

December 1, 2020
Volume 64, Issue 23

PHILIP-EYE

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Rev. Keatan King
Associate Pastor

Rev. Omar Rouchon
Associate Pastor

Rev. Kallie Pitcock
Pastoral Resident

Dr. Randall Swanson
Director of Music

Dr. Matthew Dirst
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Cecy Duarte
Children's Music Associate

Micah Meyers
Art Director

Denise Ferrell
Bookkeeper





Wilbert Parada
Facilities Supervisor







Dimas Parada
Custodian

Lorrie Castle
Office Manager
Newsletter Editor


Susan Estill
Editor Emerita

SEAFARER DONATIONS

The overwhelming generosity for donations for the Seafarers  Christmas  Boxes  was thrilling to see. Over 100 + Christmas gift boxes  have been packed and wrapped and will be delivered to our chaplains who will gift them to seafarers arriving at the Port of Houston over the holidays.

We have never had so many large soaps , socks , decks of cards  or large toothpastes. We had lots of other donations like Gold Bond Cream, plastic cups , deodorant, shaving cream, gifts, t-shirts , baseball hats  that we used to complete different size boxes.

Exciting items received:



60 sudoku magazines 

32 plastic shoe  boxes


480 individually wrapped razors




With the help from your donations we were able to collate and make:

100 packages of Mend and Make New - sewing  packets

100 packages of cotton swabs with band aids  and a mask 

100 packages of rubber bands, paper clips  and other desk items  

We added SPPC Christmas tags , with Christmas ornaments attached as well as over 100 hand-knitted Seafarer watch caps.

We plan to continue this mission next year, so you can shop for bargains all year as we have a place to store your items. At this time of year, as you get ready for Christmas  and wish to downsize, we would love small Christmas ornaments, fronts of past Christmas cards and, of course, that Christmas wrapping paper that you have saved for years. Thank you so much! All our Christmas  boxes  this year were full of lots of joy, as always.

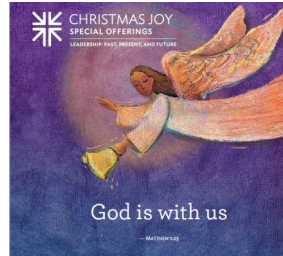
Thank you,
Sue Howard and team

CHRISTMAS AT SEA SEAFARER MINISTRY NEWS

The caring work of our Presbyterian chaplains at the Port of Houston continues despite the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. The port chaplains attempt to visit every ship that calls on Houston, bringing bibles, magazines, Wi-Fi units and the welcome of Christ. This year has been an especially difficult time for seafarers. The work remains strenuous and often dangerous, and life aboard ship is always lonely. Many seafarers' tour of duty has been extended due to travel and entry restrictions as they attempt to return home. Although ships' crews have been able to spend time on shore at some ports, ship owners or captains are again restricting crews to their vessels in port due to increasing Covid-19 exposure risk. Anxiety has also increased as Filipino seafarers have sought help and prayers from the chaplains as they try to contact their families in the Philippines, which has been devastated by recent tropical cyclones.

The chaplains have begun delivering Christmas shoebox gifts to ships in port. Seafarers' spirits are lifted as the chaplain arrives with his bag of gifts. For many seafarers, these modest gift boxes that have been packed and wrapped by St. Philip and other churches are the only gifts that they may receive during the holidays.

The Seafarer Ministry is most grateful for all the help and donations from St. Philip Presbyterian Church.



COMMUNION OFFERING

Our December communion offering will go the PCUSA's Christmas Joy Offering. This special offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition

since the 1930s. The Christmas Joy Offering supports past, present, and future leaders of our denomination through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and through Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage, a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. Share the Christmas Joy as we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Christ.

Gifts for this offering can be made throughout December on the St. Philip [website](#) or by mailing a check, with Christmas Joy Offering in the memo line, to the church office.

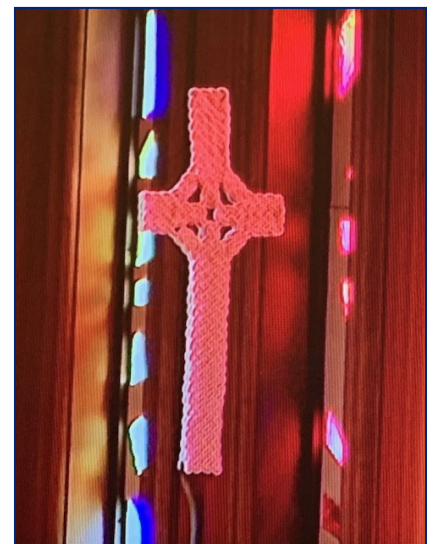
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called a congregational meeting for **December 20**, immediately following the 11:00 worship service. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom video conference. The purpose of the meeting is to act on a recommendation from the Trustees regarding the sale of property owned by the church in Montgomery County and to act on a slate of nominees presented by the Congregational Nominating Committee.



IN OUR PRAYERS

Pastor *emeritus* Sam Lanham died November 29 in Salado, Texas. Sam was pastor at St. Philip from 1971 to 1981. A person of many talents, Sam made jewelry, most notably the popular Shout of Joy pendant (Sam is wearing in picture on left), which continues to influence the designs of our art director, Micah Meyers. Sam also made the knotted rope processional cross in our sanctuary (picture on right). As we give thanks for Sam's long and faithful life, let us also pray for his wife, Missie, and their family in this season of grief.



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

December 7—10 a.m.

All other meetings second Monday of each month

Sunday Circle

3rd Sunday of each month—12:15 p.m.

Thursday Evening Circle

1st Thursday of each month—7:00 p.m.

CCSC Christian Community Service Center



Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) has designed a SAFE “drive-thru” approach to Jingle Bell Express ensuring

families in need receive help this Christmas. A limited number of volunteer openings, to make this a safe event for all, are available **December 8 – 12**.

Please note:

- **ALL volunteers must be at least 14 years old and register in advance** through this [signup link](#)
- Sign up **ONLY** if you can participate in the entire volunteer shift
- Outdoor volunteers are needed, including Spanish speakers (please dress appropriately for weather)
- Some indoor/outdoor volunteer positions require light lifting
- All volunteers will undergo an on-site health screening upon check-in at Jingle Bell Express

ST. PHILIP STITCHERS

Exquisite hand-crocheted baby blankets and caps to match, made by Michael Alexander, were donated to the St. Philip Stitchers in Nov. They were delivered to PCHAS and Interfaith Ministries Refugee program the week before Thanksgiving and gratefully received.

The St. Philip Stitchers work in liaison with House of Tiny Treasures, PCHAS and Interfaith Ministries Refugee programs, all of which request donations of art supplies for the children they serve. They need crayons and activity books in particular, as well as board books for toddlers and books of all types for elementary-aged children.

If you would like to donate any items, please bring them to the church office, marked Hope Wilmarth, and I will deliver to our friends in need.

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. 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 **December 10** at 7 p.m. and will be a social hosted by Nina Lambright. 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. 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 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m. - **December 13** - *The Belhar Confession* - A protest against a heretical theological stance by the Dutch Reformed Church that used the Bible and the Confessions to justify the harsh and unjust system of Apartheid in South Africa. Presented by Rev. Greg Han - Director of Interfaith Relations and Education at Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston .Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes—mmcgm63@gmail.com.

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, beginning with Monday's service. For more information on conditions and to register click [here](#).

Duerr Lecture Series

DUERR LECTURE SERIES 2021

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.

HOW DO I MAKE MY PLEDGE ONLINE?

1. Visit saintphilip.net. * Click on in the top right corner.
2. Sign in. If you haven't done this before, follow instructions for "Need a Login"
3. Once signed in, click on Home button and choose My Profile. There will be two tabs once you do this. You will go to My Pledge History.
4. In the middle of the box you will see Add Pledge; choose this option.
5. You will then need to enter how much you pledge; choose the fund Pledge Contributions and Select the frequency that you wish to make your contribution. There are many options to choose from. Then select the time frame in which you will be giving 1/1/2021 until 12/31/2021. Click Save. If you would like to setup online gift withdrawal, you can do that at this point.

*Pledges cannot be made in the ChurchLife app.

Pledge cards can still be mailed to the church office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

It is the time to adorn our chancel with poinsettias. Beginning right away you have the opportunity to make a donation to assist with this. You can go to the website, saintphilip.net and click on "Make A Contribution". Choose *Flowers/Holiday*. Include in the optional memo "Point". Email your honor/memorial persons to Lorrie at lorrie@saintphilip.net; otherwise, you will receive an email within a few days asking for names of people you want to recognize. Questions? Call Church Office at 713-622-4807.

Christmas Poinsettias

Donations of any amount accepted

(circle one) **I / we** would like to make a donation to purchase poinsettias to adorn our chancel during this Christmas season

(circle one) **in honor of / memory of** _____

Donor - Your Name(s) (Please print legibly) _____

Please return it with your payment to the church office by Tuesday, December 16. Payments can be made online—please note 'Point'. Use additional space below if needed.



The Alternative Market (AM) provides an Advent opportunity to dedicate some of our holiday giving toward doing God's work in the world. In this season of preparation for the birth of the Christ child, consider making a donation in honor of friends or family to one or more of the good causes represented in the market.

COVID-19 caused us to have to think a little outside the box this year to make the market happen. But COVID-19 has also created even greater needs in our community and among our mission partners. Many non-profits and mission agencies are grappling with significantly increased needs among their clients, as well as added costs due to COVID precautions. At the same time, many have had to cancel their normal fundraising events, making budgets tighter. This has been an anxious year, but with "open minds, willing hands, and generous hearts," we can help support our partners and neighbors.

We invite you to go to the St. Philip website (saintphilip.net) and look for the AM icon (see above pic) and click on it; this link will be available through **December 6**. You will be taken to a page where you will find a curated group of our mission partners, representing each of Mission Committee's focal areas of Caring, Feeding, and Teaching that are participating in the Market. The Market allows you to make a single payment to St. Philip, and your donation will be distributed to the organizations in the market as you designate. You may donate in any amount to one or more of these organizations, using either the secure giving portal on the website, in MyStPhilip, or by making a hard-copy AM list and sending it, with your check, to the church office.

Other giving ideas in this season:

Check out the **Presbyterian Giving Catalog** at <https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org/>. Our denomination's Mission Agency hosts a catalog with a wide variety of gifts that provide real and positive impact around the world—including education, livestock, aid for refugees, access to clean water, and helping to end hunger.

You can purchase notecards and desk-top butterflies directly from **NewSpring** at <http://www.NewSpringCenter.org/shop/>, or student art at <http://www.NewSpringCenter.org/art-sale/>

Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee suggests buying carbon offsets from **Texas Coastal Exchange**: <https://www.texascoastalexchange.org/>

Mission Partner	Contribution
The Beacon	\$
Christian Community Service Center	\$
Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston	\$
Kids Against Hunger	\$
Living Waters for the World	\$
Mo Ranch	\$
NewSpring	\$
Presbyterian Pan American School	\$
Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services	\$
Seafarers	
	Gift Total \$
Name	
Check No.	
Email	

Thank Offering ²⁰²⁰

OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

*Do not worry
about anything,
but in everything
by prayer
and supplication
with thanksgiving
let your requests
be made known to God.
And the peace of God,
which surpasses
all understanding,
will guard your hearts
and your minds
in Christ Jesus.*

—Philippians 4:6–7*

Learn more about the
Thank Offering
of Presbyterian Women by visiting
www.presbyterianwomen.org/thank.



*New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Used by permission.

The Presbyterian Women invite you to make a contribution to the 2020 Thank Offering beginning **December 7** on the St. Philip [website](#) (choose fund—PW Thank Offering) or by mailing a check to the church office denoting PW Thank Offering in the memo.

2020 Thank Offering OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

In 1888, when Eliza Clokey of Springfield, Ohio, urged each woman to give one dollar over and above her usual contribution to the Women's General Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian Church of North America as a "thank offering to her Lord," women responded, and the Thank Offering was born. Women gave sacrificially and were credited with saving the worldwide missionary movement of the church at that time. Since 1988, Presbyterian Women has granted more than \$26 million to nearly 1,700 different projects worldwide through the Thank Offering.

Grant Recipients

National

SYNOD OF THE COVENANT

Presbytery of Cincinnati
Contact Center
Health Care Empowerment Project
\$15,000
www.contactcentercincinnati.com

SYNOD OF LAKES AND PRAIRES

Presbytery of South Dakota
All About U Adoptions, Inc.
Nevaeh House: A little piece of heaven
\$50,000
www.aauadoptions.org

SYNOD OF LIVING WATERS

Mid-Kentucky Presbytery
Lifehouse Maternity Home
Kitchen Renovation
\$27,000
www.lifehouselouisville.org

SYNOD OF MID-ATLANTIC
National Capital Presbytery
Crossroads Community Food Network
Community Kitchen Enhancements
\$25,000
www.crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org

SYNOD OF MID-ATLANTIC
Presbytery of Western North Carolina
Faith 4 Justice
Trauma-informed Ministry
\$20,000
www.faith4justiceasheville.org

SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST
Presbytery of Geneva
Family Promise of Wayne County, N.Y., Inc.
Day Resource Center Renovations
\$22,500
<http://fpwayne.org>

SYNOD OF THE PACIFIC
Presbytery of Nevada
Northern Nevada Dream Center
Reach the Hungry
\$25,000
<https://nndreamcenter.org>

SYNOD OF SOUTH ATLANTIC
Presbytery of Tampa Bay
Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center
Setting a Place for All
\$27,000
<https://cedarkirk.org/>

SYNOD OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
AND HAWAII
Presbytery of the Pacific
Critical Mass Dance Company (CMDC)
Dance Empowerment Programs
\$12,500
www.criticalmassdancecompany.org

SYNOD OF THE SOUTHWEST
Presbytery of Santa Fe
Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese
of Santa Fe

Team Refugee Youth
\$9,000
www.ccasfnm.org

SYNOD OF THE SUN
Cimarron Presbytery
Stillwater Domestic Violence Services, Inc.
Shelter the Children
\$5,000
<https://wingsofhopeok.com>

SYNOD OF THE SUN
Presbytery of Arkansas
Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center
Transportation for Disaster Kits
\$30,000
<https://ferncliff.org>

SYNOD OF THE TRINITY
The Presbytery of Donegal
Domestic Violence Center of Chester
County
Community Healing Circle
\$5,000
www.dvcccpa.org

International

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
Association of Presbyterian Women
of Kinshasa—West Synod
Complete the Women's Centre and
Training of Women
\$14,813

ETHIOPIA
Gidada Theological College
Construction of Girls' Dormitory
\$43,650

Give through your PW group or on line at www.presbyterianwomen.org/give. For additional information about the 2020 Thank Offering recipients, see the July/August issue of *Horizons* magazine, or go to www.presbyterianwomen.org/thank.

IN OUR PRAYERS

The family of Jeanne West upon her death on November 25. A memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, December 5 at 2 p.m.; a link will be sent out later this week.

With gratitude to God, Keatan King, Nate Carlin, and Cohen Carlin are expecting a new baby in early June of 2021.

Ben, Cindy, and Piper Dees upon the birth of daughter/ sister Elsie Maren Dees on November 17.

St. Philippians and their families—Doris Cantrell; Casey Lambright; Sondra Sullivan; Mary Benson; Ellen MacDonald; Arlette Keene; CJ Miller; Jan Ostendorf; Laney Miller; Susan Huffman; Joyce Fugit; Vicki McKay; Mary Sinderson; Marion Takehara; Emily Estill; Travis Calhoun; Lonnie Fugit; Mezgebe Gebray; Philip and Becky Karper—parents of Kallie Pitcock; Meredith and Louis Pitcock—parents of Justin Pitcock; Ricardo and Mary Adame—brother and sister-in-law (and Mary's mother Yvonne Dominguez) of staff singer Ofelia Adame Williams; 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. Philippians—Susan Doyle—friend of Stephen Paine 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; Hyam Ashoo and Clayton Amacker—friends of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; Shirley Stubblefield—friend of Barbara Runge; 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: December 15 Deadline December 10—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



4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056

Phone: 713.622.4807 Fax: 713.622.5405 www.saintphilip.net