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THE EPISTLE

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

Lent in the Desert

Dear Friends,

Recently I returned from a wonderful driving trip that included visits to Death Valley, the Mojave National Preserve, and Joshua Tree. So it should be no surprise, I suppose, that as I sit down to write to you, I am again reminded of how potent is the image of wilderness for Lent.

During this season of reflection and preparation, we confront two inescapable realities. First, the wilderness does in fact exist; and second, you and I will spend time there. Neither has anything to do with the landscapes in which we live.

The wilderness is where the structures and supports to which we are accustomed are stripped away. Where the ways in which we typically protect ourselves from threats are largely ineffective. Where we come face to face with how vulnerable we are, and how provisional our existence is. It is a very dangerous place.

The wilderness is also a place of great beauty. If we manage to survive, that is. It takes faith and courage and heart to let the wilderness be our teacher. To allow it to both reduce and enlarge us. To force us to let go of baggage that is too heavy to carry, and take just the few things we really need.

The wilderness will make us the people God is calling us to be, if we let it. That's what it did for God's chosen people. The Israelites needed forty years to learn what the wilderness had to teach them. God was with them the entire time – in the pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night, and in the manna provided daily to satisfy their hunger.

In Lent, we have the opportunity to explore the wilderness. To reflect, for forty days, on its place in God's story and in our own stories. To take up practices to help us focus on what it asks of us and what it offers to us. To discover, like the Israelites, that God accompanies us, giving us not a road map but a guiding presence, not rich food but essential bread.

My sisters and brothers, as springtime ramps up, schedules fill up and precious quiet time

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STAFF DIRECTORY

WEEKLY CALENDAR

STAFF DIRECTORY & CALENDAR

To reach any of the numbers below:

Dial 310/573-7787, then the extension

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

Mr. Josh Castellanos, Facilities Coordinator (Ext. 175) jcastellanos@stmatthewschool.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) missymorain@stmatthews.com

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

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

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

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

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

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

To see more about events and activities in our community, be sure to follow "The Parish of St. Matthew" on Facebook!

SUNDAYS

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

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

10:15 am Godly Play

MONDAYS

7:30 pm Contemplative Prayer

WEDNESDAYS

10:00 am The Holy Eucharist

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.

IN A PASTORAL EMERGENCY...

We want to know about all pastoral emergencies at St. Matthew's so we can respond as quickly as possible. In such a situation, for example a death, a sudden hospitalization, an accident, or any kind of emergency, please contact our pastoral care hotline (310/573-7787, ext. 199) in order to reach the on-call priest right away. For the fastest response, please do not call the parish office or clergy cell-phones, as these are often not the fastest way to contact us. Thank you!

REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS AND PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please pray for Audrey, Jon Bruno, Bill and Deanna Bruns, Catherine Jane, Charlotte, Bill & Erica, Elizabeth, Mathew Hand, Lydia Heston, Jerry, Cordell Johnston, Catherine Jones, Steve Kerr, Carol, Kathy, Tom McCormick, Randy, Betts Rockwell, Joan Sather, Sherry, Susan, and Judy.

We also remember those who have died in the hope of Christ's resurrection: Rev. Canon Dr. Grant S. Carey, Anne Carson, Bob Guyett, and Patsy Lanter. 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 The Rev. Christine Purcell at 310/573-7787, ext. 129. Prayer requests will automatically be kept on the list for one month only.

DEATH VALLEY, CONTINUED

gets eaten up, let's you and I see if we can find just a little bit of room for that wide-open space of the wilderness. So that our hearts may open and our souls may breathe in the Divine presence that is ever with us, but most especially there.

Christine Purcell

THE ALLELUIA BOOK: LAST CALL FOR YOUR DEVOTIONAL

Easter is always special at St. Matthew's with our annual "Alleluia Book" devotionals. Please share your "Alleluia Moment," whether it's a special poem, narrative or illustration... or a retelling of an experience that was a meaningful "Alleluia Moment" to you. Yours will be published in our Easter Alleluia publication! Send all submissions to alleluiaproject@yahoo.com.

EASTER FLOWER TRIBUTES: DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Now is the time to submit your requests for Easter flower memorials and thank offerings. For your special tribute in this year's Easter service bulletins, please complete the form at www.stmatthews.com or contact Jennifer via jmccarthy@stmatthews.com. A suggested donation of \$100 may be made directly to the Parish of St. Matthew. Please note that the deadline is **Sunday, April 9** in order to be printed in the Easter service bulletins.

SUNDAY SERMONS ONLINE: RECORDED VERSIONS

If you would like to listen to a sermon that you heard at Saint Matthew's, or one you missed for some reason, most of the Sunday sermons are now available online. Just navigate your web browser to: www.stmatthews.com and click on the "Sermons Online" link. Happy listening!

NEED TO SCHEDULE AN EVENT OR HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO SHARE?

If you have a meeting or event that your ministry would like to hold at St. Matthew's, please coordinate its placement on the parish calendar through Jennifer McCarthy. She will also coordinate your announcements as possible. Please contact her at 310/454-1358, ext. 128 or jmccarthy@stmatthews.com. Thank you!

A Time of Preparation

Lent is a time of preparation, introspection and spiritual rejuvenation and in that spirit, St. Matthew's is embarking on a parish revitalization effort.

Last year, the Vestry enthusiastically approved a potential Capital Campaign. The broad focus of this campaign is to seek to renovate and revitalize our parish campus. In particular, elements such as Founders Hall, the grounds, the Columbarium and the derelict house across Bienvenida need to be updated with an eye to their welcome, accessibility and excellence. As we look into the future, our facilities should support our parish identity as a place open to all, committed to Christian formation and to serving the broader community.

Last month, a Capital Campaign Committee was appointed to begin the necessary process to undertake a Feasibility Study for such a campaign. In addition, Jamie Montgomery was named as the Chair of this committee. As many of you know, Jamie is a devoted and long-term parish member who has chaired and participated in many successful campaigns in a variety of contexts and will be communicating with the parish ongoing regarding its efforts.

Please see Jamie's note below about the launch of a Feasibility Study and look forward to more updates from him and the Committee in the future.

Bruce Freeman, Rector

Dear Parishioner:

Our rector has asked me to chair the Campaign. I'm writing to you at this early stage to provide some background and context.

Why do we need a capital campaign?

- Aging, largely inaccessible facilities that are not ADA-compliant
- Facilities do not provide productive work space or usable community gathering space
- Deferred maintenance throughout buildings and grounds
- A derelict residence across Bienvenida
- A complete lack of financial reserves
- A limited unrestricted endowment of approximately \$500,000
- Growing need for additional usable space for our vibrant Parish programs

With inspirational new parish leadership, the Vestry strongly feels that now is the time to address these challenges and opportunities in a comprehensive manner.

To begin, we have formed a Capital Campaign Core Committee which meets monthly and includes Chris Kanoff, Greg Cortese, Callie Momtazee, Sarah Peterson, Mike Hurst, Carl Phelps, Janet McKillop, Rob Jernigan, Kathy Volz, Kathy Bitting, Darren Seidel and others. I am honored to chair the campaign, drawing on my two decades of successful capital campaign leadership in Universities, Schools, Boy Scouts and Museums.



Feasibility Study

One of our first steps is to conduct a Feasibility Study with parishioner interviews, focus groups and a parish-wide survey. The goal is to assess priorities and capacity and test some conceptual alternatives to address the situation. We hope to determine what we need and what we can afford.

We have retained consultants to assist with the Feasibility Study and, ultimately, any campaign. Andy Carmichael recently joined as a part time staff member. He had a successful career in advertising and staffed the recent \$8M campaign at All Saints' Beverly Hills. We have also retained Terry Goolsby, a nationally prominent Episcopal Church fundraiser. Terry has conducted a series of successful studies and campaigns. We are delighted to have them on our team

Interviews, focus groups and a survey all happen in April

Terry Goolsby will be with us the week of April 3rd to 7th to conduct the interviews and focus groups. We will invite 30 - 40 parishioners for interviews and ask others to participate in focus group discussions. In mid-April, we will conduct an online parish-wide survey. We are encouraging the broadest

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LENT - A GOOD TIME FOR OUTREACH

ANGEL INTERFAITH NETWORK/ PROJECT ANGEL

Angel Interfaith Network is one of our parish's outreach partners. They provide chaplaincy services to low-income clients who receive health services at LA County+USCHospital. They work on a shoestring budget and with great love. Here are two short stories about the people they serve:

Amir, a six-year-old patient was airlifted from Azusa with a fractured arm after being hit by a truck. His family is homeless and needed to stay nearby for a couple of days. The social worker asked for a two-day stay at a motel across from the hospital for his parents and his five-year-old sister. AIN was able to provide the motel vouchers, thanks to generous cash donations from our Mission Markets. Amir's mother and father were both greatly relieved to be able to stay close to their son during his hospital stay.

Two-year-old Martin was newly diagnosed with leukemia. At the request of his social worker, AIN provided diapers for Martin and his one-year-old sister, as well as warm clothing, and food certificates. AIN staff and volunteers delivered the goods to the family home since Martin's young parents do not have a car.

For more information about AIN, visit their website at www.angelinterfaith.net.

WINTER HOMELESS SHELTER COLLECTION

Thank you for your support for the Winter Homeless Shelter collection. Thank you to those who brought items to the bin at church, delivered items to my porch, or ordered them from the Amazon Wish List we created. (Thank you John Graham for your assistance in getting the Wish List formatted correctly!)

It was amazing to come home every day to see boxes with items for the homeless!

Members of St. Matthew's Parish generously donated beanies, t-shirts, rain ponchos, coats, undies and toothpaste to homeless people staying at the Armory's Winter Shelter and we distributed the items at two "Faith Connect" events. They were thrilled to have clean, new items, and it was a joy to serve alongside volunteers from Kehillat Israel Temple, Corpus Christi Church and other faith groups.

There were many tender moments, including meeting a lovely single mother and her twin 19-year-old daughters. We outfitted each of them with new coats and rain ponchos, and Cody Metzger helped them get the items they needed to feel more comfortable at the Armory. I was able to pray with a woman I know from

Bread & Roses Café, and that was a powerful moment for both of us. St. Matthew's made a special effort to provide extra large t-shirts and beanies during our second visit to the Armory, at the request of one of the homeless people we met. He was overcome when he came to our table at the second event and we had the items laid aside especially for him. He said, "You give me hope."

In this season of Lent, please pause and remember our brothers and sisters who are homeless and losing hope.

Jocelyn Cortese

WESTSIDE FOOD BANK FOOD SORTING EVENT, MAY 13TH 4:00 - 9:00 PM

The Westside Food Bank is asking for volunteers to help sort canned food on Saturday, May 13th anytime between 4:00 pm and 9:00 pm. The warehouse is located at

1710 22nd Street in Santa Monica. Parking is limited, so plan to come early to find metered parking and walk to the location. This is a great opportunity for families, Emmaus groups or parishioners looking for a way to be of service.

Questions? Visit the website at www.wsfb.org or call Jocelyn Cortese at 310-454-1424.

TIME OF PREPARATION, CONTINUED

possible participation.

My goal is to report back in 90 days with the findings from the Feasibility Study and lay out a plan for going forward.

These are exciting times for St. Matthew's – I look forward to working together to make this a success.

Sincerely,

Jamie Montgomery
jamie@marchcp.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lenten Labyrinth Walk - Mondays through Lent • Walk a sacred path on your Lenten journey this year. We will meet in St. Timothy next to the Labyrinth at 7:00 am for the remaining Mondays of Lent: March 20 and 27 and April 3 and 10. Come join us in preparing our souls for the miracle of Easter and experience St. Matthew's Labyrinth for yourself. Contact Elizabeth via efkeatinge@gmail.com to join.

Psalmathon - March 18 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm • The Psalms, called "the hymnbook of Jesus and Paul," encompass the gamut of human emotions in relationship to God and we are called to "sing these songs, and they will renew you from head to toe, from heart to mind." As part of your Lenten discipline, join us for Part I of our annual reading of the Psalms for the morning, for an hour, or even twenty minutes, and be open to their awesome power. And look for Part II on Saturday, April 29!

Stern Lecture - March 24 and 25 • St. Matthew's is honored to have Dr. Walter Brueggemann, one of the world's most influential Old Testament scholars, for the Stern Lectures. Don't miss the opportunity to hear him: Friday, March 24 at 7:30 pm and Saturday, March 25 at 9:00 am. Please RSVP to ensure your spot: sternlecture@stmatthews.com. Dr. Brueggemann will also be our guest preacher on Sunday, March 26.

S.P.Y. - A Safe Place For Youth Dinner - Tuesday, March 28 • St. Matthew's provides dinners for hungry, homeless people, ages 15 to 25, the fourth Tuesday of each month. To support this effort, please email Kathy at kbitting@stmatthews.com. Your time, talent or treasure is greatly appreciated.

Seminar: End of Life Issues for You and Loved Ones - April 1 from 9:00 am to Noon • St. Matthew's welcomes the Rev. Charlie Brumbaugh to present "Last Things: Preparing for Death & Burial from the Episcopal Church." Whether you are 19 or 99, you'll find this "soup-to-nuts" seminar to be informative, useful, thought-provoking, and, yes, even fun!

Pray the Rosary - April 1 • All are invited to the chapel to pray the Rosary together at 8:30 am on April 1- and on every first Saturday of the month. This contemplative, spiritual practice takes about 20 minutes and we'll offer a brief "clinic" for all. Rosaries will be available for those who may not have them.

Evensong - Sunday, April 2 • Choral Evensong is a rich service full of ancient prayers and wonderful music. Our choir has been the resident choir at both Winchester Cathedral and Durham Cathedral and loves singing evensong, so we hope you will join us for music by the great turn-of-the-century English cathedral composers Basil Harwood and H. Balfour Gardiner. Organist Haesung Park will perform music of Bach.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

PLEASE JOIN US FOR SERVICES DURING
HOLY WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

April 9 - The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

- 8:00 am: Holy Eucharist
- 10:15 am: Holy Eucharist

April 10 and 11

- 7:00 am: Holy Eucharist

April 12

- 7:00 am: Holy Eucharist
- and 10:00 am: Holy Eucharist

April 13 - Maundy Thursday

- 7:00 am: Holy Eucharist
- 7:00 pm: Maundy Thursday Liturgy
- 9:00 pm: Maundy Thursday Watch

April 14 - Good Friday

- 12:30 pm: Good Friday Liturgy
- 3:30 pm: Stations of the Cross

April 15 - Holy Saturday

- 8:30 am: Holy Saturday Rosary
- 9:00 am: Holy Saturday Liturgy
- 7:30 pm: Great Vigil of Easter

April 16 - Easter Sunday

- 9:00 am: Holy Eucharist with Choir and Brass
- 11:15 am: Holy Eucharist with Choir and Brass