

Pip's Squeak

December 20, 2015

"...he has lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things..."

Luke 1:52

Dear People of St. Philip's,

Jesus's Mother, Mary, as she anticipated the birth of the Holy Child, realized something unfathomable was about to happen...and it wasn't just like any mother who knew the child within was a miracle, it was a profound knowledge that in her Son would come the promise of God's blessing upon all who are common, all who are just everyday people like you and me. No longer was it just the rich and famous, the powerful and mighty who would receive every measure of God's blessing. ALL OF HUMANITY, even the lowest of the low, would receive the abundant love of God.

These many years later, the Lord has provided so much to each and every one of us, we cannot help but share the abundance of our warmth, our wealth, our wisdom. In these times when the world is getting antsy about people who are different than we are, here at St. Philip's we try very hard to be accepting of all, no matter what their life circumstances.

During 2015 St. Philip's took on a Lenten practice of receiving the Affiliated Faith Communities rotating homeless shelter. Opening our hearts this way has given US the gift of sharing our parish facilities with men, women and children who are temporarily displaced and moving towards a life of stability in new living situations. These people are deeply appreciative in ways that motivate them to give back through helping spruce up the place, fix signs, clean our kitchen and so much more. Some who have gone on to find permanent housing have written back to thank us again for inviting them into the life of the church through worship and fellowship. The relationships we have with the area congregations who also come Saturday nights to feed them once a month have strengthened. Many of you have come forward on Sunday mornings to offer special gifts of prayerful thanksgiving for something in your own life as you give donations to the Sunday Sundae to add to the compassion ministry funds to care for our guests.

God's blessings continue to pour over all of us. In light of that we ask you to consider how you might give a Christmas gift to our shelter guests through the Children Youth and Family ministries project which is described in Pip's Squeak below.

May your giving help you and your loved ones have an even more meaningful Christmas celebration!

Peace to you in Christ's infinite love,

Pastor Mary and Jim Blessing



This Week: Dec. 20 - 26

Office Closed: Dec. 24th, 25th, & Jan. 1

Thu., 6:30 pm, **Musical Prelude**

Thu., 7:00 pm, **Family Service**

Thu., 10:30 pm, **Musical Prelude**

Thu., 11:00 pm, **Candlelight Service**

Fri., 10:00 am, **Christmas Service**

Sat., 5 pm, **Overnight Guests**, Parish Hall

Save the Date

Dec. 20: Pacific Voices
Concert, 3:00 pm
See Jane Ellis or Susan Seaburg

Jan. 31: Annual Meeting

Feb. 5-7: Winter retreat

CYF Holiday Giving Project

We are joining together to bless our Saturday night shelter guests with Christmas gifts. Please place donations in the basket located by the kitchen door/stairs. Any monetary donations should be placed in an envelope marked "Courtney Messer/Holiday shelter project" and turned into the office.

Suggested items: Hats, Gloves, Scarves, Healthy oatmeal (i.e. steel cut oats), **Tea packets, movie passes** - a greatly appreciated treat, **Gift cards** to local grocers, coffee shops, sandwich shops, etc.

Items collected will be delivered to our shelter guests.

Questions: Courtney Messer cmesser222@yahoo.com.

Sponsored by the Children, Youth & Youth Team.

Youth Room Update: Last Saturday, December 12th, we worked on cleaning up the youth rooms. **Thank you so much to Naomi Randolph** for coming to help. We got all the furniture put away and the rooms cleaned. **Thank you so much to the Messer family** for donating some really cool pillows that we can use to hang out and lounge. We have the foosball table and a small pool table, but we were thinking that it would be cool to have some board games. If anyone has some at home gathering dust that you would not mind donating, **we would love to have some board games!** Thank you all so much for helping! *Hayley Kintz*

**The church office will be closed on Thursday, December 24th
Friday, December 25th & Friday, January 1st**

We give thanks and praise to God for bringing the St. Philip's Office Suites hall floor replacement to fruition! December 29-31 Knight's Floors will be ripping out the old carpet and replacing it with new wood flooring. We are all so grateful! Please come up and see the new floor next week.