



ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
FALL 2022

"By this all people will know that you are my
disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13:35






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“I am an Episcopalian because a friend invited me to church. I am because of six centuries of music that is so beautiful it brings tears to my eyes. I am because we are a body of believers who can say that we are truly sorry and we humbly repent. I am because we have women behind the altar and men on the altar guild. I am because all are welcome to the tale of the feast that fills my heart. I am an Episcopalian because this is where I found my life, and because this is where God blessed me just the way I needed to be blessed.” – Kendall Lockerman



MESSAGE FROM OUR VESTRY

Dear Friends in Christ,

This year's stewardship booklet focuses on St. Philip's mission, "**Embrace the presence of God in our lives, and share the riches of His grace.**" You will read in the following pages about St. Philip's mission-driven work, but it is not just a recitation of what we do. Most of us know about the Baby Pantry, the Good News Gardens, and the Father Lovett Foundation. Our content this year is much more about why and how we do what we do — or, you might say, how we meet the challenge of our mission, and the opportunity it gives us to serve others. It's also a look at our finances and how they are being aligned with our mission and values.

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35) was chosen as our message for Stewardship this year. Love is, as we read earlier this year, God's greatest commandment. How better could we live in God's presence than to show our love for our neighbors? One way we "embrace the presence of God in our lives," then, is by living according to God's commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves through acts of service.

The second part of our mission — "share the riches of His grace" — suggests that we are its stewards, for how else could we share God's grace? This, in fact, is the clear message in 1 Peter 4:10: "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." It's just a different way of saying love your neighbor as yourself, isn't it? God's grace moves through us to those in need of a little love — whether they are shopping at the Baby Pantry, ringing up our groceries at the market, or here in the pews at St. Philip's.

It is our opportunity, our joy as stewards of God's grace, to love and serve our neighbors when we distribute fish, baby formula, vegetables, clothing, diapers, and other goods with local families in need. When our lay ministers take communion and conversation to our home-bound members, and when a Father Lovett grant supports a community organization like Benzie Area Christian Neighbors (BACN), it is our opportunity to share our riches, whether that is our time, our talent, or our treasure.

We hope that as you read this year's booklet you may find a deeper understanding of our mission and see an opportunity to love and serve St. Philip's and our Benzie County neighbors. We encourage you to pledge as generously as you are able to St. Philip's so we can continue to share the riches of God's grace. Your support is critical for our work both inside the church and in our community, now and as we continue our search for a rector to lead us into the future.

Yours in Christ, St. Philip's Vestry

Mike Clark, Senior Warden
Bleyaert, Treasurer
Harold Byers

Denise Clasen
Joy Foster
Susan Wenzlick

Wendy Hedeem, Junior Warden Barb
Barb J Kelly

The Baby Pantry has been a ministry of St. Philip's for nearly twenty years. That's a lot of diapers, formula, and clothing. Providing the essentials to families with children is what we do, but it doesn't define who we are.

We embrace the opportunity to share the riches of God's grace in the shadow of an unseen barrier our volunteers navigate: an unequal balance of justice that swings to those with resources. Real justice holds everyone, including ourselves, responsible for all people's fair and equal treatment so that we may build our communities more reflective of the Kingdom of God. What does that look like for the Baby Pantry?



We are an effective servant ministry because slowly and surely, we develop genuine connections with the families we serve. It starts with dignity, respect, and love, which means listening deeply to our families. That is grace, and it is as important as the diapers we provide, maybe more. The connections we make bring people back for some surprising reasons. A Thompsonville mom who no longer needs our services has delivered extra pull-ups that a family member receives through Medicaid. Her reason was, "I like talking to you guys." A mom who has achieved financial security stopped in with a huge bag full of soap, laundry detergent, shampoo, and other personal care items. She said, "I know what it's like to need these things and not have the money for them." Gifts purchased for someone that she may not know or ever meet — isn't that what Jesus' love looks like?

When we have love for one another, it frees up the people around us to love, too. Through the generosity of a single item or a meaningful conversation, we can set the pantry concept to the side and begin to assume the role of a coalition. Families are now also serving each other, working together for community good. That sounds like justice, doesn't it?

Everyone visiting us knows they can be themselves: the Baby Pantry is a judgment-free zone. This level of comfort doesn't always happen on the first, second, or even third visit. Trust can take time. It's not easy to ask for help, and so many of our families must cobble their basic needs through several organizations. It's terrific that the resources exist, but oh so hard to make the ask. When a mom asks for something that isn't out on the floor, it's a huge success! We know that they are comfortable here.

This year's Stewardship message focuses on love, but justice and love are closely connected to one another. For Jesus, love did not mean a sweet, sentimental feeling. It meant putting our love into real-world action. In Jesus' farewell address to his followers, he commands the disciples with tenderness and mercy to love one another and reminds them that they will continue to feel his presence even though he will not be with them. They will exhibit their discipleship by following his commandment: loving one another as he loved them and taking that love into the world to serve with justice.

“Think and imagine a world when love is the way. ... Because when love is the way, we actually treat each other like we are actually family. When love is the way, we know that God is the source of us all. And we are brothers and sisters, children of God. My brothers and sisters, that's a new Heaven, a new Earth, a new world, a new human family.”

- The Most Rev. Michael Curry

Sometimes we easily accept and love the people who are like us and disregard those who are not. But that is not justice, and that is not discipleship. To love as Jesus commands us means that we must immerse ourselves in his Word and Sacraments, let the love of Christ enter our lives, and empower us to love, serve, and work together. We will come to realize more and more

our place in God's family and cast off everything that is opposed to love – things like impatience, selfishness, greed, an uncaring attitude, and an unforgiving heart.

Liturgy expresses the church's identity and mission, including the church's calling to invite others and to "serve with concern for the needs of the world" (An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church.) Indeed, we know this to be true at St. Philip's. Our enthusiastic singing of the liturgy and hymns in the sanctuary is matched by our sense of mission in our community.

Music and singing have been an integral part of worship for centuries. The psalmist commanded us to "Praise God with the blast of the ram's-horn; praise God with lyre and harp. Praise God with timbrel and dance; praise God with strings and pipe. Praise God with resounding cymbals; praise God with loud-clanging cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise God. Hallelujah." (Psalm 150:3-6) The reformer Martin Luther, a theologian and a prolific hymnodist, regarded music and especially hymns as important means for the development of faith. Indeed, it is impossible to separate music, faith and mission from each other.

St. Augustine lived in the late fourth and early fifth centuries. He is to have said, "Qui cantat, bis orat," which means, roughly, "One who sings, prays twice." Singing in worship is a way that we gather our thoughts. When we sing, we also listen to our neighbor, to the organ or other instruments, to our own voice, and we tune in to each other, to our different and varied voices, and they flow together in unity. And in that unity, we reach out to the world around us.



**LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS BRING COMMUNION
AND SO MUCH MORE**

**CONTRIBUTED BY
PATRICIA COMPTON**

Bringing the Liturgy and Eucharist to our parishioners who are unable to attend Church is a true example of sharing our love for one another (John 13:35). Our homebound parishioners miss the spiritual experience of attending church and the opportunity to be in community with their fellow parishioners. Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs) are a connection to those experiences and a familiar face. The parishioners appreciate receiving Communion and enjoy the opportunity to socialize.

Our work is a joyful mission. Like the apostles sent forth by Jesus, we go out two by two – always in pairs. Each LEV pair visits the same person twice monthly. We get to know the parishioners and look forward to seeing them. It is such an honor to share this deeply spiritual moment with someone and to serve the Lord in loving one another as a Lay Eucharistic Visitor. We often wonder who is really benefitting the most from this mission!

If you are interested in learning more about this mission or becoming a Lay Eucharistic Visitor, please contact a member of the team (B.J. Kelly, Joy Foster, Judy Macey, Maggie Duncan, Patricia Compton, Wendy Hedeem).



When the members of the altar guild prepare our altar, the Lord's Table, they follow centuries of tradition. Colors change according to the church season, candles are lit, holy water and wine and bread are prepared. The rituals they observe before and after each service make the church a comforting, deeply spiritual place to worship. For altar guild members, setting the table with attention, patience, and respect is an act of discipleship.



The altar guild's work is among the least visible parts of our weekly service, but among the most essential. The altar is set with love to honor Jesus' sacrifice in our names, and to welcome us to the most sacred part of our worship service. Fresh linens, flowers, candles, the symbolic stripping of the altar at Lent, and Advent and Easter preparations make the altar a sacred space within the church. Supplies are arranged so that the Eucharist may be prepared by the priest as they flow through the words that lead to the breaking of the bread.

As the Eucharist is prepared by the priest and acolyte, and as we wait our turn for communion, we have some quiet time to pray or think. The eye may wander to the scene outside our window to the beauty of God's creation, but it ultimately comes back in and rests on the altar. There is comfort in our familiar, lovingly hand-made altar cloths and kneelers, the cup, and the candles. The priest and the lay eucharistic minister repeat "body of Christ, bread of heaven... blood of Christ, cup of salvation" for each of us like a mantra. We return to our pews fed with spiritual food, ready to return to the world in peace with strength and courage.



Eucharist is nourishment we receive when we come together as a community. For those visited by a Lay Eucharistic Visitor or priest carrying the bread and wine, the community is smaller, intimate, but the result is the same – a moment of grace. The act of taking communion feeds our souls so we “may worthily serve the world in his name.” Our members who prepare the altar for communion create an atmosphere of comfort and safety as we transition through our weekly spiritual renewal.

There's a saying we're probably all familiar with: "Follow the money." While this saying is often used in a negative context, as we think about this year's Stewardship theme related to our mission, it points us in a very positive direction. "Following the money" through both our operating budget at St. Philip's and our restricted fund accounts reveals the love Christ referred to in the passage from John that informs our Stewardship campaign: "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

Love implies commitment. And the folks who come to St. Philip's have a history of showing their commitment to Christ and to this church through the generous sharing of their financial resources. Each year during the Stewardship campaign, our parishioners have an opportunity to make a very real commitment through a financial pledge to St. Philip's, a promise to support the church and its mission during the year ahead. What does it say about us that during each of the last



three years, including two years during the pandemic, the wonderful people of St. Philip's not only met, but exceeded, the total pledged? And in 2022, we are on track once again to meet the \$66,550 total pledge amount — even during this period of transition as we work to call a new Rector. That surely is the love Christ refers to, as our contributions benefit not only our beautiful church and all who are a part of this faith community, but also the wider community of Benzie County through our outreach efforts.

Yes! The operating budget at St. Philip's annually includes funds for outreach to members of our community, many of whom are in real need. In addition to specific line items for outreach and the Baby Pantry, the "in-kind" contributions of our church, most specifically to the Baby Pantry, cannot be underestimated.

The generous gifts of the people of St. Philip's keep the Baby Pantry lights on, heat the Baby Pantry in the winter, cover the cost of staff time for accounting and helping with orders, cleaning the Pantry and plowing the parking lot in the winter, and providing a washer and dryer for preparing donated clothing to be offered to our families.



While most of the supplies we provide at the Pantry are purchased through grant funds secured by lead volunteer Joy Foster, the Pantry could not operate without the loving commitment of the members of St. Philip's and their generous financial pledges to the parish that create the operating budget.

As we “follow the money” into our Restricted Fund accounts, we can highlight again the commitment of our church to its mission and to living out Christ’s clear lesson on how best to show we are his disciples — through the love we show to others. In addition to a Baby Pantry restricted account, we have an additional restricted Outreach account with funds that can be used only for Outreach and at the direction of either the Vestry or the Outreach Committee. One of our newest restricted funds is the Good News Gardens account that, through the literal sweat of our gardening team, provides organic produce to our Baby Pantry families, and guests who visit BACN and the Benzie Senior Resources. Food for our needy neighbors is also provided through an Order of Naucratus restricted account, with donated salmon filling the freezers in the storage shed outside the kitchen door. Even the restricted Memorial Garden fund that enables us to maintain a beautiful resting place for the ashes of our loved ones represents evidence of our discipleship to Christ and the loving care we choose to provide our members at a time of grief.



So as we reflect upon what Christ is asking of us, even during this financial downturn and time of transition in our parish, let us pray that we will “follow the money” in any amount we can best afford, toward the loving discipleship to which we are pointed.

Your financial pledge helps fund the mission and ministry of St. Philip's .
Every gift counts!

MAIL IN YOUR PLEDGE

If you prefer to mail your pledge, please complete the form at the right and mail it to:

St. Philip's Episcopal Church
785 Beulah Highway
Beulah, MI 49617

Be sure to request pledge envelopes on the form if you prefer to use them.

MAKE AN ELECTRONIC PLEDGE

To make an online pledge, please visit www.stphilipsbeulah.org. You can set up a recurring or one time donation, payable by credit/debit card or ACH electronic transfer.



"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
John 13:35

I want to support St. Philip's Episcopal Church and its mission.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Zip Code _____

Email address: _____

(This is where statements will be sent)

Pledge Amount: _____

My pledge will be distributed:

____ Weekly

____ Monthly

____ Annually

I will be making my pledge payments:

____ By Check (please make me envelopes)

____ By Check (I do not need envelopes)

____ Online through our giving website

St. Philip's is blessed with an endowment, largely provided through the generosity of Mrs. Naomi Borwell with the intent of supporting the operations of the church. As stewards we must assure that the endowment is managed in alignment with the intentions of its major donor and that it is a resource for generations to come, providing equal support for all generations.

“We can use our resources for the realization of God's will in the world.”

- The Most Rev. Michael Curry

At the same time, the endowment must be consistent with our Episcopal faith and values and be a vital part of the mission of St. Philip's. Over the last year, the Vestry has moved to a mission-based investment strategy by making our investments compliant not only with Episcopal faith and Episcopal Church directives, but also with Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) investing ideals and with the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investing (PRI). Initial steps have been taken by hiring a manager who has been a signatory to PRI since 2014 and who is a leader in sustainable investing.

Yet the endowment alone cannot support all the needs of our parish. Generous donations from St. Philip's members and friends through annual pledges are paramount. Together the annual pledges and endowment provide resources to meet the essential needs of the parish and its mission.



**ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, BEULAH, MICHIGAN
2022 BUDGET AS
AMENDED AND ADOPTED BY THE VESTRY**

OPERATING REVENUE	
	\$14,500.00
401-NON PLEDGE	68,550.00
402-PLEDGES	\$250.00
403- INTEREST CHECKING	\$154,300.33
404 · ENDOWMENT DISTRIBUTION	\$500.00
405 · BUILDING USE	\$10,000.00
406 · ENDOWMENT DIRSTIBUTION (FOR AUDIT)	\$20,138.75
ERC (EMPLOYEE RETENTION CREDIT)	

TOTAL REVENUE	\$268,239.08
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OPERATING EXPENSES

St. Philips OUTREACH	
OUTREACH BABY PANTRY	\$3,000.00
OUTREACH PARISH BASED	\$1000.00

Total St. Philips OUTREACH	\$4,000.00
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BUILDING AND GROUNDS

GENERAL MAINTENANCE & SERVICES

501 · BLDG INSURANCE -CHURCH	\$4,810.68
502 · MAINTENANCE	\$5,000.00
503 · SNOW REMOVAL & LAWN CARE	\$6,348.00
504 · GARBAGE SERVICE	\$390.00
505 · ATRIUM & GARDEN CARE	\$2,200.00
506 · CINTAS MAT CLEANING	\$1,188.72
507 · PEST CONTROL	\$700.00

Total General Maintenance & Services	\$20,657.40
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UTILITIES

510 · ELECTRIC -BABY PANTRY	\$580.00
511 · ELECTRIC -CHURCH	\$4,125.00
512 · GAS -BABY PANTRY	\$766.00
513 · GAS -CHURCH	\$2,550.00
515 · INTERNET & PHONE - CHURCH	\$1,900.00
516 · WATER - EGLE	\$225.00

Total Utilities	\$10,146.00
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Total BUILDING AND GROUNDS

COMMUNICATIONS

520 · WEBSITE DOMAIN	
521 · I.T. SUPPORT	\$100.00
522 · ADVERTISING & Website Design	\$750.00
523 · VIRTUAL MEETING COSTS	\$3,000.00
524 · RECRUITMENT	\$250.00
	\$0.00

Total COMMUNICATIONS **\$4,100.00**

CONFERENCES

580 · REGISTRATION	
581 · MEAL	1,345.00
582 · LODGING	\$50.00
583 · TRAVEL EXPENSES	\$1,800.00
	\$1,300.00

Total CONFERENCES **\$4,495.00**

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

530 · PASTORAL CARE	
531 · LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS	\$500.00
	\$125.00

Total CONGREGATIONAL CARE **\$625.00**

DIOCESAN EXPENSES

535 · CONVENTION REGISTRATION	
536 · CONVENTION MEAL	\$500.00
537 · CONVENTION LODGING	\$350.00
538 · CONVENTION DELEGATION MILEAGE	\$1,200.00
540 · DIOCESAN APPORTIONMENT	\$0.00
	\$31,372.00

Total DIOCESAN EXPENSES **\$33,372.00**

EDUCATION

545 · RELIGIOUS ED -ADULT	\$2,500.00
550 · RELIGIOUS ED - YOUTH	\$250.00

Total EDUCATION **\$2,750.00**

FELLOWSHIP

555 · FOOD & KITCHEN SUPPLIES	\$250.00
560 · FELLOWSHIP & CHURCH FAMILY	\$250.00

Total FELLOWSHIP **\$500.00**

OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE

565 · SSB BANK/ BREEZE FEES	
566 · MEMBERSHIP FEES	\$500.00
567 · LICENSES	\$800.00
568 · OFFICE SOFTWARE	\$100.00
569 · AUDIT	\$1,120.00
570 · OFFICE COPIER LEASE	\$10,000.00
571 · OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$1,991.88
572 · POSTAGE	\$3,000.00
	\$300.00

Total OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE **\$17,811.88**

594 · STEWARDSHIP	
596 · VESTRY	\$500.00
	\$500.00

Total STEWARDSHIP & VESTRY **\$1,000.00**

WORSHIP

597 · ALTAR SUPPLIES	\$1,500.00
598 · MUSIC & LITURGY	\$2,200.00
599 · OTHER WORSHIP EXPENSES	\$600.00

Total WORSHIP **\$4,300.00**

66000 PAYROLL

601 · PENSION	\$2,407.00
GROSS WAGES	
602 · ORGANIST	\$9,723.61
603 · PARISH ADMINISTRATOR	\$30,730.00
604 · SEXTON	\$4,450.00

Total PENSION & GROSS WAGES **\$47,310.61**

605 · PAYROLL TAXES	\$3,018.69
606 · MEDICAL INSURANCE	\$7,100.00
610 · WORKERS COMP	\$237.00
Total PAYROLL TAXES, MEDICAL INSURANCE & WORKERS COMP	\$10,355.69
SUB-CONTRACTOR	
614 · BOOKKEEPING	\$4,138.00
615 · CHAZIN ACCOUNTING	\$17,500.00
616 · CONTRACT LABOR	\$100.00
620 · SUB ORGANIST WAGES	\$125.00
625 · SUPPLY CLERGY WAGES	\$3,675.00
626 · SUPPLY CLERGY MILEAGE	\$2,763.00
Total SUB-CONTRACTOR	\$28,301.00
Total 66000 PAYROLL	\$85,967.30
RECTORS	
630 · RECTORS WAGES	\$33,569.00
VACATION PAYOUT	\$2,010.00
635 · CONTINUING EDUCATION	\$841.00
640 · PROFESSIONAL EXPENSES	\$2,494.00
645 · MEDICAL & DENTAL INS (incl. HSA)	\$15,436.00
650 · HOUSING ALLOWANCE	\$14,327.00
655 · PENSION	\$7,837.50
Total RECTORS	\$76,514.50
INTERIM & RECTOR SEARCH	
Interim	\$0.00
Rector Search	\$2,000.00
Total INTERIM & RECTOR SEARCH	\$2,000.00
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$268,239.08
Endowment 5 Year Rolling Average:	\$4,158,745.00
2022 Endowment Draw Percentage: (Allowable draw of between 3% and 5%)	3.71%

Father Victor Lovett is known at St. Philip's for two things: his love of ice cream sundaes and the endowment fund he created to help those in need in Benzie County. Each fall and spring, the Father Lovett Foundation awards grants to organizations that serve local people in need. And each summer on Sundae Sunday we celebrate Father Lovett's generous spirit and his love for God, this community, and ice cream.



The Father Lovett Foundation experienced some structural changes in the last year but remains committed to its purpose: to serve Benzie County's educational and charitable needs and contribute to parish life.

As part of an effort to move the church toward financial best practices, St. Philip's hired a new auditing firm in 2021. The new firm (which has a specialty in church finances) did a deep dive and made several recommendations that we have implemented in 2022. This year, the Foundation's bylaws were updated with some minor operational changes to bring it into financial compliance. While the Father Lovett Foundation maintains its own board that reviews grant applications, the recommended grants must now also be approved by the Vestry; the Senior Warden must sign checks for the Foundation; and the Foundation's finances will be audited as part of the St. Philip's larger audit.

Grants may be made to missions sponsored by the church, or to other organizations that operate in Benzie County. The Father Lovett Foundation has supported our own Baby Pantry and Good News Garden, the Benzie Area Christian Neighbors (BACN), Blessings in a Backpack (a food program for area children), and other local charitable organizations. This year, we awarded a grant to St. Philip's to restore our 100-year-old Steinway grand piano, and one to our local Habitat for Humanity.

The Father Lovett Foundation gives the faithful of St. Philip's another opportunity to share the riches of God's grace with those in need.

The Good News Garden is an initiative of the national Episcopal Church to grow food for our brothers and sisters who are food insecure. It started during the pandemic and has really taken off. St. Philip's Good News Gardeners donate our organic vegetables and herbs to our Baby Pantry families and our neighbors at BACN and Benzie Senior Resources.



We are a small, strong, determined team of six gardeners.



Getting our hands in the dirt, planting and caring for our crops, fighting insects and disease, praying for rain: all can be rewarding, humbling and bring us closer to our creator. Growing food to give to others is the gardeners' way to show love for one another (John 13:35). It is a blessing to us to be able to show our love for others by growing food for them. We aren't feeding the 5,000 but we try our best to help the Baby Pantry families feed their children!

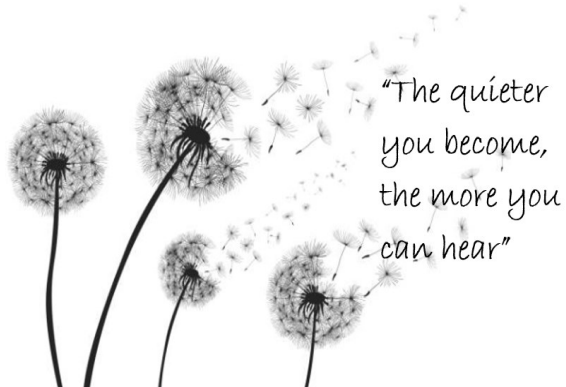
We have been able to fund our Good News Garden through St. Philip's parishioners' generous donations, writing Fr. Lovett Grants and a Groundworks Grant (written by Joy Foster).

If you would like to know more about the garden and/or would like to join us (no expertise needed) please contact a member of the gardening team (Carol Codden, Lin Reed, Gale Luketich, Wendy Hedeem, Gary Michalek, Patricia Compton).

At St. Philip's our mission is to "Embrace the presence of God in our lives and share the riches of God's grace." But how do we sense the presence of God in our lives? Once sensed, how does embracing and holding fast to that Presence change who we are and how we act in the world? These are some of the questions the Education and Formation committee – Wendy Hedeem, chair, Joni Carlson, Judy Macey, Joy Foster, and Barb J. Kelly, members – ask to inform our offerings for our faith community. We believe that the Holy One desires that we be united with him and with each other in Christ so that we may all be the kinds of people described in our chosen Bible text for this year: people whom others will know as Christ's disciples because we follow the Way of Love shown us by Jesus Christ.

We are always curious about the faith formation needs of our parish and wish to offer opportunities to support those yearnings. We seek to offer programs that are grounded in faith, that invite us to recognize God in our lives, that support mature, loving, and healthy relationships in our communities, and that connect us vividly to the Christian story and the Episcopal tradition.

During this past calendar year of 2022, we offered two lovely Lenten Quiet Days, gently led by a spiritually gifted member of our parish, Joni Carlson. These quiet mornings offered time for reflection on a Bible text, prompts to help us connect the text to our lives, and opportunities for some group sharing. These Quiet Days helped anchor us in the penitential, reflective season of Lent and were a good preparation for a led book discussion of the posthumously published book by Rachel Held Evans, Wholehearted Faith.



“Real love is the dogged commitment to live my life in the most unselfish, even sacrificial ways; to love God, love my neighbor, love the earth and truly love myself. “

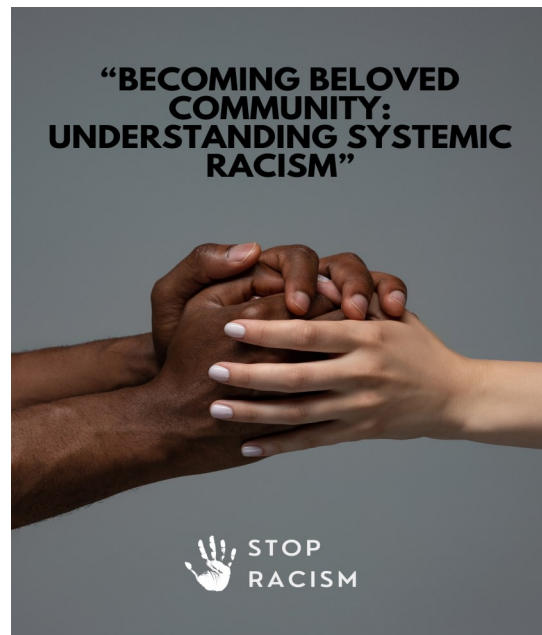
- The Most Rev. Michael Curry

We also invited parishioners to join the fun (and education!) in the daily Lent Madness “contest” which pitted two saints against each other to win the “Golden Halo.” As we read about the lives of the saints, we were able to absorb what it looks like to be love in action. We also handed out Lenten gift bags with items intended to support our journey through a holy Lent.

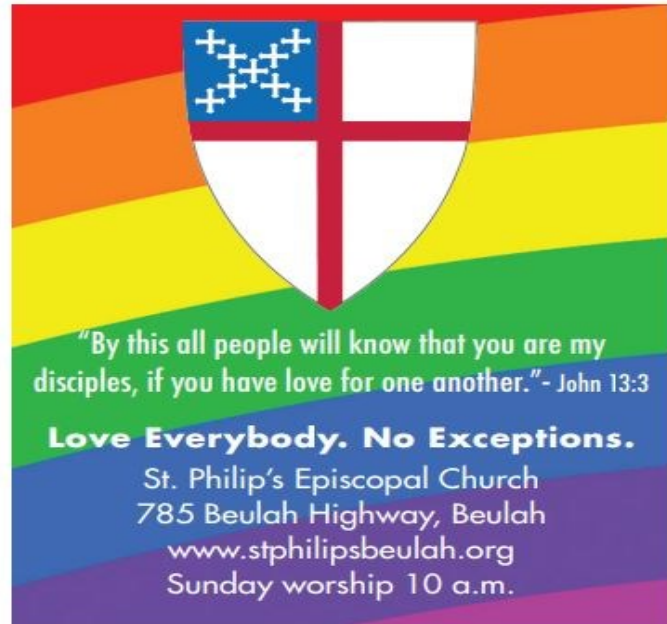
With the departure of the co-rectors in June, 2022, we planned simple, faithful offerings for fall including a weekly Bible study led by Joni Carlson and Barb J Kelly, offered via Zoom, which focuses on the Gospel reading for the next Sunday. We read the text three times, then respond to prompts that lead us to reflect on how the text connects with our present life, what the “good news” in the text may be for us at this time, and how the text may be challenging or encouraging us to be or do differently.

Several members of our parish, particularly those in leadership positions on Vestry, are involved with training to understand and overcome racism in our society through two different offerings from The Episcopal Church - Becoming Beloved Community: Understanding Systemic Racism and Sacred Ground. Both programs offer the opportunity to reflect on family histories and stories, as well as important narratives that shape the collective American story. Both programs hold as their guiding star the vision of Beloved Community – where all people are honored and protected and nurtured as beloved children of God.

Finally, as we head into Advent, Joni Carlson again offered a lovely Quiet Day in October, and we look forward to offering some additional resources to nurture our expectant faith during the Advent season of the church year.



Thanks to everyone
who contributed to
this year's
stewardship bulletin:
**Barb Bleyaert, Harold
Byers, Joni Carlson,
Patricia Compton,
Terri Conroy, Joy
Foster, Barb J. Kelly,
Larry Smith, Debbie
Clark and Susan
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