

Pip's Squeak

October 15, 2017

*"For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building"
1 Corinthians 3:9*

Next month St. Philip's Episcopal Church will mark 30 years as a faith community. In its earliest years there was not even a physical building in which to meet. Each week a dedicated band of folk would set up worship space and provide Christian education in borrowed facilities until the acquisition of our current site on Scotts Valley Drive. I'm so grateful for those "pioneers" and their vision for what St. Philip's could be; and I've been personally blessed by the support and encouragement of the congregation.

There are really two dimensions to this faith community: one tangible and another intangible. The tangible dimension is the physical facility. This structure that houses St. Philip's, St. Philip's Office Suites, Faith Community Shelter guests, our food pantry and hosts the many user groups requires upkeep, maintenance and repair (especially after the past winter's damage). The intangible dimension is seen in the relationship connections we've made as the result of sharing worship, educational and fellowship experiences in our building. The two go hand in hand. And that's the challenge facing us today.

In order to continue to be "God's field, God's building", we need to invest ourselves financially and spiritually to this task. Our Stewardship Campaign for 2018 will focus on:

- ◆ Supporting the effort to keep our facility safe and structurally sound.
- ◆ Strengthen our worship experience by enhancing the music program.
- ◆ Nurture our young people in their faith.

You are invited to attend one of the informational meetings at 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM on Sunday, October 15th to learn more about how important your support is to St. Philip's mission to serve parish and community. We've been blessed to be a blessing!
Sally Sutter and The Stewardship Team

Halloween Candy Tithe



On **Sunday, November 5**, everyone is invited to bring a portion of their Halloween candy to share our abundance, which will help us to do God's work and help others. At both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. service, we will receive the candy tithe at the altar, where we will bless the gift of the candy and the givers of the gifts. We will donate the candy to our own Food Pantry.

This Week: Oct. 15 - 21

Today: **Stewardship Forums, 9, 11:30**
Today: 9 AM, **Bible Study**, Room #2
Today: **Faith Formation**, Youth, 4 PM
Tue., 3 PM, **Disciple Bible Study**
Sat., **Overnight Shelter Group**

Save the Date

Oct. 22, **Stewardship Campaign Continues**
Oct. 24, **Vestry Meeting**
Oct. 29, **Día de los Muertos Service**
Oct. 29, **Stewardship Campaign Continues**
Nov. 3-4, **Diocesan Convention**
Nov. 5, **Halloween Candy Tithe**
Nov. 19, **30th Anniversary/Bishop's Visit**
Nov. 28, **Vestry Meeting**
Dec. 1 & 2, **No Room at the Inn**

Next WINGS Training Event: Saturday, Nov 4, 2017

9:30 - 2:30 pm (includes lunch)

Community Covenant Church, Scotts Valley

Wings is continuing to grow and we invite you to be a part of our dynamic group of volunteers advocating for our homeless neighbors. We offer the safety of working exclusively through professional case managers and the convenience of volunteering on a case-by-case basis with no long-term commitment required.

Please RSVP to ExecDirector@wingsadvocacy.org or call 831-291-5096

COPA Reaching Youth Meeting Nov. 14th 7 PM

Lutheran Community Church 95 Alta Vista Ave., Watsonville
Learn & offer ways to care for all youth throughout our county, not just the ones attending church.

THE BISHOP IS COMING!!

Nov. 19, St. Philip's, one service only at 9 AM

Celebrate our 30th Anniversary
with Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves.

Please contact Pastor Mary if you would like to help us shape this special liturgy. If you wish to make an affirmation of your faith through Confirmation or Reception in the Episcopal Church, please check with Pastor Mary. Bishop Mary only visits once every two years, so this is the day for this special sacramental moment with her.

Following the worship service will be a festive brunch and Q & A time with Bishop Mary. **Helpers needed**, please contact Julie O'Brien: obrienbjns@sbcglobal.net or 831-438-5905.



Prepare for Winter Weather

Dear Friends,

We have an opportunity to sign up for a week of providing food and service to the folks at the **Winter Shelter** in Santa Cruz.

The **Winter Shelter** is run by the Association of Faith Communities (AFC) who also run the Faith Community Shelter, the same agency that sponsors our Saturday night guests. We are looking for someone to coordinate this service for the week we choose. If anyone is interested in doing this, please contact Lori Kintz or Kaye Olivier, as we would like to begin organizing our team. There are many dates available between December and April. We will keep you posted on the progress of this important ministry as the time nears and our team begins to take shape. Thank you, *Lori and Kaye*



Music Coordinator/Director Job Description:

St. Philip's rotating pianists are scheduled to play hymns for us through to the end of December 2017. Depending on the results of our Stewardship Campaign, which includes enhancing funds for music ministry, we will negotiate hiring a Music Director/Coordinator for 2018. Please contact Pastor Mary at pastor.stphilips.sv@gmail.com if you know someone interested in applying

Pomegranates Are Ripe!

Our Pomegranate Tree planted 11 years ago by the children of St. Philip's (many now in college or beyond!)... Has another 'bumper crop'. one per family, please!



Let everyone give as their heart tells them, neither grudgingly nor under compulsion, for God loves the ones who give cheerfully. After all, God can give you everything that you need, so that you may always have sufficient both for yourselves and for giving away to other people. (J.B. Phillips' translation of 2 Corinthians 9:7-8)

Dear People of St. Philip's,

Thank you to all who participated on Sunday October 8 at our "KID'S MARKETPLACE"—a time where children created crafts and food treats to sell in order to find a way to make money to give to St. Philip's Compassion Ministry and/or Animal Shelters. They were taught about how it is important to give a tithe (10%) of their earnings to help those who have little or nothing. The total income received is still being counted as we go to press, but what we know is that some children decided to divide their 10% between the two charities, and some chose to give ALL their earnings, especially to help the pets that are suffering from displacement due to the horrific fires in Northern California. Bless you, children for creating and selling, bless you community for buying and enjoying!

J. B. Phillips was an English Bible scholar, translator, author and clergyman of the early 20th C. He was well known for a simple book called "Your God is Too Small", written to encourage Christians to be careful not to attempt to narrow the scope of God's mercy and pathways, but rather to open our hearts to the many ways God will reach ALL people to receive God's love. His effort to bring God into a contemporary context in the mid-20th C. included his own translation of the New Testament into contemporary language. It became a kind of teaching Bible, which is well remembered as we enter our intentional process of assessing how we are to be cheerful givers. Or, as the Greek would be even more accurately translated: "God loves a HILARIOUS giver"—one who gives so much it really brings us into peals of laughter!

Perhaps the children of St. Philip's can be seen as ones who at a very young age recognize the importance of sharing all that God has given us so that we "may always have sufficient both for ourselves and for giving away to other people"... not only in times of disaster, but always.

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



<i>Santa Cruz County Episcopal Youth Happenings</i>		
Sun., Oct. 15	Faith Formation	4 PM, Calvary
Sun., Oct. 29	Día De Los Muertos	4 PM, St. Philip's
Sun., Nov. 5	Faith Formation & Feast at 5	4 PM, St. John's, Aptos
Sun., Nov. 19	Faith Formation	4 PM, Calvary
Fri., Dec. 1	Service Project Fundraiser for the Homeless	5-8 PM, St. Philip's
Sun., Dec. 3	Faith Formation & Feast at 5	4 PM, St. John's, Aptos
Fri., Dec. 15	Christmas Party (planning helpers needed!!)	4-8 PM
<i>All Are Welcome to All Events!</i>		

<i>Children, Youth & Families Events</i>		
Sun., Oct. 8	Kid's Marketplace	After 10 AM Service
Sat., Oct. 14	Kid's Night Cooking For Shelter Guests	4 PM
Sun., Oct. 22	Kids Vision: Strategic Planning, #1	11:30 AM
Sun., Nov. 5	Halloween Candy Tithe	11:30 AM
Sun., Nov. 12	Kids Vision: Strategic Planning #2	11:30 AM
Fri., Dec. 1	No Room at the Inn Gala	
Sat., Dec. 2	No Room at the Inn Family Activities	
<i>All Are Welcome to All Events!</i>		

<i>COPA Youth Events - All are Welcome!</i>		
Tue., Nov. 14	Learn & Offer Ways to Care for All Santa Cruz County Youth	7 PM, COPA Office