



February 4, 2020
Volume 64, Issue 3

PHILIP-EYE

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

MISSION DAY

Jesus asks three times if Peter loves him, and Peter responds in the affirmative all three times. Then, Jesus commands him to feed his sheep. More than two thousand years later, Jesus still asks us to feed his sheep. Mission Day is one of the largest and most exciting days that we corporately serve as Christ's hands and feet in our Houston community. Mission Day will be **February 16** at St. Philip. There are mission activities on campus for all ages, as well as an expanded selection of off-campus offerings. In the morning, serving at the Beacon and Lord of the Streets are two options for the early birds. In the afternoon, we have a project at Newspring, the organization that created the beautiful butterfly that graces the lawn at the church. The registration table will be available this Sunday, and online registration is up and running. There will be two packing sessions for Kids Against Hunger this year, a wonderful presentation of United Campus Ministry in the Church and Society room, work in the Community Garden, and MORE! Register now at saintphilip.net. Wear your St. Philip t-shirt that day, **February 16**.



2019 Pictures: KAH, Stitches, Christmas Cards for Seafarers Blessing Bags, Beacon meals & laundry, Community Garden.



PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

Twenty years ago, I was in my final year of the Doctor of Ministry program at Austin Seminary and happily living in northwest Ohio. As the years went by, contacts at the seminary helped me find my way back to Texas, first to Kerrville in 2007 and then to St. Philip in 2012. For six years, I assisted in the seminary's introduction to preaching class. Among the joys of serving at St. Philip is the strong connection our congregation has to Austin Seminary. Four St. Philip members currently serve on the seminary's board of trustees.

Thus, it seems fitting that last week, our Session voted to accept an invitation to participate in a new pastoral residency program at Austin Seminary in which 2020 seminary graduates will be placed in sponsoring congregations that have been identified by the seminary as "healthy and vital." Beginning this summer, we will host a pastoral resident for a period of two years. The pastoral resident will share in the full array of ministry tasks, including preaching and administering the sacraments, teaching, pastoral care, program resourcing and development. Essentially, we are adding a newly ordained minister to our staff, which will allow us to expand our pastoral coverage for current things and new things.

The seminary will provide for the pastoral resident's salary and housing allowance at levels prescribed by the presbytery. St. Philip is one of two congregations invited to be a part of this program at its beginning phase. Not only is it an honor for us to be asked to participate, it also gives us a unique opportunity to contribute to the ongoing life of the wider church through the training and nurturing of its emerging pastors. We will be working with the seminary over the next several weeks to identify the person who will become our pastoral resident at St. Philip.

Speaking of Austin Seminary, we can all be proud that the preacher during this week's Midwinter Lectures is Keatan King. Keatan preaches at two worship services and participates in a panel discussion over the course of the lecture series. Recordings of the event will be available soon at austinseminary.edu.

We Presbyterians often point to our connectional system as a distinctive element of our common life. We share in ministry with those far beyond the walls of St. Philip. I'm especially grateful for our ongoing connection with Austin Seminary, and I look forward to the ways these connections will continue to grow in the days to come.

Faithfully yours,



MISSION DAY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

6:30 a.m.-Early Project Block

- *Offsite:* Lord of the Streets (*meet in SPPC parking lot*)
- *Offsite:* The Beacon (*meet in SPPC parking lot*)

9:00-9:30 a.m.

- Prayer Service of Commissioning for Mission Day
- (*in the Sanctuary*)

9:45-10:45 a.m.-Morning Project Block

- Kids Against Hunger (*Dining Room*)
- Stitchers Quilting (*Arts and Crafts Room*)
- Gardening for CCSC (*Community Garden*)
- Seafarer cards (*Godly Play Students only*)
- Blessing Bags for U of H students (*Lower Elementary Room*)
- United Campus Ministries presentation (*Church and Society*)

Worship in Sanctuary-11:00 a.m.

Lunch in Fellowship Hall: 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Afternoon Project Block-1:00-2:30 p.m.

- Kids Against Hunger (*Dining Room*)
- Sack lunches for Lord of the Streets homeless ministry (*Room 105 in Education wing*)
- *Offsite:* Newspring-sand work benches, clean paint brushes, and spackle and paint bathroom in art studios (*meet in SPPC parking lot*)

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **February 9** in the Sanctuary immediately following the 11:00 service. The agenda includes a review of 2019, presentation of the 2020 budget, consideration of changes to the pastors' terms of call for 2020, and the election of representatives to the congregational nominating committee.

MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION

Join the Fellowship Committee for our annual Mardi Gras Celebration on Sunday, **February 9!** Come to the Fellowship Hall directly after the conclusion of the meeting for some excellent food, conversation, music and fun!! Catering provided by Catering to Your Kneads: Seafood and Chicken & Sausage; Gumbo over Rice; Mardi Gras Slaw; Hot Buttered Bread; King Cake (reg and GF); PBJ for Kiddos. Gluten Free options will be available. RSVP by calling the church office or emailing: amye_webster@yahoo.com or 360-770-7865. Donations appreciated to offset costs. See you there!!

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 11:00 a.m. worship services and present lectures each evening at 7:00 p.m. Lectures are free and open to everyone. There will only be an 11:00 a.m. service on **February 23**.

DLS BROWN BAG LUNCH

Men and women are invited to meet with Rev. Dr. Deborah L. Forger, Ph.D. on Monday, **February 24**, from noon to 1:00, in the Dining Room. Please bring a brown bag lunch and enjoy informal conversation with the speaker for the Duerr Lecture Series. Drinks are provided. Bring a friend, all are welcome, no reservations necessary. Note that there is only one lunch meeting and both men and women are invited.

VOLUNTEER AS A GREETER

The Welcoming & Membership Committee needs your help in staffing the ministry of greeting. What better time to jump in than at the beginning of a new year! Sign up sheets will be available at the Welcoming table in the Gathering Area. Please choose a Sunday or Sundays and commit to serve the Lord in this way. It is an easy task especially when shared with others. Bless someone's Sunday worship experience with a smile and a warm welcome. You will be blessed as well. You can email Peg Palisin at Mpalisin@aol.com to help with greeting.

BRIDGE

The bridge group at St. Philip is looking for new, regular, or substitute players. If you like to play bridge, we would welcome having you play with us on the third Wednesday of the month. For more information or to sign up, call or email Mary Waggoner (346-571-2288) jim.mary.wagg@oplink.net.

PRIMETIMERS TO VISIT NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FUNERAL HISTORY

Join the Primetimers on **Monday, February 24**, for a visit to the National Museum of Funeral History in north Houston. From the museum's website: *Discover America's largest collection of authentic, historical funeral service items. Learn about caskets and coffins, hearses through history, plus the funerals of Presidents, Popes, celebrities and more while you witness the cultural heritage of the funeral service industry and its time-honored tradition of compassion.* We will depart from the church parking lot at 9:15 and will be back by 12:30. Those wishing may join the Duerr Lecture Series Brown Bag lunch in the church dining room. Tickets for the museum are \$9/person. Please RSVP by **Thursday, February 6** to secure your spot. We hope you can join us! You may contact Omar at omar@saintphilip.net with any questions.

MUSIC AT ST. PHILIP 2019-2020 SEASON

Join us February 29 for Cecy Duarte and Paul English!

Night Music for Leap Day

SATURDAY | **FEBRUARY 29, 2020** | 7:30 p.m.



Join us in the evening on Leap Day 2020 for the incomparable artistry of vocalist **Cecy Duarte** with pianist **Paul English** and an ensemble of amazing acoustic musicians. The program will feature the quieter, more intimate side of night music, with original works composed by **Paul English**, and a few musical surprises along the way. Bring a date — this will be a night to remember!

St. Philip Presbyterian Church | 4807 San Felipe Street | Houston, Texas



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SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

November 2019

Called Session Meeting – November 17, 2019

- Session received by reaffirmation of faith Jonathan (Jon) W. Martin
- Session received by reaffirmation of faith Linda Lou (Lou) Allen

Stated Session Meeting – November 19, 2019

- Session examined ruling elders-elect in the class of 2022, Betsy Boston, Kip Frautschi, Judye Hartman, Judith Hiott, Dick Nunn, Ruthie Waldrop, and Curt Webb; and voted to sustain their examinations and that they be ordained and/or installed to the office on January 12, 2020 at the 11:00 a.m. worship service.
- Letters of transfer were approved for Bruce and McNair Johnson, to First Presbyterian Church, 40 Church Street, Asheville, NC 28801.
- Session approved entering into a lease agreement with Covenant Solar Power to install solar panels on the Education Building which will generate at least 25% of the electricity consumed by both the Education Building and Sanctuary; this agreement will be entered into by the end of 2019.
- Session approved the following persons to sign checks at Frost Bank: Ada Fuller, Bebe Burns, Rhonda Sands, Gary Gardner, David Castle.
- Session recognized Lee Larkin for his years of service as an Assistant Treasurer who has signed checks, signed documents for the New Covenant Mutual Fund and generally been a great help to Saint Philip!
- Session approved returning \$50,000 of the \$75,000 received from Interface Samaritan Counseling Centers to the Central Mission Endowment Fund, and to table the decision on the disbursement of the remaining \$25,000 to be decided in the future.
- Session called a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 22, 2019, immediately following the 11:00 A.M. Service of Worship for the purpose of electing an ruling elder to fill a one year unexpired in the Class of 2020, and to elect a trustee to the Class of 2022.
- Session approved making available to the St. Philip congregation at least one petition to Congressional representatives encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to strengthen environmental regulations.
- Session approved having only one service at 11:00 a.m. on December 8, 2019 and only one service on December 29, 2019.
- Session approved extending the trial period for the 9:00 a.m. Sunday Service schedule through June, 2020.

Committee and Council Actions:

- Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee has acted to pursue inclusion of More Light Presbyterians membership in the San Felipe e-sign rotation.

- Property Committee has approved a request for \$1,440.00 for seasonal flowers and mulch.
- Property Committee has approved upgrading elevator service agreements in buildings from Bronze to Gold for better coverage and lower costs.
- Property Committee has approved the installation of Fire Department key boxes for emergency access without the presence of staff required outside of business hours.
- Property Committee has approved Reserve for Replacement expenses \$15,408.89 for July, August, September and part of October.

December 2019

Called Session Meeting – December 15, 2019

- Session received by reaffirmation of faith Thomas (Tom) E. Sands
- Session received by reaffirmation of faith Alejandra Salinas
- Session received by letter of transfer Elizabeth Hadaway from St. James Presbyterian Church, Jenks, OK

Stated Session Meeting – December 17, 2019

- Session elected John Lemen to serve as Clerk of Session for 2020.
- Session approved allocating \$17,000 of the remaining \$25,000 received from Interface-Samaritan to offset Mission Center expenses.
- Session elected Ada Fuller to serve as St. Philip Treasurer in 2020.
- Session approved canceling Sunday School classes on December 29.
- Session approved awarding \$2,700 to UKirk to support a mission trip to the border in January 2020 for college students.
- Session approved awarding \$2,000 to the Presbyterian Pan American School, to prepare international students for Christian leadership.
- Session approved the Communion Offering Recipient for January to be International Seafarers.

Committee and Council Actions:

- Personnel Committee hosted a Staff Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, December 17, 2019.
- Property Committee has approved repairs to the roofs of the New Education building and Gathering Space
- Property Committee has approved Reserve for Replacement expenses \$ 38,342.21 for October through November 30th.

John A. Lemen, Clerk of Session



Join us for a long weekend of Christian fellowship in the beautiful surroundings of Mo-Ranch in the Texas Hill Country to study, play, and relax as a church family. This year's event begins after supper on Thursday, **June 4** and continues through worship on Sunday morning, **June 7**. If you would like to go but would prefer to defray the cost with a roommate please let the committee know so they can match you.

You may pay in full at the time of registration or in three installments (**March 2, April 6, May 4**). Confirmations and bills will be sent out by email. (Please be sure that the email you provide is correct and is an address you check regularly.) All registrations must be complete and paid by **March 2** (first payment, if paying in installments.) No refunds can be made after **March 2**. If you do not cancel your reservation by that date, you must pay for your room whether you go or not. **WE REGRET WE CANNOT HOLD SPACE FOR ANYONE WITHOUT A COMPLETED REGISTRATION.**

PRICING:

Pricing for a room in Wynne, Flato, or Pheasant Run lodge depends on how many adults will share the room. Prices for adults include lodging and all meals from breakfast Friday through breakfast Sunday. Children and youth are billed only for their meals (but must be accompanied by at least one adult per room).

The pricing for a room in Manor House does not include meals. To book in Manor House, select the room when registering the first adult in your group, then select meals for each person in the group.

If you wish to have Thursday dinner at Mo-Ranch, you must select that separately. Cost: Adults and Youth \$14.50; Children (ages 4-11) \$10.25

WYNNE LODGE/FLATO LODGE (each room has two queen beds)

Adult (single accommodation): \$469

Adult (room shared by 2 adults): \$286 each

Adult (room shared by 3 adults): \$225 each

Adult (room shared by 4 adults): \$195 each

Youth 12-18 in same room: \$82 per child

Children 4-11: \$60 per child

PHEASANT RUN (most rooms have two beds)

Adult (single accommodation): \$439

Adult (room shared by 2 adults): \$271 each

Adult (room shared by 3 adults): \$215 each

Adult (room shared by 4 adults): \$187 each

Youth 12-18 in same room: \$82 per child

Children 4-11: \$60 per child

MANOR HOUSE - This lodging is reserved for families. All sleeping rooms share a common living room. There are large rooms with multiple beds (some twins, some queens in varying combinations. We will match your family to the best available room.)

Room Cost: \$544 per family

Meals (Friday Breakfast through Sunday Breakfast):

Adults: \$82 per adult

Youth 12-18 in same room: \$82 per child

Children 4-11: \$60 per child

ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION:

Registration will be online at Saintphilip.net or you can register in the Gathering Area with the volunteers on Sunday. On the first screen, you will need to add each family member attending. (When you see 'Mo-Ranch Reservation (Free)' it means only that there is no service charge for using the online system.)

You will select each person's lodging and meal on the second screen, and will be asked further questions about participants in your group as you complete the process.

PAYMENT:

At the end of the online registration process, you will have the option of paying immediately by credit card or paying by mail or in person at the church office.

If you are setting up a payment plan, you will choose the option to Pay In Person/Mail. Indicate Payment Plan in the memo box. You may then make payments in the office or sign in to MyStPhilip and make payments to the Mo-Ranch Fund on **March 2, April 6 and May 4**.

To learn more about Mo-Ranch, visit the table in the Gathering Area before and after the 11:00 worship service on **February 9**.

WEEKDAY CLASSES

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

John Wurster is leading 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 meets 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.

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 **February 13** at the home of Nancy Higgs. We will be discussing *The Friend* by Sigrid Nunez. 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 continue our look at the book *Lent in Plain Sight* by Jill J. Duffield. 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.

MONDAY EVENING STUDY GROUP

Join the discussion in the Dining Room (in the Administration building, at the south end of campus) **February 10** with St. Philip's Monday evening study group! Besides conversation, our meetings include fellowship, refreshments, and a brief devotional, as we continue our study of *The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering*

a Life of Faith, by Marcus Borg. We will be discussing chapter 9, "Sin and salvation: Transforming the heart." We meet each second and fourth Monday, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Come even if you haven't done the reading; the discussion is always timely and thought-provoking.

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 returns the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Our next meeting will be **February 25** at Beer Market Co., 3304 Milam St., 77006. 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.

LENT VBS

Parents mark your calendars for Lent VBS on Saturday, **March 28**. More details to follow. If you would like to volunteer, contact Omar Rouchon at omar@saintphilip.net.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Family of Betty Goleman who died on January 27. Memorial service will be February 22 at 2 p.m. at St. Philip.

St. Philippians and their families—Ellen MacDonald; Paxton Williams; Marion Takehara; Clara Reed-Lee, Nathan Lee and baby; CJ Miller; Rita Hannah; Lonnie Fugit; Mezgebe Gebray; John Bobbitt; Arlette Keene; 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—St. Philippians and their families—Shirley Stubblefield—friend of Barbara Runge; 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 105 - 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— Feb. 9 - Voter Registration - How to Register Voters at High Schools and at Naturalization Ceremonies - It's a Presidential Election Year! Spend this hour learning about voting, how the voter registration process works, and what YOU can do to help get people to the polls. A brief overview of the League of Women Voter's mission, Texas voting data, and specific ways for you to participate will be

presented. Presented by Nancy Kral - Co-Chair Voter Registration, Non-Naturalization Ceremony Events - League of Women Voters-Houston. (Remember, Texas primary election is Tuesday, March 3.) Feb. 16 - St. Philip Mission Sunday - United Campus Ministries - UCM provides support, caring and listening to students as they search for a meaningful faith, grow as persons with the complexities of college life, and strive toward professionalism. By participating in fellowship events, study groups, dinners, worship, counseling and social action projects students come together from different backgrounds into common fellowship. Come sign a good wishes card to be mailed to a St. Philip student who is enrolled in college.

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

February 9—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

Room 202—John Wurster, leader. See description of Midweek Bible Study class.

Next edition: February 18

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



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