

Pip's Squeak

December 3, 2017

Repair Work Can Begin!

"For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

Corinthians 3:9

The vestry has received confirmation that the SBA disaster loan that St. Philip's qualified for has been funded. We have a 30-year loan in the amount of \$20,300 at an interest rate of 2.75%. This amount will fund repairs related to last winter's storm damage.

We will be working with a contractor for some repairs that we can't do on our own. Our first project will be to fix the cross on the top of the building. In the sanctuary, the windows and wall will be repaired. In the church office, the water damage will be repaired and an internal window from the narthex to the office will be installed. The Food Pantry will be relocated to the room currently used as storage.

After this work is complete there is much work we must do ourselves. The church office will need to be painted, the Food Pantry room will need to be painted, other areas will need to be painted and arranged. We will be asking for your assistance. Look for work days and projects to be completed inviting your participation.

We will work to minimize the disruption, but it may be necessary to relocate some meetings from time to time.

The vestry is also working with the Episcopal Church Building Fund to borrow an additional \$95,000. This loan will fund major repairs on our roof and our HVAC system, as well as major repairs of the external stairwell, the Joiner Memorial Library, Sacristy, and the other rooms in the back wing of the building. Both sets of external doors in the Parish Hall will be replaced, enabling our guests from Faith Community Shelter a dry and warm place to sleep.

We are blessed to be a blessing. It will be a blessing to have our building functional again, with room for our Bible Study, a dry place for our Food Pantry, and a safe, warm and dry place for our shelter guests to sleep. With these blessings, we seek to bring people closer to God through worship, shelter, and feeding the hungry.

Lori Kintz, Sr. Warden



The vestry after signing the loan papers.

This Week: Dec. 3-9

Today: 9 AM, **Bible Study**, Room #2
Today: 4 PM, **Youth Faith Formation & Feast at 5**, St. John's, Aptos
Tue., 3 PM, **Disciples Bible Study**
Wed., 1 PM, **SVPD Safety Training**
Fri., 10:30 AM, **Meditation**, Sanctuary
Sat., **Overnight Shelter Group**

Save the Date

Dec. 10, **Pageant Rehearsal**
Dec. 11, **2nd Monday Book Study**
Dec. 13, **Lessons & Carols**
Dec. 15, **Youth Christmas Party**
Dec. 17, **Pageant Rehearsal**
Dec. 17, **Christmas Pageant**
Dec. 24, 7 PM, **Christmas Eve Svc.**
Dec. 24, 10:30 PM, **Midnight Svc.**
Dec. 25, 10 AM, **Christmas Svc**



St. Philip's Hosts 9 Lessons and Carols Wednesday, December 13, 7pm

San Agustin Church comes to St. Philip's for this traditional service of singing the Christmas story with carols and hearing lessons and meditations on the "Greatest Story Ever Told."

Stewardship

Our Stewardship season has drawn to a close for now, and we have had an extraordinary response to our direct appeal for an increase in pledging from our church family. For the pledges we have received to date, over 75% of pledging units have increased their pledge from last year. Importantly, we have six new pledging units (which include several 'givers of record' completing a pledge card.) A pledge card symbolizes a commitment to St. Philip's and is extremely significant for the church. This is how we build our budget for the next year; this is how we know what programs we can fund; and what salaries we can pay. This is also how our membership data is measured, which is very important in securing resources from the diocese and the national church, and any grants that we may apply to receive. If you have not yet completed a pledge card, in any amount, please prayerfully consider doing so as soon as possible. Even with the increase in pledges, unfortunately, the total amount pledged is lower than anticipated. Several good and faithful members of our parish had to decrease pledge amounts due to a change in life circumstances. Our stewardship team is aware of several one-time gifts expected in 2018, approximately \$14,200, that together with pledges should help us be close to meeting our stewardship goals.

If you have the heart to help us further, please prayerfully consider a one-time donation as well, to our General Fund, or specific funds like the Building Fund, the Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) Fund, the Rector's Discretionary Fund, the Music Ministry Fund, Altar Guild and Liturgical Arts Fund, or Compassion Ministry Fund.

"For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building"

1 Corinthians 3:9 There is a feeling of solidarity and strength as we unite in our commitment to one another and to St. Philip's ministries. We have been blessed by God's provision, and now it is our turn to show how we can be "God's field, God's building."



It's Christmas Pageant time!!!!

Please come and join in the fun for ALL ages

Once again, Vicky Granger-Jones and Julie O'Brien will be leading our youth through the fun and creative process of coming together to put on a show for family and friends to enjoy. We will have parts for ALL ages—little ones all the way up to seniors in high school—(we would even be happy to have some ADULTs join in the fun!) All the details are below:

WHEN: 12/17 at 5pm. Coffee/tea & cookies to follow.

HOW: Rehearsals 12/10 (during the 10am service) & 12/17 (starting during the 10am service and finishing by 1:30 pm **Lunch is provided**).

WHY: Because it is always GREAT fun...and we love to bring a little joy (& laughter) to our family and friends.

SO NOW WHAT...

The most important thing for you to do now is to RSVP to let us know if we can plan on you or your child(ren) being part of the process. Vicky will also need to know if you or your child(ren) prefer(s) a speaking or a non-speaking part. Vicky plans to tweak the script to reflect the interests of those involved. There are one or two larger, older narrator parts (reading from script) and lots of one- or two-line parts. Please let us know as soon as possible, so that Vicky can get working on writing and casting!

Please note...If you have a **younger** child, they can rehearse as they feel comfortable or else they can just show up on the night, put on a costume and join in! For **older** youth Vicky is really looking for helpers with costuming, staging, so please let us know ASAP!

You can **RSVP to Courtney Messer at cmesser222@yahoo.com** OR at **408.569.7724**. Be sure to include the following information:

- 1) Your child(ren)'s name(s)
- 2) Your name and contact information
- 3) The type of part your child would feel comfortable with (speaking or non-speaking). If speaking, give an idea of their level of comfort with speaking (i.e., a few lines...or a narrator). If your child prefers to help with "behind the scenes" activities (i.e. lighting, stage set-up/tear-down) please let us know.

Advent: Preparing to Become the Beloved Community

A new faith formation opportunity for Advent is available from the Episcopal Church! "Wherever you are, this Advent every Episcopal ministry is invited to prepare to embrace Jesus' ministry of reconciliation and healing." In the midst of our busy lives, I wanted to offer an opportunity for interested parishioners to gather as an internet group to practice the Advent disciplines described on this website: www.episcopalchurch.org/beloved-community. More later on the mechanics. Check it out, and email me if you're interested at lwm9795@gmail.com! *Pastor Lucretia*

Episcopal Youth Group of Santa Cruz County

REGIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY FUNDING GRANTED! Grant monies are coming in AND St. Philip's Vestry approved \$2,500. from our CYF Special Fund to help hire our RYM coordinator. The five Episcopal Churches of Santa Cruz County were awarded two grants to hire a half-time Regional Youth Minister. 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 Leiningner of Calvary Episcopal Church, Santa Cruz, at aleiningner@calvarysantacruz.org.

Upcoming dates:

Fri., Dec. 15th - 4:00 p.m. Christmas Party (planning helpers needed!)

Support us when you shop this holiday season

Buy your gifts and holiday essentials at smile.amazon.com. You shop. Amazon donates.

amazon smile



Shop for everyone on your gift list this holiday at smile.amazon.com/ch/77-0206255 and Amazon donates to St. Philip's Episcopal.

A meal train has been started for the Gabrielson 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.



Pilgrimage to the Land of the Holy One

September 2-14, 2018

See the flyers on the foyer table for all the details.