

PRESS RELEASE

After prayerful consideration and in the spirit of St. Philip's mission, 'Rooted in Worship, Growing in Mission' the Vestry voted to approve two new endeavors on April 2, 2023. Both involve a partnership with the non-profit agency, Amistad. The feedback received from our neighbors, our congregation, other churches, and social welfare organizations all factored into our decision-making.

The first decision was to approve the Community Resource Center for Lincoln County, to be housed at St. Philip's. Working from office space at St. Philip's, Amistad Recovery Coaches will identify or access the best local resources for those impacted by substance use, to include those with long-term sobriety and family members of individuals who are working towards recovery. Individuals will be able to join support groups, engage in one-on-one coaching and participate in occasional planned events utilizing our Parish Hall. The center's purpose is to provide hope and wellness, not a place to "hang-out." Amistad staff will be available for 40hr/wk as mentors and guides. Exact days/times of operation are to be determined, but most work would occur during afternoon/evening hours.

The second decision by the Vestry was to go forward with Amistad's Single Room Occupancy (SRO) grant for Workforce Housing at St. Philip's. Amistad received an award from "Maine Housing" for the purpose of constructing 12 SRO units as workforce apartments. These units will function like regular apartments, with credit and background checks and standard one-year leases. They will be available for residents of Lincoln County. A 24hr/wk property manager will provide support to the tenants and to St. Philip's with leasing, site maintenance and links to community services. Vestry approval, of course, is just the first step prior to Town of Wiscasset requirements, including neighborhood impact and permitting.

The Vestry believes these outreach ministries further St. Philip's tradition of being 'a growing and welcoming congregation, committed to caring for our members and reaching out to the larger community offering God's love to everyone.'

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Attention: Rev. Tom Junkert, Priest-in-charge or Jon Young, Senior Warden

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