

THE EPISTLE

THE MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER OF  
ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH,  
PACIFIC PALISADES, CA

## OPEN DOORS

I was in the Trader Joe's in Silver Lake, on a Wednesday morning in late June last year, when my cell phone vibrated in my pocket. It was two days after I had completed interviews at St. Matthew's, and Bruce Freeman was on the line. "The door is open," he said. "Are you coming?"

The door is open. In an earlier conversation with Bruce about all the change that had taken place in my life in the last three years, I had used that language to describe my strategy for trying to tune in to the Holy Spirit. Having returned to my native Los Angeles with no clear idea about what I would be doing or where I would be doing it, I was taking my cues from the opportunities that presented themselves. A "come take a look" here; a "maybe you'd like to do this" there; if a door swung open, I walked through it.

On the surface, it may not seem to be a very thoughtful approach. But in fact, the longer I lived in that space between the way things used to be and the way things were going to be, the more I realized that opening my mind and heart to whatever presented itself was not just the faithful thing to do – it was the wise thing. Because once I let go of expectations, I was capable of being surprised. And believe me when I tell you, I never would have predicted that I would wind up here – in this position in this community that fit so well on so many levels.

And now, as of August 1, at least, I've been at St. Matthew's for a year. I know most of the names of meeting rooms on this campus, and, more importantly, I recognize so many of you on Sunday mornings. We've had meetings and meals, visits, walks, and prayers together. We've shared a full year of Sunday worship, complete with feast days and holy days. And then there have been school chapels and activities; Day Camp, and too many other special events and gatherings to list. I've found my place in the wonderful staff here and, of course, that includes the cats - Kamehameha and Emma. I am even privy to the combination to the safe that is hidden behind a wall in my office (who knew?).

I've come through the door and yes, made myself at home. And, at the same time, I have realized that though so many of those pieces of my life that used to be up in the air have now arranged themselves in a lovely pattern on the ground, that doesn't mean it's time to put away my open-door strategy. In fact, I have become convinced



## OPEN DOORS, CONTINUED

that maintaining that attitude of watchful willingness is an essential spiritual practice. Because no matter how static or predictable yours and my life may seem, doors are swinging wide all the time. And if we aren't careful, the assumptions we hold about what we are to be doing in this world and how the future will unfold will prevent us from even seeing them, let alone walking through.

As summer begins to wind down, and a new program year is upon us, opportunities for real growth lie before us here at St. Matthew's. It seems to me that the practice of a welcoming, eager stance toward open doors is essential to our moving boldly into God's future for this community, in mission and ministry together. Yes, there are risks in this posture. And the possibility of some turbulence. But that is always the case; and to think we can protect ourselves from chance and change is simply an illusion.

"We declare to you what we have seen," writes the author of the first epistle of John (1 John 1:3). Yours and my most faithful witness is when we speak from our experience. And my testimony to you all is that God often invites you and me into new life and hope and joy, from the other side of an open door.

"You're not going to believe this, but I'm standing in the wine aisle at Trader Joe's," I said to Bruce. "And yes, I'm coming." He laughed. "Pick out a good bottle." It turns out I did.

Faithfully,  
Christine+

### MISSION STATEMENT

**W**e are a Christian community, and  
**W**elcome all, wherever they are in their journey,  
**N**ourish all who seek unity with God and each other in Christ, and  
**S**erve all, striving to do Christ's work in the world.

## COLUMBARIUM CLEANING

In order to perform necessary cleaning and maintenance on the Columbarium, vases and mementos will be cleared routinely. (Flowers will remain while they flourish!) To reclaim any items you have placed on a niche, please visit the parish office. Thank you.

## REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS

**Please pray for** Ken Adams, Charlie Andrews, Audry, Jon Bruno, Cambria, Charlotte, Mary, Maria Luisa Gonzalez, Mathew Hand, Lydia Heston, Margaret Grasso, Jane, Janet, Jimmy, Jerry, John, Steve Kerr, Carol Lanning, Lisa, Mark, Mary Ann, Tom and Margaret McCormick, Betts Rockwell, Lori, Lynn, Kwan Seo, Thomas, Lois Timnick, Evan Treas and Jim Williams.

**We also remember** those who have died in the hope of Christ's resurrection: W. Eugene Stern.

Please know that in addition to your praying for these persons, they are prayed for regularly throughout the week by clergy and by members of our Intercessory Prayer Group.

If you would like to add, keep, or remove someone from this list, please call Christine Purcell at 310/573-0729. Prayer requests will automatically be kept on the list for one month only.

## KEEP IN MIND...

### SUNDAY SERMONS ON FACEBOOK

**M**issed our Sunday Sermon or just want to hear one again? Visit the "Parish of St. Matthew" page on Facebook for full recordings of our weekly sermons, or visit our website for an audio recording under the "services tab..

### DON'T FORGET US THIS SUMMER

**P**lease keep up regular pledge payments through the summer! Your continued support helps keep things running smoothly through the summer months. You can make payments online while traveling by clicking the link at [www.stmatthews.com](http://www.stmatthews.com).

### SEND US YOUR NEWS AND PHOTOS

**O**ur parishioners want to know more about your ministry and its activities! Please let them know by sending a brief summary and a few photos with captions to Jennifer McCarthy so we can share your news: [jmccarthy@stmatthews.com](mailto:jmccarthy@stmatthews.com).

# PARISHIONERS IN THE NEWS

## NEW CANONS IN OUR MIDST



On June 26, 2017, nine honorary canons of the Cathedral Center were created by Bishop J. Jon Bruno, represented by Bishop Coadjutor-elect John H. Taylor (who is now our Bishop) and Canon Robert Williams (at right). New canons are (from left): Mike Lanning, Jocelyn Cortese, Carol Lanning, Kathy Bitting, Maida Hastings, Nona Greene, Ann Lucas, and Bill Greene. Not pictured is Elizabeth B. Ames. Each was recognized for long outstanding service to the diocese and its bishops, the Parish of St. Matthew, and the Neighborhood Youth Association. Congratulations to all of our amazing canons!

*Photo by Helen Cooksey*

## TROOP 223 TO EMERALD BAY



Summer means Troop 223 heads to Boy Scout Camp Emerald Bay on Catalina Island! Parents joined the troop for a long weekend where Elizabeth Alford caught Jana Russell and Missy Morain in a smiling mood.

*Photo by Elizabeth Alford*

## WEEKDAY WORSHIPPERS

Parishioners posed for a selfie with Christine Purcell and surprise guest Betsy Anderson at our weekly Wednesday service this July. We welcome you to this midweek service with Eucharist every Wednesday at 10:00 am in the Chapel.

*Photo by Christine Purcell*



## WHO'S TRACKING? WHOSE TRACK?

Once we get into the season of Pentecost, the question is: Track 1 or Track 2? You are probably wondering what I'm talking about! It has to do with which Old Testament lesson is read on Sunday. During Pentecost, the Revised Common Lectionary provides two options. And every Sunday we get to choose one of them.

So what's the Revised Common Lectionary? It is the schedule of readings for all of the Sundays in the church year. The RCL stipulates two lessons (usually one from the Old Testament and one from the New), a Psalm (or portion thereof) and a reading from one of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). In following the Revised Common Lectionary, we are in sync with a large number of denominations<sup>1</sup> - which is kind of cool when you think about it! Many different branches of the church in different places hearing and reflecting on the same texts.

What about Track 1 or Track 2? Track 1 is a semi-continuous reading of the Old Testament narratives - which gives us the opportunity to reflect on these stories in greater depth. It also includes more women's stories and their role in salvation history, in texts that have not been heard on Sunday before. Track 2 provides for thematic harmony with the Gospel of the day, in which readings from the Old Testament are chosen in relation to the Gospel.

And what did we decide? Track 1. Which is why the stories of Abraham, Isaac and now Jacob have been heard over the past six weeks or so. So stay tuned, for the rest of the summer and the better part of the fall, for more texts about their descendants.



Image © Roger Hutchison. Used with permission.

<sup>1</sup> IN THE UNITED STATES: AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES, USA, COMMUNITY OF CHRIST, DISCIPLES OF CHRIST, THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (ELCA), THE MORAVIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA, THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA, THE REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA, THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, AND THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

## BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND



We are delighted to again welcome Ravi Verma of Stillpoint to St. Matthew's later this month. Ravi facilitated the rich and meaningful morning event "Preparing for Lent" this past April. In addition to his work with Stillpoint, where he teaches Spiritual Direction, Ravi works with corporations, retreat centers, and non-profits on issues of spiritual development. His passion is to help us individually and together to build bridges between parts of ourselves, with others and the cosmos based on our connection to the Divine.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

### AUGUST

#### AUGUST 5: PRAY THE ROSARY AT 8:30AM

All are welcome, even if you've never prayed the Rosary before. We'll offer a brief "clinic" and rosaries will be available if needed. For more information, contact Anne Jaskoski at [awin-somespirit@verizon.net](mailto:awin-somespirit@verizon.net).



#### AUGUST 22: SPY SUMMER BBQS AT 12:30PM AND 2:30PM

St. Matthew's provides a monthly meal for 125 grateful clients of Safe Place for Youth and for the summer we're hosting afternoon barbeques! To serve, provide food or offer a donation to help feed these young people, contact Kathy at [kbitting@stmatthews.com](mailto:kbitting@stmatthews.com) or send your check to the parish office today.

#### AUGUST 26: PRAYER AND HEALING WITH RAVI VERMA AT 9:00AM

Join us from 9:00am to 1:00pm with Ravi Verma, who teaches spiritual direction at Stillpoint, which has been aiding seekers in their spiritual journeys for more than thirty years. He will lead us in an exploration of prayer and healing. For more information or to RSVP, contact Christine: [cpurcell@stmatthews.com](mailto:cpurcell@stmatthews.com).

#### AUGUST 27: LAUNDRY LOVE VENICE BEACH AT 5:00PM



This initiative of JustOne.org provides a much-needed service to those living in poverty in a safe and loving environment. Only three volunteer hours will help restore dignity to someone who values your support. Come to Rose Bud Laundry - 402 Rose Ave at 4th Street - on Aug. 27 and the last Sunday of every month.

### SEPTEMBER

#### SEPTEMBER 2: PRAY THE ROSARY AT 8:30AM

If you miss out in August, join us on the first Saturday in September to pray the rosary... and on every continuing first Saturday of the month.

#### SEPTEMBER 2: PRISM PICNIC

Please volunteer to help St. Matthew's provide a day of fun for families of the incarcerated. Volunteers are needed to provide breakfast, lunch, swimming, games and gifts for children and their families. Youth are welcome volunteers and are eligible for community service credit. For more information contact Jackie Ehlers: [jackie@ehlersmail.com](mailto:jackie@ehlersmail.com).



#### SEPTEMBER 10: GODLY PLAY BEGINS

Children in preschool through 4th grade are welcome to join us at 10:15 am in the Parish Center for our regular children's Christian formation, which will continue weekly through the school year. (They will join their parents in church before communion.)

#### SEPTEMBER 10: BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Start the 2017-2018 school year off with a blessing! Be sure to bring your backpack, school bag or briefcase to church for its blessing for the new year.



#### SEPTEMBER 24: ST. MATTHEW'S DAY

Save the date for our annual picnic filled with family fun after the 10:15am service on Sept. 24. Look for tickets to go on sale after Labor Day.



## GLOBAL AIDS INTERFAITH ALLIANCE AND ST. MATTHEW'S HEAD TO MALAWI IN SUMMER 2018

Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance (GAIA) has been an outreach partner of our Parish since 2000. It was formed by an Episcopal priest who was called to respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa and chose to focus on the impoverished rural villages of southern Malawi. Next summer, St. Matthew's will travel to Malawi to see the amazing work of GAIA up close. The trip will include two full days in Mulanje District observing MHCs and community programs in action and two days in Blantyre to visit Kamuzu College of Nursing, the main office, and the Ellen Schell building funded by David Miller.

Groups stay at Lujeri Lodge, an old home on a beautiful tea plantation or the beautiful Kara O'Mula lodge depending on the total group. GAIA facilitates all in-country bookings for the four days on GAIA programs with costs between \$150-\$200 per day including transport, lodging, and meals within Malawi. If you would like to join the group or learn more, contact Phil Darrow at [phil.darrow@gmail.com](mailto:phil.darrow@gmail.com).



On Sunday, July 23rd, Mark Conley-Buchsieb, GAIA's Director of Development, visited St. Matthew's to share details about its incredible work and the travel opportunity for St. Matthew's. We were pleased to present Mark with a 2017 grant check, and he expressed his appreciation on behalf of GAIA:

*"Thank you to St. Matthew's for its ongoing support of GAIA and for the incredible 2017 outreach grant. The Parish has been central to growing GAIA from just a vision to the impactful organization it is today on the ground. This year's outreach grant*

*is a vote of confidence in the Malawi team as they focus their efforts in remote, rural areas to avoid preventable malaria deaths and achieve key HIV treatment targets in order to break the AIDS epidemic for good. Thank you for being our special partners in this work, and for allowing me to share in a beautiful morning at St. Matthew's this summer!"*


GAIA focuses on three main programs:

- Mobile Health Clinics, operating 7 fully staffed and stocked mobile clinics that ensure 900,000 people have access to healthcare within an hour's walk of their home
- Targeted Community Programs, including HIV prevention among youth, targeted door-to-door HIV testing, and rapid links to HIV treatment
- GAIA Nursing Scholars. The World Health Organization recommends a minimum threshold of 10 nurses per 10,000 people to provide essential maternal and childcare. Malawi has only three. GAIA is working to expand the pool of qualified healthcare professionals by providing nursing scholarships.

Orphan care, programs to keep girls in school, and many other projects are also part of GAIA's work. Our St. Matthew's Parish School 3rd graders hold a read-a-thon each year to raise money for malaria nets and this year the Parish will join them in their fundraising efforts.



*Above: Photo courtesy of GAIA.*



St. Matthew's Sunday School

# Godly Play

Join preschoolers through 4th graders  
for Godly Play, Sunday mornings at  
10:15 am

YOUTH AND FAMILY  
MINISTRIES

BACK TO SCHOOL

THE PARISH OF ST. MATTHEW

## Back to School Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday, September 10

Start the school year off right with a blessing during the 10:15 AM service. Bring your backpack or school bag with you as you come forward for an blessing. Cross key chains will be given out as a sign and symbol of God's love throughout the school year.

# VOLUNTEER TODAY!

+

## 2017 PRISM Picnic



+

## Saturday, September 2 – 9am-3pm

### VOLUNTEER TO...

- Prepare food
  - Welcome families
  - Serve guests
- Lead games
  - Splash in the pool
  - Share the fun

## SIGN UP NOW!

Jackie Ehlers:

[jackie@ehlersmail.com](mailto:jackie@ehlersmail.com)

Mary Ellen Kanoff:

[mkanoff@peninsulapacific.com](mailto:mkanoff@peninsulapacific.com)

PRISM is a ministry supported by the LA Episcopal Diocese to serve the incarcerated here in LA and our annual picnic provides respite for their families... especially children. We feed and entertain about 100 people on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend each year. For more about PRISM, check out this video! <http://prism.ladiocese.org/>



# STAFF DIRECTORY

# WEEKLY CALENDAR

# STAFF DIRECTORY & CALENDAR

## Dial 310/573-7787, then the extension

The Rev. Bruce A. Freeman, Rector (Ext. 130) bafreeman@stmatthews.com

The Rev. Christine Purcell, Associate Rector (Ext. 129) cpurcell@stmatthews.com

Ms. Missy Morain, Director of Formation for Youth and Children; (Ext. 139) mis-symorain@stmatthews.com

\*

Mr. Josh Castellanos, Facilities Coordinator (Ext. 175) jcastellanos@stmatthewsschool.com

Ms. Amy Childress, membership Coordinator (Ext. 123) achildress@stmatthews.com

Mr. Craig Ehlers, Chief Financial Officer (Ext. 126) cehlers@stmatthews.com

Mr. Greg Heidt, Director of Facilities and Operations (ext. 108) gheidt@stmatthews.com

Ms. Karen Johnson, Stewardship Secretary (Ext. 100) kjohnson@stmatthews.com

Ms. Jennifer McCarthy, Director of Communications (Ext. 128) jmccarthy@stmatthews.com

Mr. Jeremias Mendez, Special Projects Manager (Ext. 133) jmendez@stmatthews.com

Ms. Missy Morain, Director of Formation for Youth and Children; (Ext. 139) mis-symorain@stmatthews.com

Mr. Thomas Neenan, Director of Music (Ext. 127) tneenan@stmatthews.com

Ms. Haesung Park, Parish Organist, hpark@stmatthews.com

\*

The Rev. Kristin Barberia, School Chaplain (Ext. 125) kbarberia@stmatthewsschool.com

Ms. Haesung Park, Parish Organist, hpark@stmatthews.com

Mr. Stu Work, Day School Head of School (Ext. 146) swork@stmatthewsschool.com

## SUNDAYS

8:00 am The Holy Eucharist  
(with infant and toddler care available)

10:15 am Choral Eucharist  
(with infant and toddler care available)

*Godly Play - our Christian Formation for youth - is on hiatus for the summer.*

## MONDAYS

7:30 pm Contemplative Prayer

## WEDNESDAYS

10:00 am The Holy Eucharist

## ALTAR FLOWERS

To make a Sunday Flower Tribute for your thanksgiving or memorial, contact us at 310/573-7787.

