



# MATTHIAS MIDWEEK

Inspired by the life and compassion of Jesus Christ,  
We are a church of action in our community, engaging in  
Hospitality by offering bread for body and soul

## THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS

On the edge of Death Valley near the border Between Nevada and California is one of the strangest sights I've ever seen. It's not a bizarre rock formation, something one might expect in that part of the world. It is a phenomenon called the Armagosa Opera House--a lonely structure, which is virtually all that remains of an old mining town. There is nothing imposing about the outside of the Opera House, it's the inside that is unforgettable.

There is a room about the size and shape of St. Matthias' sanctuary. Instead of the altar there is a stage; the chairs in the middle are a bit softer than our pews. But, it is the walls that are remarkable. Every inch of the walls is painted. Staring out in every direction are the faces of eager spectators. Some are elaborately dressed and coiffed; others look like rough and tumble cowboys. The room is full of presence. The live theatre-goer is surrounded.

As I contemplate the Feast of All Saints, (which is technically today, Nov. 1), but which we will celebrate this coming Sunday, November 5th), those murals on the walls of Armagosa Opera House come to mind. I imagine the walls of St. Matthias painted in like manner--with all the faces of those who have worshipped as a part of this community. We live and pray in the midst of a "great cloud of witnesses".

The Apostles Creed, which I wish we recited more often, includes the statement: 'I believe in the communion of saints.' That phrase doesn't necessarily mean that all those whose imaginary faces crowd the walls of our sanctuary, led spectacularly good lives. Instead as Rowan Williams, a former Archbishop of Canterbury explains, "Christian people are 'holy' simply because they have been adopted by God into relationship." We have been as the collect says, 'knit together' into one communion.

The Feast of All Saints reminds us, as nothing else does, that being a Christian is not a solitary enterprise; one cannot be a solo saint. We are not here on earth to make our own way, to pull ourselves up by our boot straps, to come out 'on top'. I find this togetherness, this support, this 'cloud' incredibly comforting and strengthening. Be sure to join us this Sunday. Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, so be sure to set your clocks back an hour on Saturday night, so you won't be too early - even though with all those saints, it's sure to be crowded!

Peace,

**ANN+**

## THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2:  
6:30 PM: AA Meeting, Parish Hall  
7:00 PM: Choir Practice, Sanctuary

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4:  
11:30 AM: Morning Prayer, Sanctuary  
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM: Loaves & Fishes  
3:00 - 4:00 PM: Festive meal sponsored by Renewed Minds  
4:00PM; Musical Comedy sponsored by Renewed Minds, Sanctuary

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5:  
FEAST OF ALL SAINTS: 9:30 AM: Worship  
11:30 AM: Rebirth Worship  
1:30 PM: Renewed Minds Worship

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6::  
PEEL Program, Parish Hall  
6:00 PM: Pizza dinner  
6:30-7:45 PM: Discussion, Warmth of Other Suns

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7:  
7:00 PM: Healthy Exchange, Undercroft

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8:  
10:00 AM: Morning Prayer, Sanctuary  
10:30 - 11:45 AM: Wondering with the Word  
7:00 PM: Renewed Minds Bible Study, Sanctuary

### COMING UP:

NOVEMBER 23: 11:00 AM  
Thanksgiving Service followed by a Thanksgiving Feast in the Parish Hall

## NOTICES/REMINDERS

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS SUNDAY MORNING. DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR!

BISHOP'S VISIT: NOVEMBER 12  
IF YOU WANT TO REAFFIRM YOUR FAITH,  
BE RECEIVED INTO THE EPISCOPAL TRADITION,  
OR RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM,  
PLEASE SEE ANN+

## OUR PRAYERS

Ann Morton

David Stinson, who is dying

Denni Arrup, having a hip replacement at Sinai Hospital on Monday

Pris Sicard, having a heart catheterization next Thursday

Eleanor Holland and Helen Langa, who are closing on the long-awaited sale of their house on Monday

Bill Vickers

Marilyn Prescott