

SEPTEMBER 2017  
VOLUME 46 No. 1

THE EPISTLE

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

## READYING OURSELVES FOR THE FUTURE

Every September, the energy at St. Matthew's surges as formation programs for children, youth and adults spring back to life. Parish school students dive into classes, Boy Scouts dig into activities, ministries kick into gear and the whole community celebrates our annual St. Matthew's feast day, coming this year on September 24. Fall is a time of excitement, hard work and promise. This year, as September rolls around and we begin a new program year, we are also embarking on a new era in the parish community.

### HEAD OF SCHOOL

In late September, our community discernment process will culminate in the call of a new Head of School. This outstanding individual will follow our wonderful leader and parish member, Stu Work, when he retires at the end of this school year. Three highly qualified and talented candidates will visit us for two days each. Members of the community are urged to engage with these folks in open forums so that they may gain a sense of our parish family and that we may discern who God is calling to join us as our new Head. By the end of the month the Head Search Committee will deliver a final candidate recommendation to the Vestry for its approval. Please participate in our discernment by your presence and your prayers.

### STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

On the heels of this exciting shift in the life of St. Matthew's, we will begin our four-week period of our Stewardship pledge campaign in early October. "Renewal of our Spiritual Home" is the theme at this very important moment for our parish. I want to be clear: we will be asking for a minimum of a 20% increase in our pledge income for 2018. This addition of \$360,000 will allow us to do three things: call a third priest, hire a director of administration and grow essential cash reserves. In my third year as your Rector, it is clear to me that these are necessary objectives as we seek to live into our mission to "welcome, nourish and serve." Yes—this is a large increase in our pledge support and will challenge many of us to deepen our financial commitment. However, reaching this ambitious goal will enable us to move forward into God's future.



# NEWS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

## READYING, CONTINUED

### STRETCHING

Why are we stretching ourselves? First, we have heard the desire of the people of this parish for a third priest. The primary focus of this clergy person will be the large number of young families and youth, grades six through twelve, in our community. Second, it is easy to underestimate how large the St. Matthew's parish is in reality. I've told several friends lately that this is the only Church that I know of that has, under one roof, six Boards of Directors for six separate organizations, each with its own mission. This brings us a great amount of fruitful ministry but also presents unusual administrative demands. A director of administration will allow us to pull together several important functions in one office, freeing Christine and me, along with staff and lay leaders, to focus on our ministry programs. Last, as a big parish with a large campus and a huge amount of activity, we often have extra and unexpected budgetary expenses. Our recent parking lot improvements and brush clearing are notable examples. Moving forward, having solid cash reserves will give us flexibility as we seek to be the parish God calls us to be.

I hope that the people of St. Matthew's will see that God is calling us to an exciting new chapter in our life together. We have inherited a vibrant and gifted parish. God calls us to care for this beloved spiritual home with the commitment of our passion, finances and prayer.

In Christ,  
Bruce+

### 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.

## PARISHIONERS IN THE NEWS

### PARISHIONER LIZ AMES NAMED HONORARY CANON



*Pictured Left to Right: Bob Williams of the Diocese of Los Angeles, Liz Ames and Bishop John Taylor. Photo by Bruce A. Freeman.*

In recognition of decades of volunteer service in the parish and community, Elizabeth Banning Ames has been named an honorary canon of the Cathedral Center of St. Paul by Bishop Jon Bruno. Bishop Coadjutor John Taylor on August 8 conferred the honor on her. A native Southern Californian baptized at the Church of Our Saviour in San Gabriel, Ames is a longtime volunteer in various charitable organizations including the Neighborhood Youth Association, a diocesan institution. Having also assisted in the operations of Banning House in Wilmington, CA, she is among the great-grandchildren of Los Angeles pioneer Phineas Banning, whose wife Mary Hollister Banning was a founder of St. John's Episcopal Church, Wilmington.

## REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS

**Please pray for** Ken Adams, Alice, Charlie Andrews, Audrey, Betty, Jon Bruno, Cambria, Charlotte, Maria Luisa Gonzalez, Mathew Hand, Lydia Heston, Isabel, Jane, Janet, Jerry, Steve Kerr, Carol Lanning, Connie Linesch, Mark, Betts Rockwell, Lori, Kwan Seo, Thomas, Lois Timnick, and Rob Wrede.

**We also remember** those who have died in the hope of Christ's resurrection: Mary Jacobson, William M. Keck, III, Janice Rusack, Jan Swanson and Jim Williams.

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.



## LAS FAMILIAS BACK FOR FUN DAY AT ST. MATTHEW'S

On Friday, July 28, St. Matthew's hosted 55 children from Las Familias School in downtown Los Angeles. Las Familias is a Kindergarten/1st grade and after-school program downtown that the St. Matthew's Thrift Shop has been supporting for many years. The program is run by Alice Callaghan, an Episcopal priest and legendary homeless activist.



The kids had a wonderful day of swimming, soccer, slip n' slide and rock painting. St. Matthew's volunteers served them lunch and snacks, and each child was given a brand new beach towel to use that day and take home.

Special thanks to all the volunteers who donated their time, food, decorations, laughter and love. We all look forward to having Las Familias back next summer!



*Las Familias Picnic photos by Sue Ganz*

# OUTREACH GRANTS

## 2017 OUTREACH GRANT RECIPIENTS

Due to the generous support of the St. Matthew's community, the Outreach Commission granted \$320,000 to our extraordinary Outreach Partners in 2017! (\$50,000 of this amount was contributed by the St. Matthew's Thrift Shop.) A huge thanks to all those in the community for making these gifts possible. Following is a complete list of recipients.

**Angel Interfaith Network (Project Angel)** – Fund housing, food, transportation and basic needs for low-income individuals and families departing County+ USC Medical Center

**Chrysalis** – Provide funds for job training and placement for homeless and low-income individuals

**CLARE Foundation** – Support residential and outpatient drug prevention programs

**Episcopal Urban Intern Program** – Continue support for expansion of the EUIP

**GAIA (Global Aid Interfaith Alliance)** – Provide support for orphans in rural Malawi, Africa through the new Targeted Community Program

**Hollygrove/Uplift Family Services** - Fund the Family Search & Engagement Program for abused children

**Jubilee Consortium** - Support the expansion of the Jubilee Jump! Club , a health project for inner city youth

**NYA (Neighborhood Youth Association)** - Fund the Personal Best after school program for at-risk youth at various Los Angeles locations, including Mar Vista, Westlake, Harvard Heights and Harbor Gateway

**Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness** – Continue supporting the OPCC Mobile team working with the homeless in Pacific Palisades as part of the PPTFH

**PRISM /Restorative Justice** - Support pastoral care for prison inmates at the Twin Towers and youth at Juvenile Hall, and host a picnic for families of the incarcerated at St. Matthew's Parish

**Safe Place for Youth (SPY)** – Fund the expansion of the Case Management program to allow SPY to provide additional support and services for homeless youth

**St. Joseph Center** – Continue funding the Episcopal Urban Intern who serves at the Affordable Housing Program to help locate housing for St. Joseph Center's clients

**St. Joseph's Center's Bread & Roses Café** - Fund a partial salary for the chef who plans and cooks nutritious meals to low-income and homeless families and individuals

**The People Concern** (formerly OPCC and LAMP Community) – Support comprehensive and supportive care for the homeless across Los Angeles County

**Westside Food Bank** - Provide funds for purchase and distribution of essential nutritious food for low income individuals and families (one dollar provides four meals to someone in need)

*Look for messages coming to St. Matthew's from these grateful organizations in upcoming issues of the Epistle!*

## 2017 THRIFT SHOP GRANT RECIPIENTS

Thanks to the overwhelming support of the parish and school at St. Matthew's, the Thrift Shop was able to award \$132,000 in grants to the following organizations in 2017.

**Airport Marina Counseling** - Provides counseling for low income families and at risk children

**The Children's Lifesaving Foundation** - The Thrift Grant goes toward the Care Through College program which is hands on tutoring and financial support from early education through college

**K9 Connection** - Programs in 4 Westside continuation high schools that teams up at risk teens with local shelter dogs. The teens train the dogs in addition to learning life skills

**Las Familias del Pueblo** - A downtown Kindergarten/1st grade school and after school program that supports learning all the way to college for children of local workers

**St. Margaret's Center** - An emergency and supportive center in Lennox/Inglewood that provides food, housing and immigration assistance, adult education, counseling and other emergency needs to more than 800 local homeless and low income families and individuals

**Venice Family Clinic** - VFC provides free quality health-care, dental care and counseling for over 25,000 low income and homeless families and individuals

In partnership with The Outreach Commission, The St. Matthew's Thrift Shop also supports SPY, Westside Food Bank, St. Joseph's Center, The People Concern and the Prism picnic

For more information about the Thrift Shop grants, please email Tracy Metzger via [tracypmetzger@gmail.com](mailto:tracypmetzger@gmail.com).



## UP IN THE AIR

by June Phelps

The dictionary defines 'home' as "a place where one likes to be, the center of one's affections, a restful or congenial place, the place where something has been founded, where one belongs." As I flew towards home over the blue Pacific from our summer vacation, I thought about "home," how fortunate I am, and have been these many years, to worship at St. Matthew's. For these past 52 years our church has provided our family an incredible home: the place in which our children were baptized and went to school, the place in which many and dear friendships have been fostered and deepened, the place in which we have been given many opportunities to learn, serve, grow and give back to God.

The quiet wooded glen in which we began attending that simple A-frame church in 1965 has grown too. The cars on Bienvenida whiz past, full of families and laughing children; the carpool lines wind along the school roads. The Music Guild concerts bring hundreds of folks to hear outstanding music; the Saints Alive Luncheons provide delicious fare and food for thought. The Day Campers give one last whoop before summer ends. Our Emmaus groups create shared journeys with other parishioners on this amazing campus with its lovely gardens that climb up the sides of the canyon that we so enjoy...ALL and more bring so many blessings and continue to each year.

In my airplane seat, I keep on thinking about St. Matthew's and realize it is one of the things in this life that I am not up in the air about. I look forward to worshipping each Sunday, to listening to Bruce or Christine's words to expand my vision of how to help my life be more wholesome – focusing on those I love and/or on those I do not yet know. Through clergy guidance, I can help others, whether working at the Thrift Shop, or praying with others in the chapel chairs, or being with visitors from downtown Los Angeles.

Each September, when Carl and I consider our pledge for St. Matthew's, we do so with gratitude. We continue to increase each year as the blessings of our beautiful church (its clergy, facilities, programs) swing into view. Some years the increases are modest; other years, when the need is great, we step up as we are able.

And this is one of those years! We want to increase our clergy from two to three...it is a huge job and we are blessed to have talented clergy working with us. Still, we hope for additional assistance! We want to have a church administrator to help everyone and everything work together more efficiently. We want to build up our reserves that take care of unexpected expenses.

Time, talent, and, yes, money. Carl and I hope you will be willing to consider an increase in your pledge this year. We hope you also feel that St. Matthew's is a home of great spiritual value worth investing in. No longer "up in the air," join us--for together we have landed and are home!



Above: Photo of June Phelps by Chuck Gardner  
[www.chuckgardner.com](http://www.chuckgardner.com)

STEWARDSHIP AT ST. MATTHEW'S

**St. Matthew's Stewardship Pledge Campaign for 2018 kicks off in October**  
**"Renewing our Spiritual Home"**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER

#### SEPTEMBER 10: GODLY PLAY BEGINS

Children in preschool through 4th grade are welcome 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 13: FELLOWSHIP KICK OFF MEETING AT 8:30AM

If you're looking for a Ministry where you can both socialize and serve others, Fellowship Commission is for you! Join us in Founders Living Room to be a part of the fun.

#### SEPTEMBER 20: CHRISTMAS FAIRE PLANNING MEETING AT 8:30AM

Join us in Founders Living Room to get involved and learn more about our annual event (coming November 17) to support our Outreach Partners in a fun and festive setting.

#### 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. Tickets will be on sale through our website next week.



#### SEPTEMBER 25: EMMAUS GROUPS BEGIN

Emmaus groups foster the development and growth of individuals in a small group setting that meets once a week. Sign ups are on the patio on Sundays or email [cindy@davisbranding.com](mailto:cindy@davisbranding.com).

#### SEPTEMBER 26: SPY DINNER

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



#### SEPTEMBER 27: FOYER DINNER KICK-OFF AT 6:30PM

Connect with other parishioners in our relaxed and friendly dinner party series, which meets periodically through the 2017-2018 year. Contact Shawn Siletti via [toshawnkelly@me.com](mailto:toshawnkelly@me.com) to sign up or learn more!



### OCTOBER

#### OCTOBER 1: PRACTICING CHRISTIAN - FOLLOWING JESUS IN THE 21ST CENTURY AT 9:15AM EVERY SUNDAY IN OCTOBER

Come to a five-week series for adults that explores the promises we make in Baptism including:

- being in community with fellow pilgrims
- turning towards God daily
- embodying the Gospel of God's love for all people
- serving others in Jesus' name
- working for justice and peace

Join us in the Music Room from 9:15-9:55am on any and all of the five Sundays in October.

#### OCTOBER 5: SAINTS ALIVE SPEAKER SERIES AT NOON: INNOCENT ON DEATH ROW

All are welcome at our monthly speaker series, opening on October 5. John H. Sharer, formerly of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher's, presents "Innocent on Death Row," an exploration of the wrongly accused. Tickets will go on sale in mid-September!

#### OCTOBER 7: PRAY THE ROSARY AT 8:30AM



We'll offer a brief "clinic" and rosaries will be available if needed. For more information, contact Anne Jaskoski at [awinsomespirit@verizon.net](mailto:awinsomespirit@verizon.net).

#### OCTOBER 13: MUSIC GUILD CONCERT AT 8:00PM

The Music Guild's season-opener will feature music by Kodaly, Mozart and Saint-Saens. Guest pianist Inna Faliks, head of the UCLA Piano Department, will perform. Get your tickets now at [musicguildonline.org](http://musicguildonline.org).

#### OCTOBER 28: ALL-PARISH WORK DAY AT 9AM

Roll up your sleeves and put on your work gloves to help beautify our grounds! All ages are welcome.

## FELLOWSHIP

If you're looking for a Ministry where you can socialize and serve others, then Fellowship Commission is for you. We're a friendly, fun group of parishioners who serve our community in many ways. After our first meeting on Wednesday, September 13, 2017, we will have four more meetings on Wednesday mornings – November 29th, January 24th, March 7th, April 18th – as well as an end of the year celebration on June 6th at 6pm on Founders Patio with dinner. Families are welcome!

The Fellowship Commission provides hospitality at Church events including:

- \* Foyer Kick-Off Dinner
- \* Advent Ornament Outreach Brunch
- \* Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- \* Easter Vigil Celebration Reception
- \* Eastertide Celebratory Brunch
- \* Pentecost Sunday



Our casual, flexible membership requirements provide parishioners – both new and seasoned – the opportunity to experience a working Ministry and to deepen their relationship with our vibrant Church community. If you would like more information about the Fellowship Commission or any of the events or meeting dates, please contact one of the 2017-2018 co-chairs: Holly Manzo - 802-673-9475 or hollyamanzo@gmail.com and Shawn Silletti - 310-570-8727 or toshawnkelly@me.com.

## EMMAUS GROUPS

Emmaus groups at St. Matthew's are dedicated to the development and growth of the individual through small groups. These groups provide a safe environment for people to experience personally Christ's presence and power through weekly gatherings devoted to caring, fellowship, study, prayer and worship and outreach.

Emmaus groups are built on four core principals:



- \* Community and Care: This is basically the friendships you will form with other members of your group.
- \* Worship/Prayer: Group members pray together to open and close meetings.
- \* Spiritual Development: Through discussion of scripture, books, poems, etc., members dive deeper into their spiritual journeys
- \* Missional Service: Each group chooses one outreach project to do together (i.e. serving a S.P.Y. Dinner, working at the Thrift Shop, serving lunch at The People Concern).

The groups generally meet weekly for around 90 minutes; there are three, 10-week covenants per year:

- \* Fall covenant: Sept. 25 - Dec 8
- \* Winter covenant: Jan 15 – Mar 23
- \* Spring covenant: Apr 2- Jun 8

For more information or to join one of these groups, contact Cindy Davis via [cindy@davisbranding.com](mailto:cindy@davisbranding.com).

## CONFIRMATION MATTERS!

We will begin this year's confirmation process with an information session for eligible participants and their parents on Sunday, November 19 from 4-6 pm in the Music Room at St. Matthew's. All young people in grades 9 and 10 are invited to explore this opportunity for deepening their relationship with God and the parish community.

Confirmation sessions will begin in January and will be led by Bruce Freeman and Missy Morain. Register (<https://stmatthewsca.infellowship.com/Forms/368545>) for the information session or email Missy ([missymorain@stmatthews.com](mailto:missymorain@stmatthews.com)) for more information.







St. Matthew's Sunday School

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# Godly Play

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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.





# JOIN US!



## FOYER KICK OFF DINNER

SEPTEMBER 29th, 6:30 PM, PARISH CENTER

### SO WHAT ARE FOYER GROUPS?

Foyer Group Pot-Luck Dinners are a fun and easy way for parishioners to gather together on a regular but informal basis for purely social reasons—to enjoy one another’s company, to strengthen bonds of community, to meet new members and just to get to know other people who share a common interest in Grace but with whom we might not otherwise interact. They provide a means to develop new friendships and deepen old ones and are a way to make our sometimes-too-large-seeming parish feel smaller and warmer.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

Groups of 8 - 12 are randomly made up of singles, couples, young people, retired folks, etc. Newcomers are especially invited to join one of the groups at any time. Groups generally meet every 4 to 6 weeks after the Kick Off through May in the home of one of the members for a Pot- Luck Dinner. How the group want the dinners to go is limited only by the collective imagination of the group, but the main idea if for the gatherings to simply focus on Christian fellowship, a refreshing meal and relaxed conversation.

**Sound fun? Contact any of the following for more information or to sign up!**

**Holly Manzo - [hollyamanzo@gmail.com](mailto:hollyamanzo@gmail.com)**

**Joan Sather - [joan@joansather.com](mailto:joan@joansather.com)**

**Shawn Silletti - [toshawnkelly@me.com](mailto:toshawnkelly@me.com)**

# 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

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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

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

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

Mr. Nate Wideltz, Interim Director of Music (Ext. 179)

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

10:15 am Godly Play (our Christian Formation for youth)

## MONDAYS

7:30 pm Centering Prayer

## WEDNESDAYS

10:00 am The Holy Eucharist

## ALTAR FLOWERS

To make a Sunday Flower Tribute for your thanksgiving or memorial, contact us at 310/573-0700.

