



May 16, 2023

Volume 67, Issue 10

# PHILIP-EYE



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW)

**DID YOU KNOW:** The PW of St. Philip not only study God's word together, but if asked, they also serve the members of our church by providing receptions after funerals or memorial services. The Presbyterian Women furnish the food, set an elegant table, serve as waitstaff for the gathering, and clean up afterwards—all under the incomparable tutelage of Nan Schissler for over 30 years.

Mary McGuire attended her first PW circle meeting at age 4 with her grandmother! Mary's mother continued this family tradition, and urged Mary to do the same. Mary joined a PW circle over 30 years ago and is grateful she did: "The women became my sisters. We supported one another through job changes, family changes, marriages, births, grandchildren, caring for parents and the inevitable losses. I learned the strength of sisterhood." There are three active PW circles at St. Philip that meet once a month on days and times designed to accommodate all. To be directed to a circle leader, please email [welcome@saintphilip.net](mailto:welcome@saintphilip.net).

Presbyterian Women is not just the women's circles at St. Philip, but a community of women across the country who have been active for over 200 years. Led by a PW Coordinating Team at the PCUSA level, national and international needs are identified. You and the congregation are invited to contribute to those efforts through the annual PW Birthday Offering (since 1922) and the PW Thank You Offering (since 1888).

*Based on remarks made by Mary McGuire*

Thanks be to God for St. Philip's faithful Presbyterian Women.

**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




Registration is now available for Summer VBS on June 10! Come enjoy a day of music, drama, art and more, as we explore how to care for the gift of God's creation.

SUMMER 2023 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

*care for*

# CREATION



GENESIS 1:1-2:4

*the call to love  
God's beautiful gifts.*

**SATURDAY JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> 9A.M.-2P.M.**

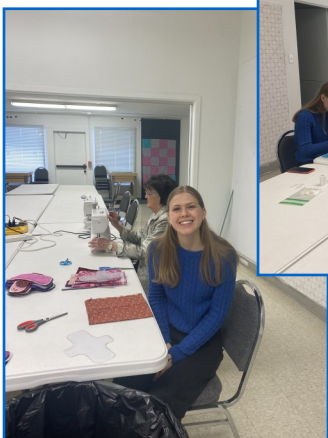
**ALL CHILDREN AGES 3 - 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ARE WELCOMED > THERE IS NO COST**

\* PLEASE BRING A BAGGED LUNCH

WEAR CLOSED-TOE & SHOES

ST. PHILIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
4807 SAN FELIPE - EDUCATION BLDG.





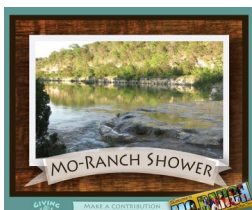
Presbyterian Women helped Caroline Vestal finish her Girl Scout Award Project on Ending Period Poverty.

## THE PHILIP-EYE NEWSLETTER

This newsletter has been produced over a significant time. The U.S. Postal mailing distribution has reduced to 30 copies each issue. Most people receive the newsletter electronically. Recently, John Wurster solicited input from the Session about formatting possibilities.

- ☞ Monthly in the summer, or as needed.
- ☞ Twice monthly during the school year would still be desirable.
- ☞ Could add more stories, as other churches have done.
- ☞ It is of paramount importance who the 30 mailings go to, as many of them may be homebound; we don't want to deprive anyone of a printed version being mailed to those who desire them.
- ☞ Would be great to have the electronic version be in the email and not require an extra click to get the newsletter to open.
- ☞ Take into consideration what format is easiest for Lorrie to edit/produce.

If you receive a digital newsletter from another organization that doesn't require an extra click to get the newsletter, please forward to [Lorrie@saintphilip.net](mailto:Lorrie@saintphilip.net) as we look at building a new format.



### MO-RANCH PARTICIPANTS

Please watch your email, details will be forthcoming before departure.

St. Philip has a long and rich connection with Mo-Ranch. For more than forty years, our congregation has held its annual retreat at this Presbyterian conference center in the hill country, and in recent years the congregation collects a special offering ahead of the retreat so we can express our love and care for this treasured mission partner. The "Mo-Shower" supports the housekeeping department at the ranch. This year our gift will help replenish the very most fundamental supplies needed to make Mo's accommodations comfortable and welcoming for guests: bedding and towels! It takes a lot of these "soft goods" to keep the ranch in good shape. Your generous support of this offering will ensure rest and relaxation for many visitors this season. The Mo Shower offering will be collected on Sundays, **May 21 & 28**. You may also contribute via a link on the church website.

## 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 **June 8** at 7:00 p.m. and we will discuss *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See. 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 until fall 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.

## VISIT ISRAEL IN 2024

We are putting together a St. Philip trip to Israel for **April 1-12, 2024**. If you are interested in seeing the trip brochure or need other information, please contact John Wurster ([john@saintphilip.net](mailto:john@saintphilip.net)).

## PEACEMAKING & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Participating in social justice is a Christian tradition inspired by Jesus, who cared deeply about the social causes around him. Those of us on the Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee take our understanding of Christ's social justice ministry seriously and prayerfully. Hospitality to and support of all – LGBTQIA+ persons, refugees, people of color - have been hallmarks of this church through the activities of this committee for many years. More recent areas of service include:

- an intentional two-year study of racism in America and establishment of a fund to help right the injustice composers of Black spiritual music have suffered in not being eligible for royalties
- a recent commitment to the denomination's Matthew 25 initiative, in the focus area of dismantling structural racism
- substantive assistance to and friendship with refugee families from Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- continued support of actions to hold up St. Philip as an Earth Care Congregation, which requires efforts in the areas of education, facilities, outreach, and worship. These include
  - our community garden, whose produce is grown organically and distributed through the emergency food pantry ministry of the Christian Community Service Center
  - a budding interest in a native plant bed
  - support of renewable energy through the solar farm on the roof of the education building and evaluation of an EV charging station on our campus
  - the use of fellowship coffee through the denomination's fair-trade co-op partner, Equal Exchange, and quarterly sales of a variety of chocolates, coffees, teas, and other food products through Equal Exchange, supporting a sustainable farming model that is gentle to God's Earth and enabling small farmers in developing countries to earn a living wage
- efforts to educate ourselves on denominational resources for gun violence prevention and exploring the Guns to Gardens project
- voter education and advocacy
- support of transgender youth and their parents.

By acknowledging and actively addressing racism, gender equality, earth care, and a litany of other issues, St. Philip is following in the steps of Jesus, who loves everyone but went out of his way to intentionally help specific groups of people – the alienated, mistreated, and those facing injustice. Your support, in the form of your treasure, talent, and time, will help us continue our efforts to demonstrate the relevance of today's Christianity to our community and beyond. Your pledges help support our work, and new members of the committee are welcome and appreciated and invited to join us.



## A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS & A CALL TO PRAY

The congregation is being asked to submit recommendations for persons to serve as Ruling Elders (Session), Trustees, and on the Central Mission Endowment Council.

We ask that the congregation wrap this process in prayer. Take some time to pray over the names in the church directory. Who do you believe exhibits spiritual leadership to take St. Philip to the next step? Who has a contagious passion for God? Who might enlarge our vision, empower our members, and embrace a bit of risk? How about you?

### Thank you for your help! Your 2023 Nominating Committee:

*Lee Ardell, Selena Brinegar, Laura Burgess, Walker Fair, Chuck Johnson, Mickey Meyers, Jeanette Wennenweser*

To suggest a candidate, please 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. Please use a separate form for each recommendation. **The digital form is available at: <https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/28qYBg8fabE0193vb>.**

### RULING ELDER

In addition to possessing the necessary gifts and abilities for leading the congregation, those who undertake the ministry of Ruling Elder should be persons of strong faith, dedicated discipleship, and love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel in the church and in the world. As members of the Session, they are responsible for the spiritual oversight of the congregation and for oversight of all the programs and ministries of St. Philip.

### TRUSTEE

The duties of the trustees are to receive, hold, encumber, manage, and transfer property on behalf of the congregation; and to manage any permanent special funds for the furtherance of the purposes of the congregation.

### CENTRAL MISSION ENDOWMENT COUNCIL

Members of the council decide the disbursements of the Central Mission Endowment Fund (CMEF). Persons serving on the council should be interested in mission outreach with available time for site visits.

### LEADER RECOMMENDATION FORM — USE ONE FORM PER NOMINATION

**Candidate's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Office:** ☐ Ruling Elder (Session) ☐ Trustee ☐ CME Council

**Comments:**

**If you are recommending a Ruling Elder, please circle the ministry area(s) they would best serve:**

Education	Finance	Mission
Peacemaking & Social Justice	Personnel	Property
Stewardship	Welcome & Membership	Worship & Music

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Forms may be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the Church Office, or completed online at [saintphilip.net](http://saintphilip.net)*



JOIN US FOR THE **ST. PHILIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

# FAMILY BASEBALL GAME

The Triple AAA Club of the Astros  
**SUGAR LAND SPACE COWBOYS**  
 The Houston Astros of Tomorrow!

**VS**

SACRAMENTO  
**River Cats**

WHEN:  
**JUNE 17<sup>TH</sup>**  
**SATURDAY-7PM**

SEATS BEHIND THE DUGOUT!  
**TICKETS \$ 15**  
 PARKING: \$3.00 PER CAR

LOCATION:  
**SUGAR LAND**  
 CONSTELLATION FIELD

QUESTIONS? CONTACT TOM CAVANAUGH  
 PH: 713-858-8319

\* PAYMENT DUE MAY 21<sup>ST</sup>

INTERGENERATIONAL ALL ARE WELCOME!  
 CHURCH MEMBERSHIP NOT REQUIRED.



To those celebrating in June

2	Anne	Wilson
3	Rhoda	Arnes
3	Dan	Boston
3	Mary	Bratton
3	Diane	Lewis
4	Pat	Lindsay
6	Connie	Anderson
6	Laney	Miller
8	Laura	Keller
8	Lily	Maguire
8	Mark	Taylor

10	Colleen	Akehurst
10	Scott	Easterly
10	Ellen	MacDonald
13	Sasha	Arlinghaus
13	David	Castle
13	George	Scott
14	Zoe	Carlin
14	Mary Mac	Johnson
17	Anne Marie	Benard
17	Sarah	Miller
17	Vanessa	Nenna
18	Tim	Burgess

18	Carrie	Pepi
18	Lynn	Red
18	Sally	Slick
19	Jenny	Vestal
21	Frank	Luongo
22	Mary Margaret	Hansen
23	George	Pepi
25	Carolyn	McGinnis
25	Bill	Poe
26	Governor	Frazier
30	Gil	Kim

## 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—Join us from 9:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. to deepen our understanding of God’s faithfulness to God’s people. The Adult Bible Study class will recess from Sunday, May 7 through Sunday, May 21 and will meet again Sunday, May 28, before recessing for the summer. 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). **May 28**, Kate Burkart will lead a Church & Society presentation on this year’s Oscar-winning film “Everything Everywhere All at Once.” To see the movie at home for free on Friday, May 19, at 7:00 p.m., Central Time, go to [Free Screening Program | AARP Movies for Grownups](#) to register. Sunday, **May 21** we’ll meet in room 201, or by Zoom, 9:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m. for the presentation “Christians and Medicine: Historical Contours & Complexities” - One science-related field of particular interest to Christianity historically has been medicine. This presentation will trace the main contours of Christianity and medicine from the early followers of Jesus to today’s hos-

pitals with the word “saint” in their names. And it will debunk some of today’s myths about Christianity’s supposed objection to particular medical discoveries. Presented by Bruce Yeager - author of [Wrestling Brothers: Rethinking Religion-Science Relationships](#), and [Spirited Bodies Beneath the Stars: Science & Spirituality Together](#).

**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**—The Children’s Chapel is held every **2nd** and **4th Sunday** after *Conversation with Children*. 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.

### 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 Meyaard-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.

### 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.

## IN OUR PRAYERS

*A memorial service for Alan Rowe, father of William Rowe, is scheduled in the Sanctuary for Saturday, May 20, at 11:00 a.m.*

*St. Philippians and their families*—Sondra Sullivan; Ruth Ewing; Kathryn Harwood; Robin & Gary Willis; CJ Miller; Jennifer Wilson; Beverly Baker; Beverly Hudson; 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; Leonardo Knowles Richard “Leo” - grandson of Beth & Fort Flowers; Halley Delany – sister of Nina Lambright; Willow Polk – niece of Sharon Webb; Truxillo family – Wayne and Sandra Truxillo; 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; John Anderson—brother of Tom Anderson; and Elizabeth Carlton Lithio—granddaughter of Jeanie Flowers.

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

*Friends of St. Philippians*—Joyce Freudenberg, Annie & Sidney Roach, and Greg Brannon – friends of Stephen Paine. 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; and Shirley Stubblefield—friend of Barbara Runge.

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.

For the months of June and July  
there will only be one edition of the Philip-Eye each month.

Next edition: June 6; Deadline June 1—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.



MATTHEW 25



MORE LIGHT  
PRESBYTERIANS



4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056

Phone: 713.622.4807 Fax: 713.622.5405 [www.saintphilip.net](http://www.saintphilip.net)