

# SAINT MATTHIAS

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## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Saint Matthias Messenger

Published Monthly Volume 15 Issue 12 - December 2018



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)

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Web Page:

<http://www.stmatthiaswhittier.org>

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

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

**Wednesday Bible Study**  
10:00<sup>AM</sup>  
Wednesday Eucharist  
11:00<sup>AM</sup> - Holy Eucharist



## The Gift of Jesus Christ

What an exciting time of year this is. Advent, the beginning of the church year, starts on Sunday, December Second with the Advent Wreath, and then later the greening of the church. Beautiful lights and Christmas displays are everywhere as Christmas is right around the corner. Great food and candy is appearing everywhere you look. As each day passes children become more excited about the season. Many people are bustling about buying presents, and attending parties, and just generally having a crazy good time. Everybody's energy and excitement gets ramped up this time of year.

But before we get too excited we must also remember those whose lives seem to become sadder during this time too. The season reminds them of those who have left them behind. It reminds them of happier times, and they feel left out of all the fun, almost like they are wrapped up in Styrofoam, unable to feel the joy around them. Things move in slow motion and life feels like a movie viewed from afar.

The good news for both groups of people is that God tore the fabric of reality for all of us, and sent Jesus, who changes the very nature of the world. Jesus celebrates our joys, and embraces our sorrows. Jesus Christ knows us, and loves us, and cherishes us, in the way only a God can, having experienced what it is like to be human.

Not too long ago I led a group of men on a retreat in the mountains. We spent the entire time talking and studying about Jesus. We did this because to know Jesus is to know the nature of God.

One of our continuing tasks was to think of descriptive terms about the nature of Jesus. We thought of all the obvious ones like loving, compassionate, Jewish, carpenter, miracle worker, human, divine, outspoken, funny, and radical. We also thought of many that are not so obvious, but as we thought about these descriptive terms we realized they were correct too. Some examples were smart, confident, direct, scary (think about being a money changer in the Temple), and obedient. We came up with almost one hundred and fifty ways to describe Jesus and I am sure there are a ton more.

The point is this. Jesus changes everything. Because of Jesus we live in a cosmos ruled by God's grace. Before Jesus there were over six hundred commandments to be followed, an impossible task. Now we are just asked to do the loving thing, because Jesus has already assured our salvation.

So my hope for all of us is to keep the image of Jesus in our minds as we move through Advent into the joy of Christmas. He is the reason for all of our hopes and dreams. If you are one of the joyful know that Jesus loves you and celebrates this time of year with you. If you are not one of these lucky ones know that Jesus feels your pain and isolation, and loves you, and that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. The light of Jesus never goes out. Jesus is always there. Jesus will get us all home. So grab a cup of chocolate, or whatever you prefer, and thank the Creator of the Universe for the gift of Jesus Christ.

*Fr. Bill+*



## Senior Wardens Corner

### FATHER BILL REPORTED:

- Attendance remains steady
- Parking lot problem is going to be addressed with the City for possible resolution
- Presented a list of church activities for the remainder of 2018

### JUNIOR WARDEN TIM ADAMS REPORTED:

- Reported that camera surveillance system was completed and operating
- Still looking for people to replace retiring vestry members

### REV. CAROLE HORTON-HOWE REPORTED:

- All the Women's Groups are thriving
- Calendar is set for 2019 (Sock Drive, School Drive, Bake sale, improve nursery) etc.
- January trip to the Getty Museum
- Next meeting - finding ways to support fire victims

### SENIOR WARDEN STAN JAMIESON REPORTED:

- With very up and down market in October the Futures Fund depreciated by \$18,000.
- Buildings and grounds being very well maintained by Ben Gonzales - No major issues
- December Vestry will gather for a potluck dinner rather than a regular meeting

### FATHER BILL NOTED MANY NEW THINGS COMING IN THE NEW YEAR

### DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION SALLY SCHACHT REPORTED:

- December will bring Caroling Party, Ice Blocking and church Christmas party
- Senior Ministry is planning a trip to the /Getty

### BOOKKEEPER KENT MYERS REPORTED:

- Distributed latest financials and reported that finances for the church are looking good
- There were no questions from the vestry regarding the reports

*Stan Jamieson*

## ECW Stitchery Group

The ECW Stitchery Group will not be meeting in December, but will start back up the third Saturday in January. Men and older children are also welcome to our gatherings, and we can arrange for childcare if you let us

know in advance. Come stitch with us! We are doing all types of needlework, sewing, crochet and knitting -- and if you want to learn a technique, there is probably someone in the group who can mentor you.



## "No! It's too soon!"

As I write this in mid-November I've already had thoughts that I think many of us share: "No! It's too soon!" Fall is a wonderful time. There's a rhythm about it that starts with a sort of settling in in September and continues through the fun of Halloween, the warmth of Thanksgiving, the celebration of Christ the King Sunday, the preparations of our hearts for Advent and the absolute joy of Christmas. Most of us would rather not be rushed through that progression by gigantic snowman displays or Black Friday ads in our email even as we're drawn to what's new and exciting. And there's nothing wrong with that. The challenge is in finding balance to be able to truly savor the time.

A colleague who works at an Episcopal school told me about their traditional chapel service prior to the Thanksgiving holiday during which each student receives an apple from their homeroom teacher. The story was told in the context of the terror of his need to supply 550 apples on short notice since no one had thought to mention to the new chaplain that it's in his job description to provide the main ingredient for "Apple Chapel." He managed to come up with the goods by quickly decimating several grocery store produce sections. But in the end, with the task done and his blood pressure back to normal, it was a great gift to witness the expressions of gratitude for each student's presence and contribution to the class as they were given the gift of an apple, a simple but intentional offering and receiving of gratitude.

In our December meetings, The Wellness Group will offer ways to focus on living out Advent and preparing for Christmas that intentionally balance the busyness of this time of year with a spirit of offering and receiving gratitude and generosity with ourselves, with others and with God in order to prepare our hearts and minds to receive the ultimate gift of God on earth in the person for Jesus Christ. You're very welcome to join us Monday, December 3rd at 2:00 or 6:30 and December 17th at 2:00 or 6:30 in the Chase Room.

*Blessed Advent, everyone!  
Carole+*



*The LORD your God...  
will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will quiet you by his love.*

ZEPHANIAH 3:17, ESV

# Worship at Saint Matthias December 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



FIRST SUNDAY  
OF  
*Advent*

## December 2 The First Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Jeremiah 33:14-16, 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 21:25-36, Psalm 25:1-9

## December 9 The Second Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Malachi 3:1-4, Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6, Canticle 4

## December 16 The Third Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Zephaniah 3:14-20, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18, Canticle 9

## December 23 The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Micah 5:2-5a, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45, Psalm 80:1-7

## December 24 Christmas Eve

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



*Christmas*  
EVE

## December 25 Christmas Day

Scripture: Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-4, John 1:1-14, Psalm 98

## December 30 The First Sunday After Christmas - Lessons and Carols

Scripture: Genesis 17:1-7, Isaiah 9:2b-2 plus 6-7, Isaiah 11:1-9, Luke 1:26-33, Luke 2:1-7  
Luke 2:8-14, Matthew 2:1-2 plus 9-11, John 1:1-18



# KEEP SEEKING HIM

## Stephen Ministry at St. Matthias

There is still time for interested parishioners, who have prayed about it, and feel it's time to commit to taking The New Training Class which will be offered January 10 – May 30, 2019. The cost per participant is \$50.00 which include two (2) manuals and three (3) pamphlets. Assistance is available to anyone who will have difficulty with the fifty dollars cost. The following Stephen Ministry Leaders are willing and able to answer your questions or concerns: Catherine Coots, Faye Jackson, Stan Jamieson, Kay Lozano, Sally Schacht and Fr. Bill.

What is Stephen Ministry?

Our congregation's Stephen Ministry equips lay-people to provide one-to-one Christian care to people in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives.

Stephen Ministry is a confidential ministry. The identity of those receiving care and everything they discuss with a Stephen Minister remain private.

A Stephen Minister Is...

- A child of God who walks beside someone who is hurting.
- A congregation member who is carefully selected to serve in this role because of his or her caregiving gifts.
- A layperson with 50 hours of training in providing high-quality, distinctively Christian care.
- A caring Christian friend who listens, cares, prays, supports, and encourages.
- Someone who meets faithfully each week with his or her care receiver for as long as there's a need.

## PRAYER TIME

I do not always kneel to pray.  
Don't have a special time of day.  
But standing at my kitchen sink,  
I find myself starting to think,  
I'll talk to God and hope He'll listen,  
While I'm making my dishes glisten.  
And I don't always pray with words,  
My prayers soar heavenward like the birds,  
Who sing together in their flight,  
A joyful noise for God's delight.  
I also pray when I make the bed,  
And I think of all the times I've said  
A prayer as I was planting flowers,  
Or even taking a nice hot shower.  
Or out in the garden pulling weeds  
Or in the springtime planting seeds.  
I sense God with me everywhere  
Always ready to share a prayer.  
So I'll pray as I go all of my days  
My heart full of thankfulness and praise.

Alison 2/20/93

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

*Faye Jackson, Stephen Minister Leader*

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## Audrey Hepburn Shares Her Beauty Tips

Audrey Hepburn wrote when asked to share her "Beauty Tips". It was read at her funeral years later. For attractive lips, speak words of kindness. For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people. For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry. For beautiful hair, let a child run his/her fingers through it once a day. People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed and redeemed; never throw out anyone.

Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you will find one at the end of your arms. As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands; one for helping yourself, and the other for helping others.

## Hymn 365

A minister was completing a temperance sermon.

With great emphasis he said, 'If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river.'

With even greater emphasis he said, 'And if I had All the wine in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river.'

And then finally, shaking his fist in the air, he said, 'And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river.'

Sermon complete, he sat down ...

The choir leader stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, nearly laughing, "For our closing hymn, let us sing Hymn #365,

"Shall We Gather at the River."





# Christmas Services at Saint Matthias



Christmas Eve  
5:00<sup>pm</sup> and 10:30<sup>pm</sup>



Christmas Day  
10:00<sup>am</sup>



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED  
DATED MATERIAL

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