

PHILIP-EYE

MO-RANCH RETREAT—JUNE 1-4

Rev. Dr. John W. Wurster
Pastor, Head of Staff

Rev. Keatan King
Associate Pastor

Rev. Omar Rouchon
Associate Pastor

Dr. Randall Swanson
Director of Music

Dr. Matthew Dirst
Organist

Cecy Duarte
Children's Music Associate

Micah Meyers
Art Director

Wilbert Parada
Facilities Supervisor

Dimas Parada
Custodian

Denise Ferrell
Bookkeeper

Lorrie Castle
Office Manager
Newsletter Editor

Susan Estill
Editor Emerita



Since becoming members at St. Philip, one of our favorite yearly traditions is attending Mo-Ranch in June. We find it to be a great chance to connect and further learn about other families in the church. Whether it be workshops, worshipping, floating in the river or the Friday night party there is always a chance to connect or reconnect with someone in the St. Philip family.

Since the twins we've also invited Laura's parents to join us at Mo-Ranch.

They enjoyed meeting new people, learning the customs of St. Philip and enjoying extended time with their grandchildren. Annie and Everett still talk about their favorite memories of Mo-Ranch. Annie is a big fan of the playground and Everett enjoys the drum circles.

If you're thinking about attending Mo-Ranch and have never been, I invite you to take the leap! From the moment we arrive at camp we feel a deep connection with God, nature and our St. Philip family. I expect your family will feel similarly about our special place in the hill country.

Tim, Laura, Annie and Everett Burgess



Left to right: Dee Manley and Pat Lindsay reunite at the river. Dick Howard plays during the Sunday worship service on the hill. Susan Lange leads the drum circle.

Registration for the annual Mo-Ranch Retreat (June 1-4) is open, please click on the link below to register.

Join us for a long weekend of fellowship at Mo-Ranch in the beautiful Texas Hill Country, where we'll pray, play, and relax together as a church family. This year's event begins after supper on Thursday (option to purchase dinner onsite in advance) and continues through worship on Sunday morning.

You may pay in full at the time of registration or in three installments (February 24, March 31, April 28). Confirmations and bills will be sent out by email. (Please be sure that the email you provide is correct and is an address you check regularly.) All registrations must be complete and paid by February 24, 2023. (First payment, if paying in installments.) No refunds can be made after March 31. If you do not cancel your reservation by that date, you must pay for your room whether you go or not.

WE REGRET WE CANNOT HOLD SPACE FOR ANYONE WITHOUT A COMPLETED REGISTRATION.

PRICING:

Pricing for a room in Wynne, Flato, or Pheasant Run lodge depends on how many adults will share the room. Prices for adults include lodging and all meals from breakfast Friday through breakfast Sunday. Children and youth are billed only for their meals (but must be accompanied by at least one adult per room).

If you wish to have Thursday dinner at Mo-Ranch, you must select that separately. Cost: Adults and Youth \$17; Children (ages 4-11) \$12.

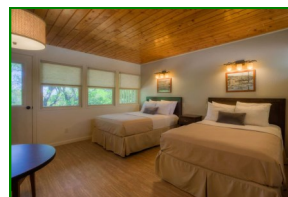
WYNNE LODGE/FLATO LODGE (each room has two queen beds)

Adult (single accommodation): \$528
 Adult (room shared by 2 adults): \$310 each
 Adult (room shared by 3 adults): \$238 each
 Adult (room shared by 4 adults): \$201 each
 Youth 12-18 in same room: \$93 per child
 Children 4-11: \$68 per child



PHEASANT RUN (most rooms have two beds)

Adult (single accommodation): \$498
 Adult (room shared by 2 adults): \$295 each
 Adult (room shared by 3 adults): \$228 each
 Adult (room shared by 4 adults): \$194 each
 Youth 12-18 in same room: \$93 per child
 Children 4-11: \$68 per child



PAYMENT:

At the end of the online registration process, you will be asked to *select payment amount*: Pay total amount; Pay minimum Payment; or Enter an Amount. Enter what you are able to pay at this time. The next option is to *select payment method*.

If you are setting up a payment plan, you will choose the option to Pay In Person/Mail.—Indicate Payments Plan in the memo box. You may then make payments in the office or sign in to MyStPhilip and make payments to the Mo-Ranch Fund on February 24, March 31, and April 28.

Click here to reserve your spot:

**MO-Ranch
Registration**

Never been and would like to know more, committee members will be in the Gathering Area Sunday before and after the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

Committee members planning an adventure for you at Mo-Ranch include: Melissa Aldrich, Deb Burks, Ada Fuller, Judith Hiott, John Lemen, Ruthie Waldrop, and Amye Webster.

Duerr Lecture Series

Save the dates for the 26th annual DUERR LECTURE SERIES, **February 26, 27, and 28, 2023**. Speaker for the series will be Dr. Rachel Baard, Assistant Professor of Theology and Ethics and Director of the Master of Arts in Public Theology Program at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA. Topic for the lectures is “Who is Jesus Christ for us Today?” Dr. Baard will preach for the morning worship service, 11:00 a.m., and present lectures each evening at 7:00 p.m. Lectures are available in person or by live-stream. Check the web page for more information: www.saintphilip.net.

February Communion Offering:

Kids Against Hunger

Our next communion offering will be for Kids Against Hunger. Kids Against Hunger is an organization familiar to many at St. Philip whose families have participated in the packaging of a highly nutritious, vitamin-fortified soy-rice casserole at the church with other volunteers from within the congregation and from the greater Houston community. KAH distributes those meals to starving children and their families in 70 countries through partnerships with humanitarian organizations worldwide. Although the pandemic halted packing sessions at the church, the Mission Committee is committed to revitalizing those sessions and St. Philip's relationship with this worthy organization. More information regarding Kids Against Hunger can be found at:

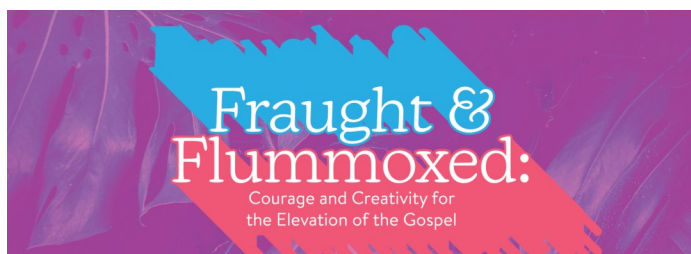
www.kidsagainsthunger.org.

This offering will be collected in worship on Sunday, **February 5th**.



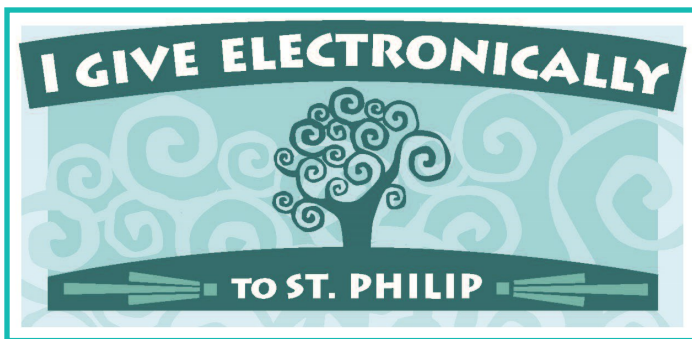
*Here are the February
birthdays from
St. Philip.*

First Name	Last Name	date
Caryn	Bahruth	1
Nancy	Schissler	1
Alex	Semler	1
Brandon	Steele	1
Allison	Hooker	2
Margaret	Seeliger	2
Steven	Lawson	4
John	Lindsay	4
Mark	Young	4
Beverly	Baker	5
Susan	Lange	5
Gay	Van Osdall	5
Gary	Willis	5
Victoria	Lewis	6
Ava	Arlinghaus	7
Susan	Leonard	8
Jon	Martin	9
George	White	10
Liz	Williams	10
Jamie	Benard	11
Oak	Kim	11
Karen	Winship	12
Marilyn	Crawford	15
Kristen	Mann	15
Molly	Vestal	15
Elizabeth	Hadaway	16
Martha	Red	16
Jonathan	Davis	18
Julia	Fox	18
Velma	Guy Tolbert	18
Grace	Nenna	18
David	Durham	19
Joseph	Webster	19
Wallace	Pepi	22
Winfield	Williams	22
Nancy	Castro	24
Mary Ann	Thomas	24
Shirley Ann	Frautschi	25
Laura	Perez-Boston	26
Miles	Frey	27
Renee	Wright	27
Suzanne	Kerr	28



This upcoming Montreat conference focusing on St. Philip's Matthew 25 emphasis on eradicating racism is scheduled for **January 30-February 2**. In a time when the gospel of Jesus is threatened by the ascendance of Christian nationalism and white supremacy, what is the apprehensive, overstretched church leader to do? How does a leader tend one's soul for the elevation of the gospel? How do followers of Jesus meet this moment with courage and imagination? Our Peacemaking/Social Justice Committee recognizes the timeliness of this conference. Registration information can be found at the Montreat Conference Center—

<https://montreat.org/events/fraught-flummoxed>.



While placing money in the offering plate on Sunday is a means of giving to the church that still works for many people, there are other ways that people give financially to St. Philip. Electronic payments processed through the church website and electronic payments directed by givers through their own banks represent a substantial portion of the church's receipts. Though faithful and significant, these electronic payments don't fit easily into the Sunday offering plate, but we'd like to change that! In response to parents' hopes that their children might be able to see their ongoing commitment to St. Philip and with the intent to better represent the totality of our giving as a congregation, we will soon have available in the pews giving cards that can be placed in the offering plate by our electronic givers.



YOUNG ADULTS BRUNCH

Happy New Year! Let's enjoy one another's company at Sunday brunch again following 11:00 a.m. worship!

Sunday, January 29 at 12:30 p.m.
Postino—1151 Uptown Park Blvd. Ste 12

Childcare will be provided in the nursery for children ages 4 and under.

Please RSVP at keatan@saintphilip.net, include children's name if you need childcare.

Grace and peace,
 Keatan King

SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP

Everyone is welcome to the continuing meetings of the social justice study group! Our next meeting is February 7, from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. Join your fellow St. Philippians for our continuing discussion of *Good White Racist?* (by Kerry Connelly). We gather by Zoom and will be covering chapters 8 and 9. (Outlines and action items follow below.) To receive information about the group, just email welcome@saintphilip.net with *PSJ* in the subject line.

Chapters 8, "Unequal justice (Or Liberty and justice for all white people and white people only)"

The police

The courts

The prison system

Learn: Is there a for-profit prison in your state? Is there a prison reform bill on the table? What does it say? Become an informed citizen. While you're at it, be sure to do an internet search for the list of companies that are using prison labor.

Think: Who benefits from mass incarceration, the prison-industrial complex, and the convict-leasing program?

Act: Write to the companies you discover use prison labor and express your desire for them to invest the savings they receive from that into post-prison reentry programs for the prisoners released from the facilities with which they have contracts.

Chapter 9, "The consumption of bodies (Or "Step away from the hair")

Because everything is ours

The doctrine of dominion

You're cool because of your Black friend

On friends and comrades

Learn: Research some of the historically Black neighborhoods in your area. Can you identify times in their history that they were consumed by whiteness?

Think: Have you ever used products, enjoyed entertainment, or embraced fashion choices that appropriate the cultures of BIPOC communities? Have you ever used a relationship with a member of the BIPOC community to justify yourself or to absolve yourself of racism?

Act: When interacting with a person of color, don't assume relationality. This could mean assuming that someone feels safe with you before knowing you, wants relationship with you just because that's what you want, or knows you're an ally before you've acted like one. Wait to be invited into relationship and understand that trust needs to be earned.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDY—All women of the church are invited to join any of the meetings of Presbyterian Women. If you are not a member of a circle, you are welcome to participate; to be directed to a group leader please email welcome@saintphilip.net. All circles meet in the Dining Room in the Administration Building.

Monday Morning Saints—Second Monday of each month @10 a.m.

Sunday Circle—Third Sunday of each month @ 12:30 p.m.

Thursday Evening Circle—First Thursday of each month @ 7 p.m.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

November 2022

Stated Session Meeting In-Person – November 15, 2022

- ✦ Session sustained the examinations of ruling elders-elect in the class of 2025, Dan Boston, Laura Burgess, Maggie Dement, William Howard, Mary McGuire, Gary Whitney, and Nancy Young; and determined that they be ordained and/or installed to the office on January 8, 2023 at the 11:00 a.m. worship service.
- ✦ Session approved roles, effective January 1, 2023, of check signers and contacts for Frost Bank and co-signers for Texas Presbyterian Foundation.
- ✦ The Central Mission Endowment Council reported it had an amazing year and gave money to 34 different groups totaling \$398,500.
- ✦ Session amended the charter of the Central Mission Endowment Council to expand the number of council members elected by the Session from five to seven.
- ✦ Session approved offering only one service at 11:00 A.M. on Sunday, December 4, 2022, when the Lessons and Carols would be presented.
- ✦ Session elected Melissa Aldrich, Angelina Fonseca, Diana Weiss, Susan Lange, and Judith Hiott to serve as ruling elder commissioners to the November 19, 2022 stated meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant at Pines Presbyterian Church, Houston.
- ✦ Session elected John Lemen to serve as Clerk of Session in 2023.

Committee and Council Actions:

- ✦ Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee revised and approved changes to the Negro Spiritual Royalities Project plan. The changes set the times for the two major offerings to the Sundays closest to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday in January and the Juneteenth holiday in June. The bulletin insert information was also revised for clarity.

December 2022

Stated Session Meeting via Zoom – December 20, 2022

- ✦ Session approved the transfer of membership of Mary Ann Thomas to The Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church.
- ✦ The Session expressed its appreciation to Ada Fuller for her faithful service as St. Philip Treasurer during the past seven years.
- ✦ Session approved the use of the PC(USA)'s *Road to Emmaus* We Believe Workshop rotation curriculum for the 2023 Lent VBS at St Philip on Saturday, **February 25, 2023**.
- ✦ Session approved the January 2023 Communion Offering be collected for Yucatan mission partners Benefactora Mision Clinica Bethesda A.C. and Centro Educativo Moises Saenz.
- ✦ Session approved the following 2023 dates for the Celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper:
 - The first Sunday of every month in 2023
 - Maundy Thursday, April 6, 2023
 - Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023
 - Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, 2023
- ✦ Session approved the 2023 Session Committee Assignments.
- ✦ Session heard reports from the St. Philip ruling elder commissioners to the November 19, 2022 stated meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant which was held at Pines Presbyterian Church in Houston.
- ✦ Members of the Class of 2022 shared their reflections of their terms serving on the Session the past three years.

Committee and Council Actions:

- ✦ Property Committee approved moving additional expenditures from the Property Committee Budget to the Reserve for Replacement bringing the total expenditures moved to Reserve for Replacement during 2022 to \$191,997.57.

John Lemen

Clerk of Session

2023 CHURCH OFFICERS

THE SESSION

Class of 2023

Gary Gardner
Susan Lange
Liz Miguez
Jeromy Murphy
Diana Weiss
Butch Wilson
Jennifer Wilson

Class of 2024

Melissa Aldrich
Beth Atkinson
Walker Fair
Angelina Fonseca
Nancy Higgs
Susan Leonard
Jon Martin

Class of 2025

Dan Boston
Laura Burgess
Maggie Dement
William Howard
Mary Thornton McGuire
Gary Whitney
Nancy Beck Young

Clerk of Session: John Lemen

Treasurer : Rhonda Sands

THE DIACONATE

Beth Atkinson
Jane Cooper
Governor Frazier

David Fox
Joyce Fox
Ann Frautschi

Sue Shirley Howard
Mary Thornton McGuire
Gary Whitney

THE TRUSTEES

Bob Ardell

David Castle

COMMITTEES of ST. PHILIP

EDUCATION

Melissa Aldrich, Chair
Beth Atkinson

FELLOWSHIP

Liz Miguez, Chair
Laura Burgess

FINANCE

Beth Atkinson, Chair
Dan Boston
Jon Martin
Butch Wilson

MISSION

Jennifer Wilson, Chair
Angelina Fonseca
Mary McGuire

PEACEMAKING & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Jon Martin, Chair
Nancy Beck Young

PERSONNEL

Butch Wilson, Chair
Susan Lange
William Howard

PROPERTY

Nancy Higgs, Chair
Jeromy Murphy
Dan Boston

STEWARDSHIP

Susan Leonard, Chair
William Howard

WELCOME & MEMBERSHIP

Diana Weiss, Chair
Walker Fair
Susan Leonard

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Gary Gardner, Chair
Maggie Dement
Gary Whitney

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING

NURSERY CARE IS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT SUNDAY MORNINGS

8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Infants to age 4 are invited to our Nursery which is staffed by professional childcare providers. Please find our Nursery in Room 106 of the Education Building along the Sunday School Classroom hallway on the first floor. An usher or a greeter will be happy to direct you there.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

GODLY PLAY (Age 3-Kindergarten) – Room 104—Our preschool class uses a curriculum called “Godly Play,” developed by Jerome Berryman in Houston, and utilized in reformed churches all over the world. Godly Play encourages children to use the language of Christians and multiple senses to express what they innately know about God.

ELEMENTARY (Grades 1-5) — Room 105

YOUTH (Grades 6-12) — Room 205

Both the Elementary and Youth classes use the PCUSA’s new *Follow Me* curriculum. These lessons are based on 36 practices that Jesus engaged in and taught his followers about. Learners will locate these practices in scripture, while engaging in conversation about the practices in their daily lives. With a wide variety of developmentally-aligned activities, conversation starters, and questions to ponder outside of class, this curriculum calls us all to follow Jesus and live out his example every day.

NEW BIBLE CLASS—What are the best parts of the Bible? The best story? The best character? The best surprise? The best scoundrel? John Wurster leads this highly subjective exploration of biblical treasures. The class meets Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. in Room 202 in the Education Building and continues through February. The same topics will be considered during the midweek Zoom bible study. Everyone is welcome: Bible novices and veterans and all those in between.

SPa (St. Philip Adults) – Room 200—This year, SPa returns to its same place and time. We use the adult resources from the new *Follow Me* curriculum to guide our informal weekly discussion about biblical practices such as hospitality, forgiveness and honoring sabbath. All adults of any age are welcomed to participate - grab some coffee and join us. There is no need to prepare or purchase materials for class, so come as you are able!

CHURCH & SOCIETY – Room 201—Church and Society regularly features speakers and presentations on a variety of contemporary and historical matters of faith and practice. This class meets from 9:40 a.m.-10:45 a.m. with presentations in person and some by Zoom, projected in the classroom. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes: churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net.

January 22 - In observance of National Holocaust Remembrance Day - “The Boy on the Left” - Mark Schmidek tells the story of his dad, Norbert Schmidek. Through Norbert Schmidek’s letters and papers we learn how he was able to survive Hitler’s plan to rid Europe of all Jewish people. “...I shuddered when I realized that it takes the sacrifice of a multitude of good people to alleviate the suffering caused by a virulent few. And I looked to the day when all could benefit from the benevolence in the world and experience my feelings of heartfelt humility and thankfulness.” Norbert Schmidek - **January 29** - “The Sugar Land 95 - The Convict Leasing and Labor Project” - How the Convict Leasing System replaced slave labor after Emancipation and led to modern mass incarceration in today’s prison system. Presented by Jay Jenkins, J.D. - Harris County Project Attorney at the Texas Center for Justice and Equity and Co-founder and President of the Convict Leasing and Labor Project.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY – Room 204—We have resumed our study of the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah in 1-2 Kings with the story of Elijah’s confrontation with Ahab and Jezebel in Dr. Robert Alter’s *Ancient Israel, The Former Prophets* (2013). Join us from 9:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. to deepen our understanding of God’s faithfulness to God’s people from Dr. Alter’s translation and commentary on the Biblical Hebrew. All are welcome.

MIDWEEK WORSHIP

We will resume midweek live-stream services on Ash Wednesday, **February 22**.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY—Wednesday Bible study with John Wurster **meets weekly**. The morning class, meets at 9:30 a.m., and is a hybrid format with an in-person option in the Office Conference Room and also a Zoom option. To get on the list for the Zoom links, send a note to john@saintphilip.net. Bible novices, Bible experts, and everyone in between is welcome!

WOMEN’S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is **February 9** we will discuss *Girls and Sex: Navigating the Complicated New Landscape* by Peggy Orenstein. Watch your email for details of the next meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nina Lambright at:

nnl@lambrightlaw.com.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN’S WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

Men of all ages are welcome to participate in this self-led group. The Men’s Weekly Fellowship meets each Friday **in person in the office conference room and via Zoom at 11:45 a.m.** If you would like to join them, please contact Gary Gardner at: ggardne148@aol.com.

IN OUR PRAYERS

David Dees and family upon the death of his sister, Fredonia Dees Witherspoon, on January 7, 2023.

St. Philippians and their families—Dan Cleveland; CJ Miller; Bill Lee; Beverly Hudson; Susan Huffman; Mary Sinderson; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Carolyn Vestal; Lane Fletcher; Austin Lippincott; Richard Johnson; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Arlette Keene; CJ Miller; Mezgebe Gebray; John Palisin – brother of Peg Palisin; John Murphy, Sr. – cousin of Gary Gardner; Martine Marte Wood – daughter-in-law of Ruena Wood; Tom & Carolyn Harmon – cousin of Elizabeth Duerr; Carla Burns – cousin of Sharon Webb; Betsy Johnson – mother of Pat Lindsay; Robert Kirtley – father of Amanda Kirtley; Jann Everhart – sister-in-law of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Warren Cash – brother of Kay Cash; Ann Perenyi – mother of Lad Perenyi; Donna Harris—sister of Joyce Fugit; Alma Fonseca – mother of Angelina Fonseca; Darryl Cazes—brother of Pam Taylor; Ann Perkins Cloud—cousin of Stephen Paine; Carol Paine Kendrick—sister of Stephen Paine; John Anderson—brother of Tom Anderson; Mac Wilson—father of Butch Wilson; Shirley Boggus—grandmother of Omi Ford; Alan Rowe—father of William Rowe; and Elizabeth Carlton Lithio—granddaughter of Jeanie Flowers.

Homebound—Elizabeth Arp; John Bobbitt; George Helland; Ellen MacDonald; Jean Nelson; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; Sondra Sullivan; Marion Takehara; and Jody Tomforde.

Friends of St. Philippians— Brad McWilliams; Carol Gilliland - friend of Orlean Anderson; Betsy Shear Lewis – friend of Laney Miller; Shirley Stubblefield—friend of Barbara Runge; Clayton Amacker—friend of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner.

If you have a pastoral care need or a prayer request you would like to share, please email deacons@saintphilip.net.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Pledge payments, communion gifts and other gifts to support the Church can be made anytime through our website (<http://saintphilip.net/>), text “SPPC” to 73256 and follow the prompts, or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056.

ATTENTION STOCK DONORS!

St. Philip’s broker services are with Frost Bank. We ask you to call:

Yvette Webb at Frost Bank – 713-388-1231 for transaction information. Our account number is #037-293183.

Please let the bookkeeper know you are making a stock donation. You may email bookkeeper@saintphilip.net

If you have any questions, you may always contact Rhonda Sands, treasurer at Rsands2701@aol.com or by phone at 713-315-0096 (cell).

Next edition: February 1; Deadline January 27—3:00 p.m.

Stay connected with regular emails from the pastors until then.

If you have any comments or suggestions for the Philip-Eye, please send them to: philipeye@saintphilip.net or call 713-622-4807 and ask for Lorrie.



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS



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