



The Friend

Come as you are to Worship, Wonder, and Work in Jesus' name!

April 2016

Easter - year round by Pastor Mollie Dvorak

Many people are used to the idea of Lenten practices—giving up coffee or chocolate, perhaps, or doing some kind of regular spiritual discipline during the weeks before Easter. But why does that stop at Easter? What if those practices became habits; Easter practices that happen all year long? What would Easter practices look like?

Barbara Brown Taylor, an Episcopal preacher, wrote in *The Preaching Life* about what it was like, as a little girl, to learn ballet. She remembered all the time she had to spend practicing. She stretched and sweated over positions until her bones ached and her muscles “yelled out loud.” Then one day she got to put all this practicing together. She bent and rose and swept through the air like someone to whom gravity no longer applied. She got to dance. Remembering this, was a way that helped Taylor in her faith. As in ballet, she says, so it is with our faith: we have to learn the basic positions. Each requires us to practice. Each teaches us a way to move, so that when God invites us to put them all together, we may jump with joy to join the dance. Luke says: If you’re going to dance, you’re going to have to practice. Faith is not just something you have; it’s something you do.

Acts 2 guides us into the habits all Christians need to practice. These are “Easter practices.”

Practice Being Together: First, practice “meeting together” (Acts 2:46)—practice “the fellowship” when you worship together (v. 42), and also practice fellowship in each other’s homes (v. 46). “Together” is a key word in this passage. Be together.

Practice Learning: Second, practice learning. Those first Christians “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching” (v. 42). Learning isn’t just an activity you do to achieve something, it is an activity itself you should do well. Learning together is not meant to just fill your head, it is meant to shape your life.



In this issue

Pastor Mollie Dvorak	1
Youth Ministries	2
Children Ministries	3
SPDR	3
Mortgage Information	4
55+ May Event	4
Library Additions	6
Letter from the Sacks	5
President’s Article	6
Life Events	7
Endowment Fund	7
February Budget	7
Thank You!	8
Meals on Wheels	8
Festival of Tables	8
Lunch Bunch	8
April Calendar	9
<i>The Friend</i> Deadline	10
Contact Information	10

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

Practice Praying: Third, practice praying (v. 42). We talk about prayer being a conversation with God; much like a conversation with a trusted friend, only it's a HOLY conversation. Good words for us all. And remember to be specific in prayer, like when you say "forgive me my sins" name some; or "take care of these people and situations" and name some; and remember to tell God "you are great" and name some of God's great ways. And as we practice prayer we find we are dancing in the faith.

These practices might seem like they are only for Easter, but since we live in the promise of Easter every day, they serve as encouragement for all Christians, in every season. My hope is for us all to take these "practices" and make them our habits, so that we can find the joy of Easter in our every day, all year long.

In Christ,

Pastor Mollie



Happy Spring! -Sara Quarberg
Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries

There are a lot of great ministry opportunities on the horizon for and with our awesome young people here at St. Philip's! Our Youth Committee has been busy discerning and planning out ministry opportunities for the spring and summer months. I am constantly in awe of the way that God continues to lead us and how the Holy Spirit is working within us in building relationships, leadership, and incredible opportunities to engage in God's world around us. We are excited about many new ways to serve this spring and summer within St. Philip's, in the surrounding community, and even globally! In April our Confirmation students will be collecting individually packaged snacks to donate to Hope 4 Youth in Anoka. There will be a collection in the narthex next to the front office door. There is a great need in Anoka County to help youth who do not have the means to support themselves and/or need a safe place to stay. This is one small way that our youth have decided they'd like to help make an impact on God's world. Thank you for supporting them in this initiative! This summer has in store for us a lot of fun ministry opportunities. We will be attending camp, our High School mission trip, enjoying God's creation through bonfires here at St. Philip's, Middle School ice cream connection days, and service/fun days. Stay tuned for more information on how and when to connect this summer. Check out Facebook, the hallway bulletin boards, and your email for more details on Summer Ministry!

We are also winding down our Wednesday night Confirmation and Peer Ministry Ministries for this school year. My, how the time just flies! It's been a great year trying a new model, engaging in *The Story* and hearing God's voice in many new ways. Thanks to all of our great Confirmation small group leaders, Wednesday night meal preparers and our Sunday morning small group leaders. We could not do it without your ability to create relationships with these amazing young people. Thank you!

Our Young Adult Ministry has been going strong for about 9 months now. We are meeting with Young Adults from Faith Lutheran Church in Coon Rapids for fellowship, Bible study and a time to get to know other young adults who are wrestling with their faith. We've recently started the Animate: Faith series. Through Animate we are able to dig into different topics including God, Religion, Jesus, Salvation, the Cross, Bible, and Church. We've had some GREAT discussions so far! If you're a young adult, please check us out on Facebook or check the Young Adult bulletin board inside of door 2 for more information on our Young Adult Ministry!

Enjoy this changing season and all of the new creation that is growing all around us!

In Christ's love,

Sara

Happy Spring! *Amy Morphey, Director of Children & Family Ministries*

Happy Spring! I love this time of year, everything is fresh and new! Just as we experience with the promise of Easter. We are renewed with God's everlasting love. As we enter into this season of spring and the end of another program year, my prayer is that we do not lose focus on what God has planned for us. It is not an end; it is a fresh, new beginning! And, with new beginnings, comes work and planning.



Join our Sunday School Input Meetings:

We are looking for parents/adults to give us some input and help us plan for the future.

Please come to one of the following meetings. You are welcome to bring your kids, we'll have an activity for them.

Sunday, April 3 at 8:30 - 9:15 am – Parent/Adult Sunday School Meeting #1

Sunday, April 10 at 8:30 - 9:15am – Parent/Adult Sunday School Meeting #2

Sunday, April 10 at 11:30 am -12:15 pm – Parent Adult Sunday School Meeting #3

Join our task Force!

We are also looking for six to eight adults who are interested in joining our task force for Sunday School 2016/17. If you would like to help us plan, dream, and implement an awesome Sunday School program, we'll meet at the end of April.

Contact Amy to get involved! [AmyM@splcmn.org]



SPDR Weekend Update

St. Philip's Disaster Relief commemorated ten years of rebuilding homes and lives through several activities on February 20 and 21. Team members were involved in the worship services as ushers, lectors, assisting minister, and communion servers. Pastor Ken Nelson, SPDR team member and senior pastor at First Lutheran Church in Minot, ND, spoke at all three worship services and at the dinner expressing gratitude

to the Disaster Relief supporters and team members for all the hope and help given to the flood victims of Minot.

Over 450 bids were made on the 182 donated auction items that were available for bidding after worship services and at the dinner. Many generous winning bids make it possible for the journey to continue.

(A note about the auction items: Thank you to everyone that donated or bid on an auction item. All auction item winners have been notified. Auction items donated or won will not show up on St. Philip's members' giving statements.)

As dinner guests arrived, they were able to browse through the display of photos, publications, mementos, thank you's, plaques, and other items the Disaster Relief has collected over the past ten years. The journeys have created many wonderful moments and memories.

On Sunday evening, 300 guests were served dinner by Disaster Relief team members that had spent many hours on Saturday preparing for the dinner. Their efforts were rewarded with almost \$1300 in tips! Thank you to all that attended the dinner and for the generous tips that make it possible for the journey to continue.

The Next Journey

For several weeks the next journey for SPDR looked like it would be to Texas to help the victims of the Blanco River flooding last year. Plans have changed and the spring trip will be back to Colorado where there still is a great amount of need following the 2013 Front Range Flooding.

Registration for this trip closes on Sunday, April 3. If you want to join this team, contact Mike Anderson immediately at [flooddog97@gmail.com or 763-784-7977] for registration forms or more information.

\$82,844

That's how much the annual cash flow for our ministry will increase when we pay off our mortgage.

Here is the strategy:

If we pay our monthly mortgage payments of \$6,907 each month and a group of people in the congregation are willing to step up and contribute an additional amount of \$10,000 each month, then our mortgage will be paid by the end of 2016. To date, we have commitments for nine months or \$90,000.

We are opening this to the congregation to fund the final three months. One person may take a month or it could be a combination of members.

Think about assets in your IRA, in appreciated stock, or in your mutual funds. There are income tax benefits to transferring any of these to St. Philip's.

If you have questions or want to contribute, call Greg Rosholt [763-572-9684] or Pastor Joel [763-571-1500].

It will be a great day when we pay off this mortgage. Imagine the ministry we'll be freed to do!

55+ Retirees - May Event *Mystery Outing*

Back by popular demand (drum roll please), another "Mystery Outing"! Meet at church on Thursday, May 12 before 8:15 am for an all-day adventure! We will journey to....oops! We can't tell you where.

Clues:

- We will travel for approximately 1½ hours, by coach bus, to a charming little city know for "curing waters".
- Our first tour: To a very unique museum (only known one of its kind in the nation), to "Remember the Children"
- Buffet lunch at a local food establishment where their legendary food awaits us.
- Our second tour: To "the most beautiful _____ in the world!" A symphony of color. A masterpiece.
- Also, time allowed to stroll outside and take a short self-tour of this historic downtown.
- On the way home, one final stop, a chance to "satisfy your sweet tooth"; (bring some extra money).
- Wear comfortable walking shoes; dress semi-casual.

The cost of \$27/person includes coach bus transportation, both tours, lunch, beverage, tax, and tip. Sign up and pay in the church office by Sunday, May 1. Please make a (non-refundable) check payable to St. Philip's. Due to the limited openings available for this outing and the low cost, members of St. Philip's have priority. Non-members, please sign up on the waitlist.

Questions: Contact Arlene or Duane Retzer [763-574-9559]



March 2016 Sack Newsletter from Japan

Dear Sponsoring Congregations:

We wanted to fill you in a little about our current ministries in Japan. We have mentioned before how our academic year begins in April. Beginning in April, Jim will become the Department Head of the Theology department as well as head of one of five courses called "Christian Studies." He will continue his teaching and responsibilities for the seminary as well as working with graduate students in the Clinical Psychology Department. Carol remains director of Lyra Precaria, the 2 year training program for using voice and harp at the bedside of the dying. April will mark the beginning of the 6th group of students taking this program. They just had their graduation of the 5th group of seven students in March. 35 individuals have now finished completed training.

Please pray for:

- 1) Our ministries in Japan.
- 2) Jun Akihisa, the newest graduate of the seminary.
- 3) The schools and organizations for which we work, including The Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church, Japan Lutheran College, Japan Lutheran Theological Seminary, Japan Evangelical Lutheran Association.
- 4) The Japanese pastors who faithfully minister to the members of their churches
- 5) The four new seminary students who will start at the seminary in April

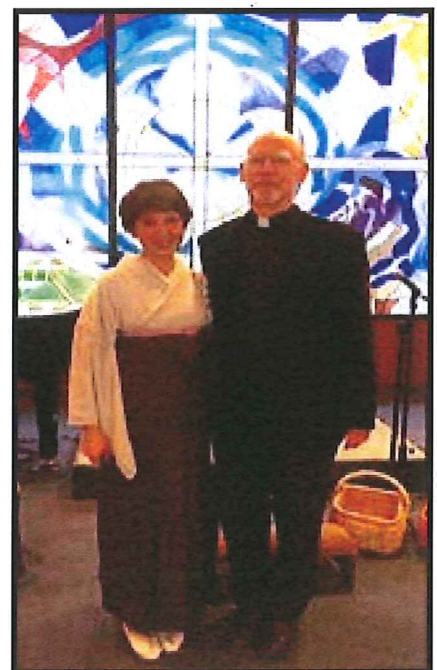
Please note the three pictures at the end of the email:

- 1) The labyrinth used for our class on Christian Spirituality in the chapel.
- 2) The sign language club at the college singing in sign language.
- 3) Jim and Carol after the celebration of graduation for the Lyra Precaria program.

We give thanks to God for all of our sponsoring congregations.

In Christ,
Jim and Carol Sack

**Next month read about Carol Sack's experience visiting prisoners and sharing her love of the harp with them.*



President's Column *Mike Youngberg*

So, last month was February, the month of beginnings. On to March, the month of faith.

March is that in-between month. We know that warmth is coming soon. Maybe there'll be more snow, but it will melt fast. The mud will dry up eventually, and grass may grow in my backyard again after I deal with a winter's worth of dog business. We have faith.

Maybe you didn't know this but Minnesota is a particularly religious place. We who live here, whether we consider ourselves hardy souls or fools for staying, are necessarily people of faith. Otherwise there is no way we would survive winter. In November and December the snow and cold are still kind of fun. Cute like a puppy. By March it's a full grown, slobbering St. Bernard. Our fervent prayer is that winter won't last too much longer. We have faith that summer must be coming.

We spend most of the winter figuring out how to survive. But in March we start planning all the things we'll do once the snow is gone and it's warm enough to be outside without feeling like the Michelin man. Faith leads us forward.

When the inevitable March snowstorm arrives (during one of the state tournaments of course), we're thinking perhaps our faith has been misplaced. But then it happens. Spring arrives. I'll be out on my bike before long. People will be fishing from boats not in canvas huts. We've already had several 50° days. Faith has been affirmed and our lives are renewed.

We have lived through 40 days of Lent ending with Good Friday and the Crucifixion. Sort of like mid January. Then, on Easter, Christ is raised from the dead. From sadness to joy. Faith has been rewarded.

Did I mention that we're fortunate to live in Minnesota - cold and all. Spring and Easter go together. Not everyone in the world is lucky enough to experience a rebirth of the physical world and the soul at the same time.

By the time you read this, March will be gone or nearly gone. What do you plan to do with your resurrected spirit and the resurrected world around you?

(I like winter as much as the next person, but for those of you who are actually sad to see winter end, I know a good therapist.

Library Additions *Spring Into Reading - New Titles!*

Spring is on its way, but take the time to explore the church library for the books listed here. Look for the New Books display.

FICTION

Go Set a Watchman (FIC/LEE)

To Kill a Mockingbird (FIC/LEE)

Both of these books are by Harper Lee, a highly acclaimed American author who recently passed away. *Watchman* is really a prequel to *Mockingbird*. If you have never read *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the time is now. If you haven't read it since high school, it's time to read it again.

NONFICTION

Accidental Saints (284.1/BOL) by Nadia Bolz-Weber. Tattooed, angry, and profane, the author, a former stand-up comic turned pastor, resists the God she feels called to serve. But God keeps showing up in the least likely people. Nadia is swept into first-hand encounters with grace.

The Year of Living Biblically (220/JAC) by A. J. Jacobs. In the interest of tracking faith in our modern world, the author tries to obey the Bible literally for one year. The result is funny and profound.

FOR YOUNGER READERS (OR NOT)

The Troll With No Heart in His Body (J398.2/LUN) by Lise Lunge-Larsen. This is a collection of Norwegian folktales all featuring trolls.

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day (E/VIO) by Judith Viorst. If you are an adult and have somehow missed this classic, you must read it now! On a day when everything goes wrong for him, Alexander is consoled by the thought that other people have bad days too.



Life Events

April Anniversaries



David & Shirley Hogan on 4/3/1971 for 45 years
 Michael & Nancy Varichak on 4/3/1993 for 23 years
 Cameron & Rhonda Ollila on 4/4/1992 for 24 years
 Gwendolen & Patrick Zeman on 4/5/1986 for 30 years
 Carrol & Mavis Hauge on 4/6/1957 for 59 years
 Roger & Linda LaFond on 4/8/1967 for 49 years
 Eric & Suzanne Boyum on 4/10/1999 for 17 years
 Lee & Betty Hinnenkampon on 4/12/1978 for 38 years
 Melvin & Virginia Reichstadt on 4/12/2003 for 13 years
 Melissa & Michael Wallraff on 4/13/1996 for 20 years
 Harlan & Deloris Swee on 4/14/1956 for 60 years
 Joe & Wendy Wegleitner on 4/14/1984 for 32 years
 Mark & Darcy Williams on 4/15/1978 for 38 years
 Joyce & Richard Peake on 4/21/1985 for 31 years
 Richard & LoRaye Hedlund on 4/22/1972 for 44 years
 Nancy & Martin Menzia on 4/22/1978 for 38 years
 Anthony & Cassandra Nelson on 4/22/2006 for 10 years
 Leland & Marilyn Drossel on 4/23/1965 for 51 years
 Raymond & Patty Fabian Jr. on 4/23/2005 for 11 years
 Steven & Kay Haglund on 4/25/1981 for 35 years
 Brian & Jacqueline Bangen on 4/27/1985 for 31 years
 Jerry & Laura Havon on 4/27/1996 for 20 years
 Brandon & Karla Johnson on 4/28/2012 for 4 years
 Jonathan & Julie Kosbabon 4/28/2007 for 9 years
 Brad & Kandace Heitland on 4/29/2006 for 10 years
 Donald & Paula Cable on 4/30/1966 for 50 years
 Steve & Lisa Clovning on 4/30/1977 for 39 years
 Chris Haar & Andrea Wolslayer Haar on 4/30/2005 for 11 years

The St. Philip's Endowment Fund

You are cordially invited to the annual
Endowment Fund Brunch.

When? Sunday, April 10, 2016 at 9:30 am

What? Pancakes, sausages, fruit, cereal, and
beverages

Who? You!

Why? To support the St. Philip's
Endowment Fund AND enjoy fellowship

Where? Fellowship Hall

February gifts were received
in memory of

Betty Johnson and Randee Arfmann's
mother and sister

GRANT REQUESTS DUE APRIL 15, 2016!
APPLICATION FORMS IN THE OFFICE

Gifts in any amount may be given in memory
of someone, to celebrate an occasion or to
participate in the present and future ministry
of St. Philip's through the Endowment Fund.

Gifts may take the form of cash, real estate,
personal property, stocks and bonds, life
insurance benefits, bequests from 401k,
IRA, and other retirement accounts

For more information on St. Philip's
Endowment Fund visit our website at www.splcmn.org, select the Ministries tab and click
Endowment. Or contact a member of the
Endowment Fund Committee: Bob Becker,
Dana Rebelein, Jennifer Prasek, Dick Lekang,
Joan Kruse, Virg Herrick, Jeanine Grandstrand
and Ron Ackerman.

"Thank You!" to all who support the
St. Philip's Endowment Fund.

St. Philip's February 2016

Income

Budget YTD

\$135,639

Actual YTD

\$134,393

Expense



(\$145,255)

(\$141,403)

TOTALS

(\$9,616)

(\$7,010)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 1:00 pm EA Group 6:00 pm Women's GA	2 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship
3 8:30 am Worship 9:35 am Confirmation/HS Hour Adult Forum: <i>The Story</i> Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	4 1:00 pm Joy Circle 4:30 pm Chair Yoga 5:30 pm Boy Scout Blue & Gold Banquet 5:45 pm Boy Scout Mtg 6:00 pm Girl Scout Mtg Mat yoga 6:15 pm Worship Band 7:00 pm GA; Gamanon	5 <i>Articles due for The Friend</i> 10:00 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 5:00 pm Solid Ground AA 6:30 pm New Member Class Parish Fellowship Mtg	6 8:30 am Men's Work Crew & WOW 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Group Woman's Book Club 6:00 pm Bells of Praise 6:30 pm Confirmation & HS Peer Ministry 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	7 7:00 am Men's Book Discussion 1:00 pm Lunch Bunch 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm AA; Alanon	8 1:00 pm EA Group 6:00 pm Women's GA	9 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship 6:00 pm Saturday Supper
10 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Endowment Brunch 9:35 am Sunday School Confirmation/HS Hour Adult Forum: <i>The Story</i> 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Sunday School Task Force	11 9:00 am Glory Circle 1:00 pm Global Health Ministries 2:00 pm Lynwood Bingo 4:30 pm Chair Yoga 5:45 pm Boy Scout Mtg 6:00 pm Mat Yoga 6:15 pm Worship Band 7:00 pm GA; Gamanon	12 10:00 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 2:30 pm Heritage Mtg 5:00 pm Solid Ground AA 6:30 pm Property & Ground Mtg	13 8:30 am Men's Work Crew & WOW 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Group 6:00 pm Bells of Praise 6:30 pm Confirmation & HS Peer Ministry 7:00 pm AA Sanctuary Choir	14 9:00 am Columbarium Mtg 6:30 pm Garden Group 7:00 pm SPDR Colorado Mtg Recovery International 7:30 pm AA; Alanon	15 1:00 pm EA Group 6:00 pm Women's GA	16 9:00 am Comfort & Joy of Quilting 11:30 am Festival of Tables 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship
17 8:15 am Sunday School Parent Mtg 8:30 am Worship 9:35 am Sunday School Equal Exc. Coffee Sale Confirmation/HS Hour Adult Forum: <i>The Story</i> 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Sunday School Task Force	18 4:30 pm Chair Yoga 5:45 pm Boy Scout Mtg 6:00 pm Mat Yoga Girl Scouts Mtg 6:15 pm Worship Band 7:00 pm GA; Gamanon	19 9:00 am Library Mtg Assemble <i>The Friend</i> 10:00 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 5:00 pm Solid Ground AA	20 8:30 am Men's Work Crew & WOW 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Group 6:00 pm Bells of Praise 6:30 pm Confirmation & HS Peer Ministry 7:00 pm AA Sanctuary Choir	21 7:00 am Men's Book Discussion 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm AA; Alanon 	22 1:00 pm EA Group 6:00 pm Women's GA	23 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship
24 8:15 am Sunday School Parent Mtg 8:30 am Worship 9:35 am Sunday School Confirmation/HS Hour Adult Forum: <i>The Story</i> 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Sunday School Task Force Worship, Music & Arts Mtg	25 1:30 pm Knitters & Crocheters 4:30 pm Chair Yoga 5:45 pm Boy Scout Mtg 6:00 pm Mat Yoga 6:15 pm Worship Band 7:00 pm GA; Gamanon	26 10:00 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 5:00 pm Solid Ground AA 6:00 pm Global Health Ministries 6:45 pm Board of Administration Mtg	27 8:30 am Men's Work Crew & WOW 10:00 am EA Group 2:00 pm Global Mission Team Mtg 6:00 pm Bells of Praise 6:30 pm Confirmation & HS Peer Ministry 7:00 pm AA Sanctuary Choir	28 12:00 pm Women's Book Club 6:00 pm 9th Grade Confirmation Rehearsal & Banquet 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm AA; Alanon	29 1:00 pm EA Group 6:00 pm Women's GA	30 6:00 am SPDR leave for Colorado 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship



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Companion Congregation: Bille Lutheran in Nigeria

Ministers: All members of the Parish

The Friend deadline:

5th of the prior month

E-mail typed copy (250 word max) to: **AmadaM@splcmn.org**