

July 21, 2020
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PHILIP-EYE

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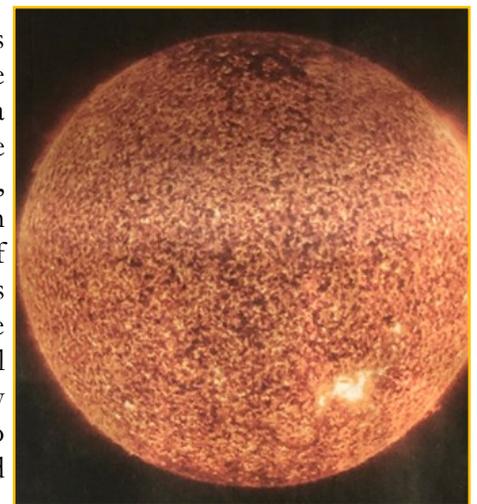
Susan Estill
Editor Emerita

ST. PHILIP SOLAR SYSTEM IS 12 DAYS OLD

Our new solar system was commissioned on July 9, just in time for some very hot, sunny days. The system, during its first eight days, generated 1,890 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity. The average daily solar production was 55% higher than the expected daily production over the course of a year. That is a great start, thanks to the power of the sun during the last week. At this rate, electricity purchases from the grid for the sanctuary and education building in July of 2019 would have been about one-third less had the solar system been in operation. It is important to note that there will regrettably be days that are cloudy, rainy and shorter when solar production will be lower than we have enjoyed so far.

Another impressive statistic is the that electricity produced by the solar system in its first eight days resulted in TWO TONS LESS carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, being produced. All of this has led the St. Philip Earth Care team to become missionaries for solar energy with other churches in Presbytery of New Covenant, particularly the other Earth Care congregations. Covenant Solar Power LLC will seek to work with other PNC churches to adopt solar, following the St. Philip lead.

Shown here and released just this week is the closest photograph ever taken of the sun. It was taken by Solar Orbiter, a spacecraft operated jointly by the European and NASA space agencies, from a position about halfway from earth to the sun. It shows a multitude of "campfires" shooting into the sun's outer atmosphere. It reminds us that the sun, with no effort at all, can provide all the energy the earth needs to indefinitely keep all the oil, gas and coal used to produce electricity in the ground indefinitely.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

May 2020

Stated Session Meeting via Zoom Teleconferencing – May 19, 2020

- ✦ Session approved the Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) Back to School program as recipient for the 40% locally-targeted portion of the June communion offering.
- ✦ Session approved a benevolence grant of \$3,000 for Project CURE.

June 2020

Stated Session Meeting via Zoom Teleconferencing – June, 2 020

- ✦ Session approved the St. Philip Presbyterian Church Performance Appraisal Process for all staff members excluding the Senior Pastor.
- ✦ Session approved the use of Presbyterian Outlook’s “Staycation Bible School” for stay at home 2020 Summer Vacation Bible School (VBS).

Committee and Council Actions:

- ✦ Property Committee has approved, by electronic vote, the replacement of the chiller for the Fellowship Hall at a cost of \$46,830. This expense will come from the Reserve for Replacement.
- ✦ Mission Committee has approved, by electronic vote, allocating up to \$2,000 to provide a \$50 gift card to each graduating senior at Liberty High School. (These cards were distributed to the graduating seniors of Liberty High School at their socially- distanced graduation ceremony on June 5.)
- ✦ Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee has approved the inclusion of “Black Lives Matter to God and to Us” in the San Felipe e-sign rotation.

John A. Lemen, Clerk of Session

SEAFARERS WORK VITAL DURING THE PANDEMIC

While many activities of both business and personal life have slowed to a crawl during the Covid-19 pandemic, the maritime industry has continued to move important cargo around the world. The work of ships officers and crews has continued despite sacrifices and challenges presented by the virus. A high percentage of everyday supplies from autos to zucchinis come to us via merchant ships calling on US ports including the Port of Houston.

In addition to the long, hard, and lonely work normally faced by seafarers, many seafarers have been unable to disembark their ships at the end of their contracts. Many ports do not allow them off their ships to travel back to their homeland. They remain “trapped” onboard their ship without pay. Replacement crew are unable to reach their work assignments. The Port of Houston is now allowing seafarers

to get off their ships, and our two Seafarer Centers have opened up after months of closure. Our two Presbyterian chaplains can now resume full ship visits. In prior weeks, the chaplains were limited to “gangway ministry” where they would proceed only to the top of a ship gangway and speak with any crew that might show up.

Sunday, July 12 was Sea Sunday, observed around the world. The link below is an article from the Vatican News honoring seafarers everywhere.

[Vatican News Sea Sunday](#)

As many donating churches have been effectively closed down, the ministry finances are becoming very tight, putting chaplain salaries and benefits at risk. The ministry also welcomes individual gifts. Donations should be made to “Presbytery of New Covenant”. Send to the Presbytery office at 4803 San Felipe, Houston, TX, 77056. Attn: Forbes Baker-Seafarers.

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. Once we have a majority in the meeting, participants are sent to smaller breakout rooms so you have a more intimate group. The groups will randomly be assigned each week. 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 **August 13** at 7 p.m. 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 for details and to get on the list - john@saintphilip.net

ST. PHILIP CHURCH & SOCIETY FALL PRESENTATIONS

Church and Society is a class that has been offered at St. Philip for many years, featuring speakers and presentations on a variety of contemporary and historical matters of faith and practice that encourage us to consider the role of the church in our society. According to class leader Mickey Meyers, Barbara Jordan, lawyer, educator, politician, and native Houstonian, once spoke to the class. A Democrat, she was the first African-American elected to the Texas Senate after Reconstruction and the first Southern African-American woman elected to the United States House of Representatives. Jordan died in 1996 at the age of 59.

Mickey coordinates the speakers with the help of St. Philip committees who sponsor topics that align with their work. The Peacemaking & Social Justice committee and the Mission Committee, as well as the Central Mission Endowment Council, invite presenters from the different organizations that St. Philip supports. As a result, St. Philipians can better understand and appreciate their mission outreach at work.

This fall all of the classes will be presented via Zoom:

- **September 13**—Rally Day - C & S class reunion and preview of Fall 2020 Presentations.
- **September 20**—*Can the Earth Heal Us?* Presented by Bruce Yaeger author of *Wrestling Brothers: Rethinking Religion-Science Relationships*, lecturer for Foundation for Contemporary Theology, and the blog *Wisdom in Leaves - At the Nexus of Nature and Spirituality and Reading*.
- **September 27**—*Darwin, Race, Slavery, and The Tree of Life* presented by Bruce Yaeger.
- **October 4**—*What is Godly Play?* An analysis of an imaginative approach to religious education presented by Ruthie Waldrop - Godly Play teacher at St. Philip.
- **October 11**—Reformation theme presented by Dr. Deborah Burks, retired professor from Ohio State University with teaching and research specialties in sixteenth and seventeenth-century drama, poetry, Reformation literature, and women's writing. Author of *Horrid Spectacle*, a study of theater and religious propaganda in the period
- **October 18**—*The Nicene Creed* - Fourth Century A.D. - the first official doctrinal statement of the whole Christian church, presented by Rev. Greg Han Director of Interfaith Relations and Education at Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston
- **October 25**—(Reformation Sunday) *The Catholic Church's Ongoing Response to the Reformation*: An attempt to better understand the issues that both separate and unite Catholics and Protestants. Presented by Rev. Msg. James Anderson - Professor of Systematic Theology Univ. of St. Thomas and St. Mary's Seminary.
- **November 1**—*How We Can Mitigate Man-made Climate Disruption Through Federal Legislation* - Presented by Mark Herranen - Citizens Climate Lobby - Creating the Political Will for a Sustainable Climate.
- **November 8**—*How to Calculate Carbon and Plastic Footprints* - Presented by Prof. Jim Blackburn - Professor in the Practice of Environmental Law in the Civil Environmental Engineering Dept., Rice University.
- **November 15**—(Alternative Market Sunday) *Carbon Offsets and How to Purchase Them* - Prof. Jim Blackburn - Coastal Exchange - To help build a resilient Texas coast supported by an informed public.
- **November 22**—*The Highest Holy Day - Yom Kippur* - Presented by Rabbi Steven Morgen - Associate Rabbi at Congregation Beth Yeshurun.
- **November 29**—(Thanksgiving weekend Sunday) - *Media Study - "Master of None" Thanksgiving episode* - Presented by Kate Burkart - Leader of film/media studies at St. Philip since 2002.
- **December 6**—*How Churches Can Work for Social Justice* - How religious commitments shape ethical and political practice and inspire social change - Presented by Dr. Rachel C. Schneider - Postdoctoral Fellow, Religion and Public Life Program at Rice. Univ. - Author of *The Ethics of Whiteness: Race, Religion, and Social Transformation in South Africa*.
- **December 13**—*The Belbar Confession* - A protest against a heretical theological stance by the white Dutch Reformed Church that used the Bible and the Confessions to justify the harsh and unjust system of Apartheid. - Presented by Rev. Greg Han - Director of Interfaith Relations and Education at Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston
- **December 20**—*Media Study - family film* - presented by Kate Burkart - minored in film study at Penn State and has been leading film/media studies at St. Philip since 2002.

Have a great, healthy, safe summer and we'll see you, via Zoom, **September 13** - Rally Day!
Mickey & Ken Meyers and Gary Gardner

EQUAL EXCHANGE SUMMER SALE

We recently received some sad news from Equal Exchange:

COVID-19 has changed the way we do things. Many churches and temples aren't meeting for in-person services, which means Equal Exchange's sales in the interfaith program are down by 38,000 pounds compared to this time last year.

This loss of volume has a real impact on Equal Exchange and our farmer partners. We believe interfaith sales could be down by more than 80,000 pounds of coffee by the year's end.



Sounds like it's time for our annual summer sale! As we are living "in the time of COVID," this will be another pre-order Saturday sale scheduled toward the end of August (date TBA). We hope to yoke the pickup with another drive-through event at the church, so stay tuned!

We will be offering for purchase coffee, tea, cashews, almonds, mangos, a small selection of chocolate bars, and our bestselling...olive oil!

Equal Exchange is happy about that too! They tell us, "After a long delay, we're excited to announce that the 2020 shipment of Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee (PARC) olive oil has arrived! The fall olive harvest was bountiful and we are thrilled to have the robust Organic Extra Virgin Olive Oil available again. PARC olive oil is cold-pressed from the Nabali olive, which has a rich, peppery flavor and is full of antioxidants. This fair trade product is from small-scale farmers in the West Bank."

And for your ease in ordering, our wizard of a church administrator has devised a way for you to place your order and pay through the church website! An email will go out as soon as the order form is finalized, but you will be able to find the link on the front page of the website too.

Equal Exchange is a worker cooperative that purchases coffee, tea, and other crops that go into making all your favorites. Working with 40 communities in 20 countries, Equal Exchange

- Pays a stable, above-market price;

- Purchases in advance of harvest (when farmers need the money) and

- Collaborates over the long term in the sustainable development and empowerment of their partner communities

Your continued purchases of Equal Exchange products enable their economically just and environmentally sound model to make a real difference, not just in your kitchen but to small farmers and their communities all around the world. We appreciate your support!

As we move closer to the peak of hurricane season, we want to remind you to check your personal disaster readiness at home. Harris County provides a thorough check list of items to prepare for shelter in place and evacuation scenarios at [readyharris.org](https://www.readyharris.org)

Another resource we recommend for staying up to date on the development of potential storms is Space City Weather, a website dedicated to covering Houston weather news and forecasting "without hype." Eric Berger and Matt Lanza are two credentialed meteorologists providing clear and accurate information to help Houstonians make informed, level-headed decisions in the face of uncertain or dangerous weather conditions. <https://spacecityweather.com/>

If you need any assistance in obtaining materials to be prepared in the event of disaster, please contact any of the pastors.



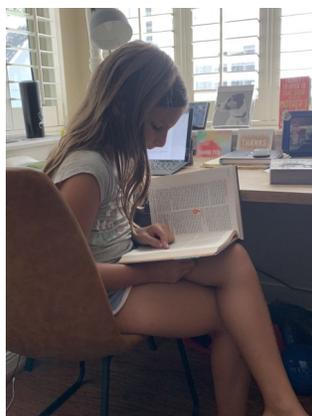
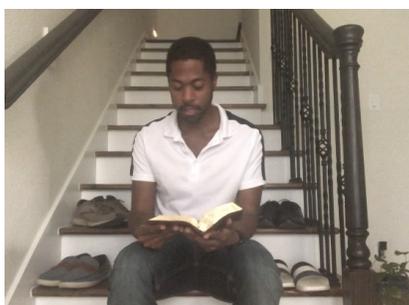


STAYCATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Last week, children in the St. Philip community, near and far, participated in Staycation Bible School, an innovative curriculum for learning and fun at home. This resource was developed by the Presbyterian Outlook. Throughout the week, students engaged with bible stories, art, science and music through digital lessons and videos. Energizers were even led by Gianna and Kara D'Agostino! We kicked the week off with a welcome video message from pastors and Sunday School leaders, and ended in song: Will You Come and Follow Me, #726 in our Presbyterian hymnal. The theme of the week was "Awesome are YOUR feet! They carry God's love wherever you go!" And the learners

explored how to engage in discipleship by following Jesus and loving God, by loving our neighbors in all sorts of ways. Thank you to all who contributed, participated and supported this endeavor. Special thanks to Deb Burks for her work recording – including a visit atop the roof of the church!

The real gift of the Staycation Bible School curriculum is that it can be accessed any time or place – so if the children in your life weren't able to participate last week, there is still plenty of time! Email Omar at omar@saintphilip.net if you need help accessing them.



IN OUR PRAYERS

Ruthie Waldrop and family upon the death of her father William Kenan Rand, Jr. July 18 in Durham, North Carolina.

Lorrie Castle and family upon the death of her uncle Barney Haley on July 15 in Indiana.

The family of A.C. Lewis, former custodial manager at the former Central Presbyterian Church of Houston who died on July 12.

Jon Martin and family upon the death of his father Tom Martin who died on July 9.

William Howard and family upon the death of his stepfather Leon Marshall on June 15.

Congratulations to Hope Wilmarth on the birth of her grandson Elliot Lance Gates-Wilmarth on July 19 in North Carolina. Proud parents are Emily Wilmarth and Kevin Gates.

Rev. Stew Coffman celebrating 60 years in ministry.

St. Philippians and their families— Vicki McKay; Steve Carmichael; Mary Sinderson; Marion Takehara; Peg Palisin; Emily Estill; Travis Calhoun; Jeanne West; Greg Moore; CJ Miller; Lonnie Fugit; Mezgebe Gebray; Grady Short—brother of Sally Slick; 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; 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; Dorothy McMillan—mother of Nancy Higgs; Barbara Wilson—sister-in-law of Connie Mayfield; Jack & Pauline Kindig—brother/sister-in-law 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; Arlette Keene; T.E. "Joe" Keever; Toto McGehee; Joyce Randolph; Van Rathgeber; Jean Nelson; Jody Tomforde; Penny Vieau; and Ruth Weber.

Friends of St. Philippians: Roger Henderson—friend of Mickey Meyers; David Shebay—friend of Greg Han; Kathleen Davies and family—friend of Chuck Johnson; Craig and Jamie Slein—friends of Steve Carmichael; Melissa and Sela Calvert—friends of Kay Cash; Betty Rhodes and family—friend of Jan Meyer; Dave Olson and Clayton Amacker—friends of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; Shirley Stubblefield—friend of Barbara Runge; and Walter "Buddy".

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 and other gifts to support the Church can be made anytime through our website (<http://saintphilip.net/>) or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056.

Next edition: August 4

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



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