

# Pip's Squeak

October 21, 2018

## This Week: October 21—27

Wednesday 10:30am **Theology Book Group**

Thursday 5pm **Food Pantry**, Narthex

Friday 11am **Meditation** Sanctuary

Friday 12pm **Building & Grounds Meeting** Church Office/Parish Hall

Friday & Saturday **Diocesan Convention** Salinas

Saturday 5 pm **FCS Overnight Guests** Parish Hall etc.

(October 27, **FCS Dinner** made by **ReGeneration Church**)



## Save the Date

Nov. 2 **RYM Día de los Muertos** Cristo Rey/All Saints

November 12 2<sup>nd</sup> **Monday Book Group** - *The*

*Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah

November 28 **Vestry Meeting** Sanctuary

Nov. 30-Dec. 1, **No Room at the Inn**

December 19 **Lessons & Carols**, San Agustín

## Pastor's Message

*"I will bless you, I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing...and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (Genesis 12:2-3)*

Dear People of St. Philip's,

Vestry members met recently with diocesan consultant, Joanna Shreve, to pause and consider our ministry. We began with reflections upon this Scripture from Genesis that teaches about Abraham, the founder of monotheistic religion: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. God called to Abraham under the night stars, and Abraham listened. He listened and God gave him some very specific instructions: "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you." (Gen 12:1) The rest is history!

How many of us would be willing to take the time to truly listen to God and then do what he asks of us? Luckily, when God spoke to Abraham he made it clear he was not to go alone—rather, he was to take his family, including his nephew, Lot, because he had no sons... together they went out into the world and began to be a blessing for all to enjoy. That was around 2,160 years BEFORE JESUS, which means over 4000 years ago... and here we are, passing on the legacy of blessing others because we have been blessed.

Youth of Santa Cruz are beginning to feel the blessing of God through the ministries of Santa Cruz county Episcopal churches! This past year, The Rev. Austin Leininger from Calvary Episcopal and I heard a call from God not to "go to a foreign land", but to work intentionally to reach youth in our own churches as well as throughout Santa Cruz County. The fruit of our labor is beginning to blossom! As a partnership with area churches and with funding from our diocese and the national church, our Regional Youth Ministry is beginning to flourish under the leadership of Missioner Pamela Stevens, M. Div.

On Sunday St. Philip's hosted "Art Meditation" with youth from St. Philip's, St. John's, Aptos, and Calvary, Santa Cruz. It is so gratifying hearing teens share how much they like coming to meet up with teens from



Santa Cruz County Youth Art Meditation

other churches. Some boys who met last Spring at our ESCAPE ROOM fun night, remarked that it is cool to hang out here and also be able to meet up at Boy Scout Leadership gatherings in the county. A girl who attends Calvary brought a friend who doesn't have a faith community. She first attended the Comedy fun night last month, and this month was eager to participate with the Art Meditation. Together the girls have been inviting more friends from school to go to Dia de los Muertos at All Saints Cristo Rey. This is the fruition of our vision. We can already see blessings spreading throughout the county, and look forward to more!

This is just one way St. Philip's and the Episcopal Church throughout Santa Cruz County is passing along the blessings we have received through the love of God known to us in Jesus Christ. And we have been further blessed by the opportunity to give a presentation at the upcoming Diocesan Convention, sharing the good we have found in partnering in ministry. So we are further blessed.

Just wondering: how have you been blessed, and how are you being a blessing to others?

Peace to you in Christ, *Pastor Mary and Jim Blessing*

### **Making a Difference**

Living in contentious times can be challenging and I've heard more than one person express frustration and feelings of helplessness. Jane Ellis and I had the privilege of spending Monday morning in the company of those who've discovered there is an answer. This was the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Second Harvest Food Bank Partner Agency Conference (which also serves as their annual meeting). We heard inspiring stories of lives changed, had an opportunity to attend informative workshops and enjoyed sharing a delicious meal with representatives from other agencies. The focus was on what we can do and cooperation was the byword. The icing on the cake was at the conclusion of the event when a raffle was drawn awarding winners \$100 or \$50 gift certificate toward SHFB purchases and St. Philip's Food Pantry won a \$100 card. Many, many thanks to all those whose continued support (food and supply donations, cash contributions and volunteer time) has made a difference for those in our community.



*Sally Sutter, Food Pantry Coordinator*

### **California: Paradise – at a Price**

I think most of us in Scotts Valley would agree that we are very blessed to live in such a beautiful and temperate location. I know I feel that way. We are also keenly aware that living here doesn't come cheap. Even so, I was dismayed to learn a few facts at the SHFB Conference mentioned above by Sally, when Pastor René of Twin Lakes Church, our host, gave a small address.

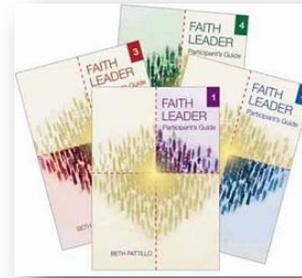
- California is now the richest state in the nation
- San José is the richest city
- California has the highest poverty rate at 19%
- A person has to earn \$51 per hour to afford the average rent



I am grateful to be part of a church family which actually is part of helping people challenged by the economic situation in our community, with our weekly Food Pantry (operated as an agency of Second Harvest) and weekly overnight hosting of the Faith Community Shelter.

Jane Ellis

### **Adult Christian Formation Update**



The Theology Book Group, which currently meets on Wednesday mornings at 10:30am, has decided to do the study "Faith Leader: Spiritual Self-Discovery, Spiritual Practices; Discernment, and a Personal Plan for Ministry". This is a 22 week small group and personal reflection process. You are welcome to join us, if you are interested. Please let Pastor

Mary know if you'd like to participate. You can learn more about it [here](#).

*The Discovery Learning Center started a Music Club on Tuesday afternoons for Teens/Tweens, led by teens! How exciting is that?*

