

*To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:7)*

Dear people of St. Philip's,

Ten years! Wow, isn't it amazing how time flies when you're having fun!! This week we will mark 10 years of our ministry together—a time of community development and personal transformation.

St. Philip's Church has been transformed from Mission to Parish in this time period. We have become a kind of "community church" where the broader community of Scotts Valley knows we are active not just in our Sunday morning worship, but 7 days a week, with various ministries of outreach and support to many kinds of groups. Yes, we are a worshipping community, but we are also a "community-service body", using the many gifts God has given us to serve all in a spirit of doing what is best for "the common good", as St. Paul wrote almost 2000 years ago. This is what Christians do: receive the "manifestation of the Spirit" not just to enhance one's personal journey, but to make a positive difference to the world around us. And we have done it together!

This Sunday, September 11, 2016, marks the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a turning point in American history—a time in which a small, rogue band of terrorists attacked symbols of not just U.S. wealth and capitalist's freedom, but the *WORLD* Trade Center. Many sociologists, political scientists, historians and even theologians believe that this was an unprecedented challenge to the Western World sense of individual power—and it has changed us forever. Maybe they are right, but for those who choose to follow in the Judeo-Christian tradition of "love God and love neighbor" will find comfort and guidance returning to the spiritual power gleaned in covenant with the One God of all, taught through the old testament scripture and born to our world in the form of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Contemporary theologian Walter Bruggemann addresses the concerns of a world living in the midst of this dark divide of terrorism. In his book, *Journey to the Common Good*, Bruggemann "considers biblical texts as examples of the journey now required of the faithful if they wish to move from isolation and distrust to a practice of neighborliness, as an invitation to a radical choice for life or for death..."\* Bruggemann calls us to claim what we have known from the beginning, to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves, "to journey together to the common good through neighborliness, covenanting, and reconstruction".\*

St. Philip's is a church founded in the awareness that we are "in the community", a part of the greater whole of Scotts Valley and Santa Cruz County. One of the joys of being in ministry with St. Philip's over these past 10 years has been our increased level of direct connection with partnerships throughout the community. We share not just for our own well-being, but for "the common good." Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest Food Bank Pantry and our participation hosting the Affiliated Faith Communities Rotating Shelter are two important examples of reaching out in support of the community "for the common good". These are life-giving partnerships for both St. Philip's and the wider community. Initiatives such as the successful effort to rent out our upstairs offices to nascent businesses, counselors, tutors, and therapists have given us a public profile that shows we care about "every day people" in our community. Numerous other community based non-profit organizations continue to give thanks for our generosity sharing our facility, enabling them to meet the needs of various citizens of all ages and persuasions throughout the town. Recent involvement with Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action (COPA) helped our members give voice to the extreme challenge of appropriate housing for families in all walks of life. Those voices helped bring a positive change to Scotts Valley.

Please come celebrate this decade of ministry growth with us on Sunday. And let us remember to pray and give thanks for all God has done for us through his beloved Son, Jesus Christ, who showed us the way, the truth and the life.

Peace to you in Christ Jesus, *Pastor Mary and Jim Blessing*

[books.google.com/books/about/Journey\\_to\\_the\\_Common\\_Good.html?id=L48qmAEACAAJ&hl=en](http://books.google.com/books/about/Journey_to_the_Common_Good.html?id=L48qmAEACAAJ&hl=en)

**This Week: Sep 11 - 17**

Mon, noon, **2nd Monday Book Club**  
Wed., 11, **Theology Book Group**  
Thu., 5 pm, **Food Pantry**, Foyer  
Fri., 10:30, **Meditation**, Sanctuary

**SAVE THE DATE**

Sep 12 **Living w/ God** Sanctuary  
Sept 23 **Vestry**  
Sept 23 **Youth Big Sur Campout**  
Oct 8 **\*Youth Feed Shelter Guests\***  
Nov 4-5 **Diocesan Convention**

**St. Philip's Celebrates 10 Years of Ministry with Pastor Mary Blessing**

We joyfully invite you to join us as we celebrate *Ten Years of Ministry* with Pastor Mary. Please join us for celebratory liturgies at 8 & 10:00 a.m. services, followed by a festive 9:00 coffee hour and 11:30 potluck lunch and CAKE! A special collection today for the Rector's Discretionary Fund will be our gift to Pastor Mary, which will enable her to help those in need with tangible support, for example, emergency shelter, food cards, and gasoline cards. Please use the special envelope in your bulletin.

**Theology Book Group**

Wednesday, September 14th  
11:00 - 12:30.

Book: Mudhouse Sabbath  
by Lauren Winner.

**Please join us!**

**2016/17 SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK OFF!**

Come join the parents of our PK-5th grade children as we kick off the new year! We will be gathering after the 10am service **TODAY** to talk about the coming year and sharing ideas. Please come join us! Questions? Contact Courtney Messer at [408.569.7724](tel:408.569.7724)

**Youth  
Ministry  
Assistants**



- 1: Can you rotate Sundays with our fabulous 6-12th graders? Charise will help plan discussions, but needs to have a Sunday or two free. Or do you have ideas for youth activities? Contact Charise directly at [ocharise@gmail.com](mailto:ocharise@gmail.com).
- 2: Sept 23-25: Diocesan Camp Out needs adults! Contact Charise.

**Altar  
Flower Sign  
Up:**

The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the entry hall. Honor who is special in your life!

**ANNOUNCE-  
MENTS SHOULD  
BE SENT TO  
ELIZABETH  
FORBES IN THE  
OFFICE AT  
[STPHILIPS.SV@  
GMAIL.COM](mailto:STPHILIPS.SV@GMAIL.COM) AND  
ARE DUE  
BY THURSDAY  
NOON.**

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

Celebrate What is Special: a birthday, anniversary, memorial  
The goal of coffee hour is to embody the welcome Jesus gives us to his realm. Go to <http://www.stphilip-sv.net/coffeehour> to sign up.



Tim McManus [our COPA mentor] and Marie McManus share their joy and announce the birth of Gabriela Siobhan [pronounced shiv + awn], born at 8:19am on July 24th.