



PHILIP-EYE

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PHILIP
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 16, 2019
Volume 63, Issue 8

PINK IFTAR



Are you a woman interested in interfaith dialogue and in learning more about the traditions of our Muslim sisters? Then mark your calendar for the Pink Iftar, sponsored by the Women's Table of Houston, in participation with Rice University's Boniuk Center for Religious Tolerance and, for the first time, St. Philip. The Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee, supported by the Session, is pleased to invite all St. Philip women to this spiritually inclusive event in the interest of furthering interfaith education, conversation, understanding, and friendship.

Every Muslim must observe the Ramadan fast from dawn to dusk for a month, and then every day at sunset, break the fast and share a meal (the iftar) with family and friends. Muslims fast for the love and worship of God that awakens their sense of solidarity with the less fortunate and places emphasis on generosity and charity.

The Pink Iftar is the only program of its kind in Houston. Women of Muslim faith backgrounds gather with women from other faith traditions to enjoy an informative talk, followed by a call to prayer, and breaking of the fast with a shared meal. A Muslim conversationalist will head each table of eight and share her life experience and perspective.

The event begins on **Thursday, May 9**, at 7:00 p.m. (registration at 6:30), with a program in the Sanctuary led by Wafa Abdin, Executive Director of Houston Volunteer Lawyers, discussing Islam and women, followed by the meal in the Fellowship Hall.

Individual tickets to this woman-only event are \$45, and sponsored tables are \$360. You may register online at <https://pinkiftar2019.eventbrite.com>; or by check, payable to Women's Table of Houston, and mailed to 6417 Virginia Court, Houston, TX 77005.

For more information on the Women's Table of Houston: Unity in Diverse Traditions, go to www.womenstableofhouston.org.



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,

In a variety of styles and through a range of emotions, Holy Week and Easter invite us to experience the fullness of the gospel. I urge you to seek the spiritual benefits of these days and these services through your participation in all that is before us.

On **Maundy Thursday, April 18**, we worship at 7:00 p.m. We remember Jesus' final night with his disciples and his last meal with them. Keatan is preaching that evening and the St. Philip Choir will sing. After communion, the chancel is stripped of decoration, symbolizing the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples and friends. We leave the sanctuary that night in silence.

On **Good Friday** we have two worship services. At 12 noon we commemorate the death of Jesus with scripture and song and in the presence of the veiled cross. At 8:00 p.m. we are holding a Service of Tenebrae. In this dramatic service, shadows slowly gather in the room as we encounter the betrayal, denial, and abandonment that marked Jesus' final days. With each reading, a candle is extinguished. The service concludes in darkness. We are also offering a worship opportunity on **Holy Saturday** at 5:00 p.m. Matthew Dirst and friends lead us in a musical meditation for Holy Week, exploring the depth and power of the Passion through music.

Easter Sunday is April 21, and we are continuing the schedule from last year. Hoping to create a little more space for people to be with us that day, we are offering festival services at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. The services will be identical: the St. Philip Choir will sing at both; I'll preach at both; we'll have communion at both. If your schedule permits, consider attending the 9:00 service to help us balance the crowd with us that morning. Easter breakfast will be available in Fellowship Hall from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., as well as crafts and activities for children. Again, we'll have a cross outside of the sanctuary for us to decorate. Please bring flowers to add to it.

This joyful day - and the poignant week leading up to it - have much promise. Perhaps you know someone you'd like to invite to join us for worship at St. Philip?

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "John".

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.

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.



A Musical Meditation for Holy Saturday
MUSIC OF BACH, TELEMANN & GEORG BÖHM

Saturday | April 20, 2019 | 5:00 p.m.

*with Matthew Dirst, harpsichord | Tony Boutté, tenor
Colin St-Martin, traverso | Pedro Funes, viola da gamba*

ST. PHILIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • HOUSTON

MISSION

SPPC VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR INTERFAITH MINISTRIES (IM) OPERATION IMPACT SATURDAY, MAY 4

In preparation for hurricane season, Interfaith Ministries (IM) Meals-on-Wheels program needs teams of volunteers to help deliver five days' worth of shelf-stable meals and a case of bottled water to all of their 4,300 homebound senior clients. About 50 volunteers are need for our St. Philip Team, as we usually deliver to 75-100 clients. Two or three volunteers who drive large SUVs or trucks are needed to pick up the meals and bottled water the morning of **May 4** and bring the supplies back to the church; the rest of the volunteers will meet at the church, break into teams, and deliver these supplies. This is a wonderful service event that just needs your time and your vehicle! Signups are available either by visiting www.saintphilip.net and clicking on the Operation IMpact logo, or email team leader Greg Han (who works at IM) at ghan@imgh.org. St. Philip has been a supporter of Interfaith for over 30 years; please sign up online today!

LORD OF THE STREETS (LOTS)

The next date for us to serve breakfast to the homeless is Sunday, **May 5**. We gather in the St. Philip parking lot at 6:30 a.m. to carpool to Trinity Episcopal Church and are back at the church by 9:00 a.m. in time for Sunday school. We need 15 volunteers. If this date is good for you, please call Janet Davis at 713-464-2385 to take part in this gratifying project.

SPPC T-SHIRTS

The Mission Committee is excited to once again take orders for our "official" St. Philip T-shirt! As we are out and about volunteering, as we gather as a community at Mo Ranch, as we pack meals for Kids Against Hunger, this is a great way to identify and promote that we are members of St. Philip! The design will be the same; the shirt will feel softer and be a darker heather royal blue. The shirts are produced in a 100% No Sweatshops & Eco-Friendly company that is Platinum WRAP (Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production) Certified.



- Youth Short Sleeve sizes are \$10.
- Adult Short Sleeve sizes are \$15.
- Long sleeve adult shirts are \$18.
- 2XL – 4XL sizes are an additional \$2.

All proceeds from the sales will go towards supporting our Mission Partner, Newspring. Newspring is a faith-based non-profit dedicated to making positive social and economic impact in the Spring Branch area of Houston. Sales will be held in the Gathering Area and on our website through Sunday, **May 19**. Sample shirts in all sizes are available at the Mission table. Payment must be made at the time you order by check, cash or credit card. Shirts may be picked up at church starting on Sunday, **June 2** – just in time for Mo Ranch! Questions? Email mission@saintphilip.net.

CCSC BACK TO SCHOOL REGISTRATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are seeking volunteers for Christian Community Service Center Back to School Client Registration from **May 6-9**. Clients will need to be interviewed and assigned a day/time to receive their children's backpacks and school supplies in August. At this time, we need a few people for "traffic control" to help the flow of visitors, computer users, and interviewers to review qualification documents for each client. Spanish speakers are welcomed. Shifts are Monday to Thursday, **May 6-9**, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please email Cathy Brown, Youth Services Manager at CCSC, seasonal@ccschouston.org if you are interested in helping.

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.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING... ITS NOT TOO LATE!!

We will be receiving One Great Hour Of Sharing contributions throughout the month of April. You may contribute by putting cash or a check into One Great Hour of Sharing pew envelopes and placing them in the offering plate. This offering is split between Presbyterian Disaster Relief, reducing hunger, and Self Development of People.

MARCH COMMUNION OFFERING

Presbyterian Children's Home and Services was the recipient of the March Communion Offering. Thanks to your generous giving, \$1,759 was donated to PCHAS in March. This will be used to facilitate adoptions and foster care, group homes, single family houses, uplift spirits, and support counseling needs. Thanks to your generosity, more services are being supported to help keep families together.

LIVING WATERS FOR THE WORLD MISSION TRIP

Four St. Philip members just returned from a successful Living Waters purification system and training in Nicolas Bravo, Yucatan. David Fox, Ed and Janet Hess, and Paloma Fraustchi participated with 6 others from St. John's Presbyterian, Christ Church Presbyterian, and Rotary International. Thanks to the efforts of Living Waters for the World, many more people now have sustainable access to clean water and the education of sanitary conditions and water usage. Thank you all who support this mission.



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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

WEEKDAY CLASSES

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

John Wurster's Wednesday morning Bible study meets at 10:30 a.m. in the Dining Room.

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 the Conference Room at noon. We are studying the book *The Good and Faithful Servant* by Hugh Hewitt at our meetings. 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.

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. Our next gathering is Tuesday, **April 23**, Eight Row Flint. 1039 Yale St., 77008. 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.

MONDAY EVENING STUDY GROUP

Monday, **May 13**, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., is the next meeting of the Monday evening study group, as we begin our next book, *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time: The Historical Jesus and the Heart of Contemporary Faith*, by Marcus Borg. We will read chapter 1, "Meeting Jesus again." In this book, Borg addresses the yearnings of those who want a fully contemporary faith that welcomes rather than oppresses our critical intelligence and openness to the best of historical scholarship. Borg shows how a rigorous examination of historical findings can lead to a new faith in Christ, one that is critical and, at the same time, sustaining. Haven't read it? No problem! Consider joining us anyway to hear what your fellow St. Philipians think. We meet the second and fourth Mondays, in the Dining Room (in the Administration Building, at the south end of campus), and refreshments are

provided. There is no better time to join our group, as we start a new book!

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Join a community of people in their 20s and 30s for compassionate conversation regarding all matters of the life of faith. We meet monthly at different restaurants in Houston and pose questions for group reflection and discussion. Bring a friend or your partner, your questions and ideas, and your thirst for knowledge! Next meeting is **May 14** at 6:30 p.m. The location to be determined.

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK GROUP

A monthly interest group for women who like to read books, socialize, and have a night out will meet **May 16** at 7:00 p.m. Our next meeting is at the home of Melissa Aldrich, and we will discuss *Becoming* by Michelle Obama. This interactive self-led group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. For more information contact Sarah O'Dell at: sarah.odell6@gmail.com

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women (PW) offers a variety of ways for women to live out their faith in an inclusive, caring community beginning with Bible study at St. Philip. Please join any one of the circles for their monthly meetings.

Circles

Sunday Circle

3rd Sunday of the month after 11 a.m. service

in the Dining Room



Monday Morning Saints

2nd Monday of the month at 10 a.m.

in the Dining Room



Wednesday Morning Circle

4th Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m.

at Brazos Towers

at Bayou Manor



Wednesday Evening Circle

1st Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. in the Dining Room

SUNDAY SCHOOL

CHURCH & SOCIETY

Room 201 – *Mickey Meyers* and *C.J. Miller*, leaders. **April 21** - Easter Sunday - Church & Society will not meet

April 21 so that class members can attend the Easter Sunday breakfast in Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. **April 28** - The Peace & Social Justice Committee presents a series of classes centered on being a congregation that strives to integrate environmental practices and thinking into all facets of congregational life including worship, education, facilities, and outreach. *Earth Care Congregation Certification - One Church's Experience* - presented by Cinda Hitchcock, The Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church. **May 5** - *Solar Power - Green is the New Black* - presented by Walker Fair, St. Philip member working with Texas Solar Outfitters.

BIBLE STUDY

Room 204 – Al Waldrop, leader. We will continue our study of The Psalms, primarily from the NRSV and Dr. Robert Alter's *The Book of Psalms: A Translation with Commentary*.

SPa

Room 200 - We are studying *What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?* by Martin Thielen. A contemporary look at essential - and non-essential Christian beliefs, this introductory book takes a look at common assumptions and important questions of faith. The St. 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

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.

Duerr Lecture Series

The Duerr Lecture Series Advisory Board announces the speaker for the 2020 series, February 23, 24, and 25, Rev. Deborah L. Forger, Ph.D., scholar of Jewish antiquity and the New Testament with an additional focus in early Jewish-Christian relations. 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 and her lectures will be related to this timely topic.

Dr. Forger completed her Ph.D. in Near Eastern Studies in 2017 and has recently commenced a three-year postdoctoral fellowship (2018-2021) in the Jewish Studies Program at Dartmouth College. She is an ordained minister in the PCUSA.

The Advisory Board looks forward to meeting and hearing this vibrant young scholar speaking on this important topic. Put the dates on your calendar now!

CDs or MP3 files of the 2019 lecture series, "The Great Ends of the Church," may be ordered on the church website, saintphilip.net.



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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

All classes begin at 9:30.

Godly Play (Age 3 to K)
Room 104

*Omi Ford, Joyce Fox,
and Ruthie Waldrop*

Children's Music
Room 105
Cecy Duarte

Grades 1—5
Room 105
*Paul Arlinghaus, Linda Bevil,
Kara D'Agostino,
and Paul D'Agostino*

Grades 6—8
Room 206
Judith Hiott and Jack Lippincott

Grades 9—12
Room 205
Keatan King and John Lemen

The purpose of the Fellowship Committee is to plan and arrange social activities and celebrations for the congregation throughout the year, for the congregation's enjoyment, and to welcome new members and visitors. The Fellowship Committee welcomes all as part of God's family. In recognition of our common faith, the Fellowship Committee brings together the church's immediate and extended family in joy and thanksgiving to build bonds in Christ.

FELLOWSHIP

SUMMER BASEBALL!

Stop by the Fellowship table in the Gathering Area today if you have interest in heading to the ballpark (Skeeters AND Astros) with your friends from St. Philip.



Skeeters vs. York Revolution, Sunday, **May 19** @ 2:05 p.m. \$20 for seat AND food voucher. Carpooling from St. Philip will be an option. Deadline to sign up is Sunday, **May 5**.



Astros vs. Los Angeles Angels, Sunday, **August 25** @ 2:10 p.m. \$49 for seat. Carpooling transportation TBD. Deadline to sign up is Sunday, **June 2**.

Payment is accepted in person on Sundays in the Gathering Area by putting an envelope in Amye Webster's (Fellowship) box in the Mailroom with your information or online! To pay online, go to www.saintphilip.net and click on "Make A Contribution." Select the FELLOWSHIP FUND. In the memo line, please specify team and # of tickets [i.e. Skeeters 4]. The deadlines for payment through St. Philip are firm!

PRIMETIMERS VISIT TO TRANSTAR

Have you wondered about how the massive transportation web that is Harris County functions? Come explore the Houston region's transportation system with a visit to TranStar, the region's hub for coordinated efforts for transit and emergency management. We will depart from St. Philip at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, **May 6**. After our tour, we'll have lunch at the Union Kitchen on Washington Avenue. We will return to St. Philip around 2pm. Please RSVP by Tuesday, **April 23**. You may contact Omar Rouchon with any questions.

JOIN THE PARTY!

Seeking friendly, fun folks to join the Fellowship Committee and help us make our fabulous events for St. Philip even better! Please contact Amye Webster if interested: amyewebster@yahoo.com or 360-770-7865.

COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

SMILE!

We invite all members new and old to have your picture taken for the 2019 Church Directory on Easter Sunday; this will be the last day that pictures will be taken. Please take your family anytime from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to the Library. Dan Cleveland will capture you in your best pose. Even if you're not being photographed, it's helpful for us if you can stop at the registration table to confirm your directory information. Directories should be available in May. You can always use MyStPhilip or ChurchLife to look up other members contact info. Go to www.saintphilip.net to learn more.



Will this be the outfit John wears in his 2019 directory pictures?

APRIL 21**EASTER
FESTIVAL SERVICES****9:00 & 11:00****SERVICES OF WORD & SACRAMENT**

WITH THE ST. PHILIP CHOIR

*John Wurster preaching***EASTER CELEBRATION****9:30 - 10:45****EASTER BREAKFAST & CRAFTS FOR EVERYONE****[FELLOWSHIP HALL]****10:00 - 10:45****FLOWERING OF THE CROSS & GROUP PHOTOS****APRIL 28****SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
SINGLE SERVICE****11:00**

JAZZ COMMUNION WITH PAUL ENGLISH & FRIENDS

SPRING PICNIC**[ON THE GROUNDS AFTER WORSHIP ~ 12 NOON]**

Purpose. 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.

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](#) button on our website, saintphilip.net.

SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS

The next service of healing and wholeness is **April 28** at 5:00 p.m. In this service, we claim God's promise of well-being and seek God's healing touch in body, mind, and spirit. In gathering for this service, we acknowledge that all healing is from God and we affirm that in the midst of illness, pain, and suffering, our relationship with God in Christ sustains us.

IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families—Nita Davis; T.E. “Joe” Keever; Walter Baker; Jim Bratton; Arlette Keene; Susan Leonard; Betty Knepper; Betty Golemon; Joyce Fox; Russell Bahruth; Bill Taylor; Carolyn Jones—sister of Cynthia Shoup; Norma Reagan—mother of Sarah O’Dell; Jean Miksch—daughter of Mary Benson, sister of Amye Webster; Elizabeth Carlton Lithio—granddaughter of Jeanie Flowers; Ralph Arlinghaus—father of Paul Arlinghaus; Ian Pearce; Rusty Howard; Phillip McDaniel; Carol Paine Kendrick; John Paser—brother of Mary Ann Thomas; and Hollie Bailey—niece of Peg Palisin.

Always in our prayers are the homebound members of St. Philip.

Friends of St. Philippians—Grady Reed—friend of Stephen Paine.

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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Interfaith

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

Episcopal

Faith-based

Flowers

Healing

Iftar

Impact

Interfaith

Meditation

Muslim

Presbyterian

Ramadan

Shadows

Tenebrae

