

Pip's Squeak

August 2, 2015

Dear People of St. Philip's,

Prayers of peace and comfort to all of you and the community of Santa Cruz County. Many of our faith community have been deeply affected by senseless death and deep distress for a trusting child's life taken. Where do we find solace in God's grace revealed in Christ Jesus?

Jesus said we are to be trusting as a little child if we are to enter the kingdom of God. And we are to be punished if we do anything to harm trusting children: **"If you give children a hard time, bullying or taking advantage of their simple trust, you'll soon wish you hadn't. You'd be better off dropped in the middle of the lake with a millstone around your neck."** (Matthew 18:6, The Message) We are outraged, as Jesus seems to be, to imagine anyone harming children.

But then there is the desire to live in the place of grace which Jesus also presented to us, even as he, an innocent man, was being tortured and killed upon a cross: **"Forgive them, Father, for they know not what they do."** (Luke 23:34) Even the most insidious crime in the world is still one which Jesus says we are to offer forgiveness.

Most of us just don't really know how to make any sense of this tragedy. We are still called to at least bring this to God in prayer, freeing our hearts from the burden of breaking completely.

Our Friday meditation group has offered up specific prayers, we will pray on Sunday during services, some of you have come to me individually to pray or discuss, and I will continue to be available for further personal conversation and prayer as desired.

Meanwhile, our youth mentoring and family ministry teaching will continue to provide teens and children with age-appropriate Christian guidance on how and when to give consent to others seeking a relationship of trust. We will listen to concerns and do our best to guide and refer families to other professionals as needed.

And most of all we will come together as a community of faith, centered in the love of God through Christ Jesus which seeks always to offer light in the darkness, hope where there is despair.

Prayers of peace to you and your loved ones.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Mary



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This Week: Aug. 2 - 8

Tue., 6 pm, **Vestry**, Sanctuary

Thu., 5 pm, **Food Pantry**, Foyer

Fri., 10:30 am. **Meditation**, Sanctuary

Sat., 9-3 Rummage Sale; 5 pm, **Shelter**

Save the Dates:

August 11, COPA Vestry Training

August 30, Back-to-School Pool Party

Teen Bible Study: Aug 2, 12:00 noon-2pm*
Teens entering 9th grade-just graduated
Lunch & discussion on 1 Corinthians 6:19
'body is the temple of the Holy Spirit within'



Adriana Brock, college student leading, with Pastor

Mary assisting a simple but meaningful gathering of teens age 14-18.

Please check with Pastor Mary or call/text Adriana [831-334-4059](tel:831-334-4059) for further details. (*NOTE: Aug. 2 meeting is at noon, Blue Room, lunch provided.)



RUMMAGE SALE: August 8, 9-3 & Community BBQ. 10% of proceeds to feed the hungry. **\$25/space.**

Contact the Munros (831) 440-9903 or munoclan@sbcglobal.net.

Introducing Pastor Steve Eulberg, guest preacher Sunday, August 2!!

Please welcome Pastor Steve, a Lutheran pastor and church musician, who came to us via Shelley Phillips' "dulcimer days" weekend. Steve received his M. Div. at Trinity-Bexley Hall, where the first sanctioned Episcopal-Lutheran Eucharist was held while he was there! (Did you know that ELCA Lutherans and Episcopalians are interchangeable through our "Common Mission"?) Later, Steve served at Fountain of Hope Lutheran Fellowship in Kansas City from 1985-1997, which he describes as a "Corinthian-like church...an inner-city, cross-cultural congregation that worshiped in a storefront". There he and his Lutheran Pastor wife, Connie, "were active in church-based community organizing and music was our primary organizing tool for the spiritual community." Pastor Connie was then called to Colorado where she served as pastor of the Lutheran Campus Ministry at Colorado State from 1997 to 2013 and Steve served as her Director of Music for 16 of those years. In 2014 they moved to San Mateo when Connie accepted a call to St. Andrew's Lutheran. Steve has been the interim Choir Director for Coast-side Lutheran in Half Moon Bay, serving with a Lutheran pastor friend of Pastor Mary's (small world!). At this time Pastor Steve serves as both musician and pulpit supply for area congregations. We are delighted to have Steve with his preaching and his music gracing our little congregation for a day.