

Pip's Squeak

July 30, 2017

"The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed...greatest of shrubs becomes a tree so... birds come make nests in its branches" (Matthew 13:31)

Dear people of St. Philip's,

Our summer scripture through the parables of the Gospel of Matthew continues to encourage us to have great faith and trust in God...using images of agriculture and nature: seeds, trees, birds, fish, and even oysters who create beautiful pearls out of crusty sand! Over and over again Jesus calls his followers to put their trust in the love God has for us—because it is through love, grace and mercy that we will become all that God intends. God's love overcomes all hardships—when we learn to tap into that love for the well-being of others and not just ourselves. How we love others includes *caring for the place* we gather to do all the things that benefit the healing of a multitude: body, mind and spirit!

Summer is a time that St. Philip's community tends to work hard to improve our physical plant, our facility which continues to age (did you know the original building is nearly 70 years old??) Because our winter storms were excessive this year, we have extreme damage which must be repaired. Work that must be done by building contractors and roofers; work that requires getting solid bids and loans to pay for the work. And because our entire county was slammed by these same storms, we are challenged to find a contractor with the time to even return a phone call, much less actually come out and offer a bid!

But we are to have faith as a mustard seed, to trust in God's purposes and belief that soon the right person(s) will come to build a partnership first by offering a bid, then taking the job and working with us to rebuild. A handful of faithful stewards of our space (mostly the Vestry) is doing all we can to prepare the ground-work of calling contractors and preparing a process of securing the title for the property (a process that was intended to happen from the Diocese to us when we became a Parish in 2012, but we discovered was not complete). As of Friday this week that administrative process has been completed and we can now move forward with loan applications.

Based on the faith we have in the important work of God being done here at St. Philip's a few have been industrious in getting this far...but we need more support from others of our parish who also have faith that Jesus will be present in our ministry in this place if we care for it. If you have the name of a building contractor that you know and trust, will you please send that information to our Junior Warden, Clive Ellis: juniorwarden@stphilip-sv.net? Or call the church office 831-438-4360.

Come learn more about how we find faith to continue our growth in Christ's ministry and love. And for our children this Sunday, who will learn together about the birds of the air and nests they make using the materials provided by the God who loves all.

Peace to you in Christ's love, *Pastor Mary and Jim Blessing*

This Week: July 30 - August 5

All Ages Sunday School: Birds & God's Faith! 10-11 AM
(No Theology Book Group till Sept)
Fri., 10:30, **Meditation**, Sanctuary

~ **Paradoxy Bible Study** ~
Paradoxy Group One will meet from 9 - 9:50 in Room 2.
Paradoxy Group Two meets every 4th Sunday from 11:30-1:00 in Room 2. Snacks included. Get your free copy of the book in the office.



Today! Morris Family Visiting from England!

Please greet them after church in the Parish Hall and then stay for lunch.



Have you submitted your favorite hymns?

Thanks to those who have! If you haven't yet, please do so. We will pass a clipboard on Sunday to have you write your faves. So write them on the clipboard, 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.



Lost: Pink USB cord charger. If you've seen it, contact the church office at 831.438.4360 or stphilips.sv@gmail.com.

