

Pip's Squeak

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September 4, 2016

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Matthew 11:28-30

Dear people of St. Philip's,

Labor Day, a "bank holiday" in America, happens this Monday and the first Monday of September each year. As you and your family enjoy this "one more day off" before fully launching into the new school year busyness, please remember to pray for those who truly LABOR hard, and thank those who risked their lives to put an end to worker abuse. In case you didn't know, "Labor Day Holiday" as born in 1894 out of a response to the U.S. Government's failure to break up a railroad strike at the height of the "Industrial Revolution". Prior to this the average American worked 12 hour days, 7 days a week, even children.... The Railroad Strike of 1894 was held to make a point that EVERYONE needs to take a break in work. It was messy. U.S. Troops were sent to Chicago in attempt to stop the strike. People died Railroad workers made their point, even as they suffered mightily. Three months later, President Grover Cleveland declared the first Monday of September a national holiday to honor laborers.

Jesus, over 2000 years ago, invited all humankind the opportunity to take their labors and their burdens and lay them at the feet of his cross. In addition to the physical burdens of our labors, many of us suffer internal, soul-heavy burdens, or discouraging psychological burdens brought on by the darkness of grief, health challenges, economic insecurity, community disengagement and so much more. One way to free oneself of this internal burdens is to pray, using words, directed to God/ Jesus/Holy Spirit or your favorite saint (remember St. Jude? He's the saint of hopeless cases—no burden is too heavy for St. Jude and Jesus!!). Taking the time to actually pray and sit in the silence of God's/Jesus Christ's loving presence will lighten your load and ease your labor. Praying for others in need will in fact not only lighten your burdens, but ease their load as well. Really. Science has proved this over and over.

This Sunday we will take some time during the "Prayers of the People" to offer prayers of healing, hope and thanksgiving as a written prayer. I will especially invite you to pray for Colleen Markey for her intensive cancer treatments, and for Sarah Joy Gabrielson and family as we give thanks for the birth of twins, Rowan and Cypress. Hope you will join in. Meanwhile, below is a prayer from Compline, in the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer which may help you ease your burdens as you pray each evening.

Prayers of peace and joy to you and yours,

Pastor Mary & Jim Blessing

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen. (BCP, pp. 124 & 134)

This Week: Sep 4 - 10

The church office is closed Monday
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 TODAY! Coffee Hour following the 10:00 AM service **TODAY** to celebrate 6 years of St. Philip's Food Pantry.

Celebrating Ten Years of Ministry

Join us on Sunday, September 11th, as we celebrate ten years of ministry with Pastor Mary Blessing. We will have a celebratory liturgy and a big potluck lunch. You can sign up for the potluck at

stphilip-sv.net/tenyearcelebration

Please plan to join us; we want your fellowship. **THERE WILL BE CAKE!!** If you are available to either set-up or clean-up, please plan to come early or stay late; we welcome the help.

Help wanted! Youth Ministry Assistants

- 1: Youth Group Sundays need you to rotate Sundays with our fabulous 6-12th graders. Charise will help plan discussions, but needs to have a Sunday or two free. Do you have something else for our youth--- Contact Charise directly at ocharise@gmail.com.
- 2: 2: Sept 23-25: Diocesan Camp Out - need adults! Contact Charise.

Theology Book Group Resumes

Theology Book Group is resuming after our summer break. We will begin on Wednesday, September 14th from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Our first book will be Mudhouse Sabbath by Lauren Winner. Please join us!

Altar Flower Sign Up: Please sign up to provide Altar Flowers. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the entry hall.

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

Celebrate What is Special in Your Life: a birthday, anniversary, memorial
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 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.

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