

When God told Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt (Exodus 3) it's a good thing She didn't have to tell him that leadership would also include sitting through long meetings devoted to the minutia of finances and building maintenance! Moses would have refused point-blank, and no amount of divine persuasion would have changed his mind.

As Senior Warden, I can thankfully say that service on our Vestry likewise does not require such a sacrifice of one's time and good will. This year marks a sea change in the way we conduct our Vestry meetings. Instead of rambling three-hour affairs, our meetings begin on time and end on time two hours later. Our first hour is devoted to the "big picture," and has included discussions on topics such as the role of the Vestry, St. Philip's strengths and challenges, and training on how to have authentic one-on-one and small group conversations.

The second hour belongs strictly to business matters, as the Vestry is the body responsible for managing the church's finances and property. This is where the finances and building maintenance issues can take over if you don't watch out, and before you know it everyone's eyes have glazed over. We contain those pesky ~ but necessary ~ issues by making our proposals and funding decisions via email **prior to** the Vestry meeting. Thanks to our Treasurer, Jane Ellis's excellent accounting, and because the Vestry has been briefed in advance, all that is usually required is a brief discussion and vote on the matter. I have been pleasantly surprised at how much you can get done in an hour when the agenda is focused and everyone already knows the ins and outs of what is being decided.

I invite you to consider leadership on the Vestry. It's an amazing way to offer your gifts and talents to the service of God, and you get to laugh a lot with congenial people at the same time. Even Moses could have no objection to that!

*Susan Ortmeier, Senior Warden*

## **Communication Conference, January 16th, 2016**

Elrond Lawrence, our Diocesan Communications Officer, will lead a workshop on how to enhance communication strategies. Vestry Communications liaison, Lori Kintz and Pastor Mary will attend and want to create a team to improve St. Philip's communications. Held Saturday, 9:30-3pm at St. Paul's Church, 1071 Pajaro St, Salinas. \$20 (includes continental breakfast & lunch, scholarships available). Carpool available. Please contact Lori if interested. [Lori@kintz.net](mailto:Lori@kintz.net) or 828-551-6660



**This Week: Jan. 10 - 16**

**Today: 5:30 pm Myrna Crooks Recital**

Mon, 10am, **2nd Monday Book Club**, Sanctuary

Wed, 10:30, **Theology Book Group**, Sanctuary

Wed, 6:30, **H.S. Youth: God Talk**, Youth Room

Thu, 5pm, **Food Pantry**, Foyer

Fri, 10:30, **Meditation**, Sanctuary

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

**Jan. 31:**  
Annual  
Meeting



**Feb. 5-**

**7: Winter retreat**

Contact Nancy

Connor & sign up

on bulletin board

**MLK**  **Day of Service**  
A DAY ON, NOT A DAY OFF

*At Santa Cruz Bible Church  
440 Frederick St., S C*

**Monday, January 18:** 9-10, Speakers, coffee, get to know others volunteers  
10-12, Explore options and make a connection  
Afternoon, Volunteer with the project of your choice

Churches are invited to participate by

⇒ volunteering with a project: come to **Day of Service**

⇒ Collecting warm winter coats, **new or gently used**: contact Anna at  
engagement@scvolunteercenter.org or 831.427.5070, x128

***"Life's most persistent and urgent question:***

***What are you doing for others?"*** M. L. King, Jr.

***Giving Shelter***

The 2015 Saturday shelter program at St. Philip's was a truly great and inspirational success! Our assignment to provide a meal for these guests on the 2nd and (occasional 5th) Saturdays of the months was fulfilled generously and beautifully by our congregation.

***...and dinners.*** 2016 is here now, and we need signups again. It's easy and satisfying to bring a simple main dish, salad or veggie and light dessert to the parish kitchen; and our guests are extremely grateful.

A signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the vestibule: please take a moment after services to consider when you (and friends or family) would like to offer to feed the hungry in the coming year. ***It's a Good Thing!***

*Association of Faith Communities Shelters*

# Pip's Squeak

January 10, 2016

High School  
Youth Group:



God Talk

Two college students, Nikki Olivas and Adriana Brock, along with Pastor Mary, are gathering all interested senior high students on Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 13, 6:30-8:30 for a simple meal, fellowship, and discussion:

**WHO IS GOD, ANYWAY?!**

Hope all High School Youth can make it — invite any high school friends — but please let us know via email or text by Tuesday, Jan 12 if you can come (just so we know approximately how much food to make).

*Nikki, Adriana & Pastor Mary*



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**Jan. 31:**  
Annual Meeting

**Feb. 5-7:**

**Winter retreat**

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***Vestry Preparing Budget on January 12 for Annual Meeting January 31***

Thank you to all who have made a financial pledge to St. Philip's for 2016. Your Vestry (the legal board responsible for finances and property of St. Philip's Church) deeply appreciates your faithfulness and commitment.

In order to meet our current financial obligations without even adding some of the "hoped for" future expenditures (such as the dream for a new Sanctuary or even an audio-visual/sound system), our pledged and expected income currently faces about a \$15,585. deficit. This is due mostly to the passing of long-time generous givers and a family or two who moved from St. Philip's. It often takes a few years for newer families to grow into their giving to help sustain current ministries. Our congregation and our Vestry are challenged to know how to distribute funds to still meet the high standards of our ministry expectations for 2016. Please take a moment to pray, discuss, ask questions or whatever it takes to consider possible income sources that will help bridge this gap. If you have specific questions or answers, please contact Treasurer, Jane Ellis, [treasurer.stphilips.sv@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.stphilips.sv@gmail.com).

Here is the breakdown of our expenses in broad categories:

\$127,790 Staff, including Rector, Office Manager, Musicians, Nursery & Youth Coordinator.

\$ 41,066 Building expenses (including upstairs maintenance)

\$ 25,418 Ministries, including outreach to diocese.

\$ 7,290 Administrative expenses (not including staff salary)

\$201,564 Total expenses.

\$185,979 Current expected income plus use of restricted funds.

\$ 15,585 Deficit.