

Vol. 35
Issue 2

February, 2015

The Philippian

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St. Philip's Episcopal Church
3643 Aurora Drive
New Orleans, LA 70131-5599

Dear Friends,

It's Carnival time! Our post-Epiphany celebration and preparation for Lent has begun. It is always a bit of a challenge to explain to folk from other places that Mardi Gras is a religious event. It is true that many do not treat it as such, and it is also true that many do not care anything about it. For us in the Church, however, we should remember that the days leading up to Mardi Gras are a time to celebrate the coming of the King, and the day itself is a time to rid ourselves of those things which we need to give up for Lent including the masks we wear between God and our souls.

While I always call for a hearty and safe celebration of Mardi Gras, I also encourage all of us to have an equally penitential season of Lent. One way is to practice abstinence and self-denial. The giving up of something important to us for Lent is meant to be a daily reminder of our need to be closer to God. Care should be taken in our decision to give up something so that we do not choose something that will be impossible for us thereby setting up our Lenten discipline for failure.

Another practice is fasting. Different from abstinence, fasting is consuming much less each day than we normally would. Often this means one meal or two smaller meals a day. There are two strict days of fasting in the Church—Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This year, I plan to fast the entire season of Lent with daily intentions for not only my

growth in relation to the Lord but also with intentions for the continued spiritual health of our entire community of faith. If anyone would like to join me on this spiritual journey, please let me know.

There will much time for our celebrations and preparations in the next couple of weeks including a traditional pancake breakfast at the church. Then, I invite everyone to a holy and meaningful Lent beginning with the imposition of ashes as a sign of our mortality and need for repentance. Please let me know if you need direction in setting a Lenten discipline.

In Christ,

Fr. Steve +

Fr. Steve's Lenten Education Series

"Our Hebrew Heritage"

Fr. Steve will present a 4 week program beginning February 25th that will help you to understand our rich religious heritage and provide you the tools needed to develop your own personal spiritual discipline. Topics will cover everything from prayer to fasting to customs and holidays. Come and see how those who came before us dedicated themselves to our Lord!

1. **Current practices directly related to Hebrew tradition.**
2. **Hebrew Holidays/ What about Jesus?**
3. **Activities of Daily Living and Prayer**
4. **The Law and Commandments**

From the Parish Register:

Rite of Christian burial:

Merrill Lavell Isbell



The Vestry and Vestry Notes

The Rev. Stephen Craft, Susette Bradley, Ken Bradley, Mark Bullard, Norma Gatlin, Susan Smith and Kayce Stackel.

Vestry Notes:

1. The delegation for Diocesan Convention and what we should expect this year was discussed.
2. The rest of the meeting was the adoption of the 2015 budget. Treasurer Martin Lowe gave a line by line description of the proposed budget. With a few changes, the budget reflected what we actually spent during 2014, and this left us with a \$32,000.00 budget deficit. While this budget was adopted by the vestry, there was much discussion about fiscal reality and how we will necessarily make adjustments during the year to reduce what the actual deficit will be at the end of the year.

December Financial Statement

Income:	\$ 24,166.00
Expenses:	-\$ 18,188.00
YTD Projected Net Income:	-\$ 19,869.00
YTD Actual:	-\$ 23,975.00

Regular Worship Schedule

Weekend Services

Sunday:

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:00 AM Coffee and Fellowship
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II
11:40 AM Coffee and Fellowship

Saturday:

5:00 PM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Weekday Services

Monday:

8:30 AM Morning Prayer
2:00 PM The Landing

Tuesday:

8:30 AM Morning Prayer
6:30 PM Adult Bible Study

Wednesday:

9:00AM Holy Eucharist followed by Bible Study

Thursday:

8:30 AM Morning Prayer

*****Ash Wednesday Services will be...**

7:00AM, 9:00AM, Noon and 6:00PM

Office Hours:

Secretary: 9AM - Noon, Mon.-Fri.
Bookstore Hours: 9:00AM - Noon, Sunday
Office & Bookstore: 394-2408; Fax: 394-2450
Email: stphilipsno@msn.com
Website: stphilipsno.org

Welcome and congratulations to our new vestry members elected at our 2015 Annual Meeting :
Martin Lowe, Bobbie Durkovich and Frances Webb.

* **2015 Altar Flowers** *
* **February 1** Noretta & Gordon Stackel *
* *
* **February 8** Sandra & Jim Lyon *
* *
* **February 15** Open *
* *
* **February 22** NO flowers during LENT *
* *
* The flower chart for 2015 is now up in church at the front *
* entrance. If you would like to make a flower dedication, *
* please sign your name on your requested week. Flower *
* dedications are \$25.00. *

First Fridays

There are no First Fridays scheduled in 2015 until April, which will be sponsored by Pat Blackman.

If you wish to host a First Friday in 2015, please contact the office to reserve your requested month! Remember, the Parish Hall can be used to host.



Pancake Breakfast!!!



On February 15th there will be a Pancake Breakfast in the Parish Hall. Pancakes will be served after both the 8:00AM and 10:30AM services. You may enjoy them in the Parish Hall or take them to go. There is no cost, but donations will be gratefully accepted. Funds collected will go toward repairs and upkeep of the church.

Sanctuary Farm and Wellness News.....

At our January Wellness Wednesday we discussed how our tradition of goal setting for the new year is, in fact, biblical and a spiritual discipline. God sets goals for history, the world and our lives. We should desire to be like God and set goals for ourselves. Goals keep us focused and our focused energy is far more powerful than energy we use to “put out fires” in our lives. God wants us to focus on goals that bring Him glory and show love to others. When we align our goals with this in mind, God, with all of His power, brings us to our goals. I hope you have given some thought to what you would like to improve in your life this year and set some Godly goals for yourself.

As for our ministry, we have set goals for at least the first quarter of this year. As you may know by now, the Wellness Wednesday Program will go quarterly this year. This will give us more time and resources to focus toward getting our gardens growing by spring. However, we will be offering other educational programs throughout the year in between quarterly Wellness sessions. If you have been getting the “Hello Wellness Fans” emails, you will know the schedule as it is set. If not, please log on to our web site at sanctuaryfarmspc.org and sign up for our newsletter so you don’t miss out. We will also be participating in other programs at the church and the community, starting with Fr. Craft’s Lenten education series “Our Hebrew Heritage”. The Wellness Program will be providing a light “lent appropriate” supper at each of the four sessions. Also, as we have made ourselves known in the diocese, we have been asked

February Readings

1st Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

8th Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm 147:1-12, 21c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

15th Last Sunday after the Epiphany

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

22nd First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm 25:1-9

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

St. Philip’s Walking Club moves toward better health!

Inspired by the Wellness Program, Connie Brechtel suggested that a Walking Club would be fun. Every member is keeping track of the time or distance they walk each day. We will share our times or distances at the next Wellness Dinner. To join, call the church at 394-2408.

February Acolytes

- 1st Sophia Lucurto
- 8th Jamie Camardelle
- 15th Tyler Hargrave
- 22nd Volunteer

February Ushers

- 1st Pamala Judd, Morris Judd
- 8th Jim Lyon, Jim Olsen
- 15th Mary Ann Bass, Casey Bass
- 22nd Melissa Zrabkowski, Brett Heintz

February Church Closing

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------|------|------------------|
| 1st | Frances Webb | 15th | Kayce Stackel |
| | Mark Bullard | | Susette Bradley |
| 8th | Norma Gatlin | 22th | Bobbie Durkovich |
| | Martin Lowe | | Susan Smith |



Are you on "Facebook"?
You can help your church grow in two easy steps! Search St. Philip's New Orleans and become a friend! Then invite your friends to become friends too! We need to let our community know what is happening at St. Philip's!

to participate in the 178th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana, Fri., February 27th & Sat. the 28th at Trinity. Of course, we will be there to proudly represent our church and this great ministry that has hundreds of fans!

Please keep our awesome ministry in your prayers and watch the calendar and newsletters for upcoming events. Invite your friends to Come and See what's happening at St. Philips.

Lots of Love, Mimi

To Serve your Church is to Serve God
Volunteers are needed in all areas of church service!

Ushers, Hospitality, Altar Guild, Choir, Lems, Lectors, Acolytes, General Maintenance, etc.

Prayerfully consider what else you can do to serve God!
God blesses those who serve Him.

These groups are all very important and all are in need of new members. To sign up, contact the office or Melissa Zrabkowski at 504-952-8180.

February Hospitality Guild

St. Catherine Team:

Team Captain : Grace Benson

Debra Bullard, Callie Fitzgerald, Tiffany Stinson,
Melissa Zrabkowski, Alma Evans-Herron

February Church Opening

Joy Kaler, Grace Benson

