



Disciples

September 2008

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA

On the Web: www.stmatthewsnoho.org

Photo gallery: picasaweb.google.com/

Email: stmatthewsnoho@aol.com

Moving from Family to Pastoral Church

Almost from its very beginnings, the Christian movement organized itself into communities with designated spiritual leaders we now call “clergy” who were understood to offer “apostolic” leadership — that is, they provided a link with the leadership Jesus’ own closest followers had offered right after his ascension.

Even today, churches like St. Matthew’s see themselves in this apostolic tradition. We still do what the earliest Christians do, by organizing ourselves as a congregation and designating leaders within it, both pastoral and administrative. Nowadays we organize our leaders into “clergy” and “lay,” and “paid” and “volunteer,” but the work of the church still gets done though a combination of the gifts and efforts of the congregation’s leaders of all kinds.

The church’s professional leadership is its most visible part: pastors, musicians, administrators and all the people who in some way are paid to do what they do. Even in early Christianity this was so—the neighborhood churches in Rome had a payroll already late in the 2nd century. They paid deacons to take care of the church’s money and provide for the poor and sick, and presbyters (priests) to lead worship, preach, and teach.

Though we don’t know the details, it can be presumed that there was volunteer leadership too — at least an informal kind — and the whole assembly would be consulted on major issues. The bishop was then a presbyter elected by all the Christians of all the neighborhoods to have authority over all the churches and clergy of a whole city.

In our thinking about the future of St. Matthew’s, we have wrestled with what it means to be a “pastoral” congregation instead of just a “family” church. In part, that means being more clear about the roles of designated leaders — in a family church everybody pitches in and helps with everything, and

(Continued on page 3)



Photo by Erwin Baker

St. Matthew’s leadership grew with the full-time appointments of Pastor Sue Devol, above, and Music and Outreach Coordinator Kenny Callaghan, below.



Photo by Steve Devol

Bold Leap of Faith

A message from Pastor Sue

I would like to thank the congregation for its confidence in my leadership, and even more importantly in our ministry together at St. Matthew’s.

On Aug. 17, the congregation voted to expand our budget to hire me full-time and to hire Kenny Callaghan as full-time music and outreach coordinator. In these difficult economic times, Kenny and I are aware that this is a bold move. We take this leap of faith with you, acknowledging your deliberate choice to invest the congregation’s resources in trying to grow the ministry. We are committed to the message that God is God, and that God in Christ cares for us, died for us, and lives in us.

(Continued on page 4)

Updates, Upcoming & Kudos

A thankful look
back and a helpful
look forward

In these difficult economic times, the St. Matthew's worshipping community provides many opportunities for you to serve God in the world. If you cannot donate money, think about donating your time and talent.

Join the St. Matthew's Choir:

Fall choir rehearsal will begin Wednesday, Sept. 10 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the sanctuary. All are welcome to attend and no previous experience is necessary. Come join us as we prepare music for Sunday worship.

Help to Provide

Christmas for Needy Children

We need toys or funds to buy toys and we also need help wrapped toys. Please contact Kay Gundersen at havefun2544@aol.com for more details.

Lutheran Social Services

Walk-A-Thon at Lake Balboa

The walk is from 9 a.m. to noon Sept. 13, with a barbecue to follow. See the poster in narthex/lobby for details.

Help Paint Our Camp

Come to Camp El Camino Pines near Frazier Park in the beautiful Los Padres National Forest about an hour north of Los Angeles on Friday, Sept. 19 for an over-

A Thank You from Alexandra Mc Bride

Thank you so much for donating \$1,000 for me to attend California Lutheran University. I greatly appreciate the much-needed help. CLU matched the money and I was credited \$2,000 in financial aid.

I was adopted at birth by a homosexual father. He died of AIDS when I was 2 years old, and his partner adopted me. When I was 13, my second adoptive father became unable to care for me due to alcoholism and other related problems. From there I became a ward of the court and was put into the foster care system.

Luckily I ended up living with my second adoptive father's ex-partner, whom I've known since I was 4 years old. He is a great blessing to me and has been my role model of how to live and have faith in Jesus Christ. He has done so much for me but is unable to help me financially as I become an adult and go to college.

Once again I am so grateful for the help you have given me and will do all I can to give back to the church in the future.

Sincerely,
Alexandra McBride

night stay, meals included and help with painting projects on Saturday. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex/lobby.

Help Build a House

Help build a house with Habitat for Humanity Los Angeles. Sign up today to join our work party from on Saturday, Oct. 11

September Food Collection

baby food & diapers

Book Club

The Book Club meets this month to discuss "Peace Like a River" by Leif Enger. We will meet in the Krager library/nursery at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 15. Please join us for dessert and discussion. See Pastor Sue for a book.

September birthdays

16 Scott Kensey
21 Charlie den Bleyker

Kenny's new email

StMattsKenny@gmail.com

Crown City Theatre Co.

The theater company presents Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" beginning Friday, Sept 6. Shows will be Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. For tickets and info go to

www.crowncitytheatre.com

Disciples



St. Matthew's Disciples is published monthly for the community of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in North Hollywood, Calif. Information or articles are due on the third Sunday of the month and can be left in the church office or e-mailed to Steve Devol: stevdevol@gmail.com

**St. Matthew's
Lutheran Church
11031 Camarillo St.
North Hollywood, CA 91602
(818) 762-2909
Fax 818-762-7439
Email:
stmatthewsnoho@aol.com**

Pastors:

**Rev. Susan Wolfe Devol
Rev. Dr. Greg Schaefer
Dr. R. Guy Erwin
Office Manager:
Jack Fulkerson**

Choir Director:

Kenneth Callaghan

Organist:

Emil Iliev

Deaf Mission Developer:

Donald Rosenkjar

St. Matthew's worships weekly on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Worship services are provided in ASL for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing. St. Matthew's is a member of the Southwest California Synod of the ELCA. St. Matthew's is a part of the Reconciling-in-Christ program of Lutherans Concerned/North America. You can find St. Matthew's on the Internet at

<http://stmatthewsnoho.org>

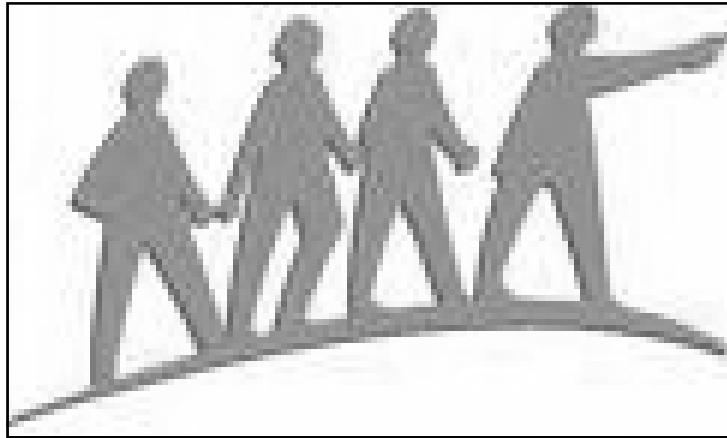
**Disciples photos, in color, now online at:
www.picasaweb.google.com/stmatthewsnoho**

A Congregation Called to Be Led

(Continued from page 1)

the lines are not very clearly drawn. In a pastoral church, the pastor is the central focus, a kind of pivot-point around which the church's work revolves. This doesn't mean that the pastor makes all the decisions (volunteers are as important as ever) but that not everyone is equally involved in everything, and that much of the decision-making is made in smaller groups than the whole. Ultimately, though, the lead pastor may be the only one with the whole picture in sight.

The pastoral congregation naturally requires more from the called and paid leadership than the family congregation does: It requires administrative skill and finesse on the pastor's part in keeping the subgroups in the community together and on target in regard to mission and outreach; it requires confidence in the leaders on the part of the people as a whole; and it requires trust, cooperation and mutual support among the leaders, both among the paid staff and between it and the volunteer leadership. The cultivation of these good relationships is the whole community's business, but it is also the lead pastor's particular responsibility. The pastor acts as an "honest broker" in the community's give and take, and (and this is the point of having a pastoral congregation)



The pastoral congregation naturally requires more from the called and paid leadership than the family congregation does: It requires administrative skill and finesse on the pastor's part in keeping the subgroups in the community together and on target in regard to mission and outreach; it requires confidence in the leaders on the part of the people as a whole; and it requires trust, cooperation and mutual support among the leaders....

keeps everything on an even keel through strong personal integrity and an ability to make everyone feel heard. In this way, the pastor is the community's most important model of leadership.

Maintaining trusting relationships isn't easy, even in a

small and close-knit community, and requires conscious effort on everybody's part. It is particularly challenging when the community is quite diverse in background, taste, and expectations. Sometimes mere difference can lead to conflict. This is noth-

ing to be afraid of, as long as the differences are honestly aired and empathetically listened to.

"Triangulation" (using other people's opinions to mask one's own, or talking with third parties rather than the real object of one's concern) is a real danger to honest communication and can diminish trust. But it can be avoided by resolving to "speak for yourself only," and to deal directly with the person whose actions or responses concern you. Longtime members of St. Matthew's will remember how the congregation learned non-triangulation techniques at a workshop some years ago, and how useful those lessons have been.

Change and forward progress always bring with them changes; change, for some, is difficult in itself, especially if what is being changed is something cherished or even just very familiar and comfortable. But having good leadership calls us to be willing to be led, sometimes beyond our comfort zone into new experiences or ideas. And we have every reason to expect good leadership at St. Matthew's, leadership that will be fair, consistent, and compassionate, and keep the church's wider mission in mind—to communicate and model the Gospel for the world!

—Dr. R Guy Erwin

To get the digital edition of Disciples, email us at: stmatthewsnoho@aol.com

Events to Build on Our Strengths

Please save these dates and don't miss the opportunity to bring a friend, family or co-worker to celebrate with us.

Sunday, Sept. 14

ST. MATT'S CONNECTS: *God, Grace, Gratitude*

- Unveiling of St. Matt's new website
- Announcement of fall ministry opportunities
- Gourmet salad and croissant luncheon
- Welcome back St. Matthew's choir!

Sunday, Oct. 12

L.A. VALLEY PRIDE

- Big Fat Gay Wedding booth, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; join us in representing St. Matt's.
- Free Pride entrance and T-shirt for all volunteers.

Sunday, Oct. 26

REFORMATION SUNDAY

- Festival worship and Oktoberfest party: Worship followed by German-themed luncheon including

bratwurst, beer, and sauerkraut ... wear your lederhosen.

Saturday, Nov. 1

ALL SAINTS' HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY

- Wear your Halloween costume a second night starting at 7:30 p.m. Play bingo, win *fabulous* prizes, enjoy dinner with friends.
- Donations accepted for Alexandra McBride scholarship fund with matching funds through California Lutheran University

Sunday, Nov. 23

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING BRUNCH

- Invite friends to our cornucopia of food, music and fun

Sunday, Nov. 30

AIDS AWARENESS SUNDAY

- Join us in worship and prayer for people living with or those affected by HIV/AIDS.
- A time of remembering, healing and celebrating God's love.
- Special Adult Forum presentation: "HIV/AIDS 101 How can I help?"

Sunday, Dec. 21

ANNUAL LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE

- Elegant champagne reception after worship

Wednesday, Dec 24

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP AND HOLIDAY RECEPTION

- Pre-worship reception: 9:30 p.m., with festive music and appetizers.
- Candlelight worship at 11

Sunday, Dec. 28

COOKIES, CRECHES AND CAROLS

- Bring your favorite Christmas cookies, nativity sets, and sing Christmas carols after worship in the Fireside Room

A Focus on What's Possible at St. Matthew's

(Continued from page 1)

It is exciting to join with you in asking a new question. In the past we have asked what is wrong at St. Matthew's, what are we missing? (parking for example). At this point in our community life we are asking: What is possible?

How can we build on our strengths?

Every Sunday we have new people come to St. Matthew's. This is not the case in many congregations. People come to us looking for different things.

We have a powerful message to share with them.

It is an old story, but it is tailor-made for modern people. The message is this: God knows you, God knows what you need, and you are not alone in the empty places of your life. God changes lives, Christ lifts us up, the Spirit strengthens us to live for others.

This Sunday, take a look around and ask how you can welcome a new person. Perhaps you can support our programs, listed above, by attending and by bringing others.

Open yourself to be the one in whom another finds God.

Disciples photos, in color, now online at: www.picasaweb.google.com/stmatthewsnoho

Let's Get Festive

Deaf mission
developer notes



SATURDAY

September 20, 2008

12 Noon - 5:00 pm

Woodley Park

DEAFestival is just around the corner! For the last five years, Los Angeles City Councilman Cardenas has sponsored this event. It will have all sorts of entertainment, food, booths and drums -- lots, lots of drums, and you will have the opportunity to beat a drum. Drums? For many years, there were drums at clubs for the deaf. Gallaudet University's fighting Bison song was sung with drums. So come on down, and experience something really terrific. It's going to be at Woodley Park on Woodley Avenue, just south of Victory Boulevard in Van Nuys. It starts at noon. Go to your calendar and circle the date: Saturday, Sept. 20! By the way, St. Matthew's will have a booth there, so come on over and visit us. Or better yet, tell your friends to visit our booth.

ELDA 'Green' Resolution
During the recent Evangelical Lutheran Deaf

Association, Pastor Beth Lockard penned the following Resolution, and it passed in the assembly. Below is the Resolution: "Whereas, global warming and pollution are having an increasing negative impact on our planet and natural resources (air, water, earth, plants, animals, etc); Whereas, the earth belongs to the Lord and we are the caretakers and stewards (Genesis 1 and 2); Whereas, many churches are looking for ways to educate their people and help them to be better stewards of their time, talents, resources and environment; Whereas the Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association is in a position to distribute information and serve as a role model for its members; Be it so resolved that ELDA will attempt to serve as a "green" organization by 1) sharing information and tips for stewardship in its newsletter and website; 2) cutting down on unnecessary

waste of resources at its meetings and conferences; 3) modeling the recycling and re-using of resources in a variety of ways; 4) attempting to purchase energy-efficient products when possible; and 5) urge member congregations to model ELDA's efforts. And be it further resolved that ELDA will focus their collective efforts on these issues at their next conference in 2010.

New DVD Player

Our Sharing Hands Chapel has something new -- a television and a DVD player. Both items were generously donated by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hansel. We now can view DVDs at anytime we wish. From the bottom of my heart, I wish to thank them for their kindness. Harry, along with Nick Gordon, Khai Nguyen and myself lugged this mighty heavy Sony TV from his condo to the chapel.

Congregational Calendar

Recurring Events

Adult Forum: every Sunday in the Fireside Room, 9:30 a.m.
Book Club: third Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m., Church Library
Executive Committee, 6:30 pm;
Church Council: 2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m.
Morning worship for Deaf and others: Second and Fourth Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in Sharing Hands Office. Class every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Sharing hands Office..

Congregational Calendar

September

Sept. 13: LSS Walkathon
Sept 14: St. Matt's Connects; salad luncheon
Sept 19, 20: Paint Camp El Camino Pines

October

Oct: 11: Habitat Build in Los Angeles
Oct 12: L.A. Valley Pride
Oct. 26: Reformation Sunday
Worship with Beer & Brat lunch

November

Nov. 1 Costume/Bingo/
Fundraiser for Alex Mc Bride
Nov. 23: Thanksgiving Brunch
Nov: 30: AIDS Awareness Sun.

December

Dec. 7: Seasons of Love Dinner (held at another location)
Dec. 21: Lessons & Carols
Dec. 24: Christmas Eve
Worship, 11 p.m.
Dec. 28: Cookies, Creches, and Carols

To get the digital edition of Disciples, email us at: stmatthewsnoho@aol.com

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
11031 Camarillo St.
North Hollywood, CA 91602

