

# SAINT MATTHIAS

---

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Saint Matthias Messenger

Published Monthly

Volume 16 Issue 4 - April 2019



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:  
[office@stmatthiaswhittier.org](mailto:office@stmatthiaswhittier.org)  
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



## A Non-Anxious Presence

This is a subject I have talked about before but I think it is worth repeating. When you presence of Jesus, what image comes to mind? In my mind I see a man who knows who he is, knows whose he is, and has complete confidence in himself and God.

If we were to have asked Dr. Edwin Friedman during in his lifetime to describe Jesus I have no doubt he would have called him a non-anxious presence. Dr. Friedman wrote a small number of books about systems made up of people, from families to businesses. In his books *Generation to Generation*, and *A Failure of Nerve*, Friedman described a person whose presence is able to bring comfort to any system of people around them, no matter what that system of people might be experiencing. That person he calls the non-anxious presence.

Friedman wrote especially about anxiety, the anxiety that is the unseen cloud of toxic gas in a room. Sound familiar in today's society? For the most part our society seems to be made up of groups of people who are on pins and needles. Everyone is aware that one wrong move by some loose cannon and an emotional conflagration will be set off.

Many people live under this sort of stress every day, waiting for the match that starts the fire. All of us have been there from time to time, even if we don't live with it every day. We might experience it at work, at home, with the relatives, or in some other situation where people gather.

But then we have all met that special person capable of defusing this situation too. This person is normally the calm, self-understood individual who somehow seems to be immune from the anxiety floating about. People gravitate to them because they feel safe when they are around them.

For this special person, the non-anxious presence, the stress of others, the anxiety in the air, does not impact them. They are not afraid. They know that whatever is going on around them does not change their identity and does not change how they relate to others. They have more than a passing knowledge about themselves and in what they know to be true. Their feet are firmly planted and their soul is at peace.

We too can be this person, this non-anxious presence. As such a person we can be the healing force in our family situations, our work situations, and anyplace else to which we happen to belong. We can start to become this person today, right now.

April twenty first is Easter Sunday. We commemorate the fact that Jesus Christ overcame death and the grave on that Sunday. And as a result of his doing so, so have we. We are eternal beings.

So as we begin to move toward becoming a non-anxious presence we can start there. We are eternal beings. That is step one. Then we can know that

**Do not be  
anxious  
about  
anything.**  
Philippians 4:6

God so loved us that he gave his only Son that we might have everlasting life. God loves us. God couldn't be any crazier about each one of us.

Now we have two things to build our confidence on. We are eternal and we are loved by God. Add to that the fact that the scriptures give us a pattern for living, as we study the life of Christ, which is based in love and forgiveness. And finally we know that the Holy Spirit is within us, and without us. The Holy Spirit promises to provide the words and actions we need at any given moment when we are in need of them.

Each of us can be the difference, the non-anxious presence, in partnership with God, for the world around us. We can help diffuse the anxiety, and remove the stress, in the lives of those with whom we come in contact. We already have the formula because, like Jesus, we know who we are, whose we are, and we have complete confidence in our God.

*Fr. Bill+*

## From the Senior Warden's Desk

At our February Vestry Meeting we had the privilege of meeting Beth Woodard, member of Miller, Woodard and Associates. Beth will serve as our Interim Treasurer. Among her initial efforts will be overseeing the transition of our financial management software to QuickBooks. Going forward, our financial reports will be simpler in format and more accessible.

We are making strong efforts to move our banking services to the Episcopal Credit Union of Los Angeles. It was agreed that we would be better served by the Credit Union and we are awaiting guidance from them regarding a local credit union branch with which we can coordinate our banking, locally. The Episcopal Credit Union of Los Angeles provides excellent services to parishes and their members throughout the greater Los Angeles area. If you are interested in exploring the credit union and its amenities visit [www.efcula.org](http://www.efcula.org).

In November 2019, the Annual Diocesan Convention will be held in Riverside, CA. Fr. Bill and Rev. Carole will serve as our Clerical delegates while Kathy Adams and I will be our lay delegates. Stan Jamieson and Barbara Khan will serve as alternate delegates. The Diocesan Convention is open to everyone. It provides a unique opportunity to observe the working of our church as it affects the greater Southern California area.

Many essential functions of our bookkeeping team require the use of computers. Recently, it became apparent, that with the transition to QuickBooks software and the passage of time, it was necessary to upgrade the computers for our Counters. Ellen Mykkanen identified replacement devices and coordinated the installation with no loss of

time experienced by our Counting Team. Thank you, Ellen for your guidance on this project.

The Fr. Kevin fund provided the means with which to replace the compressor in the walk-in refrigerator in Lewis Hall last month, as well. During the past year, this fund, the result of a generous gift from Fr. Kevin Taylor, has made possible innumerable improvements to our campus at St. Matthias.

Finally, it was noted that our staff has not received an increase in compensation for nearly four years. It was unanimously approved to extend a 3% pay increase to the Parish Administrator, Facilities Manager, Bookkeeper, Youth and Senior Coordinator, and our Communications Director. They are untiring in their efforts and more than deserving of this gentle bump in salary. Later this year, the Vestry will engage in exploration to structure a system to address salary increases for the coming years. Our Clergy declined salary adjustments, at this time.

Shrove Tuesday was a great success, again, this year. We had 33 members in attendance. It was a great time for some flapjacks and fellowship to launch our Lenten season at St. Matthias. Thanks to all who attended and a special thank you to all of the Vestry members who lent their support to setup, preparation, serving and cleanup.

The St. Matthias Lenten calendar is underway and full of opportunities to explore the reason for this season. We hope you will join us in getting to know each other better and more importantly, we pray that you will take this opportunity to discover God in your midst.

*Tim Adams, Senior Warden*



## Worship at Saint Matthias April 2019

- + 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



### **April 7 The Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Scripture: Isaiah 43:16-21, Philippians 3:4b-14, John 12:1-8, F

### **April 14 Palm Sunday**

Scripture: The Liturgy of the Palms, Luke 19:28-40, Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
The Liturgy of the Word, Isaiah 50:4-9a, Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 23:1-49, Psalm 31:9-16

### **April 18 Maundy Thursday**

Scripture: Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-17, 31b-35, Psalm 116:1, 10-17

### **April 19 Good Friday**

Scripture: Stations of the Cross at 12:00 and Good Friday Service at 7:00

### **April 21 Easter Sunday**

Scripture: Isaiah 65:17-25, 1 Corinthians 15:19-26, Luke 24:1-12, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

### **April 28 The First Sunday of Easter**

Scripture: Acts 5:27-32, Revelation 1:4-8, John 20:19-31, Psalm 150

---

## Respond With Love

This is not the piece I intended to write for the April Messenger. Alan Selmanaj, who is the soul of patience when it comes to putting The Messenger together, sends out a "warning e-mail" each month to those of us who are regular contributors that the deadline is near. And the deadline for this edition was the day of a terrible tragedy in New Zealand. A man went into two different mosques and murdered 49 worshippers including children as young as four.

When these things happen many of us experience a renewed horror followed by palpable despair. We can hardly take in how someone can be so filled with hate for a group of people simply because they perceive that they are different in some way – how they look or speak or dress for example. And we are stunned that out of that hatred the next step they take is to commit a hideous act of violence that irreparably shatters lives, that creates a ripple effect of pain that goes on and on long after it ceases to be news. This is not in any way a commentary on the complex issues that come up each time one of these mass murders occurs. You may search the media for that. And my guess is you'll find thousands of divergent opinions on the "how" and "why." I'll admit to having little interest in these debates.

What I do get and what I am interested in is how we as followers of Jesus Christ are called to respond. There's no better place to start when trying to discern this than to look at scripture. We are in the midst of Lent right now and beginning our services with the Great Commandment: " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:30-31)

Our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry offered this prayer: O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer page 815)

We may not be intimate family members of the victims but we are members of the family of God and we are their neighbors. I invite you to consider how you might create bonds of love with your neighbors with Jesus Christ at the center. Its hard work and worth it. We must respond with love.

*Peace, Carole+*



MICAH 5:5 NRSV

## Buildings and Grounds

This article is a request to the congregation for assistance.

It would be highly appreciated if, during your time at St. Matthias you see something in need of repair or something you would like to see added that would enhance your experience at St. Matthias, you would please let me know by E-Mail.

I will in turn prepare a "Bucket List" and we will see if we can accomplish. It cannot be promised that all will be done in a timely manner but we will do our best. Some items may be easily done and others, because of cost factors, may need to be put on temporary hold.

Your cooperation in helping put together a list will be greatly appreciated. My E-Mail; is stan@stmatthiaswhittier.org

*Stan Jamieson*

## Futures Fund

This month we would like to list some of the ways you can contribute to the future of St. Matthias. We will just show the category and a short description. If you decide you would like to make a donation under that category you should probably first contact your tax preparer or attorney. This is due to the fact that there have been many, many changes in the tax laws over the past few years and we do not want to mislead you.

Personal Property: Assets such as jewelry, automobiles, paintings and antiques can be given as immediate gifts.

Retirement Assets: This includes 401-K plans, 403-B plans and IRA,s

Wills And Bequests: A bequest through a will is the simplest and most common planned gift

Life Insurance: Prospective donors sometimes find that they have life insurance they no longer need.

Again, professional advice is recommended

Futures fund committee consists of myself, Larry Christian, Doug Halliday, Mike Taylor and Fr. Bill Garrison.

FYI: The futures fund account currently stands at \$443,400.66., Stan Jamieson - Member

## Stephen Ministry

Many years ago St. Matthias' Clergy, Vestry and Congregation decided to enroll in the Stephen Series. The Stephen Series is a complete system for training and organizing laypeople to provide one-to-one Christian care to hurting people in and around your congregation. The Stephen Series system provides a step-by-step approach to lay caring ministry. A congregation enrolls only once, but the other steps are repeated as needed as Stephen Ministry becomes an ongoing ministry of the congregation. Once implemented in a congregation, this ministry is typically referred to as Stephen Ministry.

How The Stephen Series Work:

1. Congregation Enrolls in the Stephen Series
2. Select Stephen Leaders
3. Stephen Leaders Attend a Leader's Training Course
4. Build Awareness and Ownership
5. Recruit and Select Stephen Ministers
6. Train Stephen Ministers
7. Match Those in Need with Stephen Ministers
8. Stephen Ministers Provide Care
9. Supervise Caring Relationships

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ., Ephesians 4:11-12

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

*Faye Jackson, Stephen Minister Leader*



The photo above is from the Saint Matthias Quiet Day















# PUZZLE

## Jesus gives us *life*

Through his death and resurrection, Jesus offers the free gift of eternal life.

*Directions: Match each clue from Holy Week with the correct image. If you get stuck, look up the Bible verses.*

- People spread these on the road for Jesus. (Matthew 21:8) 
- Mary pours this on Jesus' feet. (John 12:3) 
- Jesus shares this with his disciples. (Matthew 26:26) 
- This is placed on Jesus' head. (John 19:2) 
- Soldiers may have used these to compete for Jesus' coat. (John 19:23-24) 
- Jesus carries this himself for a while. (John 19:17) 
- Marks caused by these help Thomas identify Jesus. (John 20:25) 
- While on the cross, Jesus is thirsty and is given this. (John 19:28-29) 
- This is rolled away from Jesus' tomb. (John 20:1) 
- These are used to prepare Jesus' body for burial. (Luke 23:55-56) 
- These remain in the tomb after Jesus rises. (John 20:6-7) 
- Judas betrays Jesus for this. (Matthew 26:14-15) 

Answer: palm branches, perfume, bread, crown of thorns, dice, cross, nails, vinegar on a sponge, stone, spices, linens, silver coins

### 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.

*God so loved the world*

Remember God's special gift of Jesus by making this craft.

#### What you need:

- Large piece of blue paper
- Large bowl
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Paint (green and red)
- Paintbrush
- Wet wipes
- 3 wooden craft sticks
- Craft glue
- Black marker
- Bible



#### What you do:

1. On the paper, trace around the bowl. Cut out the circle.
2. Paint your palms green, one at a time, and press them in the circle side by side. (Clean your hands with wet wipes.)
3. Dip a finger in red paint and make a dot on the center of each handprint.
4. Between the handprints, glue two sticks end to end vertically. Glue the third stick horizontally to make a cross.
5. In marker, write the words of John 3:16 around the blue circle.

### 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 April

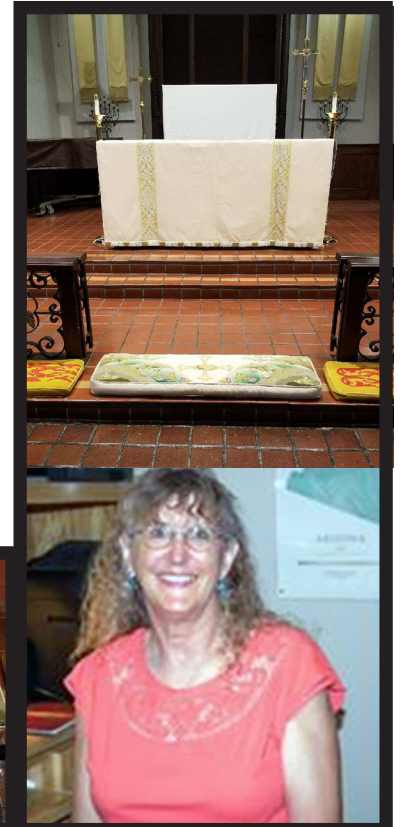
- ✦ Palm/Passion Sunday, April 14
- ✦ Maundy Thursday, April 18
- ✦ Good Friday, April 19
- ✦ Easter Sunday, April 21
- ✦ Administrative Professionals Day, April 24



"I put in a jelly bean for pastor."

## Ruth Mary Larson

Ruth Mary Larson (nee Roberts) was born in Wyoming and moved to Whittier as a child with her grandparents who were raising her. As a married woman, she remained in the area: La Puente, Hacienda Heights, later moving to Pasadena. With her dear friend, Wanda Vance, she became involved with the Needlework Guild of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles. Ruth Mary made several pieces under the direction of instructor Mrs. Jardine. Mrs. Jardine had been trained at the Royal School of Embroidery in London and was a perfectionist. "If the back isn't as beautiful as the front, tear it out." My mom made several altar sets and an exquisite Agnus Dei banner, all done in shades of silver, grays and whites and a red 'flag.' One of the last needlepoint pieces she did was the wedding kneeler for St. Matthias, where she had been confirmed and I, her youngest daughter, was married in 1974. My sister and I don't know where her various pieces are, except for that kneeler, but treasure the fact that that one last piece is still at St. Matthias. Forty-five years later, we hope you continue to use it to bless the lives of other couples starting their lives together.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED  
DATED MATERIAL

7056 Washington Avenue  
Whittier, CA 90607  
(562) 698-9741

**Saint Matthias Episcopal Church**

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