

The Guidepost



St. Philip's Lutheran Church
Wilmington, Delaware

January 2011



*"As an inclusive and caring congregation, our mission is to
make disciples, praise God, and serve the community"*

Why Vision 2015 is Important to You!

Pastor Downes

Well, by now, you have probably heard about all the excitement that is happening here at St. Philip's: On January 23rd, we are presenting a new vision for St. Philip's which will lead us forward for at least the next decade—we are calling it Vision 2015; On February 5th at 6 p.m. you have the chance to meet JoAnna Novak Patterson, the candidate that our call committee and church council are recommending to you for your vote on February 6th as our associate pastor; Unexpectedly, we find ourselves revising what our worship and music program will look like with the departure of Susan Bailey. So, the question is . . . Why should you even care about all of this? Isn't this just a bunch of administrative stuff of the church that leaders can worry about? The short answer is: Absolutely Not! Why does Vision 2015 and the new staffing and programming matter to you? Because you were baptized!

You see, the amazing thing about St. Philip's is that as long as I have been the pastor of this congregation, this church has responded when a challenge was put before it. It was that way in 2002 when while this church was in the red, you called a new pastor because you knew that as baptized members of the body of Christ, you could not let this church die. You committed time, money, and effort to turning this congregation around. It was that way in 2005 when we instituted Vision 2010, hired a Director of Youth and Family Ministry, and piloted small groups - you shifted again and gave of yourselves because as baptized people of God, you recognized that we live our lives by the Word of God. It was that way in 2009 when we spearheaded the development of Family Promise. The generous way you have led the way in the battle against homelessness has impacted all of New Castle County and has made a difference in our church and in the lives of those we have served. What a witness to our baptismal calling you are!

It has been an exciting decade . . . But I think the next decade will make the last one pale in comparison. For all the blessings of St. Philip's past (and there have been many over the years), I believe that our best days as a church lie ahead of us, and that just as we have met and overcome the challenges we have faced before, we will meet and overcome those that lie ahead of us.

As we prayerfully consider the call for a new associate pastor, and as we prayerfully consider the bold vision that is before us, the question each of us faces is this: As a valued member of the Body of Christ, how do I live out my baptismal calling within this new vision for St. Philip's? Vision 2015 is important to each of us—because we are baptized children of God.

Congregational Celebration

**On January 23, 2011 we will hold our
Annual Congregational Celebration**

Join us as we continue to celebrate the wonderful ministry that God has called us to here at St. Philip's. The meeting will be held after the 10:30 a.m. worship service that day.

This is an unusually important meeting because we have the very important business of approving the Long Range Plan for St. Philip's known as Vision 2015. This plan impacts all of us at St. Philip's because it includes a challenging budget for 2011 as well as a discussion about the upcoming vote on the New Associate Pastor whose Call to St. Philip's will be voted upon on February 6, 2011.

Make this one of the first items you mark down on your 2011 calendar!

When I landed on the doorstep of St. Philip's during my first year of seminary as a Teaching Parish student, I was immediately aware of the excitement that was being generated because of the call process in which the congregation had embarked. I don't remember exactly where you were in the process, but I know it was well under way, and that was over two years ago! The history of this congregation is remarkable, and I must share that it has resulted in no less than three academic papers for me as I have shared with others the amazing success story of a church that had really been struggling to survive, but was now growing in mission and purpose as well as in number, to the extent that you were actually looking for an associate pastor.

It is my great joy to have returned to St. Philip's to serve as your vicar and to continue to work with you, and now to witness the part of the process of actually calling a pastor to serve in that capacity. In early February the congregation will come together to take part in an historic event in the life of the congregation – calling an associate pastor – not an assistant, someone to simply help Pastor Patrick, but an associate – someone to work alongside and sometimes independently of him and you, to grow ministry areas and help lead this congregation into a healthy future. What joy!

Having met JoAnna, I am confident you will find that her specific gifts for and experiences in ministry will not only cause her to fit well here, but to truly grow ministry in areas that are exciting, necessary, and full of potential. I am really looking forward to opportunities of working with her as she begins her ministry in, with and among you, should you decide to extend the offer of a call to her. To be part of that for me will be a special blessing.

I was quite touched recently when the news of JoAnna's recommendation from the call committee to the council was announced, a recommendation that was approved after careful and prayerful consideration. Several of you came to me with concern for my feelings or that I might be displaced somehow, or perhaps thinking that I was being "replaced" by JoAnna. Please know nothing could be farther from the truth! When Pastor Patrick and I first met to discuss the possibility of my internship here, and understanding that St. Philip's was still in the call process, we discussed the "what if" of this situation. We discussed the options and opportunities inherent in this change in staffing, and strategies for dealing with space and other issues.

When/If the congregation votes to approve JoAnna as the new associate pastor of St. Philip's I will still continue as vicar through the end of May, the full term of my internship. In September I will begin my final year of academic study at the seminary in Gettysburg. You will all remain in my heart and in my prayers. But that is a way off yet, and for now we will continue on in worship, study and mission as we have been. You have all been so wonderfully open and welcoming to me, and I know that this congregation will continue to do what it does best – welcome the stranger until they are strangers no more!

The blessing of Christ be with you,



In October we held our first Prayer and Healing Service at St. Philip's. Through the grace and mercy of God, the response and the spirit of the worship service were warm, wonderful, and meaningful, and we've heard many requests for another service of this type soon, and often.

**A Service of Healing and Prayer will therefore be held
Sunday, February 20 at 3:30 pm.**

We will focus on healing in our prayers, in the proclamation of the Word, and in sharing of the Eucharist, and prayer partners will be available for those who desire to come forward during a portion of the worship service. We have chosen this earlier time in order to accommodate any who may have difficulty driving at night, however, if rides are needed, please call the

church office as soon as possible that we may be able to arrange for them.

Prayer in this service focuses on healing of individuals nations, the church, and other needs as they have arisen. Please invite others to join us. All are welcome!

Funeral and Medical Directives Workshop



Funeral and Medical Directives Workshop

Save the date!

March 27, 2011

11:30 am light lunch followed
by presentations to include a guest speakers.

Topics covered will include how to think through the many options in the overall planning; pastoral concerns and planning the church service; the need for medical directives/living will documentation.



Light ~ Love ~ Life!



St. Philip's Lutheran Church Women's Retreat

Friday, March 18, 2011

6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 19, 2011

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Join us on this special weekend as we celebrate God's loving work among us. We'll combine the **study** of God's Word to enlighten us as we learn to count on God's abundance to grow in love; **fellowship** to allow us to share Christ's love with one another; and **creation** of an easy craft project as we consider how such love can shape our lives.

Crafting experience and proficiency are not necessary!

Mark your calendar now, and register to join us. Bring a friend! Cost is \$25 per person which includes all materials and craft instruction, refreshments for both days, and a light breakfast and lunch for Saturday. **Space is limited so register early!**

Registration Forms are due by January 31st.



Women's Retreat Registration Form



Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____



It may only be January, but Easter is coming! At this time of year we invite all children who are ready to receive Holy Communion to join this year's First Communion Class, in preparation for receiving their First Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 21, 2011 (the Thursday of Holy Week). These are typically children in 2nd, 3rd, or 4th grades and above.

The three week course will be taught by Vicar Karen Larson and requires the participation of both students and one or both parents. The three course sessions will be held March 6th & 20th and April 3rd at 2:30 pm. Each session is 1 1/2 hours.

All interested families should fill out the form below, detach it, and return it to

the church office or drop it in the offering plate. We look forward to sharing in this sacramental journey with you and your child. Please speak with Vicar Karen Larson if there are any questions.

First Communion Registration Form

Student's Name: _____

Grade in School: _____

Number of Family Members attending the Class: _____

Parents E-mail and Phone: _____

An Exciting Year in 2011

As we say goodbye to 2010 and look forward to 2011, St. Philip's is headed towards one of the most exciting and dynamic times since we welcomed Pastor Downes and his family some 9 years ago. Council and the Vision 2015 Planning Committee have been hard at work planning and laying the ground work for the next 5 years and beyond. As I have written in previous articles, it is vital to any organization to create an environment of growth and sustainability. I believe we have a comprehensive plan to maintain and build upon the work of the Vision 2010 Planning Committee.

Through the visioning process, the Committee has developed several goals for the congregation. They include providing a place for worship, service and community for young adults, engaging each member of the congregation in at least 24 hours of service annually through St. Philip's Outreach Ministries, have 90% of the regularly attending congregation participate in small groups and Christian education, increase our regularly attending weekly worship gathering to 400 of which 100 will consist of young adults, continually striving toward passionate and exciting Worship and Music that is relevant to an ever-changing world and that 100% of St. Philip's Members will actively engage in prayer and scripture reading every day.

The goals set forth by the Committee are the very foundation on which the current members of the congregation of St. Philip's can attain renewed spiritual growth, create diverse opportunities to serve God and the community and learn and study God's Word. It also addresses the very real need for any congregation to grow. This growth is measured in how we can attract new members, specifically young adults, to our congregation. Attracting the next generation of congregational members will bring new ideas; new energy and new goals that will help ensure growth, development and diversity well beyond 2015.

Attracting young adults to our congregation will require all of us to look at what we do in different ways. For example, the Worship Service for a young adult may not be the traditional Sunday Service most of us enjoy each week. Instead, it may be at a bookstore or coffeehouse on a Friday night. It may be a gathering at someone's home, lead by a Pastor. It may even be a gathering to sing songs of praise and thanksgiving. Whatever the style or venue the "service" may look like, it is important to create a place that is inviting and meaningful to young adults. This is central to the idea of servant leadership where one generation of Christ's disciples must develop and nurture the next generation of Christ's disciples. This message is carried out through the letters of the disciple Paul in his letters to the first churches of early Christianity.

All of the goals of the Vision 2015 Planning Committee and Council will require not only the efforts of every member of St. Philip's; it will require financial stewardship and personal commitment. This, combined with thoughtful prayer and God's grace will enable St. Philip's to grow and thrive in its' mission to "*make disciples, praise God, and serve the community*".

The Next Council Meeting:
Tuesday, January 11, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

From the Call Committee

Call Committee Recommends Associate Pastor

Brett Davis

We have very exciting news to report! The Call Committee has voted to recommend Joanna Novak Patterson for the role of Associate Pastor at St. Philips. Following an extensive search and interview process, the Call Committee made the unanimous recommendation to Church Council on December 14th that Joanna be presented to our congregation as a candidate for Associate Pastor. Joanna lists pastoral care and young adult ministry among her areas of strength. Additionally, she brings experience in Christian education and music. She and her husband Chris are very excited about the possibility of joining our congregation.

Although you will be provided with a great deal of information leading up to the annual meeting on January 23rd, **there are a few dates we need you to set aside**: First, there will be an opportunity for you to meet JoAnna and her husband, Chris, on **Saturday, February 5, 2011 at 6 p.m.** as we gather for a pot luck meal in the social hall. Then on **Sunday, February 6, 2011** at both worship services, JoAnna will be preaching here at St. Philip's and we will vote on whether to extend a call to her after each worship service. Meanwhile, I encourage you to discuss the call process and Joanna's candidacy with any call committee member.

Call Committee Members: Brett Davis (Chair), Allyson Myers; Bob Martin; Carol Ferguson; Corby Smith; Mark Christopher; John Newcomer, Phil Young, Leona Schechinger



You oughta be in Pictures!

St. Philip's Pictorial Directory
is coming in Spring 2011!

If you haven't Signed-up for your picture session please do so TODAY!

Pictures will be taken:

January 6, 7, 8 and February 4, 5, 2011



You must call Olan Mills for an appointment.
The number is 1-800-845-1157 and give the contract
#57808 so they will know where to find our schedule.



The Flower Dedication Poster for 2011 is posted in the Narthex. **PLEASE** read on as the procedure has changed. If you would like to give flowers for any Sunday in 2011, sign up on that poster (and please note that open spaces in November and December are not for this year.), take a *new* form and *new* colorful envelope. You must submit your form prior to your Sunday and use the *new* envelope for your payment. Any questions, call Pam Sheffer at 994-5912.

Are You On Facebook???? So Are We!! Become a “fan” of St. Philip’s Lutheran Church on the social networking site, Facebook, and receive information updates about what’s happening. Also in the future, we’ll be opening up discussions on sermons, small groups, and other happenings around St. Philip’s as well as adding pictures and event notices. To become a part of all this, just type “St. Philip’s Lutheran Church” in the search box in Facebook and then click “Become a Fan.” It is that easy.

Women’s Retreat - Light ~ Love ~ Light – the St. Philip’s Women’s Retreat will be held on March 18 & 19. We will have bible study on John’s use of these images and what is uniquely inherent in the feminine aspect of these themes. A craft with all materials pre-cut and prepared is included in the cost of the retreat, as are bible study materials, lunch Saturday, and refreshments and beverages both days. We will gather at 6:30 pm on Friday and 8:30 pm on Saturday for fellowship. The retreat events will run promptly from 7:00 – 9:00 pm on Friday and 9:00 am – 4:00 pm on Saturday.

In order to prepare all materials, registration is needed by January 31. Please speak to Vicar Karen if you have any questions!

Day of Prayer for Christian Unity - On Sunday, January 23, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., St. Philip’s with gather with the other congregations in the Mill Creek area for a Taizé Prayer Service at Limestone Presbyterian Church for the community-wide celebration of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Hope to see you there.

Attention Members!!! If you have not already picked up your 2011 Offering Envelopes, they are in the Narthex waiting to come home with you. Don’t forget to pick them up before you leave for the day.

Pantry and Food Bank Update:

Kris Dierks

We have been fortunate that the Food Bank Truck has not missed a Monday in months. And the variety and quantity has been good so we have not had to supplement from our pantry.

There are three Monday's in 2011 on our scheduled produce distribution dates that the food bank is closed due to a holiday. Just because it's a holiday does not mean persons are no longer in need of food. On Tuesday, February 22nd, (Food Bank closed Monday the 21st) we will be giving out at least 6 can goods to our Produce Distribution families. Our pantry shelves – even though not overflowing – are in good shape. But after we give 50 families six can goods they will be close to empty. If in January or February the truck does not arrive, our pantry shelves will be empty.

If we give six cans of soup from our pantry to each family, we will have 300 less cans. So you can see how quickly our supplies can be depleted. We went from a full shelf to empty in 5 minutes.

Let me tell you a little bit about some of our friends who come for food. We now have at least 3 grandmothers taking care of their grandchildren. One friend rides their bike; another takes the bus to the distribution one even walks over 1 mile. So during the coming cold months, please think about buying an extra can of cold weather canned goods. Some suggestions would be: **soup, beans or meal in a can.** Simply bring it to church and place it in any one of the collection boxes in the narthex or social hall.

As always, your generosity is very appreciated.

Social Ministry Mission Statement: Create an environment where our entire congregation is involved in Christ-centered ministries and missions to support, strengthen, and nourish individuals, families and communities in need.

Recycle!

Psalm 24:1 The Earth is the Lord's

Christmas presents are all unwrapped – and we hope you recycled all that wrapping paper. The decorations are down or soon will be so it is time to think of some indoor cold day recycle projects.

Remember: Electronic goods can be left at the Route 1 and Route 273 Park and Ride. So can the Christmas lights that failed to work in 2010. Before you put your new clothes away, take time to go through what is currently in your closet or drawers and bring the excess to the church, so it can be taken to the Clothing Bank of Delaware. Shoes and boots can also be donated.

While reviewing your bills for your new year's resolution to save more \$\$\$ think about "going green" and paying your bills on line. If just 2% more households made the switch to electronic bills and payments, it would preserve more than 181,000 trees.



Thank you for all the gifts you provided for our produce distribution families.

<u>PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULE</u>		
<u>Produce & Clothing</u>	<u>Grocery Club</u>	<u>Produce (only)</u>
Monday, January 3, 2011	Wednesday, January 12, 2011	Monday, January 17, 2011

Happy Birthday!

FROM YOUR ST. PHILIP'S FAMILY!

Nancy Duncan	1/1	Mattie Mason	1/27
Ian Stirk	1/2	Marion Santak	1/27
Tom Brenneman	1/3	William Cox	1/28
Jean Kunkle	1/3	Phyllis Brown	1/29
Lindsey Schneider	1/4	Danielle Bye	1/29
Eric Gerner	1/6	Kevin Mutschler	1/29
Brendan Kennedy	1/7	Brennan Cotton	1/30
Keaton Davis	1/11	Amy Papili	1/30
Lori Everhart	1/11	Shirley Arndt	1/31
Elma Larson	1/14	Justin Bailey	1/31
Brent Mancari	1/15	Chris Berkheimer	1/31
Betty Trivits	1/15	Cynthia Start	1/31
Witold Brick	1/16		
Lana Borrelli	1/18		
Lori Gregg	1/21		
Ryan Zinnato	1/23		

May God bless each one of you on your special day!!!



Kids in Church...

3-year-old Reese:
'Our Father, Who does art in heaven,
Harold is His name.
Amen.'

OUR GOAL

(From St. Philip's Lutheran Church Vision Statement)

St. Philip's goal is to create a vibrant Christian congregation in which our members will be actively involved in learning, prayer, worship, and service to others. This means that with the help of God, by 2010 St. Philip's will:

- *Have 80 percent of our regularly worshipping congregation active in small groups, youth group, & Christian Education.*
- *Have 100 percent of our regularly worshipping congregation actively engaged in daily prayer in their homes.*
- *Have average worship attendance of 400 people per Sunday.*
- *Have 100 percent of our regularly worshipping congregation giving at least 10 hours per year in congregational service and outreach.*

Evangelism...

Share a cd of uplifting, encouraging Christian music

Please call the church office at 302-998-0171 when:

- You or a member of your family is sick or in the hospital.
- You are planning a meeting or scheduling an event so it can be placed on the church calendar, in the bulletin, and in the Guidepost.
- A baby is expected in your family.
- You want to arrange for a baptism or a wedding.
- Your telephone number, address or e-mail address has changed or you are planning to move, locally or out of town.
- You have a prayer request for our prayer chain.
- You feel the church can help you in any way.