

SAINT MATTHIAS

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Saint Matthias Messenger

Published Monthly

Volume 16 Issue 6 - June 2019



Saint Matthias Episcopal Church
7056 Washington Avenue
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Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
9:00^{AM} - 4:00^{PM}

Rector
The Rev. Bill Garrison
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Church e-mail:
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Web Page:

<http://www.stmatthiaswhittier.org>

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

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

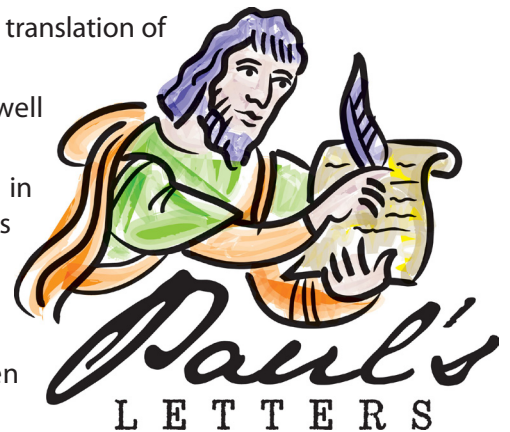
Wednesday Bible Study
10:00^{AM}
Wednesday Eucharist
11:00^{AM} - Holy Eucharist



The Apostle Paul

As a Bible student I have come to understand the incredible importance of Paul. He probably had more to do with the spread of the gospel than anyone else in the history of Christianity. Yet most of us know or care little about him. I hope to do my part, as I did recently in a sermon, to enlighten those within the influence of our church about this most important historical figure. With that in mind here are a few important bullet points.

- + Born about 4 BCE and passed away approximately 62 – 64 CE in Rome
- + Born in Tarsus of Syria as Saul. It was not uncommon in those days for a person to have two names. He was a Greek speaking Jew.
- + He was born a citizen of Rome.
- + Paul worked with his own hands – probably Tent Making.
- + Was not a common laborer but probably not wealthy either.
- + He could read and write which very few people could do.
- + Paul wrote in Koine (Common) Greek rather than the elegant and sophisticated Greek of some others.
- + He was taught scripture and the oral Torah by Gamaliel the grandson of Hillel, perhaps the most important thinker in the history of Judaism.
- + As a young man and future scholar he probably memorized the Hebrew Scriptures in whole or part.
- + He quoted scripture from the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures.
- + Paul became a Pharisee and was well advanced in learning.
- + Paul was a persecutor of believers in Jesus and probably urged synagogues to punish converts to the faith. This would have included ostracism and light flogging.
- + He became a believer in the risen Christ somewhere around 33 CE.
- + Scholars generally understand that Paul was compassionate, dedicated, emotional, had a temper, and was completely dedicated to Jesus Christ.
- + After Paul's conversion he went into Arabia (probably west of Damascus), and then returned to Damascus.
- + After 3 years Paul met with Peter and James, Jesus' brother, for 15 days in Jerusalem. It was confirmed that Paul would take the good news to the gentiles and Peter and James would do the same with the Jews.



- + Then after 14 years Paul returned to Jerusalem to compare theological understandings with the powers that be including Peter, James, and John. The purpose was to make sure the gospel he was preaching to the gentiles was approved by them. They agreed that gentiles need not take on the rules of Judaism in order to be true believers in the risen Christ. To Paul's chagrin they backtracked on this somewhat in a couple of cities.
- + Paul wrote 7 of the letters attributed to him in the New Testament. (Galatians, Romans, Philippians, 1st and 2nd Corinthians, Philemon, 1st Thessalonians)
- + Other letters attributed to Paul in scripture were written after his death by followers who may have had access to these and other letters he wrote.
- + Paul was a missionary for Jesus Christ from the 30's through the early 60's.
- + As a tent maker carrying a few leather tools he could set up shop anywhere and probably preached the gospel as he worked, eventually gaining enough converts to begin a community.
- + Paul suffered for his leadership. Paul was often hungry and ill-clad. He was flogged at least five times, jailed, and arrested for taking a gentile too far into the Temple grounds. Since he was a Roman citizen he was eventually taken to Rome to stand trial.
- + Paul wrote his letters to the congregations he had founded to answer questions and concerns that had arisen after his leaving. Often other missionaries had presented another "gospel" and Paul was compelled to refute their teaching. He did not return himself because he was moving constantly into new territory.
- + The world around the Mediterranean was uniquely ready for Paul's ministry. The Romans made sure there was peace everywhere in the empire. There were good roads and one could also travel by ship. There was a common language, Greek. It is easy to see the hand of God working in the background.
- + Paul's letters give us an entry into the world of the first Century that gospels cannot. They are therefore uniquely important to the serious student of the early church. In addition, these letters have formed the theological foundation for many a famous theologian.

My hope is that you find this informative and helpful in your understanding of Paul, his mission, and his importance.

Bill+



Swaddled in God's law of love

Pastor John Edgerton tells of swaddling his 2-week-old baby to help her feel secure. She loved being wrapped tightly in a soft blanket and would lie quietly — until she managed to work a tiny arm loose. Then she'd scream until someone rewrapped her.

Edgerton likens that behavior to his own connection with God's law, given so people can live in peace. "I know that I'm supposed to do the right thing, but I'm always wiggling out of it," he writes. "And very quickly my life falls into a state of disarray."

We've all experienced this. We know we are to love our neighbors as ourselves, yet we often ignore their needs. Jesus says to love our enemies, but we wiggle around it: "That's too naive for this day and age." But then relationships crumble, life feels crazy and we recognize that, in large part, we've done it to ourselves. Over and over, we wiggle out of the soft swaddle of God's law of love, only to flail. Thankfully, like a loving parent, God wraps us up anew, holds us close and saves us from ourselves — again.



A Father's Legacy

For Joseph Dodson, the pressures and responsibilities of parenthood felt compounded when he and his wife adopted a son. Dodson, a Bible professor, wonders if Jesus' earthly father also struggled with doubts and fears.

Scripture doesn't say much about Joseph, but he clearly left Jesus "a significant legacy," Dodson writes in Bible Study Magazine. Joseph obeyed God — despite the risk to his reputation — by marrying a pregnant woman. Joseph, a son of David, raised the Son of David as his very own. To protect his family he fled to Egypt, foreshadowing the "new exodus" of Jesus' saving ministry. And Joseph heard neighbors mock Jesus as "the carpenter's son."

"Joseph taught Jesus much more than woodworking," Dodson writes. "He modeled for his adopted son how, for God's glory, he must drink the Father's cup no matter the cost."

Worship at Saint Matthias June 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

June 2 The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 16:16-34, Revelation 22:12-14,16-17,20-21, John 17:20-26, Psalm 97

June 9 The Day of Pentecost

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21, Romans 8:14-17, John 14:8-17, Psalm 104:25-35, 37

June 16 The First Sunday After Pentecost - Trinity Sunday

Scripture: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31, Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15, Psalm 8

June 23 The Second Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Isaiah 65:1-9, Psalm 22:18-27, Galatians 3:23-29, Luke 8:26-39

June 30 The Third Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: 1 Kings 19:15-16,19-21, Psalm 16, Galatians 5:1,13-25, Luke 9:51-62

Stephen Ministry Notes

As of this writing four of our congregants are in the process of completing their 50 hours of training to become Stephen Ministers. This process started on January 10th and continues weekly until May 30th. Terry Dodd, Raquel Flores-Olson, Shannon Moore and Rev. Carole Horton-Howe have dedicated their time and talents to becoming Stephen Ministers for St. Matthias. We wish to congratulate them for their hard work and dedication. These four will bring a tremendous amount of love, compassion and talent to our community.

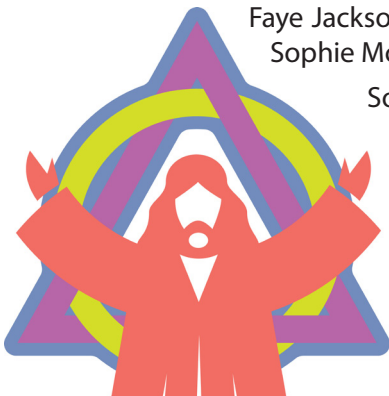
During their 50 hours of training these four have gone through training classes covering some of the following items: (1) Feelings (2) Art of Listening (3) Maintaining boundaries (4) Confidentiality (5) Helping Suicidal persons get the help they need (6) Dealing with depression (7) Using mental health professionals (8) Ministering to those in grief (9) Giving quality Christian care and much more.

These four new Stephen Ministers will join the following current Stephen Ministers: Dave Donovan, Faye Jackson, Kathy Underwood, Kay Lozano, Larry Christian, Mary Jean Christian, Sally Schacht, Sophie McIntosh, Stan Jamieson and Sue Williams.

So if you or someone you know is facing a crisis and is need of a caring and listening person, please reach out to Fr. Bill or Rev, Carole and they will take the necessary steps to see that the proper caregiver is furnished with one of our very talented and well trained Stephen Ministers.

Remember the word confidentiality. This is something that we are very proud of and for more than 20 years of Stephen Ministry at St. Matthias we have never breached the confidentiality of our care receivers. This is extremely important to our group.

Stan Jamieson - Stephen Leader



The Senior Warden's Desk

We have so many opportunities to grow in mind and spirit here at St. Matthias. Our Lenten series and the run up to our Easter season are perfect examples of the many ways we have to heighten our sense of communion with Christ. We are grateful to our Clergy, Father Bill and Rev. Carole for the spiritual guidance. And our thanks extends to members of our congregation who, in partnership with them, provide additional opportunities for growth with our Wellness Group and Desert Spirituality.

We are in the midst of several consecutive Sundays wherein we are witnessing the introduction into Christ's fold through the rite of Baptism. Both young and old are being received and it is tremendously uplifting and a blessing to be part of this important event in the lives of these individuals.

Occasions such as this offer us an opportunity to extend welcome and invitation to faces we may not have seen before. We are regarded by many as a welcoming congregation and it's important that we not lose sight of our responsibility to insure that newcomers continue to feel at home at St. Matthias. From Abraham welcoming the three strangers (Genesis 18:1-8) to Jesus telling us that "I was... a stranger and you welcomed me." (Matthew 25:35), we are reminded of the importance of welcoming the stranger in our midst, we are exhorted to practice hospitality in our lives and certainly here at St. Matthias. We do this simply because it's the right thing to do. Let's not forget each of us is here because someone made us feel welcome. So, pass that feeling along to those who are new to our community.

Bishop John Taylor will join us for worship on October 13, 2019. We encourage you to mark this date on your calendar and join us in welcoming the Bishop of the Diocese of Los Angeles of the Episcopal Church.

We hope you will join us for Summer Sunday Breakfasts beginning June 16, immediately following the 8AM service, in Lewis Hall. This is a great opportunity for a moment of fellowship and to share some great breakfast treats.

ECW will sponsor its Annual Bake Sale on Sunday, June 2. Bring your favorite baked treat to share and maybe discover a new recipe or two. The proceeds from the Bake Sale will go toward mitigating anticipated costs of transitioning to more environmentally friendly table ware for coffee hour and other functions.

Over the course of the next several months we will be looking at ways to make our parish members more diligent caretakers of our planet. We will introduce new ways to dispose of our waste and present more environmentally friendly paper goods to use at our functions. You may have noticed at the recent ECW sponsored Mother's Tea, (a bona fide success, by the way) there was NO Styrofoam. It is our hope to eventually replace it with suitable paper substitutes. We hope you will all join in in this effort to become more effective stewards for our planet.

Spring is quickly turning toward Summer. Our church calendar will continue to fill up with activities. Women's Retreat at Aldersgate Retreat Center, Daily Vacation Bible School, Kid's Camp, Summer Breakfasts and more. Please continue sharing in these opportunities for fellowship. Father Bill will be away briefly. In his absence, Rev. Carole will continue to provide spiritual leadership. Together with Mary Jean Christian, our Junior Warden, Stan Jamieson, our Vestry Consultant and I will support her with the execution of the administrative duties of the Parish.

Tim

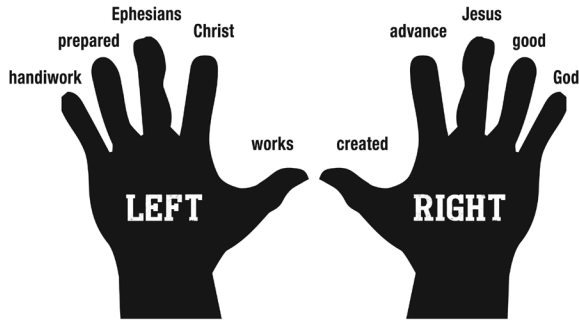




Handiwork to do good works

God has a special plan and purpose for each of us.

Directions: Use the finger-position clues under the blanks below to complete Ephesians 2:10, NIV.



For we are God's _____, _____ in
L pinky R thumb
 _____ to do _____,
L pointer R middle R ring L thumb
 which _____ in _____
R pinky L ring R pointer
 for us to do. _____ 2:10, NIV
L middle

Answer: handiwork, created, Christ, Jesus, good, works, God, prepared, advance, Ephesians

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.

GIVE A HELPING HAND



Make this craft to show appreciation for your dad or another special man.

What you need:

- Acrylic paint
- Paintbrush
- Adult garden gloves
- Garden gloves that fit you
- Permanent marker

What you do:

1. Paint your right palm and press it on the back of the right adult glove. Lift to reveal your handprint. Repeat with your left hand and the left glove.
2. If you have younger siblings, layer their handprint(s) on top with a different color.
3. Write your name(s) and the date.
4. Repeat steps 1 through 3 on your gloves.
5. Present the gift. Offer to use your gloves to give a helping hand with chores!



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

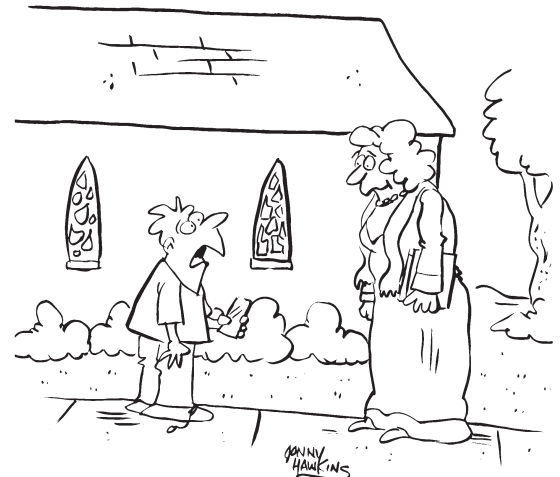
Kathel Harris

Bookkeeper

Kent Meyers

Special Dates in June

- * Pentecost, June 9
- * Flag Day, June 14
- * Trinity Sunday, June 16
- * Father's Day, June 16
- * First day of summer, June 21



"I'll come to VBS, but can you take the word 'school' out of it?"

FUTURES FUND

The previous messenger article furnished some one liners that should provide us for reasons to donate to the future of St. Matthias. I would like to continue those one liners again this month. It is very important to look at each one and then look at your situation and your desires for St. Matthias.

- Why should you change a good will? Answer is to include a bequest to St. Matthias
- Is your will keeping up with you and your christian commitments?
- The States all-purpose will won't fit your needs or show your interest in St. Matthias
- Most people need a will. When you write yours remember St. Matthias.

Aren't wills just for rich people? The answer is yes ---and poor people and everyone in between. Remember St. Matthias in your will.

Who needs a will? The answer is everyone who owns anything and cares what happens it. Also anyone who wants to leave a bequest for their church.

Jesus had a will. Not the conventional kind, but in the scriptures he left explicit instructions for the distribution of his love. It is spelled out in the new testament.

How about your will? Is your love for God spelled out through the gifts you will make?

So again be a WILLing Christian and remember St. Matthias.

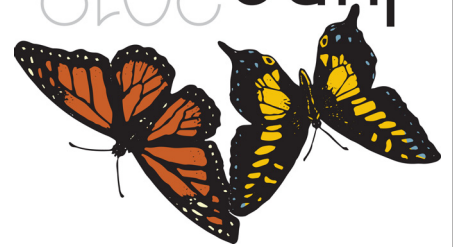
Stan Jamieson - Member



The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago.

Proverbs 8:22, NRSV

June 2019



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