

SAINT MATTHIAS

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Saint Matthias Messenger

Published Monthly Volume 17 Issue 12 - December 2020



Saint Matthias Episcopal Church
7056 Washington Avenue
Whittier, CA 90602
(562) 698-9741
office@stmatthiaswhittier.org
www.stmatthiaswhittier.org

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

Rector
The Rev. Bill Garrison
bill@stmatthiaswhittier.org

Associate
Rev. Carole Horton-Howe
carole@stmatthiaswhittier.org

Associate
Rev. Carolyn Estrada
poco138@gmail.com

Sunday Worship Services
via Zoom at 10:00^{am}
<https://zoom.us/j/91597283264>
or - via Facebook at 10:00^{am}
<https://www.facebook.com/stmatthiaswhittier>

Communication

Of all the difficulties that human beings deal with, and obviously there are many, I have come to believe that communication is the biggest problem. The process of one person communicating with another is fraught with pitfalls. Sometimes, it seems to me, that successful communication runs off the rails more often than it doesn't. Here are a few examples of communication issues, certainly not all.

Am I speaking clearly in a language and with vocabulary that is easily understood by my listener? Is my point thought out and coherent? Am I telling the truth? Am I being confrontational or manipulative? Am I attempting to discern whether the listener is truly understanding what I am saying?

As a listener, am I truly tuned in to the speaker? Could I repeat back to them the ideas they are presenting? Are there other things going on in my space that might, or are, interfering with my concentration? Am I just waiting to talk rather than truly listening? Are there preconceived notions that I am bringing to my listening and my conversation?

I communicate regularly with people. It's part of my job. One example is in the context of a sermon. I wonder regularly if I am communicating clearly and I am always concerned whether the audience is hearing clearly, and understanding what I am attempting to put forth. I never cease to be amazed how often I am given credit for things I have not said. Most of the time it's a positive comment of some sort and I am grateful to the Holy Spirit to have allowed me to be helpful even if I didn't know it was happening or know the person's need. But I also know there was a breakdown in communication on either the transmission or the reception.



Jesus Christ was a wonderful communicator. Not everyone however wanted to hear and understand what he had to say. Some of his ideas are pretty countercultural in nature. They can be hard to comprehend at times and even harder to accept. So, he used parables to communicate to first century people and to us through scripture. How we equip ourselves for listening has a great deal to do with how well we understand what he is attempting to communicate.

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

This year has seen a colossal collapse in effective communication through the media and interpersonally. Speaking and listening skills have deteriorated greatly it would seem. Let us pledge in 2021 to improve our communication and let us pray that this area of human endeavor will improve in every phase of our living, whether it be interpersonally or nationally; speaking, listening, writing, and through the various forms of media.

Let us pray. Dear God, guide us as we set out to improve our communication with each other and with you. Help us to know what we mean and mean what we say. Help us to listen well, to hear clearly what is being said. And may we speak and hear each other in a nonviolent way, putting aside untruth, manipulation, and confrontational words. Amen

Fr. Bill+

An Advent of Adventure



Rev. Carole Horton-Howe and Bob Howe in Paris

Bob and I have always loved to travel. When we met we both worked for airlines which meant we had flexible schedules and could arrange blocks of time off. Sometimes there were last minute opportunities to get out and see the world. We would pack a bag with the basics, grab our passports and head to the airport. There we'd stand at the "Departures" screen, pick a place we wanted to go then head for the gate. Sounds crazy, doesn't it? As employees we always flew "space available" meaning we could have a seat only after all the paying passengers were on. Most of the time it worked out well. But we also have stories of sitting rows apart in middle seats in the smoking section flying across the Pacific Ocean. And at times we watched from the departure lounge as the last flight of the day left the gate with a long night in the airport stretching out in front of us. So it's not always smooth, but it's always an adventure.

We're in the season of Advent now. The similarity of "Advent" and "adventure" got my attention. I learned that the word adventure comes from the Latin word "adventurus" and originally meant "a thing about to happen." Later on, "adventure" took on additional meanings: risk or danger, remarkable occurrence. Advent has a different origin, "adventus," for "coming or arrival". All of this

adds up to an extraordinary season where we are witnesses to a thing about to happen that is fraught with danger but culminates in an arrival that will change the world.

The thing about many adventures is that when you are in the middle of them it's not fun. It's difficult and even frightening. That has to have been true for Mary the mother of Jesus. Pregnancy is an adventure. As an unmarried teenager in ancient times even more so. Going to strange place when it is a command and not your choice or timing is an adventure. Sitting a donkey plodding along a rough road for 90 miles is an adventure. Arriving in a busy, crowded town where you are turned away time after time but finally able to rest in the best they have to offer is an adventure. But then there is Advent – the arrival of God's own child out of God's divinity whose new life will give us new life, who will reveal God's self to us in the ultimate payoff of the great adventure.

This year is likely to be an Advent of adventure like we've never known. In a way I'm standing in front of that Departures screen ready to travel with all of you. I'm a homebody at heart. As my personal vintage increases, actual traveling holds less appeal than it used to. If I could snap my fingers and magically be there I would. But that's not the way it works. We have to get on board schlepping our baggage with us. God invites us on an adventure to the manger and beyond together. Sounds crazy, doesn't it?

My prayer this year in Covid saturated Advent, is that our arrival at the manger on Christmas Day may be our among our greatest adventures ever. Travel well.

Rev. Carole+

STEWARDSHIP

Celebrating the Diverse Ministries of Saint Matthias

Fellow Parishioners,

While I was listening to the news early one morning, Jon Meacham, Pulitzer Prize winning writer, reviewer and presidential biographer, quoted Martin Luther King, Jr to emphasize how interrelated our lives are in the midst of the chaos and challenges we are facing in 2020: Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. These words spoken by a fellow Episcopalian in his soft Southern accent echoed in my mind. We only unfold and discover our true selves as we experience our family, relatives, friends, and acquaintances doing the same.

Jon's Martin Luther King quote, his reflections on it, and his yearning for us to foster the personal growth in mind, body and soul of others so that they can be what they ought to be so that we can be what we ought to be brought me to think of Saint Matthias and our Saint Matthias ministries.

Each and everyone of our ministries strengthens an aspect of our love, our compassion, and our respect for each other fostering our individual growth in life's journey:

- Whether it be the **Stephen Ministry** providing us emotional support in times of turmoil and distress, in times of sickness and death, just as in times of great joy and celebration.
- Whether it be the **Christian Education** provided to our young inspiring them to be curious about the mysteries of the world, to ask questions, and to seek to understand before being understood.
- Whether it be the many and varied **Small Groups** centered on biblical or related literature and world travels, offering us purviews into each other's thoughts and experiences, and thereby enriching our individual world views.
- Whether it be the Yogic sessions on **Divine Connection through Body and Breath**, during which we strengthen ourselves physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.
- Whether it be our rich weekly and seasonal **Sacramental Services** replete with beautiful music and vocalists, contemporary liturgy, and meaningful homilies highlighting the relevance for our lives of the messages underlying the biblical readings.
- Or whether it be the numerous ways we reach out and support our community through the **Soup Hour**, by providing clothing and hygiene to the poor, and helping find shelter for the destitute.



Each of these ministries brings us closer to being what we ought to be and in so doing assisting others to become what they ought to be.

As we conclude our annual pledge drive, take time to reflect on the Saint Matthias ministries and their meaning in your life. Our objective is to sustain, broaden, and enrich each of these ministries based on our collective generosity. If you have not done so already, please complete a pledge card and express what you are comfortable committing in these very uncertain times. While doing this, do not hesitate to describe any variables in your lives that may place such giving in jeopardy. Compassionately working together, we will build a sound financial plan for the Saint Matthias ministries in 2021.

-Christopher Lavagnino, 2020 Stewardship Committee Member

Parishioner Profile: Shirley & Jack Haake

St. Matthias has been our spiritual home for 60 years. We came to St. Matthias looking for an Episcopal church that offered the faith-based environment that was important to us, as well as a well functioning church school for our children. This we found at St. Matthias.

For 57 of the 60 years that we have been at St. Matthias, we were part of the parish choir and its music ministry. A most wonderful endeavor for us as the choir, during those years, also provided entertainment for the congregation in the form of musicals, melodramas, dinners and talent shows.

SHIRLEY

The first time I visited St. Matthias I felt at home because it was so much like the Episcopal Church I attended all my growing up years in Douglas, Ariz. All the good things about it happened later. I served on the Vestry and for many years after retirement helped Yvette in the office. Of great fun was helping with Vacation Bible School for several years. A comical incident happened when we took the VBS horseback riding. The only adult who rode was dear Shirley Rose. The next day she could hardly walk!! She was so special! Of course, my love for music and the choir goes without saying. It was our privilege to host the annual Choir Christmas party at our home for many years. Jack and I lasted through seven different choir directors.

JACK

Ministries that Jack has been involved in include:

- Served on the Vestry twice.
- Bookkeeper for 10 years.
- On Search Committee resulting in the hiring of Fr. Bill.
- Head of Search Committee resulting in the hiring of our Choir Director and Organist, Kevin McKelvie.
- Served on the inaugural Fund for the Future Committee.
- Served on the Finance Committee.

St. Matthias is our home, family and our future.



Services and Small Groups

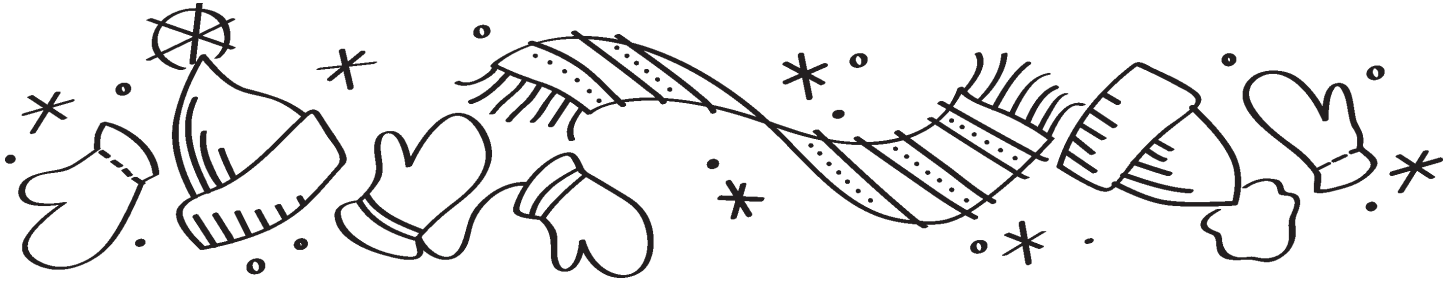
If you do not have internet access, you can still join Zoom meetings by telephone. (A standard landline is fine; a smart phone is not necessary.) Just dial (669) 900-6833, and, when prompted to enter the meeting I.D., enter the number that you see below at the end of the web address for the meeting you want to attend.

- ✦ **Holy Eucharist**, Sundays at 10am - <https://zoom.us/j/91597283264>
or <https://www.facebook.com/stmatthiaswhittier>
- ✦ **Sunday School** - Email Andrea Schmid at andrea@stmatthiaswhittier.org for details.
- ✦ **Advent Quiet Day**, Saturday, December 5th at 9am - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/618771589>
- ✦ **Daughters of the King**, 3rd Sundays at 1pm - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/618771589>
- ✦ **Bible Study**, Wednesdays at 10am - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/778461428>
- ✦ **Men's Bibliophile Group**, 3rd Thursdays at 6:30pm - Contact Chuck Carrillo for the meeting ID and pass code.
- ✦ **Divine Connection Through Body and Breath**, Fridays at 10am, Saturdays at 10:30am, and Sundays at 2pm - Email Cynthia Orsini-Dahl at cynthia@cynthiaorsinidahl.com for log-in details.
- ✦ **Christmas Eve Services**, 5pm and 10:30pm - <https://zoom.us/j/91597283264>
or <https://www.facebook.com/stmatthiaswhittier>
- ✦ **Christmas Day Service**, 10am - <https://zoom.us/j/91597283264> or
<https://www.facebook.com/stmatthiaswhittier>

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN
Scarf, Beanie, and Glove Drive

As the weather cools down at night and we are warm and snugly in our homes, let us remember that there are some who are not as fortunate. Please join ECW in their Scarf, Beanie and Glove drive. We will be collecting scarves, beanies and gloves during the month of January for our Soup Hour clients. Gender-neutral styles and dark colors are preferred. Take advantage of the Christmas sales. A donation of any one of these items is greatly appreciated. You may drop off your donation at the church office or shop online from your favorite retailer and have it shipped directly to the church. The address is 7056 Washington Ave., Whittier, CA 90602. Thank you for your generosity!

-Janice Webster, ECW Co-Chair



Advent Quiet Day
O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL!

Back in March, one of our church's last special events prior to our closure was the Lenten Quiet Day hosted by the Daughters of the King. That morning, we reflected on the theme of "wilderness." Little did we know what a wilderness we were about to enter! Now, as we move into the season of Advent, we Daughters have found ourselves longing more than ever for the light of Christ, so we have chosen a theme that reflects that longing: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

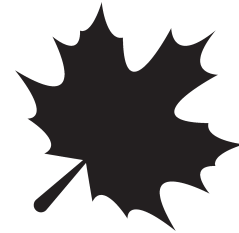
Our format will be a bit different this time. We will gather on Zoom, but there will be plenty of chances to take breaks or leave the meeting and pray on our own using the booklet of prayers and activities that will be provided. The meeting will start with a brief orientation and opening prayer, followed by a time of meditation on scripture and art associated with the Jesse Tree. After a break, there will be opportunities to pray using a finger labyrinth and Anglican prayer beads, a simple poetry-writing activity led by Terry Dodd, and a guided breathing exercise led by Cynthia Orsini-Dahl. Throughout the meeting, we will enjoy music selected for us by Mary Jo Call.

The Quiet Day is open to all women of the church, and will be on Saturday, December 5, from 9:00 a.m. until approximately 11:30. Contact me (andrea@stmatthiaswhittier.org) or Rev. Carole (carole@stmatthiaswhittier.org) for further details or to arrange to have the prayer booklet mailed to you or dropped off at your home.

-Andrea Schmid, DoK Secretary



Autumn
RANIER MARIA RILKE



The leaves fall, fall as from far,
Like distant gardens withered in the heavens;
They fall with slow and lingering descent.

And in the nights the heavy Earth, too, falls
From out the stars into the Solitude.

Thus all doth fall. This hand of mine must fall
And lo! the other one:—it is the law.
But there is One who holds this falling
Infinitely softly in His hands.

This poem is in the public domain. From *Poems* (Tobias A. Wright, 1918), translated by Jessie Lamont. Retrieved from poets.org.

Puzzle!

Use the code to complete Isaiah's prophecy about Jesus, our Savior.



CODE:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q

10 23 13 17 14 6 18 21 21
 11 14 12 10 21 21 14 13
 6 24 23 13 14 1 15 4 21
 12 24 4 23 2 14 21 24 1 ,
 22 18 16 17 3 8 16 24 13 ,
 14 5 14 1 21 10 2 3 18 23 16
 15 10 3 17 14 1 , 25 1 18 23 12 14
 24 15 25 14 10 12 14
 I S A I A H 9 : 6 , N I V



Answer: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6, NIV



Bible Quiz

Which of the four Gospels name(s) Bethlehem as the place of Jesus' birth?

- A. Only Luke
- B. Matthew and Luke
- C. Mark and John
- D. All four



Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:1-7.)

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. If you are in need of a service listed, consider using one of our supporters.

Worship at Saint Matthias December 2020

December 6

Second Sunday of Advent

Scripture:

Isaiah 40:1-11, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

December 13

Third Sunday of Advent

Scripture:

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28; Psalm 126

December 20

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Scripture:

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38; Canticle 3

December 24

Christmas Eve

Scripture:

Isaiah 62:6-12, Titus 3:4-7, Luke 2: 8-20, Psalm 97

December 25

Christmas Day

Scripture:

Isaiah 9:2-7, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14, Psalm 96

December 27

First Sunday after Christmas Day

Scripture:

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7; John 1:1-18; Psalm 147:13-21



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL

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

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