



September 21, 2021

Volume 65, Issue 17

# PHILIP-EYE

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

**Rev. Keatan King**  
Associate Pastor

**Rev. Omar Rouchon**  
Associate Pastor

**Dr. Randall Swanson**  
Director of Music

**Dr. Matthew Dirst**  
Organist

**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

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, **September 26**, immediately following the 11 am service of worship. The purpose of the meeting is the election of elders for the Session class of 2024. The meeting will be a hybrid – members can participate in-person or online through the livestream on the church website. The meeting will appear on the livestream immediately following the service.

The Congregational Nominating Committee will nominate Melissa Aldrich, Beth Atkinson, Walker Fair, Angelina Fonseca, Nancy Higgs, Susan Leonard, and Jon Martin. Additional nominations may be made at the meeting with prior consent of those being nominated.

FYI—The membership of the Session consists of ordained and installed Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders (Pastors), all elected by the congregation. Session members are responsible for the spiritual oversight of the congregation and for oversight of all the programs and ministries of St. Philip. The Session carries out its work primarily through its Standing Committees. The session meets the third Tuesday of each month.

## NOMINEES FOR SESSION CLASS OF 2024

### MELISSA ALDRICH



Melissa was baptized at First Presbyterian in Dickinson, Texas, married at Webster Presbyterian, and taught many years of kindergarten-through-fifth grade Sunday school at First Presbyterian-Houston with her husband, Guy. She served as a Presbyterian Women circle moderator and council member at First Presbyterian before joining St. Philip by transfer of letter about five years ago. Melissa has worked on recent Mo Ranch retreats, and especially enjoys the extremely friendly St. Philip crowd, the fantastic music program, the wonderful administrative team, and the great preaching. Melissa is an associate professor at UTHHealth, working in lymphedema research. She loves spending time with her new granddaughter, shopping for new plants to replace her gardening failures, reading mysteries or St. Philip women's book group selections, and playing hymns and Chopin on piano (but needs more practice!). Melissa also loves spending time with daughter

Lindsay and son-in-law Mark (the new parents) and was thrilled to see her daughter Michelle and son-in-law James recently married in a beautiful service at St. Philip.

### Beth Atkinson



Beth joined St. Philip with her late husband, Al, over 30 years ago. Their sons, Trent and Edward, grew up and were nurtured in the church, for which she is extremely grateful. At St. Philip, Beth has taught Sunday school from the pre-school to high school levels. She has served as a deacon, elder, and trustee, as well as on numerous church committees. Beth recently retired from

Shell Oil Company and has spent the last year and a half traveling as much as the current situation allows. She says, "The community of St. Philip has sustained me, comforted me, and challenged me. With help from above, I hope to serve our congregation with energy and creativity."

### Walker Fair

Walker is a lifelong Presbyterian and (re) joined St. Philip in 2009 after having been a youth in this congregation. Ordained as an elder in 2000 at St Luke's Presbyterian Church, he has since served on the St. Philip Session and on numerous committees, including Communications, Fellowship, Property, and Technology. Walker has served as a youth group leader, a choir member, a confirmation sponsor, and a member of the Congregational Nominating Committee. He recently rotated off the Brazos Presbyterian Homes board of directors. Walker teaches at The Emery/Weiner School while also managing commercial solar sales for Houston Solar Energy. Walker and his wife, Jessie, are the proud parents of Sadie and Ashton, two of the elementary-aged youth of St. Philip.



### Angelina Fonseca



Angelina grew up in Bryan and Lake Jackson, Texas. During her undergraduate years at Texas A&M she studied and worked in Mexico and Spain. Angelina was a bilingual elementary school teacher with Teach for America in Brownsville, TX, and a study abroad advisor at Texas A&M in College Station. During graduate school, she interned with USAID in

Washington, D.C., and with the State Department at the US Embassy in Ankara, Turkey. In Houston, Angelina worked with retired US military service members, conducting investigations as a security intelligence analyst, and for the past six years she has been a civil litigation paralegal. Angelina has worn many hats in her career

because she enjoys learning new skills, traveling, and serving the public and her clients.

Angelina joined St. Philip when she moved to Houston in 2014, and through serving on the Mission Committee for three years, she volunteered with CCSC, Meals on Wheels, Project CURE, and Lord of the Streets, and this summer, she has enjoyed harvesting vegetables from the community garden. Angelina has sung in the St. Philip choir and prepared meals at the church kitchen with Chuck Johnson. She translated for doctors on a medical mission to Peru with First Presbyterian-Bryan and was a board member with the Houston Classical Guitar Festival and Competition. In her free time, Angelina sings soprano with the Houston Symphony, and gardens, dances flamenco, practices yoga, plays the piano, and jogs at parks with her blue heeler, Lola. She lives in Spring Branch with her boyfriend, Gage, and they like to travel to state parks.

What Angelina values most about St. Philip is that the church family is welcoming, serves the community, and provides opportunities to grow in faith through education and fellowship. She feels she has a second family that checks on each other, prays for each other, and supports each other. Angelina says she feels called to serve as an elder because she enjoys listening and learning from fellow congregation members, and she wants to continue the positive work other members have contributed to the community.

### Nancy Higgs



Nancy was born Nancy Kay McMillan in Austin, TX, and baptized and confirmed at Westminster Presbyterian Church, which was literally in her backyard. She maintained her membership there until she wandered with some intention into St. Philip a few years ago. Nancy says that from the moment she passed through those doors, she felt "at home." Her first

friend was Mickey Meyers, who was a greeter that day. Her next friend was Carla Burns, who invited her to join the Sunday Presbyterian Women's Circle after worship that very day.

Gratefully and most specially, Nancy was graced by all at St. Philip who accepted that she intended to maintain her membership at Westminster and never, ever pressured her to do otherwise. However, one week, one very special week, she proceeded to tell three different strangers about 'her church'...and it was not Westminster she was referring to, but St. Philip. Upon the third such sharing, the lightbulb went off, and soon after, Nancy officially moved her membership to St. Philip, although she remains very connected to both congregations.

Nancy graduated from the University of Texas and has been an RN since the mid-70s. She is in Houston after moving to Galveston for graduate studies at the University of Texas Medical Branch, and since 2007, has managed her aquatic therapy business, WaterWayBabies, which offers its services nationwide as well as in 66 countries across the globe.

Nancy's mother, Dorothy McMillan, died in March 2021, and Nancy dedicates her elder service to her mom, who served as both a deacon and an elder at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

### Susan Leonard



Susan and her husband, Jim, have been members of St Philip for seven years, transferring from Grace Presbyterian Church. During that time, she has been a member of the choir, Presbyterian Women, and the Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee, where she worked on refugee resettlement and with

the community garden. On the Welcoming and Membership Committee, Susan has been working on the new St. Philip welcome center and facilitated a "Together 15" group this spring, bringing one of the St. Philip neighborhood groups together for its first in-person meeting since the start of the pandemic. She has also worked on the snack committee for Vacation Bible School and is active with the women's book group.

Susan spent her career in sales and marketing with Dun and Bradstreet and Experian. She then went back to school and got her teaching certificate. After teaching in a classroom, Susan formed her own tutoring company to help struggling readers. She is the proud grandparent of two grandchildren, a 13-year-old granddaughter and a three-year-old grandson, "the light of her life." Susan and her husband are active travelers both domestically (in their RV) and internationally.

St. Philip holds a very special place in Susan's heart. She loves the active social justice mission and the tolerance for others who are different. In her work with the "Together 15" ministry this summer, Susan says she became aware of how isolated many people have felt during the pandemic because of restrictions on in-person gatherings. She feels strongly that this area is an opportunity for St. Philip to support the congregation as it journeys toward a new normal.

### Jon Martin

Jon has been a member of St. Philip since October 2019 and has served on the Education Committee since 2020. Born in Chicago and raised in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Ohio, Jon is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, where he studied accounting. Following college, he moved to Houston and began working for Kinder Morgan (natural gas pipelines). Jon has two sons: Alec, who lives in Houston, and Nicholas, who lives in Seattle. In his free time, he volunteers for The Center for Pursuit, which offers programs and services for adults with developmental disabilities, and enjoys baseball, running, and travel. Previously a member of First Presbyterian Church of Kingwood, Jon says that when he moved from Kingwood to the Galleria area in 2019, he was looking for a church and drove by St. Philip, where the sign out front happened to be displaying messages of welcome. He notes that it didn't take long to realize that "the words on the sign were not just slogans but are real values of St. Philip."



## FREE FLU SHOTS - OCTOBER 5



Free Flu Shots will be offered at the Presbytery Office (4803 San Felipe) on **Tuesday, October 5** from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., courtesy of Randall's Pharmacy.

Please bring a copy of your insurance information.

## OCTOBER COMMUNION OFFERING

On World Communion Sunday (**October 3** this year), a gift to the Peace and Global Witness Offering enables the church (that's you!) to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. St. Philip's Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee has recommended, and Session has approved, **Angry Tias and Abuelas of the Rio Grande Valley** to receive the 25% of the Offering retained by the local congregation to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. The Angry Tias and Abuelas' mission is to provide necessities for health and safety, and support for human dignity and justice, to individuals and families seeking asylum at our borders and as they embark on their journeys to designated destinations in the US. If you would like to know more, visit [www.AngryTiasandAbuelas.com](http://www.AngryTiasandAbuelas.com). The Presbytery of New Covenant receives an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation, and the remaining 50% goes to the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

July 2021

### Called Session Meeting – July 18, 2021

- Session received Eric Alexander into membership by letter of transfer from Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church, Chicago, Illinois.

August 2021

### Stated Session Meeting via Zoom Teleconferencing – August 17, 2021

- Session approved the Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism of Eleanor Anselin Lee, daughter of Nathan Lee and Clara Reed-Lee on Sunday, August 22, 2021 at the 11:00 a.m. service officiated by Rev. Keatan King.
- Letters of transfer were approved for Don and Cheryl Barker to Church of the Good Shepherd United Church of Christ, 7834 Tennyson St. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87113.
- Session called a Congregational Meeting on September 12 or September 26, 2021 for the purpose of acting on the recommendations of the Congregational Nominating Committee.
- Session approved directing St. Philip's 25% of the Peace and Global Witness Offering to Angry Tias and Abuelas of Rio Grande Valley (angrytiasandabuelas.com).

### Committee and Council Actions:

- Committee Action: Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee has approved criteria for donations from the Committee's budget.

John A. Lemen, Clerk of Session



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- **FRONT DESK** - Monday - Friday - 4pm-6pm - Cover the front desk and lobby, answer and direct calls, greet visitors, help participants enter and leave the program
- **MPN/KITCHEN** - Monday – Friday - 9am-12pm - 1pm-3pm - Assist Chef Michael with food preparation for our Memory Preservation Nutrition program
- **ARRIVALS** - Monday – Friday - 8:45am-10:15am - Greet participants as they arrive, assisting them with getting signed in, taking temperatures, new masks and hand sanitizing
- **PROGRAM PARTNERS** - Monday - Friday 9am-12pm - 1pm-3pm or 3pm-5pm Assist or lead participants in various daily programs such as dominoes, card games, pool, visiting, etc.
- **ZOOM PROGRAM PARTNERS** - Monday-Friday - 10am-12pm or 1pm-3pm - Help facilitate a myriad of online activities: brain games, reminiscing in small groups, exercise classes
- **LUNCH SUPPORT** - Monday – Friday - 11:45am-1:15pm - Serve and assist participants during lunch as well as clear tables as they finish eating
- **DEPARTURES** - Monday - Friday - 3pm-5pm - Assist Staff with participant departures, either engaging with a small group or assisting a participant in getting signed out and to the car
- **BIBLE STUDY** - Monday – Friday - 1pm-2:15pm - Lead a small group Bible study, engaging participants in a spiritual discussion, minimal prep time required
- **MEAL PICKUPS** - Thursdays - 11am-2pm - Fill orders and deliver to cars

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING AT AMAZING PLACE, PLEASE CONTACT: SUSIE HOWARD, DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES at [showard@amazingplacehouston.org](mailto:showard@amazingplacehouston.org) or call 713-552-0420. Learn more on the web: [amazingplacehouston.org](http://amazingplacehouston.org).



## COMING IN OCTOBER: FRESH AIR FELLOWSHIP

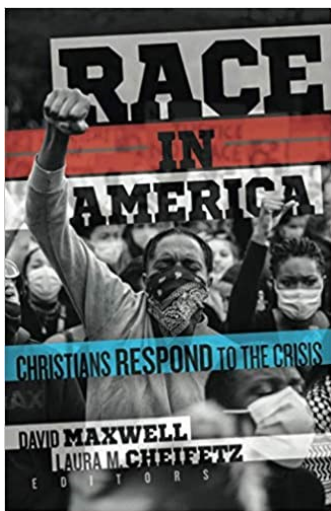
The Christian Education Committee invites you to Fresh Air Fellowship: an intergenerational time for us to reconnect on Sunday mornings in October between the 9 and 11 o'clock worship services. Starting October 3, we invite St. Philipians of all ages to gather on the lawn from 9:45-10:30am for conversation, prayer, crafts, and games in response to a different big question posed in the gospel of Mark. Breakfast and coffee will be available. Watch your email for more details in coming weeks!

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING

**WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB**—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. At our next meeting on **October 14** at 7 p.m., we will discuss *Greenlights* by Matthew McConaughey. We will meet in the Dining Room at St. Philip. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Nina Lambright or Sarah O'Dell at [sarah.odell6@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.odell6@gmail.com).

**MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY WITH JOHN WURSTER**—A look via Zoom at the Bible readings for the coming Sunday continues with Zoom sessions Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Email John for details and to get on the list - [john@saintphilip.net](mailto:john@saintphilip.net).

## NEW SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK GROUP FORMING



A social justice book group, under the sponsorship of the Peacemaking & Social Justice Committee, will provide a forum for the reading and discussion of social justice topics from the perspective of our Christian faith. The group will meet by Zoom the first Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m. The first meeting will be October 5. The study book is *Race in America; Christians Respond to the Crisis*, edited by David Maxwell and Laura

Cheifetz. It is available for purchase from Amazon or from the PC(USA) bookstore. Persons interested in joining this group can send an email to [welcome@saintphilip.net](mailto:welcome@saintphilip.net) and type in PSJ Study Group in the subject line.

Note the date. Join us!

## CHURCH & SOCIETY FALL 2021

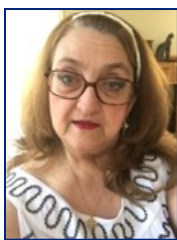
**CHURCH & SOCIETY—September 26** - *Rachel Carson and Glimpses of God* - A discussion of an article by Bruce Yaeger - This presentation will show how religious, spiritual, and literary influences became integrated with scientific knowledge in the life of Rachel Carson. **October 3** - *Concentrated Poverty in Schools as Redlining's Legacy - Undoing It Should Be Ours* - If we want to undo the radicalized system we inherited from our predecessors, we must recreate a coalition of cross-sector leaders and community stakeholders from all racial groups and neighborhoods to dismantle the system of radicalized zoning that continues to harm our students, our economy and our democracy. Prof. Ruth Lopez Turley - Director, Houston Education Research Consortium, Associate Director of Kinder Institute for Urban Research, Prof. Of Sociology, Rice Univ. **October 10** - *Six Great Ends of the Church* - We will explore these foundational statements of mission for our life together and what they mean for the Church's place in our world today with Rev. Omar Rouchon. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes:

[churchsociety\\_stphilip@comcast.net](mailto:churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net)

## BACK TO SCHOOL: AT ST. PHILIP AND BEYOND

The St. Philip Education Committee has been prayerfully considering the best way forward for faith formation activities in the fall. At this time, we are planning on a delayed start for in-person classes; we considered that it would be best to wait a few weeks for the school year to get settled as we continue to monitor local conditions and guidance from health officials. While there are ways to safely gather in-person, the committee noted the evolving situation in our community, and wishes to proceed with caution. We look forward with hope to a time when it will be safe and comfortable for us to gather, with hope that cooler weather in a couple of months may provide an opportunity to be outside as a church family. Let us pray for all the students, teachers, and administrators navigating their way through the beginning of another school year. We pray for health and wellbeing, in the midst of learning and growth.

## STAFF FAREWELL



Our bookkeeper, Denise Ferrell, will be leaving us at the end of the month as she moves to Canyon Lake, Texas. Denise worked at Central Presbyterian Church for many years before joining the St. Philip staff with the 2010 merger. We will miss her faithful tending and keeping of our finances, as well as her kind and positive presence in our office. Our accounting firm will help us with the transition as we search for a new bookkeeper.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN JOINT CIRCLE MEETING

All women of the church are invited to the Fall kick-off meeting of Presbyterian Women on Sunday, **September 26** at 1:30 p.m. Elder Julie MacLemore Wells will be leading the lesson "Family Trees" which is the first lesson in the 2021-2022 Horizon study guide *What My Grandmothers Taught Me*. The meeting will be virtual, and a Zoom link will be sent to all PW members. If you are not a member of a circle, you are welcome to participate, so please email Lorrie at [welcome@saintphilip.net](mailto:welcome@saintphilip.net) to request the link. If you still need a study guide, please call Jan Meyer at 832-526-5889. They can be picked up in the church office.

If you have not paid for your study guide, please go online and choose PW Study Book fund, or mail a check to the church. The large print guide is \$16 and the regular print is \$12.

## VIBRANT AND FAITHFUL AGING: LEGACIES ACROSS GENERATIONS

**The National POAMN Conference is VIRTUAL!**

(Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network)

**October 26-28, 2021**

*"Even to your old age and gray hairs I am He,  
I am He who will sustain you"* (Isaiah 46:4a)

This conference is featuring our longtime friends Donna and Dennis Haines from Missouri, leading our music and worship. We will observe communion during Thursday's worship; please come prepared with your own elements. Our Keynote is internationally-recognized author and speaker, Missy Buchanan, from Texas. She and our workshop leaders bring a wealth of knowledge, wisdom, and experience in addressing the many aspects associated with aging.

We are working with technology partner GNTV Media Ministry to bring you a quality and informative experience. The total cost for three days is only \$75, and if your time is limited you will be able to use the pass code issued only to paid registrants to watch at your leisure after the conclusion of the conference. For more information or to register go to [www.poamn.org/national-conference-2021](http://www.poamn.org/national-conference-2021)

*This conference is offered in partnership with the Office of Christian Formation of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, PCUSA.*



The Mission Committee would like to thank everyone who brought donations to the drive-through mission event on Sept. 18. We received an abundance of items to stock the Seafarers' Christmas boxes and two full SUV-loads of food for the CCSC food pantry. What a blessing!



## SAVE THE DATE

The mission committee will have a collection drive on **October 16** from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. for [House of Tiny Treasures](#) a program of Search.



**SEARCH**

For a Houston without Homelessness

1	Matthew Lindsay
2	Pamela Ewing
3	Joy Maguire
4	Florence McKelvey
4	Julie MacLemore Wells
4	Cameron Highsmith
4	Lindsey Hogan
4	David Barrish
5	Shirley Coffman
5	Jim Barrish
5	Connor Arnes
6	Al Waldrop, Jr.
7	Jane Larkin
9	Lisa Wellington
9	Elizabeth Duerr
9	David Chess
9	Kole D'Agostino
10	Todd Murphy
10	Jeromy Murphy
11	Anne Dallmeyer Keever
13	Mickey Meyers
13	Arlene Holford
15	Sally DeMent
15	Elizabeth Junkin
16	Rose Niles
16	Weldon Lucas
16	Fil Nenna
16	Charles Johnson-Kelly
16	Samantha Benard



17	Roderick James
18	Jere Douglas
19	Speight Anderson
19	Joyce Fox
19	Miles Smith
20	Mary Linda Williams
20	Liz Crowell
20	Gianna D'Agostino
21	Lad Perenyi
22	Sara Jean Jackson
22	Chuck Johnson
22	Lori Murphy
23	Tom Lewis
23	Sue Ann Howard

25	Jane Cooper
25	Laura Burgess
26	Jane Malczewskyj
26	Dale Miller
26	Omar Rouchon
26	Kay Hayes
28	Kate Crary
28	Daniel Barrish
29	Bill Camfield
29	Wayne Truxillo
29	Trent Atkinson
29	Trey Ford
30	Larraine Lyter-Reed
31	Laureen Suba



## IN OUR PRAYERS

*St. Philippians and their families*—Joyce Fugit; Sondra Sullivan; Orlean Anderson; Dorothy Murphey; Bill Slick; Deb Burks; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Shirley Coffman; Ellen MacDonald; Arlette Keene; CJ Miller; Mezgebe Gebray; Dan Hayes—father of Lorrie Castle; Dave Berry—husband of Sam Fisher; Dale McAllen—brother of Orlean Anderson; Alma Fonseca—mother of Angelina Fonseca; Bill Polk—brother-in-law of Sharon Webb; Darryl Cazes—brother of Pam Taylor; Ann Perkins Cloud—cousin of Stephen Paine; Douglas Everhart—brother of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Gretchen Everhart—niece of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Carol Paine Kendrick—sister of Stephen Paine; John Anderson—brother of Tom Anderson; 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*—Walter Baker; John Bobbitt; Paulie Carlson; Kitty Curry; George Helland; Jean Nelson; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; Marion Takehara; and Jody Tomforde.

*Friends of St. Philippians*—Auden McCarty—friend of Mary McGuire; Ted & Susan Hirtz—friends of Jaqueline and Bill Taylor; Paul English; Matt Scalapino and Laura Chilton—friends of Stephen Paine; Shirley Stubblefield—friend of Barbara Runge; Paul Ratliff—friend of Jo Helland; Rob Bond, Lavon Thomas, 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](mailto: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: October 5; Deadline September 30—3:00 p.m.**

**Stay connected with regular emails from the pastors until then.**

If you have any comments or suggestions for the Philip-Eye, please send them to:  
[philipeye@saintphilip.net](mailto:philipeye@saintphilip.net) or call 713-622-4807 and ask for Lorrie.



**MORE LIGHT**  
PRESBYTERIANS



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