

St Philip's Weekly Newsletter

January 21, 2022

Dear friends in Christ,

This is an exceptionally difficult time for St. Philip's. There is good news in that a process of reconciliation has just begun. I am deeply grateful to all who have committed to this work. It has taken real courage for people to take that step. It will not be an easy process. It will take time. But reconciliation is one of the hallmarks of Christian discipleship (2nd Cor. 5:18). I ask your prayers for all concerned.

Because the tension level is so high, the temptation for the parties involved to comment, explain, justify or clarify is intense. However, any sort of commentary about ongoing conversations or past events will only further stir the pot and jeopardize that which is most important to us: reconciliation. I would ask that we all refrain from making assumptions about anyone; engaging in conversation that is not fruitful and persist in fervent prayer for one another.

Difficult periods like this are never pleasant. But even the founders of our faith experienced them. I take solace in the stories of Sts. Paul, John-Mark, Barnabas, Silas and Peter in the Acts of the Apostles. They, too, came to impasses and experienced great difficulties. But God brought forth good fruit and reconciliation through it all. In addition to asking your prayers, I ask for the prayers of these saints. Amen.

Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting will not include the usual brunch. It will take place after the regular 9:30 worship service, following a brief break. The meeting will be in the sanctuary since there is no hospitality hour. Votes will be cast in person and on zoom. Please review the proposed change to the Endowment Fund restrictions. If you did not receive an email ballot about this issue, one will be distributed at the beginning of the meeting in person. Those who are gathered via zoom will be given ample time to read and consider the proposal. We will also vote on Vestry Warden and member positions. Nominations from the floor will be welcome.

Prayer Concerns and Notes of Praise

- Please pray for Kim McDonald, who is hospitalized with a kidney infection and other health concerns.
- I ask your prayers for Richard Stones, who suffered a pair of cracked ribs in a fall last week.
- Our music director, Michelle Webb, has now tested positive for Covid-19. Last week, she twice tested negative but early this week, a positive test came back and she began to show symptoms. I have asked her not to come in to work Sunday. While the choir loft has been thoroughly cleaned and sanitized, I still think it best to encourage folks to stay out of that area this Sunday. We will forgo music for one week. Please pray for Michelle's recovery. Because she is vaccinated and boosted, we are hopeful that her symptoms will be minor.
- Give thanks for the return of a healthy Deacon Dan Hughes to St. Philip's on Sunday! We are so grateful for Dan's recovery and I know he thanks all of you for your cards, prayers, calls and visits. We give thanks, too, for his sweetheart - Karen - who has taken such wonderful care of him. She is an amazing companion, partner and advocate for Dan and we celebrate her as well.

- Please pray for Jack Notzen as he faces a medical procedure Monday. May God guide every aspect of the procedure with His loving hand and surround Jack with His peace.
- Give thanks for Jack's generous donation of a large, digital clock for use in the narthex. This will definitely help the rector start services on time! Thank you, Jack!
- Pray for peace between Russia and Ukraine. May God stay the hands of the violent and prosper & bless the work of peacemakers.
- Give thanks that a young woman who has been in our prayers for several weeks has seen great improvement. We thank the Lord for the recovery of Tracey Grummer.
- Michelle Webb requests prayers for the Illjoski family.
- Pray for the people of Tonga, in the South Pacific, after a massive volcanic eruption. And for those in our own nation who face hardships of various kinds due to weather, under-employment or illness.
- Give thanks for the life, ministry and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior.
- I give thanks for several nights of uninterrupted sleep and a new strategy for dealing with insomnia. My health remains a concern but I am seeing definite indications of improvement. I thank all of you for praying for me and welcome your continued intercession. God bless you!
- And please continue to remember the following folks in your prayers as they face ongoing medical or other issues: Jill Hill; Ken and Janie Jenssen; Carrol Hercules; Linda Purcell; Bill Peterson; Jeanne Svendson's niece and nephew; Andreas Kistner; Roberta Butler; Steve Francois; Dan Hughes; Ann Fischer; Christina Guzman; Chris Trotti; Bruce Fichte; Scott Garske; Marge; Levi Tsu and his family; Molly and her parents - David and Laura; Joe and Toni Saladino; Lian Thian; Peggy and Don; and Bishop-Elect Paula Clark.

In the wider Church, please pray for...

- Journeys: The Road Home; PADS; and all programs that minister to the needs of the homeless in our area.
- One in Christ Episcopal Church of Prospect Heights and Rector, Rev. Indon Paul Joo.
- Christ the King Lutheran Church of Palatine and the Rev. Thomas J. Schultz, pastor.

I'm going to leave it at that for another week, friends. It's just such a busy time. I hope there will be more time for a quiz, some news briefs and other items of interest in next week's newsletter. Thank you for reading and most of all - thank you for praying!

Faithfully,
Fr. Jim

"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen." Ephesians 3:20, 21