



April 2, 2019
Volume 63, Issue 7

PHILIP-EYE

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PHILIP
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

MIKE AYERS

We welcome new member Mike Ayers to St. Philip. He joins us by reaffirmation of faith. Mike is a geologist who grew up and went to school in Montana. He also served in the military during Operation Desert Storm. He recently moved back to Houston after several years in Wyoming. Mike is married to Beth Ayers, a long-time member of Central and St. Philip, and they have two sons, Will and Jake. Mike is interested in getting involved in Bible study; he has been studying Greek and enjoys discussing theology. Mike says he is happy to be back in Houston and at St. Philip. Welcome, Mike!

JACQUELINE COLTON

Jacque joined St. Philip in February. She is a retired teacher who grew up in Indiana and went to college in Florida at Stetson and the University of South Florida. Jacque has lived in Houston since the early 1980s, but she loves to travel and recently spent a year living in the mountains in Georgia. She has been active at St. Philip for several months, having heard about St. Philip through a friend. She appreciates the friendly congregation and is interested in mission; she has already become involved in some of our mission activities. Welcome, Jacque!

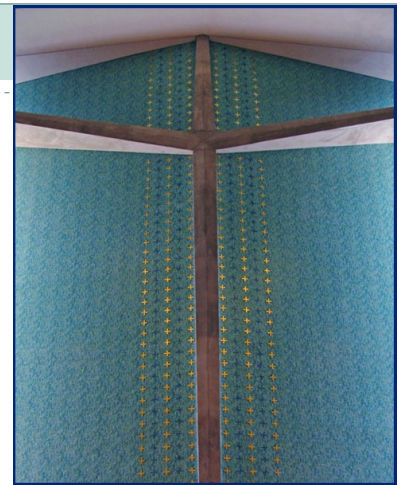


KEITH FLETCHER

We welcome to membership Keith Fletcher, who has been an active friend of St. Philip for some time. Keith learned about St. Philip through his wife Lane, a member of St. Philip. Keith was born in West Texas but came to Houston as a boy and graduated from high school and college here. After law school at Baylor he returned to Houston and has been practicing law for over 30 years. In his spare



(Continued on page 3)



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,

The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (USA) sponsors conferences designed to help ministers at different stages of their careers. Called CREDO conferences, these events seek to provide us with tools to cultivate wholeness in all the areas of our lives (spiritual, vocational, financial, and physical) so that we might better serve the church. Over the past couple of years, Keatan and Omar have had opportunities to attend CREDO conferences for recently ordained ministers.

Last month, I was invited to attend the CREDO conference for those at the "mid-career" stage. Held in Arkansas at Ferncliff Conference Center, this event gathered eleven pastors and eight CREDO faculty members from across the country. The faculty included seasoned ministers, a physician, an accountant, a couple of counselors, and a Board of Pensions representative. The pastors came from all sorts of different ministry settings; some were in relatively new positions, while others had been serving in the same place for years. Over the week, we had presentations from the faculty on various aspects of well-being, a diversity of worship experiences led by the faculty, opportunities for individual consultations with faculty members regarding particular areas of interest (and struggle), time and space for reflection, and lots of informal discussion with peers.

The conference was a wonderful occasion for me to identify and affirm essential values and to discern resources needed for the coming years. I feel like I gained a lot by attending. As I shared with the Session upon my return, the CREDO conference made me all the more grateful for the call to serve at St. Philip and for the abundant opportunities God has placed before our congregation.

Faithfully yours,

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 | Application Form: saintphilip.net/SubmitForms.

MIDWEEK LENT SERVICES

As in past years, we will have worship each Wednesday at noon through April 10 with guest preachers joining us to offer sermons on the Passion of Jesus. The upcoming preachers include Rose Niles from Austin Seminary on **April 3**; and Nathan Carlin from McGovern Medical School on **April 10**. Each week lunch will be available in the Gathering Area at 12:30.

COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

SMILE!

We invite all members new and old to have your picture taken for the 2019 Church Directory on **April 7, 14, or 21**. 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.

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.

time, he enjoys running, Bible study, and participating in the Kairos Prison Ministry. Keith and Lane have four adult children and four young grandchildren. He likes the friendliness and size of the St. Philip congregation, and he plans to continue to participate in worship and Christian Education opportunities at St. Philip. Welcome, Keith!



MIKE GABEL

Mike returns to active membership at St. Philip, where he and his late wife Patricia were members. They moved away from Houston a decade ago, but Mike has now returned to Houston and rejoined the church. Mike grew up and went to school, college, and law school in Michigan. He practiced law in Houston and elsewhere, but he now has retired from active practice. He will split his time between Houston and Staunton, Virginia, where he is active in church and musical groups. Mike enjoys reading and singing, and he plans to get involved in St. Philip's music programs. Welcome back, Mike!

WELCOME & MEMBERSHIP

GUIDED TOUR OF ST. PHILIP ON SUNDAY, APRIL 7

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 on **April 7**. 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 the Men's Fellowship and the Mission Committee. 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 donuts!

PEACEMAKING & SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Coffee Team will be offering chocolate minis in Easter packets of 10, and chocolate bars, along with coffee, tea and olive oil, on **April 7**, in the Gathering Area before and after the 11 a.m worship service.

After Halloween, Easter is the second most important occasion for chocolate sales, and each year Americans consume over 70 million pounds of chocolate the week leading up to Easter. However, much less than 1% of that chocolate is fairly traded, which Equal Exchange seeks to change.

Equal Exchange's products are 100% Fair Trade, traded, benefiting more than 40 small farmer co-operatives in 25 countries around the world.

Your support of small farmers, who use sustainable farming techniques, has added to our ability to be certified as an "Earth Care Congregation"! Congratulations to you, who have contributed to the effort in this way and many others.

EASTER LILIES

We will be taking donations of any amount for lilies to adorn the sanctuary on Easter. Easter lilies are symbolic of purity and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. They adorn Christian houses of worship on the holy day that shares their name.

There are two ways to make your gift: 1) complete the form in the Sunday announcements and place in an envelope in the offering plate 2) go online and make a donation to the flower fund. Please include: *in honor of* or *in memory of* and the name(s) you wish to recognize, as well as how you would like your name to appear. Contact Lorrie Castle at 713-622-4807 or email if you have questions.

The purpose of the Welcoming and Membership Committee is to invite persons to become members of St. Philip and encourage them to respond to the Gospel by becoming active members in the life and work of the church.

The purpose of the Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee is to highlight and support the denomination's Peacemaking Program; and to maintain congregational awareness of issues of social, racial, and economic injustice; human rights; arms control, and environmental degradation; and all forms of exclusion and prejudice [as described more fully in St. Philip's Commitment to Peacemaking (2003)].

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 will begin our study of the book *The Good and Faithful Servant* by Hugh Hewitt at that meeting. 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.

MONDAY EVENING STUDY GROUP

On Monday, **April 8**, at 5:30 p.m., we end our discussion of Cynthia Rigby's book *Holding Faith: A Practical Introduction to Christian Doctrine*, with part 5, "God sends us," chapter 10, "What are we are called to do? The doctrine of Christian vocation." Besides conversation, our meetings include light food and drink, fellowship, and a brief devotional. We meet each second and fourth Monday, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., in the Dining Room (in the Administration Building, at the south end of campus).

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 **April 9** 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 meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Our next meeting is on **April 11** at the home of Barbara Cavanaugh, and we will discuss *Educated* by Tara Westover.

This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. For more information contact Sarah O'Dell at: sarah.odell6@gmail.com

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.

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

NEW DISCOVERY CLASS FOR LENT

Resting in God – Keeping the Sabbath is a Lenten learning experience for all ages, 1st grade through adult. Each week we will creatively explore different parts of the spiritual life, including time, worship, nature, prayer, and mission. Led by the pastors, the class meets at 9:30 Sunday in Rooms 205-206. Everyone is welcome!

CHURCH & SOCIETY

Room 201 – *Mickey Meyers* and *C.J. Miller*, leaders. **April 7** - *Does the Pope Run the Church?* A look at one of the central church-dividing issues that remains to be resolved in our ecumenical half-century of serious dialogue. Presented by *Garland Pohl*, Catholic Ecumenist and co-founder of the Houston Interfaith Thanksgiving Service held annually the first Thursday in November at the Rothko Chapel with nine religious faiths represented. **April 14** - Palm Sunday - *Sacred Music for Passion Week* - A preview of musical art for Holy Week - a time suspended between two worlds: that of the darkness and death of Good Friday and that of the Resurrection and restoration of the Light of Christ on Easter Sunday. Presented by *Dr. Matthew Dirst*, St. Philip organist and harpsichordist, Professor of Music at the Moores School of Music, University of Houston, Founder and Artistic Director of *Ars Lyrica Houston* - an ensemble that specializes in Baroque chamber and dramatic works.

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.



2019
Presbyterian
Women's
Retreat



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

Keep watch over yourselves and
over all the flock, of which the
Holy Spirit has made you
overseers, to shepherd the church
of God, which he obtained with
the blood of his own Son.

—Acts 20:28

Session

John Wurster
Moderator

John Lemen
Clerk

Pastors
Keatan King
Omar Rouchon

Class of 2019

Kate Dickinson-Varner
Janet Hess
William Rowe
Chuck Seidel
Sandy Truxillo
Anne Wilson
Nancy Beck Young

Class of 2020

Selena Brinegar
Tim Burgess
Scott Easterly
Jack Lippincott
Bonnie Moore
Peg Palisin
Amye Webster

Class of 2021

Lee Ardell
John Boone
Kate Burkart
Bill Connolly
Dave Durham
Vanessa Nenna
Cathy Patterson

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Our Nominating Committee is seeking servant leaders to serve in the offices of Ruling Elder, Deacon, and Trustee. We will also nominate to the Session people to serve on the Central Mission Endowment Council. Your suggestions, with comments, are helpful to the committee in its work. Forms can be found in the Church Office and should be turned in by **Friday, April 5** to Lorrie Castle's mailbox. If you have questions about these roles, please contact one of the committee members listed or Rev. John Wurster. **2019 Nominating Committee:** *Tim Burgess, Kate Burkart, Joyce Fox, Julia Fox, Walker Fair, William Howard, and Nina Lambright.*

In order to submit a candidate, it is requested that you provide the candidate's name and your name in case we have questions. Self-nominations are welcome. In making recommendations, please elaborate on personal qualities, involvement in our church, and why you consider this person a good candidate for church leadership.

If you are recommending a Ruling Elder, please indicate the ministry area(s) they would best serve: Communication & Technology; Education; Finance; Mission; Peacemaking & Social Justice; Personnel; Property; Stewardship; Welcome & Membership; or Worship & Music.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

March 2019

Called Session Meeting – March 17, 2019

- ✦ Session received into membership by reaffirmation of faith Michael (Mike) Gabel.
- ✦ Session received into membership by reaffirmation of faith Keith M. Fletcher.

Stated Session Meeting – March 19, 2019

- ✦ Session approved giving the April 7th and June 2nd Communion Offerings to the PC(USA) Special Offerings of the One Great Hour of Sharing and the Pentecost Offering, respectively.
- ✦ Session approved the St. Philip Sabbatical Policy which is to be added to the St. Philip Manual of Operations.

Committee and Council Actions:

- ✦ Mission Committee has endorsed the *Out of Order* documentary along with the Welcoming & Membership Committee and the Peacemaking & Social Justice Committee.
- ✦ Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee has approved the Lynn Johnson social justice grant request for \$2,000 for a public viewing of the *Out of Order* documentary.
- ✦ Personnel Committee has appointed Bebe Burns, Al Waldrop, John Lemen, and Keatan King to serve as a Sabbatical Committee in support of John Wurster's upcoming leave.
- ✦ Property Committee has approved a contract with MJM for the installation of 24 security cameras around the campus.

John A. Lemen, Clerk of Session

Child Piano Prodigy Performers
on March 24.





MUSIC AT ST. PHILIP

Sunday afternoon, March 24, was the second annual recital by the winners of the Rochelle Liebling Kahan Memorial Fund Competition for Child Piano Prodigies. What a thrilling and joyful event this is to see and hear these young pianists perform their winning pieces for an appreciative audience. Performers are the top three winners of this year's competition plus winners from earlier competitions. Works by composers such as J. S. Bach, Mozart, Liszt, Chopin, Mendelssohn, and Albéniz were performed by musically mature and technically accomplished children. The competition is open to children from ages 6 to 9, and this year's winners were all 9 years old. Music at St. Philip will be hosting this recital again next year on March 29, 2020. Put it on your calendar now and don't miss it... it is truly a joy to hear these children!

"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything."

— Plato

IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families—Dick Howard; Jan Ostendorf; T.E. “Joe” Keever; Walter Baker; Jim Bratton; Arlette Keene; 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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@StPhilipHouston



Business or Church

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Ecumenical	Geologist	Jazz	Military
Nominate	Prison	Reflection	Row
Sacred	Scholarship	Servant	Symbolic
Teacher	Vocational		

