

# PHILIP-EYE



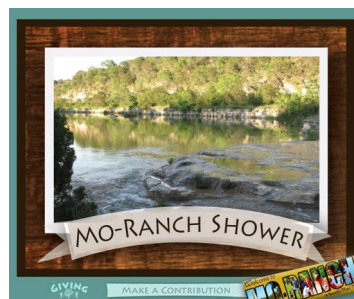
## MUSIC

**DID YOU KNOW:** You and the congregation are St. Philip's primary choir! (PCUSA Book of Order). The singers and musicians in the choir loft are there to lead and support you and the congregation in your collective singing. This concept springs from our church's ancient history where the early worshipers' singing of psalms, hymns and spiritual songs were a form of prayer.

Music speaks to us in unique ways that can touch us deeply and sometimes profoundly. St. Philip's singers and musicians—under the exceptional leadership of Randall Swanson and Matthew Dirst—help us turn our hymns into communal prayers. Their music (whether vocal or instrumental) may even inspire the personal prayers we long to offer our God.

*Based on remarks made by Chuck Johnson.*

Thanks be to God for St. Philip's superb music program.



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 every year this 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 accommoda-

tions 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.

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

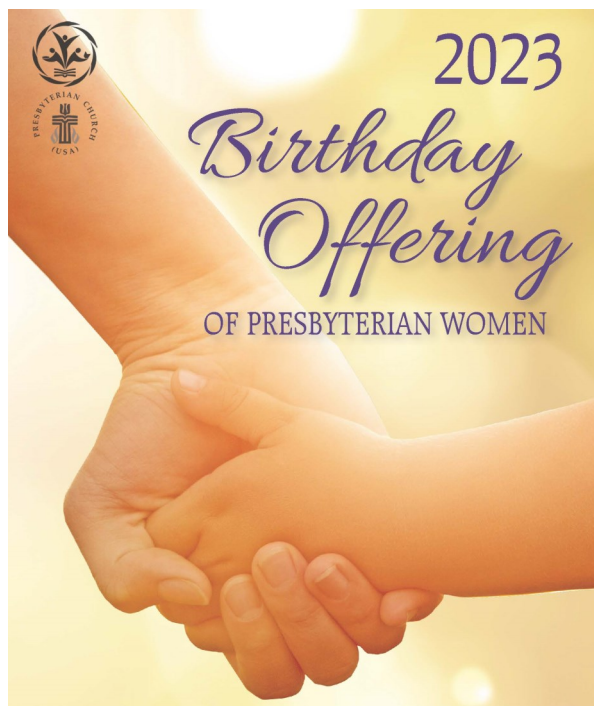
Wilbert Parada  
Facilities Supervisor

Dimas Parada  
Custodian

Denise Ferrell  
Bookkeeper

Lorrie Castle  
Office Manager  
Newsletter Editor

Susan Estill  
Editor Emerita



On Mother's Day, **May 14**, we will have a special offering for the Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering. You can make a donation online and choose PW Birthday or use the envelopes found in the pews.

Since 1922, this offering has helped fund mission projects that improve lives. This year's Birthday Offering recipients are:

**Making Miracles Group Home—Phase II Group Home - Grant of \$150,000—Tallahassee, Florida**

Making Miracles Group Home (MMGH) helps young mothers break the cycle of abusive relationships, addiction, incarceration and early motherhood—a repeating pattern that is difficult to break and overcome. With the Birthday Offering grant, MMGH will purchase a second group home to serve an additional five families who are at risk of experiencing homelessness. With loving support and tools to establish stable, permanent housing, these families can look forward to a hopeful and successful future.

**Berhane Yesus Elementary School—Kindergarten School Construction - Grant of \$99,400 —Dembi Dollo, Ethiopia**

Berhane Yesus Elementary School, located in the western highlands of Ethiopia, seeks to change lives by sharing the “Light of Jesus” and by providing the best possible educational experience for the children of Dembi Dollo. Western Wollega Bethel Synod provided land for the classroom and the Birthday Offering grant will provide all necessary funding for its construction.

To learn more about both of these projects go to: [https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what\\_we\\_do/support-mission/birthday-offering/](https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/support-mission/birthday-offering/)

***Everyone is invited to join the Presbyterian Women in the Gathering Area for Birthday Cake after worship on May 14.***

## 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 Gar-mus. 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.



**SAVE A LIFE!** Or maybe someone saves yours! Nancy Higgs has been able to schedule the CPR class on Saturday, May 6, 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.

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 **RiverCats**

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 May

2	Jan Meyer	18	Sarah Cherrillo
2	Trisha Young	19	Candace Demary
3	John Hartman	21	Olga Lewis
4	Paul Jackson, Jr.	21	Kathryn Harwood
4	Rachel Biar	22	Skip Britton
7	Peg Palisin	22	Cammie Duerr
8	Allison Newport	22	Nancy Waldrop
8	Phoebe Murphy	23	Hope Wilmarth
12	Carolyn Barrios	23	Michelle Vasquez
12	Eleanor Kimbro	25	Beth Flowers
13	John Webster	26	Cathy Herrera
14	Deb Burks	27	Nathan Carlin
16	Jody Tomforde	29	Bill Miller
16	Dorothy Blackwell	30	Susan Estill
16	Nancy Cook	31	Denis Martin

## 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)).

## MAY 7 CONCERT

In celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of Sergei Rachmaninoff, St. Philip is hosting a piano concert by Osip Nikiforov on **May 7** at 2:30 p.m. Osip is a doctoral student at Rice University, who has worshiped with us on occasion. The war in Ukraine has isolated him culturally and financially from his family in Russia, and he is now on the long path to US citizenship. The concert is free, though donations will be accepted to help Osip in this precarious time. See Molly Boren-Whitney or Gary Whitney for more information.

## 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).

**May 7** - *St. Philip Mission Partner - Caring for Ukraine* - Project C.U.R.E. collaborates with community partners in countries in need of medical facilities to insure that every C.U.R.E. cargo container meets the specific needs of hospitals or clinics, equipping the medical staff with life-saving tools to improve diagnosis, treatment, and care. The class will especially emphasize the shipment of medical supplies, biomedical equipment, surgical equipment and relief beds to Ukraine. Presented by Jo Sullivan - Houston Executive Director Project Cure.

**May 14** - *Can a New Kind of Power Plant Improve Air Quality and Resilience?* A new technology, Supercritical Transformational Electric Power, explores whether waste heat produced by petrochemical and other industrial facilities can generate electricity. The technology’s small footprint has important implications for the resiliency of the grid, especially where hurricanes and other major storms can cause serious disruptions. And, at the same time, the technology can provide low-cost, low-emission electric power. Presented by Dr. Hanadi Rifai, John and Rebecca Moores Professor of environmental engineering and leader of the Hurricane Resilience Research Institute (HuRRI) at the University of Houston.

**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 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.

### SAVE THE DATE

**June 10** will be Summer VBS  
*Caring for God’s Creation* is the theme.

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

### Stated Session Meeting In-Person and via Video Conferencing – March 21, 2023

- ✦ Session approved the minutes of the February 12, 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting on behalf of the Congregation.
- ✦ Session approved the dismissal of Pamela Rush to Christ Church Presbyterian, Houston.
- ✦ Session approved the 2021 Financial Statement and Independent Auditor's Report dated February 23, 2023 as prepared by Ralph & Ralph PC.
- ✦ Session approved the Mission Committee to spend \$97,500 of the total \$100,000 allocated in the St. Philip budget to be used for its specified mission partner allocations in 2023, with \$810 of that amount held in reserve for emergency requests from Mission Partners, and the remaining \$2,500 placed in the Liberty High School Angel Fund.
- ✦ Session decided to remain with a single Sunday worship service at 11:00 a.m. for the coming months.

#### Committee and Council Actions:

- ✦ Property Committee extended the church's electricity rate contract (due to expire 07/31/24) through 07/31/27, at a rate of 0.0744kwh.
- ✦ Welcoming and Membership Committee scheduled Church Directory photographs to occur on Sunday, April 2, 9 and 16 between 9:30 am and 12:45 p.m. Pictures to include individuals and families.
- ✦ Welcoming and Membership Committee scheduled a Church Tour for Sunday, April 23 at 9:30 a.m.

### Stated Session Meeting In-Person and via Video Conferencing – April 18, 2023

- ✦ Session authorized the Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism of Micah Guy Goodman, born on December 6, 2022 in Houston, TX, son of Michele Aldrich Goodman and James Goodman, grandson of Melissa and Guy Aldrich, on Sunday, April 30 at 11:00 a.m., with the Rev. Keatan King, officiating.

#### Committee and Council Actions:

- ✦ Committee Action: Stewardship Committee has developed a plan for a stewardship campaign beginning in March 2023.

John Lemen  
Clerk of Session

### 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.

**Earth Day**  
AT ST. PHILIP

**CARBON NEUTRALITY**

**NATIVE PLANTS**

**“GREEN” BUSINESSES**

**SOLAR PANELS**

**EV**

THE ST. PHILIP EARTHCARE TEAM IS CONSIDERING CARRYING OUT SOME PRESENTATIONS TO INFORM MEMBERS OF TOPICS OF POTENTIAL INTEREST RELATED TO PROTECTING AND ENJOYING GOD'S CREATION.

WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT TOPICS WOULD INTEREST YOU?

PLEASE COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRE

BY SCANNING THE QR CODE:

## IN OUR PRAYERS

*St. Philippians and their families*—Ruth Ewing; Ruena Wood, her children and grandchildren; Kathryn Harwood; Robin & Gary Willis; CJ Miller; Jennifer Wilson; Jane Malczewsky; 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; 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; 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; Sondra Sullivan; and Jody Tomforde.

*Friends of St. Philippians*—Joyce Fruedenberg, 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.

### Financial Update through March 31

Total Revenue:	\$381,972
Total Expenses:	\$449,987
Pledge payments received:	\$267,549
Pledge payments budgeted:	\$281,421

Next edition: May 16; Deadline May 11—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



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