

PHILIP-EYE

TO PLANT A GARDEN IS TO BELIEVE IN TOMORROW

While vegetable gardening apparently became a “thing” in this past pandemic year, St. Philip’s vegetable garden has been going strong since 2014. We enjoyed a special “garden blessing” last month, thanks to the Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee, which conceived of the garden idea and has funded it since its inception.

Faithful volunteers tended and harvested the garden all last year, even while we were not meeting for worship and we all stayed socially distant. The little raised beds on the back side of the fellowship hall yielded about **260 pounds** of produce during 2020, all donated to CCSC.

The deep freeze in February 2021 fortunately did not harm the garden, which was completely fallow at that point. In fact, the freeze did us a favor by killing off weeds! Sadly, though, the citrus trees the garden team planted about five years ago fell victim to the cold. They will eventually be replaced, likely with some more cold-hardy varieties.

On a morning in mid-March, a small group gathered at the garden for planting and fellowship, and now everything is growing vigorously. Over 65 pounds of collard greens, lettuce, peppers, beans, and eggplant, along with a few tomatoes and cucumbers, have been harvested and delivered to the CCSC food pantry, between late April and the end of May. The tomatoes and cucumbers have only just started to ripen, but they will be coming thick and fast in June.

As we begin to return to regular worship on the St. Philip campus, consider going around back and checking out the garden. You’ll find lots of vegetables, a few weeds, and also a small patch of flowers and milkweed plants. The garden is a living demonstration of God’s good creation, and it also gives our congregation an opportunity to share our bounty with neighbors in need.



The garden group welcomes volunteers, and we would love to see some new faces. If you have some spare time to help harvest vegetables and deliver them to CCSC this summer, please contact the church office or Cathy Patterson. There will also be opportunities in the fall for planting winter veggies and harvesting sweet potatoes. Green thumbs not required!



Fletcher Pitcock helped Cathy Patterson find a ripe tomato ready to pick.

By Cathy Patterson

Rev. Dr. John W. Wurster
Pastor, Head of Staff

Rev. Keatan King
Associate Pastor

Rev. Omar Rouchon
Associate Pastor

Rev. Kallie Pitcock
Pastoral Resident

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



EARTH CARE SURVEY RESULTS

We appreciate everyone who responded to the St. Philip Earth Care Survey in April and May. Additional thanks go to Chuck Seidel, for developing the survey content, and Bonnie Moore, who managed the online survey.

Seventy-three St. Philippians responded to the survey. The Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee and the Earth Care Team will be using the survey response to direct our work for the next 24 months.

The top three affirmative (agree or strongly agree) responses were:

- ☉ “I believe humans contribute to rising atmospheric carbon dioxide levels.” 96% - 4% were neutral about this statement.
- ☉ “I want to learn more about how I can reduce my carbon footprint.” 89% - 10% were neutral and 1% disagreed.
- ☉ “More trees should be planted on the St. Philip campus.” 81% - 19% were neutral.

In response to these interests, the Earth Care Team will develop a series of articles about reducing your carbon footprint. If you would like to receive them in your inbox, please send an email to Earthcare@saintphilip.net with Carbon Footprint in the subject line. Other venues for learning about your carbon footprint may be developed in the future.

In addition, the Earth Care Team will contact the Property Committee for a discussion about adding trees on campus in the near future.

While the survey was out, the Property Committee entered into a three-year contract with TXU Energy to purchase electricity. The contract starts August 3 and the contract is for 100% renewable energy, which can be a combination of wind and solar -- whatever is the better source, at a slightly lower rate than our current non-green contract. In the survey 65% of responders affirmed that our contract should be from renewable sources even if it costs a few cents more. We thank the Property Committee for thinking proactively. 🌍

In addition, 72% agreed that “More solar panels should be installed on the church buildings.” This project would replace some of the green energy St. Philip would be taking from the grid. The Earth Care Team will work with the Property Committee to develop a plan for this project.

Since transportation is one of the big emitters of carbon dioxide, some members of the Earth Care team have been

discussing the imminent transition to electric vehicles (EVs) and exploring actions St. Philip might take to raise its visibility in this area. In the survey, four members responded that they own EVs and seven more responded that they will buy an EV in the next year. Although the great majority (75%) will not be buying an EV this year, 47% affirmed that they were interested in learning more about EVs.

In the free response portion of the survey, the largest number of responses related to recycling. One of the significant 2020 accomplishments of the Earth Care Team was the Session's passage of the [Ecological Food Service Policy](#). As we begin the post-pandemic phase of our congregational life, we will begin a phased implementation of this policy.

Additional comments related to clean water, composting, ecological education, native plants, permeable pavement, political action, population growth, protecting birds and insects, and the complexities of calculating carbon footprints especially as related to manufacturing. All of these will be included in ongoing discussions about our stewardship of God's creation.

Finally, 23 members agreed that they were interested in joining an environmental action group. Four of those respondents left their names at the end of the survey. Opportunities at St. Philip include being a member of the Earth Care team or working on a special project. Opportunities outside St. Philip can be part of ongoing discussions. Please let us know your interests by sending an email to Earthcare@saintphilip.net with the subject Earth Care.

By the Earth Care Team

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

May 2021

Stated Session Meeting via Zoom Teleconferencing – May 18, 2021

✦ Session approved the removal of Sarah Queen from the St. Philip roll upon her request since she has gone to another church.

Committee and Council Actions:

✦ Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee has approved the formation of a Social Justice Study Group that would operate under the oversight of a Social Justice Study Group Advisory Committee, reporting to the Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee.

✦ Property Committee has signed a new electricity contract with TXU for a three-year term beginning on August 3, 2021. The new electricity contract is a green contract with a 100% of the purchased power being wind power. This is a welcome addition to the solar power being generated at St. Philip currently.

John A. Lemen, Clerk of Session

A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS & A CALL TO PRAY

The congregation is being asked to submit nominations for elder. The new class of Elders will be installed in January of 2022.

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?

We invite your nominations by completing the forms that can be found on the page and on our website. By providing us with more information than just a name strengthens your nomination and helps us in this most important process.

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. Forms can be found in this edition of the Philip-Eye or online.

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

Completed forms may be mailed to the Church Office or complete a form online at saintphilip.net. The

LEADER RECOMMENDATION FORM

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. Please use a separate form for each recommendation.

USE ONE FORM PER NOMINATION

Candidate's Name: _____

Office: Ruling Elder Deacon 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: _____

**Completed forms should be sent to the church office—SPPC, 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056
Recommendations can also be submitted online at saintphilip.net. **Deadline: June 8, 2021.****



The CCSC Azalea Gala is rescheduled for **November 3, 2021**. It is already sold out!! If you bought tickets and would like to be part of a St. Philip table at the Gala, please text (281-755-4919) or email me (jhess49@hotmail.com)

and I will get us organized into however many tables we might need. On the other hand, if you bought tickets and cannot attend, please let me know as we would like to purchase a few more.

By Janet Hess

WHO'S ZOOMING WHOM?

A few of the groups at St. Philip continue to meet during this time via Zoom and other video conference services—the session has had meetings, book club, church committees and Church and Society. We even have Sunday Coffee Hour. If you would like to participate in future meetings, please contact the appropriate group's leader.

SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR—Gather with fellow St. Philipians to talk about the sermons, hear about their week and what helped them get through the week. The Coffee Hour begins after the closing voluntary. Email Lorrie Castle at lorrie@saintphilip.net to be added to the list.

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. Our next meeting is **June 10** at 7 p.m. when we will be discussing *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michelle Richardson. We are happy to gather again in person. We plan on meeting in the St. Philip Dining Room but will move to Fellowship Hall if necessary to maintain social distancing standards. Please let us know you will be joining by clicking on [RSVP](#). Feel free to bring your own snack and/or dinner. No alcohol is allowed at this event. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Nina Lambright or Sarah O'Dell at sarah.odell6@gmail.com.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY WITH JOHN WURSTER—A look via Zoom at the Bible readings for the coming Sunday meets on Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. or 3:30 p.m. Email John for details and to get on the list - john@saintphilip.net

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 **via Zoom** at noon through **June 18** and then will be off for the summer. Please contact Gary Gardner at ggardne148@aol.com if you would like to join or know the current material they are discussing.

CHURCH & SOCIETY—9:30 a.m. **via Zoom**—will resume on Rally Day, **September 12**.



Rev. Linda McCarty with Faith in Practice (our mission partner) in Guatemala sent a video message to St. Philip via Sharon Webb. You can view it by clicking on this [link](#).

WORSHIP IN PERSON

MIDWEEK PRAYER SERVICE

Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. This service is live-streamed from the Sanctuary and also available for later viewing on our website.

SUNDAY WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

We will continue to have both services in the Sanctuary. Capacity is limited to provide for adequate distancing. Masks are required, and advanced registration is necessary at this [link](#). The 11:00 a.m. service will be live-streamed as usual. About 30 minutes in length, the 9:00 a.m. service will include the reading and proclamation of Scripture, sermon, along with the prayers of the people and organ voluntaries. The 11:00 a.m. service will include a fuller liturgy, as well as anthems from the staff singers in the choir loft and organ voluntaries. We continue to assess emerging guidance and current conditions in light of our situation at St. Philip as we seek the best course for our diverse congregation. If you have trouble with the registration or are not online, please call/text Lorrie Castle (832-262-1244).

The Session's Going Forward task force continues to monitor conditions and to seek a safe course for our life together at St. Philip.

GIVE BLOOD

St. Philip Presbyterian

Thursday, June 10
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Church Fellowship Hall

FREE T-SHIRT!!

Contact: Lorrie Castle
(713) 622-4807
(lorrie@saintphilip.net)
sponsor code: 0496

[Schedule Now](#)



Aiden, blood recipient



EAT. DRINK. BRING I.D.



THE BEST WAY
TO FIND A
BLOOD DRIVE
AND SCHEDULE
YOUR
DONATION!



HURRICANE SEASON IS UPON US

STAY INFORMED

AlertHouston

The City of Houston offers emergency alerts through the AlertHouston emergency notification system. People who live or work in Houston can receive emergency notifications via email, text message and through a mobile app. To find out more information on AlertHouston, and to sign up for alerts, visit www.alerthouston.org.

During emergencies, listen to KUHF 88.7 FM or KTRH 740 AM, our region's designated Emergency Alert System (EAS) stations, for up-to-the-minute information from local public officials. Houston residents can also stay informed about emergencies by signing up for emergency notifications from the City of Houston at houstonemergency.org. Follow instructions and recommendations — and be ready to adjust your disaster plans and supply kits as situations change.

If you live outside the City of Houston, visit readyhoustontx.gov to find contact information for your local Office of Emergency Management.



If you are in need of help from the church please contact your pastors:

- ✦ John Wurster—832-409-8324
- ✦ Omar Rouchon—585-746-8822
- ✦ Lorrie Castle—832-262-1244

Stay informed about St. Philip emergency actions on our website (www.saintphilip.net) or Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/StPhilipPres/>)

IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families—Dorothy Blackwell; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Shirley Coffman; Travis Calhoun; Ellen MacDonald; Arlette Keene; CJ Miller; Marion Takehara; Emily Estill; Mezgebe Gebray; Erin Thackston—niece of Jacque Colton; Warren & Gretchen Cash—brother and sister-in-law of Kay Cash; Ann Perkins Cloud—cousin of Stephen Paine; Dixie Hahn—sister of Mary Sinderson; Brad Davis—nephew of Sam Fisher; Douglas Everhart—brother of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Carol Paine Kendrick—sister of Stephen Paine; Betty & Allen Grant—sister-in-law and brother of Eleanor Grant; John Anderson—brother of Tom Anderson; Janet Fisher—sister-in-law of Dan Cleveland; Bessie Johnson—mother of Pat Lindsay; Mac & Beverly Wilson—parents of Butch Wilson; Vera Moore—mother of Chuck Johnson; Kelsey Higgs Gallegos & family—daughter of Nancy Higgs; Dottie Laas and family—cousin of Sam Fisher; Alice Barron—sister-in-law to Beth Atkinson; Shirley Boggus—grandmother of Omi Ford; Dona Rowe—mother of William Rowe; and Elizabeth Carlton Lithio—granddaughter of Jeanie Flowers.

Homebound—Sue Baier; Walter Baker; John Bobbitt; Paulie Carlson; Kitty Curry; George Helland; Jean Nelson; Joyce Randolph; Mary Sinderson; George and Lorraine Scott; and Jody Tomforde.

Friends of St. Philippians—Laura Chilton—friend of Stephen Paine; Karen Stewart—friend of Roderick James; Shirley Stubblefield—friend of Barbara Runge; Paul Ratliff—friend of Jo Helland; Lavon Thomas, Bill McDonald and Jackson Tavel—friends of Curt and Sharon Webb; Clayton Amacker—friend of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; and Walter "Buddy" Hammann III—friend of Robin and Gary Willis.

We also pray for health care workers, first responders, and caregivers; for those who are sick; and for those watch and wait.

If you have a pastoral care need or a prayer request you would like to share, please email deacons@saintphilip.net.

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: June 15; Deadline June 10—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 or call 713-622-4807 and ask for Lorrie.



4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056

Phone: 713.622.4807 Fax: 713.622.5405 www.saintphilip.net