

# SAINT MATTHIAS

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## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Saint Matthias Messenger

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**Saint Matthias Episcopal Church**  
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**Office Hours**  
Monday-Friday  
10AM-4 PM

**Holy Eucharist**  
Sundays at 8 AM

**Holy Eucharist**  
Sundays at 10 AM

10 AM Services Streamed at  
[facebook.com/stmatthiaswhittier](https://www.facebook.com/stmatthiaswhittier)

### GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (I Thessalonians 5: 16-18)

As we learned from Fr. Bill, I Thessalonians is the earliest of New Testament writings, written in the early 50’s CE, before Mark, the earliest Gospel.

But fear not! I am not going to attempt to write a sermon! These verses raised in me musings on circumstances at St. Matthias that engender tough considerations about giving thanks. There is a big difference between giving thanks “in” all circumstances and doing so “for” all circumstances. During this time of transition, we certainly have had many reasons “for” which to be thankful.

We have been blessed with the leadership of Tim Adams and Janice Webster as Senior and Junior Wardens. Both worked tirelessly to keep us “on track”. Janice’s beautification of the St. Francis Patio as well as the innumerable tasks she completed behind the scenes have been invaluable, whether easily visible or not. Tim led with patient grace, also through often complicated situations of which we, the congregation, were not aware.

(Kathy Underwood, Continued on p. 2)

(Kathy Underwood, Continued from p. 1)

Dottie Andersen has served us with a smile, sharing many gifts other than clerical.

Ben Gonzalez, who keeps the buildings intact and makes sure we have the right colors posted in the church every Sunday, is always a source of a good chuckle when encountered in the hallway.

We were privileged to have Mother Vienna McCarthy lead us in worship during Lent, through Holy Week and on Easter Sunday. Her youthful energy, gentle spirit and lovely singing only enhanced the authenticity of her ministry. Her husband, Steven, was a great addition to the choir's bass section as well!

Many churches do not have the opportunity to have their worship experiences enhanced by the quality of music that is provided by Kevin McKelvie at the organ, and the choir under his leadership, nor the lovely music provided by Charissa Harjo at the early service.

Added to these examples of faithful human leadership are the gifts of our beautiful worship space, the camaraderie among our St. Matthias family members, and, yes, the delicious food shared at our potlucks! We cannot forget the stewardship of time and talent given by our many volunteers who read, usher, bear the Chalice at Eucharist and run the audio visual equipment making it possible to live stream our services. Special acknowledgement for that work goes to Tom Booth, Nick Webster and Christopher Lavagnino, Finally, we are thankful "for" the monetary stewardship, sacrificial in many cases, that keeps our Center of Grace solvent.

It is easy to be thankful "for" all the things, people and experiences that obviously benefit us and make our shared lives joyful. However, transition and change create circumstances "in" which giving thanks is a challenge. We are saddened by the loss of Fr. Bill Garrison, now nearly a year ago. Saying goodbye to Dottie after sixteen years is not a happy prospect. Discomfort at the loss of "the way

(Kathy Underwood, Continued on p. 3)

(Kathy Underwood, Continued from p. 2)

things were” causes anxiety and perhaps anger due to uncertainty about our future. Some of us have unfamiliar and uncomfortable emotional responses to unwelcome change. We mourn the depletion of the Soup Hour, so integral to our identity for so many years. Fortunately we continue to give sack lunches and hygiene kits, along with the distribution of mail.

In the midst of these challenging realities, I am convinced that we all want to grow as a congregation committed to continuing our identity as a Center of Grace. We are still in the season of Eastertide. The Risen Christ is with us, and he has promised never to leave us. In this time of change, though difficult, we have opportunities to be thankful for each other; for those who come to help us continue our worship in the absence of a rector; for the confidence that God who never changes “is crazy about us” (Fr. Bill again!) I invite us to commit to being still, seeking God’s wisdom in discernment of our way forward. That wisdom is pure, peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, merciful and without partiality. As your newly appointed Co-Senior Warden along with Doug Overstreet, I am excited about the path we will travel together, discerning God’s call to us. I ask for your prayers as I’m sure Doug will also. Thank-you in advance.

Kathy Underwood

## **WELCOME!**

In a unanimous vote, the Vestry confirmed the hiring of Sophie McIntosh as our new Parish Administrator. Sophie has many years of experience in Social Work and is also one of our Stephen Minister Leaders, certainly qualifying her as a "people" person. She has been working closely with Dottie learning the intricacies of the everyday and the unique duties that arise in her position at St. Matthias.

**WE CONGRATULATE AND WELCOME YOU WHOLEHEARTEDLY!**

## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

There is little to report other than to thank the many people who made the Lenten Season and Easter Sunday successful and beautiful experiences.

Chris Lavagnino did an amazing job of inspiring members to take part in making each worship experience creative and impactful. All the Altar Guild members lead by Wei-San Mohindar and Janice Webster made sure the altar was set-up the way Mother Vienna preferred it. Janice also did many behind the scenes tasks to make sure activities such as the pot lucks during the Thursday night Lenten series ran smoothly. Dottie Andersen, Sophie McIntosh and Sue Williams made sure the many Worship Bulletins were created, copied and distributed on time to the right place. Ben Gonzalez carried out all the duties involved in readying, with good humor, the physical church buildings. Thanks to all the ushers,(coordinated by Christopher Lavagnino) readers and Chalice bearers,( coordinated by Kathy Underwood) without whom the services could not take place. Nor could the live streaming of the services take place without the audio visual expertise of Tom Booth, Nick Webster and Chris Lavagnino.

Special thanks to the folks who provided breakfast for the choir, acolytes and ‘Easter Egg Hiders’ between services on Easter Sunday. Christopher Lavagnino, LaVerne Edmunds, Eileen Weiss and Ellen Mykkanen provided the yummy food.

Extra special thanks to Mother Vienna McCarthy for serving us throughout Lent and on Easter Sunday. We especially enjoyed her singing at Eucharist and at the Easter Vigil. Her gentle spirit has been comforting in a difficult time.

Finally, thanks to the choir for their faithfulness and work to present music to enhance our worship.

Kevin McKelvie  
Worship Committee Chair

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Due to the hard work of Kathy Underwood, we are glad to announce that we have Priests coming every Sunday to celebrate the Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:00 through June 25 as follows:

May 7:	The Rev. Katherine Feng
May 14:	The Rev. Judith Lyons
May 21:	The Rev. Rob Bethancourt
May 28:	The Rev. Vienna McCarthy
June 4:	The Rev. Katherine Feng
June 11:	The Rev. Hartshorn Murphy
June 18:	The Rev. Hartshorn Murphy
June 25	The Rev. Hartshorn Murphy

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*The grace of the Lord*  
**JESUS  
CHRIST,**  
*the love of*  
**GOD,**  
*and the communion of*  
**THE HOLY  
SPIRIT**  
*be with all of you.*

**2 CORINTHIANS 13:13, NRSV**



## MAY SERVICES, EVENTS, AND SMALL GROUPS

SUNDAYS AT 8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist (in-person only)

SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist (in-person and streaming live at facebook.com/stmatthiaswhittier)

BIBLE STUDY/MORNING PRAYER: Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. Chapel.

MEN EATING BADLY: Saturday, May 6, 8:00 a.m. Greenleaf Café. Contact Tim Adams.

OUR TIME: Tuesday, May 9, 2:00 p.m. Chapel. Contact Mary Jean Christian.

VESTRY MEETING: Tuesday, May 9, 7:00 p.m. Chapel.

STITCHERY GROUP: Saturday, May 20, 9:00 a.m. Chapel. Contact Ellen Mykkanen.

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING: Sunday, May 21, 1:00 p.m. Chapel.

ST. ELIZABETH'S GUILD: Thursday, May 18, Noon. Chapel. Contact Diana Jimenez.

MEN'S BOOK GROUP: Thursday, May 18, 6:30 p.m.. Contact Charles Carrillo.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN: Saturday, May 27, 10:00 a.m. Chase Room. Contact Kathy Adams.

Looking for a Part-Time Tax/Admin. Assistant for a small Local Accounting firm. Should have good customer service skills, be comfortable using Microsoft Office, answering phones and playing with numbers. Flexible schedule – about 20 hrs. per week, with heavier hours during tax season. Email resumes to [mwa.acctg@yahoo.com](mailto:mwa.acctg@yahoo.com). Thank you!!

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### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

#### *Ours Is the Darkness*

I  
Ours is the darkness  
that seeks the light,  
and God is the light  
that longs for the dark.  
It's a simple equation,  
even when it isn't so  
simple.

II  
So welcome what  
comes of the dark.  
Greet it an another  
possibility where  
the light might  
shine again.

Meister Eckhart's *Book of Secrets*

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# Sunday Worship at St. Matthias: MAY 2023

- May 7**      **Easter 5**  
Acts 7: 55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
- May 14**     **Easter 6**  
Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:7-18; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21
- May 21**     **Easter 7**  
Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11
- May 28**     **Day of Pentecost**  
Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:25-35, 37; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 20:19-23

We look forward to offering our worship services on more than one platform for streaming in the near future. We are awaiting new equipment that will allow us to do so. So please be patient and stay with us till that happens.

MAY 2023



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