

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 LITTLE GARDEN THAT COULD



The St. Philip vegetable garden flourished in 2022, with God's grace and volunteers' hands. To round out the year, just this week we harvested 20 pounds of turnips, beets, greens, and lettuces from the winter garden and donated them to the CCSC Emergency Services; there should be chard and some more beets and turnips before the end of the year. This tops off a bumper crop of kale and collards in January and February; cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, and greens from the summer garden (May-July); and over 150 pounds of sweet potatoes harvested in November. All told, we harvested about 530 total pounds of vegetables throughout 2022. This fresh produce goes to

help feed neighbors in need through CCSC's food pantry. Interested in knowing more about the St. Philip vegetable garden? Want to volunteer in 2023? Contact Cathy Patterson at cpatters@swbell.net.

Save the dates for the 26th annual DUERR LECTURE SERIES, **February 26, 27, and 28, 2023**. Speaker for the series will be Dr. Rachel Baard, Assistant Professor of Theology and Ethics and Director of the Master of Arts in Public Theology Program at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA. Topic for the lectures is "Who is Jesus Christ for us Today?" Dr. Baard will preach for the morning worship service, 11:00 a.m., and present lectures each evening at 7:00 p.m. Lectures are available in person or by live-stream. Check the web page for more information: www.saintphilip.net.

*Duerr
Lecture
Series*

CHRISTMAS AT ST. PHILIP

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve—Candlelight Services

5:30 p.m.—A Whimsical Telling of the Birth of Jesus

8:00 p.m.—Communion Service with the St. Philip Choir

DECEMBER 25

11:00 a.m.—Christmas Day worship with the St. Philip Choir

JANUARY 1, 2023

11:00 a.m.—Worship for the First Sunday of Christmas and the First Communion of 2023

SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP

Get the New Year off to a good start and join the discussion on Zoom **January 3** with St. Philip's Tuesday social justice group! We continue our study of *Good White Racist?* by Kerry Connelly. We will be discussing chapters 6 and 7. (Outlines and action items are below.) We meet each first Tuesday, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Come even if you haven't done the reading; the discussion is always timely and thought-provoking. To join us, just email wel-come@saintphilip.net with *PSJ* in the subject line to receive information about the meeting.

Chapter 6, Justifying ourselves (or "But Black people owned slaves!")

- "The Irish were slaves too!"
- "Oprah's rich and Obama was president, so everything's fine"
- "But Black-on-Black crime!"
- "Talking about race is racist"
- "I don't see race—I'm color-blind"
- "But you're not like the rest of them"
- "But reverse racism!"

Learn: Do a deeper dive into one of the constructs discussed here so that you can discuss it in detail the next time someone uses it as a justification for racism.

Think: Which of these racist constructs have you embodied at one point or another? Can you think of others not mentioned here?

Act: The next time you hear one of these justifications being used in conversation, open your mouth, and use what you've learned. Perhaps you might even practice your response ahead of time.

Chapter 7, White People's Posse (or You just *think* you need to call the police)

- The racial contract
- Ugly beauty + the savage beast: The savage construct
- White ownership of space

Learn: Learn about the many "while Black" stories to get a true understanding of the magnitude of the problem.

Think: How would you feel if you were policed the way the BIPoC (Black Indigenous People of Color) community is policed in public spaces? Does it feel strange or dangerous to you to think about it? Do you have different standards for people of color than you do for white people in public spaces?

Act: Prepare an action plan for if you ever find yourself in a place where a person of color is being policed "while Black." How will you show up as an ally? Thinking about this ahead of time will make it more likely that you will act in the moment.



This upcoming Montreat conference focusing on St. Philip's Matthew 25 emphasis on eradicating racism is scheduled for **January 30-February 2**. In a time when the gospel of Jesus is threatened by the ascendance of Christian nationalism and white supremacy, what is the apprehensive, overstretched church leader to do? How does a leader tend one's soul for the elevation of the gospel? How do followers of Jesus meet this moment with courage and imagination? Our Peacemaking/Social Justice Committee recognizes the timeliness of this conference. Registration information can be found at the Montreat Conference Center [website](http://montreat.org/micl) (Montreat.org).

CONTRIBUTIONS

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

2023 pledge cards can be put in the offering plate or mailed to the Church Office. Or you can make your pledge in MyStPhilip.

ATTENTION STOCK DONORS!

St. Philip's broker services are with Frost Bank. We ask you to call:

Yvette Webb at Frost Bank – 713-388-1231 for transaction information. Our account number is #037-293183.

Please let the bookkeeper know you are making a stock donation. You may email bookkeeper@saintphilip.net

If you have any questions, you may always contact Ada Fuller, treasurer at amariepoet@gmail.com or by phone at 713-306-8267.

SECOND SUNDAY



A
D
V
E
N
T
VBS
'22



What a holy morning on 12/10, recentering in God during Advent. 13 women gathered to join Susan Lange to untangle knots and stretch our bodies and spirits in yoga. Meg Scott-Johnson led us in centering prayer and lectio divina, allowing participants to listen to God's still small voice, gaze on art in

SPPC's beautiful sanctuary and ponder that God is our dwelling place from everlasting to everlasting. We were blessed and refreshed.



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.

**CHRISTMAS BREAK MOST CLASSES ARE ON
BREAK FOR THE HOLIDAYS—CHECK WITH
THE GROUP LEADER TO VERIFY THEY ARE
MEETING.**

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_stphilip@comcast.net.

December 25 - Church & Society will not meet Christmas Day. **January 1** - "My Adventures in Serving as a Hands of Hope House Parent" - Casa de Esperanza de los Ninos strives to break the cycle of child abuse and neglect for at-

risk infants, children and their families by providing comprehensive residential and family support programs that transform people and communities. St. Philipian and University of Virginia student, Lily Frautschi, describes her year of service as a full-time Hands of Hope Parent. **January 8** - “The State of St. Philip Presbyterian Church - Looking back at 2022, looking forward to 2023” presented by the Rev. Dr. John Wurster.

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 Jan. 12 we will discuss *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah. 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.

Happy Birthday Date

Kelley	Fair	1
Charles	Swan	1
William	Gensch	1
Rollie	McGinnis	3
Lou	Allen	3
Jacquie	Colton	3
Amy	Irick	3
Mason	Arnes	4
Nina	Lambright	5
Idalia	Stevenson	5
Celia	Morgan	6
Richard	Alt	6
Carmen	Stevenson	6
CJ	Miller	11
Janet	Martin	12
Adelia	Manley	12
Elias	Han	12
Melinda	Brunger	13
Peter	Lippincott	13
Gentry	Atkinson	13
Bonnie	Moore	14
Margaret	Fair	15
William	Howard	16
Lane	Fletcher	17
Casey	Lambright	17
Wendy	Stewart	17
Carol	Junkin	18
Ada	Fuller	19
Colby	Stewart	21
Thomas	Kimbro	22
Eleanor	Grant	23
Janet	Hess	23
Lauren	Waldrop	23
Colin	Williams	23
John	Wurster	26
Lorrie	Castle	28
Caleb	Han	28
Carolyn	Vestal	29
Tom	Cavanaugh	29
Holly	Crisp-Han	29
Amanda	Kirtley	29
Joel	Irick	30
Angelina	Fonseca	30
Frank	Keever	31

Merry Christmas

*Thank you to those who have contributed poinsettias this Christmas
to adorn our chancel.*

<i>Given by:</i>	<i>Those we honor:</i>
Bob & Lee Ardell	Ministries of Becky & Mark Downs
Bob & Bebe Burns	To the glory of God and in thanksgiving for our family
Meg & Richard Johnson	To the glory of God and in gratitude for our families
Suzanne & David Kerr	Randall Swanson & the St. Philip Choir
Walter & Margaret King	In gratitude for our wonderful church staff
Nina & Casey Lambright	Nancy Johnson
Jane Larkin	Jim, Penny, and Amelia Larkin
Jane Malczewskyj	Our family in Ukraine
Bonnie Moore	Our children & grandson - Clint, Audra, Alex, Zach, Sarah, & Sebastian
Cathy Patterson	St. Philip Mission Committee
Hallie & David Spence	Mary Linda Williams
Hope Wilmarth	Jeb, Isabelle, Arden, Gertrude, Clara & Elliot
Jennifer Wilson	My beloved father - Bill Wilson



<i>Given by:</i>	<i>Those we remember:</i>
Orlean Anderson	Ruth & Orlean McCallum
Orlean Anderson	Kenneth L. Anderson Jr.
Bob & Lee Ardell	Julie Ardell
Linda Bevill	My parents - James and Laura Alcorn
Deb Burks & John Wurster	Darnall Burks, father
Jane Cooper	My mother - Lillian, my sister - Kathy and my husband - Dan
Liz Crowell	John William Scott
Janet & Carl Eskridge	Rita & John Hannah
Susan & Robert Estill	Our parents - Mary Louise & Junius Estill
Susan & Robert Estill	Carrie & Koehler Young
John & Judy Hartman	Christine Van Osdall
Jo Helland	John & Rita Hannah
Jo Helland	Ellen Red
Nancy Higgs	My mother, father, & brother
Craig & Judy Hill	Loretta Dirst
Craig & Judy Hill	Horace & Louise Hill
Dick & Sue Howard	Our parents - James & Lunetta Howard and Jesse & Patti Lebel
Amanda Kirtley, Jared and Pamela Ewing	Pamela Kirtley
Jane Larkin	My husband - Lee Larkin
Susan Leonard	James Henry Leonard V
Susan Leonard	Stanley & Beedie Heaos
Susan Leonard	James Henry Leonard Jr.
Susan Leonard	Doris Leonard
Jan Meyer	Don & Valerie Meyer
Barbara Runge	Rusty Howard
Barbara Runge	Gene & Ruth Howard
Barbara Runge	Bill & Martha Runge
Rhonda Sands	My parents - Mary Ann & Tom Sands
Rhonda Sands	My brother - Rod Sands
Jenilee Simmons	Douglass L. Simmons
Sally Slick	My husband - Bill Slick
Sally Slick	My brother - Grady Short
Hallie & David Spence	Paxton Williams
Aileen Todd	Harry Todd
Sandra & Wayne Truxillo	Sandra's brother - Emil Runge
Al & Ruthie Waldrop	Allister & Florence Waldrop
Al & Ruthie Waldrop	Kenan & Nancy Rand
Linda Weinmann	Don Weinmann
Hope Wilmarth	Lance, Jen Stoutz, John & Rita Hannah
Jennifer Wilson	My beloved mother - Helen Wilson
Ruena Wood	My beloved husband - the Rev. Dr. Stuart Wood

IN OUR PRAYERS

Janet Davis and family upon the death of her husband, Don, who died December 19. A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

Matthew Dirst and family upon the death of his mother, Loretta on December 11.

The family of Nancy Dring upon her death on December 11. Memorial service at a later date.

St. Philippians and their families—Barbara Runge; Beverly Hudson; Susan Huffman; 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; Dottie Laas - cousin of Sam Fisher; Carla Burns – cousin of Sharon Webb; Betsy Johnson – mother of Pat Lindsay; 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—Elizabeth Arp; John Bobbitt; Kitty Curry; George Helland; Jean Nelson; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; Marion Takehara; and Jody Tomforde.

Friends of St. Philippians—Carol Gilliland - friend of Orlean Anderson; Jackie Childers – friend of Robin and Gary Willis; Sharla Hotchkiss, Delores Wheeler, and Kevin Andress – 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.

Next edition: January 4; Deadline December 29—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.



4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056

Phone: 713.622.4807 Fax: 713.622.5405 www.saintphilip.net