

THE EPISTLE

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

JUNE/JULY 2017
VOLUME 45 No. 9

GROWING SEASON OPPORTUNITIES

BY THE TIME YOU ALL ARE READING THIS, WE WILL BE WELL INTO JUNE, AND THE LONG GREEN SEASON OF PENTECOST. With Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter-tide behind us, the Gospel texts will take us through many of Jesus' sermons and parables – the day in and day out formation that shaped a band of fishermen, a tax collector or two and some women into disciples.

I actually love this part of the church year. Life is maybe a little more relaxed as we spend time with family, enjoy the outdoors, and eventually return to school and/or a regular schedule. Yes, there are holidays, but they usually involve barbecues and picnics. And on the church calendar, no major feasts or holy days.

Which means there may be a little more space for thinking about spiritual practices that we might like to explore. So I'm going to take this opportunity to write about some ongoing opportunities at St. Matt's, particularly having to do with prayer.

In *The Cloud of the Unknowing*, an anonymous fourteenth century English mystic defined prayer as "the naked intent of the soul toward God". How a person expresses such intention can take many forms, from sitting in silence, to reading the Daily Office, to meeting regularly with a small group for prayer toward a particular purpose, to actively participating in corporate worship. Below are just a few of the ways that intention is being expressed here.

❖ The Intercessory Prayer Group is comprised of women and men who pray daily for the needs and concerns of this community. Requests are gathered and confidentially distributed on a monthly Intercessory Prayer List. This group has seen much divine healing and transformation, both in those for whom they pray and in themselves. If you have requests or wish to learn more about becoming part of the Group, please contact Fred Simmons at fredsim@verizon.net or Christine Purcell at cpurcell@stmatthews.com.

❖ The Anointing and the Prayer Chair Ministries are active during Holy Communion at both 8 am and 10:15 am Sunday services. At the altar rail in the Chapel, you may be anointed with consecrated oil and receive prayer for healing; at the Prayer Chair you may bring a concern for yourself or another and have that need prayed for. Those who perform these ministries are called and trained for this holy work. If you are interested in learning more, please contact David Landau at davidlandau@me.com or Christine Purcell at cpurcell@stmatthews.com.



GROWING, CONTINUED

❖ Centering Prayer, the practice of contemplative prayer according to the Christian tradition, meets every Monday evening in the Chapel at 7:30 pm. Silent prayer is followed by lectio divina, the practice of listening deeply, meditating and praying with a Scripture passage. If you are interested in trying this ancient way of prayer, please contact Anne Jaskoski at awinsomespirit@verizon.net.

❖ Praying the Rosary is an opportunity that comes around once a month, the first Saturday at 8:30 am. Repeating the Lord's Prayer, the Hail Mary and the Gloria according to the beads of the Rosary helps focus the attention on the incarnation, death and resurrection of Christ and the faithfulness of Mary his mother. No prior experience is required, and rosaries are available for loan. Please contact Anne Jaskoski at awinsomespirit@verizon.net for more information.

❖ Wednesday Morning Eucharist is celebrated in the Chapel every week at 10 am. Some have called this intimate gathering "the best kept secret at St. Matthew's". Scripture readings are accompanied by informal, often conversational homiletical comments and the sharing of Holy Communion. A brief (thirty minute), yet meaningful and grace-filled mid-week interlude.

I invite you to wonder whether there may be space in your life for more intentional prayer. Any one or more of the above could be a place to start. You may be surprised to discover how much depth and experience there is, right here in this congregation – sisters and brothers who have simply turned toward God, again and again, and been met in those moments by that abiding Presence that is always turning toward us.

If you have questions, or are interested in checking out my library, please be in touch. There is so much that we can learn, from one another and together.

Faithfully,
Christine+

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a Christian community, and

Welcome all, wherever they are in their journey,

Nourish all who seek unity with God and each other in Christ, and

Serve all, striving to do Christ's work in the world.

REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS

Please pray for Charlie Andrews, Audry, Bill, Jon Bruno, Cambria, Charlie, Charlotte, Mary, Dave, Emily Rose, Maria Luisa Gonzalez, Mathew Hand, Lydia Heston, Jane, Janet, Jimmy, Jerry, the Johnson family, Steve Kerr, Lindsay Kornfeind, Carol Lanning, Lew, Lisa, Mark, Mary Ann, Tom and Margaret McCormick, Mary Nuanes, Louie, Betts Rockwell, Lori, Kwan Seo, Gene Stern, Joseph Szew, Lois Timnick, Evan Treas, and Jim Williams.

We also remember those who have died in the hope of Christ's resurrection: Robert (Ron) Funk, father of Christine Purcell.

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 310/573-7787, ext. 129. Prayer requests will automatically be kept on the list for one month only.

HAVE YOU HEARD...

SUNDAY SERMONS ON FACEBOOK

Missed our Sunday Sermon or just want to hear one again? Visit the "Parish of St. Matthew" page on Facebook for a full recording of our weekly sermons or visit our website for an audio recording.

DON'T FORGET US THIS SUMMER

Please 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.

SEND US YOUR NEWS AND PHOTOS

Our 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.

SUMMER OUTREACH NEWS

PLANS UNDERWAY FOR ANNUAL LAS FAMILIAS PICNIC AND POOL PARTY THIS SUMMER!

On July 28, St. Matthew's will once again host a picnic and pool party for children from Las Familias, a school downtown that serves families with no access to pools or outdoor parks.

The non-stop fun for kids and volunteers includes soccer, yoga, slip n' slide and swimming. If you would like to volunteer to help make the day special, please email Tracy (if you are 16 or older): tracypmetzger@gmail.com.

Right: Children arrive at St. Matthew's for the Las Familias Picnic in 2016.



Far Right: Tracy Metzger stocking up on some of the many supplies and gifts for this year's picnic!



GROUPLOVE AT SPY GALA BENEFIT

St. Matthew's alum and former SMDC counselor, Andrew Wesson joined the Thrift Shop in support of our outreach partner, Safe Place for Youth, at its annual gala earlier this month. Andrew is lead guitarist for *Grouplove*, the popular Indie group that played for the event.

This year, the Thrift Shop was able to donate a record \$132,000 to local non-profit agencies, including SPY, due to the wonderful generosity of our parishioners. As you spring clean, please remember the Thrift Shop! We welcome a wide range of clothes, accessories and household items. Please keep in mind that athletic wear and designer items have become an increasing source of revenue, as well.



Above: Thrift Shop President Richard Kublenschmidt, Andrew Wesson and Betty-Jo Tilley at the annual SPY Gala.

Right: SPY Development Associate Cody Metzger with fellow SMPS alum Andrew Wesson.



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



Above: Photo courtesy of GAIA.

St. Matthew's will travel to Malawi next summer 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, please contact Jocelyn Cortese at 310-454-1424 or cortesejocelyn@gmail.com.

SMPS CLOSING EXERCISES



Above: Rev. Bruce A. Freeman and Rev. Christine Purcell at the SMPS final Eucharist.

On June 13, Rev. Bruce A. Freeman and Rev. Christine Purcell celebrated the final Eucharist of the school year with the 2016-2017 students of St. Matthew's Parish School.

The following day, Bruce spoke to the graduating class at the Closing Exercises ceremony, reminding each and every student that St. Matthew's will always be a home to them in the future, no matter how far and distant their travels should take them. As graduates' names were announced, individual students received a bible along with her or his diploma.

Congratulations to the Class of 2017 and to all the rising students from the 2016-2017 school year!

Right: Rev. Bruce A. Freeman addresses students at Closing Exercises.

Below: Head of School Stu Work addresses all in attendance.



PARENT-TODDLER PROGRAM REGISTRATION

St. Matthew's Parish School continues to provide an enriching, weekly program for parents and their young children (for newborns through three-year-olds).

Classes are held during the school year on weekday mornings and evening classes are also available for working parents. To learn more or register for the 2017-2018 school year, visit our website for a direct link: www.stmatthews.com or send an email to Dana Berlin, director of the program, via parenttoddler@stmatthewsschool.com.



LITURGICAL NOTES

EXPANDED LANGUAGE INCORPORATED INTO PENTECOST WORSHIP FOR THE SUMMER SEASON

During the green, growing season of Pentecost, which stretches through long summer days and into the fall, we are taking the opportunity to expand the language, images and metaphors we use in our worship at St. Matthew's. The Pentecost worship booklet incorporates material from the wider Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion as noted below. We invite you to experience these prayers over the next couple of months and see how they shape our believing.

❖ The Prayers of the People are from *A New Zealand Prayer Book* ©The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia.

❖ The Confession of Sin, the Eucharistic Prayer and the Blessing are from *Enriching Our Worship 1* © 1998 by The Church Pension Fund, and approved for use in this diocese.



Above: The Cover Art used in our 2017 worship bulletins was created for St. Matthew's by artist Roger Hutchinson.

MINISTRIES WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

SUMMER ACTIVITIES WITH OUR YOUNG PARISHIONERS

Godly Play, our weekly, Sunday formation for children, is on hiatus for the summer, but during Sunday morning services this summer, day care for children up to three-years will be in the Lower Parish Center. Infant care continues in the Nursery by the courtyard fountain. If you have any questions about day care please contact Pam Mann at pammann@adelphia.net or 310-454-4829.



BAPTISM LEGO CREATIONS

You never know what fun and games will pop up on the St. Matthew's patio. During the 75th Anniversary Baptism service, children created baptism scenes out of Legos!

Left: The Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist.

Right: Lego altar.



FLAT JESUS' SUMMER VACATION

If your children are fans of *Flat Stanley*, then your family will love Flat Jesus. Flat Stanley is a children's book character who loves travel and geography since he can be mailed anywhere in the world like a postcard. Pick up your Flat Jesus in the narthex to decorate (or download from www.stmatthews.com) and take him around the world on your travels this summer! Then be sure to post photos of his summer travels with you on our Facebook page (Parish of St. Matthew) - or to @stmatthewspali on Instagram. We can't wait to see your photos!

Right: Flat Jesus travelled to England with the St. Matthew's Choir last summer.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

JULY 1: 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 for those who may not have them. For more information, contact Anne Jaskoski at awinsomespirit@verizon.net.

JULY 8: THE CONSECRATION OF BISHOP JOHN TAYLOR

Free - but limited - tickets to the consecration and installation of our new bishop, John Taylor, are available for the service, which will take place at 1:30 pm at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion with a celebratory festival to follow. Join others from St. Matthew's at this extraordinary event by reserving your ticket now! Email bishopsoffice@ladiocese.org or call 213.482.2040, ext. 230.



Above: Bishop-Coadjutor John Taylor visited St. Matthew's in June to honor eight Cathedral Canons at St. Matthew's. He is pictured with Bill and Nona Greene and Bob Williams of the Diocese of Los Angeles.

JULY 9: 75TH ANNIVERSARY: MARRIAGE SUNDAY

The 75th Anniversary festivities continue with our Marriage Sunday on July 9. Your fun photos will help us honor those who were married at St. Matthew's (or by St. Matthew's clergy). Please share to [weddings@stmatthews.com](https://www.stmatthews.com).

JULY 23: LEARN ABOUT GAIA IN MALAWI

Mark Conley-Buchsieb from outreach partner GAIA (Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance) will be coming to St. Matthew's to visit with interested parishioners about GAIA's work in the rural villages of Malawi and how they can be involved! Please introduce yourself to him on the patio after the 8:00 and 10:15 services.

JULY 28: LAS FAMILIAS POOL/PICNIC PARTY

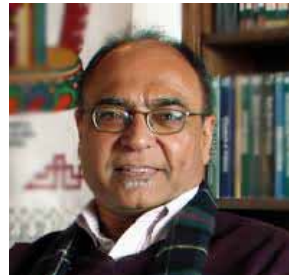
St. Matthew's will host our annual picnic for the kids at Las Familias, a school downtown that serves children with no access to pools or outdoor parks. The non-stop fun for kids and volunteers includes soccer, yoga, slip n' slide and swimming. Please email Tracy to volunteer (if you are 16 or older): tracypmetzger@gmail.com. We especially need help in the pool since many of the children can't swim.

AUGUST

AUGUST 5: PRAY THE ROSARY AT 8:30AM

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

AUGUST 26: PRAYER AND HEALING WITH RAVI VERMA



Left: Ravi Verma of Stillpoint

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.

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 2: PRISM PICNIC

Don't miss the chance to volunteer to provide a day of fun for families of the incarcerated. For more information contact Jackie Ehlers: jackie@ehlersmail.com.

SEPTEMBER 24: ST. MATTHEW'S DAY

Save the date for our annual patronal picnic on the meadow after the 10:15am service. Look for tickets on sale after Labor Day.



WHAT'S BUZZING AT DAY CAMP?

Smoke Signals

June 20, 1957 The Crazy Voice of Day Camp! Vol. 4, No. 1

Gosh! Our first week of camp sure was swell! All that swimming and hiking really takes to our liking! It was hot as heck on Tuesday. The whole darn camp - all 35 of us - walked down to the O'Malley's to take a dip in their pool. They got the biggest house in the neighborhood. It has 6 bedrooms and ~~three~~ 3 bathrooms. The whole thing cost at least \$5,000 for sure! That's a LOT of dough!

Anyway, we played a game of "What will camp be like 60 years from now?" (One thing that's NOT gonna last - "Popsicles" are a passing fad.)

Get a load of these crazy answers some of the campers said would happen in 2017:

Billy: Camp will be run by this man and woman. The man will have a whole bunch of kids and the woman will teach at the school when she's not at camp.

Sally: The man and woman will be helped by ~~three~~ 3 people named Meghan, Tommy and Gerg. Meghan will worry about rubber chickens, Tommy will sing opera and Gerg will drink a lot of iced tea in a bucket.

Freddy: Camp will have its own pool. The lifeguards will be named Jack and Lachlan (I picked Lachlan because I think it's a funny name. Jack is not a funny name. It's a regular name.)

Sam: The arts n' crafts stuff will have a firefly named Glo Glo running it. Glo Glo will chase after Mary and Allie. Then they will all make lanyards.

Mimi: Camp will have a guy who plays the guitar and he can tie himself into knots!

Stevie Jobs: Day Camp will have its own office. There will be two trained primates named Will and Taylor who will cook for the campers and pick up lost clothing items. Also, by 2017 the camp newsletter will no longer be printed on paper. The newsletter will be on a T.V. screen and will be transmitted by radio waves to other T.V. screens for people to read. (coUnslor note: Stevie is a weird little boy - he walks around all day in a black t-shirt and blue jeans and eats a lot of apples.)

John M. (will be 4 on June 30): I think camp will have a Moo cow that will walk and talk eat sand crabs at the beach. And he will also howl at the moon.

Above: "Smoke Signals" courtesy of the June 22, 2017 Crazy Camper Chronicles of St. Matthew's Day Camp.