



August 5, 2025
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PHILIP-EYE

AUGUST COMMUNION OFFERING



In 2001, God gave David Wu a vision and calling—to be a pastor to pastors. He and his wife, Cindy, were living in East Asia at the time, and over the next two decades of vocational ministry, including pastoring at churches, obtaining seminary degrees, mission work, and nonprofit program management, they developed skills and a heart for caring for leaders. Twenty years after that initial stirring, God called the Wus to found Mosaic Formation, a nonprofit whose mission is to expand access to spiritual formation care and training for leaders serving underserved and diaspora communities. Mosaic Formation provides spiritual direction, coaching, retreat, facilitation and workshops free of charge to make their offerings more accessible. They also function as a fiscal sponsor for a Network of spiritual directors who embrace Mosaic Formation's mission and values.

Mosaic Formation's commitment to marrying contemplation with action and to diaspora communities includes mobilizing churches in Houston to welcome refugees. Some of this effort comes through two local initiatives underwritten by Mosaic Formation: the Refugee Ministry Network of Houston and Ride with Refugees. Cindy serves as the facilitator of the Refugee Ministry Network, an informal collective of refugees focused organizations and leaders who collaborate on equipping, prayer, advocacy, and mobilization. In 2025, they created an ad hoc task force to respond to the urgent needs of newly arrived refugees, whose services and funding were abruptly canceled by the current presidential administration. Many refugees are stuck in limbo as a result. Mosaic Formation believes that as followers of Jesus become transformed into Christ's image, the more our hearts will be burdened by the suffering and concerns of the world. Caring about the refugee crisis is one tangible expression of transformation in action.

Please visit [Mosaic Formation's website](#) to learn more about the ministry, especially their [Refugee Response page](#) to learn how you can support their efforts to care for some of the world's most vulnerable people. You are also welcome to sign up for any of their free offerings. If you have any questions email: info@mosaicformation.org.

You can make a secure contribution through saintphilip.net and choosing the Communion fund or by sending a check to the church office, with "Communion" in the memo line by **August 27**.

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

Rev. Keatan King
Associate Pastor

Rev. Omar Rouchon
Associate Pastor

Dr. Justin Langham
Director of Music

Dr. Matthew Dirst
Organist

Diana Weiss
Art Director

Wilbert Parada
Facilities Supervisor

Dimas Parada
Custodian

Denise Ferrell
Bookkeeper

Lorrie Castle
Office Manager
Newsletter Editor

WELCOME TO 2025-2026 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN!



Presbyterian Women (PW) is a vibrant, spirit led community of women committed to nurturing faith, supporting missions, building community and advocating for justice and peace. Whether you are new to St Philip or a longtime member, there's a place for you here.

WHO WE ARE

Presbyterian Women is an inclusive caring community of women committed to nurturing faith supporting missions building community of women who affirm our purpose through worship, Bible study, service and fellowship. We are grounded in our faith and inspired to live out Christ's love in tangible ways both within the church and the world.

CIRCLES

Circles are small groups inside Presbyterian Women who meet regularly for Bible study, prayer, mission work and fellowship. These groups provide a welcoming space to deepen relationships, explore God's word and support one another in faith and life. Each circle has its own personality and meeting schedule, so you can find one that fits your interests and availability. Whether you are a morning person, a working professional or looking for evening fellowship, there's a circle for you!

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Thursday Evening Circle	1 st Thursday of each month	7:00 p.m.	
Monday morning Saints	2 nd Monday of each month	10:00 a.m.	
The Hallmark Circle	2 nd Wednesday of each month	1:30 p.m.	
Sunday Circle	3 rd Sunday of each month	12:30 p.m.	Potluck Salad Luncheon
One more chance study	4 th Sunday of each month	10:00 a.m.	

SAVE THE DATE!

Calendar for 2025-26

September 21	Kick off luncheon	Fellowship Hall	12:15 p.m.
December 21	Christmas Luncheon	Fellowship Hall	12:15 p.m.
February 6-8, 2026	PW retreat	Camp Allen	
March 8	Honorary Life Membership Award	Worship Service	
April 11	Presbytery PW Spring Gathering	First PC, Navasota	9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
May 2026	PW Birthday celebration	Gathering Area	12:15 p.m.
May 2026	St. Philip Seniors honored	Worship service	11:00 a.m.
February 12-14, 2027	PW Retreat	Camp Allen	

NEW CURRICULUM STUDY GUIDE FOR 2025 -2026!

We will have the first lesson from our new bible study at the fall luncheon on **September 21**. Our study for this year is based on the book "Short Stories by Jesus- The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi" by Amy Jill Levine.

You have several options for obtaining a copy of this book.

- The book is also available from Bookshop.org.
- The book is available from Amazon in a paperback book, an e-book or an audio book. This book is not available in large print.
- We will be placing a bulk order. Beginning **August 10** we will have a table in the Gathering Area and you can sign up and pay to be included in the bulk order. The price for the bulk order book is \$15. There will be no charge for shipping. You can also call the Church Office (713-622-4807) to place your order or email welcome@saintphilip.net.

FALL LUNCHEON COMMITTEE

We are currently looking for volunteers to help with the fall luncheon on **September 21**. We need people to help plan, sell tickets in the Gathering Area, set up table decorations, clean up, etc. We also need some people to help provide desserts such as cookies, etc. If you would like to help out you can call the Church Office (713-622-4807) to be added to the list or you can email leonard1900@gmail.com or meghansankowski@hotmail.com.



September Birthdays

Sandra	Truxillo	1
Bill	Stubbs	1
Cathy	Hunt	2
Julia	Pacheco	2
Linda	Weinmann	3
Annie	Burgess	3
Everett	Burgess	3
Steve	Hunt	5
Wilbert	Parada	5
Wesley	Vestal	5
Ruena	Wood	5
John	Hudson	6
Jeanette	Wennenwaser	6
Matthew	Dirst	6
Gabriela	Rodarte	6
Louis	Calvert	7
Madeleine	Irick	8
John	Lemen	9
Bill	Connolly	9
Lily	Frautschi	9
Celie	Matteson	9
Jessica	Fair	10
Callie	Bream	11
Mary	Benson	11
Jim	DeMent	11
Mary	Itz	11
Guy	Aldrich	12
Ken	Fountain	12
Charlotte	Murphy	13
Sid	Wells	13
Carolyn	Davis	13
Amy	Morriss	13
Diana	Weiss	13
Ginny	Camfield	14
Carolyn	Geis	14
Babs	Willis	14
Sam	Fisher	14
Mary	Cangahuala	15
Asher	Brewer	18
Holly	Heuer	20
Mary Grace	Carter	21
Tamara	Arlinghaus	21
Nancy	Higgs	21

MARIETTA'S LIED

Greetings from western Massachusetts!

As I write this from Lenox, MA in the Berkshires, I am savoring the final moments of the slow summer season. My partner Andreea is in her second summer as a pianist/coach for the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, the youth musician arm of the Tanglewood Music Festival. Tanglewood, the summer home of the Boston Symphony. Since 1934, has been one of the premier music festivals in the U.S. and home to some of the world's greatest musical forces, such as Yo-Yo Ma, Emmanuel Ax, Lang Lang, and John Williams... and that's just from this past week!



Needless to say, music lovers from around the world flock to this quiet corner of New England each summer to hear the highest level of symphonic music, chamber music, choral music, musical theater, contemporary music, jazz, and pop music. Among the musical smorgasbord available in the past two weeks I've been here, I've heard familiar favorites, like Mahler's first symphony and the music from Star Wars, but also some wonderful music I had not heard before, such as Saint-Saens' Piano Concerto No.2 and Korngold's incredible violin concerto.

Eric Wolfgang Korngold, a child prodigy as a pianist and composer, is a unique figure in music history whose music bridges the emotionality of German Romanticism and Hollywood storytelling. As the Nazis rose to power, Korngold moved from Hamburg to Hollywood in 1934, eventually becoming one of the most important composers for film in the 20th century. Korngold's music achieves a level of passion and emotion that few other composers have achieved, especially in his early orchestral and operatic works, and maintains a special place in my heart.

I hope you enjoy one of my favorite pieces by him, "Marietta's Lied" from *Die tote Stadt* ("The Dead City"), sung by the incomparable Renée Fleming.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGyt7yIJP94>

Justin Langham, D.M.A.
Director of Music

MAHJONG ANYONE?

St. Philipians are invited to play Mahjong on Friday mornings from 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. at St. Philip in the Choir Lobby in Administration Bldg. We are interested in substitutes with the possibility of forming more sets if there is enough interest. If you're interested in playing Mahjong sometimes or often or in learning how to play, text Judith Hiott at 832-277-8676.

Linda	Bevill	23
Al	Pepi	24
Octavio	Guerrero	24
Dimas	Parada	24
Bill	Brunger	25
Judith	Hiott	26
Cynthia	Shoup	26
Robin	Willis	27
Marise	Robbins-Forbes	27
Trudy	Tanton	28
Carolyn	Keeble	30
David	Castro	30
Bo	Tanton	30

ST. PHILIP DURING THE WEEK

SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP—Social Justice Study Group - This group meets by zoom on first Monday nights, 7-8 p.m., to discuss social justice issues of our day (racism, Christian Nationalism, immigration, etc.) within the context of our faith. Interested persons who want to be added to our mailing list can contact Sara Jean Jackson: sjj10223@gmail.com.

LAMBETH STUDY—Keatan King leads young adults in study every Monday evening at 7:00 PM via Zoom. It is a time of study, reflection, and prayer. If you would like more details, email Keatan at: keatan@saintphilip.net.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY— On recess until further notice. To get on the list for the Zoom links, send a note to: john@saintphilip.net.

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. Please watch your email for details on the next meeting on **August 14** at 7:00 p.m. This will be a social gathering. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nina Lambright at: nnl@lambrightlaw.com.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP— On recess until **September 12**. If you would like to join them please contact Gary Gardner at: ggardne148@aol.com.

NURSERY CARE IS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT SUNDAY MORNINGS

9:45 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Infants to age 4 are invited to our Nursery which is staffed by professional childcare providers. Please find that our Nursery has temporarily been moved to Room 100 off the Gathering Area. An usher or a greeter will be happy to direct you there.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES ARE ON RECESS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 7

We offer a variety of Sunday school classes during the school year for children, youth, and adults. Please visit our Learning page at saintphilip.net to learn about our class offerings in the fall.

ENNEAGRAM—NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL

In September we will begin a new church school class on the Enneagram. You may wonder what that is, and why we are offering this class at St. Philip. The Enneagram is a “power tool” for self-awareness, compassion, leadership and personal development. But the Enneagram is old. It has roots in several wisdom traditions, including Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. Seven of the nine Enneagram types are associated with the “capital” or “deadly” sins which originated with the Desert Fathers. It was used in monastic circles as a guide for spiritual direction. But today it is taught as a system of looking at nine distinct human personality patterns.

Rev. Holly Heuer, who worships here at St. Philip will be teaching the class. She is a certified instructor and has taught the Enneagram widely in church settings. She uses the Enneagram in her spiritual direction practice and constantly in her daily life. She believes that it is one of the best maps for knowing ourselves and moving towards our greatest potential.

The aim of the class is to develop self-awareness and self-knowledge through the practice of presence. That is, being aware in each moment of the presence of God. No prior experience is necessary, only a willing and curious spirit. If you think you might attend the class, Holly will share a bibliography of online resources, so that you can get acquainted with the Enneagram. And if you are interested in identifying your “type pattern,” she is happy to chat with you in person or over zoom. You can contact her at: hollyheuer@ecentral.com.

The class will be held on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. in Room 202, beginning **September 14**.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY CLASS FALL 2025 SCHEDULE

As summer winds down and school begins our Church and Society class looks forward to kicking off a robust series of Sunday morning programs beginning with our traditional Rally Day on **September 7**. Please take a look at the September – December class program topics and speakers posted below.

It is our Rally Day custom to invite class participants to send us via e mail your answer to a fun question that other class participants will enjoy reading. The answers can be a great source of conversation. Here is the question we invite you to answer: "What is something you did, some place you visited, or an experience you had during this last year which renewed you and why?" You can send your answers to John Hartman at jshartman01@gmail.com for circulation to our mailing list.

We will invite the speakers for our fall term to visit our Rally Day class in person or via Zoom and give brief introductions to their topics. We know some will take us up on this. In any

case, we will give overviews of each upcoming program. Please join us on Sunday, **September 7** at 9:30 a.m. in Room 201 of the Education Building and any other Sunday morning following that. We have vibrant presentations and discussions that you might really enjoy.

Here is the fall 2025 program lineup:

Sept. 7 - Rally Day – Introduce future Programs/ speakers. Learn about favorite places class participants have traveled.

Sept 14 - Dr. Julieana Nichols to discuss efforts on behalf of children with the Texas legislature.

Sept. 21 - Cindy Judson to discuss what we've learned about how living with poverty impacts the ways people think and live. **Candice Harris**, St. Philip Day School Director, will provide an update on the SPDS startup.

Sept. 28 - Class will participate in a guided discussion of questions from the book "God's Gift of Generosity: Gratitude Beyond Stewardship" as part of preparations for the St. Philip stewardship season.

Oct. 5 - Rev. Gregory Han presentation on Nostra Aetate on the 60th anniversary of this watershed declaration by the Catholic Church.

Oct. 12 - Columbus – Science and Religion by **Bruce Yaeger**.

Oct. 19 - Linyan Zheng, Rice Religion PhD student, will present: *Religion & Writing Therapy: H.D.'s Resurrection Myth as a Case Study*

Oct. 26 - Kyle Sherling, Rice Religion PhD student, will present: *Abraham: Father, Prophet, Philosopher, and Imperial Founder*

Nov. 2 - Rev. Dr. John Nelsen – Tres Rios Presbytery Border Ministry program update.

Nov. 9 - Presentation on Christian Nationalism by **Sara Jean Jackson**

Nov. 16 - Program on Americans United for separation of Church and State. – **Omar Rouchon**.

Nov. 23 - Justin Langham on Music for Advent.

Nov. 30 - Presentation by **Rabbi Steven Morgen** entitled "It Takes Two to Relevance: A Modern Jewish Approach to Understanding the Prophets."

Dec. 7 - Presentation on the mission and work of Restoring Justice by their Board Chair **Chantel Mack**.

Dec. 14 - To Be Announced

Dec. 21 - Lily Frautschi will discuss her China experience and other recent adventures

Dec. 28 - Family Holiday Movie presentation by **Kate Burkart**.

The C&S Leadership Team



SUPPORT FOR MONTREAT COMMUNITY

Dear Church Family,

We have a wonderful opportunity to support a truly worthy cause: the Town of Montreat's recovery from Hurricane Helene. We're excited to share that Montreat resident, Ann Neel, has published a delightful Montreat-themed coloring and activity book, Color Me Joyful Montreat now available on Amazon.

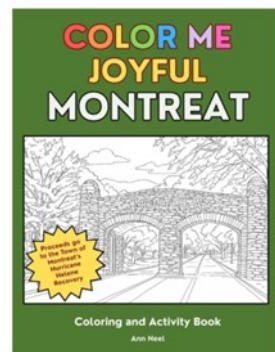
This isn't just a fun way to engage with our beloved Town of Montreat, it's also a way to help!! Ann wants all proceeds from her book sales to go directly to the town's recovery efforts. What a meaningful way to contribute to a community dear to many of us!

You can find the book on Amazon. I encourage you to scroll down on the sales page to see examples of the charming coloring pages. If you do buy, please make sure to post a review because doing so causes the book to show up in more and more searches on Amazon.

If you don't have an Amazon account, but would still like to make a purchase, please don't hesitate to contact me, Sam Fisher, directly. I'd be happy to assist you in getting your copies.

So go ahead and order for children, grandchildren, friends, family.... AND yourself!! Let's help out the Town of Montreat in this unique, fun way!! And spread the word!!

Peace be with you,
Sam Fisher



On July 28-31, St. Philip was represented at Presbyterian Youth Triennium by Ava Arlinghaus, Grayson Bratton, Leah Bream, Kaya Coward (cousin of Isabella), Sadie Fair, Isabella Ford, John Webster, and Keatan King for four days of keynote speakers, worship, small groups, and fellowship with over 2,000 Presbyterian youth participants from across the country gathered in Louisville, KY.



GROWING GREENER TOGETHER COMPOSTING & ELECTRONICS RECYCLING FEST AUGUST 30–31 Stewardship in Action: Caring for God's Creation

INTRODUCTION: A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

As caretakers of God's creation, we are invited to nurture the earth, preserve its resources, and pass along a legacy of stewardship to future generations. In response to this calling, St. Philip's Earth Care Team is excited to announce a special event focused on two essential ways we can live out this mission: learning about composting and offering a safe, responsible opportunity to recycle personal electronic items.

EVENT OVERVIEW: WHEN AND WHERE

Mark your calendars! On Saturday, **August 30**, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, and Sunday, **August 31**, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m., you can drop off your electronics for recycling at the porte-cochère by the Sanctuary. Then on Sunday, **August 31**, after worship, come to a presentation on composting. All are welcome!

COMPOSTING: TURNING WASTE INTO LIFE

What Is Composting?

Composting is a simple, natural process where microorganisms break down organic materials such as fruit peels, vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, yard waste, and even eggshells, and transform them into nutrient-rich soil. This "black gold" not only enriches gardens but also diverts waste from landfills, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting the health of God's earth.

Why Compost?

Reduce landfill waste: Organic material makes up more than 30% of what we throw away. Instead of sending these resources to a landfill, composting gives them new life.

Enrich soil: Compost improves soil structure, helps soil retain moisture, and adds essential nutrients for healthy plants.

Mitigate climate change: By diverting organic matter from landfills, composting reduces the production of methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

Foster community: Composting can bring neighbors together, supporting community gardens and beautifying shared spaces.

Details

Join Leo Brito from Zero Waste and St. Philip's own Judith Hiott for an informational session that will cover:

- The science behind composting: what can and can't go in your pile.
- Best practices for home compost bins.
- Troubleshooting tips: how to address pesky smells, pests, or slow decomposition.
- Creative composting: the possibility of composting at St. Philip, community drop-off, and more!

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING: DECLUTTER RESPONSIBLY

Why Recycle Electronics?

Many of us have old cell phones, laptops, tablets, and other electronic devices tucked away in drawers or closets. These items, when discarded improperly, can leak harmful substances into the environment, polluting groundwater, harming wildlife, and creating unnecessary waste. Recycling electronics ensures valuable materials are recovered and reused, and dangerous components are handled safely.

What Can Be Recycled?

Our event will accept most personal electronic items. Here is the full list of accepted items:

- Batteries (alkaline and lithium)
- Cable boxes that are not the property of a cable TV provider
- Cell phones and smartphones
- Chargers, power cords, and mixed cables
- Desktop computers
- Digital cameras
- Laptops (including Chromebooks)
- Modems and routers
- Printers
- Tablets and e-readers
- Toner and ink cartridges

We are working with vendors who guarantee data security/destruction. Our recycling partner is the City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department. St. Philip will provide boxes in the Gathering Area **August 24** and **31** for small lightweight items, and Earth Care Team members will be available to answer questions about the recycling process.

What Happens to Recycled Electronics?

Earth Care Team members will deliver collected electronics to a City of Houston recycling center, where they'll be dismantled and sorted. Glass, metals, plastics, and precious elements such as copper and gold are extracted and repurposed. Hazardous materials, such as batteries and mercury, are safely contained and disposed of following strict environmental guidelines.

FAITH, CREATION, AND COMMUNITY: WHY THIS MATTERS

The Bible reminds us, “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it” (Psalm 24:1). As Christians, our environmental actions are not just practical, they are spiritual. Caring for the environment is a tangible way to reflect God’s love for all creation, honor our neighbors, and safeguard the beauty and bounty that sustains us.

Our event aims to:

- Raise awareness about sustainable living.
- Provide practical steps for reducing waste.
- Offer fellowship through shared action.
- Invite all ages to take part and learn together.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

- Bring your curiosity for the composting session.
- Gather old electronics you no longer need and drop them off at the Clearinghouse or e-cycling collection boxes.
- Share a favorite composting tip or recycling story at the event.

Refreshments and light snacks will be available.

LET’S GROW GREENER, TOGETHER!

This event is not just about education or decluttering; it’s about coming together as a faith community to make a positive impact. Whether you’re curious about composting, want to responsibly recycle old devices, or simply want to connect with others who care about the environment, we hope you will join us.

Let us heed the call to stewardship, celebrating the abundance of this earth and doing our part to protect it.

See you **August 30–31** for learning, recycling, and nurturing God’s good earth, side by side!

JUSTICE AND JOY REFLECTION

Saturday, July 26th I spent the day with hundreds of my new best friends. I attended the Select Texas House committee hearings for redistricting. The hearing and a rally were held on the University of Houston Central campus, in the middle of one of the Congressional Districts potentially, at the time, impacted by the redistricted maps. I joined a group of people outside the hearing room, not real sure what to expect. During that wait, as well as when I made my way to the Student Center, I met and talked to some amazing people from all walks of life all there to express their opinions to the committee members.

I was able to complete the form required to register to speak. And I did eventually make my way into the hearing room. The hearing room was packed with elected officials, those who came to speak, those who came to support speakers, and those who stated, “I came to bear witness.” Part way through the public comment session, Representative Jon E. Rosenthal, House Committee Vice Chair, shared that approximately, and unofficially, 700 indi-

viduals had registered to speak in the five hours allotted. When the five hours were up, many had not had the chance to add their voices. It was arranged for those who wanted to continue the hearing informally to regather at Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church. Rep. Rosenthal extended the invitation to continue sharing public comments. I and about 20 other speakers met again at Wheeler Avenue Baptist. I share this brief summary of an intense and long day as the foundation of my reflections.

People are finding their voices. People are showing up and standing up and speaking out. People are traveling across state to do so. People from all different walks of life and partisan identities are coming together. People from different faith traditions. People whose spiritual journeys are outside organized religions. Strangers are becoming immediate friends and allies as we address current and future injustices together. Those speaking on the 26th spoke respectfully with knowledge, with passion, with compassion, and with emotions appropriate to the issues. I learned more about some real needs of others across Houston and across the state, helping me move from personal assumptions to a bit more informed understanding. Through their stories and the stories of those they care about, speaker after speaker came and spoke.

These are uncertain times. Times of confusion, frustration, and sense of helplessness. Whenever I am with a group seeking to create justice, which occurs often at St Philip, I remind myself there are many more individuals and allies out there we do not see or hear about advocating in their own ways as they are able for their closest concerns and for the marginalized they care deeply for.

It is disconcerting there was even a need for these hearings on July 26th. It is also encouraging and renewing that so many people are at work to not only seek justice, but also to create justice. And an interesting and surprising personal awareness: there is potential joy in these gatherings! The joy of common purpose. The joy of sharing energy. The joy of being among people of empathy. The joy of knowing I am not alone.

I know this joy will come and go during the days ahead. I also know I can reflect back to this event, as well as other events I have attended, to tap back into that energy and joy of collectively striving to create justice.

Denise Wilborn,

Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee Chair

You’re invited to the Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee Open House

Sunday, September 7, Immediately after worship

You will have the opportunity to visit with members of the Peacemaking and Social Justice committee to learn more about our ministries and how we are striving to create justice. No need to RSVP, just show up in Room 205.

If you have questions, please contact Denise Wilborn (dwilborn55@gmail.com), committee chair.

THE GENEROUS PATH: CULTIVATING GENEROSITY THROUGH STEWARDSHIP

GOD'S GIFT OF GENEROSITY: GRATITUDE BEYOND STEWARDSHIP

Last month in this space we began exploring the themes of generosity and gratitude, expressed in the title above of a recent book by Presbyterian pastor, lecturer, and worship leader the Rev. Karl Travis. Your 2025 Stewardship Committee has adopted this title to help us frame how we think about these things in our walk with God, no matter what time of year or “season” we might be in.

This month the “thought provokers” we share from Travis’s book are about the power of generosity. But first we will return to a summary of thoughts about the forms our generosity can take: generosity *for* God (being generous because it is what we are supposed to do) and generosity *with* God, being partners with God in our acts of generosity. As Travis puts it:

“...Our generosity takes two forms: an initial response, generosity *for* God, which limits us to transaction, and generosity *with* God, which engages us in transformation and prepares us within for fuller relationship with God. We have celebrated that *for* can lead to *with*, that treasure leads our hearts and not the other way around. And we have observed that when we engage in relationship *with* partners in our generosity, *with* awakens us to more than we had dreamt. The ultimate *with* is God.

We are God’s partners.

If practicing generosity *for* God is limited to mere transaction, practicing generosity *with* God is wholly transformational.

To practice generosity is to engage in God’s transforming power to make something that we *do* into something that we *are*.

When Jesus’ disciples are generous *with* God, we are transformed.

The Power of Generosity

If God’s generosity is the *what* of our conversation, then the *so what* is how we respond: how we practice generosity within the culture that shapes our daily lives.

God’s generosity is at the core of the gospel. It is not just a divine attribute. It’s the heartbeat of the Good News. When we receive it, we’re not meant to hold onto it. We’re called to reflect it, to live it.

Generosity has power. It can:

Inspire gratitude – When we give freely, we begin to recognize how much we have already received. Generosity reorients our hearts toward thankfulness. It shifts our focus from scarcity to abundance, from what we lack to what we’ve been given.

Clarify want vs. need – Generosity encourages discernment. In giving, we often discover that our needs are simpler and fewer than we thought, and our wants less urgent.

There’s a difference between *having a heart of gold* and *having a heart for gold*. The two are rarely compatible. While a few might manage both, most of us nurture a heart for gold while telling ourselves we’ll be generous “someday,” once we’re more comfortable, more secure, more successful.

But generosity isn’t a future luxury; it’s a present calling.

Did you know that poorer Americans give more, proportionally, than the wealthy? Why might that be?

One common explanation is that those with less often witness need more directly. They see hunger, illness, or instability up close. Compassion follows proximity.

Another reason is this: through sharing, they’ve learned to make do with less, and their values have shifted. Generosity has shaped their way of life.

In this way, generosity also:

Redirects our economic gaze – Instead of comparing ourselves to others and chasing what we lack, we’re invited to rest in *enough*. As Exodus 20:17 reminds us, “*You shall not covet your neighbor’s house... or anything that belongs to your neighbor.*” Coveting fuels consumerism. Generosity undermines it.

In a culture that prizes accumulation, giving becomes a countercultural act, a quiet but powerful declaration that there is more to life than more.

We’re excited to explore, together as a church family, the biblical foundations and practical expressions of a generous life.

Questions, thoughts, or ideas? We’d love to hear from you! Reach out to the 2025 Stewardship Committee at stewardship@saintphilip.net.





Judith Hiott, Denise Wilborn, Tina Bryan, Sarah Victorian, and Quincy Victorian
Photo Credit: Denise Wilborn



P & SJ REFLECTION

Quincy and I had the privilege of attending the Pride parade with several other church members this June. In a political climate that often focuses on othering people, it was lovely to be surrounded by Houstonians celebrating the joy and pride of the LGBTQIA+ community.

So often, what we see in the media is a hate-filled culture war between churches and the LGBTQIA+ community. Being part of a church that showed up in support truly felt like we were doing what Jesus would be happy to see. There were also several other churches at the parade, supporting and celebrating alongside us.

It was so fun to be surrounded by color, cheer, and upbeat music (specifically Chappell Roan on repeat!). Everyone was so kind to one another, people of all ages were having the best time, and there was a clear sense that the crowd was choosing welcome.

Huge thanks to Denise Wilborn and the Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee for organizing such a joyful event. Quincy and I really enjoyed the parade and loved spending time with church members outside of the sanctuary.

Sarah Victorian



KIDS AGAINST HUNGER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Kids Against Hunger is a youth-led ministry to stop hunger in Houston by packing shelf-stable, vitamin-fortified meals of Apple Cinnamon Oatmeal which we donate to Kids' Meals, a meals on wheels organization serving underserved children ages five and younger without access to free and reduced school lunch programs. Our Kids Against Hunger program is run by eleven youth families totaling twenty-eight participants.

Kids Against Hunger Meals offer all nine of the essential amino acids required for complete nutrition – something that can't be said about other typical food relief sources such as rice or beans alone. The beauty of the food formulation is its simplicity. It is made from four readily available, dry ingredients that are easy to package, keep for long periods, and require only boiling with water or microwaving to prepare.

On Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30 a.m., youth of St. Philip set up packing lines in the Sandra and James Cooper KAH Packing Facility, located off the Dining Room at the back of our property. Youth teach participants the process for scooping ingredients, weighing the bags, and sealing them for delivery to hungry children in Houston.

Last year, our youth set a goal of hosting one packing session per month. In the fall of 2024, we packed 4,398 meals and 9,966 in the spring of 2025 for a total of 14,364 meals packed last academic year, supported by over twenty-five non-KAH team adult guests welcomed across four packs, many of whom we repeat guests!

This year in 2025-2026, our youth set an exciting goal to double their total number of packing sessions, giving our congregation the chance to pack twice a month. Please check your calendars and join us from 9:30—10:30 a.m. for one or more packing dates:

August 24	September 14
September 28	October 12
October 26	November 9
November 23	

RSVP to Keatan at keatan@saintphilip.net and please indicate which date(s) you wish to pack. We hope to welcome as many first-timers as possible!

Grace and peace,
Keatan



IN OUR PRAYERS

The family of Nan Schissler upon her death. A memorial service will be held August 16 at 11:00 a.m.

Carol Lucas and family upon the death of husband Charles Lucas on July 28.

The family of Antonia Day Helland, widow of George A. Helland, upon her death, July 27.

Sam Fisher and family upon the death of her brother-in-law on July 28.

The family of Rollie McGinnis upon his death on July 22.

St. Philipians and their families – Judith Crane; Jane Larkin; Joy Maguire; Stewart Coffman; Bonnie Moore; David Winship; Bob Ardell; Charlotte Kibler; Carolyn Vestal; Diane Clarke; Barbara Cavanaugh; Mary Herlitz; Dick Nunn; Ben Dees; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Nancy E. Johnson; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Shannon Butler— sister of Amy Morriss; JoAnn Moss-Ayres— mother of Casey Lambright; John Palisin— brother of Peg Palisin; Kathy Bailey and family— sister of Peg Palisin; Jo Hadley Smith— cousin of William Rowe; Katie Forbes— daughter of Marise Robbins-Forbes; Jacqui – cousin of Angelina Fonseca-Grewal; Terese Murphy— cousin of Gary Gardner and Peg Palisin; Guinn Blackwell-Eagleson and partner John Bonica; Ann Perenyi— mother of Lad Perenyi; and Ann Perkins Cloud— cousin of Stephen Paine. Lind Butler (wife of Bill Connolly) and her family in Israel.

Homebound – Elizabeth Arp; Beverly Baker; Carolyn Keeble; John Bobbitt; Joan Boelens; Jan Ostendorf; Edith Patterson; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; Mary Sinderson; and Sondra Sullivan.

Friends of St. Philipians – Mary Ann Thomas; Erin McDougal— friend of Kate Burkart; Elaine Ende— friend of Beth Atkinson; Marianne Keeswood— friend of Kate Burkart; Al & Kathleen Wiesenthal— friends of Pam Keever; Audrey Eubank Harris, Jennifer McCrea, Jay Stokes & Anna Domonte, friends of Curt & Sharon Webb; Marianne Hash – friend of Jane Cooper; Mary Watters and Mindy Cooper-Smith – friends of Bill and Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor; Claude Bowden – friend of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; Kenneth and Donna Benton – friends of William Rowe; Patty Ryan and Tom Barnett - friends of Robin and Gary Willis; Jackie Janacek, Joyce Freudenberg- friends of Stephen Paine; 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

Prayer List is a powerful tool for bringing comfort, healing, and peace to those in need. So, let's keep it up to date and continue to lift up our brothers and sisters in prayer.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Pledge payments, communion gifts 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.

The next edition of the Philip-Eye will be available:
Tuesday, September 2—Deadline August 28—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.



MATTHEW 25



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS



4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056

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