

Pip's Squeak

June 24, 2018

"...an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. (Mt. 2:13-15)



Dear people of St. Philip's,

Over a year ago some St. Philip's members pooled their resources and ordered a large banner declaring St. Philip's to be a congregation that welcomes immigrants and refugees. We had it up for a while, then took it down for a while, and then decided to put it back up some weeks ago. We have been trying very hard to follow what the Bible and our Christian tradition have taught us about what it means to be in the family of God, caring for all God's children, offering safe hospitality to those in need. Even baby Jesus and his family were refugees who sought asylum in Egypt, fleeing the tyranny of a puppet King Herod.

These days Pope Francis is leading Christendom through a process of protesting evil placed upon families already fleeing for their lives from similar tyranny. Our own Episcopal Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and our national church leadership are working hard to lead us through the difficult waters of appropriate response to families affected by immigration, refugee status and asylum in the United States. Some Episcopal bishops who have gone to the U.S. Mexico border to view the current situation have found that it is not helping anyone to add to the confusion by having too many protestors in need of food, shelter and basic services. It appears to be emboldening those who agree with policies of containing immigrants rather than making the point that we are to care for people who are asylum seekers.

These issues are complicated. Policies have been changed which have turned people who seek administrative support to apply for asylum into criminals because they are not getting legal aid they need to follow the administrative rules. It is unclear how those of us sitting here Santa Cruz County can

take real action to affect positive change, and yet our hearts cry out to help.

Here is a link with information regarding actions the Episcopal Church is doing throughout the nation:

<https://advocacy.episcopalchurch.org/immigration?0> Some of these events are past, but please take a moment to listen to Bishop Curry's video included with the link, as it will help you know where we stand as a broader faith community.

Also, our local community organizing group, COPA, is partnering with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Monterey to consider possible local responses. I have already participated in a clergy conference call with COPA leadership and the Catholic Diocese. One thing I learned from these participants is that they are not as shocked as many of us. They say families have been torn apart by detention and deportation for years. Children have historically been placed in risky situations not by their parents who have sought to protect them, but by law enforcement. They say one of the most important ways we can start getting our congregation, families, friends and neighbors to get a better understanding of how challenging this all is would be to simply spend time in our St. Philip's context sharing our own family immigration stories, trusting one another to share honestly the challenges many people in our family trees had as new immigrants, we might then begin to build empathy with those currently challenged.

Our group of COPA clergy under the leadership of Lead Organizer, Tim McManus, is planning an interfaith prayer service, followed by the launch of a powerful local organizing campaign of support for immigrant families in our area. Please save the date of Sunday, July 1st at 2:30pm in Salinas (details to be confirmed). To continue the planning there will be a conference call on Tuesday (6/26) at 1pm if you would like to join the conversation. Here is the conference call information:

Tuesday, June 26th, 1pm

1-605-475-4700

Code: 106450#

Regardless of your personal perspective on this very complex issue, won't you please join us as we prayerfully consider how we might fulfill our Baptismal Covenant to 'respect the dignity of every human being' in regards to immigration, refugees and asylum seekers.

Peace to you in Christ,
Pastor Mary and Jim Blessing

This Week: June 24—30
 Today: 9am, **Bible Study**, Rm. #2
 Today: After 10am service, **Children, Youth & Family Meeting**
 Wed. 7-9pm **Vestry Meeting**
 Thu., 5 pm, **Food Pantry**
 Fri., 11am, **Meditation**, Sanctuary
 Sat., 9am-3pm, **Rummage Sale**, Parking Lot
 Sat., 5 pm, **Overnight Guests**, Parish Hall
FCS Dinner made & served by Fran Johnson, St. Philip's

Save the Date
 July 9, 2nd **Monday Book Group**
 September 30, **COPA Convention, Salinas**
 Nov. 30-Dec. 1, **No Room at the Inn**

Children, Youth & Family Meeting Sunday TODAY!
 All are invited to attend a CYF meeting immediately after the 10 am service today. At this brief meeting, we will plan some fun events for the summer, and get started on our fall program planning. Childcare will be provided.

Summer Sunday School Is Here!
 This summer, our preschool through elementary-age children will be flying high with our summer Sunday school theme **Winging It!: Birds and Angels of the Bible**. Our program will run the next nine weeks, through Sunday, August 26, and all children will meet together as a "one-room schoolhouse."

Together, we will explore the stories and symbolism of doves, ravens, eagles, and other birds in the Bible, in addition to those spiritual beings known as angels. At the same time, kids will have fun as they make and feather their own birds' nests, re-enact the story of the ravens feeding Elijah bread and meat to keep him alive, and eat "worms" (of the gummy variety!) just like baby birds. We could use some help with this one, folks!

Our hard-working Sunday school teachers will be able to teach on a few Sundays, but they could use a summer break. We can happily employ both teachers and those who can simply be present in the classroom as helpers. I will provide support, guidance, and curriculum to follow, so that all you need do is show up and have fun with our wonderful children! Please see me after church or contact me at susanortmeyer@gmail.com if you can help out.

St. Andrew's, Ben Lomond
 Cordially invites one and all
 to the Retirement Party for
 Fr. Blaine Hammond



Today (at St. Andrew's) 11:30-ish (after the 10 AM service)
 It's Potluck, so let Janet know what you can bring.
 Menu: Casseroles & Salads
 Ice Tea, Water, Coffee & Tea
 [Special cake for dessert]
 RSVP to Janet Butler at 336-2755

Change in Office Hours
 Please note that, effective immediately, church office hours will be changing to Tuesday through Friday, 12pm-4pm. The office will be closed on Mondays.

The Discovery Learning Center Needs Help
 The Discovery Learning Center urgently needs new board members, people to help with marketing and social media, volunteer teachers, special event coordinators, and financial donations.

Please let the DLC know if you would be interested in helping in any of these areas at info@dlcsantacruz.org

DLC Lending Library Hours **DLC Summer Membership**
 Monday 11:30 - 1:30 Summer lending library: \$30
 Tuesday 11:30 - 1:30 Summer supporting member: \$50
 Wednesday 10:00 - 12:00 [Sign-up with PayPal today!](#)

**8th Annual Recovery Retreat:
 Steps 6 & 7, We Are Beloved**
 August 3, 2018- August 5, 2018
 St. Francis Retreat Center, San Juan Batista
 Join fellow members in recovery from El Camino Real and surrounding dioceses to explore a time of sharing and caring for one another. Open to anyone in 12-step recovery who wants to experience a recovery retreat from an Episcopal Christian perspective.



This year we will explore our belovedness in the eyes of God and how God can mold us into the person that God wants us to be. To register, go to realepiscopal.or/event/8th-annual-recovery-retreat-2018/?instance_id=577.

*Need help with costs? See Pastor Mary.
There is scholarship money available!*



2nd Monday Book Club

Every second Monday of the month we have a Book Club meeting in the Sanctuary from 10am to 12pm. Everyone is welcome (and friends), even if you haven't read the book! It is a delightful social time and the discussion ranges all over the place, from what's happening in people's lives, to showing the latest grandkid photographs, to world events and finally to the book! Please join us.

Our upcoming book selections are:

July 9: Orphan Train – Christina Baker Kline

Aug 13: The Little Paris Bookshop – Nina George

Sep 10: Truly, Madly, Guilty – Lianne Moriarty

Oct 8: Little Fires Everywhere – Celeste Ng

Nov 12: The Nightingale – Kristin Hannah

Dec 10: *Christmas Party – no book; hosted by a member*

Jan 14: The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks – Rebecca Skloot

Feb 11: The Rent Collector – Camron Wright



Saturday Shelter Dinners

Hello, all of you who have signed up for providing a meal for our shelter friends. Thank you for doing this important ministry. If you have not signed up, please consider doing so by using the sign-up sheet in the foyer. Include your email and phone number so that a reminder can be sent before your Saturday comes up. Financial assistance is available if you need it and please don't hesitate to ask. Thank you for your help.

If you have any questions please email or call Kaye Olivier @ virjesna@comcast.net or 831-600-8259.

Space Planning Discussion

A group met on June 12, 2018 to discuss space planning here at St. Philip's.

We reviewed the input that was received from our parish and community regarding space needs. Among other needs, space is needed for Bible Study, storage for the Food Pantry, storage for historical financial and parish documents, storage for the Clothes Closet, where to store the Faith Community Shelter (FCS) mattresses. Office space is needed for future staff and clergy needs. The community group Omega Nu uses our space and detailed needs regarding tables and chairs.

Our amazing contractor, Kevin Maurer, has access to some beautiful cabinets that may fit well in our Sacristy, allowing our amazing Altar Guild better working conditions.

Our parishioner Tim Johnson, has a conference table that his work company no longer needs that will fit in our Joiner Library. Clive Ellis and Greg Kintz are going over the hill to pick up the table and chairs, which along with bookcases, a couch and comfy chairs will make for a useful multi-purpose room. This library will host our Sunday morning bible study, vestry meetings, and other activities.

The Vesting Room will be re-arranged to be welcoming and efficient, and have storage space more appropriate to our younger (and shorter) acolytes.

We are currently paying for two storage units, and hope to sort through these items to get rid of broken items, sell

unnneeded items at the Rummage Sale, and get prepared to move our furniture back in when all repairs are complete.

This space planning discussion continues as our repair work continues and we continue to discern our space needs.

Contact Lori Kintz at clerk@stphilip-sv.net with any questions or comments.

Garden and Grounds Ministry Group

Now that our building is on the way to repair, it is time to spruce up our gardens and grounds. A small group (with more who's schedule did not work with the meeting time) gathered recently to organize our needs and prioritize out path forward. As you might expect, there is is much to do! We focused on going around the property and listing the beginnings of what projects need to be done in order for us to be able to use the grounds.

Several maintenance things need to be accomplished, our water line and some drains need attention, which might necessitate digging up parts of the yard. Fences and retaining walls need repair. Trees and bushes need trimming and beds need attention. Our parking lot is going to be repaired and resurfaced. Our sign at the street desperately needs repair. We also discussed ways to open up space for outdoor worship, a patio that could be used for our Garden Tour and by our parish, a vegetable garden for our children to learn about God's abundance, a labyrinth, and an area for our children to run and play.

At the end of our walk around the grounds, Bill Dolby noted that there are a lot of new housing units up and down Scotts Valley Drive and the immediate surrounding area. There are lots of new people and families. The world is big, but God has brought us right here, on Scotts Valley Drive. What can we do on Scotts Valley Drive to bring people to God?

We are so blessed to have this large and beautiful property for our use and to share the good news of God's presence in Scotts Valley. What do the people of Scotts Valley really need? How will we know that? How do we be in conversation and be welcoming to our community? It could be some of those things we talked about, and some of the

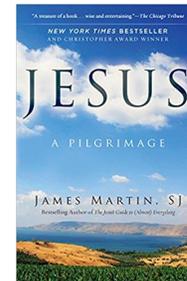
activities that we currently do, but it could be other things as well.

Something to pray about.

Contact Clive Ellis or Lori Kintz with any questions.

Theology Book Group—Summer Session!

This summer a few of us will be meeting to read the book, JESUS: A Pilgrimage, by James Martin, SJ (author of The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything). Fr. Martin gives a down-to-earth, sometimes amusing, view of the complexities of following a life-long journey walking alongside Jesus Christ.



Pastor Mary is reading this book in anticipation of her first pilgrimage to Israel, set for September 2-15. You are invited to share the journey, so-to-speak, by reading and sharing your own stories of "pilgrimage with Jesus", whether literally or figuratively. Bible study coordinator, David Sanguinetti will be joining Pastor Mary and the group going to Israel this summer; we hope to bring our experience back to St. Philip's to share with you, and this book will help us focus how to do that most effectively.

We will probably gather on Wednesdays during the summer beginning June 27, for an hour, time TBA depending on needs of participants. Please, won't you join us?

Contact Pastor Mary for further details, 831-438-4360.