From the Rector…

With joy and thanks we welcome back *The Philippian*—a loving project of Mary Christine Kostainschek and Lou Mead together with the parish administrator, Lorraine Beamer! We have retained much of what has always been a part of our parish newsletter while also changing a bit of the look. By the time our second new issue comes out, we will have an Assistant Rector for the first time in our church’s history, Rev. Reggie Simmons, who will also have a column along with what you now see included. We will from time-to-time provide features about special happenings at our parish. On the whole, we want to bring back the feeling of family that the newsletter gives as an important connection of one to another. In love and faith, Rev. Meg.

The very happy Rector with a very happy newly ordained deacon!
We Care About You!!

With the “rebirth” of the Philipian (thanks Mary Christine, Lou and Lorraine) we can bring you up to date on the Care Team Activities. The purpose of neighborhood care teams is for better communication within the church about our members, worship, services offered, and activities. Some teams have been more active because their leaders and team parishioners keep in touch with each other about illness, surgeries, questions about St Philips, need for meals, rides to appointments, prayer list additions, or just to say “hello”. Several leaders keep in touch via e-mail. If you are a new member or have not been contacted by anyone, please contact Barbara Edwards, 910-253-6933 or dedwards24@ec.rr.com and you will be put in contact with your team leader.

We always welcome new members to our teams. We are in need of leaders for Oak Island West and East at this time. Team leaders meet about 4-5 times per year and other communication is by e-mail. Our last meeting was on May 24th and the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 7th at 4:00 in the Parish Hall. We hope to meet and greet our new Assistant Rector, Rev. Simmons at this time and prepare for activities for the fall.

Stephen Ministry, Daughters of the King, Prayer Shawl Ministry and Odd Jobbers (an activity of the men’s club) all fall under Pastoral Care. If you have a need or want to know more about these ministries, please contact your team leader or Barbara Edwards. We especially hope to keep in touch over the summer and hope that parishioners will contact their team leaders for any reason. If your leader does not know the answer, you will be directed to the right contact.

Have a blessed and peaceful summer and we’ll see you at one of the four services on Sundays.

Barbara Edwards, Pastoral Care Commission

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Last Wishes

There is nothing morbid about thinking of one’s own burial plans. It is prudent, and an act of Christian responsibility and stewardship, to make plans for our funeral in advance. To leave such decisions to our family is to place an unnecessary burden on their grief. Those who have special requests are urged to discuss them with the Rector. It is also wise to put such plans in writing, and to leave a copy in a confidential file with the Rector/Church. St. Philip’s Episcopal Church has a Burial Customary available in the church office for those who would like to make appropriate funeral/burial arrangements. In addition, the Rector is always available to assist you, with the understanding that any discussion would be confidential.
STEPHEN MINISTRY MINUTE

WHO ARE WE?

*He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” (Matthew 16:15)*

During the month of April, as a part of our month long awareness building and celebration of Stephen Ministry, we included a different set of questions in the bulletin each week. One of those questions was “How would you briefly describe Stephen Ministry to another person?” We received some great responses to the question and have shared some of them below.

- They provide pastoral care for people in need of support, grief, loss, uncertainty, depression, etc.
- Loving friendship from loving people to anyone – the best kind of friendship!
- Very, very helpful. A blessing!
- Someone who will help you get through a difficult time and give you comfort.
- Support during times of stress.
- Help and understanding.
- Kindness at a time of crisis.
- Loving, caring, nurturing, accepting. Thank you!
- Pastoral care from a parishioner on a continuing basis as long as needed.
- Pastoral care, support, and assistance to people, parishioners and those not formally affiliated with St. Philip’s.
- Help with understanding that you are not alone in times of grief.
- One on one support for someone in a difficult time.
- They are by your side in times of need. They listen to you, and in their non-intrusive way offer help.
The 2016 St. Philip’s Summer Beach Ministry will welcome island visitors, newcomers, and communicants of St. Philip’s to its services at Register Park, 54th St. North, Oak Island. The service and dress is informal. Bring your own beach chair and join us at 9AM each Sunday. Our celebrants for the rest of the summer will be:

- July 3       The Rev. Sarah Krantz
- July 10      The Rev. Canon Jim Hanisian
- July 17      The Rev. Bill Eberle
- July 24      The Rev. Canon Jim Hanisian
- July 31      The Rev. Canon Matt Stockard
- August 7     The Rev. Sam Walker
- August 14    The Rev. Charles Supin
- August 21    The Rev. Canon Richard Callaway
- August 28    The Rev. Sarah or Jeff Krantz
- September 4  The Right Rev. Rob Skirving
Evangelism and Outreach

The Comfort Socks drive again took place on May 15th and 24th. The total number of donated socks has not yet been reported.

Our Daily Bread continues on the first Sunday of each month. Food donations are accepted and welcomed each Sunday, but special emphasis is placed on the same Sunday as the Men’s Group Breakfast.

The Book Bag Drive for Virginia Williamson Elementary School went very well thanks to organization by Jane Edwards. Parishioners contributed generously and the books and bags were distributed at the school on June 7th with the help of volunteers. St. Philip’s raised about $2,100.00 and a total of 151 children received book bags and books.

The Diaper Drive was held on Mother’s Day, May 8th. A large number of diapers were received and this ministry continues to thrive. Diapers may be donated anytime during the year. Frank and Maryann Darzano are continuing to do a great job with this ministry.

Looking forward, we are scheduled to have our annual Stop Hunger Now food-packaging event on October 9th. This year we have agreed to package a “few” more than 10,000 meal as we have done in the past few years. The organization has a new policy of packaging only full boxes, which leads us to a few more meals and a little higher related cost. We will need a good number of parishioners to help with the packing as well as by making contributions. Look forward to our drive beginning after Labor Day with jars for donations as well as charts regarding progress. The Acolytes have pledged to raise $1000 toward this project – what awesome commitment.

Respectfully submitted,

Mo Beers, Evangelism and Outreach Commission
EARRING, LOOFA, AND SOAP WORKSHOP: Friday. July 8th, 11am till 2pm @ Rachel Teeters home, 16 Fairway Dr., Caswell Beach. Rachel will provide Hoops, Jump rings, and posts for the earrings. She will provide materials for the soaps and tulle for the loofas. Please bring any beads, chains and jewelry tools you might have. For the loofas bring a crochet hook size H or #9, cotton yarn, for the soaps bring silicone molds, fragrant essential oils. Bring a dish to share for lunch. Please call Ida Parker at 910 278-6719 to RSVP so we know how many to expect.
Social Time

Families have graciously signed up for the 8:00 Coffee Guild through the rest of the year and for the 10:30 Coffee Guild through mid-August. Thank you so much.

We now need more families who attend the 10:30 service to sign up for the rest of the year. All we are asking is that each family sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex for ONE Sunday this year. On your requested Sunday you will prepare coffee (provided by the church), lemonade (provided by the church), bring some goodies, and serve these with a smile. That’s it.

PLEASE contact the church office, Fallon Pearce at fallon2514@gmail.com or 910 253-5230, or Marty Younts at myounts@ec.rr.com or (336)250-9464 if you have questions. WE NEED YOU!

Women’s Group

September 7th "Getting Back to Basics". Time is 4 PM to 6 PM.
Presentation by Robert Surridge
Author of Hominy Muffins and Oyster Pie.
More Information to follow.

Other activities for this year will be:

Flower Arranging class with Robin Weir

September gearing up on shirt sale

Fall Festival, October 1st at St. Philip's, Craft Fair, Sweet Tooth Bakery and lunch.
Descriptions of Items for raffle will follow.

Dec. 2nd Christmas luncheon at Oliver's in Southport.
### July Birthdays 2016

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Summer Music Happenings

How can it be July already? Summer brings changes to Sunday worship including music. Our choir is on sabbatical until September and small ensembles and soloists provide anthems and communion music. I encourage all of you to sing a joyful song to the Lord each Sunday as we worship God through our hymns. Singing will make you feel better and has been proven to have health benefits, not to mention that singing is said to be “praying twice”.

Our summer music series enters its ninth year with an eclectic line-up of artists. All concerts begin at 4PM in the sanctuary and are free and open to the public. The first concert in the series took place on June 19th and featured Jamie and Dean Carbone performing jazz standards. On July 17 the Blackwater Brass Quintet will present a concert of tour de force brass works composed for quintet followed by Broadway tunes and lighter numbers. Pianist Elizabeth Loparits will perform a program featuring music by Beethoven, Chopin, and Liszt on August 21.

Please come and invite friends and neighbors to enjoy this gift of music to our community.

The choir will reconvene in early September and I would like to invite any parishioners who have an interest in music and singing to join our ministry. Our choir consists of many members that travel extensively so the membership in the group changes from week to week. If you have been in church one week you might see twenty-three seats occupied and the following week you might see thirteen. This means that the choir needs and is open to new members. Reading music is not a prerequisite. Please call 910-470-5652 or drop me an e mail at dskillman@ec.rr.com for more info.

Debbie Skillman
Let Us Walk Forward Together

You are all fully aware our St. Philip’s Church (SPC) has undergone some recent Vestry and Treasurer’s office changes. Related to these changes are the attention to and the direction of our financial foundation. As with any change process – which is always unsettling by definition – the information pockets that swirl around the change process can be confusing, incomplete, and distracting. In terms of such information regarding our SPC financial condition, we want to assure you that in our newly assumed leadership roles for SPC that we are deeply engaged in a faith-based manner in our new responsibilities with a fresh focus on understanding where we are and where we are headed “together” financially. We have just begun this journey of some short and intense steps and many long and stable ones. In this context we need some time to create the objective - clear, and comprehensive understandings required to report to you fully and faithfully on our church’s financial condition and direction. We are doing this hand-in-hand with the whole of the Vestry and the Rector’s office.

Although we have some ways to go before providing you this more complete picture, we can faithfully report that in spite of some rumors to the contrary, our church is not facing a financial crisis. While we have undergone selective changes that have created some new future expense directions we will need to plan for, carefully looking out, there is no near-term financial reality we cannot face with resources at hand. One of our responsibilities is however to fully assess what these expense direction changes will mean in terms of planned for revenue needs and that is a responsibility we embrace most seriously.

So, where we are right now?

As a first step and as a measure of needed oversight, SPC is in the middle of its normal annual audit directed at understanding and assessing our overall fiscal condition. This annual audit report will be available for all to review once it is completed.

Second, we have asked our former longtime treasurer David Forsyth to do an overview of SPC current financial records, and on May 24 David reported:

"In seeing the financial statements for April yesterday, I can say that pledges are down by 30% YTD and identified offerings are above budget by 60%, leaving total revenue behind by 10%. Since the investments in various restricted and Vestry controlled unrestricted funds have recovered since August of 2015 to a level very close to the highs during the seven year bull market and exceeding the amount at the end of 2014, I would say that these underlying investments funds are in good condition currently. What looks like a slightly smaller than the Finance Committee’s recommended cash liquidity in the Crescom Bank account (greater than two months of expenses which is $76,000 + as versus currently having $65,000 + in cash at 4/30/16) could probably be corrected somewhat by a review of the Temporary Restricted Funds. They have grown from $63K at 1/1/2015 to $86K now. Giving my opinion I would say that St. Philips is not in a financial crisis.”
Third, we are deeply engaged in putting forth a 2016 SPC Budget for Vestry consideration that reflects actual results for the first six months of our fiscal year and realistic needs/expectations for the balance of 2016.

Fourth – we are reassessing SPC’s planned for revenue streams (in congruence with our 2016 Budget work) to assess the directions and needs of our Stewardship efforts for the balance of 2016.

Fifth, we are reassessing all of our SPC financial accounts – permanently restricted (for clearly defined long term needs), temporarily restricted (for defined short term and/or limited term needs), and unrestricted (for current expenses and the like) – to determine their structures, balances, changes in balances, and projections for the balance of 2016.

Sixth, we have conducted a cursory review of some key SPC Congregation based metrics and can report:

- We have experienced steadily growing weekly attendance dating back to the beginning of Lent;
- Our Summary Gift Totals through May of this year reveal that year-to-date we are ahead of any of the previous four years;
- Three families have decided to transfer their membership to churches other than SPC in the last two months, and yet –
  - Eight families have asked to transfer their memberships from other churches to SPC in the last two months.

Seventh, we are advancing approaches to improve the communications to/from the SPC Congregation regarding all church financial matters – including this overview for you.

In a more subjective manner, we sense that recent concerns and perceptions of problems that seem at the forefront of the thoughts of many at SPC are natural reactions (and sometimes normal resistance) to change, any change. We understand this, and our promise is to walk with you through this changing environment with as much faith, compassion, competence, completeness and openness we can bring forth. Know that some new Vestry members with new assignments and/or a new Treasurer cannot alone resolve any unsettling issues we face – that is a task that we must all undertake together – as a church family – as a unit bound in constructive and loving faith.

In this context, our “collective” solution will come through patient Christian leadership from and by the Congregation, the Vestry with its three new members, a fresh foundation for our Financial Planning and execution through our new Treasurer. This in turn requires improved communications among the Rector, the Vestry, the Finance Committee, and our new Treasurer. This changing of the guard, including having Reverend Simmons set to join us in August as our new assistant priest, naturally causes uncertainty. Also, we need to understand that SPC’s customs and Bylaws are relatively young since it achieved full parish status and has had a fulltime priest only since the 1980's and was considered small until the mid 90's. Rev
Meg is just the fourth fulltime priest here at SPC. In many ways we are like a young, but maturing tree – just now finding our stronger and more nourishing root structures needed for a long, growing, and stable life.

Also, we need to understand that in today’s world of the Episcopal Faith, our new priests come armed with the Manual of Business Practices in the Episcopal Church and the Canons of the Diocese and the national church as a security blanket for any new situation – and the congruent expectations that we will lovingly “grow our SPC-tree” under the auspices of these Cannons and church-wide expectations. And yet within all of this, it is still up to us together to carve our new way forward, and regardless of Cannons, history, or any other factor – this will require give and take and faithful compromise as these “together” understandings are reached and work well – and point us forward, not backward.

Churches (well – life itself actually) experience an ebb and flow month-to-month and year-over-year. As we continue to change and grow we will encounter consistent pressures on our church for all of our “talents, time, and treasure”. We hope that all will help out in keeping our prospects vibrant to match the long term vision for SPC with a constant reassessment of our collective inputs of “talents, time, and treasure”. To that end we are suggesting a mid-year re-evaluation of all of our contributions of “talents, time, and treasure” – this is our church together and in this arena of change we are asking everyone to pray about what SPC means in their daily lives and hoping you might consider stepping up even more during 2016 to help us embrace our changing church-world with more of “us” collectively invested in the outcome(s). Your enhanced involvement at this time will help all of us together ensure more family-like stability and ease any perceived pressure on the church – organizationally, spiritually, and financially. We both have made a commitment to do just that – step up with our commitments to help us help our church – and together we thank you for your past and evolving help with our church in a congruent manner.

*Let Us Walk Forward Together –*

Geoff Gersen  
Stewardship Chair of the SPC Vestry, and  
Jacquie McNutt  
SPC Treasurer
From the Senior Warden

Now that summer is in full bloom, I am sure everyone is enjoying a slower pace. As a former schoolteacher and administrator, I still live my years by the school schedule and love summer.

We are excited about lots of things that are happening at St. Philip’s this summer. The one most are talking about is the arrival of our new Assistant Rector Reggie Simmons and his family on the first of August. We have long wanted and needed an assistant in our church and the time has come. The Simmons are wonderful people and I am sure you will all welcome them with open arms.

The Vestry is full with three new members, a new scribe and a new treasurer. We were very pleased to have a list of names from which to select these very capable people. Bill Bittenbender has served as Senior Warden and chair of the Long Range Planning and Master Planning Committees. Dana Richardson brings his financial expertise to the Vestry along with past experience as the Scribe. Maryann Darzano along with her husband Frank founded our very successful diaper Ministry and she is the cook extraordinaire for many of our social events. Jane Edwards, a former Vestry member, will serve as Scribe and Jacquelyn McNutt, a Eucharist Minister and active community volunteer will serve as Treasurer.

The Beach ministry is going strong. May and Jimmy Moore have lead this very impressive service that is now in its twentieth year. If you have never attended this weekly event during the summer, do join them at 9:00 at Register Park on the Intracoastal Waterway.

Since there was no Every Member Canvas during the fall of 2015, a group of our members led by Geoff Gersen, our Stewardship chairman, have been working to raise funds. This group has been quite successful and should be thanked for their love of St. Philips and their desire to pitch in and help where needed.

Don’t forget the wonderful musical concerts each month that have been organized by our own Debbie Skillman. The dates and times for these are in the Bulletin.

These are just a few of the many things going on during this summer. The next big thing will be the Men’s Club Hot Dog Sale on the fourth of July in front of the Chapel of the Cross—before and during the Fourth of July Parade. Hope to see you all there. Bring your chair and your appetite!

My love and peace to you all for a safe and happy summer.

Ruth Smith
THANK YOU.....THANK YOU....THANK YOU to all Eucharistic visitors. I would like to express how important our Eucharistic visitors are. I was not able to attend church for almost a year because of an accident. I am so grateful for all of you coming to my home and bringing me communion and fellowship each Sunday. I can’t begin to express what it meant to me. All of you touched my heart in so many ways and the joy in your words and your faces when I returned to church just deepened my heart with your love and kindness even more. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart. My fellow parishioners, I would like for you to understand the importance when saying the sending prayer for our Eucharistic visitors each week how much it extends to the person who they are visiting. God Bless you all. Rachel Teeters

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT

The Parkhill House removal is now complete and repairs to the Sanctuary Building have been done. The site has been graded and elevated to almost where it needs to be for the construction of a new Parish Hall, sometime in the future. The grass seed is now germinating and hopefully we can enjoy a better view soon!

Other projects in the works include completing the new magnetic door locking system. All doors are now converted with some minor wiring to be completed. New key fobs will be replacing the current cards that are used to operate the doors, as soon as they arrive in the next couple of weeks.

Some minor rearranging is taking place to prepare for the arrival of our new Assistant Rector.

Many thanks to all those who have supported and assisted in this transition period

Doug Stone
Good Bye Park Hill House;
Hello the Future at St. Philip’s!

Thank you Sarah Pettus for the picture.

Church Organization

Rector: The Rev. Meg Finnerud
Assistant Rector (As of August 1st): The Rev. Reggie Simmons
Parish Administrator: Mrs. Lorraine Beamer  Organist/Choirmaster: Mrs. Debbie Skillman
Stephen Ministry Leaders: Mrs. Martha Myers, Mr. Gene Myers, Mr. Bill Wheeler

St. Philip’s Episcopal Church
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PO Box 10476
Southport, NC 28461

E-mail info@stphilipschurch.org *
Like us on Facebook http://www.stphilipschurch.org

Phone: 910-457-5643 * fax: 910-457-6991