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St. Philip's Church

*Rector's
Message*



Rev. Kathryn Boswell
Rector

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CommonLife

April / May 2016 Volume 6 Issue 4 & 5

Welcoming the weary, dedicated to discipleship

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Matthew 11:28-29)

Dear brothers and sisters,

When you live in the North Country, spring takes its sweet little time coming. We should be used to it. Well, we *are* used to it, really. But sometimes, it is very tiresome waiting for spring to arrive in earnest. Sometimes, when the brave little crocus blossoms get flattened by a late, heavy, wet blanket of snow, it is just a little bit heart-breaking. The calendar tells us that we've crossed the line of the vernal equinox – this year, March 20th – that day when light and dark are pretty nearly equal and officially, astronomically, it is spring already. But as I am writing this, our winter coats are still hanging on their pegs by the front door because it's not yet really spring out there.

As Christians, no matter where we live, we live every day in the Already and the Not Yet. We celebrate our faith in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, proclaiming that our Lord triumphed over death on the Cross. We rejoiced at Eastertime weeks ago: "The Lord is risen! Alleluia!" We affirm that the Kingdom of Heaven has broken in upon the Kingdom of sin and death. But so often our day-to-day life seems to say otherwise. We don't even have to look out the window to know that our lives are not yet all sweetness and light. We don't quite see the end of the Valley of the Shadow of Death yet. Those lambs aren't safe lying down with the lions just yet. The tears on our faces have not been wiped away – not yet.

There are times when we feel most acutely the truth that Paul expresses in chapter 8 of his letter to the Romans: "We know that up to the present time all of creation groans with pain, like the pain of childbirth. But it is not just creation alone which groans; we who have the Spirit as the first of God's gifts also groan within ourselves as we wait for God to make us his children and set our whole being free." (8:22-23, *Good News Translation*)

The word for us who live in the Now but Not Yet is **hope**. We who follow Jesus Christ are people of hope. Because, just as we know beyond the shadow of a doubt that the bare ground of our yards will soon be carpeted with green grass and bright flowers, that the air will surely be warm and kindly once again, that the fruits will swell and ripen on the trees and the shy fawns will play once again in the woods behind our house – just as surely, even *more* surely – we know, though we don't see it



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TO:

yet, that the work of healing and restoration begun on the day of the empty tomb will be brought to a joyful completion. And we will all be whole and well and at peace and HOME.

We have hope, because our God has already made his home with us; he is with us even now in his Holy Spirit, and he is surely coming again to be with us forever.

Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.



Revelation 21:3-4

Rejoice in your hope! Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus!

Kathryn +



May 2016

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 The Sixth Sunday of Easter (Rogation Sunday)	2	3 10:00am Romans Bible Study Common Cents 10-2pm	4 Holy Eucharist @ Maplewood Canton 10:30am Common Cents worktime 5pm	5 Common Cents 10-2pm	6	7 Common Cents 10-Noon Common Threads 1-3pm
8 The Seventh Sunday of Easter: The Sunday after Ascension Day 10:00 am Holy Eucharist	9	10 10:00am Romans Bible Study Common Cents 10-2pm	11  Noon Women's Guild Mtg. Common Cents worktime 5pm	12 Common Cents 10-2pm	13	14 Common Cents 10-Noon 10 am Vestry Meeting
15 The Feast of Pentecost Whitsunday 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (Spring work day)	16	17 10:00am Romans Bible Study Common Cents 10-2pm	18 Common Cents worktime 5pm	19 Common Cents 10-2pm	20	21 Common Cents 10-Noon
22 The First Sunday after Pentecost Trinity Sunday 10 am Holy Eucharist	23	24 10am Romans Bible Study Common Cents 10-2pm	25 Community Dinner 5-6:30 pm 	26 Common Cents 10-2pm	27	28 Common Cents 10-Noon
29 The Second Sunday after Pentecost 10 am Holy Eucharist	30	31 10:00am Romans Bible Study Common Cents 10-2pm				



*So we do not lose heart.
Though our outer self is
wasting away, our inner
self is being renewed day
by day. For this light
momentary affliction is
preparing for us an eter-
nal weight of glory be-
yond all comparison, as
we look not to the things
that are seen but to the
things that are unseen.
For the things that are
seen are transient, but
the things that are
unseen are eternal.*

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

April Birthdays:
3—Lindsey Levison
7—Rev. Margaret Theodore
14—Tristan Curran
19—Carroll Boswell
20—Roseanna Boswell


May Birthdays:
2—Shirley Rookey
6—Gary Hargrave
9—Sam Colbert
15—Alice Goodrich
26—Charlotte Kovich



Anniversaries
April 19th
Robert & Mildred Weaver



April – May 2016

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
17 The Fourth Sunday of Easter 10:00 am Holy Eucharist	18 Clergy Conference	19 Clergy Conference no Bible Study Common Cents 10-2pm	20 Common Cents work time 5pm	21 Common Cents 10-2pm	22	23 Common Cents 10-Noon
24 The Fifth Sunday of Easter 10:00 am Holy Eucharist	25	26 10:00am Romans Bible Study Common Cents 10-2pm	27 Community Dinner 5-6:30pm 	28 Common Cents 10-2pm	29	30 Common Cents 10-Noon

Community Dinner

*May 27
5-6:30 p.m.*



Come, and invite your neighbors!

**Macaroni and cheese
Savory meatballs in sauce
Tossed Salad
Rolls
Dessert
...and great company**

A Note from Karen Morgan

Having a number of 2016 church calendars left over this year, St. Philip's donated 29 of them to "The Seamen's Church Institute" in Port Newark, NY. SCI is a ministry of the Episcopal Church, and seeks to provide for the needs of seamen and mariners, whose jobs are of many kinds. Information about this organization is available on the website: seamenschurch.org. It is worth reading about, and perhaps you might be interested in donating items to the organization. SCI welcomes donations such as knitted hats, mittens, scarves and vests, as these hard-working men are out on the sea in all kinds of weather, year-round. There are many interesting items on the website: Christmas at Sea, Mariner Friendly Church, etc. There is a postcard on the bulletin board in our Parish Hall from SCI, thanking us for our gift of calendars.

**Mark your Calendars!!!
Sunday, May 15th
is our Spring Work Day
Come to church in your comfy clothes
Stay and help out around the church
Have lunch with the family
Sounds fun, doesn't it?**

See you there

Happy Birthday Common Cents!



One year ago, after much prayer and thought and discussion, the basement of St. Philip's was transformed – from an empty, newly-renovated basement, to a thriving community ministry. The idea of a Thrift Shop first arose from canvassing the many, many people ministering in our community, to find what need might exist that we, with our space and abilities, could supply. Our conclusion? A Thrift Shop! And God blessed our conclusion abundantly.

First and most importantly, he equipped Sharon Yousey to lead and to teach us, with her many years' experience. But he provided in so many other ways. The community has been lavish in giving us excellent donations, so that our big, echoing empty space was soon full. We were able to find good, sturdy racks and shelves at very reasonable prices. And a faithful core of St. Philippians have given of their time and energies to keep things running - and have even come running in our times of emergency! Thank you all! We are also so very thankful to the women of St. Andrew's for their many, many generous and faithful volunteer hours.

So now Common Cents is one year old, and we are in full swing, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 10 hours a week. But more than 10 hours a week goes into keeping things organized and tidy and welcoming down there. Common Cents (along with our ever-popular monthly Community Dinner!) is our church family's primary way of reaching out to our neighbors, and of demonstrating the love of God in ways that can be seen and touched. And more hands are needed. Not everyone can work in the Shop every week, but nearly everyone could commit to helping in some way. Sharon has made up a list of ways that people might help out:

Keeping the space clean:

- sweeping floors
- dusting shelves in the housewares room
- cleaning off the windowsills (aka bug patrol)
- dusting off the clothing racks

Taking care of donations:

- washing clothes that arrive needing it
- sewing on buttons or other light sewing (Sharon has a supply of buttons)
- cleaning up houseware donations if needed
- hanging up clothes
- stocking shelves

Customer service:

- sitting at the desk to check people out (our system is VERY simple!)

Organization:

- making signs to hang on the wall, or for the racks
- taking unsaleable clothing items to the CORC store in Potsdam for the truck (we try not to waste anything!)

Could you see yourself doing one or more of these jobs once a week? Once a month? Please know that you are very much needed! Please, prayerfully consider how you can become a more active part of this important and thriving outreach to our community. **Common Cents is OUR ministry.**

God bless you!
Sharon and Mtr. Kathryn

Hours: Tuesday: 10-2pm
Thursday: 10-2pm
Saturday: 10-noon

“It's Not Easy Being Green”

When my youngest daughter Victoria was in first grade, the class had a lesson on environmentalism that she took very seriously. Seeing me pull out two paper towels to dry my hands in a public restroom, she asked me very sternly, “Do you love trees? They make paper towels out of trees, you know.” And she was absolutely right! Every day, all of us thoughtlessly waste resources that we should be treasuring. Which brings us to this newsletter.

We love sending out *CommonLife* to all our church family and friends, far and near, and **we are happy to continue mailing it out to all who want to receive it.** Really! However, we have recently figured out how to publish the whole newsletter each month on our website: saintphilipsnorwood.com. And it's in color! All who follow the website should receive the newsletter monthly (or bi-monthly, depending on the month) right in their inbox. Or, you can access it by going to the website. For those who are able to view CommonLife online, we could save a few trees, and some stamps.

Therefore, we invite you, if you would like to switch from a paper copy of CommonLife to the online (and full-color) edition, I invite you to email me (Mtr. Kathryn) at stphilips@live.com and I will remove you from the mailing list. But we do want to keep in touch!



**“Hope” is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -**

**And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -**

**I’ve heard it in the chilliest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me.**

Emily Dickinson

