



### *From Pastor Mary*

*"1992 is not a year on which I shall look back with undiluted pleasure,"* said Queen Elizabeth II on the heels of a year where three of her children went through

divorce and her main home, Windsor Castle had just burnt. She went on to say, *"In the words of one of my more sympathetic correspondents, it has turned out to be an 'Annus Horribilis.' I suspect that I am not alone in thinking it so."* St. Philip's Church suffered 2017 not quite as dramatically as her "Horrible Year," but it certainly has been a tough one. The good news is that the spirit of love and concern for one another and our neighbors has continued to be the top priority of our congregation, and we are blessed to find 2018 starting out on a very positive trajectory, even though we continue to see many transitions.

In addition to all the concerns for our physical building and its need for repair, we are bidding farewell to our two assisting Priests. Fr. Joel Miller has accepted a call to serve as Interim Priest to St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and will no longer be with us. Pastor Lucretia Mann has announced her desire to move forward from St. Philip's into new possibilities for ministry and will end her time here on February 11. Please be here to celebrate her movement forward in ministry! (You can read more about this transition below.)

Starting off with our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 28, at the 11:30 pot-luck brunch, we will begin our "Dreaming Bigger" strategic planning. All ages are highly encouraged to be here to eat, discuss, listen to one another and even offer written or drawn images of our dreams for St. Philip's. Throughout Lent we will have two sessions per week of sharing a meal and doing Living Room Conversation-style discussions of how we live into our ministries in this day and age. Wednesday evenings and Sunday lunches will give us ample time to gather with one another and discern God's call for St. Philip's.

Whenever we are at a time of transition and change it is comforting to remember those final words of Jesus to his disciples as he was ascending into heaven following the resurrection: "...I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:20b)

*Pastor Mary and Jim Blessing*

### *From Pastor Lucretia*



Following months of prayer, discernment, and spiritual direction, I have realized that my time at St. Philip's is drawing to an end. Four years ago Bishop Mary asked me to begin my diaconal training in your parish. Following what has seemed a steady succession of health challenges, and with the prayerful support and encouragement of this congregation, especially of

Pastor Mary, I was ordained priest nearly three years ago. Following periods of absence, in anticipation of kidney transplant, and in my call to continue my ministry with you, I obtained permission of both Bishop Mary and Pastor Mary to continue serving in St. Philip's on a part-time voluntary basis beyond my priestly ordination.

Some of you have heard me describe my longstanding passion for worship and faith formation across the lifespan, and my understanding of how each informs the other. For me, each is likewise informed by the biblical imperative to strive for justice for all. My commitment to justice has been brought into sharper focus for me by two current situations: the abrupt and less-than-transparent closure of my beloved seminary last summer, and the chaos of social changes resulting in and prompted by our recent presidential election.

Since childhood, my oft-repeated refrain of "that is not fair," a comment that often got me banned to my room as a child, has propelled me into speaking up for those who are not afforded equal rights and protection in my community at large. This deep commitment to justice was further fueled by the multi-cultural diversity and anti-oppression training foundational to my seminary formation and the charism of my seminary.

I believe I am called to deepen my anti-oppression training and expand my ministry with that focus, particularly in anticipation of returning to the East Coast within the next year, either before or after a kidney transplant. I am planning to move to Alexandria, VA within the year to be closer to my beloved grandchildren, and to be located in an urban multicultural setting for ministry. In the meantime, I am exploring additional training opportunities in racism and consultation to better equip me for that move and work, and to further develop and apply the leadership skills of my 12 years as Team Leader of a local Vet Center.

With Pastor Mary, we have identified February 11<sup>th</sup> as my last Sunday with you at St. Philip's. Between now and then, I look forward to opportunities to share with you the rich impact my time with you has had and will continue to have in my life. I shall always be grateful to your steadfast support and witness to Christ's love in your lives. As I ask your prayers for my continued growth and ministry, please know that you will always hold a very dear place in my heart and prayers.

With deep gratitude in Christ's name, *Lucretia+*

**This Week: Jan. 21 - 27**

Today: 9 AM, **Bible Study**, Rm. #2  
Tue., 3 PM, **Bible Study**, Sanctuary  
Tue., 7 PM, **Vestry**  
Fri., 11 AM, **Meditation**, Sanctuary  
Sat., **Overnight Shelter Group**

**Save the Date**

Jan. 28, **Annual Meeting**  
Feb. 12, **2nd Monday Book Grp.**  
Feb. 13, **Shrove Tuesday  
Pancake Supper**  
June 3, **Bishop's Visit**



**Annual Meeting:**

**30 Years — Dreaming Bigger!!**  
**Sunday, January 28, 11:30am**

**We'll eat a hearty lunch:** *Everyone, bring a dish to share!*  
**We'll hear the year end roundup of all things St. Philip's**  
**Presentation by Junior Warden, Clive Ellis**  
*Come see what we have done and what we will do  
to repair and improve St. Philip's Facility*

**We'll elect new members to our Vestry and Delegates to Convention:**

*We still have opportunities available to serve in these areas:*

Vestry: *So far, there are 3 people prayerfully considering service on Vestry. We have enough room to add even more.*

*If you are interested please see Pastor Mary or Lori Kintz, Sr. Warden!*

Delegates to Convention: *So far the following people are nominated to serve as Delegates /Alternates to Convention: Cindy Hershberger, Lori Kintz, Donna Seelbach; Alternate: Jane Ellis*

*NOTE: The Vestry (Board of Directors) will be finalizing the 2018 budget at the January 23 meeting. If you would like to make a financial pledge, there is still time. Pledge cards available on table by church entrance.*

**Children and teens welcome and encouraged to eat and "Dream" with us.**  
**Eat lunch then stay to play, with caregivers provided.**  
*Committed teens 16 and older eligible to vote.*

*NOTE: The Vestry (Board of Directors) will be finalizing the 2018 budget on January 23. If you would like to make a financial pledge, there is still time. Pledge cards available on table by church entrance.*

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**  
**Tuesday, February 13, 2018**  
**6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**



Come join us for fellowship and Pancakes on Shrove Tuesday! We will have a great Pancake supper with all the trimmings! This is an ALL PARISH event, as we gather before Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent.

Let Susan Ortmeyer or Lori Kintz know if you would be willing to help cook, set-up, or clean-up.



Temple Beth El &  
Watsonville First United Methodist Church  
**IMMIGRATION CIVIC ACADEMY**

**Sunday, January 28, 2018, at 3-5pm.**  
Watsonville First United Methodist Church  
229 Stanford St, Watsonville CA.

**For any question contact Andres Arias (408) 516-6834**

**Youth Service Project Opportunity**

The Regional Youth Ministry seeks a date for our Youth Group to prepare and eat a Saturday night meal with our Shelter Guests. Currently planned for March 10.  
Let Pastor Mary know if you are available.



**NEEDED: Places to Live**

These people need housing now:

Female, Senior Citizen

Male, Senior Citizen

Single Mother with 4 year old son

2 DIFFERENT Working Females, can share

Please contact Pastor Mary or  
St. Philip's's Church Office

