

Pip's Squeak

March 8, 2015

Please send news of interest to Elizabeth, stphilips.sv@gmail.com.

Dear St. Philip's, Today we pray for all Episcopal Seminaries. Did you know that our seminaries have added new leadership formation for clergy called Organizing for Ministry?

In January, I spent a full week attending this training at Church Divinity School of the Pacific, my seminary alma mater. It was a remarkable time of learning the power of leading in partnership with others who share our time-honored values of bringing justice to a world out of balance. Rather than continuing the usual efforts of priests in charge of their own little (or big) flock, this training equips church leadership to form alliances with other faith-based communities and social organizations (like Rotary, Kiwanis, Boys & Girls Clubs, etc.). Together, leaders from these various communities make a commitment to **truly listen** to needs and concerns of the people in their organization, in their immediate geographic neighborhood, and their wider county-level community to discern how they might put their "faith into action". And it is all built around developing positive **RELATIONSHIPS!**

St. Philip's already has a natural inclination to develop positive relationships with groups of the wider community as we host about 30 different community groups' s activities right here on our church property. The founding Vicar, Martin Yabroff, had a flare for connecting and building relationships with numerous community organizers,

and was able to work in strong partnership with them while building up a congregation that eventually settled here on this property. I, too, have continued in the relationship-building efforts as Rector, and now feel it is time to help equip the laity of St. Philip's to be intentional about creating strong partnerships with community leaders.

To that end, Tim McManus, lead organizer for Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action (COPA) will be coming to St. Philip's next Sunday March 15, 12-1pm, to meet with our Vestry and teach us more about how this all works. All Are WELCOME to come learn more with us.

A few years ago our Bishop's Committee considered the possibility of starting this form of leadership training with COPA, but were split regarding the value to us at that time. Many who attended a sample training session saw great value in it, but others were uncertain. We also had a lot on our plate becoming a Parish, so I decided to put this effort on hold.

After taking the full course at CDSP, I feel it is time we revisit this option. I trust it will strengthen our efforts to listen to how the Holy Spirit may be calling St. Philip's into relationship building WITHIN the parish and OUTSIDE the parish. Through this kind of listening I believe we will more effectively discern God's purposes for our missional efforts in the future.

Please pray for your Vestry, and come along to learn more if you can (bring a bag lunch!).

Faithfully in Christ, Pastor Mary

This Week: March 8-14

Mon., 10 am, **2nd Monday Book Group**, Sanctuary
Wed., 10:30, **Theology Book Group**, Sanctuary
Wed., 6 pm, **Soup Supper**, Parish Hall
Thu., 5-6:30, **Food Pantry**, Foyer
Fri., 10:30, **Meditation**, Sanctuary
Sat., 5 pm, **Overnight Guests**, Parish Hall



Adult Bible Study

Sundays, February 22- March 22
9am-9:50 am

"Episcopal 101:
Introduction to Episcopal Christianity &
St. Philip's Church"

Youth 8th-12th Grade
March 1-March 22, & April 12
4pm-5:30pm

"Going Deeper in
Faith & Christian
Service"
May dates TBA.



All are invited to discern Confirmation -- their adult affirmation of Christian Faith.

Led by Pastor Mary Blessing and other adult leaders of faith.

Lenten Soup Suppers
Fellowship, prayer and Bible
February 25-March 25
6pm-8pm
All ages invited



St. Patrick Duet Concert
Jesse Autumn & Shelley Phillips
Sunday March 15, 3-5 PM
St. Philip's Foyer/West Gallery

Features dueting folk & double strung harps and Irish wood-winds. \$20 suggested donation at the door, advance tickets, \$15 General. \$10 Students & Seniors at brownpapertickets.com. Hope you can come!

The Gift You Give Your Loved Ones Advance Healthcare Directive CHANGE OF DATE:

Sunday, April 12, 2015
9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

Visit the info tables for the documents and advice you need to cross this important item off your to-do list. Table hosted by Hospice of Santa Cruz County. All are welcome. Bring your questions.

Seelbach Show on Now!
Donna Seelbach's Photographic Show



Aptos Library, 7695 Soquel Ave. Aptos
Mar. 1-31
M-Th 11-7 & Fr-Sa 11-5