



January 5, 2021
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PHILIP-EYE

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Pastor, Head of Staff

Rev. Keatan King
Associate Pastor

Rev. Omar Rouchon
Associate Pastor

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Pastoral Resident

Dr. Randall Swanson
Director of Music

Dr. Matthew Dirst
Organist

Cecy Duarte
Children's Music Associate

Micah Meyers
Art Director

Denise Ferrell
Bookkeeper

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Facilities Supervisor

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Custodian

Lorrie Castle
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Newsletter Editor

Susan Estill
Editor Emerita



ST. PHILIP NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERINGS COMING SOON!

With the onset of beautiful weather, the Fellowship Committee is organizing a new initiative designed to aid the St. Philip Presbyterian Church community in gathering in small groups in a safe way. We seek volunteer facilitators to coordinate small groups to meet outdoors on a monthly (or more frequent) basis in locations where you can distance yourselves, yet come together. Training for facilitators of our Neighborhood Gatherings will be provided by Pastoral Resident Rev. Kallie Pitcock and continued support offered by the Fellowship Committee. We ask facilitators to serve in this role through May 2021. Please contact the Fellowship Committee if you have interest in serving as a facilitator. [kallie@saintphilip.net or (713) 622-4807 ext. 103.]

This is an invitation to gather in geographically centered groups. As Christians one of our greatest gifts is the power to convene. To gather and to bear one another's burdens, to walk alongside one another. Praying for each other, being priests for one another, sharing in our many various gifts. Experiencing the belonging offered to us in Christ emerges in the act of sharing our daily lives with one another.

FAITH OF A CHILD A NEW OFFERING COMING IN 2021

Join with fellow St. Philippians in a season of discipleship: Kallie Pitcock will facilitate a twice weekly zoom group Sunday and Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. for 6 weeks beginning January 17. You can attend the Sunday or the Wednesday session as your schedule permits. Email Kallie to receive more information and updates:



kallie@saintphilip.net. The theme of the series is FAITH OF A CHILD: *approaching God with wonder, curiosity, and imagination*. Each week will be built around a question submitted by participants or gathered by Kallie. Let us draw together and closer to God asking: how, why, who, when, so what?!

JANUARY COMMUNION OFFERING

Our first communion offering for 2021 supports Presbyterian Mo Ranch Assembly in Hunt, TX. A conference center and camp on the Guadalupe River in the Hill Country, for over 65 years Mo Ranch has fostered Christian faith and spiritual growth by sharing its unique living and learning environment. Mo is known and loved by many St. Philippians as the location of our annual church retreat. Like other camps, Mo has been hard hit by the pandemic, which forced cancelations or significant restrictions of programs this year. But Mo has continued to engage in its mission, and we look forward to returning to Mo when it is safe to do so. You can find out more about Mo Ranch at www.moranch.org

You can give securely to the January 2021 Communion Offering through the [MyStPhilip](#) link, or send a check to the church office, with "January Communion Offering" in the memo line.

Good Morning and Merry Christmas,

On behalf of the entire crew aboard the motor vessel Ocean Freedom, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your congregation for all of the lovely gift boxes presented to the Houston International Seafarers' Center. We were fortunate enough to receive your gifts prior to our departure from Houston on 16 Dec. Your generosity has brought many smiles, much cheer, and some tears to everyone aboard. Your thoughtfulness makes it that much easier for us to be away from our friends and family during this holiday season.

*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!*

*Best Regards,
Bill Swiss, Captain
MV Ocean Freedom,
WDF9323*



ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET— THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY, ST. PHILIP!

When the Mission Committee contemplated how—or even whether—to have an Alternative Market in this complicated year, we knew an in-person market with goods and items was not a possibility. But we also knew our mission partners had special needs this year. The Virtual Alternative Market was the solution to these Covid-created problems. Thanks to the generosity of the St. Philip congregation, ten of our valued mission partners—serving children, families, and neighbors here in Houston and farther afield—will benefit from a total of \$5,630. The Mission Committee appreciates all who made donations through the Alternative Market this year, as you helped spread God's love. We also thank Lorrie Castle, Denise Ferrell, and Rev. Keatan King for working creatively to make it all come to fruition.

WORSHIP IN PERSON

The Going Forward task force will continue to review on a weekly basis the coronavirus data and the recommendations of local health leaders, filtering that information through our particular context at St. Philip.

DAILY PRAYER SERVICE

We invite a limited number of people to attend in-person our 11:00 a.m. daily prayer service (Monday-Saturday). Currently, we have a limit of five persons per day. Please enter the Sanctuary through the large wooden front doors by 10:50 a.m. You may bring your own face-mask or one will be provided. You may sit anywhere in the sanctuary, appropriately distanced from others. The service will conclude by 11:15.

Other information about the voyage of our gifts:

- Jane Cooper, Sue and Dick Howard delivered the gifts to the Seafarers Center on December 5 and they were received by chaplain David Wells.
- The boxes were delivered to the ship by Roman Catholic deacon, Daniel.
- Ocean Freedom is an American flagged (rare) general cargo carrier. The ship is currently in the mid-Atlantic Ocean en route to Egypt - expected arrival January 5.
- Last year, Ocean Freedom delivered two vintage U.S. Coast Guard cutters to Ukraine.



WHO'S ZOOMING WHOM?

A few of the groups at St. Philip continue to meet during this time via Zoom and other video conference services—the session has had meetings, book club, church committees and Church and Society. We even have Sunday Coffee Hour. If you would like to participate in future meetings, please contact the appropriate group's leader.

SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR—Gather with fellow St. Philipians to talk about the sermons, hear about their week and what helped them get through the week. The Coffee Hour begins after the closing voluntary. We will not host coffee hour **December 20** due to the congregational meeting. Email Lorrie Castle at lorrie@saintphilip.net to be added to the list.

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. Our next meeting is **January 14** at 7 p.m. and will be discussing *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides led by Karen Winship. Contact Sarah O'Dell for Zoom link – sarah.odell6@gmail.com.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY WITH JOHN WURSTER—A look at the Bible readings for the coming Sunday meets on Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. or 3:30 p.m. You can attend the 9:30 or the 3:30 session as your schedule permits. Email John for details and to get on the list - john@saintphilip.net

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 **via Zoom** at noon. Please contact Gary Gardner at ggardne148@aol.com if you would like to join or know the current material they are discussing.

CHURCH & SOCIETY - St. Philip Church & Society class meets **9:30 a.m. - January 10** - *From Lament for All the Things We Didn't Know, to Hope*—Anne Wilson reflects on her serving as a first-time commissioner to the first General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA to be held entirely virtually. Rev. Lynn Hargrove, General Presbyter + Stated Clerk for Adm. Process for Presbytery of New Covenant, reflects on the detours, the challenges, and burdens of 2020 and cautiously and with much humility offers some thoughts about what could be ahead for Presbytery in 2021. **January 17** - *Update on the Institute for Civility in Government* - Rev. Cassandra Dahnke - *Whispers of Hope: The Story of My Life* - Dr. Bertie Simmons. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes—mmcgm63@gmail.com.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLE MEETINGS

All women of the church are invited to join any of the meetings of Presbyterian Women. The meetings are virtual, and a Zoom link is sent to all P.W. members of each circle. If you are not a member of a circle, you are welcome to participate, so please email Lorrie to request the link: welcome@saintphilip.net.

Monday Morning Saints

Second Monday of each month—10:00 a.m.

Sunday Circle

3rd Sunday of each month—12:30 p.m.

Thursday Evening Circle

1st Thursday of each month—7:00 p.m.



The 24th annual Duerr Lecture Series will be presented a little differently in 2021 because of... you know what! The Advisory Board made the decision a few months back to postpone the speaker that was scheduled for 2021 and bring

him in 2022. In order to be able to continue bringing fine scholars and preachers each year for the annual spiritual and intellectual stimulation that many have looked forward to, we will present a former speaker in a live webinar with Q&A on Sunday evening, **February 21**, at 7:00 p.m. His pre-recorded sermon will be inserted into the regular live-stream of the 11:00 service on that Sunday morning leading up to his live presentation that evening. The wonders of modern technology!

We are grateful to Dr. Samuel L. Adams, the Mary Jane and John F. McNair Chair in Biblical Studies at Union Presbyterian Seminary, for accepting our invitation to present the webinar lecture. Dr. Adams was the lecture series speaker in 2010 and has always spoken so highly of his experience at St. Philip and his respect for our congregation. The title of his lecture is "Effective Speech in the Bible and in Our Age of Polarization." The lecture will examine the complex witness of Scripture on public discourse and how it might apply to us today. All sections of the biblical canon will be considered.

Stay tuned for upcoming information on how to register for the free webinar.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Joyce Fugit and family upon the death of her husband Lonnie on December 20. Memorial service to be January 9, 2 p.m. via streaming at saintphilip.net.

Carolyn Vestal, Wesley Vestal and family upon the death of daughter/ sister Sarah Elizabeth Vestal on December 1 in Oklahoma.

St. Philipians and their families—Michael Alexander; Kay Cash; Jan Meyer; Connie Mayfield and son Robert Mayfield; Pat Lindsay; Mary Margaret Hansen; Doris Cantrell; Mary Benson; Ellen MacDonald; Arlette Keene; CJ Miller; Jan Ostendorf; Laney Miller; Susan Huffman; Vicki McKay; Mary Sinderson; Marion Takehara; Emily Estill; Travis Calhoun; Mezgebe Gebray; Kenneth Allan Henick—father of Anne Marie Benard; Douglas Everhart—brother of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Carol Paine Kendrick—sister of Stephen Paine; Betty Grant—sister of Eleanor Grant; John Anderson—brother of Tom Anderson; Janet Fisher—sister-in-law of Dan Cleveland; Bessie Johnson—mother of Pat Lindsay; Mac & Beverly Wilson—parents of Butch Wilson; Vera Moore—mother of Chuck Johnson; Kelsey Higgs Gallegos & family—daughter of Nancy Higgs; Dottie Laas and family—cousin of Sam Fisher; Alice Barron—sister-in-law to Beth Atkinson; Nikolaus Malczewskyj—father-in-law of Jane Malczewskyj; John Beck—brother of Nancy Young; Margie Foster—mother of Mark Young; Miriam Kalmbach—aunt of Nancy Higgs; Shirley Boggus—grandmother of Omi Ford; Jimmy Reagan—father of Sarah O'Dell; Dona Rowe—mother of William Rowe; Elizabeth Carlton Lithio—granddaughter of Jeanie Flowers; and Ann Morgan—sister of Dorothy Blackwell.

Homebound—Sue Baier; Walter Baker; Joe Anne Berwick; John Bobbitt; Paulie Carlson; Kitty Curry; George Helland; Alice Pennington; Joyce Randolph; Van Rathgeber; Jean Nelson; Jody Tomforde; and Penny Vieau.

Friends of St. Philipians—Shirley Stubblefield—friend of Barbara Runge; Vickie Dunlevy—friend of Nancy Higgs; Paul Ratliff—friend of Jo Helland; Ruth Duncan and Melerie Langford—friends of Curt and Sharon Webb; Cecil Trent—friend of Jane Cooper; Craig Slein—friend of Denise Ferrell and Steve Carmichael; Melinda Penny—friend of Denise Ferrell; David Shebay—friend of Greg Han; Clayton Amacker—friends of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; and Walter "Buddy" Hamman III friend of Robin and Gary Willis.

We also pray for health care workers, first responders, and caregivers; for those who are sick; and for those watch and wait.

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

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

Next edition: January 19; Deadline January 14—12:00 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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