

ADVENT: What Are We Waiting For?



Over the years I've come across many descriptions of the season of Advent. Most are offered by religious folk. Recently, I stumbled upon a description of Advent offered by Bill McKibben, who is mostly known as an author and environmentalist. McKibben offers: *Advent: the time to listen for footsteps – you can't hear footsteps when you're running yourself.* I like this short assessment of Advent, for it speaks to the busyness of our age. The great gift that the Church offers us during the first four Sundays of December is the opportunity to step out of the frantic pace of life and into the reflective sanctuary of the Church, where we are intentional in our waiting and anticipation of the coming Christmas feast. During the season of Advent, in addition to the haunting beauty of our Sunday worship services at 8:00am and 10:15am, we will also be offering an Advent series in

the St. Matthew's Hall Conference Room. We will gather at 9:00am for sessions that are intended to allow us to listen for the footsteps that we likely would otherwise miss. We will listen to music that ranges from Marian Anderson singing an American Spiritual to the Mormon Tabernacle Choir singing a Mendelssohn Oratorio. We will hear readings that include the writers Irenaeus of Lyons, Paul Tillich, Thomas Merton, Edna St. Vincent Millay, and Richard Rohr. We will have a chance to be still and quiet—along with the opportunity to engage one another with questions and guided reflections.

If you are interested in creating time to hear yourself think and reflect this Advent, join us on **December 3rd, 10th, and 17th** at **9:00am** in the **Conference Room**. The three sessions are not dependent upon one another, so you may attend any and all that fit into your schedule. It is my hope that our offerings will contribute to a peace-filled and blessed Advent! *Blessings, Fr. Eric+*

SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR

The rotation for bringing treats to coffee hour after the Sunday service is as follows:

December 3: A-D **December 10:** E-J
December 17: K-P **December 24:** Q-S
December 31: T-Z

We ask you to please put the food you are bringing on a paper plate (rather than in a package) and place it on the table in Julia Beylard Hall.

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK AND ST. MATTHEW'S

When you go grocery shopping, please consider picking up a few extra canned goods or other non-perishable items. You can leave your food donations either in the basket at the back of the church or at the church office. These donations will be placed in a Second Harvest collection barrel for pick-up. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and thank you for your donations.

Fr. Eric's Message	1
Taize	1
Coffee hour	1
Food Bank	1
Women's Spirituality	2
Angelic Faces	2
Baptisms	2
CELEBRATE Sundays	2
Family Dinner Group	2
Day School News	2
Youth News	3
Lessons and Carols	3
Advent Series	3
Fr Eric Celebration	3
College Students	3
Christmas caroling	3
Vestry Bios	4,5
Holiday service schedule	6
Sanctuary flowers	6
Book Group	6
Nursery Assistant	6
Upcoming Events	6
Stewardship	7

TAIZÉ CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Tuesday, December 5th at 7pm, Side Chapel

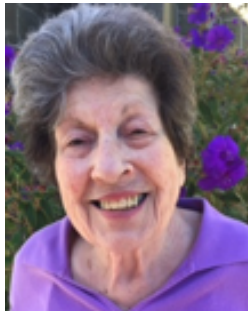
Everyone is invited to attend this ecumenical service characterized by meditative silence, repetitive songs, scripture and prayer. Taizé is the first Tuesday of every month (year around) in the side chapel. Be sure to save these upcoming dates for future Taizé services: January 2nd, February 6th and March 6th.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY GROUP

Women of all ages are invited to join us for a women's spirituality group. We meet every week throughout the year at Charles House on Mondays at 9:15 am. This is a small group opportunity to reflect on scripture, God's presence in our lives and the challenges of discipleship, and engage in prayer. For more information, please contact Rev. Lindsay or Ginger Fortmiller via the church office.

ANGELIC FACES OF ST. MATTHEW'S: GINGER FORTMILLER

Ginger is a woman of great strength and knowledge. Since 1963, she rarely has missed a Sunday service and has been extremely active in many St. Matthew's organizations. She regularly lends the skills she developed in her 30-year career as a manager and personnel analyst for the City of Burlingame to her wide-ranging efforts at St. Matthew's.



Ginger's church resume is impressive: St. Priscilla's, St. Catherine's, Christian Social Relations, Altar Guild Thrift Shop Cashier, Vestry Secretary, Hospitality Committee Co-chair and Secretary, Shrove Tuesday Dinner Co-chair, Silent Auction Co-chair, Liturgical Studies, Serenity Women's Bible Group, Lectionary Circle, welcoming new members, book club, ministry teacher, annual picnic cashier, Lay Eucharistic Minister, greeter, church office receptionist, and handler of various office projects.

Ginger is the go-to person for questions about parishioners or events, which she answers in a straightforward way. She's always there to lend a hand or a listening ear. She has a huge heart, an infectious smile, and a delightfully outgoing personality.

We thank you, dear Ginger, for your steadfast love, loyalty, generosity and dedication to this church and its many organizations.

With gratitude and blessings, Darlia Clerico

BAPTISMS

If you or someone you know is interested in receiving the Sacrament of Baptism, please contact the church office or talk to a member of the clergy. Future baptism dates are January 7th and March 31st.

CELEBRATE SUNDAYS

During the year we have once again identified CELEBRATE Sundays. On these Sundays at the 10:15 service, there is no church school; instead, children and youth participate actively in the liturgy as ushers, greeters, readers, acolytes and more! These services are a great opportunity for our congregation to connect intergenerationally.

- December 3: Join us as we kick off the season of Advent
 - January 7: Baptism of our Lord: we celebrate Jesus' Baptism and remember our own baptisms
 - February 4: Day School Sunday
 - March 25: Palm Sunday
 - May 20: Pentecost
-

YOUNG ADULT & FAMILY DINNER GROUP

Young adults and families with school age children gather for a potluck dinner, fellowship, play time for the children and adult conversation for the grown-ups. We gather for dinner the second Friday of every month from 6-8pm in Julia Beylard Hall. Our next dinner will be **December 8th**. Be sure to RSVP to Rev. Lindsay at lmhills@episcopalstmatthew.org or through the Facebook event so we know you are coming! And mark your calendar for upcoming dinners on **January 12th, February 9th and March 9th**.

DAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Day School will be hosting Admission Tours and Open Houses this fall, including an Open House on **Tuesday, December 5th** from 6-8pm. Families may register to attend these events through the Admission portal of the school website. Follow the online directions to inquire. Should you have initial questions or need assistance registering, please contact the Director of Admission, Ellen Williamson at 650-274-0728 or ewilliamson@stmatthewsday.org. Ellen loves talking with prospective families!

YOUTH NEWS: ALL THINGS YG3!

Middle School and High School youth are invited to participate in YG3, a collaborative youth group including St. Paul's (Burlingame), Transfiguration (San Mateo) and St. Matthew's. We meet most Sundays from 4-6pm. For more information or to subscribe to our weekly newsletter, go to <http://eepurl.com/c2NC6L>. You won't want to miss what we have planned!

- December 3rd at St. Matthew's:
Service Sunday – Laundry Love and Service Trip Planning
- December 10th at St. Matthew's:
The Bible Project
- Saturday, December 16th at Transfiguration:
Christmas Party and Snow Night!
- *Save the Date: Martin Luther King, Jr. Lock-In and Day of Service at Grace Cathedral: January 14-15*

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 10th at 5:00 P.M.

Please join the Church and Day School choirs for a festive service of Advent Lessons and Carols. The service of quiet, hope and peace is a beautiful way to celebrate the season of Advent, which prepares us for the glories of Christmas. A reception will follow the service, hosted by the school choir families.

2017 ADVENT SERIES

Are you ready for the Advent Season? Maybe not yet, but the waiting has begun as we prepare for the Nativity. Fr. Eric Hinds will host three Advent Sessions. We will meet following the 8:00 am Sunday morning services in the Conference Room in St. Matthew's Hall.

Session 1 December 3rd:

What are we waiting for?

Session 2 December 10th:

Are you prepared?

Session 3 December 17th:

Step out of the waiting room.

*A Note from The Right Reverend
Marc Handley Andrus,
Bishop of California, in
Recognition of Fr. Eric's 10-Year
Anniversary at St. Matthew's*

Eric and Anne - congratulations and thank you, from me and on behalf of the people of St. Matthew's and of the Diocese of California! Ten is quite a milestone - so much life can happen in that span of time, life in a community, life in a family, life as a couple, life as a priest. You both are so deeply committed to each other and to your ministry in Christ's Church. Eric, your thoughtfulness and scholarship, coupled with your pastoral care, are a wonderful combination in one person - a rare and beautiful whole. May you have many more years of health, love, joy and ministry. While Sheila and I cannot be with you all in person, we are so happy that our dear friend of many years, Bishop Alexander, is with you. I know that Bishop Alexander has worked closely with you on your Doctorate of Ministry, as he has so well mentored hundreds more people in their deepening ability to serve. May this be a day of joy and gratitude, the close of a decade at St. Matthew's and the opening of another.

Faithfully,

+Marc

COLLEGE STUDENTS – ADDRESS UPDATES

Please send your updated college address or your child's updated college address to youth@episcopalstmatthew.org so we can spoil you in the year to come!

CALLING ALL CAROLERS!

All those interested in helping form a group to bring musical cheer to homebound parishioners this Christmas season are encouraged to make themselves known—voice talent not required! Meet with Philip Keil on Sunday, December 3rd at 11:30am in the choir stalls or check in with Philip or Fr. Eric after the 8:00am service that day to let them know you're interested.

VESTRY CANDIDATES

Following are the biographies of the parishioners who have been nominated to serve on the vestry. Four candidates are nominated to serve standard three-year terms. Due to resignations over the last two years, we also have four candidates who will serve abbreviated terms of one or two years. All candidates will be voted upon at our 2018 Annual Meeting. Please mark your calendar to attend the meeting on **Sunday, January 28th**. We will have one church service that day at 9:00am, and the meeting will immediately follow.

Nominated to Three-Year Terms:



1. EMILIE TALBOT BROOKS

Emilie and her husband Gordon came to St. Matthew's in 1998 shortly after the birth of their first child. Both their sons were baptized here and attended the Day School from 2001 to 2014. In that time

the Church and Day School community became, in many ways, the center of their family life. Even while living abroad in England in 2004-2005, they found their hearts drawn back to St. Matthew's and its people.

A lifelong Episcopalian, Emilie grew up in Austin, Texas and spent her childhood and teenage years as a chorister and youth lay reader at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd. She graduated from St. Stephen's Episcopal School, and earned a dual B.A. in History and Theatre from Duke University, including a short stint reading history at New College, Oxford University. Graduate school pulled her west, and she earned her M.F.A. in Theatre from California Institute of the Arts (CalArts.)

As a professional actor and director, Emilie is a member of both Actors Equity and SAG-AFTRA. The bulk of her career has been in regional theater across the country, including seasons spent at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. For the last 20 years she has concentrated her work in the Bay Area, performing at theaters large and small, and appearing in numerous commercials, industrials, and voice overs.

Over the years at St. Matthew's she has been a teacher/storyteller in the Godly Play program, a Christmas pageant director, and youth group leader. She now enjoys serving as a Lay Reader and Lay Eucharist Minister. Emilie and Gordon live in Burlingame, in an almost empty nest, with their two sons, Miles, a student at Wesleyan University, and Hugh, a high school senior.



2. TOM DOHERTY

In January of 2018, Tom and his wife Linda will begin their 30th year as parishioners at St. Matthew's.

Tom was born and raised a Roman Catholic in Indianapolis, Indiana. After graduating with a

B.A. in Chemistry from Wabash College, he attended Michigan State University, where he met his future wife Linda and the two graduated with Ph.D. degrees in Chemistry. They have one daughter, Shannon, who was born and raised at St. Matthew's and was very active in the youth group. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Ocean Sciences at the University of Miami, with a concentration in Marine Biogeochemistry.

Tom and Linda moved to the Bay Area in 1987 so that Tom could start his career at Hewlett-Packard Labs in Palo Alto. He still works at Agilent Technologies (spun off from HP) as a product manager in the Mass Spectrometry Division.

Tom has been involved in many lay ministries at St. Matthew's over the past 30 years, including one prior term on the vestry. He currently serves in the Altar Guild and as an adult acolyte at the 8:00 service. His hobbies include beach volleyball, running and swimming for fitness, and home automation.



3. PAUL HARRIS

I moved to the U.S. from the U.K. in 2010 and discovered St. Matthew's about two years ago. I live in South San Francisco and work in Public Sector Finance for the City of San Carlos. I

have two little sidekicks, Isabella and Benjamin, who often join me at church. When time permits, I love mountain biking, skiing, and watching soccer and rugby. I am also a commercial helicopter pilot and instructor, certificated in Europe and here in the U.S.



4. CARLA CHUN HOBLIT

Carla Chun Hoblit has been a member of the St. Matthew's Episcopal parish since 2010 when her family relocated to San Mateo from San Francisco. She was born in Hawaii but grew up

traveling around the world due to her father's career as an Army officer. Yep – she's an Army brat!

Both of Carla's daughters, Avery (8) and Astrid (6), were baptized by Father Eric and are now students at the Day School. Carla fulfills several volunteer roles at the Day School, including room parent and Church Liaison.

Carla obtained her undergraduate degree in Accounting at the University of Washington and went on to receive her MBA from the UCLA Anderson School of Management. Professionally, Carla has held positions at private and public companies in finance roles, including accounting, investor relations, treasury, financial planning and analysis, and stock administration. Currently, Carla works as a full-time stay-at-home mom and fulfills volunteer roles. Besides the Day School, Carla is also the Treasurer for the Cherry Blossom Alumnae Association in San Francisco.

Nominated to Abbreviated Terms:



1. CHRISTINA BECHER

A cradle Episcopalian, I arrived at St. Matthew's one Sunday in March of 2002. Four days later, I found myself in the basement attending choir practice. At the parish I grew up in, I was an acolyte, sang in the choir, was a delegate at convention, in the altar guild, and involved in many youth activities including Happening and later Vocare. When I first attended St. Matt's, I had decided I would do only one thing to start - which wound up being choir. My family and I have slowly become more and more involved as the years have gone by to include things such as choir, acolyting, children's choir, family dinner nights, retreats and many others. I look forward to another year of work and fun in our parish family.



2. MARILYN CALLAGHAN

Marilyn has been a member of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church since her family moved to the area from Los Angeles in 1976. Prior to that she grew up attending All Saints

Episcopal Church in Beverley Hills, where its Rector was her Godfather. Marilyn and her husband, Dan, were married at St. Matthews 30 years ago and have since raised their three children in the church including baptisms, confirmations, acolytes and more. Her three children are in or have recently graduated from college

- Megan (26) graduated from Willamette University, Cash (23) attends New York University, and Caroline (21) attends UC Santa Barbara. Marilyn's parents, Jim and Fan Moberg, are also active parishioners.

About 14 years ago, Marilyn served on the Vestry and for two of those years she was Senior Warden. She is an active member of St Catherine's and for many years taught Sunday School with her husband Dan. Marilyn currently works at Oracle Corporation. She has a professional background providing public relations and marketing and strategic communications to business-to-business technology companies. She is also an active member of the Hillsborough Auxiliary, Family Service Agency and was a founder of the Crystal Springs Chapter of National Charity League. Marilyn earned her bachelor's degree from Willamette University in Salem, Oregon.



3. COLE GABOR

My name is Cole Andrew Gábor, and I am excited to be the youngest seated member of Vestry. I attended Saint Matthew's Episcopal Day School from preschool through Fifth Grade, and I have always

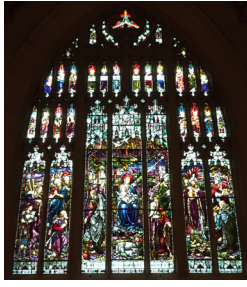
been an active parishioner in the church. I have also served the church as an acolyte since I was in Sixth Grade. I recently graduated from Menlo College with a degree in Finance where I was involved in student leadership and campus life. I am currently working for a corporate construction contractor in their accounting department. I am honored to have been invited to serve.



4. TOM HAMMER

Tom is a cradle Episcopalian, raised in the Diocese of Los Angeles. Tom and his wife Cherie have been members of St. Matthew's for just over 20 years, happy to have the solid community of church

and school to nurture their family. Tom and Cherie have two children: Zack (age 20) and Zoe (age 16), both of whom are alumni of St. Matthew's Episcopal Day School. Tom is a Lay Eucharistic Minister, regular grill monkey for the church picnic, has served on St. Matthew's vestry for one term already and was part of the Rector Search Committee blessed to find Father Eric.



Christmas Services
Sunday, December 24th

9:00am
 Rite II Service

4:00pm
 Holy Eucharist with
 Children's Pageant

9:00pm
 Festive Eucharist

Monday, December 25th

10am
 Holy Eucharist

*New Year's
 Day Services*

Monday, January 1st

10:00am
 Service

BOOK GROUP'S NEXT READ: *Red Notice* by Bill Browder

Our next selection – highly recommended by Jane Dunbar and Jenny Mathes – is Bill Browder's *Red Notice*. This best-selling book tells the story of the rise and fall of Browder's hedge fund (Hermitage Capital), which was the largest foreign investment in Russia during the early post-Soviet years. It is also the story of an accidental activist.

The book is a real page turner, reading like a thriller. Here is John McCain's assessment: "In *Red Notice*, Bill Browder tells the harrowing and inspiring story of how his fight for justice in Russia made him an unlikely international human rights leader and Vladimir Putin's number-one enemy. It is the book for anyone interested

in understanding the culture of corruption and impunity in Putin's Russia today, and Browder's heroic example of how to fight back."

Six of us met at Ginger Fortmiller's home in November to discuss Trevor Noah's *Born a Crime*.

We enjoyed his astonishing stories of growing up in South Africa shortly after the end of apartheid. He and his mother shared remarkable survival skills, a healthy disrespect for arbitrary laws, and a strong sense of humor.

We will meet on Wednesday, January 24th at 7:00 pm to discuss *Red Notice*. Jenny Mathes will host. Hope to see you there!

- Susan Peterson

MOST WANTED: NURSERY ASSISTANT

Do you or someone you know love working with children? If so, we are currently hiring a Nursery Assistant (or two). Must be loving, patient and excited about working with little ones on Sundays 9:00 am -12:30 pm (and other times as needed). Hourly rate paid, must be over 18 years of age. Please speak with Janine Gerzanics if you are interested.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS—A GIFT FROM THE HEART

The flowers that decorate the altars and the church at Christmas and Easter—or any time of the year—are made possible by donations to the Memorial Flower Fund. Please consider making a contribution to this ministry. The cost of a memorial (which also can be for a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion) is \$35. Contact Carol Kalb, Memorial Flower Chairman (650-578-9855) for more information or to request a memorial. Your support is most appreciated.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 3	Advent Series CELEBRATE Sunday
December 5	Taizé Service Day School Open House
December 8	Young Adults and Families Dinner Group
December 10	Advent Series Lessons and Carols
December 17	Advent Series
December 24	Single 9am Morning Service Christmas Eve Pageant Festive Eucharist
December 25	Christmas Day Service
January 1	New Year's Day Service

JOURNEY TO GENEROSITY: STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Through October and November, we introduced this year's theme for Stewardship: Journey to Generosity. In October Ildiko Gabor, our Junior Warden, and Cherie Hammer, past Vestry member, Lay Reader coordinator and Bell Choir member, both told their stories about their lives at St. Matthew's. If you weren't able to hear their homilies, I wanted to reflect on the stories they shared.

Ildiko spoke about Redwoods and the tightly entwined way each tree supports other trees. She compared the strength of the Redwood to St. Matthew's vibrant community of faith. The community draws strength from one another, just as a Redwood forest does.

"We gather as a deeply rooted spiritual forest in this beautiful and historic building. Our individual financial support and giving to this parish is desperately needed so we can sustain this parish for the next generation of families. Together we step into the fullness of blessings when we are connected in fellowship, and it is in giving that we receive." I am sure you have all felt the strength of this community in celebrations of birthdays, marriages and baptisms as well as in honor and remembrance of those who are ill or have died.

Cherie's homily was about her 20-year journey at St. Matthew's. She spoke of the time before Father Eric and Anne joined: the challenges with the Day School and how Tom, her husband, helped in the search for a more positive leader and rector. With Father Eric and Mark McKee, an amazing transition occurred between the school and parish. That lives on today. Cherie also spoke about her family and the support she and Tom received after his surgery, which resulted in a very long recovery. Like Ildiko, the Hammers received much love and support from the clergy and fellow parishioners.

"The Journey to Generosity for the Hammer family begins with our debt of gratitude to the St. Matthew's community for being there when we needed it most. Even though things are tight for us because Tom is not able to go back to his former work, we prioritize our giving to St. Matthew's. I challenge each of you to prioritize your giving to St. Matthew's as well. Each of you will have a different reason to be generous because your personal journey is unique. But what we have in common is the journey in the life of this parish. We are all on this together. And it will take all of us to provide the financial stability to stay on course."

Cherie ended by reminding us that our current financial situation has required us to reduce our associate rector position to $\frac{3}{4}$ time. This will be felt by each of us. At the last town hall meeting, it was stated that an additional \$25,000 would be needed in the budget to support a full-time position. The Vestry works diligently to manage the budget. Your Journey to Generosity Stewardship materials show where the money comes from and where it goes.

By mid-November we were 60% of the way to our goal of \$450,000. I encourage you to pray and decide on what you can give. In December, we will be making calls to those who have not returned a pledge card. If you need questions answered, please call me (408-660-6428) or email me (linda_doherty@agilent.com). We are on the journey together. I thank you for your support.

-Linda Doherty, Stewardship Chair

THE TAU CROSS

The Episcopal Church of St. Matthew
is a family called by Christ . . .

*to live God's Love,
to share the Gospel,
to grow Spiritually*

Come celebrate with us!
Service is at 8:00 am & 10:15 am each Sunday

*Morning Prayer, 9 am, Tuesdays & Thursdays
Rite I Holy Eucharist, 9 am, Fridays*



The Tau Cross is the monthly newsletter of the Episcopal Church of St. Matthew. We welcome submissions that have a connection to the parish. Inclusion is at the discretion of the staff and may be edited for space or clarity. The deadline for articles is the 15th of the month and may be sent by email to Beth von Emster at bvonemster@yahoo.com or deposited in the Tau Cross mailbox in the church office. Entries should follow these guidelines: Include title of event or article; 200 word maximum description including when, where, cost and contact information as applicable; Avoid abbreviations and other "insider" lingo; Further guidelines and tips available upon request. Tau Cross Staff: Editor, Beth von Emster; Associate Editor, Cherie Hammer; Layout & Design //dadalab.com

Or Current Resident

*The Rev. Dr. Eric Kimball Hinds, Rector
The Rev. Lindsay Marie Hills, Associate Rector
The Rev. Amber Stancliffe Evans, School Chaplain*

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