

"Jesus said to Simon Peter...do you love me?...Feed my sheep...tend my sheep...feed my sheep...Follow me."
 from John 21:15-19, selected portions

Jesus appears numerous times to his disciples after his death and resurrection. In John's gospel he even shows up to "go fishin' " with them! Jesus eats "fish on the barbee" then 3 times questions Peter about whether or not Peter truly loves him. Seems like Jesus needed Peter to come to terms with his trifold denial of Jesus when he was on trial... After Jesus instructs Peter to feed and tend to Jesus' "sheep", our Lord effectively says, 'Peter if you truly love me you will follow me, wherever I take you.'

Jesus shows up where we are and takes us where *he* wants us to go. If we receive Jesus' love and guidance we may sometimes go where we didn't really know we wanted to go. Can we follow?

A small group of us have been finding Jesus showing up in our discussions on how we are to reach out to the broader community. It led us to do research on the affordable housing crisis Scotts Valley and Santa Cruz County are facing. Some of our own membership is directly affected by the shortage of available housing, so with the support and guidance of COPA (Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action), we put some time and energy into meeting with a property developer, a city council member, the mayor of Scotts Valley, and ultimately the planning commission and city council. Our efforts, partnered with others in our community deeply concerned for the lack of housing, resulted in a change of perspective on the part of the city council such that 7 units of affordable housing will be included in a new housing development project in the Santa's Village area. Members of Affordable Housing Now and the one city council member who is an advocate for affordable housing called this justice victory a "miracle." They thanked us for our clear

articulation of the need for housing and the responsibility of our civic leaders to fulfill their own previously mandated regulations that any new developments would be required to include 15% affordable housing units.

For me, this action taken by St. Philip's is one illustration of how we follow Jesus' command to Peter to "feed my sheep", "tend my sheep", "feed my sheep." Putting our faith into action is something we find necessary in order to grow deeper in our relationship with Christ and one another. On

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St. Philip the Apostle Episcopal Church
 5271 Scotts Valley Drive Scotts Valley, CA
 stphilips.sv@gmail.com www.stphilip-sv.net 831.438.4360



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Pentecost Sunday, May 15, 3-5pm at St. Francis Xavier Church, 1475 La Salle Ave., Seaside, COPA is gathering faith-based leaders and public officials to have what is called our "Spring Action". An opportunity to discuss with a broad-base of people seeking to put their faith into action within our tri-county area of Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito. A systemic affordable housing strategy is needed for our area; this is one way to address the problem and come up with solutions. Additionally, there are other justice concerns for our area, including improved health care for *all*, restorative justice, predatory lending, and environmental concerns. Together we strengthen our bonds of hope in the good news of Jesus Christ lived out in our lives, in our times. Please won't you mark your calendar for May 15 and plan to hop into my van for an enlightening day of inter-cultural sharing the way of Jesus Christ??

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Spring Assembly

Sunday, May 15th
3-5 pm
St. Francis Xavier
1475 LaSalle Ave., Seaside

Join us in advocating for health care for the undocumented, restorative justice, building affordable housing, stopping predatory lending, training new leaders, and strengthening COPA.

Simultaneous translation provided. For more info, call COPA at 831.728.3210

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This Week: Apr 10 - 16

Youth Meeting! See announcement!

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

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

Sat., 5 pm, **Overnight Guests**, PH

Pastor Mary and Jim will be on a delayed Spring Vacation, April 12-23. Please welcome guest priest, the Rev. Roger Wharton of San Jose on April 17!





Giving Shelter & a Meal

Our Saturday shelter program at St. Philip's has been a truly great and inspirational success! Our assignment to provide a meal for our guests on the 2nd and (occasional 5th) Saturdays of the month has been fulfilled generously and beautifully by our congregation.

Spring 2016 is here now, and we need signups for May and June. It's easy and satisfying to bring a simple main dish, salad or veggie, and light dessert to the parish kitchen; and our guests are extremely grateful. A signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the vestibule: please take a moment after services to consider when you (and friends or family) would like to offer to feed the hungry in the coming season.

It's a Good Thing!

Middle and High School Youth

Every Sunday except the 1st Sunday:

We meet in the youth room during Sunday School.



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Save the Date!

May 1, 3:00-5:00 (maybe 5:30) - Big Basin Hike

Alex and Alana are leading an easy-moderate hike, followed by s'mores and s'more fun at their campsite. Call, text, email Charise with any questions or to let her know you'll be there. Charise can help coordinate a ride if you need one.

Invite friends- the more the merrier!



Lizz's Last Sunday With Us!

Come celebrate our friendship with Lizz Beitzel and pray God's blessings on her new home in San Francisco.

Sunday, April 24th, 9 AM in the Parish Hall

Bring stories & pictures to share or good stories to share!



Clean Egg Cartons Needed!

The Food Pantry ever & always needs egg cartons. We get the eggs in bulk from Second Harvest and put them in 6- or 12- egg cartons for the pantry customers. Clean ones only, please.

Vestry

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



Calling All to Serve!

Opportunities are now open for anyone who would like to help with worship services. We need lectors (scripture readers). If you can read, you can do it!

Readers of all ages welcome!

We also need Eucharistic Ministers (ones who serve the cup at communion).

We will train.

Serve once a month, or sign up as a substitute.

Come be a part of a fantastic and satisfying ministry.

Contact Donna Seelbach, Liturgy Liaison, dshendr@skyhighway.com

or Lori Kintz, Communications Liaison, lori@kintz.net.



Serve with us!



April 18, 7 pm, **Living with God Men's Group**

April 23, 9-2, **Plant Sale**, St. Andrew's, Ben Lomond

May 1, 3-5 pm, **Youth Big Basin Hike**

May 5, 7 am, **National Day of Prayer**, St. P's p'king lot

May 7 **Garden Tour & English Tea**

Feb. 3-5, 2017 **Winter Retreat**, Zephyr Point