

Pip's Squeak

May 26, 2019

This Week: May 26-June 1

Today 9am **Between-Services Bible Study** Room #2
Wednesday 10:30am **Faith Leaders** Sanctuary
Thursday 5pm **Food Pantry** Narthex
Friday 11am **Prayer/Meditation**
Saturday 5 pm **FCS Overnight Guests** Parish Hall etc.
(May 25, **FCS Dinner** made by ReGeneration Church)

Save the Date

June 7 **Brookdale Bible Study** Brookdale Senior Living
*** June 9 **Church Picnic** Hidden Glen ***
June 10 10am 2nd **Monday Book Group** (*Growing Up* by Russell Baker) Sanctuary
June 15 10am **Art Class** Parish Hall
June 27 6:30pm **Vestry Meeting** Community Room
*** June 29 **Rummage Sale** Parking Lot ***
*** June 30 **Unified Service at 9am followed by All Congregation Summit** ***
July 20 **Blood Drive**
Aug 25 **Pastor Mary's last Sunday**
Sep 20-22 **Diocesan Youth Camping Retreat**
Dec 7 & 8 **No Room at the Inn**

PUT THIS
on YOUR
CALENDAR!

Pastor's Message

"Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you bishops — overseers — to shepherd and feed the church of God" (Acts 20:28)

Dear people of St. Philip's,



Thank you to the twenty or so of you who gave their time this past week to greet Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves, and to hear her stories of what is happening in The Episcopal Church, including where she is going in future ministry. It was delightful to spend a quiet "Fireside Chat" time with her, giving thanks for her ministry among us with a gift of a small "El Camino Real Bell" statue for her to take to her new desk. She'll be living in North Carolina while serving as the Managing Director of the College of Bishops. (We have an audio recording of her talk. If interested, contact Jane Ellis at officemanager@stphilip-sv.net.)



Thank you also for those of you who are taking special time to listen to the answers offered by the five candidates to become the Fourth Diocesan Bishop for El Camino Real. Everyone is invited to go on-line to hear each candidate respond to four different sessions of questions about how they might fulfill the role of Bishop in our Diocese. Here is the link to hear their Walkabout talks:

<https://www.realepiscopal.org/bishops-search/>

During this time of transitioning our Diocesan Bishop, I've become aware there are some among us who have no

idea what the role of Bishop really is in The Episcopal Church.

One fun fact: the word "Episcopal" is from the Greek word for Bishop, meaning "Overseer". A bishop is one who has received the laying on of hands of three bishops who are in the line of succession of receiving this gift of the Holy Spirit from the beginning, from the time of Peter and Paul, who were the original "overseers" of the Christian communities of 1st c. B.C.E. As you can see, when the offshoot from the Church of



England formed a new expression of Anglicanism, here in the U.S. we decided to put the authority of the church in the hands and heart of the local bishop, hence we are The Episcopal Church.

Bishops are ordained ministers who received their first gift for ministry as lay people, gifted by the Holy Spirit at the time of their baptism to be ministers of God. As they mature they found opportunities to discern their role in the Body of Christ with an ordained vocation: first serving as Deacons and later as Priests, serving particular congregations as pastor, preacher and teacher.



Only after being a Priest for some time do some Priests also feel called further into the role of "shepherd" as a Bishop who carries a Crosier, which looks like a shepherd's staff, and wears an unusual pointed hat called a Mitre, which represents the "tongues of fire" the Apostles received on Pentecost.

Besides the lovely haberdashery, some people wonder: what does a bishop *do*? They oversee all the churches of a geographic area called a diocese. In the Diocese of El

Camino Real there are 43 churches. The bishop is the one who casts a vision and encourages clergy and lay leaders who have responsibility for each of their congregations. Bishops are the ones who help the different members of the Body of Christ work well together. Bishop Mary has modeled for us a bishop who is a collaborator who helps disparate groups of people learn to work together for the good of the whole body. She highly encourages us to consider first and foremost, a collaborative person to be our future bishop.

Bishops are also the members of our tradition who offer the sacrament of Confirmation—the Adult affirmation of faith. Bishops are the ones who do laying on of hands of laity to make them ordained ministers, deacons and priests. Bishops offer prayers evoking the power of the Holy Spirit in the ritual of blessing anointing oil, called chrism, which is applied on the forehead of a person being baptized by a priest. And in addition to these sacramental roles of the bishop, a bishop has a managerial role over new clergy to the diocese. For instance, a parish has the authority to select their new rector, but when calling a new priest the bishop has a right to accept or reject any given priest.

Practically speaking, parishes do their hiring in consultation with diocesan leaders including the bishop, and so if there are any concerns that would usually arise long before the congregation actually interviews someone. In our case, we are hiring a new bishop prior to calling our new priest, and so it will be the new bishop who will have that canonical authority.

Bishops also serve in The Episcopal Church House of Bishops and the Anglican Communion Lambeth gatherings every ten years. Bishops gathering together can prayerfully offer further collaboration in setting vision and policy for the world-wide Anglican Communion.

It is our belief that these "overseers" are spiritually motivated, faithful Christians who have given their lives to receive all that the Holy Spirit has offered, to continue to reveal universal love for all humankind as first made flesh in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. It isn't easy being Bishop, but with the mutual love and support we are all called to offer, those who choose the episcopate can successfully "*shepherd and feed the church of God.*"

Peace to you in Christ,
Pastor Mary and Jim Blessing

Please join us for our next Wings
Homeless Advocacy training session

Thursday, June 13th from 5:00 – 9:00pm
Supper is provided

To be held at Community Covenant Church
2700 El Rancho Dr, Santa Cruz

Please let us know if you are planning on attending so we can ensure
adequate space and materials.

RSVP to peggy.benedum@wingsadvocacy.org or 831-291-5096

TRAINING
Wings
SESSIONS

**Pentecost and the End Of School
Year Potluck and Pool Party!!**

Sunday, June 9 is the day we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, and what some call "the birth of the church". Along with the joy of knowing God sent the Holy Spirit to fill each and every one of us with a direct connection to God the Father and God the Son through the Holy Spirit, here at St. Philip's we enjoy celebrating the end of school/beginning of summer.



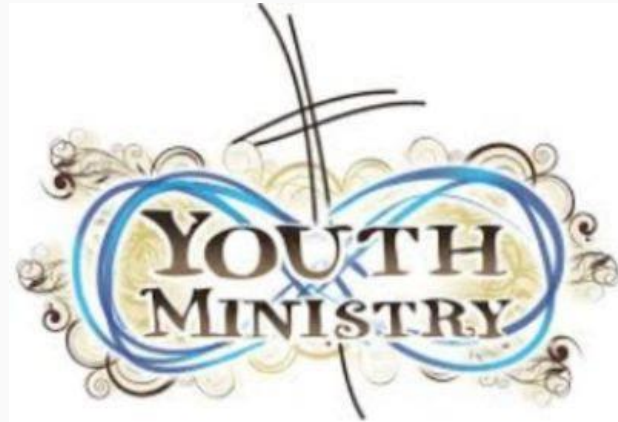
Won't you join us at the Hidden Glen neighborhood picnic area and swimming pool, 12-3 pm? We will share a potluck meal, and those who wish to swim will join Pastor Mary in splash-splashing fun! All ages invited, parents of young children must help accompany the under 7 year olds. Please contact Jocelyn Lagier (401) 447-7022 or jlruppell@yahoo.com regarding food to bring, or Pastor Mary (831) 438-4360 pastormary@stphilip-sv.net for other details.



TRANSITION

One of the most important aspects of the search process is identifying who we are as a church and where we want to be going. **We are going to need the whole congregation** to participate in the process; **every** voice needs to be heard! Mark your calendars for **Sunday June 30th**. Joanna Shreve, our diocesan Search Consultant, will be leading a "summit" following the fifth Sunday joint service on "Dreaming for the Future". We will also be holding smaller group meetings to help discern our core values (dates & times tbd). Please continue to support the leadership and teams with your prayers.

Submitted by Vicky Granger-Jones



**Santa Cruz Regional Youth Ministry:
A Church Beyond Walls**

**MAY 31 - JUNE 2
Beach Weekend Retreat
and Service Learning
in Monterey**



**May 31-June 2nd "Beach Retreat at the Blue Theology Mission
Station in Pacific Grove"**

- The Santa Cruz Regional Youth Ministries is organizing a weekend youth retreat at the Blue Theology Mission Station, based at Pacific Grove Christian Church in Pacific Grove, located across the street from the Monterey Bay Aquarium. We will enjoy life in community with beach walks, worship, hands-on beach conservation education, and our own tour of the Monterey Bay Aquarium.
- 5pm Friday, May 31st through 11 am Sunday, June 2nd. Transportation may be available from Calvary Church in Santa Cruz. We will meet in the parking lot at Calvary Church at 5pm and depart from there.
- \$150/person; Accommodations will be at Pacific Grove Christian Church/Blue Theology Mission Station, 442 Central Ave., Pacific Grove, CA 93950.
- Youth from 6th-12th grade are welcome throughout the Diocese. For Confirmands, this is a required retreat to complete preparation!
- To participate, please reach out to Pamela Stevens, pstevens@ses.gtu.edu.
- <http://www.bluetheology.com/index.html>



ELECTION OF NEW BISHOP THIS SATURDAY!

Have you checked out the candidates for Bishop yet?

Please read about the Candidates for Bishop of El Camino Real and listen to their answers at the various “walkabout” sessions at <https://www.realepiscopal.org/bishops-search/>. Speak to or email one of our Delegates who will be voting at the Convention - Tod Connor, Cindy Hershberger and Donna Seelbach, or Pastor Mary Blessing, about your impressions so they can represent you well at our special diocesan convention to elect the 4th bishop of El Camino Real, this coming Saturday, June 1. It may be a well-contested election; all the candidates appear very impressive.



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