

Pip's Squeak

January 17, 2016

Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Peter 2:9-10) **January 18-25: Prayer for Christian Unity**

It is rather ironic that this week is a time the World Council of Churches planned months ago for a time of intentional Prayer for Christian Unity. Music and prayers chosen for Sunday liturgy reflect our call to participate in that effort. The irony is that this week of prayer for Christian unity falls on the heels of a decision on the part of a majority of bishop "primates" (that is, bishop leaders) of countries within the Anglican Communion, at a meeting held in Canterbury, Kent, England under the direction of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby.

On Thursday, January 14, Anglican bishops made a decision to suspend The Episcopal Church, United States of America, from active participation in decision-making in the Anglican Communion: "requiring that for a period of three years The Episcopal Church no longer represent us on ecumenical and interfaith bodies, should not be appointed or elected to an internal standing committee and that while participating in the internal bodies of the Anglican Communion, they will not take part in decision making on any issues pertaining to doctrine or polity." (Communique from the Primates of the Anglican Communion).

At the very time the World Council of Churches calls for Unity among all Christians, we find ourselves divided by our own historic roots in current relationships within our own Anglican Communion. God is either crying or laughing at the absurdity of it all. As for me, I am comforted by our own "primate", Presiding Bishop Michael Bruce Curry, who has been silenced by Canterbury on his first ever invitation to participate in the week-long discussion on topics as far-ranging as marriage rites to ecumenical relations, to poverty and climate change. And not just silenced for a week, but for three years....yet Bp. Michael still gives praise that *we are a communion of relationships of love centered in Jesus Christ.*

This action confuses me because the Anglican church was formed on the concept that we build our understanding of God's truth based in Scripture, Tradition and Reason—that these are held in balance by a willingness to be a "both/and" church—such as the Elizabethan Settlement in the 16th C. when Queen Elizabeth I said, stop killing one another over whether or not we are Catholic or Protestant. We will be BOTH! Forming a legacy of "agreeing to disagree", and utilizing Reason to stop, listen, and learn from one another, upholding a remarkable tolerance for difference, with an awareness that "God is bigger than each of us, even bigger than all of us combined." God's incarnation of Jesus Christ was to show us how one can embrace all people of all sorts of conditions and possibilities, especially in a time of extreme tribalism, and be brought into unity with God, the Father of all.

I am feeling especially grateful for my local Senior Pastors group, an ecumenical group of Christian pastors who gather at St. Philip's monthly to pray for one another and our ministries—we simply ground ourselves in Christianity as is found in the Apostle's Creed. Everything else is secondary. Yes this week we will pray for the Unity of the Christian Church, with special prayers for the Anglican Communion, our Mother Church, with whom we still have relationships, even if we are silenced.

This Week: Jan. 17 - 23

Mon., Office Closed for MLK, Jr. Day

Mon., MLK Day of Service, *see back page*

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
see below



Winter Retreat
Feb. 5-7

Sign up Deadline is Jan. 24th!

Here are 2 Ways to Sign Up:

1. Fill out a form on the table in the foyer & put it in the designated envelope on the bulletin board in the office. Remember, full payment is due Jan. 24th.
2. Put your info on the sign up sheet on

the foyer bulletin board. Remember, full payment is due Jan. 24th.

Full payment must be received by January 24th to reserve your spot.

Scholarships available. No one is turned away for lack of funds.

Rates: Rooms: \$195 for the whole weekend.

Meals for the whole weekend: Adults, age 13+ years, \$59; children, ages 4-12, \$41; under 3 eat free. See Pastor Mary for scholarship info.

We hope you will join us for a great weekend of fun and fellowship!

**2016 DWT
Scholarship Fund
Sets \$30K Goal**

This year organizers Sarah Nordwick and Katie Reeves (*seen below with special asst.*

Willow) are working to get as many churches involved as possible.

In addition to raising \$30,000 to fund 700 scholarships, they want to engage the youth of ECR to bridge the overseas connection. If you know any interested youth please contact us at

info@realepiscopal.org.



Scholarship Fund Opportunities



Diocese of Western Tanganyika

To Donate:

Go to realepiscopal.org/donate/
or mail your check to

The Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real

High School
Youth
Group:



College student, Nikki Olivas, along with
Pastor Mary, invites all
interested senior high students on Wednesdays,
6:30-8:30 for a simple meal, fellowship,
HOMEWORK! and discussion:

WHERE IS GOD, ANYWAY?!?!

Hope all High School Youth can make it — invite
any high school friends — We're doing homework-
Please let us know via email or text by Tuesday,
Jan 19 if you can come (just so we know approxi-
mately how much food to make).

Nikki & Pastor Mary



MLK  **Day of Service** *At Santa Cruz Bible Church*
A DAY ON, NOT A DAY OFF *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

...and dinners. 2016 is here now, and we need signups for the new year. 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.

Many thanks go to those who have already signed up for 2016: Youth Group w/ Vicky; the Soulès; the Munros; G. Tyler & K. O'Neal; and Anne Austin. 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

SAVE THE DATE!

Spring Conference, May 21: Civil Discourse

Joan Blades of Living Room Conversations will lead our May Diocesan Conference, set for May 21, 2016. Joan helped to start MoveOn.org, and Living Room Conversations (livingroomconversations.org) and is passionate about civil discourse in our country. I have asked her join us and share how effectively we might become better equipped to create hospitable spaces of dialogue around difficult issues. This would be a natural way to gather community and facilitate civil discourse; a national practice and value to which our own church historically shaped and contributed.