

Pip's Squeak

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August 28, 2016

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Dear people of St. Philip's,

Did you know that our Sunday morning Bible Study, 9:00am, has been studying PROVERBS this summer? There are so many important sayings in the Book of Proverbs that almost seem too good to be true, if only we would dutifully follow them. One is above: the importance of TRUST IN THE LORD!! Oh, how we struggle to put our Trust in God (in spite of the motto of our dollar bill—we tend to trust money over God on a regular basis!) But what would life look like if we were to first TRUST God, and in turn, have the courage to then TRUST one another, knowing that each had already put their trust in the hands of the one who is truly in charge of the universe??

Well, a handful of our core leadership team from the Vestry attended a workshop recently that taught us specifically the importance of putting TRUST in one another as the foundation of what it means to create a strong, healthy, cohesive leadership team. Thankfully, St. Philip's Vestry has always been, in my experience over these past 10 years, made up of people who at their core wish to trust in God and each other. We have the basic elements of faithful people who offer their best efforts in serving God and each other for the purpose of building up the Body of Christ. For this I am deeply grateful.

What the workshop did, was introduce us to a pyramid of building blocks for practical functioning as a healthy, strong leadership group, which begins on a foundation of TRUST. From a place of vulnerability and honesty, a healthy group will be able to manage conflict, keep their commitment to the group, hold one another accountable and be able to assess results to see if goals are met. TRUST allows the group to open up and teach each other where we are lacking, to repair any places that have broken down, and work together to keep focused on the real purpose: to fulfill God's vision of hope and healing for a broken world.

This Fall your Vestry (the Board of Directors) of St. Philip's will continue in the work of healthy team-building following the model presented to us from Patrick Lencioni ([The Advantage: Why Organizational Health Trumps Everything Else in Business](#)). One important aspect of this work is to engage in a process of clarifying our purpose, not just the tasks of a Vestry/Leadership Team, but seeking a current clear vision of what God's Holy Spirit is calling **all** of us at St. Philip's to do and be, at this time in our history.

Participating in small group discussions, called "house meetings" one Sunday a month, will be one means by which we build trust and listen to the voice of God in each other. Together our congregation as a whole will grow in greater understanding and commitment to God's call...together we will "Trust in God", seeking God's insight through honest conversation and prayer...

Peace to you in Christ, Pastor Mary



This Week: Aug 28 - Sept 3

Tue., Aug. 30, 7 pm, **Vestry**, Sanctuary
Thu., 5 pm, **Food Pantry**, Foyer
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**

Much to Celebrate! The Food Pantry Team would like to invite you to join us for Coffee Hour following the 10:00 AM service on **September 4th** as we complete 6 years of St. Philip's Food Pantry. It's our way of personally saying thanks for your years of support and contributions. Sally Sutter [More Coffee Hour Opportunities: <http://www.stphilip-sv.net/>]

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. several people have already volunteered, but we welcome anyone else who wants to help? We will have a quick discussion during coffee hour after the 10:00 a.m. service, so please join us if you are available. Or contact Lori Kintz at [828-551-6660](tel:828-551-6660) or lori@kintz.net.

Help wanted! Youth Ministry Assistants

- 1: Youth Group Sundays need you. Charise is hoping to recruit 1-2 people to rotate Sundays with our fabulous 6-12th graders. She'll help plan discussions and help you in any way she can, but needs to have a Sunday or two free. If you can't do Sundays, but have something else for our youth--- Contact Charise directly at ocharise@gmail.com or flag her down one Sunday.
- 2: Sept 23-25: Camp Out - need adults - The Diocese's youth group camp out is planned for Sept 23-25. Anyone up for camping out with our youth near Big Sir? Charise will be there during Saturday, but can't do the overnight.

Our Faith Communities Shelter (Rotating Homeless Shelter) is a member of the Association of Faith Communities (AFC) . Fran Soule was our Compassion Ministry leader with oversight of this ministry. Fran passed away in July, and St. Philip's is seeking a person able and willing to help by attending occasional meetings. Kaye Olivier continues to coordinate the Shelter Meals each Saturday night. If you are interested in helping, please contact Kaye virjesna@comcast.net. The next meeting of the Association of Faith Communities (AFC) Leadership Council will be held at 5:00 PM on Thursday September 1, 2016 in the Parish Hall of Calvary Episcopal Church at 532 Center Street in Santa Cruz. The Parish Hall is on the Cedar Street side of the church property. We will meet in the Fireside Room in the Parish Hall building. Our Guest Speaker will be John Dietz, of the 180/2020 program, who will show the video "Landlords: You are the Key to Ending Homelessness in Santa Cruz County."

Announcements should be sent to Elizabeth Forbes in the office at stphilips.sv@gmail.com and are due by Thursday at noon.