

March 2, 2021  
Volume 65, Issue 5

# PHILIP-EYE

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## WHO TURNED OFF THE LIGHTS?

For a long time now, we have not been able to go to church, visit our friends, or enjoy holiday gatherings. And now on top of that the lights go out! St. Philip was not impacted by the power outage, but many church members were.

The power outage has raised a lot of questions regarding the cause and best solution, so that we do not experience this again. Two things happened simultaneously due to the unusually cold weather: demand for electricity exceeded anticipated demand, and both power plants and wind turbines froze (Penney, New York Times, Feb 19, 2021). Because of the unusually high demand and the loss of power-generating capacity, controlled power outages were initiated to reduce load, preventing long-term damage to the grid. Even though some (Editorial Board, Wall Street Journal, Feb 15, 2021, and Gov. Abbott: Fox News Feb 16, 2021) speculated that frozen wind turbines were to blame, most electricity (90%) in Texas is generated by a combination of natural gas, coal, and nuclear power (thermal energy), so a reduction in wind turbine contribution would have limited impact (Griender, Houston Chronicle, Feb 20, 2021). An Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) member reported to the Texas Tribune (Douglas & Ramsey, Feb 17, 2021) that on Tuesday, Feb 16<sup>th</sup>, 16 gigawatts of renewable (wind and solar) energy generation were offline, while 30 gigawatts were offline from thermal sources.

So why were these systems so impacted by the cold? Wind turbines and thermal power generators function in the northern states and Canada because they are protected against the cold. Those in Texas are not protected. There are several reasons for this: it costs money; cold winters happen infrequently so why winterize; no one makes us do it, because Texas operates an independent (i.e., no Federal oversight) electric grid. But the lack of winterizing is now costing us money. A recent report in the Wall Street Journal (Scism, Feb 19, 2010) estimates that around \$9 billion in property damage will be issued by insurers in Texas. In addition, money is lost from the state's economy when businesses are closed. Using data from a study ordered by ERCOT in 2013 ("Estimating the Value of Lost Load", London



Economics International, LLC), the Washington Post (Englund, Mufson, Grandoni, Feb 18, 2021) calculated the loss to be \$2.8 billion per day.

Two possible solutions include winterizing current and future energy generating systems and sharing our electric grid with those in adjacent states

(Cont'd)

(Tomlinson, Houston Chronicle, Feb 20, 2021). Either solution will probably raise the cost of electricity. Winterizing our current power plants and gas pipelines will be expensive; however, not so for wind turbines where the cost is an added 10% to the cost of the turbine (Douglas, Texas Tribune, Feb 20, 2021). Because the Texas electric grid has limited connection to the rest of the country, the state is independent of federal oversight. However, it also means when our grid goes down, we cannot get additional electricity from neighboring states. El Paso and Beaumont did not suffer from electrical shortage because they are not part of the Texas grid. Even so, their electricity cost is comparable to the state's average. Interconnecting our grid with others may raise the price but could ensure continued power.

Like many monetary decisions we make in our personal lives (medical insurance, long term health care insurance) do we pay a little more each month now or pay a lot more, unexpectedly, later? Given climate change, is what happened in recent days just a one-off event or something that will occur with greater frequency? These questions will be answered in the days to come. You can influence the answers by sharing your experience and suggestions with your elected officials.

Peacemaking & Social Justice Committee



## WORSHIP IN PERSON

As we continue to assess and monitor coronavirus data and the recommendations of local health leaders and then filter that information through our particular context at St. Philip, we have decided to offer an outdoor worship service on Sunday as described below and in-person daily prayer service. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.** The Going Forward task force will continue to review on a weekly basis.

### 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. Contact Lorrie to sign up.

### SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

We will offer outdoor worship opportunities on the church campus on a week-to-week basis. Worship services will begin at 9:00 am. Attendance at these services is being limited to 50 people. Worshipers are asked to bring their own chairs or blankets. We will also have chairs available at the church for those who need them. Worshipers will be spaced on the lawn at appropriate distances. The lawn service will last about thirty minutes. Registration is required and will open the Monday before the service; link can be found in pastoral email updates or through MyStPhilip. If the event has reached capacity, the event sign-up closes.

Link for **March 7**—[click here](#).

If you have trouble with the registration or are not online, please call/text Lorrie Castle (832-262-1244). We will also have the usual 11:00 service that day, which will continue to be on-line only.



Did you notice the new camera angles on Sunday?



# MARCH

Date		
3/1	Kathryn	Lippincott
3/3	Brian	Webster
3/3	Tristan	Newport
3/4	Butch	Wilson
3/6	Craig	Hill
3/6	Elaine	Rodiek
3/6	Amy	Frautschi
3/7	Joseph	Harwood
3/7	Sarah	Wickes
3/8	Tom	Anderson
3/9	Susan	Leonardson
3/10	Christopher	Newport
3/12	Leonardo	Stevenson
3/14	Bennett	Pepi
3/15	Cohen	Carlin
3/15	Marcia	James
3/16	Nancy Everhart	Johnson
3/16	Kathryn	Burkart
3/17	Melissa	Aldrich
3/17	Jennifer	Flowers
3/18	Bob	Ardell
3/18	Krystal	Davis
3/18	Daniel	Flowers
3/20	Susan	Huffman
3/20	Eric	Schroeder
3/20	Charles	Womack
3/21	Ann	Anderson
3/24	Isabella	Ford
3/25	Sadie	Fair
3/25	James	Lewis
3/26	Emily	Estill
3/26	Paxton	Lambricht
3/26	Mike	Ayers
3/27	Diana	Fields
3/28	Jacqueline	Taylor
3/28	Susan	Mitchell
3/29	Sarah Anne	Felknor- Ragland
3/29	Linda	Ewing
3/29	Kenneth	Jeanes
3/30	Jane	Lee
3/30	Brandon	Brown
3/31	Ruth	Ewing
3/31	Priscilla	Angly
3/31	Jean	Nelson



## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

January 2021

### Stated Session Meeting via Zoom Videoconferencing – January 26, 2021

- Session elected Jan Meyer and Bonnie Moore to serve during 2021 on the Central Mission Endowment Council and appointed Butch Wilson as the representative from Session.
- Minutes of the Congregational Meeting of December 20, 2020 were approved on behalf of the Congregation.
- Session approved the 2020 St. Philip Annual Statistical Report for submission to the Presbytery of New Covenant and to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Office of the General Assembly.
- Session authorized Treasurer Ada Fuller to take all appropriate action to request forgiveness of the \$124,000 Payroll Protection Plan loan.
- Session approved the 2021 St. Philip budget, totaling \$1,670,400.
- Session approved Kids Meals as the recipient of the March 2021 first-Sunday communion offering.
- Session acted to invite Dr. Samuel L. Adams to preach on Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at the 11:00 a.m. service as part of the Duerr Lecture Series, and that the sermon be recorded in his home-town for inclusion in the service.
- Session called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to be held via Zoom videoconferencing on Sunday, February 14, 2021, at noon following the morning worship service.

John A. Lemen, Clerk of Session

## MARCH COMMUNION OFFERING

Our communion offering recipient this month is Kids' Meals. In a recent study of urban and highly populated areas throughout the US, Houston ranks No.1 in the nation as having the highest percentage of children living with food insecurity, with 1 in 4 children not knowing where they will get their next meal. Since the onset of COVID-19, and now in the wake of the recent freeze, Kids' Meals is feeding record numbers of hungry preschool-aged children in our community who do not have access to free school lunch programs. With the faithful support of our volunteers, donors and community partners, Kids' Meals has delivered more than 8 million free healthy meals over the last 14 years and aims to deliver 1.45 million meals in 2021. Along with meals and hope, Kids' Meals also delivers weekly grocery bags and essential information on wrap-around social services to help families break the vicious cycle of poverty. In addition, our **Kids Against Hunger** program at St. Philip has in the past and will again pack meals that supply much-needed food to Kids Meals families. You can give securely to the March Communion Offering through [saintphilip.net](http://saintphilip.net) or send a check to the church office, with "Communion Offering" in the memo line.





## STORIES BORN FROM TRAUMA: EXPLORING THE HISTORICAL BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

One of the most significant and formative voices in my faith journey is Dr. Johanna W.H. van Wijk-Bos who taught Old Testament at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary for 40 years. Johanna transformed the way I view the Hebrew Bible, revealing the theological beauty of texts that previously seemed inaccessible to me.

On Wednesday evenings from **March 10-31** at 7-8pm, we are excited to welcome Johanna among the St. Philip community to lead us through major themes from the books of Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, and 1 and 2 Kings, opening texts we may know less about through her artful, relevant teaching. During the season of Lent, we make a concerted effort to engage in spiritual disciplines to deepen and mature our faith. Taking a deeper dive into the historical books of the Bible is one such faithful Lenten practice.

Read more about the series below, and email me at [keatan@saintphilip.net](mailto:keatan@saintphilip.net) to receive the Zoom link.

Grace and peace,  
Keatan



Based on Johanna's three part book series, ***A People and A Land***, each session will explore one of two texts in detail to help us become more deeply engaged with the material.

### March 10 ***A People and A Land***

The stories in the Historical Books Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings were born out of deep trauma. What began in hope and expectation ended in the loss and devastation of exile. What are the main concerns of these stories and how

can they connect to our lives today? Why does the ongoing human interest in occupation of land and a place to call its own cause such deep anxiety and hostility toward others. What role have these texts played in the Christian imagination? What can their function be for the Christian community today?

### March 17

#### ***The End of the Beginning: Joshua and Judges***

Did you ever wonder why there are books like Joshua and Judges in the Bible? What do we do with the wars of conquest and all the violence? Why is God so often angry? Were the Israelites really commanded to wipe out an entire population? There are texts in the Bible that feel offensive and unchristian to us. Let's find out if we can come closer and learn something from these books, something about the ancient community and about ourselves and our life with God.

### March 24

#### ***The Road to Kingship: 1 & 2 Samuel***

All of the books in the Bible about Israel's history are also called the Former Prophets. What does it mean that these books are prophetic? Was David a good king or a bad one? Was kingship good for Israel? What do these books tell us about good and bad government? If you would like to hear more about the foundational stories in our Bible, come and talk with me about some of the stories in Samuel and the road to kingship of the people of the Bible.

### March 31

#### ***The Land and its Kings: 1 & 2 Kings***

Once upon a time there was an old king who was called David and his wise son Solomon who inherited the throne. After Israel got its wish and God gave them a king the institution continued and we will see how it went in this sequel. Was Solomon really wise and did he set a good example? Why did it all come to such a bad end? Could God not have saved the people from exile? Let's see if we can find teaching and guidance for our lives in these old stories about a kingdom far from us in time and space.



In order to continue our longstanding support of the Brookwood Community, we have kept in place our customary order for Easter lilies. They will be delivered to St. Philip to adorn our Sanctuary for our online Easter service. We are working on ways to make lilies safely available for pick-up and enjoyment the following week.

We invite you to contribute to our flower fund and dedicate a lily to someone this Easter. Donations may be made for any amount either through our website—[saintphilip.net](http://saintphilip.net), choosing the Flowers/Holiday fund option from the menu; or by sending a check to the Church Office. If donating online where the memo line is limited in the number of characters, please e-mail Lorrie Castle

([lorrie@saintphilip.net](mailto:lorrie@saintphilip.net)) with the details of your dedication, including your name and the person(s) being honored and/or remembered. Similar information should be included with mailed checks. Mailed dedications should arrive by **March 29**. Thanks for your help in continuing this holiday tradition!

The list of donors and memorials/honors will appear in the online bulletin and the Philip-Eye following Easter.

## 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](mailto: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 **March 11** at 7 p.m. when we will be discussing *Catfishing on CatNet* by Naomi Kritzer. Contact Sarah O'Dell for Zoom link – [sarah.odell6@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.odell6@gmail.com).

**MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY WITH JOHN WURSTER**—A look at the Bible readings for the coming Sunday meets on Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. or 3:30 p.m. Email John for details and to get on the list - [john@saintphilip.net](mailto: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](mailto:ggardne148@aol.com) if you would like to join or know the current material they are discussing.

**CHURCH & SOCIETY—9:30 a.m. via Zoom - March 7** - The Financial and Economic Roots of the Climate Emergency - How the dynamics and priorities of our economy, especially the financial sector, are the key drivers of the climate emergency. - Presented by Pamela Haines - Quaker Earthcare Witness, author of *Money and Soul - Toward a Right Relationship with Finance, Interest, Debt, Growth, and Security*. "Even though we've never known an economic system that works for everybody, we hold to our deepest beliefs – that greed is not the source of well-being, and that unbridled growth comes at the expense of the planet's integrity." **March 14** - *Senior Rides and More* - A Central Mission Endowment Fund grant recipient presented by Debby Posso, Executive Director of Senior Rides and More. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes—[mmcgm63@gmail.com](mailto:mmcgm63@gmail.com).

## 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](mailto:welcome@saintphilip.net).

*Monday Morning Saints*

Second Monday of each month—10:00 a.m.

*Sunday Circle*

3rd Sunday of each month—12:30 p.m.

*Thursday Evening Circle*

1st Thursday of each month—7:00 p.m.



After pausing implementation of the Neighborhood Gatherings in February, the **Fellowship Committee** is beginning again! We are proceeding during the first week of March with training facilitators for these group gatherings. It is encouraging to look ahead to

occasions when we can meet safely with each other again!

Ruthie Waldrop, Fellowship Committee chair

## MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Thanks to the goodness of members of the church, we have a supply of shower chairs, potty chairs, walkers, wheelchairs, crutches and scooters that we can loan to members. If you have borrowed equipment and no longer need it, please return it to the church. Upon recent review of the wheelchairs, we have learned that many of the wheels are dry-rotted. If you would be willing to come in during business hours to evaluate the chairs, search the internet for the replacement parts, and change them out, please let Lorrie Castle know in the office at 713-622-4807 or [lorrie@saintphilip.net](mailto:lorrie@saintphilip.net). Additionally, if you have medical equipment you wish to donate to the church please contact her. We are currently seeking a walker like the one pictured here for a larger person.



# GIVE BLOOD.ORG

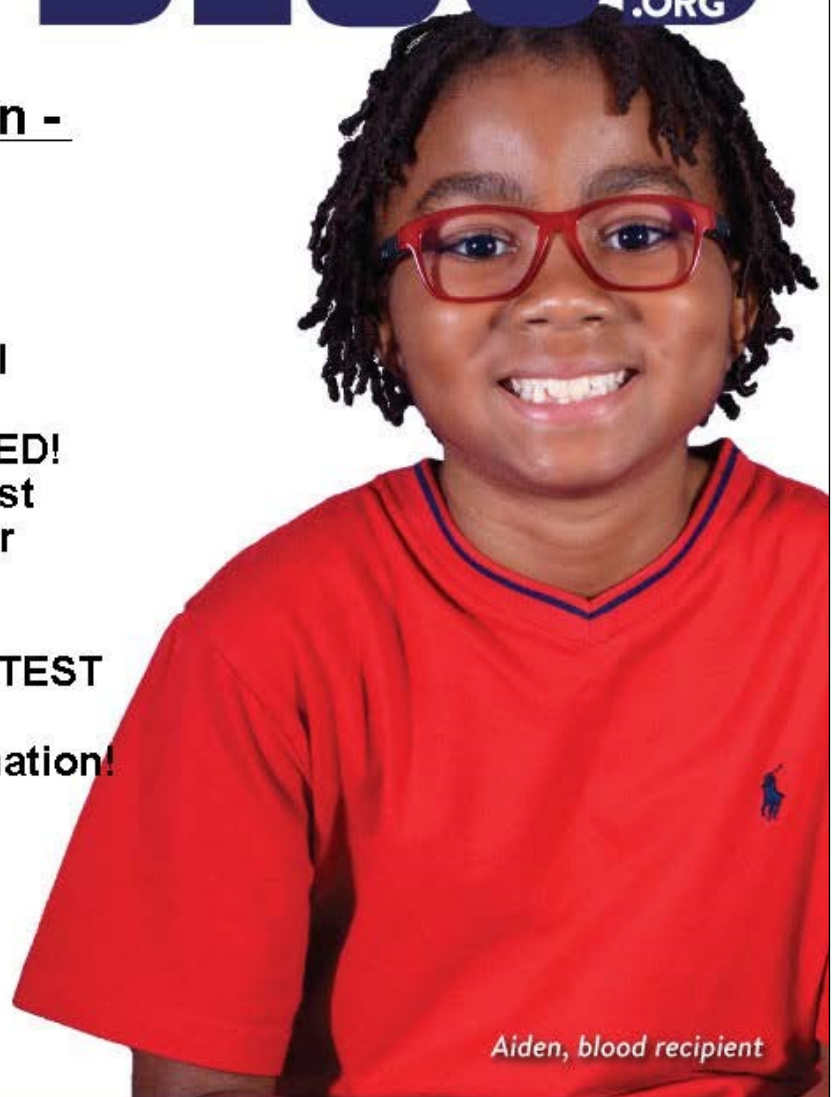
## St. Philip Presbyterian - Houston

Wednesday, March 17  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Church Fellowship Hall

**EMERGENCY BLOOD NEED!**  
3000+ Units of Blood Lost  
Due to the Texas Winter  
Storm!!

**FREE COVID-19 ANTIBODY TEST  
&  
FREE Beach Towel with donation!**

Contact: Lorrie Castle  
(713) 622-4807  
sponsor code: 0496



*Aiden, blood recipient*



**EAT. DRINK. BRING I.D.**



**THE BEST WAY  
TO FIND A  
BLOOD DRIVE  
AND SCHEDULE  
YOUR  
DONATION!**





## IN OUR PRAYERS

*Michael and Jane Malczewskyj upon the death of his father at the age of 99 on February 24.*

*St. Philippians and their families*—Sondra Sullivan; Pat Lindsay; Mary Margaret Hansen; Doris Cantrell; Ellen MacDonald; Arlette Keene; CJ Miller; Jan Ostendorf; Vicki McKay; Marion Takehara; Emily Estill; Travis Calhoun; Mezgebe Gebray; Ann Perkins Cloud—cousin of Stephen Paine; Dixie Hahn—sister of Mary Sinderson; Brad Davis—nephew of Sam Fisher; Kenneth Allan Henick—father of Anne Marie Benard; Douglas Everhart—brother of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Carol Paine Kendrick—sister of Stephen Paine; Betty Grant—sister-in-law 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; Shirley Boggus—grandmother of Omi Ford; Jimmy Reagan—father of Sarah O'Dell; Dona Rowe—mother of William Rowe; and Elizabeth Carlton Lithio—granddaughter of Jeanie Flowers.

*Homebound*—Sue Baier; Walter Baker; Joe Anne Berwick; John Bobbitt; Paulie Carlson; Kitty Curry; George Helland; Jean Nelson; Alice Pennington; Joyce Randolph; Mary Sinderson; Jody Tomforde; and Penny Vieau.

*Friends of St. Philippians*—Jack Burrell—friend of Stephen Paine; Shirley Stubblefield—friend of Barbara Runge; Paul Ratliff—friend of Jo Helland; Bill McDonald and Jackson Tavel—friends of Curt and Sharon Webb; David Shebay—friend of Greg Han; Clayton Amacker—friends of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; and Walter "Buddy" Hammann 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](mailto: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.

The Going Forward task force will continue to review on a regular basis the coronavirus data and the recommendations of local health leaders, filtering that information through our particular context at St. Philip.

**Next edition: March 16; Deadline March 11—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](mailto:philipeye@saintphilip.net) or call 713-622-4807 and ask for Lorrie.



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