



Dear Partners in Ministry:

In addition to worship, for two weeks in a row we have had important information about the health and welfare of St. Philip's spoken on Sunday morning. One Sunday we talked about finances and the importance of faithful giving and spending in a time of economic stress. And yesterday, we unveiled a new structure for doing the work of the church to the congregation. For some, this intrusion on worship is seen as the healthy work of the congregation, for others, I'm sure it was unwanted.

The church of Jesus Christ is multi-faceted. It involves praising God in worship, shaping us for discipleship through education and administering the gifts given to us in the most faithful way possible. With regard to the sharing of gifts, I'm not just talking about money. I'm also talking about the many big and little things that must be done to support our ministry. And so the Congregational Vitality Task Force after two years of study and meetings and conversation is suggesting a new structure for St. Philip's which is enclosed in this mailing.

Initially, the suggestion was to try a new structure for a year. The Church Council decided that we should just go for it with no trial. We will not re-write the by-laws immediately, but will suspend the "committee" part for a year as we re-write and live into the structure. I hope you will study the proposed structure and we invite questions. Feel free to contact those or me on the Church Council or those on the Vitality Committee.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Sue



On behalf of the entire Faerber Family, we would like to thank the St. Philip's Congregation for the cards, concerns, prayers and love that you have extended to us during this difficult time. Dana touched a lot of hearts in her 72 years. She was a very important member of our family and loved her church family and will be greatly missed.

The Faerber Family

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Thank you for the beautiful flowers you sent to Melba Schulz. We are so grateful for all the attention from the kind people at St. Philip's.

Sincerely,

The Family of Melba Schulz

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St. Philip's Congregation,

Just want to say "Thanks" for all the prayers, cards, and phone calls during my knee replacement surgery. Am progressing slowly each day. I go to the doctor today. Hopefully he will take out the rest of the staples and that I can bend leg better. The therapist comes 3 times and the occupational therapist and the nurse comes once a week. I am on the CPU machine for 6 hours a day for 2 hours at a time. Hope I can start walking with a cane. Miss seeing you and hope to see you soon.

God's blessing to my church family at St. Philip's

Love and Prayers.

Paul Shrout

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Dear Friends,

Joint Neighborhood Ministry wants to express our appreciation for your generosity in support of our ministry. Your assistance means so much to us. Without your support, we would not be able to lend a helping hand to as many families as we do each month.

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your in-kind donation of clothing, personal care items, and school supplies during 2008 calendar year. Your donation made an immediate difference in the lives of the families we serve.

Thank you from Joint Neighborhood Ministry staff, volunteers, and the neighbors we serve. You are making a difference!

Sincerely,

(signed) Joan Hensley, Executive Director

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KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

John Schuette at Green Park, Walt Miller at Orchid Terrace, Paul Shroul who is recovering from knee replacement surgery, also Jack, the husband of Sharon Jackman, who will undergo colon surgery the week of February 23rd.

ASH WEDNESDAY DINNER

This Ash Wednesday, February 25 at 6 pm. St. Philip's is hosting a dinner to launch the Lenten Season. Food will be provided and we ask for a goodwill offering. If you plan to attend please write your name and number of people on the sign up sheet after worship on Sunday, February 22nd. As part of the service, we are asking members, who are active volunteers in the community, to share their stories with the group. If you would like to share your story, please see Jennifer Larsen, or call/email her at 314-420-1976, larsen1995@hotmail.com.



Please sign-up so we know how many to cook for and then join us for dinner and worship (one or both). Due to the shortness of time, you can call in a reservation to the church office.

There will also be a Soup and Salad Dinner on Wednesday, March 18th at 6 pm with faith-sharing and worship. Be sure to sign up for this as well so we know how many to prepare for.

LENTEN BOOK STUDY

When – Sundays in March following worship

What- The Last Week by John Dominic Crossen and Marus Borg
Why – To study each day in Holy Week for a fresh new perspective

Who is the teacher? - Pastor Michelle

You can find the book on line and at the Eden Bookstore and probably at Border's. Please try to read the first chapter before March 1st.

FAITHFUL READERS BOOK CLUB

We hope everyone will read The Last Week and join in that discussion. We will meet again on April 19. Our next book is an old favorite, To Kill A Mockingbird.

POTLUCK LUNCHEON – SUNDAY, MARCH 15TH

Everyone is invited to a Pot Luck Lunch on Sunday, March 15th after the church service. Jeff Whitman, conference minister, is our guest. Please bring a dish for the pot luck.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board if you plan to attend.

CAMP SUNDAY



March 22nd is Camp Sunday and Shirley Asmussen, our Outdoor Ministries Director, will be with us for a fun morning. Dress in "camp" clothing that day.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Enclosed with the Crier is a pamphlet and envelope for the annual One Great Hour of Sharing collection. This will be taken on Sunday, March 22nd. Please mark your calendar and bring your contribution.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Keep on your calendars – St. Philip's Habitat for Humanity Workday is Saturday, June 20th. Be sure to make the date and think about helping out at this project. More details later.

MEN'S RETREAT

The Missouri Conference UCC Men's Retreat will be held this year on May 1-3 at Shannondale. The cost is \$60.00 For information contact Bill McFadden at 920-5913.

SNOW, SNOW, SNOW = THANKS, THANKS, THANKS

To date we have received \$832.00 in Donations for the snow removal!!!! That will go a long way in paying the \$956.00 bill from January. THANK YOU, for your generosity. If you missed getting an envelope and would like to contribute – just add Snow Removal on the special gift line of your regular envelope.



ST. PHILIP'S WOMEN'S RETREAT



The third annual retreat will be held on March 21, 2009 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. This year it's entitled "A Very, Merry Un-Birthday Party" and will include food, fun, fellowship and reminiscences as well as spiritual uplifting and communion. All women are welcome. Be sure to sign up on the bulletin board as soon as possible. Directions and further information will be given to participants after the first of March.

LYDIA'S HOUSE COMMUNITY MEAL

Once again St. Philip's provided a wonderful meal that was much enjoyed! Carolyn Held, their chaplain who organizes the meals, raved about how much the women and their children enjoyed the food and appreciated the variety and being able to take home some leftovers for the next day. Many thanks to Nancy Krenning, Mary Lou Farrow, Shirley Nottelmann, Virginia Hladnick, Joan Schumacher, Alice Hillyard, Lois Decker, Pat Siewing, Betty Moore, Kathy Shelton, Sue Leary, JoAnn Leber, Joyce Brand, Frances Kalbfleish, and Ardelle Dischinger. You are much appreciated!

ST. PHILIP'S TO HOST TEA

Mark Sunday, June 14th on your calendar and plan to attend a tea at St. Philip's which will benefit Joint Neighborhood Ministry at Epiphany UCC. You'll be hearing more about it later. We'll need lots of help to make it a special occasion!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

This is a reminder to all committee chairpersons. The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on April 19th. Annual reports will need to be submitted to the church office no later than Sunday, April 12th so that Shirley can put it together for the meeting. You might want to start thinking about your report now.

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE

A few weeks ago we heard a review of our financial situation during a Stewardship Message. To recap, our end of year 2008 and January 2009 finances were considerably down. We are not certain whether this is a temporary downturn or a reflection of the overall economic downturn. Our Church Council has re-affirmed commitment to our current church program as much as possible. To help insure the financial stability of St. Philip's during this financial crunch, the following steps were outlined:

- For those who are able, you are asked to stay as current as possible in fulfilling your pledge
- Our paid staff has voluntarily rolled back their 2009 salary increases to 2008 salary levels
- Our Youth Minister Search Committee is restructuring the job description of our vacant Youth Minister position in order to reduce on-going expenses
- Pastor has recommended we not fill a Student Minister position in September
- Utilize a "St. Philip Sunday" envelope in the *CRIER* each month this year. Our February envelope was geared specifically to help cover the \$956 in snow removal costs we have incurred. On-going we are asking those who are able for an additional contribution in the St. Philip's envelope equal to one week's giving to help cover

operating expenses and to strengthen our financial situation.

St. Philip's is a very generous and supportive congregation and when faced with adversity has always pulled together. With everyone's continued support, we will work through these uncertain times. Thanks in advance, your Stewardship and Finance Committee.

EASTER EGG HUNT



Yes, Easter! We are beginning to make plans for the Easter Egg Hunt. We are looking for volunteers to help with activities and the Easter Egg Hunt. Please consider and call:

Christian Education Committee

Cindy Lewis 636-305-7859; Allison LaMont 849-5994; or Virginia Hladnick 843-3605.

50+ GROUP

The 50+ Group will be going to O'Leary's on March 7th at 11:45 for a St. Patrick's lunch with corned beef and cabbage – other items are also on the menu. After lunch we will go to church for dessert.

Please sign up: If you wish to carpool, be at church at 11:30 a.m.

WOMEN FELLOWSHIP –COLLECTION FOR MARCH

The month of March, we will be collecting macaroni and cheese for Joint Neighborhood Ministries.

Thank you very much for all the cereal. The final delivery for this will be on February 23rd. It is greatly appreciated.

The Women's Fellowship

SUMMER CAMP

Enclosed with the Crier is the schedule for summer camp at Mo-Val. Watch for the registration brochures that are to be mailed in early March.

YOUTH EVENTS FOR MARCH

Junior youth and under are having a lock-in at church on March 14th. Please sign up on the bulletin board.

All youth can attend an Art Museum Scavenger Hunt on March 29th. Please sign up on the bulletin board.



The youth will be selling pizzas this month as a Mission Trip Fundraiser.

More details about each event to come.

COMING EVENTS

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| March 1 | Traditional E & R Communion Service
Book Study after worship
Book Sale 11 am – 3 pm |
| March 2 | Bible Study Class 9 am
Church Council meeting 7 pm |
| March 3 | Bell Choir practice 7 pm |
| March 4 | Choir practice 7 pm |
| March 5 | Yoga Class 6:30 pm |
| March 6 | Trivia Night 7 pm |
| March 7 | 50+ Group – O'Leary's 11:45 am
Trivia Night 7 pm |
| March 8 | Birthday Sunday
Book Study after Worship |
| March 9 | Bible Study Class 9 am |
| March 10 | Bell Choir 7 pm |
| March 11 | Free Lunch – noon
Choir practice 7 pm |
| March 12 | Yoga Class 6:30 pm |
| March 14 | Youth (Jr. and under) Roller Skating/Lock-in |
| March 15 | Conference Minister, Jeff Whitman, preaches
Book Study after worship
Pot Luck luncheon after worship |
| March 16 | Bible Study Class 9 am |
| March 17 | Women's Fellowship Corned Beef Lunch |

March 18 Choir practice 7 pm
 Lenten Service/Soup-Salad Dinner 6 pm

March 19 Yoga Class 6:30 pm

March 21 St. P's Women's Retreat – Camp Fenwick
 9 am – 3 pm

March 22 Camp Sunday – Shirley Asmussen
 Book Study after worship

March 23 Bible Study Class 9 am
 Crier articles due

March 24 Bell Choir 7 pm

March 25 Choir Practice 7 pm

March 26 Yoga Class 6:30 pm

March 29 Book Study after worship
 New members received
 Jr/Sr Youth – Art Museum Scavenger Hunt

March 30 Bible Study Class 9 am

March 31 Bell Choir 7 pm

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

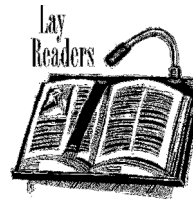
1 Pam Tangeman
 2 Karen Moran
 4 Pam Schiele Stang
 5 Joyce Thuston
 10 Jeanne Piffel
 11 Ruth Adams
 11 Dawn Knoll
 12 David Schiele
 12 Debby Wodicker
 12 Jeff Gutjahr
 14 Scott Karcher
 15 Andy Gibson
 15 Frances Kalbfleish
 21 Jason Karcher
 24 William Brill
 25 Susan Rohlfing
 25 Carlie Fischer
 26 Ellie Blum
 26 Clara Hornung



27 Meghan Mikusch
 28 Jeanne Hickman
 28 Elaine Kimker
 29 Kali Hladnick
 29 ShirleyNottelmann
 30 Bob Kammerer
 31 John Schuette

LITURGISTS, USHERS, ACOLYTES AND CHILDREN'S TIME FOR FEBRUARY

Liturgists



March 1 Bob Leber
 March 8 Michelle Torigian
 March 15 Sandy Stevenson
 March 22
 March 29 Mike Shelton

Welcoming Teams

March 8 and 15

March 22 and 29

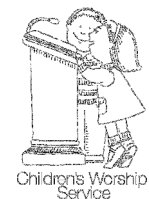
Acolytes



March 1 Carley Nickel
 March 8 Scott Karcher
 March 15 Alex Balzer
 March 22 Rachel Fischer
 March 29 Ashley Kulich

Children's Time

March 1 Michelle Torigian
 March 8
 March 15
 March 22
 March 29



SHARE THE LOVE

The following is a portion of an email received by Scott and Laura Stevenson from Marie Teepe, mother of a girl in Syd's kindergarten class, and is used with her permission.

“You may remember meeting me at the Christmas Party in Mrs. Horn's class. I am Caroline's Mom. I am not sure if you have ever heard of the “Share the Love” Awards throughout the Kirkwood School District. This is only the 2nd year it is occurring. It is an awards reception put on by the Kirkwood PAC (Parent Advisory Council), which is an organization made up of parents who have special-needs kids in the district. Anyway, each parent in the PAC was asked if they wanted to nominate someone for an award. We were asked to nominate anyone (teacher, bus driver, classmate, etc.) who has made a difference in your child's life. I nominated Sydney because of her friendship with Caroline. Mrs. Horn always tells me that Sydney is always there to give Caroline a helping hand, whether it be with her coat, pushing her on the swings, opening her milk container, etc. More than that, however, is the simple fact that Sydney wants Caroline as a friend. I can honestly say that Caroline has never had a true “friend” before. Even though Caroline's autism makes it hard for her to communicate and understand certain things, Sydney still wants to hang out with her and include her with the rest of the class. I think that is awesome.”

Syd received her award at a reception at Kirkwood High School on February 9th. The Stevenson family is very proud. Perhaps it will encourage us all to share the love. Even small, seemingly insignificant acts of kindness make a difference.