

The gifts the Holy Spirit gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the Body of Christ.
(Ephesians 4:10-12)

Dear People of St. Philip's,

During our Lenten journey many are engaging in "Lent Madness", learning more than we may ever need to know about the various "saints" of the Church—people whose lives were dedicated to building up the Body of Christ in extraordinary ways. As Paul's letter to the Ephesians says, some were "apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers" and some were doctors, nurses, missionaries, and some were faithful mothers of significant historic Christians! About 15 of us had some fun at our Wednesday night soup-supper discussing our favorite saints—including some that are NOT part of the "Lent Madness" competition for the Holy Halo!

Of the many gifts of the spirit that Episcopalians often shy away from is the gift of "evangelism." I, however, have always felt the call to witness the power of Christ one way or the other, and have encouraged others to do so—in their unique way! Not necessarily knocking on doors, or standing on a soap box in the town square, but in ways which I'm learning in my Seminary Evangelism course this term, are as varied as the many saints who have lived out their Christian call. Five basic Biblical ways are as follows: 1) preaching, teaching and baptizing all nations as Jesus' Great Commission tells us in Matthew 28:18; 2) being sent out as Jesus was sent by God, to love the world John 17:18; 3) in our daily living as Paul encourages in Philippians 2:12-15; 4) offering words of hope in the resurrection to those who suffer, as Peter did in 1 Peter 3:15-16, and finally 5) to relieve people under oppression through good works as Jesus announced in Luke 4:18-19: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Paul would say, *all* Christians are to offer some form of witnessing the power of Christ's transformation of their lives. While we celebrate evangelism work of such famous saints as Barnabas (Paul's evangelist companion to Gentiles) or Dr. Albert Schweitzer (a medical missionary to Africa), we do not expect everyone to be that kind of evangelist! A FEW of us may follow a call of missionary evangelism, but most will more likely to offer works of compassion than proselytizing! Many at St. Philips give of themselves in service to others through the Food Pantry, feeding the homeless, walking alongside a friend who has suffered a tremendous loss or is going through a major health problem, or by simply raising their children to love their neighbors.

This Spring our Vestry and other leaders will work with me in creating "a plan for Evangelism" for St. Philip's. It may stretch a few of us outside our comfort zone. It may be a simple act of inviting others to come experience our church community. Sharing our individual faith is not so that we can build up our egos, it is so that we can build up the Body of Christ. I am pleased to report that St. Philip's has in fact been "building up the Body of Christ"! We are back on a "growth" level over the past year. Our membership is again enjoying a higher average Sunday attendance, up from our 2014 average attendance of 70 to the 2015 average attendance of 76+. While that may seem small to some, we just received a report that "Over half of Episcopal congregations are small, family-sized congregations where average worship attendance is 75 persons or less." So, we are currently "above average"! In Christ's unbounded love, *Pastor Mary*

This Week: Feb. 21—27

Feb. 23-25, **Pastor Mary at Clergy Conference**

Wed, 10:30, **Theology Book Group**, Sanctuary
Weds., Noon **Communion**

Wed., 5:30, **Lenten Soup Supper**, Parish Hall

Wed, 5:30, **H.S. Youth: God Talk**, Youth Room

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

Sat., 5 pm, **Overnight Guests**, Parish Hall



Choir for Holy Week & Easter services

Please collect music copies from me on Sunday, and the choir will have a short rehearsal after the service (11:30 - noon), and also on Tuesday evening (6:30—7:00). Come when you can! I have prepared audio files which I will email round this week.

Sue Morris (Interim Music Coordinator) [831-325-9330](tel:831-325-9330), morrisr5@sky.com

**Hey, High Schoolers -
During Lent**

Wednesdays, Feb. 17-Mar.16

5:30 pm, sharing Soup Supper —>
6:30 to 8:00 pm, Group meeting

GOD IS...

Feel free to bring your homework!
Young adults Alex Titus and Nikki
Olivas help lead the discussion.

Invite your friends!

Soup Suppers,

Wednesdays, 5:30-7:30pm

Please join us for

Food /Fellowship/Faith

a simple meal of soup, bread, salad.

Sign up to bring soup in foyer



Be on the Look Out!

Community wide
fellowship dinners
are being rein-
stated. Nancy
Connor will organ-
ize them, so be on
the lookout for sign
up sheets.

Theology Book Group, Invites you to a deeper friendship with Jesus

The book we're reading, The Seven Last Words, by Jesuit Fr. James Martin, offers that very invitation! With the warmth, wisdom, and grace that infuse his works, Father James Martin explains why Jesus's crucifixion and death on the cross is an important teaching moment in the Gospels.



PLEASE JOIN US! Wednesdays, 10:30-12, in the Sanctuary