

Pip's Squeak

July 23, 2017

"...besides me there is no other god." (Isaiah 44:6b)

Dear People of St. Philip's,

Isaiah, the Jerusalem prophet who lived some 700 years before Jesus of Nazareth, did all he could to redirect a wandering Israel from worshipping false gods.... He proclaimed what Abraham expressed to the world: there is One God, One Creator, One Father of All. Jesus also pointed to this same God the Father, and lived a life fully formed as a Child of God. Jesus' words and actions revealed to humanity the fullness of God's love for every person - man, woman, child, Jew or Gentile, and even to worshippers of other gods... it is complicated to try to sort out what it really means to be a follower of the One God of Israel and also acknowledge that those who "worship other gods" are included in the family of God the Father of all.

For me, the way to best understand how we can all be related as children of God lies not in the "how we worship" part of who we are, but "how we live", caring for our neighbors, bringing justice where we see injustice, loving kindness, and seeking peace. People of all faiths, or no faith, have a choice about how to BE...whether to love or not love.

This summer we are planting seeds of hope in our own little garden created by the children of St. Philip's and members of our new guests, the Discovery Learning Center. Among these new friends and all who come into our midst there are varying faiths and different ways of understanding how we live our faith.

It is my hope that through the example of children learning to care for God's creation together we will be inspired to learn how we might be accepting of our differences even as we work together to care for the abundance of all God has given us here and now.

Please rejoice with us as we celebrate continued growth from seeds of possibility to plants filled with fruit, literally as well as figuratively.

Enjoy these pictures showing the incredible growth of the seedlings our young ones planted (soon to be transferred to larger containers for complete growth)!



Peace to you in Christ, *Pastor Mary & Jim Blessing*

This Week: July 23 - 29

Today: Paradoxo One 9 AM, Rm #2

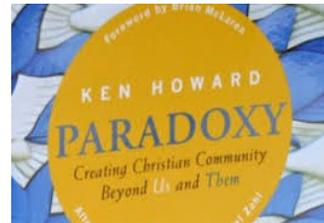
Today: Paradoxo Two, 11:30-1:00

(No Theology Book Group till Sept)

(No Vestry meeting in July)

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

Sat., **Overnight Shelter Group**



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Save the Date

- July 24-28, **Vacation Bible School**, San Agustin Church
- Aug. 4-6, **Annual Recovery Retreat**
- Aug. 14, **2nd Monday Book Group**
- Sep. 10, **Pool Party & BBQ**
- Sep. 29, **Game Night & Desserts**
- Oct. 1, **Blessing of the Animals**
- Oct. 8, **Kid's Marketplace**
- Oct. 14, **Kids' Night**, feed Shelter Guests
- Nov. 5, **Halloween Candy Tithe**
- Nov. 19, **30th Anniversary**
- Dec. 1 & 2, **No Room at the Inn**

~ Paradoxo Bible Study Groups ~

Paradoxo Group One will meet from 9 - 9:50 in Room 2 for the next 4-5 weeks. Come discuss talking across significant differences!

Paradoxo Group Two will meet today (and every 4th Sunday) with Pastor Mary and Tina Grubbe from 11:30-1:00 in Room 2. Snacks included. We will review the questions offered at the end of the each chapter.



Hey, music lovers of all ages!

We have received only one fave to date, Pastor Mary's request for "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light." We will pass a clipboard on Sunday to have you write your fave. If you know the first line, you can find it in the index of *The Hymnal 1982*. It's OK to include Christian songs not in the hymnal, too. So write them on paper and get them to the church office or send them in an email (stphilips.sv@gmail.com). St. Philip's is in the process of creating a Music Director/Coordinator position for the Fall of 2017 in which we will ask our leader to emphasize familiar tunes we all know and love.