

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25: 34-40)

Easter is upon us! The greatest news the world has ever heard: "Alleluia, Christ is Risen. The Lord is Risen, indeed!!" Proclaim it from the rooftops; let all the world know—death is not the end! Darkness and evil SHALL BE OVERCOME! The light of Christ shines on in the glory of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

St. Philip's stands poised to proclaim this GOOD NEWS not only on Easter Sunday, but *every* Sunday! On Easter Day we have a special opportunity to meet people who may not have ever been through our doors—let us greet the "stranger" with a warm welcome. And let us carry on each week with a welcome that is truly accepting of *all* people "whoever they are, and where ever they are on their journey of faith."

Some years ago, parishioner Barbara Lyon invited a friend to come meet her at St. Philip's. While telling her our location on Scotts Valley Drive, she mentioned that the church is set back a bit from the street.

Suddenly her friend exclaimed: "Oh, you mean the WELCOME church?! I know that Church, it has such a wonderful sign over it saying WELCOME!" Barbara had been the one to create our lovely gold and white "Welcome" banner, so this was truly an affirmation of our efforts to let the world know we welcome them into our faith community.

In addition to this open welcome, St. Philip's claims its place as a member of The Episcopal Church in the United States, a part of the Anglican Communion. In our faith tradition we understand the love of God revealed through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as a *reconciling* love. We believe Jesus' love brings people of all races, genders, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status into one broad "rainbow" family of God—believers, seekers, doubters—everyone! We strive to include all who seek God's truth, centering ourselves in the Anglican "via media" (middle way) using Scripture, Tradition and Reason as our guides. We invite people who have differing interpretations of scripture to come together in prayer and

continued on page 2



(Continued from page 1)

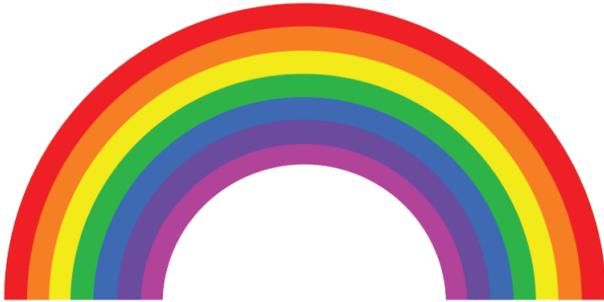
conversation to more fully learn who God is. It may seem challenging sometimes to look through the lenses of another perspective, but to do so is to widen one's view.

As a symbol of our hearts' desire to have an inclusive welcome, we have added another "sign" to our entry way, sent to us from Integrity of El Camino Real, our diocesan organization that gives special support to the LGBTiQ community. This rainbow sign is intended to broaden the awareness of the community beyond St. Philip's that we are a congregation that has been living in faithful acceptance of all people, with a love which was revealed through Jesus Christ. As our Presiding Bishop, African-American Michael Curry said regarding the inclusive, reconciling love of God through Jesus Christ: "... this love of God is big enough to embrace all of us, and even embrace us in our disagreements. Love is big stuff, and it can save us all." (*from an interview with the New York Times*).

St. Philip's is known as "The Welcome Church". May we continue to share the grace we find in Jesus Christ, the Risen Lord, to let the broader world know just how wide our welcome truly is. Not just this Easter, but every day.

In Christ's precious love,
Pastor Mary and Jim Blessing

"



This Congregation Welcomes
EVERYONE

Integrity/El Camino Real Welcoming Parish

This Week: Mar 7 - Apr 2

Thu, 5 pm, **Food Pantry**, Foyer
Fri, 10:30, **Meditation**, Sanctuary
Sat., 5 pm, **Overnight Guests**, PH

Vestry

Who wants to be the vestry clerk? Easy peasy with a laptop. Contact Lori Kintz, lori@kintz.net.



Easter Sunday

The Youth play "bunny" for the younger kids, but there will be a special treasure hunt-style activity for them. Right after the 10:00am service.

Middle and High School Youth

Charise Olson will be coordinating weekly Sunday School for our St Phillip's Youth (middle-high school). Email Charise at ocharise@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like more info.

April 3

After the 10:00am service, we'll head to Scotts Valley Market to have lunch. It's BYO (*buy your own*) so bring a few bucks. We'll be brainstorming future activities/projects.



Altar Servers

Servers Needed for Sunday Worship

Serve once a month

Will train. lectors, ushers, servers, subs, & ministry coordinator needed 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM services

See stphilip-sv.net/WorshipServiceSchedule.

Questions? Contact Pastor Mary or Lori Kintz, lori@kintz.net.



April 23, 9-2, **Plant Sale**, St. Andrew's, Ben Lomond
May 7 **Garden Tour & English Tea**
Feb. 3-5, 2017 **Winter Retreat**, Zephyr Point

ECW - Day of Enrichment

SATURDAY, APRIL 23RD,

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SALINAS

The Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of El Camino Real invite all the women of the diocese to a **DAY OF ENRICHMENT** on **April 23rd**, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Salinas.

We will celebrate the EUCHARIST with a focus on the diocesan values. Our celebrant is Rev. Barbara Miller, Rector of Saint James, Paso Robles.

In the **KEYNOTE** address *From Sidewalks to Cellblocks: Finding Love in All the 'Wrong' Places*, Rev. Peggy Bryan will share stories of friendships unabashedly forged in homeless camps, jail yards and gang neighborhoods; how street fellowship merges with Coffee Hour and train tracks hospitality connects to the communion rail. When hostility & suspicion fades, love prevails and where "All Are Welcome" really means ALL.

CLASSES -- This day of learning offers workshops for spiritual growth, education, and celebration: *Bible Women, Godly Knitting, Social Justice, Speaking Your Values, and Zentangle*.

CHURCH PERIODICAL CLUB Ingathering – The Church Periodical Club supplies books, magazines, tapes, videos and computer programs FREE to those who cannot otherwise obtain them. CPC raises the money to do this. **Bring donations from your parish to support this vital ministry.**

For more information, contact Diocesan ECW President Diane Lovelace at DiLovelace@aol.com or at 408/ 263-8945.

Registration deadline is April 15th.

