

## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Epiphany Greetings –

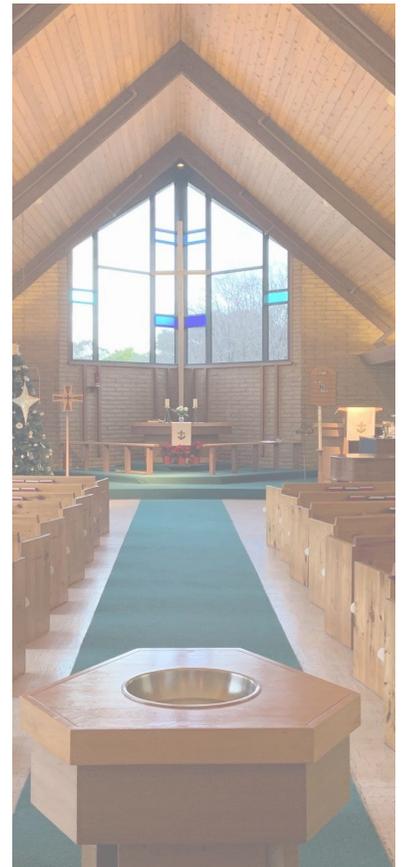
The day that I am writing this it is an unseasonably warm 82 degrees outside here at the church. So, I just couldn't start this article with "Winter Greetings". Anyways, it is good to have a chance to check in with you again. I have a lot to cover in this issue. Following you will find information on our *Annual Meeting*, *an update on our Live Streaming Set-Up*, *an Update on our Collaborative Work with St. Timothy*, and *some initial information about Lent, Holy Week, and Easter*.

### ***Annual Meeting:***

Thank you to the 20 + individuals that participated in our Hybrid Annual Meeting on Sunday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> after Worship. At this meeting, I provided a Pastor's Report that recapped where we had been in 2021 and gave a bit of an update on where we might be heading in 2022, we heard updates from the Church Council from Jim Anderson, we received the Treasures Report from Sharon Anderson and voted to approve our 2022 Budget, and we voted to step outside of our bylaws and extend the terms of our current Church Council for 1 year until our 2023 Annual Meeting with the hope that 2022 will more of a return to "normal" in regards to COVID and we will be better able to recruit new council members. Thank you for the many great questions and ideas during the meeting!

### ***Live Streaming Set-Up:***

At the Annual Meeting, I may have been said to have





### ***PASTOR'S NOTE CONTINUED:***

great technological genius, but whatever genius I may (or may not) possess has met its match with our live stream setup. But! Hope is not lost. After a failed in-person meeting with a tech from the company that produces the cameras due to his positive test for COVID I have scheduled a Zoom meeting with him on Sunday afternoon February 13<sup>th</sup> to hopefully find a solution to the problem we are running into, I am hopeful this will be successful but if not, there is still hope as we will reschedule our in-person meeting. I realize that this has been a long process and may even be disappointing to some of you, please know we are working as fast as we can on the issue while also trying to maintain the cost. I will keep you updated on when we are able to go live!

### ***Collaboration with St. Timothy:***

In January Pastor Clark ended his call with St. Timothy and moved into an Interim Call at a congregation closer to his home. However, this has not meant an end to our collaboration with St. Timothy. In fact, it actually increases it in many ways some of which are unseen. During this time between Pr. Clark's departure and the calling of an Interim Pastor I am providing Pastoral Emergency Care as well as consultation with their Church Council. During the three remaining Sundays in January, I also provided supply preaching for them by pre-recording worship on Saturday. We also continue to host a joint Bible Study on Wednesdays in-person and on Zoom. I am also working with their Council to explore ways that we can partner during the season of Lent for midweek worship services and soup suppers. I encourage you to participate in our collaborative activities and if you have any ideas on ways that we may collaborate please do be in touch.

### ***Lent, Holy Week, and Easter:***

Lent starts with Ash Wednesday on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will have an evening service that day here at St. Philip's. Lent then runs March 6<sup>th</sup> – April 10<sup>th</sup> with Holy Week ushering in Easter with Maundy Thursday April 14<sup>th</sup>, Good Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, and the Vigil on April 16<sup>th</sup>. The Worship Committee is scheduled to meet on Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am and I am in conversation with Epiphany Lutheran Episcopal in Marina, St. Johns Episcopal, and St. Timothy about our tradition of collaborating on Holy Week. Keep an eye out for more information in the coming weeks.

Grace, Peace, and Blessings,

Pastor Tony Rhodes

### **YOUR OLD SHOES WILL HELP THOUSANDS OF OTHERS...**



Thank you to everyone that donated shoes to our joint shoe drive with St. Timothy in the month of December! Between St. Philip's, St. Timothy, and Epiphany Lutheran Episcopal in Marina we collected 2,400 pairs of shoes. These shoes will be sent to places in the world where foot wear is not acceptable. 15 different families will be given a portion of these shoes, training, and seed money to start independent small business where they will refurbish the shoes and sell them in their communities. Thank you for your generosity and willingness to do some "winter" cleaning in your closets!

## WORSHIP NEWS

The Christmas season included 2 well-attended Christmas Eve services, at 2 pm and 6 pm, to follow social distancing protocols. Extra music was enjoyed at both services and the singing of many familiar carols. As the new year, 2022, is underway, now in the season of Epiphany, the Worship Committee is looking ahead in preparation for Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Easter on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Ideas to discuss will include any additional services during the Lenten season, like Ash Wednesday and midweek Lenten meditations, special music (like possibly a choir for Easter). The next Worship Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 11 am, via Zoom. Contact Pastor Tony to get the link to attend – all are welcome.

In addition to helping select hymns for Sunday worship, the committee helps Pastor Tony in the worship services, getting volunteers to assist in making worship meaningful for all who attend. Now that we are back worshipping in person, we are looking for additional volunteers willing to participate in the services. Ways to help include: Ushering, Greeting, Reading, Assisting Pastor, running Sound, Altar Guild (preparing Communion, changing banners & paraments as needed), Counting, recording, & banking the offering. “Many hands make the work lighter” – consider getting involved as another way to worship our Lord. Descriptions of what each job includes are being updated and will be available soon. Check with committee members to volunteer, give input or ask questions: Barb Battcher, Carolyn Berry, Mary Kramer, Mary Murray, Justice Post, or Pastor Tony.



## **FOOD BANK UPDATE**

A second day for the Food Bank Distributions has been added to the calendar starting in January. Each month, the distributions will take place on the first and third Fridays of each month. The volunteers who have been working with the process from the start of the weekly distributions, felt that there was a need in the community to provide more food. The third Friday was added because the Food Bank makes deliveries to two other places along Carmel Valley Road on that day. Each distribution brings back some familiar faces who come to get the food as well as new people who have not used the service before. For the month of January, each distribution served 25 families and approximately 100 people. Thanks to the volunteers from the Society of Friends who have been helping since 2020 and to the Batches who have joined the group.

Starting in October, a group of St. Philip's people returned to the Food Bank on the third Saturday of each month to volunteer in bagging fruits and vegetable. We spent about an hour and a half doing this work. If you are interested in helping with either Food Bank project, contact Mary Kramer.



## **KIOSKS AND BULLETIN BOARDS**

Don't forget to check out what is displayed on the kiosk and bulletin boards. The kiosk has one side dedicated to the broader church and one to St. Philip's. The bulletin boards hold updated council minutes and a monthly calendar. Look for newsletters from other congregations and non-profits in the area. Things you would like to see? Let the Communication Team know - Carolyn Berry, Barb Battcher, Mary Kramer.

## I-HELP UPDATE

The men's program is running 13-15 men. One man recently left for a new job and housing. All have received their booster shots thanks to the Monterey Fire Department, There are now 2 monitors. All churches except the Carmel Mission has begun housing the men again. They are still looking for housing on the first Friday of the month for the men.

The women's program has 4-5 women currently, with 2 monitors and they are looking for a third. Housing is being juggled around different churches. They are hoping for ability to stay multiple nights in one location.

One more driver is being sought. I-Help will pay for training if needed. At present, one driver is doing the run with the men and then with the women.

I-Help received \$80,000 from the Monterey County Gives Campaign so far. The match (10-12%) will be announced the end of February and the money received in March.

California Pizza Kitchen will once again be donating 20% of proceeds to I-Help on March 15. Flyers for the event should be coming soon.

The board is discussing the plans for Pasta with the Pastors that will happen in August. At this point, they hope to be live but are not certain. Suggested that they look at an outdoor venue as a possibility.

About 7 years ago a series of photographs were taken of the men and women in I-Help by Bob Sadler. The board is looking for a home where these photographs could be stored or displayed. There are 20 of them.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

January Offering	10,023.00
January Expenses	13,589.48
<i>January Net -2501.48</i>	
Apple Stock (12/31/21)	365,727.60
Checking	49875.44
Savings	38941.70

## **PASTOR'S COFFEE SHOP OFFICE HOURS! WHAT ARE THOSE?**

For a couple of months now I have been hanging out and visiting with folks at the Starbucks on Lighthouse close to the intersection of Lighthouse and David in Monterey/Pacific Grove. There have been a handful of you who have come to these office hours and we have had some great conversations. But I realized I never really introduced the concept around Coffee Shop Office Hours. So here we go.

Have you ever thought “You know I have a question for the pastor, or I wonder why the church does this, or...” but then by Sunday you forget to ask, and during the week you just don’t have time to drive out to the valley? That is what Coffee Shop Office Hours are for. I hope that by having a set drop-in time once a week at a set location that is more centralized you might find it easier/more convenient to stop by and talk for a few minutes.

There isn't a set agenda and you don’t have to stay the whole time, it is intended to be an informal time to check in and talk about whatever is on your mind. Starting on Tuesday, Feb. 22 I will be expanding to the Starbucks at the Dunes Shopping Center in Marina and will alternate between the two locations from week to week. Watch your weekly emails and our Facebook page to know which one I will be at.



## **GOOD GIFTS GIVING TREE UPDATE**

Thank you to all of you that donated to the ELCA Good Gifts Giving Tree during the Christmas Season this year! We raised a total of \$950.00 and the Council has agreed to match that amount. So, in total, we raised \$1900.00 for the ELCA Good Gifts Program!