



PHILIP-EYE

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PHILIP
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 17, 2019
Volume 63, Issue 24



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING DECEMBER 22

The Session has called a congregational meeting for **December 22**, immediately following the 11:00 worship service. The purpose of the meeting is the election of a Ruling Elder to complete an unexpired term in the Session class of 2020 and to elect a Trustee for a three year term in the class of 2022. The nominating committee will nominate *Chuck Seidel* for election to the Session and *Tom Anderson* for election as Trustee. Additional nominations are permitted at the meeting with prior consent of those being nominated.



Tom Anderson has been a member of St. Philip since 1993. Originally from northwest Indiana, he has been a local here in Houston since 1989. Tom was a restaurant franchise owner of multiple Subway sandwich stores throughout the Houston area for 18 years, and for the past ten years his career has focused on consulting on strategic business operations and financial planning and securities. Tom has been involved in charities such as the Houston Food Bank and Toys for Tots, and more recently, has participated

with Kids Against Hunger at St. Philip. He is the proud parent of grown son, Jeffery, and grown daughter, Melanie. As a trustee, Tom seeks to be more involved with St. Philip by sharing his talents and years of experience.

Charles (Chuck) Seidel joined St. Philip in 2015 by letter of transfer from First Presbyterian Church, Houston, where he had served as a deacon and ruling elder. In 2017 he was installed as an elder at St. Philip, serving on the Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee. On this committee he was involved in refugee assistance, the community garden, and the Solar Subcommittee of the Property Committee. He is honored to be asked to serve an additional year and is excited about staying involved in the 2020 Session.



Rev. Dr. John W. Wurster
Pastor, Head of Staff

Rev. Keatan King
Associate Pastor

Rev. Omar Rouchon
Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. Samuel Lanham III
Pastor Emeritus

Dr. Randall Swanson
Director of Music

Dr. Matthew Dirst
Organist

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



PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

We are quickly moving through what is a particularly short Advent. Our final midweek service of the season is **December 18** at 12 noon with lunch available in the Gathering Area at 12:30. The fourth Sunday of Advent is **December 22**. Our 9:00 service will again take the form of a contemplative eucharist and with opportunities for individual prayers for healing and wholeness. Keatan's sermon for the day is on the Magnificat, Mary's song in Luke 1:46-55.

I'm looking forward to my eighth Christmas at St. Philip. Both of our evening services on **Christmas Eve** conclude with candlelight and the singing of "Silent Night." Our 5:30 service is especially designed for children. They will have an opportunity to participate with Keatan, Omar, and myself in a dramatic and whimsical version of the Christmas story. That service will last for thirty minutes or so. At 8:00, our worship will be led by the St. Philip Choir. My sermon for that night is called "A Shepherd Story." We will also celebrate communion. Our celebration of Christmas continues on **December 29** with a single service at 11:00. We return to our usual Sunday schedule on **January 5** with an "early" celebration of Epiphany.

As the calendar year ends, we have a transition in our leadership positions. Terms on the Session are completing for Ruling Elders Janet Hess, William Rowe, Chuck Seidel, Sandra Truxillo, Kate Dickinson-Varner, Anne Wilson, and Nancy Beck Young. Al Waldrop is completing a term of service as a Trustee. Sara Jean Jackson and Jennifer Wilson are concluding three-year terms on the council for our Central Mission Endowment Fund. Many thanks to all of these people for their willingness to use their gifts in service to Jesus Christ and in support of our community at St. Philip.

There are other transitions underway. The new year often brings job transfers of various sorts, so we look forward to opportunities to welcome new folks to our community, even as we say good-bye to others who are moving away from us. Undoubtedly, there are also changes ahead that we can't yet anticipate. It's just how life is. In all of these things, from age to age, in our going out and our coming in, God is faithful, promising to be with us as our journeys continue.

Gratefully yours,

TREASURER

As we prepare to celebrate a new year of Christ's reign, I would like to remind you that the end of 2019 is also upon us! Thanks to all of you who have been so generous with Saint Philip during the year with your pledged funds and for gifts over and above your pledge. This has helped us minister to our congregation, assist local missions, educate our children, fellowship together and still have air conditioning in August.

I would like to remind you that it's very convenient to donate to Saint Philip. Many of us are habituated to put a check in the offering plate – great! We at Saint Philip are also able to accept a secure donation on our web site: saintphilip.net. Gifts of publicly traded stock are also appreciated and may be made by having your broker contact Ms. Anne Martin at Wells Fargo Brokerage, 713-468-6552. If you prefer to make an electronic transfer (ACH, wire) to Saint Philip, please contact Lorrie Castle for instructions.

Donations that Saint Philip receives through **December 31** will be reported on your annual giving statement for your income tax return preparation. Thank you again for sharing your blessings with Saint Philip during 2019.

Ada Fuller - Treasurer

MISSION

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THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING KIDS AGAINST HUNGER!

Your generous donations of time and financial support have accomplished much in 2019. We have packed and delivered over 110,000 meals this year! The November Communion Offering collected \$2,901. For more information on how to volunteer, contact Butch Wilson at butchwilson97@gmail.com. Also, check the church website for future packing sessions and a demonstration. <http://www.saintphilip.net/Mission.html>

2019 ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

The Mission Committee wishes to thank the St. Philip community for supporting the Alternative Gift Market. Through your generous donations, over \$11,000 has been distributed to 13 agencies, programs, and projects. Special thanks to Catering to Your Kneads for the generous donation of the lunch.

MISSION PARTNER	Totals
CCSC (Christian Community Service Center)	958.75
Equal Exchange	989.00
Haiti (Children's Nutrition Program)	1,328.00
Kids Against Hunger	600.00
Liberty High School	965.00
Living Waters	870.00
Medical Benevolence Foundation	560.00
Newspring	801.00
PCHAS (Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services)	1,265.00
Seafarers	789.50
St. Philip Crafters	194.00
St. Philip Stitchers	674.00
The Beacon	1,511.00
TOTAL	\$ 11,505.25

Purpose. The purpose of the Mission Committee is to develop and nurture the congregation as it reaches out to support Christ's mission locally and around the world as well as through the PCUSA. The Committee works to make mission an integral part of the life of the congregation.



LORD OF THE STREETS

Invites you to come and be part of the

LOTS' Boxing Day

Worship & "Giving for Good" Celebration

@ **Pitch 25, 2120 Walker St, Houston 77003**

Thursday, December 26, 2019

Doors open - 10am; Service begins - 10:30am

All ages welcome!

Music: Zach Meeks & the St. John the Divine Worship Band

Please bring a financial donation, or warm clothing items in new/clean/good condition (sweatshirts, jackets, hats, scarves), or shoes in new/very good condition, or all the above!

The purpose of the Worship and Music Committee, working with the Pastor(s) and Director of Music, is to develop, implement, coordinate, and oversee all aspects of worship that strengthen both public and private worship of God.

The purpose of the Communication & Technology Committee is to oversee communications both within the congregation and to the community. The Committee coordinates its work with all other committees, ensuring that the church's publicity reflects the overall mission of the church and accurately portrays its ministries and emphases.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

Celebrate your wedding anniversary, family birthdays, or memorialize your mother and father by sponsoring the chancel flowers on Sunday morning. The Flower Calendar for 2020 is in the Gathering Area; please sign up to sponsor the flowers closest to your 2020 celebration date. If you have any questions, contact Sandra Truxillo, Flower Coordinator at 713-965-0864.

CONTEMPLATIVE EUCHARIST THIS SUNDAY

As has been our custom this fall on the fourth Sunday of the month, we will hold a contemplative eucharist at our 9:00 service this week. In addition to communion, the service includes a liturgy of healing and wholeness with an option for anointing with oil and individual prayer. The music for this service contributes to a mood of reflecting and resting in God's presence.

DUERR LECTURE SERIES 2020

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.

COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

WORSHIP LIVE

Worship with us, whenever, wherever. Our Communications & Technology Committee has made it possible for you to see St. Philip Sunday services from your home -- or wherever you have a computer, phone, or tablet. You can watch the service live at 11:00 on Sundays or view it - and other archived services - when convenient. Look for the Worship icon on our website, saintphilip.net. Click on **SUNDAY SERVICE** ► you will be led to the current service and the list of archived services, including the Sunday bulletin, to follow along.



FELLOWSHIP

PRIME TIMERS

Reminder that the Prime Timers **Annual Christmas Luncheon** is Thursday, **December 19** at 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Grotto, 4715 Westheimer Road, Houston, 77027. There will be complimentary valet parking and a cash bar.



CHRISTMAS EVE

~ CANDLELIGHT SERVICES ~

5:30 P.M.

**A WHIMSICAL TELLING
OF THE STORY OF JESUS' BIRTH**



8:00 P.M.

**COMMUNION
ST. PHILIP CHOIR
JOHN WURSTER PREACHING**

CHRISTMAS CONTINUES

DECEMBER 29TH

11:00 A.M.



THE 1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
JOHN WURSTER PREACHING
[NO 9:00 SERVICE]

EPIPHANY

JANUARY 5TH, 2020

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

**AN EPIPHANY SERVICE OF WORD
& SACRAMENT**
OMAR ROUCHON PREACHING



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School

Classes begin at 9:45.

Mission of Christian Education Committee: Empowered by the Holy Spirit, to guide us as we engage and inspire to build faith and discipleship within the children of God.



NURSERY CARE IS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE MORNING

8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Infants and children through 4 years old 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.

All classes begin at 9:45.

Godly Play (Age 3 to K)

Room 104

Children's Music

Room 105

Cecy Duarte

Grades 1—5 - Room 105

Grades 6—8 - Room 206

Grades 9—12 - Room 205

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 Bevill*

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—**December 22** - Family Film Study - "The Incredibles 2" Gather the family around your television set to see "The Incredibles 2", about a family of superheroes forced to hide their powers. The Parr family takes on a new mission, which involves a change in family roles. Our study leader, Kate Burkart, leads us in a fun and always insightful discussion of the human condition as portrayed in current media. The **Church & Society class will start early, 9:30 a.m., on Dec. 22.** Church & Society will not meet **December 29 or January 5. January 12**—The State of St. Philip, of Presbytery of New Covenant, and Presbyterian Church USA. Presented by Rev. John Wurster, head of staff at St. Philip, and Rev. Lynn Hargrove, General Presbyter + Stated Clerk for Administrative Process - Presbytery of New Covenant.

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 - The Saint Philip Adults class is a fellowship of adults from all walks of life who gather for learning and community. It is a conversation/dialogue-based/interactive class. Sharing leadership is easy and fun and asking questions is what it is all about.

Contact: Omar@saintphilip.net.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

December 22—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.

Weekday Classes

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY— Each week the preacher for the upcoming Sunday will discuss the lectionary text for the Sunday service. All are welcome on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. in the Dining Room. The group will meet this week and then return on **January 8**.

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 and then return on **January 10**.

MONDAY EVENING STUDY GROUP

St. Philip's Monday evening study group is on break for the rest of December. We will 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).

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.

PUB CLUB

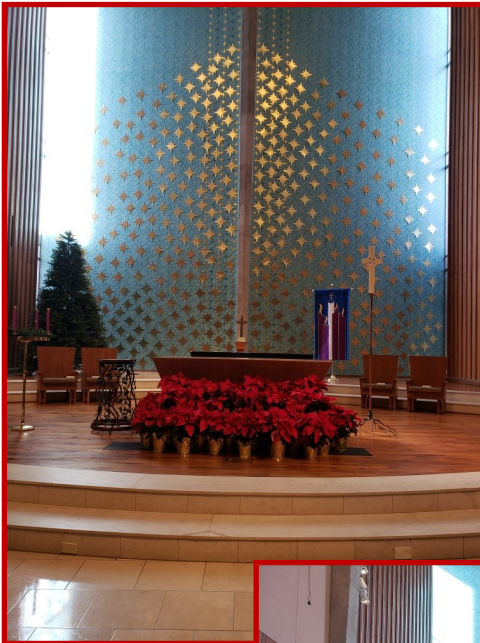
Pub Club is a group for men in the church who like to enjoy fellowship, stories and spirited discussion once a

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.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW RETREAT 2020

The annual Presbyterian Women's retreat will be held **January 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 for the entire weekend and 5 meals or \$160 for one night (either Friday or Saturday) and 4 meals. Scholarships are available. Please contact Jan Meyer at jsmeyer9999@sbcglobal.net or 832-526-5889 if you have any questions. All women are welcome!



*Thank you to all who
contributed to the
poinsettia fund for the
chancel.*

Photos by Wilbert Parada





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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Fax: 713.622.5405

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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; Weldon Boggus, Sr.—grandfather of Omi Ford; Sue Castle—mother of David Castle; 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; Ann Morgan—sister of Dorothy Blackwell; Yvonne Hayes—mother of Lorrie Castle; and Hollie Bailey—niece of Peg Palisin.

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—St. Philippians and their families—Leland Daniel—friend of Jane Cooper; Frank Wallace—friend of Jim & Nadene Crain; Bruce Robert—father of Lynn Hargrove; Jerry—son-in-law of Karen Morris; Willie Jo Schaefer—friend of Pam Rush; Shirley Stubblefield—friend of Barbara Runge; and Walter "Buddy" Hammann III—friend of Robin & Gary Willis.

'Tis the Season

V F B W X D E G H H P Q E L S K N W Z E F V U T
R O W V Z N C W B D J H B I N L F S H P M I G X
C F O Q G X Z Y C H R I S T M A S P A A N N B O
S Y E Q D E N D L R H S A A Q A L A R C G D F A
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G R S S E R I E H F G P I M H E S W Z Q M F G E
E V Q Q G Z W G L V N C G S B K N B A H N U V H
T H G I N T N E L I S K N I L T I K V L B P A S
H S Y O T D L J U G T F R C X J O Z W X Y Z X U
J W P W T Q X O Z D C W A A L P P G X A I M V S
S E A I X P J O Y S E V M L P I H S W O L L E F
C Z Z G N I X O B I L U Y K G H J S Z Y H F R V

Advent	Bank	Boxing	Christmas
Community	Divine	Epiphany	Eucharist
Fellowship	Gift	Heiress	Incredibles
Market	Poinsettias	Reign	Shepherd
Silent Night	Story	Subway	Therapy
Toys	Trustee	Whimsical	