



June 2, 2020
Volume 64, Issue 11

PHILIP-EYE

PASTORAL RESIDENT BEGINS THIS SUMMER

Earlier this year, the Session accepted an invitation from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary to participate in the seminary's new pastoral residency program through which St. Philip will host a new seminary graduate for two years. The pastoral resident will serve full-time on the church staff and participate in the full range of pastoral activities. While pandemic restrictions presented challenges in completing the search process, we are glad to announce that Kallie Pitcock will be coming to us later this summer as our pastoral resident. We anticipate having her and her family in the community of St. Philip.

Kallie has a background in education with degrees from the University of Mississippi and Mississippi State University. Her husband, Justin, was a Marine pilot, a career that had them moving frequently across the country and participating in a variety of Presbyterian congregations, including La Jolla, California and Burke, Virginia. They came to Austin in 2017 as Kallie began her seminary studies, and Justin transitioned to a career in business. Justin is now employed by JP Morgan Chase in Houston. They are in the process of moving to the city with their three children, Karper, Sophia, and Fletcher. As Kallie completes the requirements for ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, we look to hold an ordination service for her after she arrives at St. Philip.

SONGS OF COMFORT, HOPE AND HEALING

We are so fortunate at St. Philip to be able to offer services of prayer and music streamed live on the church website every day of the week at 11:00 a.m. We hope they provide a path for you to our shared needs of connection, spiritual solace, and the power of God's Word during these difficult times. Each of our daily services tends to conclude with the playing of a hymn or hymn arrangement reflective of the day's readings or liturgical season. What are the hymns, songs, or other music that might provide you a sense of comfort and peace, especially now, in these days of fear and uncertainty? Tell us by emailing Randall Swanson (randall@saintphilip.net) the names of your favorites, and we'll incorporate the melodies of your most beloved hymns and spiritual songs into our music-making in the days, weeks and months ahead — our own St. Philip "Songs of Comfort, Hope and Healing." Let us know what speaks to your heart.

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

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH, 2020

CALLED SESSION ELECTRONIC VOTE

MARCH 12

- Session approved suspending all activities at the church from March 15th—March 22nd (two Sundays). Services, meetings, rehearsals, and classes would all be suspended, including the March 17th stated Session. This suspension period could be extended if that appears advisable. Clergy would still conduct a Sunday service, which could be viewed “live” or at a later time through our website. There would also be offered a daily prayer service that could also be similarly viewed through the website. The staff would continue to work regular hours. Contributions would be encouraged to be given through our website.

STATED SESSION MEETING VIA ZOOM

MARCH 17

- Session acted to suspend all activities at St. Philip indefinitely, including worship services, classes, meetings, and rehearsals.
- Session elected Roderick James to a one-year term on the Central Mission Endowment Council in 2020.
- Session voted to hold a single worship service at 11:00 a.m. on April 26, 2020, which is the Sunday of the St. Philip Spring Picnic.
- Session elected Bonnie Moore, Lee Ardell, and Dick Nunn to serve as Ruling Elder Commissioners to the March 21, 2020 Meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant at First Presbyterian Church, Lufkin.

Committee and Council Actions:

- Mission Committee has approved a motion to discontinue the attempt to establish a mentoring program with Liberty High School, with special thanks to Sharon Webb for her efforts to try to get the program established.
- Mission Committee has approved a motion to provide up to \$600 to St. Philip Stitches to move and install a long-arm quilting machine (donated by Hope Wilmarth) in the St. Philip craft/mission area.
- Property Committee has approved bids for cabinets and electrical upgrades in the Arts and Crafts Studio. (Previous approval was obtained from the Trustees for support from the church’s Memorial Fund. The cabinets will be installed in a manner that will permit removal and replacement at another location.)
- Property Committee has approved delivery of the year-end summary of Mission Center expenses to the Presbytery of New Covenant. Discussion will begin as to the Presbytery’s share of usage costs for 2020.

CALLED SESSION MEETING VIA ZOOM

MARCH 31

- Session authorized church treasurer Ada Fuller and/or church trustees Tom Anderson, Beth Atkinson, Butch Wilson to represent St. Philip Presbyterian Church in matters related to the CARES Stimulus Act.
- Session voted to pursue funds through the CARES Stimulus Act.
- Session approved Kallie Pitcock as our pastoral resident for a two-year term beginning in the summer of 2020.
- Session authorized a celebration of the Lord’s Supper within the community of St. Philip on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020, in accordance with the Advisory Opinion on Communion in an Emergency/Pandemic issued by the Office of the General Assembly.

APRIL 2020

STATED SESSION MEETING VIA ZOOM

APRIL 21

- Session elected to cancel the St. Philip Mo-Ranch retreat, to contact registered participants and offer refunds as well as to offer the option to donate registration fees to the support of Mo-Ranch.
- Session authorized receiving the funds, \$124,000, from the Payroll Protection Plan Loan (PPPL).
- Session approved funding totaling \$6000 from mission-dedicated funds to the following: SEARCH Homeless Services--\$1500; Lord of the Streets Homeless mission--\$1500; Project CURE--\$1000; Plant It Forward--\$1000; Interfaith Ministries (for Meals on Wheels)--\$1000
- Session approved the draft Ecological and Food Service and Event Policy.

Committee and Council Actions:

- Communications and Technology Committee has overseen the production of “prayer card” style sheets that instruct members on how to access our online service options. John Wurster mailed these to members who currently receive physical copies of the Philip-Eye.
- Mission Committee has approved expending \$6000 from mission dedicated account toward emergency additional grants in light of the COVID crisis.
- Personnel Committee has approved a new Performance Appraisal for the staff to be utilized in mid-2020. Further work to customize it for each job description will be completed before final appraisal is sent to Session for approval in May.
- Property Committee has rescinded approval (by email) of seasonal landscape planting. The Committee will revisit this issue when the campus reopens.
- Property Committee has approved (by email) Reserve for Replacement transfer for the first quarter of 2020, totaling \$13,390.14 which included \$3,172 for a new fellowship kitchen icemaker.

John A. Lemen, Clerk of Session

Kids' Meals is one of St. Philip's mission partners. They aim to deliver meals to pre-school age children, who are especially vulnerable in their early days of the stage of critical development. Nourishment is especially important in this season when children of all ages are not receiving meals at school. One in four Houston children live with food insecurity. Kids Meals delivered over **1 million meals** in 2019 to help meet this need. The need is even greater during the current pandemic. An informative video can be seen at <https://kidsmealsinc.org/the-problem/>.



On Saturday, May 30, the congregation was invited by the Education Committee to participate in a socially-distant, yet hands-on mission project. St. Philipians of all ages packed over 200 brown bag lunches in their homes, and brought them to the church where they were transported to the Kids' Meals center for distribution.

With gratitude,

St. Philip Education Committee



←Kara &
Gianna
D'Agostina
→Melissa &
Guy Aldrich
↓Gianna



←Julieana Nichols-
Lawson
→Betsy Boston



←Vanessa Nenna
→Selena Brinegar &
Janet Martin



←Amye & John
Webster
→Jeanette
Wennenwaser



←Lane Fletcher
→Pam Rush



KNOW THY NEIGHBOR

As many of you know, the Stewardship and Welcome & Membership committees have organized and project to keep in touch with members during the quarantine by making phone calls to all St. Philip families. The need is for 10-15 volunteers interested who would continue making calls through the summer. Volunteers will be assigned five members to call. It is a fun way to meet and stay in contact with St. Philip friends. If you are interested in volunteering to make calls, please contact

Judye Hartman 832-563-7244 judyehart@gmail.com
Judith Hiott 832-277-8676 judith.hiott@outlook.com
Peg Palisin 713-410-3245 mpalisin@aol.com

A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS & A CALL TO PRAY

The congregation is being asked to submit nominations; the CNC will use June for a time of discernment; calls will be made in July, and a final slate will be presented to the congregation later this summer. Officer training will be held this fall. The new class of Elders will be installed in January of 2021.

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 next 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.

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.

DEACON

The ministry of Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest reputation, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry.

Currently serving as Deacons are *Beth Atkinson, Jane Cooper, David Fox, Joyce Fox, Ann Frautschi, Governor Frazier, Judith Hiott, Sue Shirley Howard, Mary McGuire, Gary Whitney.*

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.

Currently serving as Trustees are *Beth Atkinson, Tom Anderson, and Butch Wilson.*

CENTRAL MISSION ENDOWMENT COUNCIL

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

Currently serving on the council are *Deb Burks, Roderick James, Pat Lindsay, Chuck Seidel (Session Rep), and Sharon Webb.*

2020 Nominating Committee: *Kate Burkart, Jay Jeanes, Carla Burns, Tom Cavanaugh, Julia Fox 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. 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) they would best serve: Communication & Technology; 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 deadline: June 8, 2020.

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:

Communication & Technology	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, 2020*

HURRICANE STAY-AT-HOME KIT

Today is the first official day of hurricane season, and with much of our attention focused on the pandemic, we want to be sure our community pays proper attention to hurricane preparedness. To that end, the youth of St. Philip are selling and delivering Hurricane Kits.

If you don't have a Hurricane Kit in your home, let us help you! If you do have a kit, now is a good time to check its contents and replenish any supplies that have passed their expiration date or appear compromised or defective from long-term storage, particularly if kept in spaces without climate control.

The Hurricane Kits we have assembled include:

- Five-gallon bucket and lid (to fill with clean tap water)
- Two 12-hour glowsticks
- Emergency whistle
- Garbage bag
- Empty gallon ziplock bag to keep items dry
- First aid kit
- Waterproof matches
- 18-hour burning emergency candle
- Toilet paper
- Complete list of additional items we suggest you add (personal medication, shelf stable food, pet and infant supplies, copies of important papers, etc.)
- Emergency preparedness tips

If you already have a well-stocked Hurricane Kit, consider purchasing one for someone who might struggle to assemble their own (new parents, the elderly, or persons with mobility issues). You could ask a few of your neighbors if you could provide them with a kit.

Every kit is safely assembled by one adult wearing a mask and gloves.

Each kit is \$20, but additional contributions are appreciated. The proceeds of the Hurricane Kits will go toward youth events like the Montreat Youth Conference in future years.

To Order a Hurricane Kit:

Pay securely online [here](#) by indicating the amount you are paying, selecting "Youth Fund," and specifying the number of kits you're ordering in the memo line. Or mail a check to St. Philip at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056.

Keatan King will contact you to determine the address and time of delivery. Youth of St. Philip will deliver your bucket and leave it outside your door, practicing safe distancing and mask wearing.



WHO'S ZOOMING WHOM?

Some of the groups at St. Philip have been meeting 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 introduced a coffee hour this past Sunday. If you would like to participate in future meetings, please see below which group's leader you should contact.

Church & Society: June 7 - The Role of the Church in the Holocaust - Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer - In this second session we will continue with the story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his response to the events of the Holocaust from 1938 to 1945, with the defeat of the German Army, liberation of Nazi concentration camps and Bonhoeffer's death by direct order from Adolf Hitler. We will end the session with stories of some Houston-area Holocaust survivors. Presented by Mickey Meyers - Bonhoeffer docent at Holocaust Museum Houston. **June 14** - How St. Philip Works - The purpose of the St. Philip Property Committee is to plan for and oversee the maintenance, improvement, care, and use of all real and personal property held in the name of St. Philip Presbyterian Church of Houston. You are invited to join us at Church & Society to learn about the challenges for maintaining our beloved St. Philip and plans for the future of the home of the St. Philip congregation and its outreach to the community. Presented by Lee Ardell - Chair of the St. Philip Property Committee. If you would like to partake in the Church and Society Zoom class, please email Mickey Meyers at mmcgm63@gmail.com.

Sunday Coffee Hour—Once everyone enters the meeting after the service, we are sent to smaller breakout rooms so you have a smaller group to talk with. The groups will randomly be assigned each week. Email Lorrie Castle at lorrie@saintphilip.net.

Women's Monthly Book Club—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. Our next meeting is June 11 at 7 p.m. We will discuss *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett led by Karen Winship. Contact Sarah O'Dell for Zoom link – sarah.odell6@gmail.com.

Midweek Bible Study with John Wurster—A look at the Bible readings for the coming Sunday. Email John to get on the list - john@saintphilip.net



Visit the [Children's Page](#) on the St. Philip website. This a place that intends to help keep families connected to the church during this time of distance and separation. Be on the lookout for brief worship videos from Omar in the children's chapel and resources for faith formation at home. There are links to Godly Play stories, prayers and sharing activities to do around the dinner table. You can access the Children's Page using the icon on the home page of the church site.

THE PCUSA PENTECOST OFFERING

Our communion offering for June will go to the PCUSA's Pentecost Offering. A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people and also address the needs of at-risk children. With this offering, we nurture the faith of those who are the church to come—children, youth, and young adults. 60% of the offering goes to PCUSA, where it supports things like the Youth Triennium, youth and young adult ministries, and programs for at-risk kids. Congregations may retain 40% of the offering to support programs for young people in their communities. This year, St. Philip's 40% will go to CCSC's Back-to-School Program, which provides school supplies to over 6,000 low-income children (pre-K through high school) in Houston-area schools.

You can learn more about PCUSA's Pentecost Offering here: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/pentecost/>

You can learn more about CCSC's Back to School program here: <https://www.ccschouston.org/bactoschool/>

Contributions to the communion offering can be made online through the church website, or checks can be sent to the church office, with Communion or Pentecost Offering in the memo line.

ST. PHILIP COVID UPDATE

The Session affirmed that we will continue with our current "online only" operations until such time that the data and health officials indicate that resuming in-person worship services would be a responsible activity. A key metric in this evaluative process is a 14-day decline in the number of new cases of COVID19 locally. Meanwhile, we continue to think through procedures and acquire necessary supplies so that when it is appropriate, we can gather together physically in ways that correspond with good health practices. We are also extending financial support to members of the St. Philip community through our pandemic assistance fund. Those in need of support from this fund are encouraged to contact the pastors.

IN OUR PRAYERS

David Castle and family upon the death of his mother Sue Castle in Buffalo, NY on June 1.

Congratulations to Rev. Nancy E. Johnson, and Meg Scott Johnson and husband Dr. Richard B. Johnson, grandparents to Brigid Violet Stuart, daughter of Meredith J. and Bradley J. Stuart of Austin. Brigid was born on May 23.

Congratulations to Ed and Janet Hess who welcomed granddaughter Reese Marie Thetford on May 26 to their daughter Emily and her husband Stephen.

Cathy Herrera and family upon the death of Ernest Herrera, her father-in-law on May 25.

St. Philippians and their families— Travis Calhoun; Jeanne West; Guy Aldrich; Greg Moore; Marion Takehara; CJ Miller; Lonnie Fugit; Mezgebe Gebray; Dottie Laas and family—cousin of Sam Fisher; Alice Barron—sister-in-law to Beth Atkinson; Nikolaus Malczewskyj—father-in-law of Jane Malczewskyj; David Block—brother-in-law of Nancy Lomax; John Beck—brother of Nancy Young; Margie Foster—mother of Mark Young; Tom Martin—father of Jon Martin; Dorothy McMillan—mother of Nancy Higgs; Keith Thomerson—brother-in-law of Susan Estill; Barbara Wilson—sister-in-law of Connie Mayfield; Jack Kindig—brother of Ginny Camfield; Shirley and Weldon Boggus, Sr.—grandparents of Omi Ford; Jimmy Reagan—father of Sarah O'Dell; Dona Rowe—mother of William Rowe; Elizabeth Carlton Lithio—granddaughter of Jeanie Flowers; and Ann Morgan—sister of Dorothy Blackwell.

Homebound: Sue Baier; Walter Baker; Joe Anne Berwick; John Bobbitt; Paulie Carlson; Kitty Curry; Jane English; Barbara German; George Helland; Donna Host; Arlette Keene; T.E. "Joe" Keever; Toto McGehee; Phillip McDaniel; Paul & Alice Pennington; Joyce Randolph; Van Rathgeber; Jean Nelson; Jody Tomforde; Penny Vieau; and Ruth Weber.

Friends of St. Philippians: Craig and Jamie Slein—friends of Steve Carmichael; Melissa and Sela Calvert—friends of Kay Cash; Dorcas Rhodes—friend of Jan Meyer; Dave Olson and Clayton Amacker—friends of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; Shirley Stubblefield—friend of Barbara Runge; Frank Wallace—friend of Jim & Nadene Crain; and Walter "Buddy" Hammann III—friend of Robin & 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.

Next edition: June 16

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.



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS



4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056

Phone: 713.622.4807 Fax: 713.622.5405 www.saintphilip.net