



January 3, 2023
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PHILIP-EYE

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Associate Pastor

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Cecy Duarte
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Facilities Supervisor

Dimas Parada
Custodian

Denise Ferrell
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Lorrie Castle
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Newsletter Editor

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Editor Emerita

SECOND SUNDAYS

The Sacrament of Baptism—You are invited to join our church family for a time of intergenerational learning and fellowship at Second Sundays. On **January 8**, we will gather to explore baptism with activities and treats for all ages. Come join us at **9:45 a.m.** in the Gathering Area - all are welcome!

SESSION CHANGES

We extend our gratitude to those elders in the Session class of 2022 who have now completed their terms: Betsy Boston, Kip Frautschi, Judy Hartman, Judith Hiott, Dick Nunn, Ruthie Waldrop, and Curt Webb.

On **January 8**, we will ordain and install new elders in the Session class of 2025: Dan Boston, Laura Burgess, Maggie Dement, Will Howard, Mary McGuire, Gary Whitney, and Nancy Young.

Rhonda Sands will serve as our treasurer in 2023. Thank you to Ada Fuller who served in this position for many years.

MIDWEEK WORSHIP

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

MO-RANCH

Registration for the annual Mo-Ranch Retreat will start soon. Mark your calendars for June 1-4. Information available in the next Philip-Eye.

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.

*Duerr
Lecture
Series*

SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP

Get the New Year off to a good start and join the discussion on Zoom **January 3** with St. Philip's Tuesday social justice group! We continue our study of *Good White Racist?* by Kerry Connelly. We will be discussing chapters 6 and 7. (Outlines and action items are below.) We meet each first Tuesday, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Come even if you haven't done the reading; the discussion is always timely and thought-provoking. To join us, just email wel-come@saintphilip.net with *PSJ* in the subject line to receive information about the meeting.

Chapter 6, Justifying ourselves (or "But Black people owned slaves!")

- "The Irish were slaves too!"
- "Oprah's rich and Obama was president, so everything's fine"
- "But Black-on-Black crime!"
- "Talking about race is racist"
- "I don't see race—I'm color-blind"
- "But you're not like the rest of them"
- "But reverse racism!"

Learn: Do a deeper dive into one of the constructs discussed here so that you can discuss it in detail the next time someone uses it as a justification for racism.

Think: Which of these racist constructs have you embodied at one point or another? Can you think of others not mentioned here?

Act: The next time you hear one of these justifications being used in conversation, open your mouth, and use what you've learned. Perhaps you might even practice your response ahead of time.

Chapter 7, White People's Posse (or You just *think* you need to call the police)

- The racial contract
- Ugly beauty + the savage beast: The savage construct
- White ownership of space

Learn: Learn about the many "while Black" stories to get a true understanding of the magnitude of the problem.

Think: How would you feel if you were policed the way the BIPoC (Black Indigenous People of Color) community is policed in public spaces? Does it feel strange or dangerous to you to think about it? Do you have different standards for people of color than you do for white people in public spaces?

Act: Prepare an action plan for if you ever find yourself in a place where a person of color is being policed "while Black." How will you show up as an ally? Thinking about this ahead of time will make it more likely that you will act in the moment.



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>.

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.

PLEDGE CARDS

2023 pledge cards can be put in the offering plate or mailed to the Church Office. Or you can make your pledge in MyStPhilip.

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).

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.

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_sphilip@comcast.net.

January 8 - “The State of St. Philip Presbyterian Church - Looking Back at 2022, Looking Forward to 2023” presented by Rev. Dr. John Wurster. **January 15** - “The State of the Presbyterian Church USA - The State of Presbytery of New Covenant” Come learn about the General Assembly Actions from the 225th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA July 2022 meeting. Presented by Rev. Lynn Hargrove - General Presbyter + Stated Clerk for Administrative Process - “As we seek to live into our new

mission and vision statements, we will be looking at who we are and what we do as a presbytery. We are here to offer support to our pastors and congregations as we navigate a society that seems to be in rapid change.”

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.

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. The afternoon class, meets at 3:30 p.m., is Zoom only. 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 Jan. 12 we will discuss *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah. 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.** Please contact Gary Gardner at ggardne148@aol.com if you would like to join them.

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 @ 10:00 a.m.

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

Thursday Evening Circle—First Thursday of each month @ 7:00 p.m.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Janet Davis and family upon the death of her husband, Don, who died December 19. A memorial service is scheduled for January 14 at 11:00 a.m.

St. Philipians and their families—Kitty Curry; Bill Lee; Barbara Runge; Beverly Hudson; Susan Huffman; Mary Sinderson; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Carolyn Vestal; Lane Fletcher; Renee Wright; Austin Lippincott; Richard Johnson; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Shirley Coffman; Arlette Keene; CJ Miller; Mezgebe Gebray; Tom and Carolyn Harmon – cousins 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. Philipians—Jerry Boldra – friend of Bonnie Moore; 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.

Next edition: January 17; Deadline January 12—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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