

Pip's Squeak

August 20, 2017

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer For the Human Family, Episcopal Book of Common Prayer, p. 815

Dear people of St. Philip's,

Praying you are well and feeling grounded in the love of Jesus Christ during a time when the world stage is floundering. We are living through a difficult time of turmoil on the national and international stage. We must find ways to honor our Lord Jesus Christ's commandment to humanity to "love God and love our neighbor as ourselves." It is difficult. But through prayer and mutual willingness to be present to one another through the struggle, we will not only survive, but we will thrive.

Events throughout the United States stand in danger of dividing our nation, especially the tragic clash between white supremacy groups and the protestors against them. The death of Heather Heyer, as horrific as it was, has already brought more good than ill. Her father called for "forgiveness, because I believe that is what our Lord would have us do." And her mom said, "They tried to kill my child to shut her up. Well, guess what? You just magnified her." God will bring the Good. Love will overcome hate, if we but choose to find the good in each other and love away the hate.

Each of us comes to this day not just with our own current belief in what is right or wrong, with a family history that may make it easier or harder to know which way to turn when things fall into the gray area. But each of us can look to Jesus Christ and his well-grounded way of remaining calm in the midst of chaos, taking time to go off into deep prayer with God and stay in the comfort of his faithful companions. When we find ourselves unsure of which way to go, with our own thoughts, with conversations, with actions we hope will make a positive difference, we can pause and find prayers in our Book of Common Prayer that help us remain centered in Christ's love, such as the one above, written by the Episcopal Church and published in 1979.

Here at St. Philip's we will continue our prayers on Friday mornings, 10:30, for specific people and causes, in the hopes that our prayers will be like the strong weight of a sailboat's keel, keeping us moving clearly forward toward God's heavenly kingdom even as the strong winds of chaos try to beat down our sails. Let us use the strength of these winds like the mighty power of God's Holy Spirit at Pentecost to fill us with all Truth.

God's love found through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ will compel us to be a source of strength for our community of St. Philip's and the surrounding area. We shall overcome hate, no matter what.

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

This Week: August 20—26

All Ages Sunday School: 10-11 AM
(No Theology Book Group till Sept)
Wed., 7 PM, **Vestry**, Sanctuary
Fri., 10:30, **Meditation**, Sanctuary
Sat., **Overnight Shelter Group**



SOLAR ECLIPSE: August 21st **Skypark 9:30-11 AM**

Many of our St. Philip's community members will be taking special trips this week to experience TOTALITY!! The extraordinary event of a TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE on Monday, August 21. Many people find such experiences to be quite a spiritual event, standing in awe of God's almighty creation... If you are here in Scotts Valley and have time to gather with Pastor Mary and dog, Maya, we will be at Skypark near the gazebo & Parks & building (hopefully with a telescope) to share a PARTIAL (about ¾) Eclipse. WE HAVE SPECIAL VIEWING EYE-WEAR to share; you can also pick up a pair of glasses at the church to take with you wherever you view this special event.

Save the Date

Sep. 7, **Wings Training**
Sep. 9, **Deanery Meeting at St. Philip's**
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**



All Parish
Pool Party
& BBQ!

Sunday, Sept. 10th,

12 - 4PM

Hidden Glen Pool

(Pastor Mary's neighborhood pool)



St. Philip's & VCUM say a **Big Thank You** for donations of \$100, with which we bought 6 backpacks and \$45 worth of supplies for students in need. Thanks also to Alejandra & Andy for helping Pastor Mary shop & deliver items.

Children, Youth & Families Events:

Sun., September 10: **Homecoming BBQ and Pool Party**- noon-4pm.

Fri., September 29: **Game Night** with Desserts.

Sun., Oct. 1: **Blessing of the Animals** at 8:00 & 10:00 am Services

Sun., October 8, 2017: **Kid's Marketplace**, following 10am service.

Sat., October 14, 2017: Kid's Night **Cooking for our Shelter Guests.**

Sun., Oct. 22, 2017: Sunday School- Kid's Vision: **Strategic Planning Part 1**

Sun., November 5, 2017: **Halloween Candy Tithe** (Helper needed)

Sun., Nov. 12, 2017: Sunday School- Kid's Vision: **Strategic Planning Part 2**

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ALL EVENTS!!