Caring For Each Other...

INREACH

outreach

pastoral care

Family Ministries

adult christian formation

emmaus groups

LITURGY & MUSIC

The Parish Of Saint Matthew
The Episcopal Church In Pacific Palisades

STEWARDSHIP 2012

St. Matthew’s Day—
A festive drum procession
from church to picnic
So Together We Can...

Serve fellow parishioners through Pastoral Care Ministries and Christian Formation opportunities.

- Pastoral Care Small Groups
- Helping Hands
- Lay Pastoral Visitors
- Home Bucharist Ministry
- Birthday Callers
- Sunday Flower Deliveries
- Pastoral Counseling
- Alcoholism Support Network

As lifelong Episcopalians, and California transplants, an active involvement in our home parish has helped us to stay centered and connected, both spiritually and socially. We have found St. Matthew’s incredibly warm and welcoming; in addition to church services, we have enjoyed participating in the Parent-Infant/Toddler Program, attending Connect Dinners, and in the coming weeks, Kelly will be one of the facilitators for the DOCC program launching this fall. We feel incredibly blessed to have found the St. Matthew’s community.

—Michael and Kelly Peterson

Provide leadership opportunities for children and youth

St. Matthew’s Parish School children attend chapel services and may participate in youth Christian Formation programs.

Build community—
Sunday Courtyard Coffee, Sacellum 5 p.m. service, Emmaus small groups

 Welcoming new member
Jessica Isles

Offer hospitality and fellowship to everyone, member and nonmember, at St. Matthew’s through Connect programs and Fellowship events:

Sunday Refreshments, Foyer Groups, Shrove Tuesday Family Pancake Supper, Maundy Thursday Foot Washing & Dinner, Easter Vigil Reception and the newly formed DOCC program

Care for families and reach out to seniors

Bob Lynn and Connie Linesch (former director of Parent-Infant/Toddler Program)
Walton and Anita Brown—Never miss Sunday services

Alexander Landau
Speaking October 16
Eleanor Keare
Speaking October 23
Mike Lanning
Speaking October 30

Patricia Alwright asks the children to “wonder.” Parishioners are trained to be Sunday School Godly Play storytellers and classroom hosts.

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Wonder—The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Summer Day Camp—Youth and young adults train to be counselors
“What St. Matthew’s Means To Me”

A Tribute to my dear wife, Tita

As part of our weekly Sunday ritual, I would push the wheelchair up to the altar so Tita could enjoy yet another of Allison’s breathtaking displays of altar flowers. Later, when we had returned to our accustomed place at the rear of the church—Wheelchair Row, we called it—Brian would appear to give Tita her weekly flower from the altar display. In time, we were joined by our children, Sarah, Pete and Pam, and any grandchildren who were available that day. Then we enjoyed the service. While she could no longer really talk, Tita would mouth the prayers and hymns silently. Then, following the church service came the last part of our Sunday ritual, a “picnic” atop the nearby assisted living facility where Tita lived. So while this Sunday ritual was only a weekly occurrence, St. Matthew’s was still the focus of our life as a family.

Our relationship with St. Matthew’s began in 1959 when our daughter Melanie started kindergarten at the parish school. What has followed has been over 50 years of service and ministry to the church, as well as uncountable gifts in return. Tita and I have served the church and school in every conceivable way. Our children have also continued in the life of the church.

St. Matthew’s has meant everything to all of us. Besides the many opportunities for outreach, Bible study, the great music program, worship, marriages, baptisms and confirmation, St. Matthew’s has always been witness to and a comfort in dealing with the loss of our daughter, our son, my sister, my mother, Tita’s mother and now my wife, Tita. The many events, both good and bad, have enriched as well as changed our lives dramatically. But through them all, the one constant has been St. Matthew’s and the wonderful people who do ministry here—the clergy, the staff, and the church community as a whole.

In the end, this story has to be a tribute to my dear wife, Tita. She was the reason I was baptized (the day before our wedding); it was she who led me and our family into a deep and lasting relationship with St. Matthew’s. She worked quietly and tirelessly in all areas of church life. She was content to work in the shadows and to lead by example. Because she did, I do, and our children do. It has been over five decades now, and for this long time St. Matthew’s has been the center of not just our church life, but our total life. St. Matthew’s has given back to our family a million-fold, and we are eternally grateful. Thanks be to God.

—Peter Mann, Sr.

St. Matthew’s Adult Christian Formation Opportunities

Contact Michael Seiler in the parish office.
- Baptism and Confirmation Preparation for Adults
- Centering Prayer Retreats
- Connect Events—Welcome and Connect to St. Matthew’s
- Disciples of Christ in Community (DOCC)
- The Friday Night Light—Emerging Contemplative Worship
- Kerygma “Discovering The Bible” Groups
- Praying the Rosary—First Saturday of the Month
- Sunday Morning “Intelligent Discipleship” Series
- The Stern Lecture Annual Summer Series
- The Wednesday Morning Rector’s Bible Study
- Treasures of Christian Mysticism Study Group
- Women’s Retreats

Last year, I met Judy Jones who took me to lunch to talk about the Archives of American Art. We ended up talking about being bicoastal Episcopalians. I was returning to my native California after many years in New York at St. Bart’s, where Judy and Steaven often go. Judy insisted that I would find some of the same traits that so endeared me to St. Bart’s at St. Matthew’s, and I have: Howard Anderson’s sermons, Betsy Anderson’s insights, Michael Seiler’s thoughtfulness, Sam Williams’ usher training and the friendliness of everyone at the early service. I am blessed to be here.—Carol Mitchell

We joined St. Matthew’s when we moved to the Palisades in June 2010. Soon thereafter we volunteered for the Altar Guild. We got to know Mary Lou Loper and several other people. We are honored to set a table for Christ among friends. One Sunday Howard mentioned that St. Matthew’s needed volunteers for the prison ministry. Our first visit to Twin Towers, a Los Angeles County Jail facility downtown, was deeply moving. Each of our monthly visits is better than the last.—Bill and Angela Colt Matthews

I love St. Matthew’s because I need God in my life. I need the grace given to me through Jesus Christ, and I need the power of the Holy Spirit working within me. Conversations with the clergy, the meaningful sermons, the Eucharist on Sundays and Thursdays, the anointing, the fellowship with each one of you after the services, the opportunity to serve as a LEM, the vast Outreach programs, the empowering Emmaus group and the joy of watching my grandsons at the school and during parish activities—all of these help me to feel the power of Christ’s community.—Linda Meeks

Our family has valued its experiences working with fellow parishioners at St. Matthew’s. Our parish’s many programs, activities and outreach efforts enrich lives both on and off our lovely campus. Family programs like the Home Eucharist, LEM/Acolyte service, Habitat for Humanity, Parish Work Days and serving Thanksgiving Dinners allow our entire family to engage in parish life throughout the year.—Martha and Paul Notaras

Have you ever walked The Labyrinth?

St. Matthew’s labyrinth is a replica of the labyrinth in Chartres Cathedral, France, and is located up the stairs behind the Mill Building. It will refresh your spirit. Take a walk in God’s garden.
The 2012 Pledge Campaign

Kicks Off Sunday, October 9, 2011...

- ...and concludes Sunday, November 6, 2011, with a celebration and the blessing of completed pledge cards.
- The Pledge Campaign Committee has organized a “team” of 100 parish volunteers who attend training sessions and call and visit parishioners.
- Fall stewardship pledge campaigns secure pledges for the following year, which allows us to properly budget for programs and ministries.

The importance of pledges to the vitality of the parish: Pledges made in the fall of 2010 are on track to be 80% of total income for 2011 (see chart).

Planned Giving

—All that we are and all that we have comes from God, and will one day return to God. We are the stewards of God’s bounty.

The St. Matthew’s Endowment Fund has been created to receive, invest and administer bequests and charitable gifts to the parish. The purpose of this fund is to preserve and expand the work of the parish by creating income to maintain the facilities and assure their survival for future generations. The Fund is qualified as a charitable entity for federal income and estate tax purposes. Contact the parish office to speak with a member of The Planned Giving Committee.

We are all blessed

Time is such a precious commodity, and it is wonderful to see how willing the parish community is to commit their time and talents to the support of others. We have also been blessed by our parish community’s willingness to contribute financially in addition to their time and talents. Through a very difficult economic time, we have been able to expand our programs while maintaining a balanced budget. In this pledge season, I ask you to seriously consider your level of financial commitment in addition to that of your time and talent. —Jim Brill, Senior Warden

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

Our forecasted income for 2011 is $2,490,000. Stewardship pledges account for 77%, or $1,923,000, of incoming funds. Other gifts, Christmas Faire, Thrift Shop, Open Plate Offering and other fundraising account for the remaining 23% of funds received. Seventy-seven percent of St. Matthew’s Parish income comes from pledges and clearly reflects how important pledges are to the vitality of St. Matthew’s programs, ministries and facilities.

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WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

Our forecasted expenses for 2011 are $2,490,000. What sets St. Matthew’s apart is our strong and dedicated support of Outreach. In 2011, Outreach is forecasted to be 31% of our total expenses, or $777,000. This includes $236,000 in Outreach grants from funds forecasted to be raised by the Christmas Faire, Thrift Shop and Open Plate Offering (100% of the funds to be raised from these activities), $334,000 in other Outreach, including to the Mission Share Fund, and a $201,000 allocation of clergy and staff time and expense for Outreach activities.

Bob and Ann Harter, longtime parishioners, share their stories about the quality of programs provided by our parish. “There’s something for everyone, and the Jerusalem Pilgrimage was life-changing.”

Three boys sharing a game at the PRISM picnic—Parker Ehlers, center, one of our youngest Outreach volunteers.
Care For Others...

St. Matthew’s Parish partners with 20 nonprofit organizations through volunteer programs and financial grants. These ministries serve local and worldwide needs—our brothers and sisters—from infancy to the aged.Filled with God’s love, we can care for and share our blessings with others.

Outreach Grant Recipients 2011

Angelic Interfaith Network (Project Angel)
Belize Service Projects
Chrysalis
CLARE
Common Ground
Dorcas House
Episcopal Chaplaincy at USC (Canterbury)
Episcopal Relief and Development
Episcopal Urban Intern Program
GAIA (Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance)
Habitat for Humanity
Hollygrove
Jubilee Consortium
NYA (Neighborhood Youth Association)
OPCC (formerly Ocean Park Community Center)
and Samoshel (Santa Monica Shelter)
PRISM/Restorative Justice
St. Joseph Center
St. Joseph Center’s Bread and Roses Café
Westside Food Bank

Another way to give...

The St. Matthew’s Christmas Faire 2011
Friday, November 18, 2011, Sprague Center at 6:00 p.m.

Alleluia!

There are many ways to get involved: serve, create, volunteer and donate your time, talent and treasure. Opportunities abound!

Please contact one of us:

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Last year, the Christmas Faire generated $125,000. In addition, St. Matthew’s Outreach Ministries are made possible by the profits from:

- Thrift Shop
- Gifts from parishioners
- Percentage of Stewardship pledges

GAIA
Currently supports over 5,000 orphans in Malawi, where children become heads of households. GAIA funds schools, provides clothing and nutritional supplements, and trains women in micro-enterprise activities.

Belize
The annual St. Matthew’s youth and adult summer mission program. The children of Belize live at the edge of the sea, but don’t know how to swim.

This year the ministry team provided professional swim instructors from our parish youth and parent volunteers.

Ministry—Provide instruction so the children learn to swim >>

PRISM
Pastoral support for families of prison inmates at the Twin Towers and youth at Juvenile Hall. St. Matthew’s hosts a day beginning with breakfast, a BBQ, swimming and games. All ages attend.

<< Volunteers serving hamburgers and hot dogs

THRIFT SHOP
St. Matthew’s first Outreach program. The Thrift Shop opened 50 years ago, continues to serve the community, and is supported by volunteers and merchandise donations. Visit the website at www.stmatthewstrifthshop.com

Thrift Shop >>

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Visions
Many have asked me what sort of vision for St. Matthew’s is emerging as I enter my third year here. So let me share with you the images and stories that are emerging as the Vestry, parish members, the staff and I plan and dream and live out what it is to be The Body of Christ in this place. I know that few of us really like change. There is nothing in this vision that should frighten us, nor is there anything that is beyond our capacity to achieve in the next five years. But there is much that would require stretching in the time, money and talent available to us to make these dreams and visions real. Some are BHAGs (Big Holy Audacious Goals, an idea that appeared in the *Harvard Business Review* more than a decade ago as Big Hairy Audacious Goals). A BHAG is not quickly or easily achieved; it requires planning and resourcing and a bit of risk-taking and is not a sure thing. There are a few BHAGs in what follows. But, mostly, Dear Ones, this future is very much within the trajectory we have already set together, and many elements are already on the verge of being actualized. Read this and give me feedback. Tell me what excites you and what frightens you. And pray that The Holy One will give us all the courage and energy to move toward this future that I believe is a part of our destiny as The St. Matthew’s Family.

—Howard Anderson

Prison Ministry Established By Our Parishioners (PRISM)
A total of six lay chaplains now serve at the Twin Towers Correctional Facility downtown. These gifted chaplains teach poetry, lead Bible study, provide pastoral counseling, pray and celebrate a Deacon’s Mass (a mass with the blessed elements of bread and wine). Eric Edmunds and Dede Vlietstra pioneered a program to train lay chaplains for the PRISM ministry. Through these efforts, Eric and Dede, as well as Michelle Bitting Abrams, Linda Lawson and Bill Matthews and his wife Angela Colt are now lay chaplains. Our parish hosts the annual PRISM picnic. —Brian Palmer, Deacon

Formation for Youth and Children
There is rarely a time of day when the voices of young people don’t fill the campus of the Parish of St. Matthew with laughter, prayer or play. The parish has a huge and thriving ministry to, by and with young people. Each week we have 500 to 600 children and youth on campus either participating in scouting; as St. Matthew’s Day Camp counselors or campers; exploring Godly Play or preparing for Rite 13; serving in liturgical ministries as acolytes, lectors and intercessors; playing or singing in the Jagged Faith youth band; attending the parish day school; and worshipping in one or more of the seven weekly services that include young people. Many opportunities are especially available for youth to pray, play and gather together surrounding Sacellum on Sunday evenings.

This year, we are adding the “Breakfast Bunch,” an opportunity for youth to gather on Sunday mornings. We are adding a second Godly Play session during the 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning service.

Sound like a lot? It is, but it also means there needs to be a lot more of us working with and engaging in ministry with the young people of this community and engaging in a trinity of time, talent and treasure!

—Missy Morain, Director

Photography by Chuck Gardner