

Pip's Squeak

November 18, 2018

This Week: November 18—24

Wednesday 10:30am **Faith Leaders Study** Sanctuary

*** Tuesday 5pm **Food Pantry** Narthex ***

Thursday 2pm **Thanksgiving Dinner** Parish Hall

Friday 11am **Prayer Meditation**

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

(November 24, **FCS Dinner made by ReGeneration Church**)



Save the Date

November 25-30 **NRATI setup** Sanctuary

November 28 **Vestry Meeting** Parish Hall

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

December 10 Monday 2nd **Monday Book Group** -

Christmas Party (hosted by Susan Seaburg)

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

Pastor's Message

To all who mourn...God will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair. In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the LORD has planted for his own glory. (Isaiah 61:3)

Dear people of St. Philip's,

What a devastating time

California has had with fires over the

past 2 weeks. A dear friend and

colleague of mine, The Rev. Ann

Sullivan, is Rector of St. Nicholas

Episcopal Church, Paradise. Sadly, she

and her young family lost their beautiful

home, but miraculously St. Nicholas

Church still stands. St. Nicholas had already been known in the

community for initiating a non-profit, "Housing In Paradise"

(HIP), which was designed to help people find affordable housing

and actually help in monetary ways such as offering renters first

and last month rent to get into their next home. Now Ann and

her team will set-up an office space at St. John's Episcopal

Church, Chico, to help with recovery efforts. Through social

media, I have already alerted Chico area friends who connected

with Ann to provide spare rooms and other housing for those in

need.

MANY OF YOU HAVE ASKED HOW YOU CAN HELP.

St.Philip's is taking up a collection of funds which will be sent to



Rector Ann of St. Nicholas for her to buy items needed for fire victims and housing needs. We have an opportunity to have a matching fund up to \$500. If you want to help in this way, please make your check payable to "St. Philip the Apostle" with a memo line "Special Offering for Fire Victims".

There are so many ways that we have been blessed here at St. Philip's, so any way we can give blessings to those in need will be deeply appreciated!!

Meanwhile, our family continues to feel the blessing of all the prayers and love with which you have showered us during my time of surgery and recovery. Jim and I are looking forward to seeing you this Sunday, November 18, and our whole family will be here helping to host a meal on Thanksgiving Day!

Peace to you in Christ,

Pastor Mary and Jim Blessing

****** Thanksgiving Pot Luck Meal ******

Thursday November 22, 2-4pm, St. Philip's Parish Hall

If you don't have family or friends to gather with for Thanksgiving dinner, please consider yourself invited to join the Blessing and

Ellis families and others at St. Philip's. If

this sounds good to you, please call the

church office to let us know you plan to

come, and if you are able to bring a side

dish or dessert, that's great, and it would

help us to know what it will be. Whether

you're here, or elsewhere, may you have

a blessed Thanksgiving!



Coffee Hour Signup

If you enjoy the snacks and fellowship at

coffee hour after the 10am service, please

consider signing up to provide the

refreshments, using the list on the bulletin

board or this link:



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B094AABA629A3F58-coffee1>



No Room at the Inn



**Items for drawing baskets needed by Tuesday morning
November 20!**

**Please let us know how you are willing to help put on this
event!**

**Buy tickets to the gala or and/or plan to come Saturday!
Register your nativity!**

We need everyone to help:

- Take postcards and flyers to give to friends and leave in places you frequent
- Solicit/offer donations for the Silent Auction
- Solicit/offer donations for the drawing baskets
- Offer your nativity for the display and ask your friends too
- Loan nativity and angel ornaments for the tree
- There are things we would like to borrow, such as extension cords, Christmas lights, torchères etc. Look for a list to sign up – coming soon



Thank you,

The NRATI Team

Budget & Bucks:

*An outline of the 2019 St. Philips' Budget focus and an
Overview of the Financial Health of the Parish*

As we complete our very busy year, the Vestry is looking forward to our upcoming year. We have a solid plan for 2019 with three main efforts:

- **Complete the work on the building proposed in 2018**
- **Improve our support for children by hiring a Christian Formation Coordinator**
- **Create a safe space for children at our facility by improving the outside areas**

We are very fortunate to have kept the 2018 spending on the building to within budget under the stewardship of our Junior

Warden, Clive Ellis. We still have money in our Building Fund to support the completion of the Joiner Library, new storage space, create a new office space plus repair drainage and our parking lot.

The 2019 budget to support the hiring of a Christian Formation Coordinator comes from previously set aside funds for youth development and will have little impact on the budget in 2019. However, the church will need to grow to support the Christian Formation Coordinator in the years 2020 and beyond.

We have a beautiful outside garden area, and as we finish the inside of the building, we want to create a safe space for families and a place where everyone can come enjoy the serenity of the redwoods. The 2019 budget has very little direct funds to support creating a safe space for children at our facility by improving the outside areas; this effort will be accomplished by the parish's gifts of time and talents.

The expenses in the 2019 budget are increasing dramatically due to overall cost increasing in the areas of salaries, utilities and cleaning expenses. We benefitted from a number of special gifts in 2018 that we are not projecting to receive in 2019; thus, we need to increase our pledge income by almost \$14,000 to be able to pass a balanced budget. St. Philip's is not in a position to pass a deficit budget due to our low levels of operating reserves.

The status of our operating reserves was reviewed with the Vestry earlier this year. Operating reserves are funds that the church keeps to deal with fluctuations either income or expenses. Healthy operating reserves are four to six months of expenses, and typical expenses for 2019 at St. Philip's are projected to be approximately \$16,000 per month. Our current operating reserves are only \$42,513 as of September 2018.

Another component of our church's financial health is appropriately funded Sinking Funds. Sinking Funds are funds for a known future expense, for example the Building Fund, the Rector Sabbatical Fund and the Rector Search Fund. Unfortunately, we are draining our building fund down with repairs to the church, and we have no money set aside for a Rector Search Fund. One of the reasons we had to borrow money for the repair of the church is the parish did not set aside \$6000 a year into the building fund; if we had set aside money into a Building Fund, we might have repaired the building's roof earlier and prevented some of the interior damage to the building. At this time, the 2019 budget does not include a transfer of income into the Building Fund.

The overall financial health can be visualized with a simple needle graphic with three regions: healthy, caution and danger. A healthy parish would have sufficient operating reserve and appropriately funded Sinking Funds. We are in the caution zone, well below what a healthy parish should have.



We need to move the needle to the right; thus, we need your time, talents and **treasure** in 2019. Bill Dolby said it best during a recent Sunday sermon; we need the parishioners at St. Philip's to give their first fruits to God, and we hope you will prayerfully consider increasing your pledge to St. Philip's in 2019.

Respectfully submitted by the Stewardship Team:

Pastor Mary Blessing, Gregory Kintz, Anne Austin, Jon Neff, Clive Ellis

Please join us for a Q&A session during the after-service coffee hours today.

In Memoriam



The Rev. Stuart A. Schlegel, the former Rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Los Gatos (1984-1992), died November 8 at his Santa Cruz home at age 85. In addition to being an Episcopal Priest, Fr. Stu was a Professor of Anthropology at UCSC for 20 years, retiring in 1987.

Fr. Stu spent his retirement from the priesthood associated at St. John the Baptist

Episcopal Church, now in Aptos. In that capacity he also gave support to hosting meals here at St. Philip's when we housed women affiliated with the Interfaith Satellite Shelter Program on Thursday nights, some years ago.

A memorial service will be held at St. John's Church, 125 Canterbury Drive, Aptos, 10:30 am Saturday, December 8, 2018. Stu requested that in place of flowers or donations, his friends go out for a good dinner and celebrate all the joy in their lives and in his.

Help the Food Pantry Make Thanksgiving Special

Each year for Thanksgiving our Food Pantry Team likes to make up a special bag of treats for our distribution the Tuesday of Thanksgiving week. We buy frozen chickens from Second Harvest Food Bank and invite you all to contribute something to make the offering special. We are putting together 32 bags and we particularly need:

- French fried onions
- Home-baked or store-bought pies and cookies
- Butter
- Leftover Halloween Candy



We need these items by 11:00am on Tuesday, November 20, for distribution that evening. If you would like to come and help assemble the bags, join us at the church at that time. If baking or shopping is difficult for you, a cash donation will enable one of the Food Pantry team to shop for needed items.



New Doors for the Parish Hall

The new exterior doors for the parish hall have been delivered and will, we hope, be installed this week! Meanwhile, please forgive the pallet being a little in the way!

Regional Youth Ministry



The Santa Cruz County clergy and our Regional Youth Ministry Missioner made a presentation about the ministry at the Diocesan Convention on October 27.

L-R: The Rev. Tracy Wells Miller, St. John's (Aptos); The Rev. Rob Neville, St. Andrew's (Ben Lomond), The Rev. Mary Blessing, St. Philip's (Scotts Valley); Pamela Stevens, M. Div., Regional Youth Missioner; The Rev. Dr. Austin Leininger, Calvary (Santa Cruz). Not pictured, The Rev. Michael Dresbach, All Saints Cristo Rey (Watsonville)

November 2
Dia de los
Muertos RYM
event, All
Saints Cristo
Rey



Padre Michael watches as teens from our different churches enjoy face-painting

THE BOOK OF JOY

Santa Cruz Community Read & Celebration

December 9 at Temple Beth El – more info next week.



California
Sky of Golden hues
Glowing as we grieve below
Flames roar as hearts break

A Haiku by Karen Snell

Contributions to the 'Pip'

I'd really like to see more contributions to the Pip from our members. Some examples:

- An article and/or pictures of church activities
- A description of your ministry and what it means to you
- A joke, comic strip etc. – just make sure it's tasteful and at least somewhat relevant!
- A favorite Bible passage
- A favorite inspirational quote
- A favorite song lyric or poem

Help me to liven up our newsletter! Use your imagination. What would you enjoy reading about? Send submissions to officemanager@stphilip-sv.net and put "Pip" in the subject line.

Thanks,
Jane