



January 7, 2020
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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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Lorrie Castle
Office Manager
Newsletter Editor

Susan Estill
Editor Emerita

NEW MEMBERS



St. Philip session welcomed three new members in December 2019.



Say hello to **Tom Sands**, who learned about St. Philip through his daughter, Rhonda Sands, a member of the congregation. Tom was born in Coffeyville, Kansas, but has been a long-time Texan. He is retired and enjoys playing golf. Tom has been active in the Presbyterian Church as both an elder and a deacon.

Elizabeth Hadaway also joined St. Philip in December. She found St. Philip through our website, but also has a connection to Rev. Keatan King—they were Girl Scouts together in Austin! Elizabeth grew up in Austin, but was most recently living in Pasadena, CA, where she was a member of Knox Presbyterian Church. She is an attorney in Houston, and in her spare time enjoys studying languages and weightlifting. She appreciates the friendly congregation at St. Philip and hopes to get involved in a variety of activities, including mission.

Please also say hello to **Alejandra Salinas**. Alejandra was born in Laredo and is now an attorney practicing in Houston. She says the friendly congregation at St. Philip was important in helping her decide to join St. Philip, and she hopes to become active with peacemaking and social justice activities in the congregation.

Welcome to Tom, Elizabeth, and Alejandra!

JANUARY COMMUNION

OFFERING



The January 2020 Communion offering will be donated to the Houston International Seafarers Ministry. This ministry will be in its 51st year of service to seafarers visiting the Port of

Houston aboard merchant ships from countries all over the world. The seafarer ministry is a long-time mission partner with St. Philip Presbyterian and is in a covenant relationship with Presbytery of New Covenant.

Your donations are used solely to support two Presbyterian chaplains who serve alongside chaplains of other faiths and work out of Seafarer Centers in the Port of Houston and Laporte, TX. Our chaplains provide pastoral care and social services to seafarers and work closely with officials of the Port of Houston, Coast Guard, Homeland Security, ship's agents, and others to resolve issues impacting visiting seafarers.

Our Presbyterian chaplains and their colleagues attempt to visit every ship calling on nearly 90 miles of the Houston ship channel shoreline. Many seafarers do not have U.S. visas and cannot disembark their ships, so the chaplains come to them aboard their vessels bringing magazines, bibles, Wi-Fi connectivity, the coveted Christmas gift boxes, and a caring spirit. The life of seafarers is hard and lonely. These sailors are often away from home, friends, and family for over nine months a year. The care and help offered by the chaplain is cherished by many visiting seafarers and helps make Houston a desired port of call.

Your generous donations will be greatly appreciated.

VALENTINE DELIGHTS

Child labor and desperate poverty among farmers in the cocoa industry is still in the news as we approach one of the largest days for chocolate sales. In 2003 the Harkin-Engel



Protocol, a voluntary public-private agreement to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in the growth and processing of cocoa in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, was created. The deal committed the chocolate companies to eradicate child labor from their supply chains and to develop and implement "standards of public certification," which would indicate that cocoa products had been produced "without any of the worst forms of child labor." In the last major survey to measure progress against the Harkin-Engel goals, a 2015 report for the U.S. Labor Department found that, based on interviews with about 12,000 people, the number of child laborers reported to have worked in West Africa the previous year had increased to 2.1 million from 1.8 million in the previous survey, completed in 2009.

We do have a choice to buy chocolate produced free of child labor. The cacao used to manufacture Equal Exchange goods is sourced from democratic co-ops and benefits small-scale farmers in Latin America. Show your support for these farmers, their sustainable farming methods and fair workers policies by visiting our Equal Exchange table on **January 19** for all your Valentine candy needs. We are having our sale a little early this year, to avoid conflict with a certain grand baby's arrival. We will also have the usual coffee, tea, almonds and olive oil and the newer cashews and dried mango on offer in the Gathering Area before and after the 11:00 worship service.

PW RETREAT 2020



The annual Presbyterian Women's retreat will be held **Jan. 24 – 26** at the Journey Conference and Retreat Center in Pearland. Keatan will be leading the discussion of "Girlfriend Theology". Registration can be made on the St. Philip website. Cost is \$200.00 for the entire weekend with 5 meals; \$160.00 for one night (either Friday or Saturday) including 4 meals; or Saturday day only with 3 meals for \$30. Scholarships are available. Please contact Jan Meyer at jsmeyer9990@gmail.com or 832-526-5889 if you have any questions. All women are welcome!

As Presbyterian Women begins a new calendar year, we want to thank all Saint Philip women and friends for support during the fall. Special thanks go to those who contributed to the PW Thank offering of \$ 577.00 at the Christmas luncheon and the 2019 Least Coin offering of \$203.36; the PW Coordinating Committee, Cindy Mood, Chuck Johnson, and all who volunteered to make the Christmas Luncheon a success; Nan Schissler and all who contributed to memorial and other receptions; all who have attended and led circles and events; Keatan King, Mary Ann Thomas, Lorrie Castle, and all who have provided prayers, advice and support.

JINGLE BELL EXPRESS SUCCESS!



Many thanks to all in the congregation for a very successful Jingle Bell Express toy drive.

We served over 2800 children with toys and food for Christmas. The congregation's donations and volunteer efforts really helped, and the Alternative Market support was fantastic with almost \$1000 purchased/ donated towards Jingle Bell Express. The care and joy of the parents as they chose the right gift for their children was heartwarming. I was so proud to represent St. Philip at this event. Thank you to all for making the JBE holidays a little brighter! For more details follow this link to [CCSC Program Summary](#).

By Janet Hess

Pictured to right: Cathy Patterson and Ruthie Waldrop at toy table.



DUERR LECTURE SERIES

The speaker for the 23rd annual Duerr Lecture Series, **February 23, 24, and 25**, is Rev. Deborah L. Forger, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Scholar, Jewish Studies, Dartmouth College. Dr. Forger holds degrees from Calvin College, Duke University, and University of Michigan, and is an ordained Presbyterian Minister. Most of her academic work and research has focused on the Gospel of John and Second Temple Period Jewish literature. After the Tree-of-Life synagogue massacre last fall, however, she felt compelled to start writing more on the topic of the Bible and antisemitism. Title of the lectures is **“Christian Biblical Interpretation and Christian Antisemitism: Exploring an Unfortunate Link.”** Dr. Forger will preach at the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. worship services and present lectures each evening at 7:00 p.m. Lectures are free and open to everyone.

*Duerr
Lecture
Series*

MISSION AND VISION

As 2020 dawns, you will begin seeing our newly formulated mission and vision statements. Developed by our strategic planning task force and approved by the Session, these statements attempt to convey our identity and intents as the community of St. Philip.

Our Mission:

As followers of Jesus Christ, we seek to be an inclusive, grace-filled community engaging the world with open minds, willing hands, and generous hearts.

Our Vision:

We long for deeper faith, vibrant hope, and boundless love for everyone, every day, everywhere.

WEEKDAY CLASSES

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

New for 2020, John Wurster will lead a Bible study series focused on ten biblical characters, who come from all corners of Scripture. Some are famous, some are infamous, some are hardly known, and most all are misunderstood. The *10 for 20* study will meet Wednesday mornings at 10:30 in the Dining Room AND Sunday mornings at 9:45 in Room 202. The material in Wednesday class will be repeated on Sunday. You are welcome to come either Wednesday or Sunday, as your schedule allows. The *10 for 20* begins with Eve on **January 8 AND January 12.**

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK GROUP

A monthly interest group for women who like to read books, socialize, and have a night out meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Our next meeting is **January 9** at the home of Janet Hess. We will be discussing *The Husband Hunter: American Heiress*

by Anne DeCourcy. This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. For more information contact Sarah O'Dell at: sarah.odell6@gmail.com.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

Men of all ages are welcome to participate in this self-led group. We have begun using the book, *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes* by Cynthia M. Campbell. The Men's Weekly Fellowship meets each Friday in the Conference Room at noon. Men who wish to participate should bring a bag lunch; refreshments will be provided. The group wraps up promptly at 1:00 p.m. Please contact Gary Gardner at ggardne148@aol.com if you have any questions and would like to join them. The group will meet this week on **January 10.**

MONDAY EVENING STUDY GROUP

We resume our meetings **January 13**, our next regular meeting date (the second Monday), at 5:30 p.m., when

we continue our discussion of Marcus Borg's book *The Heart of Christianity*, with chapter 7 in Part 2, "Seeing the Christian life again." The topic is "The Kingdom of God: The heart of justice." We meet for fellowship, refreshments, and a brief devotional each second and fourth Monday, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., in the Dining Room (in the Administration Building, at the south end of campus).

PUB CLUB

Pub Club is a group for men in the church who like to enjoy fellowship, stories and spirited discussion once a month at a local pub. Pub Club meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Due to the holidays, watch the announcements and newsletter for the next update. Men interested in attending may eat beforehand or order food from the pub. For more information or questions, please contact Tim Burgess at TimRB1987@gmail.com.



*To my beloved St. Philip Family,
You have enfolded me in your comforting arms with love, support and caring since Lance's diagnosis, treatment, hospice and death...three short months from July-Oct and now beyond.
You are bringing me peace as my heart heals. You are God's angels.
Thank you, Hope (Wilmarth)*

IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families—Rita Hannah; Lonnie Fugit; Marion Takehara; Mezgebe Gebray; John Bobbitt; Virginia Lemen; Arlette Keene; Betty Golemon; Harry Todd—father of Alison Newport; Barbara Wilson—sister-in-law of Connie Mayfield; Barb Carlin—mother of Nate Carlin; Jack Kindig—brother of Ginny Camfield; Shirley and Weldon Boggus, Sr.—grandparents of Omi Ford; Jimmy Reagan—father of Sarah O'Dell; Dona Rowe—mother of William Rowe; Elizabeth Carlton Lithio—granddaughter of Jeanie Flowers; Ralph Arlinghaus—father of Paul Arlinghaus; and Ann Morgan—sister of Dorothy Blackwell.

Homebound: Sue Baier; Walter Baker; Joe Anne Berwick; Paulie Carlson; Kitty Curry; Jane English; Barbara German; George Helland; Donna Host; T.E. "Joe" Keever; Toto McGehee; Phillip McDaniel; Paul & Alice Pennington; Joyce Randolph; Van Rathgeber; Bob Stanley; Virginia McFarland; Jean Nelson; Jody Tomforde; Penny Vieau; and Ruth Weber.

Friends of St. Philippians—Leland Daniel—friend of Jane Cooper; Frank Wallace—friend of Jim & Nadene Crain; Willie Jo Schaefer—friend of Pam Rush; and Walter "Buddy" Hammann III—friend of Robin & Gary Willis.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Classes begin at 9:45.

Godly Play (Age 3 to K)—Room 104 - *Omi Ford, Joyce Fox, and Ruthie Waldrop*

Grades 1—2 - Room 200 for the first four weeks - *Kara D'Agostino and Paul D'Agostino*

Grades 3—5 - Room 103 - *Paul Arlinghaus and Linda Bevil*

Grades 6—8 - Room 206 - *Charles Swan*

Grades 9-12 - Room 205 - *Keatan King and John Lemen*

CHURCH & SOCIETY

Room 201 - Leaders Mickey Meyers & C J Miller—**January 12** - Gerrymandering - How It Works - The Supreme Court determined federal courts do not have a role in deciding partisan gerrymandering claims. The 5 - 4 decision could impact looming redistricting processes in Texas and across the country. Presented by Prof. Peter Linzer - Professor of Law at Univ. of Houston Law Center. **January 19** - Martin Luther King Commemoration - Voter Registration in the Civil Rights Movement and Today -

Presented by Cherry Steinwender from The Center for the Healing of Racism. **January 26** - The Electoral College: Why the founders created it and its effect on elections today. Presented by Prof. Nancy Beck Young from University of Houston History Department.

BIBLE STUDY

Room 204 – Al Waldrop, leader. We are studying the Psalms, primarily from the NRSV and Dr. Robert Alter's *The Book of Psalms: A Translation with Commentary*.

SPA

Room 200 - SPa will be merging with the *10 for 20* class that John Wurster is teaching on Sundays for the next few weeks in Room 202. The Saint Philip Adults class is a fellowship of adults from all walks of life who gather for learning and community. It is an interactive/ conversation/ dialogue-based class. Sharing leadership is easy and fun and asking questions is what it is all about. Contact: Omar@saintphilip.net.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

January 12—Children in pre-K through first grade are invited to attend Children's Chapel with Rev. Omar Rouchon and a parent helper

following the conversation with children during the 11 o'clock service on the second and fourth Sundays. In the Children's Chapel, our young disciples learn the whos, whats, wheres, whens and whys of worship, while praying, singing and hearing God's word at an age-appropriate level. Children return to join the congregation in the first few pews on the lectern side of the church for the last hymn.

10 FOR 20

John Wurster will lead a Bible study series focused on ten biblical characters, who come from all corners of Scripture. Some are famous, some are infamous, some are hardly known, and most all are misunderstood. The *10 for 20* study will meet Wednesday mornings at 10:30 in the Dining Room AND Sunday mornings at 9:45 in Room 202. The material in Wednesday class will be repeated on Sunday. You are welcome to come either Wednesday or Sunday, as your schedule allows. The *10 for 20* begins with Eve on **January 8 AND January 12**.

Next edition: January 21

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



Instagram

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2020 CHURCH OFFICERS ST. PHILIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Bill Connolly
David Durham
Vanessa Nenna
Cathy Patterson

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Judith Hiott
Dick Nunn
Ruthie Waldrop
Curt Webb

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