



September 5, 2023

Volume 67, Issue 15

PHILIP-EYE



ST. PHILIP TREASURES CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

DID YOU KNOW: PC(USA) believes: The church's educational mission is to help us discern the will of God in order to do it in the world. Knowledge should be directed to values. "If I . . . understand all mysteries and all knowledge, . . . but do not have love, I am nothing," wrote Paul (1 Corinthians 13:2).

Presbyterians have a long and proud history of recognizing the importance of education. There are currently over 45 universities in the US directly affiliated with the Presbyterian church, and many more with deep Presbyterian roots. The first PC(USA) seminaries were founded in 1794 and 1812. Today there are 12 notable Presbyterian seminaries. Our three highly intelligent pastors studied Greek and Hebrew at Presbyterian seminaries in order to help us better understand the Bible as originally written.

The Education Committee here at St. Philip is charged with continuing the church's support of learning and enlightenment. Its responsibilities include: lining up teachers (and often serving as teachers) for Sunday School classes for toddlers through adults, and facilitating Vacation Bible School, the Summer Lecture Series, Second Sundays inter-generational activities such as the Blessing of the Animals (can you believe two cats attended and behaved), and the Organ tour, among other events. Committee members also create and re-stock the children's activity bags available to families during worship services.

When we baptize a baby here at St. Philip, Keatan walks up and down the center aisle holding the baby, and explains to the baby that we will tell him or her the story of Jesus. We want to do the very best job of telling the story of God's love for ALL of us, telling the story of Jesus' time with us here on Earth, and telling the story of how our lives are transformed by what we've learned.

Thanks be to God for St. Philip's inspired Education Committee.

Based on remarks made by Melissa Aldrich.

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

Micah Meyers
Art Director

Wilbert Parada
Facilities Supervisor

Dimas Parada
Custodian

Denise Ferrell
Bookkeeper

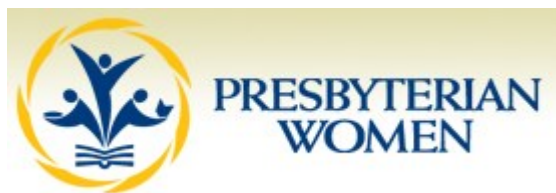
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STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE ASKS YOU TO SHARE

The beautiful heart-felt stories in the 2023 stewardship devotional guide touched many hearts and served as reminders of God's strong presence in this church. We now ask you again, whether you shared last year or not, *to share a personal experience or story that has deepened your faith in God's provision and promises.* Young and old are invited to participate. We welcome photos, artwork, scriptures, prayers or songs. The stories will be in a 2024 devotional booklet and will be mailed to you in the stewardship packet. Your name will be included with your story unless you prefer it to be anonymous. Send or bring your contributions to the church by **September 15**, if possible email them to welcome@saintphilip.net. Please contact any of the committee members if you have questions.



BIBLE STUDY

ALL St. Philip women are invited to gather on **September 17** after worship in the Fellowship Hall. We will share a meal, visit with old and new friends and learn together.

This celebration will be the beginning of our Presbyterian Women Bible study: *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts* by Olive Mahabir. We will consider Jesus and his disciples as they shared the Good News through meetings with everyday people — just like us. Our leader for the first lesson, *Elizabeth's Sacred Encounter* will be Jan Fox. You don't need to read anything beforehand, study books will be available for sale at the luncheon. Standard print are \$10 and large print are \$15.

The luncheon price is \$15. The meal will be from Chicken Salad Chick. Please let us know about gluten-free needs!

Child care will be available,
but we must know in advance!

Sign up options:

- go to saintphilip.net and click on the registration link at the top of the page, you have the option to pay at same time you register,
- send an email to welcome@saintphilip.net,
- call the church office at 713-622-4807,
- in person in the Gathering Area on **September 10**.

Reservations are due by **September 13** at midnight.

INTERNATIONAL SEAFARERS

The Mission Committee is making plans to collect items for Seafarer's Christmas Boxes. Bins will be available in the Gathering Area each Sunday during the month of October for your donations.

Ship crew sizes average 22 Seafarers to gift per ship. In 2022, the Seafarer's Christmas Gift program received and distributed 9,173 gifts on-board 403 ships which represented Seafarers from more than 61 different countries! These gifts had been donated to the Seafarers by over 179 churches, organizations and individuals! The Christmas shoeboxes are personally carried to each ship by HISC Staff, Port Chaplains, and Ship Visitors — *Your* Staff of Chaplains and Ship Visitors, as the ecumenical ministry is funded by all denominations. They begin delivering boxes after Thanksgiving and continue gifting Seafarers until all the gifts have been distributed! Chaplains are gratefully prepared to receive the gift boxes that we pack and wrap.

News of these boxes reaches far and wide with great anticipation. Sailors from all over the world hope to be in port in Houston during the Christmas season to receive the famed Christmas Boxes. One such Captain was so excited with his box, that he video taped himself opening his box while talking to his family online. His daughter was so moved by the gift, that she started a campaign to give Christmas Boxes to underprivileged people in their hometown in Ukraine.

Thank you for participating in this meaningful mission project.

Items on the Wish list:

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Toothbrush/Toothpaste | Ballpoint Pens |
| Band-Aids | Pocket-sized Notebooks |
| Cotton Swabs | 2024 Pocket Calendar |
| Lip Balm | Gum & Hard Candy |
| Nail Grooming Kit | USB Flash Drive |
| Hairbrush/Comb | Word Search/Sudoku/Fill-in books |
| Mini-First-Aid Kit | Texas Magnets |
| Multi-Vitamins / Fish Oil | Texas Key Chains |
| Sewing Kit | Earbuds/Headphones |
| Socks | Playing Cards |
| T-shirts (NEW) | Stress Ball / Games |
| Cold Weather Caps and Balaclavas | Small Flashlight w/ batteries |
| Baseball Caps/Beanie's (NEW) | Texas Souvenirs |
| Light Weight Work Gloves (M, L and XL) | Small Whistle |
| Small Bibles (NIV, RSV) | Signed Personal note |
| Bible/Devotional materials — Daily Bread, Open Door, etc. | Popcorn / Snacks |
| | NESCAFE Instant Coffee |





Presbyterian Children's Homes and ServicesSM

SECURING HEALTHY CHILDHOODS

As we move further into our 120th ministry year I am reflecting on **Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services' (PCHAS)** growth and adaption in securing healthy childhoods. With deep appreciation for our St. Philip partner over the last eighteen years, I would like to share how the organization has recently evolved to meet community needs.

As many are aware youth are struggling with threats to their health and well-being according to the 2023 report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). To address this issue and be closer to the families we serve, PCHAS has recently relocated its Houston office to a more residential area of the city that is filled with schools and homes. The reconfigured space provides room for play therapy for small children and support groups for teens and tweens. It also includes a large training room for the almost daily classes being conducted to educate foster families on trauma that is often present with children in the child welfare system, to prepare adoptee parents to welcome children into their families, as well as offering continuing education to strengthen our staff skills.

Our Counseling Center at PCHAS provides services to individuals, couples and families, and children and adolescents in-person or virtually through teletherapy. With children we address anxiety, depression, bullying, divorce, ADHD, grief and loss, relationship and social skills, in addition to executive functioning skills. Fees are accepted from several private insurers or self-pay. We are continuing to strive to add additional payment panels to increase accessibility.

Our counselors provide strength-based clinical support to individuals and families. The PCHAS Philosophy of Care is to meet clients where they are and to focus on treatment goals that lead them to a path of growth and healing. Adults and children develop a more positive outlook on life and gain hope for a brighter future with guidance from a trusted, unbiased resource. Our work is Christ-centered in that we work compassionately and not in judgement of our clients.

These enhancements are in addition to our community-based programs that serve children and families including Single Parent Family, Child and Family, and Foster Care & Adoption. **To access care or information please call 281.949.8694 or info@pchas.org.** We thank St. Philip Presbyterian Church for the helping to make this possible.

Marla Endieveri, Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

On **September 24** we will celebrate the 10th anniversary of Keatan King's ordination.



October 8 at 9 a.m., we will hold a Blessing of the Animals service on the lawn.

October 22 will be our Fall Picnic following worship service.

ST. PHILIP CHOIR

Singers interested in joining the St. Philip Choir rehearsals begin this week on Wednesday, **September 6** at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. All interested singers are invited to join the choir this season. If interested contact Randall at:

Randall@saintphilip.net.



*The New Covenant Presbytery and
St. Thomas Presbyterian Church*

*Invites you to the
Service of Installation
of*

Reverend Daniel C. Vanek
Pastor

*Saturday, September 16, 2023
at 3:00 PM*

*Special Guest Preacher
Rev. Shavon Starling-Louis
Co-Moderator PC (USA) GA 225*

*Reception to follow the service
14100 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77079*

NURSERY CARE IS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT SUNDAY MORNINGS

8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Infants to age 4 are invited to our Nursery which is staffed by professional childcare providers. Please find our Nursery in Room 106 of the Education Building along the Sunday School Classroom hallway on the first floor. An usher or a greeter will be happy to direct you there.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

On Sunday, **September 10**, the Sunday School year will kick off with our annual Rally Day celebration. Join us in the Gathering Area at 9:30 a.m. for refreshments, fellowship and an opportunity to learn about class offerings, and ways to learn and grow together in faith. Details about Sunday School classes starting **September 17** will be available.

CHURCH & SOCIETY -Room 201—Join us from **9:30 a.m.—10:40 a.m.** with presentations in person and by Zoom. Rally Day - **September 10** - for the Church & Society Class Reunion and Preview of the C&S Fall Classes with our magnificent presenters. Come to reunite with old friends and to get acquainted with new folks. Come to enjoy Aunt Judith Hiott's legendary banana bread, Kolache Factory kolaches, juice and coffee. **September 17** - "Race and the Bible" - In this session we will explore what we mean by "race" and how, if at all, the Bible has ideas of race in it. - Presented by Dr. Justin Reed - Assistant Professor of Old Testament/Hebrew Bible at Louisville Seminary. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes: churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net.

A FEW OF THE CLASSES BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 17

FAITH & LIFE - Room 200—*New Class*—An adult class exploring how what we believe informs how we live. Using the short stories in *The Gift of Hard Things: Finding Grace in Unexpected Places* by Mark Yaconelli, participants will read a short text in class and then engage in conversation as a group. There are no materials required and no preparation is needed.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY—Room 204—We will resume our study of the Kingdom of Judah on **September 17** at 2 Kings 18 with the story of King Hezekiah in Dr. Robert Alter's *Ancient Israel, The Former Prophets* (2013). Join us from **9:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.** to deepen our understanding of God's faithfulness to God's people from Dr. Alter's translation and commentary on the Biblical Hebrew. All are welcome.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL—In the Children's Chapel, our young disciples learn the whos, whats, wheres, whens and whys of worship in the chapel, while also praying, seeing and hearing God's word at an age-appropriate level.

Children return to join the congregation in the first few pews on the lectern side of the church for the last hymn. The Children's Chapel is held every 2nd and 4th Sunday. Children will be able to participate in this during the worship service.

ST. PHILIP DURING THE WEEK

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY—Wednesday Bible study with John Wurster **meets weekly beginning September 6**. The class meets at 9:30 a.m., and is a hybrid format with an in-person option in the Office Conference Room and also a Zoom option. To get on the list for the Zoom links, send a note to john@saintphilip.net. Bible novices, Bible experts, and everyone in between is welcome!

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

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is **September 14** at 7:00 p.m. and we will discuss *Any Other Family* by Eleanor Brown. Watch your email for details of the next meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nina Lambright at: nnl@lambrightlaw.com.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP—Men of all ages are welcome to participate in this self-led group. The Men's Weekly Fellowship meets each Friday in person in the office Conference Room and via Zoom at 11:45 a.m. Our first gathering of the fall will be **September 15**. We are studying "They Walked With God" by Max Lucado. The book talks about 40 people in the Bible and how God used them. It lets us know that He has a place for us too. If you would like to join them please contact Gary Gardner at ggardne148@aol.com.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Kay Cash and family upon the death of her brother Warren Cash on September 4.

St. Philippians and their families—Susan Estill; Mark Takayama; Stewart Coffman; Ben Dees; Shirley Coffman; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Beverly Baker; Beverly Hudson; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Carolyn Vestal; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; John Palisin—brother of Peg Palisin; Vera Moore – mother of Chuck Johnson; Paige Everhart, sister of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Halley Delany – sister of Nina Lambricht; Truxillo family – Wayne and Sandra Truxillo; Carla Burns – cousin of Sharon Webb; Robert Kirtley – father of Amanda Kirtley; Susan Everhart – niece of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Ann Perenyi – mother of Lad Perenyi; Darryl Cazes—brother of Pam Taylor; Ann Perkins Cloud—cousin of Stephen Paine; John Anderson—brother of Tom Anderson; and Elizabeth Carlton Lithio—granddaughter of Jeanie Flowers.

Homebound—Elizabeth Arp; John Bobbitt; Joan Boelens; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; Mary Sinderson; and Sondra Sullivan.

Friends of St. Philippians—Joyce Freudenberg and Annie & Sidney Roach– friends of Stephen Paine; Jacqueline Boyd – friend of Kate Burkart; Betsy Shear Lewis – friend of Laney Miller; 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.

CONTRIBUTIONS

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: **Tuesday, September 19; Deadline September 14—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



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