

Pip's Squeak

September 17, 2017

St. Philip's Church members and staff are to be commended for their phenomenal care for people who walk through our doors, not matter what the circumstance. From the first person to greet "walk-ins" (which is often Elizabeth Forbes, Office Manager) to those greeting on Sunday morning, we have sensitive, caring people who do what they can to offer hospitality and hope. Sometimes a person is truly brought into the fold in ways they had never imagined.

Here is a letter which was written by one such person whose life is in a process of transformation, much of which has been made possible due to St. Philip's generosity. This letter (reprinted here with permission) was written to our diocesan staff in response to the person having read an article about our ministry to the homeless. Thank you for your generous donations of time, talent and treasure added to these efforts to help make this possible.
Pastor Mary Blessing, Rector

To the Episcopal Diocese:

I have walked with God for 44 years. In the last several years, I've seen many changes in the church world. Most of these changes have broken my heart.

So many years passed without me being favorably impressed by any group calling itself godly, I was quite surprised (& pleasantly, I might add) when I found myself at the door of St. Philip's in Scotts Valley asking for food.

The results I was given food, a job, and a way to give back and became a witness to a group of people who make me proud to be associated with them - the staff at St. Philip's.

They help the homeless tirelessly. They give them a place to sleep. But their show of love & concern does not stop there. Between the time the homeless arrive at St. Philip's and the time they go to sleep there, a group of real nice people show up with bags of food and use the St. Philip's kitchen to prepare for the homeless a fresh, good and nutritious meal—a warm dinner.

This is all free to the homeless. The quality and taste of the food is such that you would gladly pay for it in a sit-down restaurant with tablecloths and candles.

Between 9 AM and the arrival of the homeless, the bathrooms are cleaned and restocked, the kitchen is cleaned, as well as the area where they will be sleeping. As far as I know, none of these people have been offered a Bible. But I'd be willing to bet my life if they asked, they'd be given God's word with a smile. Yes, if you ask me, that might be redundant because due to the behavior and dedicated and consistent service of St. Philip's staff, God's love can and is being seen without a spoken or written word every day. While writing this, my eyes have welled up with tears.

St. Philip's has been and is continuing to be a spiritual oasis in what was a world of spiritual wilderness for me for too many years.

I'm sorry I could not include a donation with this writing. I'm tithing by working at St. Philip's and donating by not charging for about 50% of my hours there. What they can pay should help me get my daughter here from out of state for better medical care.

I hope my words will serve as encouragement and help you see what your work, prayers and sacrifice is accomplishing in the hearts, minds and souls for whom our Lord hung on a cross.
Gratefully and Anonymously...

This Week: Sep. 17 - 23

Today: 9 AM, **Bible Study**, Room #2
Wed., 10 AM, **Theology Book Group**
Sat., **Overnight Shelter Group**



Theology Book Group will be meeting for the next 3 Wednesdays at 10:00 AM - September 20th - October 4th - to discuss *The Mind of God*, by neuroscientist Dr. Jay Lombard. **We will NOT have Theology Book Group on Wed. mornings beginning Oct 11 until further notice.** Most of us will then join the Tuesday afternoon *Bible Study: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study* on Tuesday, October 10, at 2:45 PM. All are welcome! See that announcement for details.

The Mind of God will prompt many questions. Is there a God? Does my life have purpose? Do we have free will? Does evil exist? What happens when we die? For Dr. Jay Lombard, these metaphysical questions are a jumping-off point for his study of the brain in search of the seat of the soul. It is neuroscience, the author contends, and our brains interpret what's going on around us that can lead us to a deeper and more fulfilling faith. Mixing his experiences in the medical field with his own life stories and visionary insight into spirituality, Lombard leads us to discover more about the nature of faith—and what we can do to focus our beliefs in a positive direction. From here, Lombard demonstrates how our brains are designed for empathy, compassion, and connection with one another and how this positively affects brain health and regeneration.

Children, Youth & Families Events:

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

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

Fri., Dec. 1, 2017: **No Room at the Inn Friday Gala**, Childcare available

Sat., Dec. 2, 2017: **No Room at the Inn Family Activities**

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ALL EVENTS!!

Save the Date

Sept. 24, **Youth Program Kick-Off**

Sept. 24, **Paradoxy Discussion**

Sept. 27, **Vestry**

Sept. 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**

Dec. 1 & 2, **No Room at the Inn**



**Middle & High School Youth & Families
of Santa Cruz County
Gather Sunday, September 24, 4pm-6pm
Kick Off BBQ/Pool fun**

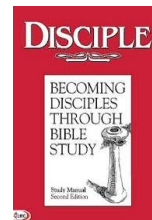
Hidden Glen neighborhood (Pastor Mary's place)
Youth and leaders from all Santa Cruz Co. Episcopal Churches are invited to a kick-off event for the shared youth ministry. Come meet youth from other churches, learn about our Fall plans for fun, faith, fellowship and service. Contact Pastor Mary for details at pastor.stphilips.sv@gmail.com

**Santa Cruz County Episcopal Churches
Collaborate On Youth Ministry: DIOCESAN GRANT GIVEN!
We are still waiting to hear from the National Church for additional
grant money for the Regional Youth Minister.**

Fall 2017 Calvary Episcopal, Santa Cruz, St. John's, Aptos and St. Philip's, Scotts Valley are initiating a shared ministry program among our Middle and High School members. All Saints, Watsonville and St. Andrew's, Ben Lomond are invited to participate, also. It will be a multi-faceted effort of Fun, Faith and Fellowship for students in 6th - 12th Grade.

Proposed Schedule Fall 2017:

Sunday Sept. 24, 4-6pm, St. Philip's Hosts BBQ/pool "Kick-off"
Friday, Sept. 29, 6-8pm, St. Philip's Game Night with dessert (all ages)
Sunday, Oct. 1, 4pm--St. John's "Faith Formation" & "Feast at 5"
Sunday, Oct 15, 4pm--Calvary Episcopal, Santa Cruz--Faith Formation
Sunday, Oct 29, 4pm--St. Philip's "Día De Los Muertos"
Sunday, Nov 5, 4pm--St. John's, Aptos, Faith Formation & "Feast at 5"
Sunday, Nov.19, 4pm- Calvary Episcopal, Santa Cruz "Faith Formation"
Friday, Dec. 1, 5-8pm, St. Philip's Service Project Fundraiser for Homeless
Sunday, Dec. 3, 4pm--St. John's Aptos, "Faith Formation" & "Feast at 5"
Friday, Dec. 15. 4pm-8pm—Christmas Party, maybe "Las Posadas" progressive meal, reenacting seeking Mary, Joseph, Jesus by going from church to church or home to home--planning needed!!



**DISCIPLE:
Bible Study to Begin in October!
Sign up NOW on foyer bulletin board.**

DISCIPLE is a program of disciplined Bible study aimed at developing strong Christian leaders.

This Adult Christian formation class is rooted in learning what the Bible teaches, cover-to-cover. Pastor Mary Blessing leading, with assistants. Pastor Mary and Jim have led this Bible study at two previous churches. The personal growth that comes through getting to know God's Word better and how to apply it to one's every day life is extraordinarily fruitful.

We will do the "FastTrak" version of DISCIPLES, for busy people: 24 weeks, about an hour each week. Weekday group will begin Tuesday, October 10, 2:45-4:15 PM at St. Philip's. There will also be an evening or weekend session if there is interest. Contact Pastor Mary if interested.

Kid's Marketplace Coming on October 8th!

Do you know a budding baker, farmer, crafter or maker? Would you like to support and encourage our kids, and fit in some early Christmas shopping at the same time?

Our first-ever **Kid's Marketplace** is an opportunity for kids from St. Philip's and the DLC to show off their maker skills, and for other kids and adults to support them by buying their wares.

Here are some possibilities for your young maker:

- fresh-baked cookies, scones, or cakes;
- hand-made jewelry;
- greeting cards or paintings;
- DIY body products such as lotion or soap;
- home-grown food such as fresh eggs, tomatoes, peppers, corn, etc.

Kid's Marketplace will happen immediately following the 10 AM service on October 8th, during coffee hour in the Parish Hall.

Participating kids will donate 10% of what they make to either St. Philip's Compassion Ministry (which supports our homeless shelter program) or to the County of Santa Cruz Animal Shelter.

If you are interested in having a table at the **Kid's Marketplace**, or if you have questions, please contact Susan Ortmeyer at [562-761-0697](tel:562-761-0697) or susanortmeyer@gmail.com.