

# Pip's Squeak

May 13, 2018

*"...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses..." (Acts 1:8)*

Dear people of St. Philip's,

These are exciting times in the story of Jesus' final days as a visible presence on Earth. This week we celebrate the amazing events of the resurrected Lord's last words to his disciples, his Ascension into Heaven, and in ten days the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost! There is so much about these days that are a mystery to us, yet they are days filled with hope and possibility. We read of early disciples finally coming into their own confidence as people filled with a spiritual power beyond anything they had ever imagined. But first, Jesus must leave them, returning to God the Father, in order to have the power of the Holy Spirit fully transmitted back to all on earth who turn their hearts to God in Christ Jesus.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit these first Christians realize they now have the ability to BE Christ's Body in the world—and the Body of Christ is what we historically came to call the church. Those people who are baptized by water and the Holy Spirit receive at least one spiritual gift, which when activated by the person choosing to follow Christ, brings the fullness of God's presence into our world here and now. We ARE Christ's body, until such time that Christ Jesus returns—this is where we find our hope, as we live lives of loving encouragement to one another as Christ loves us.

To that end, we here at St. Philip's and throughout Christendom strive to utilize gifts of the Holy Spirit to their fullest. We have a multitude of ministries right here in our small community which are activated to their fullest, and yet there is always room for more people to activate God's Holy Spirit in their lives for the good of the whole community.

As we approach Pentecost Sunday on May 20, we invite each and every one of you to participate in activating Holy Spirit gifts that have been given to you. If you are able to go on-line to complete a Spiritual Gift Inventory that helps you identify your particular spiritual gifts, we invite you to do so in this next week or two at the following link. This is the same survey our Disciples Bible Study will use to prepare for our final retreat:

<http://survey.adultbiblestudies.com/spiritualgifts>

Remember: there are no right or wrong answers to a spiritual gifts inventory, simply the authentic answers you give to prayerfully consider what God has already freely given you which you may freely use to activate more aspects of the Body of Christ into a world hungry for God's purposes to be fulfilled.

On Pentecost Sunday we will actively pursue the various ministry interests each of us has and how that ministry either is fulfilled now at St. Philip's, or how we might invite further activation of that ministry gift. Here is a basic list of the ministries we now have at St. Philip's—how might your spiritual gifts be used in these ministries, or what would you add that we are missing?

Administration (office; Vestry); Christian Education (children, youth and adult); Communications (PIP, website; Facebook, newspaper; flyers); Compassion Ministry (Eucharistic Visitors, Food Pantry, Shelter Guests, Tuesday meals at St. Francis); Facilities (Buildings; Gardening, Grounds); Fellowship & Hospitality (Coffee Hour, fellowship dinners, Greeters, potlucks, special events); Financial (bookkeeping, fundraising; stewardship; treasurer); Leadership (COPA, ministry heads, Vestry); Spiritual Development (adult formation; Bible study, prayer ministry, retreats), Worship and Liturgy (acolytes, Altar Guild, lectors, liturgical arts, music team, servers, ushers).

Please prayerfully consider how you and your loved ones are already using God's Holy Spirit gifts so that we can celebrate together on Pentecost Sunday, May 20, a day which many consider the birthday of the Church. Please plan on wearing red that day, a sign that our hearts are on fire with the power of God's Holy Spirit...THERE WILL BE BALLOONS!!

Peace to you in Christ,

*Pastor Mary and Jim Blessing*

## **This Week: May 13 - 19**

Today: 9 AM, **Bible Study**, Rm. #2

Today: 9 AM, **Why Episcopal?**

Mon., 10 AM, **2nd Monday Book Club**, Sanctuary

Tue., 11:30 AM, **Repair Project Status Meeting**, Sanctuary

Tue., 3 PM, **Bible Study**, Sanctuary

Thu., 5 PM, **Food Pantry**

Fri., 6 PM, **AFC Fundraising Dinner**, Portuguese Hall

Sat., **Faith Communities Shelter Overnight Guests**

**FCS Dinner made & served by TBA**

Next Sunday, **Mike FitzGerald Memorial**, Community Covenant

## **Save the Date**

May 30, **Vestry** (Note date change from 27th)

June 3, **Bishop's Visit: One Service 9:00am**

June 10, **Picnic & Pool Party**

In honor of Mother's Day, we pray for those who have mothered us, and for those of us who are still parenting. We offer this Prayer for the Care of Children from the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer:

Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Book of Common Prayer, page 829)



### **SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

Continues on Sunday mornings. Join us!

### **CHRISTIAN FORMATION WHY EPISCOPAL?**

Continuing today at 9:00 a.m. Pastor Mary Blessing and Lay Leader Bill Dolby are teaching a course: *Why Episcopal? Sharing the history, theology and current context of the Episcopal Church.* This is a five week course, Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m., and began on April 15. This class is also suitable for those preparing for CONFIRMATION or RECEPTION, or adult AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, which will be on June 3 when Bishop Mary visits.

### **PENTECOST IS COMING NEXT SUNDAY, May 20th**

⇒ Wear red!

⇒ Bring your completed Spiritual Gifts Inventory!

### **Association of Faith Communities Celebration Dinner**

MAY 18 2018, 6:00 - 9:00 PM at PORTUGUESE HALL

[https://www.afcsantacruz.org/gala\\_dinner.html](https://www.afcsantacruz.org/gala_dinner.html).

Or contact Judy at [timjudy@comcast.net](mailto:timjudy@comcast.net) or 423-9206.

### **SPACE PLANNING INPUT**

We invite everyone to participate in our space planning process. Please complete this short questionnaire:

<https://goo.gl/forms/QYTMW7RCmkqmX3mB2>

### **HOUSING NEEDED**

An elder woman with a special needs adult son are in need of housing. They are currently living out of their car. They need 2 bedrooms and can pay a maximum of \$500; alternatively, they have a Section 8 voucher. If you can accommodate these 2 people, even temporarily, please contact the church office, 831-438-4360.

### **REPAIR WORK UPDATE**

Our re-roof and HVAC replacement projects are complete, we passed the city inspections. Thank you to all for your patience with the noise and access restrictions. Now we have a water-tight roof over much of our building. We are currently working out the detailed plan for next phase of building restoration and will publish the details as soon as they are firmed up.

### **PARISH WORK DAY/ PREP FOR GARDEN TOUR- THANK YOU!!**

A big THANK YOU to the dedicated and motivated, parishioners who joined us for clean up! Your work is so very much appreciated!



**June 10th  
Picnic Potluck  
Hidden Glen  
Picnic & Pool Area**

June 10th we will have our special end of school year celebrations in worship service and at our picnic party after church. In addition to celebrating graduates, we will give thanks for the Messer family who is moving to Texas. After church we'll meet at Pastor Mary's Hidden Glen picnic pool area, but will have a picnic potluck, because Tim Messer will not be able to make his famous burgers....We are all invited to go to Texas to enjoy his barbecue there anytime we want! Please mark this date on your calendar and plan to be enjoying the festivities with all of us. More details to follow.



### **MIKE FITZGERALD MEMORIAL**

The memorial service for Pastor Michael FitzGerald will be held Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 1:00 pm, Community Covenant Church, 2700 El Rancho Dr., Scotts Valley, CA. Please **consider carpooling** to this service as they have limited parking.