Jesus & Other Children of Abraham
2016 Wednesday Evening Lenten Series – Began Feb. 17

What would Jesus do if he lived today – and met a Jew or a Muslim at the grocery store? What would he think? How would he behave toward them? Turns out this is not just an abstract question. Jesus lived in a time of great religious interchange. Aside from the fact that he was Jewish, Jesus had extensive interactions with non-Jews during his public ministry. We can learn a great deal not only from what he said, but also how he behaved towards those who did not share his faith tradition. In "Jesus & Other Children of Abraham,” we will meet some of our real-life neighbors, Jewish and Muslim. They share our faith in one God and Abraham as a spiritual ancestor, but their spiritual traditions have differences and similarities to Christianity.

The series will begin Wednesday, Feb. 17 and conclude March 16 (no supper or program on the Wednesday of Holy Week). A simple soup-and-salad meal for all ages will be served in Miller Hall starting at 5:15 p.m., with the program for adults starting at 6:00 p.m. and dismissal by 6:55. As a special culinary treat, there will be a different kind of Middle Eastern food to sample each Wednesday evening. A nursery will be provided for infants and children through age 5 starting at 5:45 p.m.

Our Holy Week & Easter Schedule

All St. Philippians are invited to walk the way of Christ as we gather for these important worship services in Holy Week and Easter. Attendance at Holy Week services promises to deepen our Easter Joy.

Palm Sunday, March 20 (regular Sunday worship schedule with the reading of the Passion at all services)

Maundy Thursday Liturgy, March 24 at 7:00 p.m. (with Holy Communion, homily and optional foot washing)

Good Friday Liturgy, March 25 at 7:00 p.m. (with homily, Good Friday intercessions and Stations of the Cross)

Easter Vigil Service, March 26 at 7:30 p.m. (with Holy Communion and Renewal of Baptismal Vows)

Easter Sunday, March 27 at 7:45 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. (the first service will feature the Chancel Choir and brass; the 9:30 service will feature the Hosannah Singers; the 11:15 service will feature the Chancel Choir and brass). To accommodate three Easter services, there will be no Sunday School this day. (No breakfast Easter morning.)
Transformed By Possibility: New Beginnings for Our Parish

Are you still here?!?

I have a humorous fantasy that’s popped into my head as I draw closer to my final Sunday as your Rector.

Since I’ll be staying in Brevard, and because the announcement of my resignation came in mid January, I picture someone coming up to me a month from now and saying, “You’re still here? I thought you’d be gone by now.”

It’s a funny thought, at least to me. Funny and odd, since it might actually happen – and is more likely since Jayne, Hannah, Will and I will still be your neighbors in this great community after April 3rd. I predict it will be awkward at first, seeing folks from St. Philip’s around town. According to the time-honored wisdom of the Episcopal Church and our bishop, you and I won’t be able to talk about things related to St. Philip’s. Fortunately, there are plenty of other things to discuss: the weather, our loved ones, and what’s in our shopping carts.

This is just one of the challenges ahead during the transition that’s now begun at St. Philip’s. The Rev. Jim Pritchett, our bishop’s Canon to the Ordinary, spelled out this and other tasks in his essay “The Path Ahead for St. Philip’s”. It’s too long to publish here in its entirety, but you’ll find an excerpt in this edition of The Messenger. Copies of the complete version are still available on the wooden table in the parish house Foyer. If you heard Canon Pritchett when he came and spoke recently at St. Philip’s, then you already know most everything in the essay.

Among the “how to” and “what’s next” parts of “The Path Ahead,” Jim included a wonderful spiritual insight: that the transition we are undertaking is filled with God-given opportunities for growth. We Episcopalians often resist change, yet even with unwanted change, there is always a chance of being “transformed by the possibilities of new beginnings” (quoting the writer and educator Joan Chittister).

It’s also true that for all the talk about a transition, there are many things that probably will not change. Just because there will be a change of rectors doesn’t mean there will be an “apple cart turnover” in all areas of ministry. Some changes will come by virtue of having an Interim Rector and, later, a new permanent Rector. I hope for the sake of the parish that your new clergy leaders will be quite different from me, bringing different perspectives, life experiences, and insights to their role. But other things at St. Philip’s will continue more or less as they have been. One of the many beauties of the Episcopal approach is that we honor tradition as one of the ways that God speaks to us from one age to another.

I’m hoping there’s more about the transition that you’ll want to know or talk about. Since the announcement of my resignation, I’ve decided to use two of the Sunday morning Soulful Series sessions in Miller Hall to address various aspects of the transition. Some of you have said you want to hear more about my new calling as the founder of the Center for Spiritual Wisdom. I would love to share some details of the Center with those who’re interested. And there are plenty of other topics that we can discuss under the subject of “The Path Ahead for St. Philip’s.”

So please join me at 10:10 a.m. in Miller Hall on Sunday, March 6 and Sunday, March 13 to hear more.

SIGNATURE
**FOCUS ON EYC**

“...fixing our eyes on Jesus” *Hebrews 12:2*

The frigid weather did not keep our youth from collecting money on Souper Sunday. We braved the 38 degree weather at 8:45 to kick-off collection efforts and by 12:30, we had raised $547.23 for Bread of Life. It is amazing what a difference we can make by coming together to support our local community. A sincere thanks to all who participated.

Another exciting event, Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner filled Miller Hall with a joyful noise. Ellie R worked the door, taking in a total of $571.50 and coordinated our first liturgical reading. Celia R, Shannon F, Sadie T and Madeline D read beautifully. A special thanks to Liam Z, Banks B, Townsend B and Amarech R for their help as servers this year! A shout goes out to Jan Bolena for working the dinner and cleaning up after. We couldn't have it without her.

---

**Offerings for the Easter Array**

Offerings envelopes designated for the Easter flowers have been placed on the end of each pew. They are also available in the Parish House foyer and office.

The deadline to contribute is **Monday, March 21st**.

---

**Easter Brass Needs Your Gifts**

Among the highlights of Easter worship at St. Philip's is its glorious music. Congregational singing of favorite Easter hymns will be enhanced at the 7:45 and 11:15 liturgies again this year with brass, organ, and choral music.

The festive sounds of Easter Brass are made possible exclusively by donations from The Friends of Music at St. Philip’s. Your generous gift will help continue this tradition of special holiday music. Make your check payable to St. Philip's and mark it "Friends of Music."

---

**Koinonia Lenten Services & Lunches**

Fridays at 12 Noon

*Please come!*
- February 19 — St. Philip’s Episcopal Church
- February 26 — St. Timothy’s United Methodist
- March 4 — Sacred Heart Catholic Church
- March 11 — First United Methodist Church
- March 18 — Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church
- March 25 — Bethel “A” Baptist Church

Come break bread and worship together with your neighbors in Christ!
The Path Ahead for St. Philip’s

by the Rev. Canon James H Pritchett, Jr.
Canon to the Ordinary (Bishop’s Assistant)

Transitions are times of saying goodbye, times of change, times of self-reflection, and times of dreaming for the future. In other words, transitions are not easy! You are looking ahead to saying goodbye to Rob after almost 19 years. A good “Goodbye” paves the way for a good “Hello.” So before you say “Hello” to your new rector, it is important that you say “Goodbye” to Rob well.

After he leaves, he will no longer be your Rector, and it will not be appropriate for you to discuss church business with him or ask him to officiate at any services (no matter where located). For his part, he will not attend St. Philip’s (at least not for a significant time after your new Rector arrives) or communicate with any of you about church business. You are welcome to talk to him about family, friends, etc., but not church business. It’s often hard for clergy who have left and hard for parishioners to abide by this, but it’s important that Rob is both literally and metaphorically “out of the building” so that someone new can move in.

I would like to give you a quick view of the exciting and challenging path ahead, with, again, the caution that you not get ahead of yourselves. I hope that providing this information so early will allay your natural anxieties about Rob leaving so that you can focus on serving with him while he is still here.

During the interim period, you will ask who you are, reflect on what needs to be changed and what needs to be maintained, and ponder what God’s dream is for St. Philip’s. There will undoubtedly be lots to do for lots of people, but I have assisted (or am in the process of assisting) almost fifty transition processes, and in almost every case, the folks involved in the process have found it to be enriching and rewarding.

The first step after Rob leaves will be to find you an Interim Rector. The vestry will work with me and the Bishop to find the best Interim, and I have already begun a nationwide search. After the Interim arrives, we’ll ask you to do something that is often difficult for parishes that are understandably anxious to “get on with it.” We’ll ask you to do nothing for a little while — to experience normalcy, to get to know your Interim, to be calm, and relational, playful and prayerful. It is important that you do not begin the call process from a place of anxiety.

Our discernment process [for a new, permanent rector] typically takes fourteen months, although that depends largely on how fast the discernment committees work. I know that’s a long time, but the call of a new Rector is not like hiring a CEO. CEOs don’t counsel you in a family crisis, bury your loved ones, or preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to you week in and week out. Our experience is that if you rush into this process, you will not be at your best in it. So relax, take a deep breath, and trust that you will be cared for.

(this is an excerpt from the complete version of Canon Pritchett’s essay, which is available in the parish house Foyer)
ECW Guest Speaker March 3 Will Address ‘Decisions, Decisions’

The general meeting of the ECW will take place Thursday, March 3rd, from 11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m. in Miller Hall. Our focus this year is, "A Sense of Place," with the title of our presentation being: Decisions, Decisions ... Decisions, Discussions and Advance Directives.

Our guest speaker will be Lana Riemann, M.D., Medical Director of Transylvania Hospice and Palliative Medicine. A sign-up board will be in the parish house foyer and we welcome all and any guests (male or female) to this event. Please plan on attending this special presentation! If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Harger at 884-4024.

Join Us at Rice Street Community Garden!

Spring really is just around the corner, trust us. Our first spring workdays will be:

Saturday, 2/27 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Sunday, 2/28 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Those days we’ll be installing our new drip irrigation system.

Then the following weekend, we’ll be preparing the soil and putting in lettuce, peas, and other cold-weather plantings.

Saturday, March 5 from 1:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 6 from 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.,

If the weather is iffy, call 877-4070 for an update.

Dunked, Sprinkled or Poured?

Whether you had a lot of water or just a little as part of your baptism, we need your help identifying any St. Philippians who have not been baptized. Whatever their age, we hope they’ll consider participating in our very special Easter Vigil service the evening of March 26.

This once-a-year liturgy is all about the meaning and power of Holy Baptism. If you or someone you know has not received baptism by water and the invocation of the Holy Trinity, please get in touch soon with Rob Field or Diane Livingston, either at church or through the parish office (884-3666). We look forward to hearing from you!

Lay Reader/Lector/Chalicist Training Feb. 21 at 12:45 p.m.

The annual renewal training for all lay readers, chalicists, and lectors will be held in the church at Sunday, February 21st at 12:45 p.m. This is a requirement as stated in the canons of the Episcopal Church so all those serving are expected to attend. If you cannot be present, you must notify Billie Begg at wbbegg@mtnisp.com or 883-4809. See you there!
**Lenten Project: Your Change Can Change the World!**

In a rural village in Guatemala, 35-year-old Vilma Yancos wakes up at dawn and makes the two-hour trip by foot to attend a business skills and savings workshop offered by Episcopal Relief & Development. For Vilma, it’s about giving her children the opportunities she didn’t have. “When I am saving, I feel that I am improving myself. I am giving my daughters the education I never had. They will be somebody,” she says. “They have their dreams. If I can give them their study, I will fight to give it to them.”

Women who receive microfinance loans for small businesses spend their income on their families: food, education, health care. ER&D also addressed maternal health and women's literacy. Economic opportunities for poor women raise the living standard for the entire household. Strengthening families also strengthens communities.

Our Lenten offering will be divided between Episcopal Relief & Development, to help women like Vilma, and Sister Farm Market which assists poor women in the Holy Land produce crafts and organic food items for sale. Both organizations offer microfinance loans and business training to women, as well as grants for supplies and equipment.

Pick up your mite box today, fill with your change (or checks and bills!), and return to church by Easter Sunday. Your change can make a big change in the lives of these women.

---

**Women’s Day of Reflection**

**March 12**

The Ninth Women’s Day of Reflection will be held at Sacred Heart Church, 150 Brian Berg Lane, Brevard on March 12. This event brings women of all denominations in Transylvania County together for a day of prayer, fellowship and sharing in God’s Spirit.

The speakers this year will be Barbara Freeman - Spiritual Storyteller for 40 years and Elizabeth Galloway who is certified in Healing Touch. The topic this year is “Women of Hope and Healing.” In addition to the speakers, there will be testimonials, music, small group discussions and the luncheon.

You may register by adding your name to the registration form which is located on an easel outside Miller Hall. Registration deadline is March 7th. Drop off your $10 registration fee in the church office. Checks may be payable to Sacred Heart Ladies Guild. Put your check in an envelope marked “Day of Reflection.”

On March 12th, please bring a food item or cleaning product to be donated to Sharing House.

---

**Helping God’s Wild Creatures**

“Dear Father, hear and bless thy beasts and singing birds and guard with tenderness small things that have no words.”

*Margaret Wise Brown*

This year was no different than any other year with wildlife rehab...very busy, extremely hectic most of the time, working till the wee hours of the morning for 7-8 months straight as well as juggling personal life with many projects and challenges, involvement with church activities, extra care for aging pets, and always, always running to meet deadlines, etc!!! Through it all, my volunteer work has been well worth the effort because although many animals died, many lived!!! If only I could save them all but, as always, I am so grateful for the many miracles God has given me to help those in need that suffer many injuries and illnesses due to man and nature. Here is a summary of what was accomplished in 2015.

**Total number of phone calls received:** 494

**Grand total received:** 167 animals (151 birds, 16 mammals)

Here is the breakdown:

1. Grand total transported to another rehabber: 5 (opossums)
2. Grand total pending: 2 (1 bird to be released in Spring, 1 non-releasable living with me)
3. Grand total euthanized: 9 (8 birds, 1 mammal)
4. Grand Total died: 54 (49 birds, 5 mammals)
5. Grand total released: 97 (97 birds, 5 mammals)

*Jeanette Schmitt
Lic. Wildlife Rehabilitator*
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!
(February 17—March 19)

February
17 Carol Twiss
17 John Candler
17 Mark Montgomery
18 Linda Schieve
18 Teri Goodall-Komar
22 Ginny Burgess
22 Anne Bullard
22 Barbara Leach
23 Betty Creese
23 Jacob Bullard
24 Lucy Reese
25 Chris Mosser
27 Steve Martin
27 Sallie Wallace
29 Ned Eacker
29 Jean Woods

March
02 Janet McDonald
02 Mary-Blair Valentine
02 Clare Desmelik
02 Elizabeth Bahnson
02 Elizabeth Bell
02 Celia Richmond
03 Edie Dunn
03 Jackie Thomas
06 Deborah Peppenelli
06 Tim Sloan
06 Edith McDuffee
09 Susan Andersen
10 Mary Alice LaForenza
10 Bruce Livengood
10 Deborah Tibbetts
10 Emilie Adams
11 Mary Lee Fennessy
13 Katelyn Crummitt
14 Adeline Shober
15 Susan Krause
15 Randy Burgess
15 Paula Langa
16 Howard Dyer
16 Joanna McCarthy
17 Carrie Collins
17 Milton Tynch
18 Dave Jordan
19 Jean Sagar

STAFF & WARDENS of ST. PHILIP’S PARISH:

Sr. Warden ...........................................Anne Bullard
Chair of the Shop of St. Philip’s........ ..........Kathy Harris
Rector .............................................The Rev. Robert D. Field
Office Manager ...................................Jeanne Hatter
Sexton & Security Monitor.........................Edna Hensley
Co-Treasurer / Receipts ............................Rodger Livengood
Deacon .............................................The Rev. Diane Livingston
Parish Webmaster ...............................Harry Sherwood
Organist, Chancel Choir and Hosannah Choir Director .......... Tim Sloan
E-pistle Editor / Publisher .........................Jill Stewart
Co-Treasurer / Disbursements .................Mary-Blair Valentine
Jr. Warden / Disbursements ..................Michael Wainwright
Groundskeeper/Facilities Assistant .............Josh Wright

Emergency Contact Info.
Parish Office Hours, Etc.

The parish house doors are unlocked at 9:15 a.m. every Monday through Friday and stay open until 5:00 p.m.

Reminder: the office is closed for a full hour, sometime between Noon and 1:30 p.m. every weekday. A minister is always available for emergencies. If unavailable through the office or at home, please use the pastoral emergency cell phone (1-828-384-4232). The minister on call will answer and respond to your emergency need.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!
(February 17—March 19)

February
17 Mark & Leslie Montgomery
19 John & Barbara Walter

March
08 Gary & Kathy Harris
15 Alan & Martha Nielsen
16 Gary & Janet McDonald
19 Josh & Kate Shober
OUR VISION: Rooted in God’s word and guided by Christ’s example, St. Philip’s Episcopal Church will be a loving, inclusive community committed to living out Christ’s commandments.

OUR MISSION: Guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit, and informed by Scripture, tradition and reason, we will:
† Learn and teach by word and example how God continues to be at work in the world and in our lives;
† Love and serve all people as Christ loves us;
† Grow in faithful stewardship of the resources God has given us;
† Joyfully to celebrate this faith in our life, worship, prayer and service.  

Affirmed January 22, 2011

The Messenger is a monthly publication.
The next Messenger will be mailed on Wednesday, March 16

Deadline: All articles are due
Wednesday, March 9
by Noon to Jeanne Hatter, Parish Office Manager.

All submissions must be limited to 150 words. If possible, please submit articles by e-mail (philipi@citcom.net). If you submit handwritten articles please PRINT. Articles may be edited for length and/or content.

**LECTIONARY READINGS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday, February 21</th>
<th>Sunday, March 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Lent</td>
<td>4 Lent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genesis 15:1-12, 17-28</td>
<td>Joshua 5:9-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psalm 27</td>
<td>Psalm 32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippians 3:17-4:1</td>
<td>2 Corinthians 5:16-21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday, February 28</th>
<th>Sunday, March 13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Lent</td>
<td>5 Lent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exodus 3:1-15</td>
<td>Isaiah 43:16-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psalm 63:1-8</td>
<td>Psalm 126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Corinthians 10:1-13</td>
<td>Philippians 3:4b-14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>