From the Rector

“Truth”

The Catechism, or An Outline of the Faith, found on page 845 in the Book of Common Prayer, asks the question, ‘How is the Church described in the Bible?’ The answer given is ‘The Church is described as the Body of which Jesus Christ is the Head and of which all baptized persons are members. It is called the People of God, the New Israel, a holy nation, a royal priesthood, and the pillar and ground of truth.’

It was the last part of that description of the Church, as “…the pillar and ground of truth” that resonated with me as I read a recent editorial in the Star News (Dec. 4th) by Dallas Morning News columnist, Rod Dreher. What attracted me to Mr. Dreher’s column was the title, “In age of opinion, is anything true?” As a fairly well educated individual, with my share of common experiences, an affinity for reasoned discourse, and what I consider to be a healthy respect for the unknowns in life, I was more than curious to find out what Mr. Dreher had to say about truth. What I found most interesting about his commentary was his premise that truth is quickly being replaced by opinion. He says that while ‘Traditional belief in the effectiveness of reason, however imperfectly realized, has long been a stabilizing force in our liberal democracy,’ if that faith is slipping into irrelevance, we are going to lose more than our minds.

Mr. Dreher opens his column with a comment from a high school teacher. The teacher said the biggest problem he has with his students – many of whom end up in America’s top universities – was that they didn’t know how to read. He went on to explain, “What I’m saying is they don’t have the ability to sit still with a text and read it for comprehension. Even worse, when they come across something they disagree with, they think it isn’t true. And I’m not talking about opinions; I’m talking about facts.”
What troubles the teacher, says Dreher, is not that his students are reaching wrong conclusions. What troubles him is that they don’t grasp that they should make the effort to reason at all. Whether they realize it, ordinary people have become more comfortable with the idea that truth is relative and that emotion is, for many people, the only reliable and sufficient guide to finding it. For many of us, what’s true is whatever is pleasing and useful.

What Mr. Dreher is describing, of course, is what we refer to as ‘moral relativism’ – a belief that how I feel about something; emotionally, psychologically, physically, etc., trumps other criteria, such as facts, science, law, tradition, history, reason, or the wisdom of a larger maturity. In short, there is no opportunity to dialogue, or argue, by analyzing premises and data to reach a deliberate conclusion. Bottom line, you have your opinion, I have mine – you have your ‘facts,’ and I have mine.

Now, there’s no way I could even begin to argue the merits of Mr. Dreher’s premise in an article in the Philippian. However, I do want to say two things. First, that nowhere in his premise does Mr. Dreher mention the pro’s or con’s of God, or any religion in the search for truth. And, second, that for me as a Christian, if I’m at all interested in the truth, I have an inherent baptismal obligation to seek it out through the wisdom, guidance and work of the Church, the Body of Christ, ‘... the pillar and ground of truth.’

Having said that, as a Christian, unless one is committed to searching for the truth, by investing themselves in the process of analyzing the data, taking into account the validity of discourse, science, history, the wisdom of maturity, law, tradition, reason, Biblical study and a life of prayer and service, one’s efforts will be in vain.

My brothers and sisters, seeking the truth only through whatever is pleasing and useful, the twin attractions of moral relativism, is a useless, and often painful, pursuit. God demands and expects more of us. In the year ahead let us pray for God’s guidance, through the power of the Holy Spirit, in broadening and deepening our search for the truth of God’s purpose for our lives.

God bless you and remember you are loved.

Fr. Barry+
From the Deacon

Recently I received an e-mail from another deacon who lives in Louisiana. His local interfaith clergy association has adopted a “Faith Statement of Civility in Public Discourse” and he felt others might like to do this as well. The statement reads:

As people of faith, we are deeply troubled by the lack of Civility that we witness daily in public discourse. Since we regard all human beings as God’s children, created in God’s likeness, we regard an offense against our neighbor as an offense to God. Violence begets violence, in speech and action.

As leaders in our faith communities, in light of the intensifying debates on such issues as healthcare, immigration, economic and foreign policy, we pledge ourselves to civil discourse and invite all to commit to this pledge:

1. We will disagree without being disagreeable.
2. We will affirm the right of the other to differ... As we affirm ours.
3. We will debate the issues, not debase the individual who differs from us.
4. We will avoid listening to, encouraging, or endorsing those in public and in private life who demean the dignity of others by name-calling and labeling.
5. We will not acknowledge or forward electronic messages or videos designed to demonize or humiliate persons or groups.
6. We will be examples of civility to those who come into contact with us.

We call upon all people, especially our elected leaders to embrace this pledge by word and deed.”

Few of us are elected leaders and most of us do not have much influence outside a small group of people. But if we strive to live this pledge I expect we will find an improvement in our own conduct and that of those around us. If we can influence just one other person to accept this pledge just imagine how far it can go if each person who hears of it passes it on.
In the reading from the Epistle for Thanksgiving the author urges, “that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for everyone…so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity”. In the Gospel for that day we are told to “strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness…” God’s kingdom is surely a place where people never demean the dignity of others.

It is easy to disagree with others but often hard to accept that they have as much right to their opinion as we have to ours. If we remember that we are all God’s children and that God made each one of us a unique individual then we will be more likely to avoid disagreeable behavior when we discuss issues about which we do not agree. Jesus set the standard by accepting everyone he met just as they were. He did not love them less when they were not in agreement with him. As baptized people we have vowed to follow in his steps.

At the Lambeth Conference held during July 2008 one of the speakers was Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks, chief rabbi of the United Congregations of the Commonwealth. He told of Jewish sages who were asked many centuries ago, “Who is a hero of heroes?” They answered, “Not the one who defeats his enemy but one who turns and enemy into a friend.” Later in his address to the gathered bishops he talked about the fact that love, friendship and influence are things that only exist by virtue of sharing. He calls these covenantal goods—the goods that, the more we share, the more we have. He then talked about what happens in a society when religion wanes and there is nothing covenantal to take its place. “Relationships break down. Marriage grows weak. Families become fragile. Communities atrophy. And the result is that people feel vulnerable and alone. If they turn those feelings outward, the result is often anger turning to violence…there is spiritual poverty in the midst of material affluence.” He sees the world today spitting into ever-smaller sects of the like-minded. The sanctity of human life is being desecrated by terror. Respect for diversity is imperiled.

This new year let us focus on upholding the dignity of all people, especially those with whom we disagree. Let us vow to do our part in beginning to overcome the hatred and violence that have become so widespread in our world. Let us resolve to do everything in our power to live into our baptismal covenant.

Henrietta
A New Decade's Resolution

We're entering 2010 not only as a new year, but as a new decade! Our last decade was a tough one for many around the world and at home. But let's resolve to help make the next one a healing decade for our own country and our globe.

I was recently involved with training a case-study in the eastern Congo for USAID staff about to go there to work, so when I saw this article on the ERD website I felt a connection. This project is helping victimized women in a country that is having, as the article says, one of the "worst humanitarian crises" in the world. Let's resolve not to let another decade pass where people have to face this kind of tragic violence in their lives.

Jake

A New Start for Women of the Democratic Republic of Congo

Elize, a widow and mother of five, lives in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Struggling to support her family while simultaneously dealing with the loss of her husband and the psychological aftermath of rape, her story is not an unusual one for the region.

The DRC has been plagued by violent conflict and civil strife for over a decade. The situation is haltingly complex – with no one factor that can account for the violence. The struggle over a wealth of natural resources, tensions between ethnic groups and the influence of rebel militia groups from neighboring Rwanda all play a part in this conflict. The situation in the DRC has been described by many as the worst humanitarian crisis in recent history.

Despite the signing of peace accords in 2003, fighting continues in the Eastern region of the DRC and people continue to die at rates comparable to those during the war. According to the New York Times, approximately 45,000 more lives are lost each month.

“However, the violence cannot simply be measured by the number of lives lost,” said Danielle Tirello, Episcopal Relief & Development Program Associate for Africa. “In this region, more than 20,000 women have been affected by the gender-specific violence of sexual assault and are living with the aftereffects of that experience.”

Partnership is critical to Episcopal Relief & Development’s work in settings where the level of need and degree of suffering is as encompassing as in the DRC. In the war-torn Eastern region, Episcopal Relief & Development has worked with the Diocese of Boga to help those in need. One component of the partnership is the creation of the Union des Femmes pour la Paix et la Promotion Sociale (UFPPS), a special ministry designed to reach local women like Elize.
The UFPPS began with a reconciliation program, which not only provided women with the tools they needed to deal with the aftermath of sexual assault, but also created an opportunity for them to confront a mutual hatred of those in rival ethnic groups.

“These women have experienced so much pain that to face another person who they associate with the cause of that pain can be traumatizing,” said Tirello. “Providing them with a safe environment where they can confront these feelings is the first step down a long road to peace in the region.”

Many participants, including Elize, have expressed their disbelief that they could learn to peacefully co-exist with women of different ethnicities and their thanks that the UFPPS has made it a possibility.

With help from Episcopal Relief & Development, the UFPPS has followed up its reconciliation efforts with programs to empower its members. In addition to providing HIV testing and basic medical care, the UFPPS has created economic opportunities for members through micro-finance.

Previously only able to afford 12 kilograms of beans to sell each month at the market, Elize has utilized the micro-finance opportunities to expand her horizons. After receiving two loans from UFPPS, Elize has been able to double her business, selling 24 kilograms of beans each month. She reports that in addition to supplying adequate food and clothing for her family, she is proud that she can now send her children to school.

Elize remains an active participant of UFPPS and expresses her gratitude to the program by donating some of her income each month. Her commitment will help the UFPPS and Episcopal Relief & Development support women like her in the future.

“It is truly amazing to see these women, whose lives have been devastated by violence, begin to recover with just a little help,” said Tirello. “Elize is living proof that small initiatives can begin a cycle of healing and change that benefits individuals, families and entire communities.”
The Church of the Present

We've all done it; wished that the person with the child making all that noise would take them out of church. I'll even admit children making noise usually does not bother me but even I do enjoy having one hour a week of just quiet worship. Trust me, it doesn't ever happen but I do enjoy it.

As the Christian Education Director, I have people all the time questioning me as to why parents don't take children into the nursery; why children who apparently don't understand the Eucharist participate; why we have to have sermons for children; and the list goes on and on. My response to those types of questions is very simple – because we have children. St. Philip's may not have proportionally the numbers of children other churches our size have, but we do have a wonderful lot of children. Children are not just the future, they are the present. They are part of the church and they are an active part of St. Philip's parish family.

As one priest put it, “the parents of small children actually started their worship service about two hours earlier than everyone else.” I’m sure most of you remember the weekly struggles to get children up, fed, dressed, and off to church. Those of us who still have young children are still fighting those battles.

I have found myself joking a lot lately about the diverse nature of the children who attend St. Philip’s. As most of you are not aware, my youngest child was diagnosed this past summer as being on the Autism Spectrum. She is just one of four children at St. Philip’s with similar diagnosis. We have several children with ADHD (another disorder with a wide range of manifestations). We have children with behavioral issues and we have children with developmental issues. That’s not to mention the kids we have that are just plain old kids – nothing spectacularly different from the rest of the group, only they are children trying to learn their way in life.

Attending church is a struggle for my child. I could go into the pages of reasons why but just suffice it to say the environment in church is not the most conducive for the best possible reactions from my child. It makes life difficult on me – again, because I would like to just sit and enjoy a quiet worship service – and it makes life difficult on her. It also makes that time in church a little more challenging for those around us. I get it! So do all the other parents of children in church.
The next time you hear a child making too much noise or being too restless or just “tuned out” of the service all together, remember that as parents we all do the best we can for our children. We do not want our children to impose on your worship but we do want our children to learn to worship Christ in the best way they possibly can. In the Gospel of Mark the children were there in the crowd with their parents. Jesus didn’t have to ask for children to come hear His message. They were already there. Jesus had to stop the adults who were closest to Him from stopping the children from being there as part of his following.

“And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.” —Mark 10:13-16

Millie
Receiving Holy Communion

The Reverend David A. Williams+

Should we go to the little (Shot Glasses) glasses to serve the communion wine at the Eucharist? It seems there are some who think that we should give up the common cup because of the H1N1 flu bug. Then do as some other Protestants churches do and use some other means of administering the wine such as the little cups that are passed around to each person. We could keep the chalice just for the Priest and Deacon to use. Or we could all stick our wafer in the chalice and that would in some way save us from the germs. Or we could go as we are now: The Deacon counts out the number of wafers that are too be used, (one pair of hands). The Priest consecrates the wafer. (Two pairs of hands) The Eucharistic minister takes it from the person and dips into the wine and hands it back to the person to consume. (Four hands have now touched that wafer.) Of course this does not count the number of hands that have touched that wafer before it even gets to the altar. I guess we had better use surgical gloves to come to communion.

But if all of this is so dangerous then I guess the Priests and the Deacon should wear surgical mask as well. After all, they go see the sick in the hospital, nursing homes, and visit people in their homes, exposing themselves to all kinds of germs. Or they could stay at the church and communicate with the congregation by phone and email. But they also drink all the left over wine after communion.

You know what? I have not been sick or died from any of this, and I have been a Priest for over twenty-four years and a Deacon for two years before that. Nor has Henrietta, who has been a Deacon for sixteen years. Barry, Corky, Bob, Fiona and Henrietta are still with us and to the best of my knowledge have never been sick because of drinking from the chalice after everyone has drunk from it. Our greatest sickness comes from dealing with this kind of fear.

In the 1980s it was AIDS. Everyone wanted to change things then. So the Churches in this country and in Canada had studies done. Those studies showed that there was no infectious disease that could be traced back to the Chalice. Last month the TLC show *Myth Busters* examined a myth that said the double dipping in a dip increased the germ content in the dip. At the end of the testing (including one of them eating directly from the bowl) they found that there were not any more good or bad germs in the dip than when it came out of the jar it came in.
Fear causes people to come to some very faulty assumptions. Even medical doctors fall under misguided information when they are fearful. If we are that fearful of taking Communion then maybe we should not take it at all. My faith says that I am safe when I receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ. I don’t need to dip, I don’t need a mask, I don’t need surgical gloves to receive the sacred Body and Blood of my savior. And it is the REAL PRESENCE of Christ in that bread and Wine when it is properly consecrated, with the words of Institution:

*On the night He was betrayed he took bread and said the blessing and broke the bread and gave it to his disciples and said: "This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." The prayer of the Holy Spirit then follows: "Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of a new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity..."* Without these words it is not a Communion. Anything else is a love feast.

To come to communion being afraid of getting some germ from the way that I am to receive it, shows a lack of trust and belief in God.

WWW.STPHILIPSCHURCH.ORG

Visit St. Philip’s home on the World Wide Web! The website includes many useful tools for our members. *St. Philip’s members can access the pictorial directory, the church newsletter, weekly lessons, current events, photos, the church calendar, The Book of Common Prayer, and many useful links.*
From the Senior Warden

Holiday greetings to all members of the St. Philip’s family. This is an interesting and wonderful time to be writing my first column for the Philippian. It has been a busy but exciting fall for the Beers family. Our youngest daughter, Emily, was married on the 10th of October in the Finger Lakes – outdoors, and it did not snow or rain. Talk about being blessed!

Thanksgiving took us to Long Island to our oldest daughter, Kathleen’s home for what has become a Thanksgiving tradition. What wasn’t part of the tradition was the surprise birthday party they all threw for me – all four of our children were there and 5 of our 6 grand children. They really did surprise me, which is usually hard to do.

For Christmas we will travel to Alexandria, VA where our youngest son, Eric, now lives with his family while working at the Pentagon. That drive will seem short compared with the two consecutive trips to New York!

Now I am looking forward to an exciting and productive year working with the Vestry and all the members of St. Philip’s. There are a number of things we need to accomplish this coming year to continue the many ministries already begun and to expand where we can.

Here are some of the things I would like to see us accomplish together during 2010:

• Encourage more members of St. Philip’s to take on leadership roles in the church; especially Vestry, Convention Delegates, Lay Readers, Acolytes/Crucifers, Ushers & Greeters, Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Lay Eucharistic Visitors.

• Encourage more participation on special music offerings such as Evensong and the Summer Music Program.

• Increase the percentage of annual spending directed toward Outreach.

• Develop a Standing Stewardship Committee that will meet on a year round schedule.

• Educate and encourage members to investigate and use the St. Philip’s Endowment program.

• Investigate ways to improve our facilities for better use in Outreach, educational, and social activities.

I look forward to the challenges and rewards of the coming year. If you have any questions, ideas, or comments, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Mo Beers
JANUARY LECTIONARIES

January 3\textsuperscript{rd}
Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 84
Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a
Luke 2:41-52

January 10\textsuperscript{th}
Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 17\textsuperscript{th}
Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

January 24\textsuperscript{th}
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

January 31\textsuperscript{st}
Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Have You Seen the St. Philips’ Library?

Bonnie Shurman

If you haven’t been upstairs in the narthex recently you may not have seen our growing St. Philips’ library.

Four years ago, after losing some forty years of accumulated books in a truck fire, I had the opportunity to create a brand new seminary library for myself while studying in Boston at the Episcopal Divinity School there. My new selection of titles was less a random collection of a lifetime’s reading than a conscious effort, guided by my seminary professors, to create a small library of respected books for those who want a reliable guide to learning more about their faith.

Upon returning to the Southport-Oak Island area, I came to realize that the collection belonged at St. Philip’s, where I had already encountered people who were eagerly seeking to know more about their faith. When I became aware there was no library as such, decided to put together a library system as well—organization, a catalog, check-out cards.

With this brief background, let me give you a personal tour of some of the highlights.

If the Instructed Eucharist of November 8 interested you, follow up with a book on our worship liturgy. Look for “Liturgy” on the book list sorted by SUBJECT.

There is a good set of books on the Bible. I recommend books on the prophets. You will get a good idea of why a man called JEREMIAH Wright might speak in a controversial way if he is in the least like the prophet Jeremiah after whom he is named. The words of our 21st century Jeremiah pale in comparison to that ancient Jeremiah. Look in the SUBJECT sort under BIBLE HB (Hebrew Bible) PROPHETS.

I have quite a love for C.S. Lewis. If you search in the Card catalog sort by SUBJECT you’ll find thirteen books with the subject theology Lewis. You can also look in the author sort of the catalog for books written by Lewis. I see that someone has donated a second copy of Lewis’ Mere Christianity. It’s my favorite Lewis book; I hope both books will stay in circulation at all times. The book consists of lectures Lewis did over the radio during World War II for both troops and listeners to the BBC. It is so simple and yet so powerful. If you want to dive deeper, try Mere Theology, a book about Lewis as an Anglican theologian.

I noticed also that we have a second copy Reconciliation: Preparing for Confession in the Episcopal Church. The practice for such confessions in found in our prayer book. If you have wondered about private confession in our church, check out this book by the TITLE sort on the subject CONFESSION.
I'm interested in the practice of spiritual companionship or direction and hope to start that practice at St. Philips. You'll find books in the subject category, SPIRITUAL COMPANIONSHIP and SPIRITUAL EXERCISES. My spiritual companion, William Barry, wrote many of these books. There are many, many wonderful books on the SUBJECTS of prayer and spirituality.

My seminary, the Episcopal Divinity School, is known for its excellent scholarship in feminist and third world theology. Two of the first nine women priests, ordained in the so-called “irregular ordination” at Philadelphia, went on to teach at EDS. The collection is well supplied with books on feminist and third world theology. You'll also find books on our modern understanding of mission. You'll find books about women in categories such as BIBLE WOMEN and THEOLOGY WOMEN.

The books are arranged by Library of Congress catalog number. Right now our “card catalog” is a word-processor document in table form. You will find a copy of it in a three ring binder in the library area. That binder has separate sorts, each found under a different tab in the binder: sort by subject, by author's last name, by title, and finally by Library of Congress catalog number. For people who cannot climb the stairs, you'll find four folders on the magazine rack downstairs, one for each book list sort. Ask someone to fetch a book for you. If you are looking for a book on the shelf by its card catalog number, be sure to look around at nearby shelves. Sometimes they are not quite put back in order.

There is an honor system procedure for checking out a book. Write your name, phone number and the date on the library check out card. Take a blank card, put the date on it and put that in the envelope. There is a stamp for dating, but it is probably not current. Put the card with your name into the little cherry box where you find blank cards, and other checked out book cards. Bring the book back in a month or so. You'll find a bookplate with my name and email in all the books I’ve donated. I'd love to talk with you about any book anytime you are interested. Drop me a line!

Got some books you’d like to donate? Please donate books that other members of our church would enjoy. They do not need to be “religious books”; use your judgment about where they belong in the library. Children’s books are welcome as well as appropriate videos. You can put your book on the shelf with other books that do not yet have catalog numbers on their spines nor check out cards. I would love to a make a bookplate to honor your donation. Please send me a request to do that or leave your request in your book. You’ll see on my bookplate that I’ve included a favorite graphic of mine, a picture I took of the cloister at EDS modified with a bit of computer graphics. Send me any graphic you’d like on your bookplate. I’ll be working on this cataloging and book plating in December. You can reach me at johnsonbca@yahoo.com or 910-202-4695. Send me an email if you want me to send you a computer file with the book list; let me know what word processor you use.

I hope to help organize a library committee by stewardship time next year. Let me know if you are interested.
At nearly six feet six, and weighing three hundred pounds, Phillips Brooks cast a long shadow. He was a native Bostonian, the ninth generation of Puritan stock, who entered the Episcopal ministry and pastored with great power in Philadelphia and Boston. His sermons were topical rather than expositional, and he’s been criticized for thinness of doctrine. Nonetheless, he is considered one of America’s greatest preachers. His delivery came in lightning bursts; he felt he had more to say than time in which to say it.

While at Philadelphia’s Holy Trinity Church, Philips, thirty, visited the Holy Land. On December 24, 1865, traveling by horseback from Jerusalem, he attended a five hour Christmas Eve service at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. He was deeply moved. “I remember standing in the old church in Bethlehem,” he later said, “close to the spot where Jesus was born, when the whole church was ringing hour after hour with splendid hymns of praise to God, how again and again it seemed as if I could hear voices I knew well, telling each other of the Wonderful Night of the birth.”

Three years later as he prepared for the Christmas season of 1867, he wanted to compose an original Christmas hymn for the children to sing during their annual program. Recalling his magical night in Bethlehem, he wrote a little hymn of five stanzas and handed the words to his organist, Lewis Redner, saying, “Lewis, why not write a new tune for my poem. If it is a good tune, I will name it ‘St. Lewis’ after you.”

Lewis struggled with his assignment, complaining of no inspiration. Finally on the night before the Christmas program, he awoke with the music ringing in his soul. He jotted down the melody, then went back to sleep. The next day a group of six Sunday school teachers and thirty-six children sang, “O Little Town of Bethlehem.”

Brooks was so pleased with the tune he did name it for his organist, changing the spelling to St. Louis, so as not to embarrass him. The fourth stanza, usually omitted from our hymnbooks, says:

Where children pure and happy pray to the blessed Child,
Where misery cries out to Thee, Son of the mother mild:
Where charity stands watching and faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks, and Christmas comes once more.
PREPARE THE SOUP SUPPERS DURING LENT

Soup and Bread cooks are needed on Wednesdays during Lent. Suppers will begin at 6:30 PM, February 24th, after the Healing Service in the Chapel of the Cross and continue each Wednesday through March 24th. We usually have two soup cooks and one bread cook for each Wednesday. Place forms in the Alms Basin on Sunday or return to the Parish Office by Sunday, February 7th.

Name:______________________  Phone:_________________________

Soup____   Bread____

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ST. PHILIP’S MEN’S CLUB BREAKFAST

JANUARY 3rd 8:45 to 10:00 AM in the Parish Hall

We welcome all members of St. Philip’s, their guests and all visitors.

MENU: SCRAMBLED EGGS, BACON, SAUSAGE, GRITS, BISCUITS, ASSORTED DRY CEREAL, COFFEE, ORANGE JUICE, MILK

Cost: $4.00 per adult, $2.00 per child
On Responsibility

OUR RESPONSIBILITY is to be guided by the Holy Spirit as we seek to share God’s love.

GOD’S RESPONSIBILITY is to strengthen us for His service.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY is to believe that in Jesus Christ we have the answer all people seek.

GOD’S RESPONSIBILITY is to lead the person to Jesus.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY is to prepare ourselves to share God’s love.

GOD’S RESPONSIBILITY is to prepare the hearts of those to whom we are led so they can feel God’s love.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY is to take the risk, “to get out of the boat”, to be willing to fail in trying to share God’s love.

GOD’S RESPONSIBILITY is to redeem our honest mistakes.

DON’T FORGET – DECEMBER 31ST IS THE DEADLINE FOR MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS TO YOUR PLEDGE! Contributions to St. Philip’s in the form of pledges, outreach, building fund, memorials, etc. must be received no later than December 31st to qualify as a 2009 tax credit.

OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP
The 2010 offering envelopes have arrived! They are available for pickup in the bell tower narthex. If you do not have offering envelopes for your Sunday offering and would like a set, please contact Natasha Tatum at 457-5643 or email,
Repentance

I recently noticed a somewhat obscure story on page 8 in the Star News entitled “Church, Native American tribe reconcile”. The story was about an early Christian Church, Dutch Reformed, in New York City, apologizing for a 400-year-old massacre of Lenape Native Americans. It made me think of a statement by Father Barry during our Wednesday bible study, “Forgiveness follows repentance.” The story caught my attention because I grew up on Staten Island, ancestral home of the Lenape tribe, and all my grandchildren are partially descended from Native Americans. I’ve always wondered how Christians could do things that are clearly not Christian, but I found one answer in an old American history book, Abridged History Of The United States by Emma Willard, published in 1852. Writing about “A Plague Among The Indians”, Emma declared “In this way, divine providence provided for a more advanced race”. The peaceful Lenape “Indians” would have been surprised to learn their “more advanced” conquerors came from a homeland that had just begun five centuries of almost continuous warfare, as were the astronomically advanced Maya “Indians” to learn their conquerors believed the sun revolved around the earth.

I don’t think I am personally responsible for the sins of my ancestors, but I wonder what I would have done under similar circumstances. Would I have gone along with the crowd or stood up to them and declared, “That’s not Christian!” Four hundred years later, we are faced with this decision many times in our lives.

Bill Meiners

The Parish Office will be closed December 24th – January 1st. We will return to our regular schedule on January 4th.
Art Needed for Convention

The theme for the 2010 Diocesan convention to be held February 3rd through the 6th, is art. Art from Diocesan artists will be displayed in the common’s area of the convention center. The artist could offer the pieces for sale if they desired. The common’s area is that space that was used for historical displays at the 2009 convention. If you are interested, please pick up an application at the parish office as soon as possible, complete it and send it to; Mamre Wilson at mamre@ec.rr.com. The dead line for the application is Friday, Jan 29th. If you have questions about this program please contact me. The space is large but I do not know how many pieces will be accepted and displayed. The sooner your application is received the better chance you will have of getting your art in the convention art show. Also Mamre is very interested in getting volunteers to help hang the art on Wednesday. Let me know if you are available.

The 2010 convention will not only be a great spiritual gathering but also one filled with great art.

Chuck Pollock cbpewp@bellsouth.net

Quilt Raffle for Haiti

PAT & BILL BITTENBENDER are the lucky winners of the beautiful quilt made by Fiona Bergstrom.

Thanks to your generosity the raffle raised $711 to support St. Philip’s ministry to Haiti.
Interchurch Fellowship

The Southport/Oak Island Interchurch Fellowship is sponsoring the Martin Luther King observance January 17th and 18th. On Sunday the Martin Luther King march will end at the ILA Hall on the corner of 10th and Lord St. at 3:00 where there will be a program with a guest speaker. On Monday morning at 8:00 the Breakfast Roundtable will take place at Trinity United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Tickets are available in the church office or by contacting Ivory Parker at 457-5144. This event randomly assigns participants to tables where specific questions and discussion covering a variety of interracial issues can occur. Additionally, there will be a guest speaker who will focus on the meaning of our MLK holiday observance.

Bazaar 2010

We know it seems as if we just finished our very successful Bazaar 2009, but now it is time to start planning Bazaar 2010!

Ladies, please plan to attend the organizational meeting on Thursday, Jan. 21st in the Parish Hall starting at 9:30.

We already have some wonderful ideas for projects, but are also looking for your creative input.

We look forward to a wonderful year of service and fellowship thru our bazaar efforts.

2010 Bazaar Co-chairs: Cathie Courtnage and Jane Mitchell
Women’s Group News

Our Christmas Tea and Coffee was a very enjoyable event for all who attended. We had goodies, coffee, tea, fellowship and received $320.00 in gift card donations along with numerous toys, books and dolls. The donations were given to Brunswick Family Assistance.

The Women’s Board would like to thank the individuals who have stopped by our Gift Nook.

We encourage you to stop by the next time you have a few minutes before or after church services. The Gift Nook is located in the Bell Tower Narthex. Questions or for information please call Heather Adams, 253-9392.

The 9th Annual Women of the World Conference presented by St Andrews-Covenant Presbyterian Church will be fun-filled overnight at Myrtle Beach on Friday January 29 and Saturday January 30. The Keynote Speaker with is Joanna Weaver, author of having a Mary Heart in a Martha World. For more information and questions please call Joan Stewart at 253-8141.

In closing, Julie Skrief and Carol Parnell would like to thank the Women of St. Philip’s for giving them the opportunity to serve on the Women’s Board for the last two years. We have enjoyed our term and would like to welcome newcomers Lorraine Beamer and Kathleen Beem to the Women’s Board.

Christian One-Liners

*It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.*

*When you get to your wit’s end, you’ll find God lives there.*

*Peace starts with a smile.*
IF YOU LOST YOUR PLEDGE CARD . . .

2010 FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

FOR THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF ST. PHILIP’S

___I/We pledge $_____ each week for 52 weeks

___I/We pledge $_____ each month for 12 months

___I/We will give as we are able to do so and estimate that amount to approximate $_____

Weekly  Monthly  Semi-annually  Annually

___I/We do not choose to make a pledge at this time.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

2010 Mortgage Pay Down

Building Fund

By asking “What does God want to do through me/us, “I/we pledge with faith my/our commitment to participate in “Building on Our Past for Our Future.”

___I/We pledge $_____ each week for 52 weeks

___I/We pledge $_____ each month for 12 months

___I/We pledge as follows:

NAME:
ST. PHILIP'S MOVIE NIGHT
Friday January 15, 2010
6:30 PM

Rated PG

Animals are strictly forbidden at Andi and her little brother Bruce's foster home. But for Friday, the adorable dog they secretly care for, they're ready to risk everything. They finally find him an ideal shelter, a huge abandoned hotel that Bruce transforms thanks to his engineering genius. In what has become an incredible paradise for dogs, Friday is soon joined by all kinds of furry friends, so many in fact that their barks alert the neighbors...and the local pound, who can't understand the disappearance of all the stray dogs. Andi and Bruce will have to call on all their friends and all their imagination to stop the hotel's secret from being discovered.

Popcorn and drinks will be available.
Church Organization

Assisting Bishop:  The Rt. Rev. Santosh Marray
Rector:  The Rev. Barry P. Kubler
Parish Secretary:  Natasha Tatum
Deacon:  Henrietta Williams
Director of Christian Education:  Millie Hart
Organist/Choirmaster:  Debbie Skillman
Sexton:  George Ball
Communications Coordinator  Lyn Sutton
Episcopal Relief & Development Representative:  Jacob Pfohl

Vestry
Senior Warden:  Mo Beers
Junior Warden:  Tom Trivett
Clerk:  Gene Myers
Finance Officer:  Wayne John
2008-2010:  Neal Sage, Sharon Sands, Jerry Simpson, Bill Zell
2009-2011:  Mo Beers, Linda Brinson, Bill Meiners, John Reinsburrow
2010-2012:  Tina Berne, Bill Bittenbender, Bryden Manning, Tom Trivett

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