

St. Philip's Newsletter

February 2010

Pastor's Letter:

"If then our common life in Christ yields anything to stir the heart, any loving consolation, any sharing of the Spirit, any warmth of affection or compassion, fill up my cup of happiness by thinking and feel alike, with the same love for one another, the same turn of mind and a common care for unity. There must be no room for rivalry and personal vanity among you, but you must humbly reckon others better than yourselves. Look to each other's interest and not merely to your own. Let your bearing towards one another arise out of your life in Christ Jesus."

(St. Paul's letter to the Philippians 1:1-5)

Dear people of St. Philip's:

Spiritual leadership as displayed by St. Paul's letters has always been an enormous challenge in the Christian faith. Challenges abound—but one of the ones that I find extremely subtle, yet always present, is the challenge to truly allow for differences within the community while bringing the community together in unity of love and compassion for one another.

It is believed that Philippi (in Macedonia) was Paul's first community to be founded on the continent of Europe—some say it was THE first Christian community he founded "from scratch". What intrigues me about Philippi is the fondness with which Paul writes to this faithful group of Christians who come from diverse philosophies, cultures, customs, and religious beliefs. This faithful band of believers comes to visit Paul at least 5 times in prison as they eagerly learn how to follow in the way of Jesus Christ. Paul warmly nurtures this budding faith as he encourages them to place their life in the heart of Christ, who taught humanity to love one another with a forgiving reconciling love—letting go of one's personal needs and wants for the benefit of the common good of the community, striving to live in harmony and peace.

There is much we can learn here at St. Philip's about how to be a faithful Christian community that allows for diverse beliefs, customs, wants and needs. As the pastor of people of varying ages and spiritual paths I continually find myself seeking guidance on how to be a "spiritual leader of the 21st C." Oddly enough, seeking answers from a 1st C. spiritual leader and community organizer (St. Paul) continues to bear good fruit. Perhaps at our core, Christian community will always be unified by Christ in intangible ways that subtly keep us together through changes, growth, disappointment, accomplishment and joy. Even as we celebrate our good fortune in adding young adult spiritual leaders for our youth, we are challenged to meet everyone's needs at all times. So we also experience the truth that while some find it possible to continue to grow closer to God during St. Philip's times of change, there are others who discover that what our little faith community has to offer is no longer meeting their spiritual needs. They then go in search of a new faith community that helps them grow deeper in love with God. There are others who choose to be a part of St. Philip's AND another faith community in order to have their spiritual development enhanced. In any case, we are called to welcome one another into fellowship here at St. Philip's and to bless one another along our spiritual journeys where ever we go—even when it sometimes means not being in fellowship as in the past.

In order to expand the spiritual growth of the people of St. Philip's—as individuals and as a community—I am praying that there are at least 2 people of our community who will accompany me to experience something our Diocesan leadership is offering to assist us all in learning how to be Spiritual Leaders of the 21st C. The Diocese of El Camino Real is creating a "Center for Spiritual Leadership" for the development of lay leadership in the Christian faith. We will 1) explore Christian spiritual formation; 2) learn to articulate the faith of our church; 3) discover our spiritual gifts; and 4) learn to serve as a leader in community. The first of 4 training sessions will be Saturday February 20th at St. Paul's, Salinas. Won't you join me in this venture?

Peace to you as always, in Christ, *Pastor Mary*

Jim Sotelo Memorial Kitchen Remodel Update

John Gallagher and team have made amazing progress over recent weeks:

He has worked on getting the rafters on the same plane and shoring up the post and beam over the sink area in readiness to hang dry wall.

He also worked on getting the floor cut to run electrical to the island. This is completed and ready for electrical conduit.

The cabinet maker is working on constructing our cabinets.

The rough lighting, electrical and plumbing work is completed.

The arch above the Sink and Door is now being worked on, as is sealing the door on the left as you leave the kitchen and enter the parish hall.

Discussions are in progress regarding the hood and venting for the gas range that will be installed.

Next John will be working with Alarm company to clean up and neaten up the alarm system wiring.

We now need to plan a date to install sheet rock, and we need helpers!..... This is dirty work and it does require some skill. If anyone has done it before and wants to help let John know. He is looking at scheduling this for either Saturday February 6th or Saturday February 20th starting at 8:00 AM.

Once the sheet rock is on, the next job will be to tape and mud the room, replace the sprinkler heads and install fixtures and appliances.

This should get the kitchen to a point where it can be used. John plans to have the kitchen completed no later than the end of March.

Women's Retreat:

"Save the Date"--Friday
March 19 4pm
- Saturday

March 20 8pm. Women's Retreat on
"Spiritual Gifts". Details to follow!



St. Philip's "**Read and Study**" group will begin the book Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith by Diana Butler Bass. We will begin on Thursday February 4 meeting from 2:30-4:30 in the "Blue Room".

Questions: Contact Lizz Beitzel 336-8578 or wbeitzel@prodigy.net.

Youth Ministry:

Just an update for on the state of our youth program. We completed our SPYe logo. We are working on improving communication for event planning. And, in Febuary we will have made a "master plan." This will make it easier for Vanessa and I to give more notice for upcoming events with a discernable pattern.

Thanks you all for your support as we try to build community,
John Thorn Youth Ministry Co-ordinator

Racing to Cure Cancer

A New Year is with us, a time for new resolutions and new challenges. In the world of science, research grants, including those funded by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, have resulted in amazing advances in recent years. Miracle drugs like Gleevec and Rituxan have changed the lives of those diagnosed with Chronic Myeloid Leukemia, Lymphoma and many other cancers. But the fact is that Leukemia still kills more children and young adults than any other disease. Every five minutes, there is still someone diagnosed with a blood cancer, and still, every ten minutes, someone... someone's mother, father, brother, sister, son, daughter, or friend.....dies. Because of this, I decided to try something new to draw attention to this cause that drives me: on June 13th I'll be attempting my first Olympic Distance Triathlon - that's a 0.93 mile swim followed by a 24.8 mile cycle ride, topped off with a 6.2 mile run.

Our family is doing well. Marissa is now eleven years old and continues to be healthy. It has been eight years since her diagnosis with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. Last May, she reached a huge milestone - five years off treatment, five years free and clear of leukemia and toxic drugs. The Oncology clinic at Lucile Stanford Children's Hospital waved us goodbye and she now moves on to the clinic for Long Term Survivors across the street for annual follow-up exams. She is beautiful, sweet, kind and smart. While I thank God daily for the fact that she is alive and well, my thoughts turn often to a little boy who is not: I heard Pierce's story last Spring at a TNT event for the Honorees of the Cycle Team. Pierce was not quite ten years old when he lost his battle with Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML). It just about broke my heart, standing there with Marissa beside me, listening to his mother tell us about his short life and his brave fight against this terrible disease. If only there had been a new drug to give him a successful outcome. Pierce had loved to collect and polish rocks and stones, and his mother offered to each of us a stone from Pierce's collection to carry with us through the season as we trained, as a way to keep his memory alive. One year later, I still look daily at this beautiful chunk of violet crystal and wish that this young boy were alive today. While the years of Marissa's treatment were hard to deal with, I cannot imagine enduring the loss of a child. This is why I am asking for your help once again.



Marissa, then and now.....

Please donate if you can.

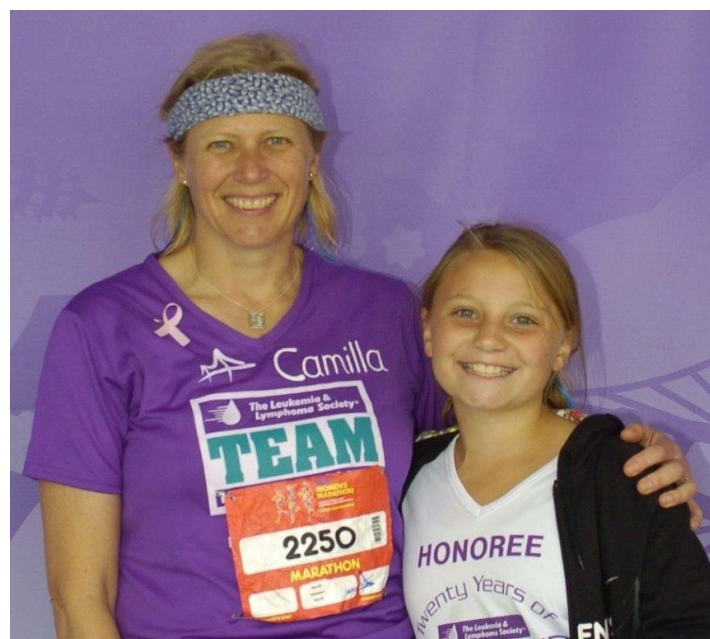
My goal is to raise \$3000 by February 18th.

Please visit my Team in Training web site at <http://pages.teamintraining.org/sj/kingtri10/cshaffer> and just click on "donate" to make a simple and safe online contribution. Alternatively, you can make a donation by check, made payable to "The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society" and mail or give it to me. Your donation is 100% tax deductible and a minimum of 75% of your contribution goes directly to research and patient programs. Thank you for your support. It means everything to me.

Camilla

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Haitian Earthquake

On January 12 a devastating 7.0 earthquake shook Haiti--killing perhaps hundreds of thousands of people. The capital city of Port-au-Prince was reduced to rubble. During that week many of us felt hopeless wondering what could we possibly do to bring aid under such dire circumstances. As Christians we wish to have hope; believing that God is present throughout even the most dire moments of human suffering. Nonetheless the question remains: besides "prayer" what practical help could we possibly be? With a heavy heart I printed out a flyer from our Diocese asking that people consider sending donations to Episcopal Relief and Development and placed the flyers in each Sunday service leaflet....worried that finances these days would make it impossible for us to make much of a dent in the level of need.

Then I received a phone call on a very rainy January 15 from our Youth Leader Vanessa De La Rosa. She graciously asked me what I thought of an idea one of her classmates (Shannell) from Bethany University had to hold a car wash to raise funds for the victims of the Haiti Earthquake...with less than 24 hours to organize. And it was one of the stormiest weeks of the year....I paused and considered the request wondering just how much water are we allowed to use for "car washes"?? and such mundane worries as that....and then I realized that if these young people had it in their hearts to give up a Saturday to stand out on Scotts Valley Drive with signs and wave people in to wash their cars DURING RAINY DAYS...who was I to stand in their way?? And so I met the organizer and showed her where to find hoses and buckets and said a prayer of hope.

In one day these young adults raised \$770.00 in donations for car washes and even from people who did not have a car wash. The next day at church MANY more donations came in and St. Philip's raised over \$1100.00 to send to Episcopal Relief and Development for the Haiti Earthquake victims!!

The faithfulness of these young leaders who offered their time and talent to make a difference truly warmed my heart. The generosity of the people of St. Philip's humbled me as I considered the sacrifice so many were making on behalf of those less fortunate than we.

Did you know that the Episcopal Church has a very strong ministry in Haiti? To learn more about the Episcopal Church in Haiti and how it is responding in the wake of this earthquake you can watch a short video clip posted by The Wall Street Journal : <http://online.wsj.com/video/haitian-church-steps-in-during-wait-for-aid/147A5CEA-4AC2-4BA0-83E0-B24724B2D65A.html>.



**To learn more about Episcopal Relief & Development
go to www.er-d.org.**