

Dear people of St. Philip's,

*Now the Lord said to [Abraham], "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you". . . So [Abraham] went, as the Lord had told him. Genesis 12:1-2, 4*

When Pastor Mary asked me to become Senior Warden last year, I felt a bit like Abraham must have felt when God called him to leave the safe, familiar places of his life to venture forth into the unknown. What, me? Senior Warden? Fug-gidaboutit! But here I am, Senior Warden.

St. Philip's is facing an Abraham-ish turning point in its collective life right now. Last April, the Vestry of St. Philip's voted unanimously to join Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action (COPA). COPA is a regional nonprofit organization spanning three counties, made up of 25 member institutions of churches, synagogues, and nonprofits, including two of our Episcopal neighbors, Calvary Episcopal and St. John's Episcopal.

To my way of thinking, COPA's mission effectively is to "go in deeper and reach out farther." COPA's lead organizer, Tim McManus, has started training the Vestry on COPA's approach, which is based on simple yet powerful one-on-one and small group relational conversations.

These conversations will enable our leadership to **listen** to the deepest concerns and greatest passions of our faith community. This, in turn, will give us a greater sense of clarity about where God is calling us to act, both here at St. Philip's and in the larger community. We will "go in deeper" in trust within our own community, which will empower us to "reach out farther" to be an effective force for good in the world.

Why did the Vestry feel compelled to join with COPA in this transformational work? First, we want to strengthen our own families and our church community, **and** we want to be a more effective, positive force in the larger community. Second, COPA's approach to building community resonated with us, as it is centered on the sacred act of listening to each other, with Christ's love at the center. Finally, the Vestry recognized that embedded within COPA's processes is respect for who each of us is and what we are willing to give.

We do not yet know where this journey will take us. However, like Abraham (and let's not forget Sarah too!), we trust that God is with us every step of the way and will lead us exactly where we need to go, in order to fulfill Christ's mission in the world.

Please stay tuned for more details and developments regarding COPA. If you have any questions, feel free to approach me, Pastor Mary, or any other Vestry member.

*Susan Ortmeyer, Sr. Warden*



## Bill Joiner Memorial Set



There will be a memorial service here at St. Philip's on Sat., October 3, at 2pm for Bill Joiner. Please let any friends who may not have heard know about it.

His son, Mark Joiner, has said in lieu of flowers, if you wish to offer a memorial gift in Bill's honor you may do so to St. Philip's, memo line Bill Joiner Memorial Gift. The intention is to use these memorial gifts to enhance the Blue Room Bible Study space, which Bill and Betty Joiner used each week as they assisted and participated in Bible Study at St. Philip's for over 15 years. Cards of condolence for the family can be sent to Dr. Mark and Roberta Joiner at 240 Fast Lane, Santa Cruz, CA 95065.

Obituary on our bulletin board or  
at [santacruzsentinel.ca.newsmemory.com/publink.php?shareid=9f0bb6cdc](http://santacruzsentinel.ca.newsmemory.com/publink.php?shareid=9f0bb6cdc)

### **This Week: Aug. 23 - 29**

Tue, 6 pm, **Vestry**, Sanctuary  
Thu., 5 pm, **Food Pantry**, Foyer  
Fri., 10:30 am, **Meditation**, Sanctuary  
Sat., 2-4 pm, **Affordable Housing Forum**, Sanctuary  
Sat., 5 pm, **Overnight Guests**, Parish Hall

### *Many Thanks!!*

*To Dave Alvarez, for fixing 5 toilets that all went south at once! He donated the labor on behalf of our overnight*

## **BBQ & Pool Party: Aug. 30 12-3 pm**

*Hidden Glen Pool*

*204 Spreading Oak Dr. Scotts Valley*

*Hot dogs & hamburgers, condiments & plates provided. We're asking people to bring side dishes, drinks, and/or desserts. Please use sign-up genius to let us know you're coming and what you're bringing at*

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0444aba92ca7ff2-bbqand>

### New Directory Forthcoming!

If you have changes in name, address, phone #, or email please write them into the "Mark-up Copy" located next to the guest book in the foyer. Or email them to me at [stphilips.sv@gmail.com](mailto:stphilips.sv@gmail.com).

Deadline August 25th!