

PHILIP-EYE



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

The season of Advent begins **November 27**. A time marked by the themes of hope and expectation, Advent returns us to the words of the prophets and the witness of characters like John the Baptist, Mary, and Joseph. Advent leads to Christmas, but it also points beyond Bethlehem to the fullness of God's presence and peace. Our Advent observance at St. Philip includes **midweek worship services** at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesdays, beginning **November 30**. These services of scripture and song will be followed by lunch in the gathering area. Our annual service of **lessons and carols** for Advent, led by the St. Philip Choir, will be on Sunday, December 4 at 11:00 a.m. (There will be no 9:00 a.m. service that day). **For the other Sundays of Advent, November 27, December 11, and December 18**, worship services will be at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Prepare the way of the Lord!

CREATION CARE NEWS

November 15 is America Recycles Day so take some time to review your home recycling options and try to recycle more in the coming year. Recently, the Earth Care Team worked with St Philip staff to do just that at St. Philip. The result is that St. Philip now has an onsite recycling dumpster next to its trash dumpster with a net savings in the church's waste management costs.

You may have noticed new two-bin trash systems around campus to maximize recycling. In the RECYCLE bin on the right put office paper, magazines, clean corrugated cardboard and empty plastic containers. In the TRASH bin on the left put everything else.

To review your home recycling efforts, review what your current recycling vendor accepts by rechecking their website or calling them. You can also visit the following links from the local Sierra Club to learn about other ways to recycle more of your waste.

[State of Texas Alliance for Recycling \(STAR\) - Texas Recycles Day \(recyclingstar.org\)](https://recyclingstar.org)

[Recycle Right! and Plastic Bag/film Recycling | Sierra Club](#)

[E-Waste Recycling Options in the Houston Region 2022 | Sierra Club](#)

[Buy Recycled! to Support Recycling | Sierra Club](#)

[America Recycles Day | US EPA](#)

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Our October 31 financial statement shows a significant deficit in our 2022 operating budget. Most all of the deficit is on the revenue side with pledged income for the year running about \$275,000 below year-to-date budgeted amounts. Pledge payments and other year-end gifts will help bring our budget back into line. Thank you!

Alternative Market 2022

Thank you to Jennifer Wilson, Hope Wilmarth, the Mission Committee, our mission partners, the custodial staff, Dave Castle and Rhonda Sands, and the shoppers and browsers who helped make the market successful. The numbers aren't final but we are proud of everything we saw.



ST. PHILIP VBS | ADVENT 2022



THE SHEPHERDS' WAY



LUKE
2:8-20

The call for all to share Good News.



SATURDAY, DEC. 3RD 9 A.M. - 2 P.M.

ALL CHILDREN AGES 3 - 5TH GRADE ARE WELCOMED > **THERE IS NO COST**

ST. PHILIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - 4807 SAN FELIPE - EDUCATION BLDG.

* PLEASE BRING
A BAGGED LUNCH



&

WEAR CLOSED-TOE
SHOES



[FOR MORE INFO & TO REGISTER]

VISIT: **SAINTPHILIP.NET**

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

October 2022

Stated Session Meeting via In-Person & Zoom Attendance – October 18, 2022

- Session elected Rhonda Sands to serve as St. Philip Treasurer as of January 1, 2023.
- Session took action to identify itself as a PC(USA) Matthew 25 church, with a focus on dismantling structural racism.
- Session approved the following Advent and Christmas services:
 - Services Wednesdays at 11:00 AM on November 30, 2022, December 7, 2022, December 14, 2022, and December 21, 2022.
 - Two Christmas Eve Services on Saturday, December 24, 2022 at 5:30 PM and 8:00 PM with Communion at the 8:00 PM Service.
 - One Service only at 11:00 AM on Sunday, December 25, 2022.
 - One Service only at 11:00 AM on Sunday, January 1, 2023 with Communion.
- Session approved the use of the PC(USA) curriculum “Advent: The Shepherds” for Advent Vacation Bible Saturday (VBS) on 12/03/22.

Committee and Council Actions:

- Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee approved asking the Education Committee to consider writers in the April 2022 #TrustBlackWomen issue of Presbyterian Outlook as possible speakers for the summer lecture series.

John Lemen
Clerk of Session

Second Sunday Christian Education on November 13—look what your fun you are missing if you haven’t joined Second Sundays. All were invited to learn about Kids’ Meals and help decorate lunch bags and fill them.



<Here Cynthia Stielow from Kids’ Meals shared that 50,000 preschool-aged children in Houston are food insecure.



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 will 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 will 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.

November 20 - Jewish Funerals - Saying Goodbye to a Loved One - "Just as there is a way to live as a Jew, there is also a way to die and be buried as a Jew." In this class we will learn about the customs and rituals, the scripture, and prayers that are a part of a Jewish funeral. Presented by Rabbi Marcy Greene, The L’Chaim Center, Helen’s House, training clergy of all faiths to meet spiritual needs of people going through turmoil. **November 27** - Jewish Ceremonial Art - Splendor and Utility Shabbat and Hanukkah -

A presentation of examples of Jewish ritual artifacts used for the Sabbath worship at home and for Hanukkah, including some from the recent exhibit of Jewish Art at Museum of Fine Arts Houston. Presented by Rabbi Steven Morgen - Associate Rabbi, Congregation Beth Yeshurun and member of the panel at Museum of Fine Arts Houston to discuss the Exhibit Beauty and Ritual: Judaica from the Jewish Museum, New York.

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 **December 8** and it will be a social. 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

We give thanks for Avi David Jasani, born on October 8, 2022 (5 pounds, 15 ounces, and 19 inches) to Christy Rubenstein and Rohan Jasani.

St. Philipians and their families—Susan Huffman; Mary Benson; Mary Sinderson; Eleanor Grant; Sondra Sullivan; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Carolyn Vestal; Lane Fletcher; Renee Wright; Austin Lippincott; Richard Johnson; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Shirley Coffman; Ellen MacDonald; Arlette Keene; CJ Miller; Mezgebe Gebray; 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—John Bobbitt; Kitty Curry; George Helland; Jean Nelson; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; Marion Takehara; and Jody Tomforde.

Friends of St. Philipians—Sharla Hotchkiss, Delores Wheeler, and Oskar Skärgård – friends of Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor; 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.

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 are being accepted in the Church Office or you can make your pledge in MyStPhilip.

Next edition: December 6; Deadline December 1—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.



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