

# THE TAU CROSS

## Intergenerational Lenten Community

The church season of Lent has long been associated with *individual* reflection, sacrifice

and change. The notion of giving up something for Lent fits in with the themes of atonement and penance for those things in one's life that are in need of amendment and change. The

season has its roots in the way that Jesus chose to begin his public ministry. The Gospels record how after his baptism Jesus retreated to the desert. There we are told he spent 40 days fasting—engaged in prayer while facing temptations and contemplating his future. The overall idea of withdrawing from the normal routine of life and spending time in the wilderness is that new possibilities for our life will emerge.

At St. Matthew's during this season of Lent, we will be offering a program that focuses on building community through an engaging intergenerational program. On four consecutive Sundays (March 17th, 24th, and

31st and April 7th, from 11:30am-2:30pm), we will gather to explore themes from the C.S.

Lewis Book, *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe* (part of *The Chronicles of Narnia* series).

Some of you may remember that we offered this program ten years ago in a Sunday evening format that



attracted about 75 participants per session. Over the course of four weeks, participants will engage with the Professor, Tumnus (half human—half faun), the White Witch, Aslan, and the children (Peter, Susan, Edmund & Lucy). While the program offers not a small amount of content for spiritual reflection and growth, the real value of this offering is the opportunity to spend time together with fellow parishioners, make connections, and deepen relationships.

As I mentioned in my sermon on the day of our Annual Meeting, communities of faith are among the few places in our society where we have the opportunity to gather with the active

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participation of multiple generations. Each of the four planned sessions will include sharing a meal together and providing multiple opportunities for spending time with your fellow parishioners. This program provides a great opportunity to invite a friend or family member not already connected with St. Matthew's to participate in our life of community and fellowship. I look forward to our upcoming Narnia adventures!

Blessings,

## Lent, Reunion & Being Whole

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It is March and the month that starts off the season of Lent. Lent is an invitation to journey inward to discover and reconnect with the Divine and to strive to live as the one God calls us to be. It is a spiritual time that can humble our heart and open our spirit to something new. Given how time flies in our busy lives, I believe we need to create more opportunities for discovery and reconnection. While I know many people like the idea of a Lenten journey, a lot of us do not know how.

The mantra of “Work Hard, Play Hard” in American society can sometimes mislead us into thinking exhaustion is part of living a full life. I believe in working hard. Sweat equity is a key component to creating meaning in life, as is appreciating the fruits of our labor in how we play. But even a grand vacation may not lead to new discovery, reconnection, or the refreshment desired. Often I have gone on vacation only to feel the need for a vacation to recover from the original vacation. How ironic! The very thing I think will make me whole has me feeling tired and fragmented. This irony reminds me that humanity is not about doing things. Rather, our humanity comes from being: being present; being whole;



being human. Our attention to the nature of our spirit can light the way. The human spirit yearns for connection. So to begin the Lenten journey, I like to ask questions. ***I wonder, what makes you whole?***

Some of us know the answer clearly from the day we are born. But for most of us, including myself, that understanding came during the struggle of responding to another question - ***Who Am I?*** Because life never remains stagnant, as we continue to grow and mature in life, the answer to “who am I?” may also continue to shift based on life circumstance and our openness to adapt and flow with the currents of change. In this lifelong journey, however, there will be touchstones to remind us of who we are in this broken and beautiful world.

For me, ***family reunion*** is a theme that may define 2019. In fact, family on all sides have already gathered in the Philippines and in Europe, and

later this year we will gather in San Francisco to celebrate my parents’ 50th wedding anniversary. Since the beginning of 2019, my family has gathered together to celebrate the birth of new babies, support our children in music and sports, pray with family members suffering from illness, and honor our loved ones as they returned home to God. Life is indeed short. God and family make me whole. Growing up I remember my family singing the tunes to this happy song, “*The more we get together the happier are we.*” Maybe because so much of my extended family now lives outside the San Francisco Bay Area, I reminisce with great joy about those times we got together. It is in family where I have always felt the love of God most clearly realized.

I understand not every family system values the health or well-being of its members. Sometimes we are called to create a new family out of the ashes of dysfunction. Family is not limited to DNA; we have our friends, our communities, and our church. I feel fortunate to be in the family God gave me because through my love ones I find great calm, grace, and strength in being connected. Maybe this is because at the very core our relationships help form who we are. Finding the

moments to just be, especially with the ones who matter most, is essential in our busy, ever-changing and anxiety-filled world. Wholeness is rooted in knowing who we are. So this is my Lenten practice: being whole.

My friends, as we create moments for learning, working, playing, and being, take a moment to reunite with the ones who matter most – family and all that it means. It will make a difference in reminding us that God made us to be whole and healthy people made from love for love. As we enter into Lent, from our worship and meals together, to our youth Confirmation Class, to our intergenerational Lenten program based on C.S. Lewis’ *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*, we will have many opportunities at St. Matthew’s in March to journey together as family. May this season invite God’s transforming love and wholeness. In the words found in the opening proclamation of the Ash Wednesday liturgy,

*I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.”*

I wonder, what makes you whole? Have a **blessed Lenten journey**, and **God Bless You!**

-Fr. Jay+

## School/Parish Campus Clean Up Day

*Saturday, March 2nd, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm*

Please join us for the annual clean-up day for the church and school properties. Our entire community will come together for one morning to work on projects in and around our church and school campus. Volunteers are needed for projects such as weeding, mending or polishing. Let’s give our special place some TLC. Both kids and adults welcome! Refreshments will be served. Please contact Carla Hoblit to volunteer: cdchun@gmail.com or (323) 449-6392.

## Sunday Coffee Hour

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

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

We ask you to please place the food you are bringing on the table in Julia Beylard Hall.

Thank you!

## Taizé Candlelight Service

*Tuesday, March 5th, 7:00 pm*

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. Please mark your calendar for your next Taizé service on April 2nd.

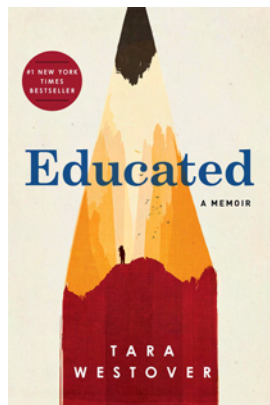
## Ash Wednesday Services

*March 6th*

Services will take place at 7:00 am, 12 noon and 7:00 pm.

## Book Group

### *Educated by Tara Westover*



Dear Readers,

The St. Matthew's Book Group has selected *Educated* by Tara Westover for our next discussion. *Educated* is a memoir of Tara's early life, growing up on a mountain in Idaho in a family of fundamentalist Mormons. We will meet at the Hinds' home in Charles House on Wednesday, March 27 at 7:00 pm to discuss *Educated*.

Westover's mother was a midwife and herbalist. Her survivalist father ran a salvage business staffed largely by family members. The children did not have birth certificates, did not attend school, and almost never went to the doctor. In spite of her challenging childhood, Westover attended Brigham Young University and Harvard, and eventually earned a Ph.D from Cambridge University. This is a remarkable story. It conveys the beauty and power of her childhood surroundings, but does not overlook the dangers and violence she and her siblings experienced. It portrays Westover's confusion and sense of excitement when she enters college and later travels to England to continue her education at Cambridge. *Educated* has earned a place in many 10 Best Books of 2018 lists. The soft cover edition was published early this year.

You can learn more about Westover and her book from her Fresh Air interview: <https://www.npr.org/2019/01/18/686527909/memoirist-retraces-her-journey-from-survivalist-childhood-to-cambridge-ph-d>

Our last book was *The Judge Hunter*, Christopher Buckley's novel set in mid-17th century London, Boston, Connecticut, and New York. This work of historical fiction was a lively and highly entertaining tale that reminded us that our country has a long history of strong political and religious differences and biases.

Hope to see many of you on March 27 to discuss *Educated* and choose another book for the May meeting!

- Susan Peterson



## Second Harvest Food Bank

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.

## Youth Confirmation

Open to youth in Middle School and up, our confirmation class will begin on Sunday, March 3, and will continue through Lent, ending on Pentecost Sunday, June 9. It is an opportunity to say "Yes" to God and explore the elements of Christian faith found in the sacraments and traditions of the Episcopal Church. We will make connections with mentors, study the life of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke, and discover ways to live faith in action and to find the Divine in our experiences. Most classes will be held on Sunday mornings at 9:10-10:00 am. Confirmation is scheduled for Saturday, June 1 at Grace Cathedral. For questions, please contact Fr. Jay at [RevJWatan415@gmail.com](mailto:RevJWatan415@gmail.com) or 415-309-8968.

## \$360,000 "Preserving Our Legacy" Campaign Underway!

The **2019 Preserving Our Legacy Campaign** was formally announced at the Church's Annual Meeting on January 27th and will run through Easter Sunday, April 21st. The goal of the campaign is to raise \$360,000 to repair and upgrade our organ and bells and provide protection for all of our stained glass windows. The leadership of both the Parish and Day School are enthusiastic in their support of this St. Matthew's-wide campaign. The Church building, with its organ, bells, and stained glass windows, is used and shared nearly every day by our entire St. Matthew's community.

All members of the St. Matthew's community are asked to donate to this campaign. Each parish household has received a letter with further details, donation form, and return envelope. Each Day School household has received an email letter with further details and instructions on how to make donations. Additional donation forms and envelopes are available at the back of the church as well as a donation box to receive them throughout the course of the campaign.

**Please submit your donation card before Easter Sunday, April 21st.** You will then have until January 31, 2020 to fulfill your donation. This will allow you to fulfill your pledge over two

### 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 Victoria Wolcott or Ginger Fortmiller via the church office.

different tax years (2019 and 2020) if you choose to do so. Your donation fulfillment options are outlined on each donation card and include check, appreciated assets (please notify us before the transfer), recommending a grant from a Donor Advised Fund, or making a direct charitable distribution from a traditional IRA (age 70.5+). If you have any questions regarding these options, please call Victoria Wolcott in the Church office at 650-342-1481 and one of us will contact you directly.

Our church home is a legacy left to us by members of St. Matthew's who have gone before us. It is now our turn to step up and donate the funds necessary to preserve our legacy for those who will follow us. Please accept this challenge and make your generous donation to this Campaign. ***This is our church home. Every donation matters. Thank you for your support.***

Campaign Leadership Team

Fr. Eric+

Tim Catlin

John Stephenson

### Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Join us as we celebrate Mardi Gras with flapjacks, family, friends, and a lot of fun in Julia Beylard Hall on Tuesday, March 5, from 5:00-6:30 pm. Shrove Tuesday celebrations go back centuries and are feasts preceding a season of fasting, mindfulness, and self-reflection. What better way to celebrate the last day before Lent than with a yummy pancake supper together! A sign-up sheet is available for intergenerational volunteers who wish to help prepare and serve the supper. For more information, please contact Fr. Jay at (415) 309-8968 or revjwatan415@gmail.com.

## PMC Speaker Series, 2019

### *Spiritual Growth Through Faith*

March 13 through April 10, 2019  
6:30 pm to 8:00 pm



Join us for a simple soup supper and a presentation from one of our many faith traditions here on the Peninsula.  
No RSVP needed.

March 13	Congregation Beth Jacob 1550 Alameda de las Pulgas, Redwood City	Mukta Vadera, Hinduism
March 20	Island United Church 1130 Balclutha Dr., Foster City	Mustafa Balcioglu, Islam
March 27	Congregational Church of Belmont 751 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont	Baha'i Faith
April 3	Mercy Center, Burlingame 2300 Adeline Dr., Burlingame	Rev. Joshua Serrano, Lutheranism
April 10	Saint Bartholomew Catholic Parish 600 Columbia Dr., San Mateo	Sikhism

## Milestones

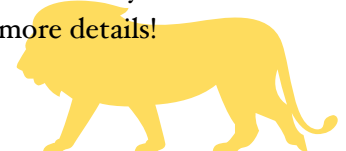
### In Memoriam

#### Tonni Jensen, January 19th

Tonni was a parishioner for many decades before moving to San Anselmo. She passed away at age 93. Tonni is remembered by many at St. Matthew's for her capability, gentle demeanor, and deep involvement in the life of the church. She served on multiple rector search committees and was a member of St. Priscilla's, a section of the League for Service. An interior designer by profession, she was instrumental in a major renovation of Julia Beylard Hall. She is survived by her husband Joe.

## Intergenerational Lenten Program

Save the Dates: March 17, 24, 31, & April 7 from 11:30 am - 2:00 pm. Lunch will be provided. Be part of a group committed to building community, learning, and having fun during the season of Lent. Through an interactive program of adventure and activity, we will be exploring Christian themes found in the book *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*. This would be the perfect time to invite someone to church followed by an afternoon of fellowship and fun. Stay tuned to the Ivy Leaf for more details!



## Warm Memories of Day School Sunday, February 10th

The church and Day School celebrated a joyful service to give thanks for our shared mission and all that we have accomplished together. Chaplain Amber gave the sermon. The service gave parishioners and school families the opportunity to get to know each other and strengthen the bonds of our community.

Our thanks to the youth choir and acolytes for their dedication and hard work during the service at Day School Sunday and throughout the school year. *Photos by Darlia Clerico*



*Youth Choir (Back row (L-R) Tiara, Kamila, Savannah, Gia, Elinor, led by Suki Jang; Front row (L-R) Amelia, Kieran, Zoe)*



*Youth Acolytes (L-R) Tiara, Maddie, Elise*

## Multifaith Song Fest

The Peninsula Multifaith Coalition presents our 6th Annual Multifaith Song Fest.

Sunday, March 3, 2019

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Mercy Center

2300 Adeline Drive, Burlingame

**The Joy of Music Unites Us!**

We'll share our choirs, our cantors, our chants, our songs!

Please Join Us - No RSVP Necessary  
A dessert reception provided by PMC will follow the event



### A Golden Celebration

Are you one of those lucky couples who have celebrated 50 years of marital bliss – or more?

Tea, champagne and other nourishments will be served in your honor, while we pay tribute to your romantic fortitude (or, as in one couple's case, dumb luck).

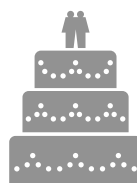
**Sunday, March 24th at 3:00 pm**

St. Matthew's Fireplace Room

Please mark the date on your calendar and reply to Victoria Wolcott in the church office: 650-342-1481

**Hosted by**

Fr. Eric and Anne Hinds  
Sally and Roger Krakow



## Angelic Faces: The Von Barga Family

Suki and David moved from Chicago to the Bay Area in 2012, and to San Mateo in 2013. It was important to them to find a church with a strong music program. They attended various church services but were unable to find that perfect match until Suki saw a posting for a tenor section leader at St. Matthew's. David auditioned and joined the choir and the family found their church home. A few years later Suki also joined the choir as soprano section leader and became director of the children's and youth choirs. Now we get to enjoy their magnificent voices each Sunday.

Suki was born in Seoul, South Korea and David in Fort Wayne, Indiana. They met at the Rockefeller Memorial Chapel at the University of Chicago in 2006, where they both sang in the choir while David was finishing his final year of law school. Both sang in the Chicago Symphony Chorus for 6 years until their move to California.

The Von Bargas stated, "We love the community of caring people and we appreciate the beauty and

grace of worship space and ritual traditions of the church. Making and listening to the music at St. Matthew's fills us with joy and continually inspires us."

Suki and David are raising two sweet girls, Gia (age 8) and Zoe (age 6), who have inherited their parents' beautiful singing voices. Suki and David describe them as creative and artistic children who bring an abundance of joy to their lives. The four of them enjoy many activities together including dancing, singing, artwork, and playing video games.

Our parish is so very blessed for this family's praises of God through their musical contributions at our Sunday services. Thank you, Von Barga family, for your commitment to St. Matthew's.



*With gratitude and God's blessings,  
Darlia Clerico*

*If you have an idea for a parishioner to be profiled in this column, please contact Darlia Clerico at [darliabclerico@gmail.com](mailto:darliabclerico@gmail.com).*

### FELLOWSHIP PARENTS GROUP

Our group has a mission to support and grow in faith the families of the church and Day School communities. We will get together on **Friday, March 8th** for an informal **Family Potluck** at Charles House from 6:00-7:30 pm. All are welcome! Our next discussion group meeting will be in the church library from **9:00 - 10:00 am** on **Sunday, March 24th**, when

Father Jay will teach us the ancient practice of praying the Daily Office; childcare provided.

And don't forget to leave the kids with us on March 16th from 5 pm - 9pm for the first **\*\*\*Parents Night Out of 2019!\*\*\***

If you are not on the mailing list and want to get in on the Fellowship fun, please contact Claire Fry at [claire@loudandclaire.com](mailto:claire@loudandclaire.com) or 617-416-2641.

**See You Soon!**



## Annual Meeting Reflections

The church held its annual meeting on January 27th, and a wide array of presenters offered insights into different facets of parish life. Many thanks to the organizers, presenters and attendees who contributed to the success of this important event. *Photos by Jack Marsal*



*In gratitude to outgoing Vestry members Christina Becher, Marilyn Callaghan, Evan Powell, Claire Fry*



*Paul Harris delivers Treasurer's report*



*John Stephenson describes campaign to preserve St. Matthew's historic windows, bell tower, and organ*



*Lorin Flynn, Ildiko Gabor, and Anne Hinds*



*Head of School Julie Galles*



*Usher Chairman Ron Gantvoort*



*Cberie Hammer demonstrates bell choir skills*

# amazon smile

A simple way to help bridge our church budget is by making the Episcopal Church of St. Matthew your donation recipient through AmazonSmile. A way to make sure your intended donation goes to our church is with Smilematic. Smilematic is a free Safari extension that will automatically turn your everyday Amazon purchases into AmazonSmile donations. You'll never again miss an opportunity to raise money for our church. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

*- Ildiko Gabor, 650-678-9143*

# 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!**

Sunday Services at 8:00 am & 10:15 am

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 [beth.vonemster@gmail.com](mailto:beth.vonemster@gmail.com). 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, Ming Lacey

## Upcoming Events

March 2	Campus Cleanup Day
March 3	Multifaith Song Fest
March 5	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Taizé Service
March 6	Ash Wednesday
March 8	Family Potluck
March 13	Multifaith Speaker Series
March 16	Parents' Night Out
March 17	Lenten Series
March 20	Multifaith Speaker Series
March 24	Lenten Series Fellowship Parents Group Golden Anniversary Tribute Tea
March 27	Multifaith Speaker Series Book Group
March 31	Lenten Series

*Or Current Resident*

*The Rev. Dr. Eric Kimball Hinds, Rector  
The Rev. Jay Sapaen Watan, Associate Rector  
The Rev. Amber Stancliffe Evans, School Chaplain*

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