

# Pip's Squeak

June 25, 2017

*"Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother...and one's foes will be members of one's own household."*

(Mt.10:34-36)

Dear people of St. Philip's,

Jesus said many difficult things that were just as shocking to his followers as they are to us today. The above quote is one of them! How is it possible to consider following Jesus as a *loving* choice when to do so may cause deep division in our own families? Families are the people who "love you no matter what", but if Jesus' way causes us to create enemies under our own roofs, how can that be an act of love?

Perhaps the perspective we glean from the book PARADOXY: Creating Christian Community Beyond Us and Them, by Episcopal priest Ken Howard, can help us. Rev. Howard comes from a lived experience of growing up with a Jewish mother and a Gentile father, giving him the awareness of having one foot in "each camp". He took the best of each to live a "both/and" life. As an adult he found the Episcopal Church to be "the most Jewish church he could find." It began with the Elizabethan Settlement of Queen Elizabeth I in 1559. The monarch made a decision to claim the Church of England as a "both/and" faith: both Protestant and Catholic ways of being church were not only tolerated, but cultivated. As the U.S. branch of the Anglican Communion, The Episcopal Church works hard to follow this "both/and" thinking of unity without uniformity.

As we watch our 21st c. cultural context grow deeper into "us and them" instead of "both/and", we can take solace in The Episcopal Church striving to include all viewpoints, knowing that "God is bigger than any one perspective we may have." We can learn from one another. As evangelical theologian Brian McClaren says in studying Howard's PARADOXY: "Ken sees two wide and well-traveled roads, but between them, a barely visible path, That's the one he invites us not only to explore, but to widen by our walking it so that others may follow." (PARADOXY. iv).

Walter Wink calls Jesus' "third way" the way of the cross. After working his whole life to bring people who differed into one community of faith, Jesus chose to follow the way of justice for all, which led him to suffer an ignoble death upon a cross. For Jesus' followers who saw the tragedy of a life cut short upon that cross, the Roman ruler's execution method, they most assuredly would have realized that following this "third way" could lead to deep divisions within families. Today, some families choose to avoid "political" discussions because they want to remain in relationship to one another, and differences are so severe that's the only way to survive. No one wants to be crucified, torn by the sword, even figuratively.

St. Philip's Church wishes to create safe spaces to have difficult discussions with those who express different viewpoints. Thus we will explore Ken Howard's "third way" options offered in PARADOXY. He offers a way of following Jesus which brings us together to walk the difficult path of "both/and", rather than "either/or". Come Sunday, June 25, 9:00 am in Room 2 to join the discussion, even if you have not read the book. *Peace, Pastor Mary and James Blessing*

## This Week: June 25 - July 1

Today: **PARADOXY** 9 AM, Room #2  
**COPA Immigration Talk**,  
11:30, Parish Hall  
**COPA Leaders Meeting**,  
3-5pm IBEW, 10300 Merritt Street,  
Castroville  
**Sunday School** - 10 AM:  
Jonah & the Whale  
Wed., 10 AM, **Theology Book Group**  
7pm, **Vestry**, Sanctuary  
Fri., 10:30 AM, **Meditation**, Sanct.  
Sat., **Overnight Shelter Group**

## **COPA Immigration Talk** **Sunday, June 25** **11:30 am-12:30 pm**

**Tim McManus from COPA will be at St. Philip's on June 25 from to lead a discussion on immigration issues. COPA has been working with local government, law enforcement, and churches to find ways to protect immigrants and refugees while keeping communities safe. I hope to see you. Peace, Jon Neff**



**7th Annual Recovery Retreat**  
**August 4-6**  
**at the beautiful St. Francis Retreat Center**

## *Recovery-Sharing our Stories*

Find registration information at <http://realepiscopal.org/> then click on *Events, August calendar, Recovery Retreat.*

This is a **Don't Miss** event!

## Save the Date

June 28, 7 PM, **Vestry**, Sanctuary  
July 9, **Festive Fellowship with Discovery Learning Center**  
July 24-28, **Vacation Bible School**,  
San Agustin Church  
Aug. 4-6, **Annual Recovery Retreat**  
Oct. 1, **Blessing of the Animals**  
Nov. 19, **30th Anniversary**

## **COPA Training July 11 - 18**

National Training for Industrial Area Foundation/COPA method of working together to make positive change in this world based on strong personal relationships.

Pastor Mary has taken this training twice in Berkeley. That training will be available again in January 2018.

On the foyer bulletin board is a flyer with details for the July National training for you or others who think may be interested in attending. Please speak with Pastor Mary. \$\$ scholarships available.

