

# SAINT MATTHIAS

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## 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<sup>AM</sup> - 4:00<sup>PM</sup>

**Rector**  
The Rev. Bill Garrison  
[Bill@stmatthiaswhittier.org](mailto:Bill@stmatthiaswhittier.org)

Church e-mail:  
[saintmatthiaswhittier2016@gmail.com](mailto:saintmatthiaswhittier2016@gmail.com)

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

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

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

**Wednesday Bible Study**  
10:00<sup>AM</sup>

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



## Learning about Jesus

As many of you know my mother passed away recently. It has been hard as one might expect it to be losing her. I so very much appreciate the love and support of our community during this difficult time.

Recently it occurred to me that it is no longer possible for me or anyone else to have direct contact with her and know her in the way we were able to before her passing. All we have now are our memories and the stories about her we share. And the truth is that in the future only the stories we pass along about her will remain. Who and how she was will be known only in the stories told by others who will have had no personal contact with her at all.

To complicate the issue for those seeking knowledge of my mother there will be different understandings of her from each of us that knew her. I knew her as a son. My children knew her as their grandmother. Her brothers and sister knew her in an even different way. And then those in her community and her church knew her in even more disparate ways.

This is the truth about the passage of time. It becomes more and more difficult to pin down reality and to accurately characterize people as they recede into the past.

We have that same problem when we seek to ascertain the reality that was Jesus Christ, a man who walked on the earth at the beginning of the first century. Thankfully we have the New Testament to guide us.

Now we must understand a couple things. In all probability almost everything we hear about Jesus in scripture is second hand information. The scriptures are filled with stories that have been passed down from one person to another. The Gospel writers probably didn't know Jesus personally. Did the Apostle Paul know Jesus? Most scholars doubt it. We do know he was acquainted with other Apostles such as Peter and Jesus' brother. So if he didn't know Jesus personally he was only one person away. The rest of the books of the New Testament share this same issue concerning the lack of direct knowledge.

What this means to us is this. We need all the information we can get about Jesus if we want to have an accurate picture of him. We need to study scripture in depth and we need to compare notes with each other. Additionally we need the help of the Holy Spirit in our quest just as we certainly can use a good prayer life. We can know Jesus Christ intimately but we won't do it with one passage representing one point of view or only a passing interest on our own part.

So it sounds like we need church and Bible study if we want to attain a place of Christian maturity doesn't it? You are right. You just made my point.

*Fr. Bill+*



## Senior Wardens Corner

- ✦ Fr. Bill gave attendance numbers. Numbers are looking great as we continue to grow our congregation.
- ✦ Fr. Bill advises that we will be changing our accounting system to Quick Book. Process is now underway.
- ✦ Fr. Bill discussed Homecoming on September 16th.
- ✦ Rev. Carole Horton-Howe reported on the Womens Groups: ECW beautification of our patio, Sunday School Teachers will be asked what they need to make for a better teaching experience for our youth, Sock Dive was a big success and Daughters of the King is completing its preparation to be accepted by the Diocese.
- ✦ Senior Warden Stan Jamieson reported on the progress of the Soup Hour fund raiser and reported that the Futures fund grew by \$4224.71 in August and now stands at \$449,216.85
- ✦ Andrea Schmid was not present and her report on communications was given by Rev. Carole Horton-Howe: Changes have been made to Sunday Bulletins to make them more user friendly, pew cards are going to be updated, photo directory to be updated, working on formatting all our communications to make them standard.
- ✦ Youth director Sally Schacht reported on activities scheduled for October: Apple Picking at Oak Glen, Food Pantry Mission project (clearing out outdated canned goods) and annual Halloween Party.
- ✦ Stewardship Chairman Ben Corbitt updated the stewardship program - Speaker Ben Corbitt on September 30 and Speaker Stan Jamieson on October 14, Pledge Cards will be forthcoming, and second stewardship letter has been mailed.
- ✦ Financial Report was given by Kent Myers - Finances for St. Matthias look very good.

Next Vestry meeting is October 9th and congregation members are more than welcome to attend and see your vestry in action.

*Stan Jamieson*



## "Q"

Our Bible study, which meets at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays, is currently studying the "Q" verses. These are the verses in Matthew and Luke which are almost identical. Scholars have concluded that there is a lost gospel from which these verses were taken. Q is short for Quelle, which is German for source, hence the name Q for these verses. It is a very interesting and enlightening study, and all are invited.

## Feast of Memorial Lights

The St. Matthias Choral Evensong and Feast of Memorial Lights will take place Sunday, November 4, 2018 at 5:00 P.M.

This service is an old tradition at St. Matthias. It is held on All Saints Day and is an opportunity to honor family members, friends, and pets that have died. Each loved one's name is read during the service and is represented by a tree light which is turned on after the service in the patio. Following the service the Pastoral Commission sponsors a dinner. The profits from the dinner are used by the Pastoral Commission to provide flowers, meals, and special needs to St. Matthias family members. All of the money goes directly back to our St. Matthias family. This is the only fundraiser that the Pastoral Commission has during the year, and we encourage all of you to attend. This is a family event and children are welcome. Please mark your calendar, Tickets will be sold in October and November.



## A Great Big Thanks!

To all of you who have supported me (and my family) through my recent hip replacement surgery. I am so grateful for all of the kindness that has been shown to us. The many meals that were all so delicious, the cards that were sent with the heartfelt sentiments, the calls and the visits.

It was fun to taste all of the different dishes and it made things so much easier in my recovery to have ready made meals. My family was all so happy to have yummys to eat that miraculously arrived every night! I had salad Every day (!! ) which i know makes for stronger recovery, bones etc. :) And there is something so uplifting about receiving personal mail when I didn't get to see my church family for so many weeks.

Thanks to all of you my healing was without incident and happened much quicker than any of us thought. Blessings to all of you in return!

*Grateful,  
Sophie McIntosh*

# Worship at Saint Matthias September 2018

- + 8:00<sup>AM</sup> - Holy Eucharist, Rite I
- + 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

## **October 7            The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

Scripture:            Job 1:1; 2:1-10, Psalm 26 , Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12, Mark 10:2-16

## **October 14            The Tweny-First Sunday after Pentecost**

Scripture:            Job 23:1-9, 16-17, Psalm 22:1-15, Hebrews 4:12-16, Mark 10:17-31

## **October 21            The Tweny-Second Sunday after Pentecost**

Scripture:            Job 38:1-7, Psalm 104:1-9, 25, 37b, Hebrews 5:1-10, Mark 10:35-45

## **October 28            The Tweny-Third Sunday after Pentecost**

Scripture:            Job 42:1-6, 10-17, Psalm 34:1-8, Hebrews 7:23-28, Mark 10:46-52

## **The Power of Personal Forgiveness**

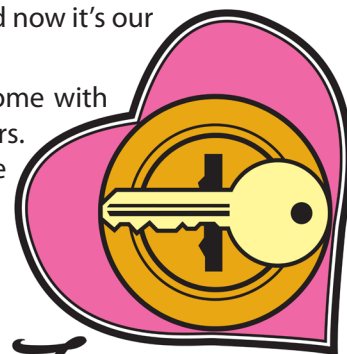
I got a call this morning from the customer service rep for a small company with whom I placed an order back in July. Since she asked for me by my church-y title and full name I know a couple things: we don't know each other and this is some sort of official call. She tentatively asks if I received an item created by her company that I ordered back in July. I can tell that she is stressed. She's calling to give me some bad news and is steeling herself for an angry response. Naturally she's anticipating such a response based on past experiences which saddens me since I know that most of this company's clientele is made up of female clergy. I tell her. "Yes I did get something other than what I ordered. And it's very nice. I can't wait to see mine." I hear her exhale and her voice relax before she thanks me for being understanding. We figure out the logistics of the return and resend process.

I did nothing worthy of her thanks. We're the church. We do empathy. We forgive, we understand. And if we do them with open hearts of love these things add up to healing. We're followers of a God whose Son spent his short life with people staggering under the weight of heavy burdens and starving for relief from them. They were, as former Presiding Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori says, "people in need of prodigal love and prodigious forgiveness." And Jesus offered them an endless feast of both. Jesus' companions continued this feast after his ascension. Together they supported and fed those they encountered. They became the hosts of the banquet. And now it's our turn to do the same for those we encounter.

Jefferts Schori sums it up: "Those who know the deep acceptance and love that come with healing and forgiveness can lose the defensive veneer that wants to shut out other sinners. They discover that hoarding their riches or ignoring the pain of others isn't the way that the beloved act. There's room for all of us at this table; there are tears of welcome and a kiss for the wandered and the sweet smell of home. We are all welcome. Love has saved us."

It turns out that my new friend in customer service and I went to the same college. So in the calls that followed getting the right item to the right place we talked about some of the local watering holes there, the dismal performance of the football team and more. It was a feast.

*Carole+*



*Forgive  
From the Heart*

## Stephen Ministry at St. Matthias

There is still time for interested parishioners to commit to taking A New Training Class which will begin in January, 2019. The cost per participant is \$50.00 which includes two (2) manuals and three (3) pamphlets. Assistance is available to anyone who will have difficulty with the fifty dollars cost. The 50 hours of training will provide participants competency in areas of the Caregiver's Compass: COMPASSIONATE, FULL OF FAITH, SKILLED AND TRUST WORTHY. Stephen Ministers have faith in Jesus; they are completely competent; they are 100 per cent committed; and they keep Christ at the center of all they do. The following Stephen Ministry Leaders are willing and able to answer your questions and respond to all inquiries: Catherine Coutts, Faye Jackson, Stan Jamieson, Kay Lozano, Sally Schacht or Fr. Bill.

### MORE ABOUT OUR STEPHEN MINISTERS

Our Stephen Ministers have done over 1,000 hours of caregiving ministry during the months (January – August, 2018). The 50 hours of training for Stephen Ministers and an additional 5 days of training for Stephen Leaders have prepared them for ministering to persons who are going through tough times. Some Stephen Ministers have assigned caregivers, and they visit once per week, for 1 hour, in the home, at the park, on the phone, etc. THEY ARE NOT ON 24/7 CALL. Other Stephen Ministers are prayer partners at Sunday services. The past month, they offered prayers with persons at church, on the phone, wherever needed; they have helped the home bound parishioners with errands, appointments and light chores; and, they provided rides for non-drivers to attend activities at the church.

### DO YOU KNOW WHO OUR STEPHEN MINISTERS ARE?

St. Matthias' Stephen Ministers pictures are posted, in the hall, on the wall next to the nursery. Also, the history of Stephen Ministry is posted there. "You're invited to talk with them, ask questions, get to know them and allow them to get to know you."

*"A Stephen Minister is the Caregiver, and God is the Cure giver." Total confidentiality is a MUST."  
Faye Jackson, Stephen Minister Leader*

## Bring Potato Chips

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with a bag of potato chips and a six-pack of root beer and started his journey.

When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old man. He was sitting in the park, just staring at some pigeons. The boy sat down next to him and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the old man looked hungry, so he offered him some chips. He gratefully accepted it and smiled at him.

His smile was so pretty that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a root beer. Again, he smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word.

As twilight approached, the boy realized how tired he was, and he got up to leave; But before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the old man, and gave him a hug. He gave him his biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? He's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

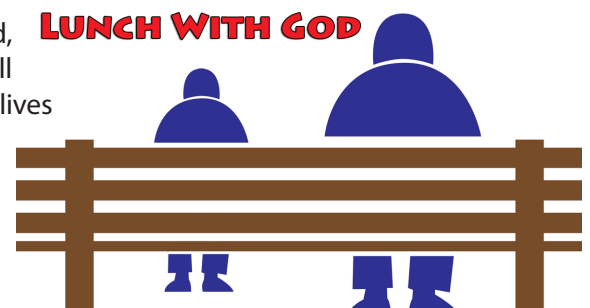
Meanwhile, the old man, also radiant with joy, returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and he asked, "Dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied, "I ate potato chips in the park with God." However, before his son Responded, he added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime!

Embrace all equally!

Have lunch with God.....bring chips.





# From the heart

We all need people who share godly wisdom with us.

Directions: First, unscramble the bold letters to spell another word for "pal." Write that word in the first empty row. Then move the words under each bold letter to that letter's new column. The result will be Proverbs 27:9, NIV.

<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>F</b>					
to	bring	Perfume	incense	and	joy
Perfume					
of	the	the	and	heart,	pleasantness
the					
advice.	their	a friend	from	springs	heartfelt
A friend					

Answer: FRIEND; Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice. Proverbs 27:9, 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.

## Fortunate FRIENDS



Make this fun "gratitude gift" for a friend.

### What you need:

- pen
- round object to trace (about 4 inches across)
- lightweight colored paper
- scissors
- ruled notebook paper
- Chinese food takeout box (or small paper gift bag)
- hot glue gun

### What you do:

1. Trace circles onto the colored paper and cut them out.
2. Cut strips of notebook paper and write messages to a friend (or Bible verses about friendship).
3. Fold each circle in half without making a crease. Secure the top center edge with glue.
4. Pull the outside edges together by creating a bend in the center of the paper. Undo the bend and insert the fortune.
5. Re-bend the "cookie" into shape and add glue inside to hold it in place.
6. Put all the "cookies" in a takeout box and give to your friend.



## 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

## Special Dates in October

- \* Labor Day, September 3
- \* Grandparents Day, September 9
- \* Patriot Day, September 11
- \* Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15 – Oct. 15
- \* First day of Autumn, Sept. 22



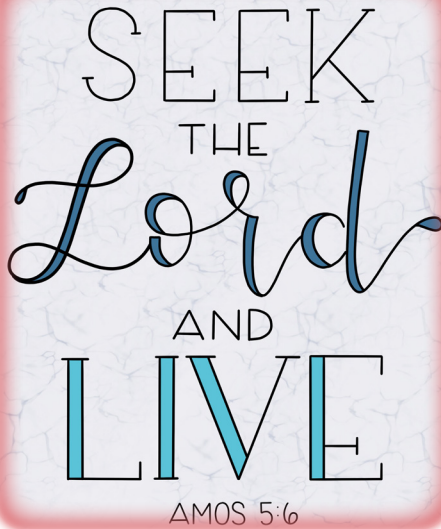
"You said dress up as a Bible character ... and my character is Leviathan."

# Psychedelic Christianity

## On the Ultimate Goal of Living

Beginning Wednesday, Oct. 24, from 7-9 p.m. in the Chase Room, and then on the following three Wednesdays, we will be discussing my new book, *Psychedelic Christianity: on the ultimate goal of living*. To allay some anxieties, I'd just like

to say that people who haven't read the book and know only its title tend to think it is provocative more than people who have read it. Come and find out for yourself! Father Bill has copies for sale, or you may buy it on amazon. We will be discussing the first three chapters (Don't worry—they're short, and so is the whole book.) at our first meeting. But if you haven't done your reading, come anyway. Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to [jckcall@yahoo.com](mailto:jckcall@yahoo.com).



*Jack Call*



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