

Pip's Squeak

November 12, 2017

*"Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them." Colossians 3:19
Love is patient and kind... Love does not insist on its own way... Love never ends...
1 Corinthians 13*

Dear people of St. Philip's,

Jesus lived a life of love and acceptance of all people. When we say we follow in his footsteps we claim a place along the path of God's love, and want to bring everyone along with us. But it is hard. Life is difficult for so many. And there are no easy answers. Sometimes people fail to follow in the way of love that Jesus taught; sometimes a hardened heart acts violently toward others. Yet we are still called to love.

This past Sunday our nation and our world were shocked to learn of a lone gunman entering the church and killing 26 innocent people during worship. This is so horrific I am at a loss for words to describe my emotions. Mixed in with anger, shock, sorrow, disbelief, confusion and numbness are tiny glimpses of God's grace trying to make its way into my heart. I do not believe for one moment that violence and murder are "God's will." This heinous act was pure evil. God sent his Son Jesus Christ to give us a glimpse of how a person can remain calm in the midst of chaos. As our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry encourages, to follow Jesus means He "...will help you change the world from the nightmare it often is into the dream that God intends." And we cannot do it alone.

Here at St. Philip's we intend to follow Jesus and be proactive in our efforts to wake people up to a better dream than the nightmares of the nightly news. While the Texas shooting story was still unraveling, the Scotts Valley Police Department sent an officer to our church to invite us to participate in a training to help us better detect warning signs of violent behavior. We are arranging a time that our staff, vestry and key leaders can receive this training (it is usually done in a Monday-Friday, 8-5 timeframe). Additionally, I am seeking resources from our broader community to help us learn how to keep our church community safe—for children, teens, adults and all who enter. We do not want to generate fear where there is no need to cause alarm, but we also do not want to be blind and pretend it can't happen here.

If you are interested in being a part of an initial training or wish to help us pursue community responses to violence, please contact Pastor Mary or Elizabeth at the Church Office, 831-438-4360.

Meanwhile, may the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Mary and Jim Blessing

This Week: Nov. 12—18

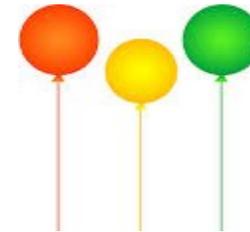
Today: 9 AM, **Bible Study**, Room #2
Mon., 10 AM, **2nd Monday Book Club**
Tue., 3 PM, **Disciples Bible Study**
Tue., 7 PM, **COPA Reaching Youth Meeting**
Wed., 12 Noon, **NRATI Meeting**
Fri., 10:30 AM, **Meditation**
Sat., **Overnight Shelter Group**

Save the Date

Nov. 19, **Faith Formation, Youth**
Nov. 28, **Vestry Meeting**
Dec. 1 & 2, **No Room at the Inn**
Dec. 3, **Faith Formation, Youth**
Dec. 15, **Youth Christmas Party**
June 3, **Bishop's Visit**

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

Remember to bring your pledge cards to the Sunday service; we also have blank pledge cards at the church if you need one.



***Won't you join us for our
30th Anniversary Celebration!
We are having a
celebratory coffee hour with cake
in the Parish Hall
after the 10 AM service.***

Saluting our veterans!

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Episcopal Youth Group of Santa Cruz County
REGIONAL YOUTH COORDINATOR NEEDED! The five Episcopal Churches of Santa Cruz County were awarded two grants to hire a half-time Regional Youth Director. The precise job description is under review, but we seek an energetic, well organized person trained in youth ministry and administration to manage our newly formed regional youth group, which meets every other Sunday afternoon. If you know someone interested, please contact Pastor Mary Blessing at pastor.stphilips.sv@gmail.com or Rev. Austin Leininger of Calvary Episcopal Church, Santa Cruz, at aleininger@calvarysantacruz.org.



Upcoming dates:

Sun., Nov. 19th - 4 p.m. Faith Formation, Calvary Church, Santa Cruz
 Fri., Dec. 15th - 4:00 p.m. Christmas Party (planning helpers needed!)

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.



Thanksgiving Food for the Food Pantry

If you're already in the kitchen making some home made goodies, please consider making just a little extra to share with our Food Pantry families this Thanksgiving. The Food Pantry will be distributing special foods on Tuesday, November 21st. Have your goodies to the church by then, please.

You'd like to give to the Food Pantry Thanksgiving Drive, but you have
No Time for Baking? No Problem!

If you'd like to contribute to our Food Pantry families, how about baking basics: **sugar, flour, chocolate chips, etc.** Also we'd appreciate reusable shopping bags to pack our donations. Many, many thanks. *The FP Team*

Wanted! Unused Santa Cruz Refuse/Greecycle Disposal Tags

St. Philip's needs the donation of unused Santa Cruz Greecycle Disposal tags and parishioners with pick-up trucks to help us dispose of the growing mound of greecycle waste at the end the parking lot. If you are a Santa Cruz resident, please drop off your unneeded Greecycle Disposal tags at the office and we will be using them during one of our upcoming work days.

Halloween Candy Tithes a success!

Lots of bags filled for our Food Pantry to distribute as a Thanksgiving treat!

Thanks be to God!
And way to go, kids!



Above: 100 pieces of candy counted out on the altar railing as a part of the demonstration of what a tithe is. *Below:* the tag that went on the bags of candy delivered to the St. Philip's Food Pantry. The bags of candy will be distributed to our neighbors who come to the Food Pantry on Thursday evenings.



"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you..." John 15:12

A gift to you from the children and parishioners of St. Philip's Episcopal Church

Sarah Joy Gabrielson has recently been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis and could use some extra help. A meal train has been started for the family for Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday dinners. Please sign up at <https://mealtrain.com/yldg9y>.



Questions? Contact Claudia at 831-438-4276 or office@ccsv.org.