

**“Love God and Love Neighbor” Presiding Bishop Michael Curry**

“Jesus tells us to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves, and he tells us over and over again not to be afraid (Matthew 10:31, Mark 5:36, Luke 8:50, John 14:27). There’s no confusion about what Jesus is telling us, but it often requires courage to embody it in the real world. Again and again, we become afraid, and mired in that fear, we turn against Jesus and one another.”

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry wrote these words as a pastoral letter to The Episcopal Church during the week following a massacre by one individual on American soil, where he killed 49 innocent people enjoying a night out. Not long after were the horrific bombings at the airport in Istanbul, Turkey, shortly after one of our own members had just returned to the U.S. from that airport.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to find any “sacred” places where people with assault weapons or bombs or both won’t come through to cause mayhem, killing innocent people.

Bishop Curry wanted the entire Episcopal Church to know that there is a way of being in the world which Jesus taught and Jesus modeled, which does not tolerate hate--extinguishing hate not with force, but with the firm embrace of love.

And so we have to ask ourselves, in what concrete way can the Church, the Body of Christ, offer a hand of love where others have received hate? Interestingly, among the many ways we offer hospitality to those in need of food and shelter, St. Philip’s and The Episcopal Church in general has made a specific effort to offer safety to transgender people. Some of you may have already wondered about our sign of the multi-use bathroom past the stairwell, and also on classroom # 2 (the “Youth Room”.) Bishop Curry reports that on June 10, the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church passed a resolution to reaffirms the Episcopal Church’s support of local, state and federal laws that prevent discrimination based on gender identity or gender expression.

Thanks to the efforts of one of our teen members who raised our consciousness regarding the importance of a “neutral” bathroom which is safer for transgender people, our Church had already decided to designate these “individual” toilets for “Men/Women/Handicap” or whatever. Please know that is always our desire to behave in love, not just talk about being loving...sometimes we just need to be made aware of some of our unconscious ways we “exclude”, and try to do better in the future.

You made read Presiding Bishop Curry’s full Pastoral Letter posted on the bulletin board in the foyer by the Church Office, or read on-line at the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/notes/the-episcopal-church/letter-to-the-episcopal-church-from-presiding-bishop-president-of-house-of-deput/10153455254457271>



**FOURTH OF JULY PARADE AT ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH!! 3pm-5pm Monday!!**  
If you and your family, friends and neighbors wish to join Pastor Mary and Maya for a shaded view of the parade where we will offer free lemonade and water to passers by, come on down by 2:30 to set up!

**This Week: July 3-9**

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

**SAVE THE DATE**

July 1 **St. Philip's Variety Show**  
July 17, **Lizzie Zweng Presentation**  
July 18, **Living With God, Men**  
July 24, **Youth Croquet Tournie**

**COPA TRAINING EVENT: July 7, 6:30pm**

**Democracy Institute:**

**Inequality in our Region**

Held at First United Methodist Church,  
229 Stanford Street, Watsonville.  
See Pastor Mary for details and rides.

**Looking for a Bible study?**

**Join us Sundays at 9:00,**

**between services.**

**Currently studying the**

**Gospel of John.**

*Flower Fund Donations Desired*

*Give Thanks! Celebrate! Donating to the Flower Fund actually supports altar guild regular expenses such as candles, communion items, special purposes. \$35 Donation Suggestion, written to St. Philip's with "Altar Flowers" in the Memo Line!*

**Women's Retreat**

**LESSONS OF THE BIBLE WOMEN FOR THE 21ST C. WOMAN**

*Mary Lou Thompson Retreat, sponsored by the ECW of El Camino Real*  
July 21, 2016 2pm- July 22, 2016 2pm

At the St. Francis Retreat Center, San Juan Bautista

Coordinated by Diane Lovelace, 408-263-8945 or DiLovelace@aol.com  
(You may also speak with Pastor Mary for details.)

*She highly recommends this retreat!*

**Cost: semi-private room \$140/Private room \$170**

**Full application is found on table in foyer.**

*Scholarship funds available.*



*If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal... and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.*

I Corinthians 13: 1-3

Lizzie Zweng, Missionary and Guest Preacher July 17, 2016

Lizzie Zweng may be known to many of you as the daughter of one of our local physicians, the girl at Scotts Valley High who played the role of “Frenchy” in GREASE, and who served as past lifeguard at Pastor Mary’s Pool Party. Pastor Mary knows her as “the girl next door” ... and now a budding missionary to the Middle East.

Lizzie is a recent graduate of UCLA, who will be interning as a missionary for one year in the Middle East. St. Philip’s is inviting Lizzie to be guest preacher on Sunday July 17 at both church services, and following each service. She will share stories of spiritual transformation and interfaith appreciation.

Sparked by friendships with Muslim students at UCLA and classes in the Religious Studies department, Lizzie followed God’s call to for a summer mission in the Middle East last summer. There, she studied Arabic and built bridges and friendships with Middle Eastern women. Her focus for this year is to continue extending love and friendship in a time of conflict, fear, and misunderstanding. As she prepares to return in the fall, please consider partnering with her through prayer and financial support.

#### “BUILDING A BRIDGE” AT SUNSET

Last summer, on a university campus in the Middle East, Lizzie befriended a Sharia Law student named Dana. She tells this moving story of God’s loving presence across faiths: “At sunset, Dana and I often visited her favorite mosque to talk about life. Sunset has always been my favorite time of day, and is special to her too because it marks the fourth Islamic prayer time of the day. One evening we were talking about our futures and she explained her desire to get a PhD in interfaith dialogue. She wants to “build a bridge” among the faiths, not to compromise anyone’s personal convictions, but rather to educate and understand one another. She paused and looked at me, saying, “I understand now, Lizzie. We are the bridge. It all starts with two different people willing to listen and love one another. Just like you and me.”

Please be sure to be here at St. Philip’s on Sunday, July 17, 2016 to hear more of Lizzie’s story of her trust in following Jesus Christ to the land where he walked and talked, loved and healed. Even if you are not able to attend, won’t you consider giving prayer and possible financial support to Lizzie’s efforts to be a “bridge-builder for God’s love” in a fragmented world? Lizzie is traveling as a member of Cru, the U.S. branch of Campus Crusade for Christ. It is a caring community passionate about connecting people to Jesus Christ. Since its foundation in 1951, it now has a presence in 191 countries around the world.

To support Lizzie’s ministry through Cru, visit [give.cru.org/0889090](http://give.cru.org/0889090). Please note that the site is anonymous for security, but Lizzie is International Staff #0889090.