

The Friend

January 2016

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

New Year's News by Pastor Joel Wight Hoogheem

A new year always seems to hold incredible promise for us. There's something about turning the page from one year to the next that refreshes and renews us. Perhaps we allow the Holy Spirit to move more freely in our lives at the beginning of a new year; our God who seeks to make things new (Revelation 21:4) is better able to work with our open minds and hearts.

I hope that 2016 brings a continued - or even renewed - commitment to God's Word through **The Story**. In

our journey through the Bible, we are arriving at one of the most exciting and meaningful, yet least familiar, stories: the exile. Prophets and kings and politics and God all intersect in ways that still resonate today. Just as importantly, understanding the story of the exile helps us move to a deeper place in our relationship with Jesus Christ and his coming.

In January, St. Philip's will be part of a new opportunity through the Minneapolis Area Synod's Nigerian Theologian-in-Residence program as we host Pastor Ibrahim Bitrus. Over the course of two years, Pastor Ibrahim will be at various congregations to build relationships, share stories, and find ways to strengthen our companionship with our Lutheran sisters and brothers in Nigeria. Please greet Pastor Ibrahim as you have the chance!

The first month of this new year will bring several other important events in the life and ministry of St. Philip's. In this issue of **The Friend**, you can read much more about the work of our Global Missions Team and you can mark your calendar to take part in Global Missions Weekend on January 16 & 17.

Summer sign-up kick-off weekend will keep us warmed up on January 23 & 24. Representatives from Camp Wapo will be with us and our kids and their families can begin making summer camp plans.

Our annual budget forum will take place on the morning of January 24 at 9:35 in the Chapel, as the proposed 2016 operating budget is shared for conversation and reflection in advance of the annual meeting on February 7. It is an exciting time to hear about God's generosity and our community's response to God's mission for our congregation in the coming year.



Pastor Joel

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New Mission Opportunity

At the November meeting of the BOA of St Philip's a motion was approved that in effect enables St. Philip's to join Faith Lutheran Church in Coon Rapids and St Paul's Lutheran Church in Minneapolis in partnering with ILCO, the Costa Rican Lutheran Church.

In October, Amada Márquez represented St. Philip's on a fact-finding mission to Costa Rica along with members of the Global Missions group from Faith Lutheran and from St. Paul's Lutheran.

What this means for members of St. Philip's is that they will have the opportunity to visit Costa Rica in partnership with ILCO to walk with them and work with them in Christ. The trips may be work project related or may be to help ILCO with other needs, such as Vacation Bible School, etc. It is hoped that at some point in time, members of ILCO will be able to travel to MN and spend time between Faith, St. Paul's, and St. Philips.

A Letter from the Briska Family - Nigeria

We send you greetings of the season from Bronnum Lutheran Seminary, as we wait for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. It has been very long time that I have not able to communicate with you. We trust that you are doing fine. To God be the glory, we are also doing fine with my family at BLS. Two of our children (Namsy and Sikama) are in University and the other two (Martin and Namkama) are in junior and high schools respectively. In August this year I have been appointed the Academic Dean of the Seminary, as a result I have been very busy with my new office. There is lot of work, in fact, it is too much work. Sometimes of the day I do not know where to start. But by the grace of God we are working together to see that the Seminary moves ahead.

The problem of insecurity in the Northeastern in Nigeria and especially Adamawa state is always unpredictable, anything can happen anytime, anywhere and with anybody. It always comes in different ways.

I have been away for almost two weeks for moderation of exams questions papers and examination of students' projects at the University of Jos. When I came back I found that the atmosphere in the Seminary has changed, especially within our students, every student was worried, sad and depressed. I went to my class to teach my course "Conflict and Peace Studies" I inquired about what was going on. Most of our students are from rural areas and farmers, as a result during this harvesting period, they kept receiving calls from relatives who told them about how their farms are being destroyed by cattle herders. In some cases farmers are killed. Students became upset and ready to go and harvest their crops, which they depend on for their feeding and schools fees. We pray for God's grace to keep and protect them and all of us.

Nuwayina also went for weekend revival conference in Benue state, Nigeria for three days, on their way back they were robbed by armed robbers, but were not hurt. They were together with Grace Buntausa. We thank God for saving them. At this period of the season people travel a lot for Christmas, we need to keep praying more than ever before.

We are wishing you the most blessed MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR ahead.
Yours in the Lord,
Sekenwas

A New Year! *Amy Morphey, Director of Children & Family Ministries*

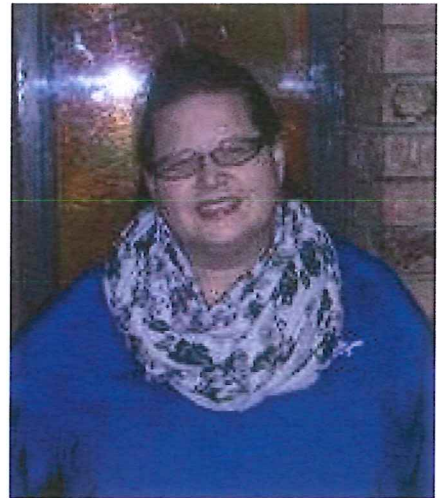
I am so very blessed to work with such awesome kids and families here at St. Philip's!

And the angel said unto them, "Fear not for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

Luke 2:10

Sunday School Happenings

In December all our Sunday School classes spent time preparing for the Christmas Pageant. A big thank you to all the families that participated in the pageant. Thank you to all who donated and helped with making this pageant a great one! In January our Sunday School will continue to journey with *The Story* and also look at *Epiphany*! We are still in need of Sunday School team teachers. If you are interested in working with our young children, please contact me!



Summer is coming!

Registration for our 2016 Summer Camp will be on Sunday, January 24, 2016! We are excited to share with you the great opportunities we will offer this next summer: Vacation Bible School, Creation Art Camp, Camp at Wapo, and much more! Stop by Fellowship Hall for a treat and to see how you can get involved!

I wish you and your family good tidings and great joy in 2016!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

After Our Global Story

Walking with Christians in all Lands - January 16 & 17, 2016

Celebrate St. Philip's global reach

- Focus on our Covenant relationship with Bille, Nigeria
- Highlight the work of Jim and Carol Sack, our missionaries in Japan
- Learn of an exciting new opportunity for working in Costa Rica with Faith Lutheran Church in Coon Rapids and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in South Minneapolis
- Special offering envelopes available to support our missions

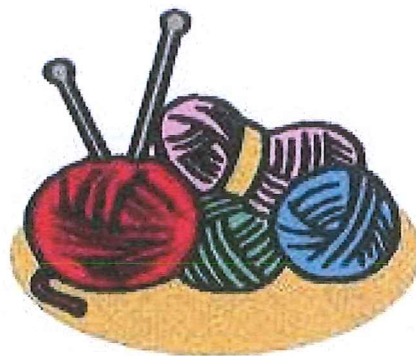
Come to the chapel between services

- See how *The Story* includes Our Global Story
- Interact with Pastor Ibrahim, our Nigerian Theologian in Residence
- Enjoy home-baked treats courtesy of the Global Missions Team

"The Word of the Lord spread through the whole region." -Acts 13:49

*"Therefore,
if anyone
is in
Christ,
he is a
new creation.
The old
has passed
away;
behold,
the new has
come."*

2 Corinthians 5:17



Knitters & Crocheters Invitation

The Knitters and Crocheters group would like to invite anyone who likes to knit or crochet, or who wants to learn, to join them on the 4th Monday of each month from 1:30 - 3:30 pm. The group averages about 8 members per meeting. The group started in Oct. 1988 with 4 women using leftover yarn that the Quilter's group was not able to use. Since then the Quilters have continued to give extra yarn to the group, but others have also made donations of yarn or money. Thanks to all those who have donated over the years. More yarn is always appreciated. All projects made by the group are donated to charity. Since the group's inception, they have donated over 2,300 caps, 375 pairs of mittens, 245 afghans or prayer shawls, 100 sweaters, 150 scarves, and 425 teddy bears. Come join the fun, make new friends, and make the world a warmer place.

*Thank you
from Gloria Falkum*

I would like to thank all those who supported me and prayed for me during my recent knee surgery and recovery. It means a great deal and has sped my recovery knowing that there are people thinking about and praying for me.

55+ Retirees - February Event

Picasso at the Lapin Agile - Fridley Community Center

Celebrate Valentine's Day! Sunday, February 14 at 2:45 pm
Meet at the Fridley Community Center at 6085 7th Street NE (use the back/east entrance).

"Picasso at the Lapin Agile" is a comical play written by Steve Martin. It features the characters of Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso, who meet at a bar called the Lapin Agile in Montmarate, Paris. It is set on October 8, 1904, and both men are on the verge of an amazing idea (Einstein will publish his special theory of relativity and Picasso will paint Les Demoiselles d'Avignon) when they find themselves at the Lapin Agile, where they have a lengthy debate about the value of genius and talent while interacting with a host of other characters. The cost is \$16 per person and includes the play and coffee with a sweet treat during intermission. Sign up in the church office by Sunday, February 7. Please make a (non-refundable) check payable to St. Philip's. Have a heart and treat someone special to this outing. Please contact Tom or Marlene Schonebaum with any questions at 763-786-2483.

Our Global Story from Billie, Nigeria

St Philip's recently received communication from Companion Congregation LCCN (Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria) Bille. The church in Bille indicates its desire to continue in the relationship established nine years ago and shares information on their ministry, including some modification of priorities. The congregation expresses the following:

The LCCN Bille appreciates your concern and love to know if we still want to continue to receive your support for the three projects we shared over the past years. We indeed want to continue with companion congregation relationship and will be glad and thankful to receive any contribution from St. Philip's Lutheran Church which will augment our ministerial activities.

We have for the past carried out some projects as follows:

1. Built one additional block of three classroom and office.
2. Added number of teachers to six.
3. Upgraded some nursery pupils to primary status; thus now we have primary one to three.

Currently we have a total of pre-nursery pupils 25.

Nursery pupils 52, ranging from nursery one to three.

Total of primary pupils 31.

Looking at the number of pupils and their gradual increase, we will need to add two more teachers for effective teaching and control.

4. Evangelical work by Kat. Pius Kasuwa at Wasi-Dakka is still going on. Report from him shows there is plenty work and challenging.

Recently some neighboring communities have requested the evangelist to visit them to help rehabilitate youth who have been involved in drug abuse.

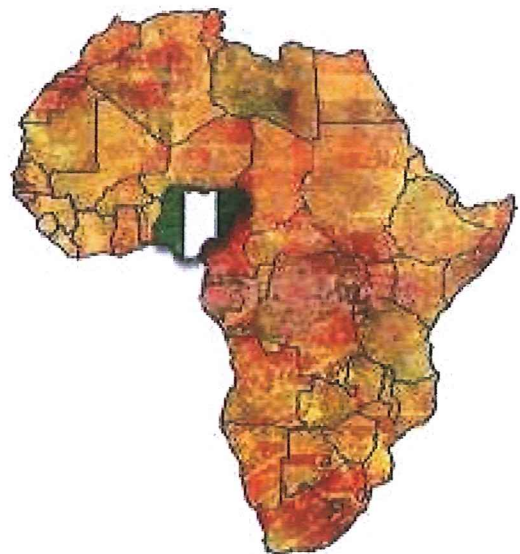
5. On scholarship to secondary students, the church council will like to shift it to primary school pupils. This will help them when proceeding to secondary school.

St Philip's continues to honor the covenant with LCCN Bille by continuing to pray for the congregation, communicate with them and support various ministries with financial contributions. Thanks to members for your involvement.

"The Word of the Lord spread through the whole region." Acts 13:49

*Be strong
and take heart
all you
who hope in the Lord*

Psalm 31:24



President's Column *Ron Ackerman*

It is hard to believe that it is the end of the calendar year and the start of the Advent Season. This marks the time of year to reflect on what has transpired in 2015. This includes our personal lives and the life of St. Philip's. We have lost some very dear friends and relatives and gained some new infants and members. The cycle continues. It is a difficult time for many, but a strong religious belief helps people make it through it.

December is always busy at St. Philip's. The Youth Christmas Bake Sale, Children's Christmas Pageant, Holiday Family Night, The Giving Trees in the Narthex, The St. Philip's Christmas Concert and the many special services, all capture the Christmas Spirit and the real meaning of Christ. I hope many of you are able to enjoy these events.

During this past year, St. Philip's has had many changes and upgrades. Thanks to the Building for the Future Plan and the hail storm (they say God works in mysterious ways), St. Philip's has had major improvements and enhancements. Many were necessary maintenance and some were significant improvements. The Disaster Relief Team has again stepped up and helped needy people and communities.

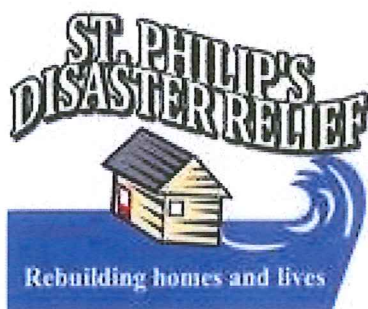
We are in the process of setting the budget for 2016. It is exciting because we are currently at full staff and we know what our expenses are. As you know, 95% of our income comes from pledges and gifts from members. St. Philip's is very fortunate to have such giving members.

Looking forward to 2016, we have some key additions and events at St. Philip's: The Columbarium, the Heritage Project's collection of archives and key documents of St. Philip's, and the finishing of the various building projects.

The momentum has been building in 2015 and is continuing to grow. I hope you have a great holiday season.

~Ron

St. Philip's	November 2015	Budget YTD	Actual YTD
	Income	\$699,132	\$706,604
	Expense	(\$732,361)	(\$726,158)
	TOTALS	(\$33,228)	(\$19,554)



St. Philip's Disaster Relief Dinner & Auction

Be a part of the St. Philip's Disaster Relief 10th Anniversary celebration by attending the annual lasagna dinner and auction fundraiser on Sunday, February 21, 2016.

The dinner includes salad, lasagna, breadsticks, beverages, and dessert. (Gluten free lasagna will be available.) Dinner tickets will be sold following worship on Sundays January 10 through February 14

and also following worship on Saturday, January 30. All tickets must be purchased in advance. Costs are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5 to 12. Two seatings are available – at 4:00 and 6:00 pm. Buy early as seating is limited.

As in the past, the auction will be a sealed bid with the items on display for bidding after services on Saturday, February 20, Sunday, February 21, and also at the dinner.

This event is the major single source of funding for St. Philip's Disaster Relief. Purchasing dinner tickets, making a monetary donation (if you can't attend), and bidding high on the auction items ensure that the journey continues in 2016.

Life Events

January Anniversaries:

Victoria & Kitah Emmanuel on 1/1/1993 for 23

Timothy & Tonya Schweppe on 1/1/1994 for 22

John & Josephine Riley on 1/5/1961 for 55

Dane & Dena Froiland on 1/10/2004 for 12

Steve & Lynn Britven on 1/11/1986 for 30

Larry & Marie Teeter on 1/12/2002 for 14

Dennis & DeeAnn Gritti on 1/15/2000 for 16

Steven & Gail Olson on 1/16/1991 for 25

Roger & Sandra Goman on 1/26/1963 for 53

Richard & Laurel Harris on 1/27/1962 for 54

Ronald & Marlene Hirth on 1/28/1961 for 55

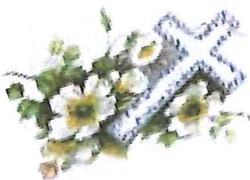
David & Mollie Dvorak on 1/30/2010 for 6

Kermit & Frances Hollen on 1/30/1960 for 56



Sympathy

To the friends and family
of Diane Ida Gravenish upon her death



Columbarium Update

The Columbarium Committee is excited to announce that the Columbarium was installed outside of the Fellowship Hall this week! The black granite with the mahogany cross in the center looks very striking. The benches have been pre-ordered so they will be ready for installation this spring. We are still offering benches as memorials so please contact Joan Kruse (612-251-3908) or Neal Anderson (763-862-8092) if you are interested in purchasing a bench as a memorial to a loved one. The benches can be inscribed at the factory prior to delivery. Thank you everyone for your support in this project.

The St. Philip's Endowment Fund

Q. What kinds of gifts can be made to the St. Philip's Endowment Fund?

A. There are many types of gifts that could benefit the Endowment Fund.

A few of them are:

Cash
Real estate
Personal property
Stocks and bonds
Life insurance benefits
Bequests from 401k, IRA & 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, Duane Retzer, Ray Olson, Howard Thompson and Joan Kruse.

Memorials & Special Gifts
November Gifts were received in memory of Reed Knutsen. Wesley & Jeanine Grandstrand made a generous contribution. Gifts in memory of someone, to celebrate a special occasion, or in simple gratitude, should specify "Endowment Fund."

**Thank you to all who
support the
St. Philip's Endowment Fund.**

Greetings!

Sara Quarberg, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries

I love celebrating. Whether it's a birthday, holiday, wedding, engagement, an accomplishment - you name it, big or small. I love seeing joy and happiness in people's lives and celebrating alongside them. I believe there is so much to celebrate here at St. Philip's. Last month, our youth committee met and we spent some intentional time celebrating what God is doing and has done here at St. Philip's through our youth. I've said it so many times and I'll continue to say it: It is such a privilege and an honor to engage in God's ministry with the youth of St. Philip's. I am in awe of the passion they embody for service. More specifically, I want to celebrate a new year of Confirmation and High school ministry. We've shifted our structure, curriculum and focus. We've implemented dinners on Wednesdays served by amazing volunteers. Our families joined us for an awesome night of food, conversation and answering deep questions. We have numerous outstanding small group leaders who journey with these young people each week. In October, we confirmed a great group of high school youth who have a deep dedication to St. Philip's and their faith. Our youth have engaged in numerous learning, service and fellowship nights. Looking forward, we have much to celebrate, too. At the end of this month, we will join 500 other youth in a multi-church lock-in! During Lent, each one of our Confirmation students will partner with a mentor to journey through Lent. And, in May, we will confirm another group of amazing high school youth! Please join me in celebrating each and every youth that God has led to St. Philip's! It's amazing to me how the Holy Spirit is engaging with us in ministry and how God continues to lead us together. Thank you for being a part of this church community and for supporting, believing in and caring for our youth.



Blessings in your ministry ,
~Sara

Garden Team Update

Successful Growing Season #4 in the Community Garden

Approximately 500 pounds of fresh produce was harvested and delivered to two local food shelves- CEAP and SACA. A wide variety of colorful vegetables grew to maturity despite the early spring hail damage.

- Beans- green, yellow, purple
- Tomatoes- yellow, red, orange, black
- Potatoes- Norland red, sweet potatoes
- Cucumbers, zucchini, pattypan squash, carrots, radishes, eggplant, peppers,
- Kale, Swiss chard, lettuce, mescaline,
- Basil, parsley, mint, garlic
- Rhubarb, rhubarb, and more rhubarb
- Thwarted effort to harvest tomatillos
- Failed effort to grow peanuts

The garden group provided soil, starter plants, and planting tips for guests at Stepping Stone Emergency Housing. The guests dug right in and enthusiastically planted and tended to the four mini raised beds, harvesting fresh vegetables to enhance the salad bar in the cafeteria.

Many hands make for lighter work with the garden group. In addition, the gardeners are thankful for the generous assistance from members who donated seeds, starter plants, trailer time, and cash. It is a blessing to work together as St. Philip's provides fresh produce for CEAP and SACA and garden supplies for Stepping Stone.



St. Philip's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 <i>New Year's Day Office Closed</i> 1:00 pm EA Group 6:00 pm Women's GA	2 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship
3 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Confirmation/HS Hour Adult Forum: <i>The Story</i> Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	4 1:00 pm Joy Circle 1:30 pm Chair Yoga 5:45 pm Boy Scout Mtg 6:00 pm Mat Yoga SPDR Auction Mtg 6:15 pm Worship Band 7:00 pm - GA; Gamanon	5 <i>Articles due for The Friend</i> 9:45 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 5:00 pm Solid Ground AA 6:15 pm HR Mtg	6 8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Group 6:30 pm Confirmation Sm. Group 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	7 6:30 pm Bells of Praise 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 - Sunday School Confirmation/HS Hour Adult Forum: <i>The Story</i> 10:30 am Worship	11 9:00 am Glory Circle Communication Group 9:30 am LEAFs 1:30 pm Chair Yoga 2:00 pm Lynwoo Bingo 5:45 pm Boy Scout Mtg 6:00 pm Girl Scout Mtg Evangelism Mtg Mat yoga 6:15 pm Worship Band 7:00 pm GA; Gamanon All Committee Mtg	12 9:45 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 5:00 pm Solid Ground AA 6:30 pm Garden Group	13 8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew 10:00 am EA Group Woman's Book Club 5:45 pm Youth Committee Mtg 6:30 pm Confirmation Sm. Group 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	14 7:00 am Men's Book Discussion 1:00 pm 55+ Group 6:30 pm Bells of Praise 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm AA Alanon	15 1:00 pm EA Group 6:00 pm Women's GA	16 2:30 pm Global Missions Team Wknd
17 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Equal Exc. Coffee Sale Confirmation/HS Hour Adult Forum: <i>The Story</i> Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	18 <i>Martin Luther King Day ~ Office Closed</i> 1:30 pm Chair Yoga 5:45 pm Boy Scout Mtg 6:00 pm Mat Yoga 6:15 pm Worship Band 7:00 pm Gamanon; GA	19 9:00 am Assemble <i>The FRIEND</i> Library Mtg 9:45 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 2:30 pm Heritage Committee Mtg 5:00 pm Solid Ground AA	20 8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Group 6:30 pm Confirmation Sm. Group 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	21 1:30 pm Game Time 6:30 pm Bells of Praise 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 <i>Wapo Sunday</i> 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School Confirmation/HS Hour Adult Forum: <i>The Story</i> 10:30 am Worship 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School Confirmation/HS Hour Adult Forum: <i>The Story</i> 10:30 am Worship	25 1:30 pm Knitters & Crocheters Chair Yoga 5:45 pm Boy Scout Mtg 6:00 pm Girl Scout Mtg 6:00 pm Worship Band Mat Yoga 7:00 pm GA; Gamanon	26 9:45 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 5:30 pm Solid Ground AA 6:45 pm Board Meeting	27 8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew 10:00 am EA Group 2:00 pm Global Missions Team 6:30 pm Confirmation Sm. Group 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	28 12:00 pm Women's Book Club 6:30 pm Bells of Praise 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm AA Alanon	29 1:00 pm EA Group 6:00 pm Women's GA	30 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**