than honey.

Directions: Find the word that fits each clue. Then write the answers in the correct numbered honeycomb shape to complete Psalm 119:103, NIV.

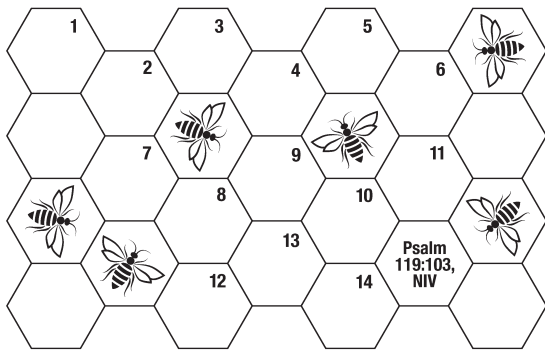
CLUES

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. rhymes with cow | 8. the tongue's job |
| 2. opposite of sour | 9. more sweet |
| 3. pronounced "R" | 10. rhymes with pan |
| 4. rhymes with four | 11. golden liquid |
| 5. Letters create _____ | 12. Pleased __ meet you. |
| 6. not too or two | 13. rhymes with fly |
| 7. rhymes with by | 14. body part |



WORD BANK

than your to are
sweet sweeter How
my honey mouth
words to taste, my



Answer: How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Psalm 119:103, 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.

BUMBLE BEE BALLS

Make these yummy treats as a summer snack.

What you need:

- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1½ oz. instant oats
- ¼ cup honey
- ½ cup instant milk powder
- ½ cup dark chocolate chips
- 40 mini chocolate chips
- 20 slivered almonds
- 40 sliced almonds
- Adult help

What you do:

1. In a bowl, mix peanut butter, oats, honey and instant milk powder into dough. If too dry, add more peanut butter or honey.
2. Roll dough into 20 long balls. Place them on a cookie sheet and refrigerate.
3. Melt the dark chocolate chips and place them in a zippered baggie. Cut a tiny bit off one corner.
4. Remove dough from refrigerator. Squeeze thin lines of chocolate as stripes onto the bee bodies.
5. Use two mini chocolate chips for eyes, a slivered almond for a stinger and two sliced almonds as wings. Enjoy!

Saint Matthias Staff

Rector

Fr. Bill Garrison

Associate

Rev. Carolyn Estrada

Deacon

Rev. Kay Lozano

Transitional Deacon

Rev. Carole Horton-Howe

Youth / Senior Ministries

Sally Schacht

Music Director

Kevin McKelvie

Parish Administrator

Dottie Andersen

Facilities Manager

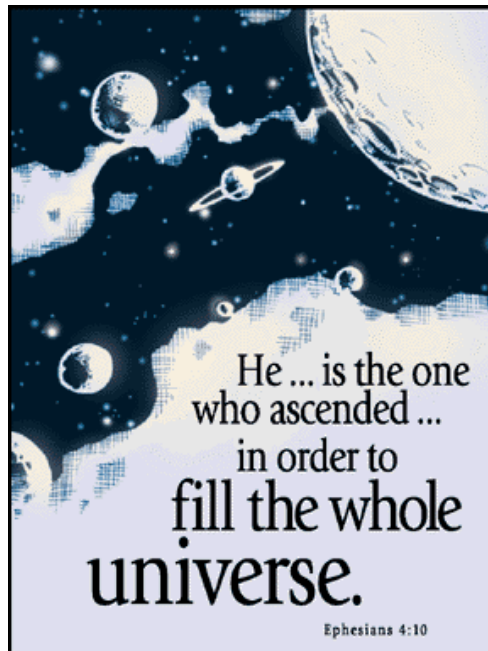
Ben Gonzalez

Treasurer

Kathel Harris

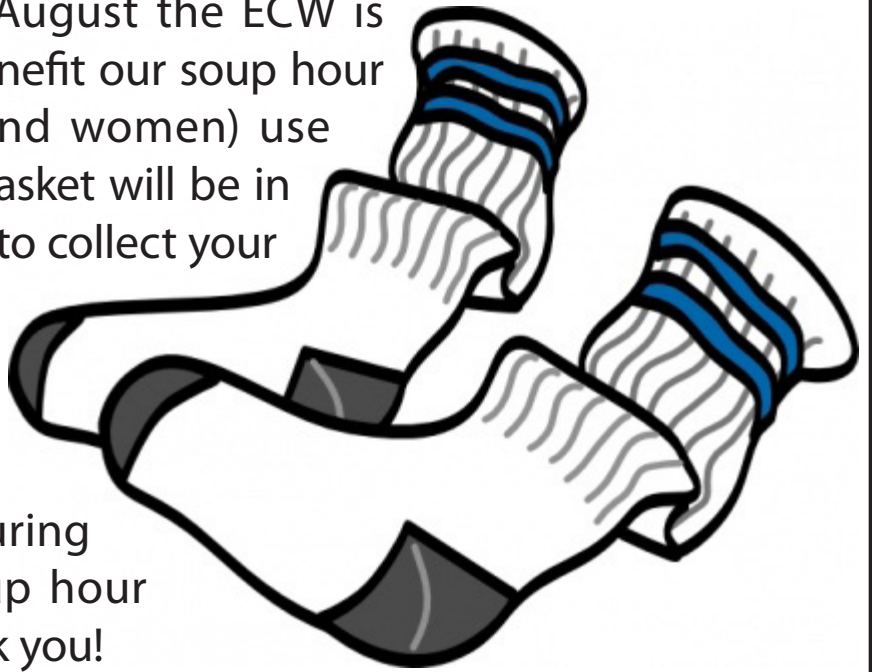
Bookkeeper

Kent Meyers



August Sock Drive

During the month of August the ECW is having a sock drive to benefit our soup hour guests. They all (men and women) use men's athletic socks. A basket will be in the narthex each Sunday to collect your donation of NEW long white men's athletic socks. Of course, donations can be brought to the church office Monday-Friday during business hours. Our soup hour guests and the ECW thank you!



Mary Jean Christian, ECW Co-Facilitator



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