

Pip's Squeak

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August 21, 2016

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted...a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace..." Ecclesiastes 3:1-2, 8

Dear people of St. Philip's,

As I write these ancient words of wisdom from our Old Testament Scripture, I muse over the ways our lives have "seasons"...each year, we go through the liturgical calendar seasons of the church, for instance, with the LONG season of "Ordinary Time" from Pentecost to Advent, from red to orange to green, also known as the "Pentecost Season." This year it is especially long, because Easter was especially early, and so we waited at St. Philip's to change gradually to green, and God has blessed us.

Then there are the climate "seasons" based on the rotation of the earth: Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn. Summer has its "lazy hazy days", and moments of transition for some, and extra work for others, as mother nature has deluged part of country with floods, and California with fires. We carry on, and God gives more blessings in the midst of tragedy, as generosity between people increases. We now find the days shortening as summer wanes. People grab last minute sunshine fun before the start of school. College students and their families pack up for adventures away from home, younger students come home to prepare, and the cycle starts all over.

These "seasons" of human perception are very real to us in terms of what we DO in these seasons, but I think the writer of Ecclesiastes was concerned for humanity's WAY OF BEING, not doing. The writer expresses a human perspective based on a time-space continuum, but acknowledges that all we do, all that we are, no matter what "season" of life we may find ourselves, is predicated on the belief that it is God the Creator who set all these "seasons" and ways of being in the world into motion. It is God who will sustain us through the seasons of our lives. It is our place to fully live those seasons, and trust that "whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him." (Ecclesiastes 3:14) Our job is to BE with God.

As you wrap up this season of summer break, gearing yourself up for the new cycle of learning, growing, giving, and being, may you and your loved ones trust in God the Father, the Creator of all, who gave his beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to show us the way, the truth and the life. Through Christ all manner of thing shall be fulfilled, in God's time.

Peace to you in Christ, Pastor Mary & Jim Blessing



Pastoral Care Hours Announced

Pastor Lucretia is now holding weekly office hours at St. Philip's on Thursdays from 3 to 6. She will be available for both drop in and scheduled visits during that time.

This Week: Aug 21 - 27

Thu., 5 pm, **Food Pantry**, Foyer
Fri., 8 a.m. **Vestry**, Sanctuary
Fri., 10:30, **Meditation**, Sanctuary
Sat., 5 pm, **Overnight Guests**, PH

SAVE THE DATE

Sep 11 **Ministry Celebration**
Sep 12 **Living w/ God** Sanctuary
Sep 23 **Youth Big Sur Campout**
Oct 8 **Youth Feed Shelter Guests**
Nov 6 **Fran Soule Memorial Service**



Coffee Hour at St. Philip's: Sign up to be a host!

The goal of coffee hour is to embody the welcome Jesus gives us to his realm. Its goal is intimacy, ordinary intimacy. It is kitchen talk.

This is our weekly chance to demonstrate the love of God incarnate to one another, and to all who walk through our doors. Once you have signed up, you will receive an email providing further details. Go to <http://www.stphilip-sv.net/coffeehour> to sign up. **Thank you so much for hosting coffee hour!**

August 27: First We Belong: Relationship Centered Children's & Youth Ministries

with Eric Law. A day long conference for everyone who is in ministry with children and youth. You will gain support and growth in your ministry as well as an opportunity to connect with everyone across the diocese who is doing what you are doing. I promise that you will all go home feeling like you've gained something that will impact your ministry here at St. Philip's or any interaction you have with a child or youth in your life. Register at http://www.realepiscopal.org/event/belong-then-believe-youth-ministry-conference-2016/?instance_id=357. It will be in Salinas so we can carpool together to make it easier. Contact Charise at chariseolson.com/



HOMELESS ADVOCACY

is a group of caring advocates from our faith community who are

dedicated to supporting individuals in their walk out of homelessness. They will be with us next **Sunday, August 28th**, to share with us. *See enclosed insert.*

Celebrating Ten Years of Ministry

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, . . . 1 Timothy 1:12

Join us as we celebrate our ten years of ministry with Pastor Mary here at St. Philip's. On **September 11th**, we will have a celebratory Liturgy, and a party after the services. If you are interested in helping to plan this event, please contact Lori Kintz at [828-551-6660](tel:828-551-6660) or lori@kintz.net.

Fundraising Dinner for the Santa Cruz Faith Community Shelter

September 23, 5:30—7:30 pm
Santa Cruz Moose Lodge, 2470 El Rancho Drive, SC
RSVP to timjudy@comcast.net or 831-423-9206