



April 1, 2020
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PHILIP-EYE

MISSION UPDATE

Letter from Keatan:

In daily prayer services during these weeks, the pastors at St. Philip are reading through the gospel of Mark. What strikes me about how nearly every story of Jesus' healing, feeding, and teaching begins is that Jesus was actually on the way to do something else. Though he went away to Tyre, "he could not escape notice" when a woman begged him to heal her daughter. On his way back to Galilee, people brought him a man to be healed. Jesus refused to continue on to Dalmanutha until he had fed the 4,000 people who'd come long ways to hear him teach. Whatever was on his agenda took a back seat to the one in his midst who needed him.

The heart of what Jesus wanted to impart to his followers was a way of life that constant consideration for the needs of neighbors. When our community is in crisis and each is tempted to think first of themselves, we hold onto Jesus' way of living in the world. We can serve our community by supporting our local mission partners whose services are more deeply needed now than ever.

St. Philip strongly encourages the practice of social distancing and staying home for all people, and while some of our mission partners are receiving volunteers, we emphasize making donations as the safest form of support. We highlight these opportunities to reach out to others in love, showing them that their lives matter and they are not forgotten or overlooked. Wherever we are, we can hold the staff members and clients of Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston, Christian Community Services Center, Plant it Forward, and the International Seafarer's Ministry in prayer as they persevere in feeding, healing, and loving our neighbors.

Grace and peace,
Keatan



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



Plant It Forward Farms invites you to enjoy your own weekly box of fresh, local produce through the Farm Share program which helps ensure their efforts to give newly arrived refugees access to the American dream. You can support local farmers and their families to earn a living by farming sustainably on urban farms in Houston.

To responsibly and safely distribute food during this time, Plant it Forward is piloting a Home Delivery Subscription by adding a small fee of \$6.35 to delivered orders.

To view pricing, the zip code delivery list, and sign up for the farm share program, visit their website: <https://plant-it-forward.org/our-produce/farm-share/>

SEAFARERS MINISTRY

The International Seafarers Ministry supports chaplains who work to minister to the social and spiritual needs of seafarers on merchant ships calling on the Port of Houston. The seafarers are currently restricted to their ships, and chaplains may not visit them in order to stop global spread of COVID cases. But now is a good time to work on a token of care and appreciation for their work in delivering essential goods to our community in anticipation of when chaplains can connect with them again. Consider knitting a cap for cold and wet days out at sea!

If you or someone you know is a knitter, we invite you to knit caps for Seafarers using this pattern: <http://saintphilip.net/SeaFarer%20Knitted%20Hat.pdf>

Hold onto the hats you knit and bring them or mail them to the St. Philip Office after we reopen.

CMEF EMERGENCY GRANTS

From our Central Mission Endowment Fund we have made five emergency grants to mission partners who are engaged in providing assistance to those persons especially vulnerable during this time: Christian Community Service Center (CCSC), Kids' Meals, East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry, The Beacon, and Interfaith Ministries Refugee Services. CCSC, Kids' Meals, and East Fort Bend Human Needs have also been supported with meals packed in our Kids Against Hunger program.



Dear Reverend Wurster,

My name is Gordon Arnold. I am the current president of the Christian Community Service Center's Board of Directors. I write to thank you for the incredible contribution your leadership of your church has made to CCSC's ministry.

The past few weeks have stressed the city and CCSC in many ways. St. Philip's recent \$10,000 contribution will help our clients, staff, and volunteers – greatly.

It is a humbling honor right now to happen to be serving as the president of the board of this coalition of 40 churches of all denominations. This particular time again teaches me how important it is for a group of churches to work together. Working alone, they could not have the impact they are able to make as a coalition. By bringing the various churches of a particular area together – and by focusing the members on a task where the denominations theologically agree – great things get done for the community.

The efforts of your church are bringing hope to many who have very little of that commodity right now. On behalf of the CCSC board, please extend our thanks to all of your people who are continuing to help CCSC perform its mission.

Very truly yours,
Gordon Arnold



A new [Children's Page](#) has been created on the St. Philip website. This a place that intends to help keep families connected to the church during this

time of distance and separation. Be on the lookout for brief worship videos from Omar in the children's chapel and resources for faith formation at home. There are links to Godly Play stories, prayers and sharing activities to do around the dinner table, and a copy of the Lenten Daily Practices Calendar. You can access the Children's Page using the icon on the home page of the church site.

ATTENTION STOCK DONORS!

St. Philip has changed to a new broker service at Frost Bank effective today April 1. Just as with our previous broker, we ask you to:

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

While we are getting used to this new system, please let Denise Ferrell, our bookkeeper, know you are making a donation. You may reach her by phone at the church, 713-622-4807, on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons or by email at denise@saintphilip.net.

If you have any questions, you may always contact me at 713-306-8267 or amariepoet@gmail.com.

EASTER COMMUNION

With guidance provided by the Office of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) for celebrating communion in an emergency/pandemic, the Session has authorized a celebration of the Lord's Supper for our online Easter worship service on April 12. Everyone is invited to participate. The sacrament will follow the reading and proclamation of Scripture, as always. The pastors will offer prayers of thanksgiving and the words of institution from the St. Philip Sanctuary, then the elements may be received by those worshipping at home. There are many possibilities for what form the elements can take: bread of any sort is suitable, including crackers, tortillas, etc.; any sort of fruit juice would be appropriate, as would wine or even water. If acquiring the elements is difficult or necessitates an unwelcomed trip to the store, please let us know so we can help. It is our hope that in sharing the sacrament in this extraordinary way we would be mindful of our common faith and the life we share within the Body of Christ.

ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS

The Mark and Velma Freeman Scholarship Fund annually provides scholarship assistance to St. Philip students attending college or graduate school. The application form is now available on the church website or by contacting the church office. All application materials need to be returned to the church **BEFORE May 1**. More info and Application Form can be found at: saintphilip.net/SubmitForms.

A 10TH ANNIVERSARY

If your house is like our house in these strange days, together we are all being nurtured each day by our pastors on video. Together. It's a very good thing. At 1420 Harvard, we are rapidly turning honey-do's into honey-done's. We are also keeping in mind the need for distractions from the afore mentioned *do's to done's*. If you need an occasional break – here is a suggestion.



This year St. Philip will celebrate the tenth anniversary of our Fritts organ. In January 2010 there was a series of videos made over the 30+ days needed to install the organ...beginning with unloading the 18-wheeler.

Some history: When it came time for St. Philip to consider #1) removing many older unused educational *quads* (four room complexes like our current rooms 5-8 & 9-12 ... there were originally 28 rooms), #2) constructing a new 2-story education building, and #3) updating the sanctuary; we formed a building committee! John Hudson was the chair of that group. One of the committee members was Elizabeth Duerr. When the decision was made to consider a new organ, Elizabeth became the chair of that new group.

A week before the organ arrived (it was Christmas), Steve gave me a "Flip video camera" – it was the current rage. I decided to give the camera a test run and record the unloading of the organ from the 18-wheeler. That happened after worship, Sunday, January 3, 2010. I had no plans after that. I asked Paul Fritts if I could video his work through the installation, and he said yes. So I continued each day AND I had the *party of my life* in the process. Day 01, became day 02, then day 03 and on to the end of the build.



Let's watch the videos. Go to YouTube and enter one of the listed video titles into the "SEARCH" box. Note: these are video titles, and not URL's. There are 36 videos total. Titles include: **SPPC4807 day 00** through **SPPC4807 day 28**. There is no "day 07". Paul Fritts and company call Sunday, a day of rest. That's a good thing. Note: day 13 has 2 parts. After the "days", videos are named "part": **SPPC4807 part 29** through **SPPC4807 part 35**. A word of explanation: These videos are not the quality that we have come to enjoy at St. Philip. These were a singular, personal effort. I am a cook; not a skilled videographer. When all this began I had no idea how many folks enjoyed and wanted to see how the organ was being assembled. If you only look at one video – it must be **SPPC4807 day 00**. This video shows St. Philip at our best! We were 103+ family members doing a project together! Like the recent painting project in the Arts & Crafts Studio a few weeks back where twelve plus members came together and had a party – and oh, did some painting. Hmm, I wonder what we can do together when it comes time to plant flowers?



Easter Lilies



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, 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 small, please e-mail Lorrie Castle (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 **April 9**. 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.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Randall Swanson and family upon the death of his stepmother on March 25 in Chicago.

Jack Fox and family upon the death of his mother Betty in Pennsylvania.

St. Philippians and their families—Walter Baker; Matthew Lindsay and Elizabeth McClung; Jerri Workman; Pam Rush; Pat Lindsay; Greg Moore; Patrick Ball; Marion Takehara; CJ Miller; Lonnie Fugit; Mezgebe Gebray; John Bobbitt; Arlette Keene; Tom Martin—father of Jon Martin; Dorothy McMillan—mother of Nancy Higgs; Keith Thomerson—brother-in-law of Susan Estill; Barbara Wilson—sister-in-law of Connie Mayfield; 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; and Ann Morgan—sister of Dorothy Blackwell; Cynthia Shoup's daughter.

Homebound: Sue Baier; 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; Virginia McFarland; Jean Nelson; Jody Tomforde; Penny Vieau; and Ruth Weber.

Friends of St. Philippians: Dorcas Rhodes—friend of Jan Meyer; Clayton Amacker and Ed Scala—friends of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; Shirley Stubblefield—friend of Barbara Runge; Frank Wallace—friend of Jim & Nadene Crain; and Walter "Buddy" Hammann III—friend of Robin & Gary Willis.

Next edition: April 14

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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