



April 18, 2023  
Volume 67, Issue 8

# PHILIP-EYE

## WHY ATTEND THE BBQ PICNIC?

This coming Sunday we have the annual BBQ Picnic. The details are on page 2. I like to take time the week before the picnic to invite everyone I talk to. Last fall for our fried chicken picnic I invited Tina Bryan, a new-ish member who had become very involved with the refugee project here at St. Philip. I asked if she was coming to the picnic. Her response was that she didn't know many people here yet, and she had become comfortable watching the service online.

I asked her to join me and David at the picnic and reminded her that dress was casual outdoors for the whole day, including worship. I followed up with her via text on Saturday that David wasn't going to be able to attend because of work, but that I was picking up the fried chicken so I would still be there and needed company.

Tina did a great job herself meeting individuals in the food line.. I picked a table for us that was empty, and then I started inviting people walking to join us. The conversations were great. I learned more about Bob Skaggs. Tina met at least four other people at the table. Then I saw Gary and Molly Whitney. I asked them if they were participating in Dinners for 8 this year. While they sadly said no, I was able to talk them into signing up. David and I were fortunate to be in their group, along with Tina, William Howard, Rhonda Sands and Jennifer Wilson. It turns out Tina hails from Alabama; and, if you didn't already know, so does Molly.

So this week, if you are a member who sits by someone who is new or visits on a regular basis, reach out to them and ask them to the BBQ with you. If you need contact info call/email me, I just might have it. If you have been visiting or just joined, reach out to one or two people you have come to know and let them know you hope to see them at the picnic. I would be glad to have you sit with me, but I have a family friend flying in from West Virginia who has asked us to spend the day with them and show them this great city we live in. There is always more food at the picnic than we can imagine, and it is great to try everyone's family recipes. Other members are always sensitive to food allergies, gluten-free and vegan needs so there is something for everyone. We will have canopies on the lawn with tables and chairs, as well as tables under the trees. Food is served under the breezeway along the old classrooms. You can drop off your dishes on the tables before worship. Fellowship committee members will be there to collect it.

- Lorrie Castle

**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

**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 **FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE** & **EARTH CARE TEAM**  
INVITES YOU TO...

**THE ST. PHILIP**

**BBOQ PICNIC**



**EARTH DAY  
CELEBRATION**



ON THE LAWN

**SUNDAY - APRIL 23**

{ starts at noon }

**BEEF BRISKET, RIBS & SAUSAGE  
WILL BE PROVIDED.**

**PLEASE BRING A POTLUCK DISH TO SHARE FOR 8 PEOPLE**

*Last names  
that begin with...*

**A-M: SIDE DISH OR SALAD N-Z: DESSERT**

**QUESTIONS?** CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE (713-622-4807)  
OR SEND AN EMAIL TO: [welcome@saintphilip.net](mailto:welcome@saintphilip.net)

**INTERGENERATIONAL**

**FEEL FREE TO WEAR CASUAL OUTDOOR ATTIRE.**

## GUIDED TOUR OF ST. PHILIP THIS SUNDAY

We probably all know where the Sanctuary is, but do you know where the Choir Room is? Or the Children's Chapel Room? Or the Pastors' Offices? The Welcoming and Membership Committee invites anyone interested—and especially those who may be newer to the St. Philip community—to join us in a short walking tour of the St. Philip campus, beginning at 9:30 a.m. on **April 23**. We'll visit the key spaces where we worship, serve, learn, and share fellowship. You'll also hear a bit about some of the activities of our congregation, like our community gardening, Arts & Crafts Studio, or where the Presbyterian Women meet? Everyone is welcome, whether you are new to St. Philip or not. You'll get to know your church home better, and there will be yummy treats to enjoy!

*When:* 9:30 a.m., Sunday, **April 23**

*Where:* Meet in the Gathering Area, the open space with tables near the Sanctuary.



"BASEBALL IS LIKE  
CHURCH. MANY AT-  
TEND, BUT FEW UN-  
DERSTAND."

—Leo Ernest Durocher

The Fellowship Committee invites you to join them at Constellation Field on Saturday, **June 17** at 7:00 p.m. when the Space Cowboys take on the Sacramento River Cats.

The ticket price of \$15 and parking price of \$3/car will remain the same as last year.

Members of the Fellowship Committee will be available in the lobby before and after worship in the near future.

Final day for ticket sales is: **May 21**. Payment can be made online, with check or cash or at the table in the lobby.

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Session has decided that we will continue with a single worship service on Sundays at 11 am at least through the summer. Since making this change at the beginning of Lent, we have observed increased participation in our children's programs. We will use the next few months to more fully explore the benefits and limitations of returning to a two-service Sunday schedule in the fall.

## WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES

**MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY**—Wednesday Bible study with John Wurster **meets weekly**. The 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. To get on the list for the Zoom links, send a note to [john@saintphilip.net](mailto:john@saintphilip.net). Bible novices, Bible experts, and everyone in between is welcome!

**LAMBETH STUDY**—Keatan King leads young adults in study every Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. It is a time of study, reflection, and prayer. If you would like more details, email Keatan King at: [keatan@saintphilip.net](mailto:keatan@saintphilip.net).

**WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB**—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is **May 11** at 7:00 p.m. and we will discuss *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garbus. Watch your email for details of the next meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nina Lambright at: [nnl@lambrightlaw.com](mailto: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. If you would like to join them, please contact Gary Gardner at: [ggardne148@aol.com](mailto:ggardne148@aol.com).

**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](mailto:welcome@saintphilip.net). All circles meet in the Dining Room in the Administration Building. May is the last meeting of the year for the circles.

*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.



**CPR** AT ST. PHILIP

Save a life! Or maybe someone saves yours! Nancy Higgs has been able to schedule the CPR class on Sunday, May 7, 2:00-4:00 p.m., in the Dining Room. The cost is \$45 per person. It will be taught by certified instructor(s). If interested and not already registered, please call/text Nancy Higgs at 512-422-3317, and she will try to fit you in.



## CREATION CARE: EARTH DAY

Saturday, **April 22**, is the 53rd birthday of Earth Day! In 1970 there were no legal or regulatory mechanisms to protect our environment, so Sen. Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin joined forces with University of Michigan students and teachers. They hoped for a thousand attendees at their “teach-in.” To their surprise around 50,000 people participated throughout the week! Have you become more aware of simple, small efforts you can make to help care for God’s Creation, our Earth?

Do you...

- 🌍 Recycle plastic bags? (Or carry along a reusable bag?)
- 🌍 Recycle glass? Metal cans? Paper? Corrugated cardboard?
- 🌍 Walk or bicycle instead of driving at least one day a week?
- 🌍 Educate yourself about current initiatives in climate care?

You can tend to that last item by planning to attend **Church and Society** classes in person, by Zoom, or by viewing the class video recording, **April 16** through **30**. (Live classes meet at 9:30 a.m. and recordings are available the following Wednesday. St. Philip’s Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee sponsors this three-week series.)

### April 16

*Climate Confidential: A Life of Climate Advocacy*, presented by Mark Wenzler, Director, Chautauqua Climate Change Initiative

### April 23

*God’s Provision to Address the Climate Crisis: Sun, Wind, Wisdom*, presented by St. Philip’s own Walker Fair and John Hartman

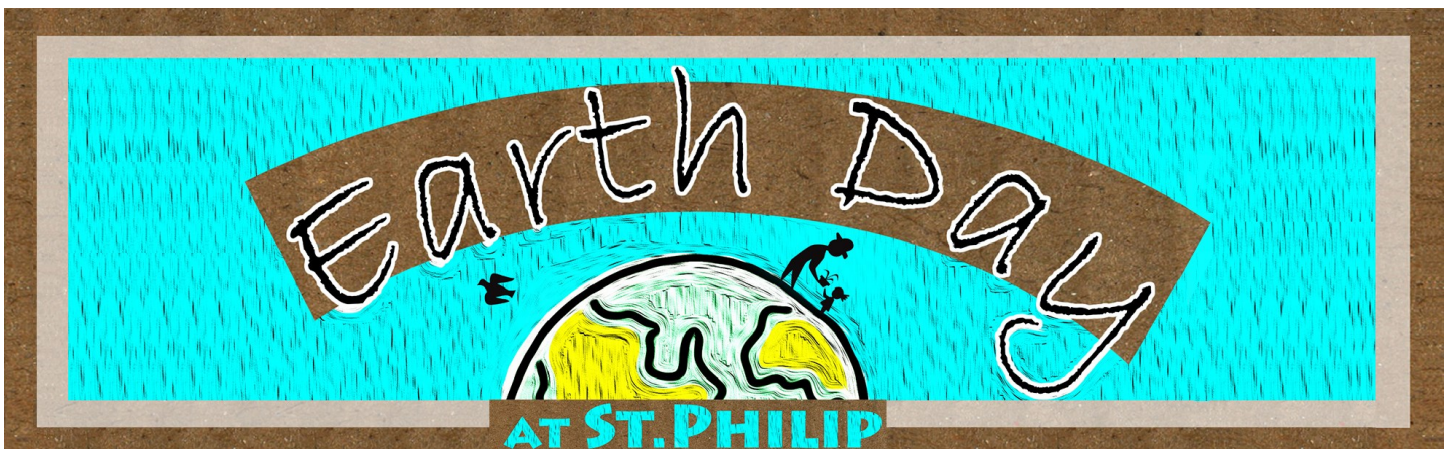
### April 30

*How, Then, Shall We Live? Practicing Kinship and Taking the Long View Amidst the Climate Crisis*, presented by Church and Society favorite Dahr Jamail, author of *The End of Ice: Bearing Witness and Finding Meaning in the Middle of Climate Disruption* and *We Are the Middle of Forever: Indigenous Voices from Turtle Island on the Changing Earth*

But wait, there’s more! To help you protect God’s marvelous Earth, St. Philip’s Earth Care Team has some goodies in store for you at our upcoming **BBQ picnic** Sunday, **April 23**.

- 🌍 a bookmark-size survey for you to tell us what areas of earth care you would like to learn more about or see St. Philip act on.
- 🌍 A list of quick and easy ways to engage in action, prayer, and learning as we seek to walk gently on God’s good Earth.
- 🌍 An informative “table tent” with facts about recycling at St. Philip and how to be a good steward in disposing of your place setting when you finish lunch.

Earth Day is meant to be a celebration, and it is the perfect time to gather as a church family on **April 23** for the love of creation. See you then!



## 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.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

9:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

**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 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.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY**—Room 204—We are continuing our study of the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah in 2 Kings with the story of Elisha and the fate of 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.

**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](mailto:churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net).

**April 23** – God’s Provision to Address the Climate Crisis: Sun, Wind, Wisdom - God has provided solar energy beyond our most ambitious needs. Will we make the major commitments, financially, technically, politically and bureaucratically to capture and transmit solar energy along with wind and other sources to all the places it is needed to satisfy our growing appetites? What is happening to bring about this huge contribution from solar? Houston, the global energy capital, is uniquely positioned to play an im-

portant role as the world transitions away from fossil fuels into a different energy future. However, it is challenging to purposely phase out an industry that has been a primary reason for a city’s growth. What are some of the challenges and what is happening now? Presented by St. Philipians John Hartman, former owner of a manufacturing and engineering business serving the petrochemical industry and now a small business owner working with churches to facilitate solar installations, and Walker Fair - Houston Solar Energy Company. **April 30** - How, Then, Shall We Live?: Practicing Kinship and Taking the Long View Amidst the Climate Crisis presented by Dahr Jamail - author of *The End of Ice: Bearing Witness and Finding Meaning in the Middle of Climate Disruption and We Are the Middle of Forever - Indigenous Voices from Turtle Island on the Changing Earth*.

**SPa** (St. Philip Adults) – Room 200—This year, SPa returns to its same place and time. We 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!

**CHILDREN’S CHAPEL** In the Children’s Chapel, our young disciples learn the whos, whats, wheres, whens and whys of worship in the chapel, while also praying, seeing 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. Children’s Chapel gathers every 2nd and 4th Sunday during the 11 o’clock service.

### SAVE THE DATE: AUGUST 5 - 2023 SUMMER LECTURE SERIES

Please plan to join us on Saturday, **August 5** for St. Philip’s annual Summer Lecture Series. This year’s speaker will be the Rev. Kyle Meynard-Schaap, Vice President of the Evangelical Environmental Network and author of the recently-published book, *Following Jesus in a Warming World - a Christian Call to Climate Action*. More details to come. Please contact Omar Rouchon with any questions.

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

January, 2023

### Stated Session Meeting In-Person and via Video Conferencing – January 31, 2023

- ◆ Session authorized the Celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at the Presbyterian Women's Retreat on March 26, 2023, with the Rev. Kallie Pitcock presiding.
- ◆ Session approved the 2022 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, with a correction to the number of children in the Age 4 and under group.
- ◆ Session approved the transfer of membership letters for Bill and Sarah O'Dell to First Presbyterian Church, Asheville, NC.
- ◆ Session elected Peg Palisin and Jeanette Wennenwesser to a three (3) year term, elected Cathy Patterson to a two (2) year term, and elected Jane Cooper to a one (1) year term on the Central Mission Endowment Fund Council.
- ◆ Session approved the 2023 St. Philip Presbyterian Church operating budget totaling \$1,704,500.
- ◆ Session approved the lease agreement with the Iglesia Oasis de Amor congregation.
- ◆ Session invited Dr. Rachel Baard to preach at the 11:00 am worship service on Sunday, February 26, 2023.
- ◆ For the season of Lent, February 26, 2023 to April 6, 2023, Session suspended the 9:00 a.m. worship service in order to have one service only at 11:00 a.m.
- ◆ Session approved two services on Ash Wednesday, Wednesday, February 22, 2023; at 12 noon and at 6:30 pm.
- ◆ Session approved Wednesday services at 12:00 noon during the season of Lent on March 1, 2023, March 8, 2023, March 15, 2023, March 22, 2023, and March 29, 2023 for which guest preachers would be invited to preach.
- ◆ Session called the Annual Congregational Meeting on February 12, 2022, immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

### Called Session Meeting – January 15, 2023

- ◆ Session received into membership Celie Matteson by reaffirmation of faith.
- ◆ Session received into membership Quincy Victorian and Sarah Miller by reaffirmation of faith.

February, 2022

### Stated Session Meeting/Retreat In-Person at CCSC – February 18, 2023

- ◆ Session appointed Maggie Dement the Session representative to the Central Mission Endowment Council for 2023.
- ◆ Session elected Nancy Young, Laura Burgess, Jon Martin, Susan Lange, and Liz Miguez as Ruling Elder Commissioners to the March 18, 2023 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant at First Presbyterian Church, Navasota.

John Lemen  
Clerk of Session





## Happy Easter

*Thank you to those who have contributed lilies to adorn our chancel.*

<i>Given by:</i>	<i>Those we remember:</i>
Orlean Anderson	Ruth & Orlean McCallum
Orlean Anderson	Kenneth L. Anderson Jr.
Bob & Lee Ardell	Our parents
Deb Burks & John Wurster	Darnall Burks
Suzanne & David Kerr	To the memory of our parents
Jan Meyer	Don & Valerie Meyer
Barbara Runge	Rusty Howard
Barbara Runge	Eugene & Ruth Howard
Barbara Runge	Glen & Affie Tate
Barbara Runge	Bill & Martha Runge
Jenilee Simmons	Douglass L. Simmons
Hallie & David Spence	Paxton Williams
Sally Alcorn	Cecile and Carl Stuebing - my parents
Sally Alcorn	Fred C. Alcorn - husband
The Britton Family	H.L. Britton and Elizabeth Britton
Mary Grace Carter	In loving memory of Jim Bratton
Elizabeth Duerr	Sue Baier
David & Joyce Fox	Dan Flowers & Jack Fox
Joseph Harwood	Nancy Harwood
Dick & Sue Howard	Cynthia Ann Lebel Beardsley
Meg Scott-Johnson & Richard B. Johnson	James Noble Johnson
Meg Scott-Johnson & Richard B. Johnson	John Christopher Scott
Jane Larkin	Lee R. Larkin and John P. Larkin
Celie Matteson	My parents: Pete & Gussie Heilbron
Meredith Alcorn McCarthy	My grandparents: Cecile & Carl Stuebing and Lexey & Charles Alcorn
Sarah Miller & Quincy Victorian	Our dog Popcorn J. Miller-Victorian
The Schissler Family	Dick Schissler
Julie Wangler	My husband, Thomas Wangler
<i>Given by:</i>	<i>Those we honor:</i>
Bob & Lee Ardell	The St. Philip pastors and staff
Linda Bevill	My dear friend
Bob & Bebe Burns	To the glory of God and in honor of our St. Philip family
Lorrie Castle	David Castle
Elizabeth Duerr	Jane Malczewskyj
Elizabeth Duerr	The St. Philip Choir and Bell Canto
Paul Jackson	Sara Jean Jackson
Walter & Margaret King	In gratitude for our wonderful church staff
Jane Larkin	Jim, Penny and Amelia Larkin
Cathy Patterson	St. Philip Mission Committee
Hallie & David Spence	Mary Linda Williams

## IN OUR PRAYERS

*Butch Wilson and family upon the death of his father, Mac Wilson on April 9.*

*William Rowe and family upon the death of his father, Alan Rowe on April 7.*

*Betsy Flowers and Tyler Richard, daughter and son-in-law of Beth and Fort Flowers welcomed Leonardo "Leo" Knowles Richard to the family on April 11.*

*St. Philippians and their families*— Kathryn Harwood; Robin & Gary Willis; CJ Miller; Jennifer Wilson; Jane Malczewskyj; Jan Fox; Peg Palisin; Beverly Hudson; Susan Huffman; Mary Sinderson; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Carolyn Vestal; Lane Fletcher; Austin Lippincott; Richard Johnson; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Willow Polk – niece of Sharon Webb; Truxillo family – Wayne and Sandra Truxillo; John Murphy, Sr. – cousin of Gary Gardner; Carla Burns – cousin of Sharon Webb; Robert Kirtley – father of Amanda Kirtley; Susan Everhart – niece of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Warren Cash – brother of Kay Cash; Ann Perenyi – mother of Lad Perenyi; Donna Harris—sister of Joyce Fugit; 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; and Elizabeth Carlton Lithio—granddaughter of Jeanie Flowers.

*Homebound*—Elizabeth Arp; Beverly Baker; John Bobbitt; Ellen MacDonald; Jean Nelson; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; Sondra Sullivan; and Jody Tomforde.

*Friends of St. Philippians*— Rosebud Wiese Kirby – friend of Tina Bryan; Jacqueline Boyd – friend of Kate Burkart; Carol Gilliland - friend of Orlean Anderson; 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](mailto:deacons@saintphilip.net).

## 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.

Next edition: May 2; Deadline April 24—2:00 p.m. -  
due to Lorrie being out of the office

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.



MATTHEW 25



MORE LIGHT  
PRESBYTERIANS



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