



MAY 2017  
VOLUME 45 No. 8

# THE EPISTLE

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

## MAY—THE TIME OF TRANSITION

**E**VERY YEAR I THINK THAT MAY WILL BE DIFFERENT. I imagine that we can find a way to make it less busy, more focused on the lovely transition from spring to summer. However, as we move into this spring at St. Matthew's, I realize that with all of the big events in church and at the school, we are looking at another demanding May. Along with all of these time commitments, we have the emotional and spiritual challenges of all of the transitions at this time of year. A beloved friend calls May at St. Matthew's the "1000 days of May." I know that it often feels like that, but I wonder if the reason we find this month so demanding around here is that it is a certain time of change and – often – wrenching growth.

Most of us don't like change. When we talk about the experience of God we often refer to a time of relaxation, calm and recreation. We don't generally associate the experience of God with change, loss and transition. The disciples experienced the Easter period of Christ's resurrection appearances as a time of change, challenge and possibility. It changed everything for them. It upset everything they knew to be true and set them on a dramatically new and different direction as apostles of God's message of eternal life in Jesus. However, instead of experiencing the new direction of their lives made possible by the resurrection as a time of ripping change and exhaustion, they found their hearts warmed and a new courage emerged about the nature of the future and their part in it. Instead of resisting change, the disciples embraced the possibility that God was doing something new and wonderful and that they were empowered to participate in that new creation. Transition had become for them a time of possibility and Godly hope.



Like most of you, I find the endings of this time of year to be bittersweet. As our kids graduate from school, start new jobs, or when our friends – like Tom Neenan – retire, we feel the emotional tug of sadness. We've liked life with our loved ones and worry that life will never be the same once they move onto the next stage. Of course, life WON'T be the same. However, the faith that grounds us tells us that God is moving in these transitions. New life and possibility await us in the immediate future, all of it guided by and infused with the Holy Spirit. We are

*above: Janus, god of transitions*

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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@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) missymorain@stmatthews.com

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

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

## MONDAYS

7:30 pm Contemplative Prayer

## WEDNESDAYS

10:00 am The Holy Eucharist

## 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.

## 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 Charlie Andrews, Jon Bruno, Cambria, Charlie, Charlotte, Dave, Elizabeth, Maria Luisa Gonzalez, Mathew Hand, Lydia Heston, Mack Holmes, Janet, Jimmy, Jerry, Cordell, the Johnson family, Steve Kerr, Carol Lanning, Mark, Tom and Margaret McCormick, Randy, Betts Rockwell, Lori, Kwan Seo, Susan, Joseph Szew, Lois Timnick, and Judy Tisdale.

We also remember those who have died in the hope of Christ's resurrection: Rt. Rev. Frederick Borsch, Christopher Cabeen, Rev. Canon Deborah Dunn, Manuel Guzman, Chris Storace.

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.

## 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](http://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](mailto:jmccarthy@stmatthews.com). Thank you!

## MAY, CONTINUED

not called to ignore our pain as our loved ones move to the next stage of their lives. With all change comes a sense of loss and a sentimental grief over the past. This is normal. But we are also called by God to celebrate, to lean into the God given truth that every ending is always simply a change, not a true ending.

The 1000 days of May are upon us. May we keep a light sense of humor about ourselves as we mark our transitions. May we rely on the truth given to us by Christ, that for those in Christ, resurrection is always real. New possibility and life are a given. May this month be a time of holy transition, new hope and deep faith.

In Christ,

Bruce

# Here and There in Outreach

## SPRING CLEANING? PLEASE REMEMBER THE THRIFT SHOP.

We are always happy to accept textbooks, regular books, gently used clothing, accessories, and household items.

Athletic wear and designer jeans for men and women are big sellers at the shop.



*Pictured left and right:* Eden Garcia-Balis, Executive Director of Airport Marina Counseling, visited with long-time volunteer Sonja Langridge at the shop.

Jenny O'Brien and Jacob Heller, grant directors at the Venice Family Clinic, visited the store recently to express their support.

## SAMOSHEL

Life has changed dramatically for Elizabeth (pictured below) over the past year. After struggling with bouts of homelessness, Elizabeth began seeking services at The People Concern. She began seeing a clinical therapist for mental health counseling. She later accepted an interim housing placement at SAMOSHEL, before securing a housing voucher to move into her own apartment.

Currently, Elizabeth maintains weekend custody of her son, which limits the time they're able to spend together. She is anxious to move into her new home so she'll be able to increase the frequency of those visits.

"Thank God for the agency and all the people," she said. "I look forward to the future. I look forward to my new life."

Success stories like this are made possible by the support of the community and organizations like St. Matthew's!



When Ronnie (pictured below) was a young boy, his father inspired him to pursue music as his life's calling. With that motivation, Ronnie enrolled in a performing arts school where he was trained in classical piano.

He continued to pursue various genres of music well into his adult life – juggling his burgeoning music career with his full-time job.

And then, Ronnie's life fell into a tailspin. His father died, leaving him without his strongest supporter.

The loss of his father launched Ronnie into a downward spiral of despair and self-destruction. In spite of his best efforts to keep up with his bills, he eventually found himself homeless.

## People Concern

After about a year of living without a home, he decided to reach out to The People Concern for help. On his first morning in interim housing, staff began helping Ronnie chart a path toward permanent housing. They connected him with a therapist to help him deal with what he calls his 'unanswered issues.' And, he eventually was able to secure a housing voucher and move into his own apartment.



Ronnie is still supported by a therapist and a case manager and is hoping to enroll at the Musicians Institute's Engineering program to enhance his skills. He's currently writing songs and producing scores for collaborative projects with upcoming artists.

"I'm nothing like I used to be, emotionally, spiritually, financially," he said. "I am still amazed when I wake up and see what I have accomplished and am accomplishing."

Ronnie's ability to pursue his goals is bolstered by support from committed, dedicated organizations like St. Matthew's!

FINAL MUSIC GUILD CONCERT OF THE SEASON - TOM NEENAN'S FINAL  
CONCERT AS MUSIC DIRECTOR

TICKETS AND INFORMATION: [MusicGuildOnline.org](http://MusicGuildOnline.org)

Please note 7:30 pm starting time. Priority Seating will be available for Music Guild subscribers until 7:10 pm. General seating begins at 7:10 pm.



FRANZ JOSEPH HAYDN  
*THE CREATION*

**Harriet Fraser, soprano**  
**Jon Lee Keenan, tenor**  
**Steve Pence, bass-baritone**

**The Choir of  
St. Matthew's Parish**

**The Chamber Orchestra  
at St. Matthew's**

**Thomas Neenan**  
*Music Director  
and Conductor*



**MUSIC**  
at SAINT MATTHEW'S  
WORLD-CLASS MUSIC  
CLOSE TO HOME

**Friday, June 2**  
**7:30pm**

St. Matthew's Church  
Pacific Palisades, CA

# ST. MATTHEW'S LEGACY SOCIETY

## REMEMBERING SAINT MATTHEW'S CHURCH

by Carl Spring in honor of Legacy Sunday

Back in the mid-summer of 2002, my wife, Alice, and I decided that we really needed to create a family trust, and do it fairly soon. Although both of us were in great health at the time (Alice was retired and doing a lot of traveling, and I was still working as a senior editor for the Audio-Digest Foundation), we were both convinced that we were not going to live forever. And, we wanted to make sure our remaining financial assets went to people and organizations that met a great deal to both of us.

So, we met with a lawyer and had a so-called "A-B" family trust drafted for us. Not only did we include our godson and granddaughter as beneficiaries, but we also included a couple of other individuals who had been very close to us, plus four organizations – including the Al Malaikah Shrine for its children's hospitals, the California Masons for their Masonic Homes, the Sierra Club Foundation (an organization very close and dear to Alice), and (most of all) St. Matthew's Episcopal Church.

We very much wanted to remember St. Matthew's in our trust. At the time, David Miller was the rector (we were very fond of him), and Betsy Anderson was an associate minister. Alice, especially, had a very close relationship with her, as both were involved (among other things) in a Thursday morning Emmaus group.

Both of us were active in a Foyer dinner program, and we were both regular attendees at the various concerts sponsored by the St. Matthew's Music Guild.

Finally, I was ushering at the 10:15 a.m. service on a very regular basis – usually the first Sunday of each month. As all five members of our ushering group (at that particular time) were Eagle Scouts, we were sometimes referred to as the Eagle brigade.

So, as you can see, St. Matthew's was definitely a very important part of our lives.

We attended our first service at St. Matthew's in 1978 when Father Ken Carry, the founding rector of St. Matthew's, was preparing to retire. At that time, services were being held in a small wooden church, a bit south of the site for the current church building. We began attending St. Matthew's on a regular basis in the early 80s when Arnold Fenton was the rector, and Peter Kreitler was his associate.

I still remember one particular Sunday in August, 1983, when I was ushering at the 9:30 a.m. service in what was then

called Briggs Hall. Then rector, Arnold Fenton was unable to officiate, because of an injury he had sustained the previous day while playing tennis. With both associate rector Peter Kreitler and part-time assistant Dr. Bill Wallace on vacation, it was up to Bishop Robert Rusack to show up, both to preach and officiate. The only two people present to help him out in the service were me and one other usher. The good bishop had to read all the scripture lessons – and even light the candles at the start of the service. After the service, Bishop Rusack thanked both of us for helping him out. "I couldn't have done it without your assistance," he quipped. We both felt overwhelmed!

Except for a brief period of time (during the reign of Father George Six) both Alice (up until her passing) and I have been fairly active at St. Matthew's church, have regularly attended services (when in town), and have been pledging members.

St. Matthew's church took on a special dimension in March, 2007, when Alice was diagnosed with stage 4 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Over the next several months the response of church members to her medical condition was overwhelming! The special spiritual and inspirational care provided by Betsy Anderson was tremendous. And, as Alice's health continued to deteriorate in June and early July, members of the Helping Hands group at St. Matthew's took turns in providing us with meals. When Alice passed away on July 24, Betsy reached out to me and helped me tremendously to go through a very difficult period of time, sometimes referred to as the grieving process.

As a result of all this, I decided to amend my portion of the living trust to increase slightly my "remembrance" to St. Matthew' in it. And, I may do it again in the not-too-distant future, as my godson, Alan Kuczynski, has become more self-sufficient on his own.

In conclusion: St. Matthew's church means a great deal to me. I look forward to continuing to be an active member of it for the years and months to come. And, I am very happy that it will be remembered when I "move on" from my current state of this fragile planet that we call earth.