

PHILIP-EYE

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PHILIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH U.S.A.

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Kate Dickinson–Varner serves as the 2019 Stewardship Campaign Co-Chair. During the October 14 worship service she shared these thoughts about giving.

As was mentioned in the announcements, Stewardship Season is beginning.

"In the next month, you can expect to receive pledge cards, descriptions of next year's budget, and other materials from the stewardship committee. Mark your calendar: we'll have the all-church luncheon on the last Sunday in October, and pledge Sunday is on November 11. As in years past, we'll have members of our congregation share with you on Sundays the meaning and significance of St. Philip in their lives and how they think of stewardship. This year, too, we have a short video that we'll be circulating, that shares interviews with some of our members about stewardship and St. Philip.

Yes, the season is beginning. And this year, we are continuing to consider our theme of "Living Generously." A couple months ago, Rhonda Sands, my co-chair of the Stewardship Campaign, and I met to talk about what ideas and concepts within the theme of "Living Generously" that we wanted to emphasize. And Rhonda suggested "awe and expectation." I agreed with Rhonda that the idea was great – we give, out of our sense of awe – overwhelmed by all God has done and is doing. And when we give, with expectation, not expectation about how many Meals-On-Wheels boxes or how many church services' worth of air conditioning our pledges make possible, but expectation about God's character and what God can do with our acts of stewardship.

But I confess to you, that a small part of me thought, "I'm happy to set up my online giving account at saintphilip.net and all, but I need to do it with awe too?" The truth is, when I already attend to the important things about half as well as I feel like I should, how do I manage awe?

I read once that awe is the echo of God's grace. I don't know about you, but sometimes I have a hard time feeling awe. And it's not that I'm not trying – I mean, sometimes I'm

not trying – but mostly, it's just that awe feels like, well, a luxury item. In a world less anxious, I'd have awe. In a world less busy, I'd feel awe. In a world less demanding, I'd hear the echo of grace loud and clear.

*"What's that?! God, I can't hear you. God, what was that, hang on..."
"SHHH!" But, of course, the world doesn't "shh",
Life doesn't "shh", I don't "shh"
And in the middle of all that clang and bang, how are we supposed to feel awe?*

You know, one of the most reassuring things to me about Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech is that it's not "I Have A Detailed Proposal", "I Have A Strategy", or some other man-made, pretend-God-isn't-involved creation. No – it's a Dream. A dream – dreams are not something we manufacture for ourselves, dreams come to us. Dreams are what happens when we fall asleep. In the Bible, dreams are when the angels come. I do not mean to diminish the genius and tireless efforts that Dr. King dedicated his life to, but to hear the vision of grace in his words and to be reminded that his vision is his Dream helps me remember that grace comes to us. God comes to us.

And that's the thing about echoes – The echo is not yours or mine to manufacture. The echo happens whether we shush or not. Awe is God's. It's God, reaching out to us in grace and pulling us close. And it is because of God's faithfulness, not some measure of our own faithfulness, that we can know that the echo is there. Whether we always hear it or not.

Stewardship season is here – and we do not Rise to the occasion so much as we are Raised to the occasion. This year, let us prayerfully consider what it means to give to God in awe.



Dear Friends,

Our Central Mission Endowment Fund (CMEF) is now in its fifth year of operation. Formed from the proceeds of the sale of the Central Presbyterian Church campus, the CMEF is completely designated for mission projects. Over two million dollars has now been distributed from the fund to a variety of ministry organizations. Many of the grant recipients are local. Many of the recipients that are not local are Presbyterian. CMEF grants favor programs that address one or more of the following: education, hunger, poverty, children and youth, and the elderly.

Directing the CMEF is a council comprised of St. Philip members suggested by our nominating committee and elected by the Session. The Session also appoints one of its own members to serve on the council. Our mission committee also has a representative. Serving on the CMEF council for 2018 are Sara Jean Jackson, Roderick James (Session rep), Pat Lindsay, Sarah O'Dell, Jeanette Wennenweser, Anne Wilson (mission committee rep), and Jennifer Wilson (presiding member). The CMEF charter also places the pastor (me) on the council. The council recently made decisions on allocating over \$318,000 in this year's main grant cycle. The full list of recipients should be available soon. Outside of the main cycle, the council also allocates "opportunity grants" that respond to more immediate situations. 2018 opportunity grants have included support for Harvey recovery at First Presbyterian Church in Dickinson, a new neighborhood playground for the John Knox Presbyterian Church in Spring Branch, and support for our Kids Against Hunger program.

It all adds up to a lot of mission, above and beyond what we are able to do through our annual operating budget, and in addition to the individual commitments so many of you have to support a host of organizations through your time, talent, and money. I'm grateful for the many ways our congregation is seeking to serve Jesus Christ by serving others. May God bless and multiply our efforts.

Faithfully yours,



STEWARDSHIP

Join us
October 28
 for lunch
 in Fellowship Hall
 as we discuss
 our ministry plans
 for 2019.



We ask for a donation of \$8 for lunch.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS

The next service of healing and wholeness will be **October 28**. In this service, we claim God's promise of well-being and seek God's healing touch in body, mind, and spirit. The service includes individual prayers with the laying-on of hands and anointing with oil, along with scripture readings and hymns. Those seeking healing in their own lives or in the lives of others are encouraged to attend, as well as those who feel called to pray with those who suffer. In gathering for this service, we acknowledge that all healing is from God and we affirm that in the midst of illness, pain, and suffering, our relationship with God in Christ sustains us.

CHANCEL GUILD

You are invited to participate in preparing our worship space for services. Our primary duties include checking the flowers before worship and emptying the water in the baptismal basin after the service. Currently we are seeking volunteers for October 2018 through March 2019. Please join us! Look for the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area. Contact Jane Larkin at 713-621-1222 or l.larkin6561@att.net for more information.

THROWBACK ST. PHILIP

See page 6 for information about these pictures. If you have any pictures from activities, including Central Presbyterian Church, please contact Lorrie Castle at: lorrie@saintphilip.net or 713-622-4807.



MISSION

SEAFARERS ~ 2018



SEAFARERS' CHRISTMAS BOXES

Three and 1/2 weeks until we pack our Christmas boxes. After review of our inventory we are still in need of the following items:

- ◆ 70 razors
- ◆ 50 decks of playing cards
- ◆ 85 pairs of sturdy socks
- ◆ 50 combs
- ◆ 85 wash clothes
- ◆ 35 toothbrushes

Please put donated items in the designated box in the Gathering Area or Church Office.

Sunday, **November 11**, following 11:00 am worship. Join the Mission Committee in the Arts & Crafts Studio for fellowship and a soup & salad lunch. Following lunch, join in the fun of packing the Christmas boxes for the Seafarers. Your family will want to take advantage of this opportunity for hands-on mission work, extending warm, Houston, Texas hospitality to Seafarers who are far from home.

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS!

The Alternative Market is looking for anyone who likes to sew, craft, build or arrange works of crafted art. Sell your items to benefit the mission partner of your choice, or you can ask the Mission Committee to choose one for you. We encourage crafts of all scales, from small to large, including single or multiple items. The Alternative Market will be **November 18**. For more information, please contact Lori Murphy via email at lmurphette@gmail.com or 713-447-5320.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER

Since 2003, the Louise J. Moran Foundation has underwritten the Vision Care Program to assist underserved school children with their vision assessment and supplies. Vision Care Program operates in two phases: 1) state-certified CCSC volunteers provide on-site vision screening to students at their campuses, working collaboratively with school nurses to identify children in need; 2) follow up "field trips" are made to the University of Houston's University Eye Institute (School of Optometry) for advanced, professional examinations and eyeglass dispensary services. This year, students will get a cleaning kit and a head strap with their pair of glasses. You can be a volunteer in the vision screening process four times in the fall semester during the day. Contact CCSC at 713.961.3993 ext. 215 to sign up for a volunteer orientation or email seasonal@ccschouston.org.

CHRISTMAS TIME IS COMING

Since 1980, Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) has spread holiday cheer through Jingle Bell Express! With your help, 2,500 under-served children will receive new toys, books and a holiday food package for his/her family. At Jingle Bell Express, parents or heads of households can choose their children's unwrapped gifts from age-sorted bins, so that they participate in what their child will receive. Here's how to help your neighbors in need have a beautiful Christmas!



Next week we will begin signing up volunteers to help organize and distribute toys for CCSC JingleBell Express. We need volunteers the week of **December 3** for the following:

- Monday**, 6-8 p.m.: Help unload truck and supplies
- Tuesday**, 6-8 p.m.: Assemble food packages
- Wednesday**, 6-8 p.m.: Sort and arrange toys and books
- Friday and Saturday**, 7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.: Assist client families as they "shop" for toys, books and food packages.

Any (or all!) of these opportunities are wonderful events for all ages, and give families a chance to make a difference in someone's Christmas. Sign-up table will be in the Gathering Area starting this Sunday, and running through November.

St. Philip Families

On **Saturday, December 8** from 9 - 11 a.m.—we will meet at the check-in desk at Bellaire United Methodist Church, 4417 Bellaire Blvd., 77401. After our shift is finished, we will go for lunch at Cafe Express in Meyerland Plaza. **All ages are welcome, accompanied by a parent or guardian.** You can sign up by emailing Omar at omar@saintphilip.net.

visit the New Website >



For a Houston without Homelessness

visit: searchhomeless.org

On any given day, approximately 3,400 individuals in Houston are experiencing homelessness. Many of these men and women are immobilized by physical or mental health impairments and the lack of a support network. For many, it is virtually impossible to exit homelessness without some assistance. SEARCH, one of St. Philip's mission partners, is there to provide that help. World Homeless Day is Sunday, **October 14**. Please stop by the Mission table to find out how you can serve in this mission. If you miss us on Sunday, please contact our SEARCH mission contact, Mary McGuire, mstxmac@yahoo.com/713-858-0552.

EDUCATION

NURSERY CARE

IS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE MORNING

8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Infants and children through 4 years old 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

Below are the classes that are offered on Sunday.

Godly Play (Age 3 to K) - Room 104

Children's Music—Room 105

Grades 1—5 - Room 105

Grades 6—8 - Room 206

Grades 9-12 - Room 205

CHURCH & SOCIETY—Room 201 – **October 21**—To commemorate the 501 anniversary year of the Protestant Reformation, October 31, 1517, Dr. Deborah Burks leads us in a presentation “in the Name of God, Amen’: Expressions of Faith in the Wills of (Counter-) Reformation England.” In this session we’ll look back on England’s flip-flopping century of Reformation and Counter-Reformation through a window bequeathed us by ordinary people who lived in an extraordinary time. **October 28**—Reformation Sunday, the Rev. Greg Han leads a presentation “Body and Soul: The Heidelberg Catechism” - a key document in teaching the faith.

BIBLE STUDY—Room 204 – We are studying The Psalms, primarily from the NRSV and Dr. Robert Alter’s *The Book of Psalms: A Translation with Commentary*. All are welcome.

SPa—Room 200 - We are studying *Holding Faith: A Practical Introduction to Christian Doctrine* by Cynthia L. Rigby. The Saint Philip Adults class is a fellowship of adults from all walks of life who gather for learning and community. It is a conversation/dialogue-based/interactive class. Sharing leadership is easy and fun and asking questions is what it is all about. Contact: Omar@saintphilip.net.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL—Children in pre-K through first grade are invited to attend Children's Chapel with Rev. Omar Rouchon and a parent helper following the conversation with children during the 11 o'clock service on the second and fourth Sundays. In the Children's Chapel, our young disciples learn the whos, whats, wheres, whens and whys of worship, while praying, singing 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.

WEEKDAY CLASSES

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 the Conference Room at noon. The book we are using is *Preaching The Women of the Old Testament; Who They Were and Why They Matter* written by Lynn Japinga. The men who wish to participate should bring a bag lunch; refreshments will be provided. The group wraps up promptly at 1:00 p.m. Please contact Gary Gardner at ggardne148@aol.com if you have any questions.

MONDAY EVENING STUDY GROUP

Join the discussion in the Dining Room (in the Administration Building, at the south end of campus) **October 22** with St. Philip's Monday evening study group! Besides conversation, our meetings include fellowship, refreshments, and a brief devotional, as we continue our study of *Holding Faith* by Cynthia Rigby. We will be discussing (in part one, “Speaking of God”) chapter 1, “How can we speak of God? (The doctrine of revelation).” We meet each second and fourth Monday, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Come even if you haven't done the reading; the discussion is always timely and thought-provoking.

PUB CLUB

Pub Club is a group for men in the church who like to enjoy fellowship, stories and spirited discussion once a month at a local pub. Pub Club meets the fourth Tuesday of each month. Our next gathering is Tuesday, **October 23** at 7 p.m., at Jake's Sports Bar, 2944 Chimney Rock Rd., 77056. Men interested in attending may eat beforehand or order food from the pub. For more information or questions, please contact Tim Burgess at TimRB1987@gmail.com.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Join a community of people in their 20s and 30s for compassionate conversation regarding all matters of the life of faith. We meet monthly at different restaurants in Houston and pose questions for group reflection and discussion. Bring a friend or your partner, your questions and ideas, and your thirst for knowledge! Next meeting is **November 13** at 6:30 p.m. will be announced soon.

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK GROUP

A monthly interest group for women who like to read books, socialize, and have a night out meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Our next meeting on **November 8**, will be announced soon. We will discuss *Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker* by Jennifer Chiaverini. This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. For more information contact Sarah O'Dell at sarah.odell6@gmail.com.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

John Wurster leads Bible study each Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m. The class meets in the Dining Room.

LET US PRAY FOR...

Betty Stone and family upon the death of her husband, Stan Brandenberger, on October 15. Memorial Service will be October 20 at 1:00 p.m.

Scott Easterly and family upon the death of his father in Illinois on October 14.

Dan Cleveland and family upon the death of his wife, Trudy Cleveland, on October 6. Memorial service will be November 10.

St. Philippians and their families—Gary Willis; Tyler Keever; Joyce Ann Fugit's husband; Toto McGehee; Alan Coufal; Carolyn Vestal; Dorothy McMillan—mother of Nancy Higgs; Ann Morgan—Dorothy Blackwell's sister; Elizabeth Carlton Lithio—granddaughter of Jeanie Flowers; Ralph Arlinghaus—father of Paul Arlinghaus; Arlette Keene; T.E. "Joe" Keever; Ian Pearce; Rusty Howard; Phillip McDaniel; Ruth Weber; Carol Paine Kendrick; Joe Ann Berwick; George Helland; Alice Pennington; Joyce Randolph; Van Rathgeber; Penny Vieau; and Darnall Burks—father of Deb Burks.

Friends of St. Philippians—Betty Reilly—friend of Scott Easterly; Bennett Williams—friend of Curt and Sharon Webb; Derek Nusbaum & family – friends of Cameron & Heather Highsmith; refugee family from Iraq—Hassan, Enas, Dima and Ahmed; Trudy Smith Alexander-of Robin & Gary Willis; and Grady Reed-of Stephen Paine.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women (PW) offers a variety of ways for women to live out their faith in an inclusive, caring community beginning with Bible study at St. Philip. Please join any one of the circles for their monthly meetings. This year PW/*Horizons* Bible study, *God's Promise: I Am with You*, takes readers on a journey through scripture to consider circumstances in which God articulated God's promise of presence. This study does not delve deeply into manifestations of God's presence but rather on God's actual articulation of God's promise. We will see anew that God offered these words of profound comfort and commitment to individuals and communities from the time of the patriarchs to that of the prophets; from the judges to the kings; before, during, and after the exile; into the New Testament and beyond, to the end of the age.

PW CIRCLES

- Sunday Circle—3rd Sunday of the month after 11 a.m. service in the Dining Room
- Monday Morning Saints—2nd Monday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Dining Room
- Wednesday Morning Circle—4th Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Parlor
- Wednesday Evening Circle—1st Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. in the Dining Room

MUSIC AT ST. PHILIP 2018-2019 SEASON



Join us this fall for these programs —

Gabriel Fauré: *Requiem*

SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 4, 2018 | 11:00 a.m.



In celebration of **All Saints Sunday** and the commemoration of all the faithful departed, we present the sublime *Requiem* by **Gabriel Fauré**, featuring the **St. Philip Choir**, soloists, organ and instruments. Fauré composed his *Requiem* between 1887 and 1890, and he said the work "is dominated from beginning to end by a very human feeling of faith in eternal rest."

Greenbriar Consortium, Chamber Orchestra

SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 11, 2018 | 4:00 p.m.



In November we present *Mysteries of the Macabre* by **György Ligeti** with soprano **Julia Fox**, *Song of Songs* by **Lukas Foss** with mezzo-soprano **Sonja Bruzauskas**, and the glorious *Octet in F major* by **Schubert** — all featuring the **Greenbriar Consortium**, comprised of Houston Symphony players dedicated to presenting classical and modern chamber music.

Advent Lessons and Carols

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 9, 2018 | 11:00 a.m.



In December we present our annual service of **Advent Lessons and Carols**, with readings and music celebrating the anticipation of Christ's coming at Christmas, carols sung by everyone, and anthems sung by the **St. Philip Choir**. This year's anthems include works by **Richard Proulx**, **Carson Cooman**, **Malcolm Archer**, **Thomas Pavlechko**, **John Joubert**, and **Kyle Haugen**.

All programs are **FREE** and open to the public. Donations are welcome at any time by cash, check, or credit card.

FOLLOW US ONLINE
Music at St Philip



FELLOWSHIP FUN

On Saturday, September 15, St. Philip hosted our annual BBQ dinner. It was a fun evening with great food and conversation. Many folks contributed to this annual event and the Fellowship Committee would like to say thank you to those who help make it happen.

Special thanks go out to:

The Smokin' Crew - Max Wennenwesser, his brother-in-law Jim Tinney, and Paul Arlinghaus

The Choppin' Crew - Bill O'Dell, Guy Aldrich, Dan Cleveland and Jim Tinney

The Clean Up Crew - Janet and Ed Hess, Bill O'Dell

Thanks to all who contributed Ice Cream entries:

- ◆ Shirley Ann Frautschi - Organic Lavender
- ◆ Murphys - Asian Peach and Chocolate Espresso
- ◆ Webster boys - Vanilla Bean
- ◆ Lorraine - Mooney Gooney

Lori and Fiona Murphy walked away with top honors for their ice cream flavors this year!

HEALTH YOUR WAY

St. Philip welcomes the return of a program sponsored in part by AARP which meets **Wednesdays** in Room 16 from 2:00 p.m. till 3:00 p.m. This class includes topics like Balance and Stability, Everyday Movement, Stretch and Release, Memory Fun and Games, Heart Health Discussions, Strong Muscles, Healthy Bones for seniors. St. Philip members and friends are welcome to attend. A complete schedule is available at: www.healthyourway.com.

POSTPONED PRIMETIMERS MURAL TOUR

Our next Primetimers outing is upon us! Have you ever wondered about the growing presence of large scale outdoor murals appearing around the city of Houston? Join us on **Thursday, November 30**, for a guided bus tour of various neighborhoods in central Houston, visiting many of the city's newest and most popular murals. We will learn about the artists, their works, and their connection to the neighborhood, finishing our tour with lunch at the Original Ninfa's on Navigation. Cost will be \$10, not including lunch. Please remember to wear comfortable shoes and bring a hat. The bus will depart from St. Philip at 9 a.m.

Jay Kacherski & Lina Morita

Classical Guitar & Piano in Concert

with Clara McLain

October 28, 2018 at 2 pm



Nadene and Jim Crain are members of the Gulf Coast Guitar Association and invite you to this upcoming event in our sanctuary. Enjoy the virtuosity of this trio as they play guitar solo and piano/guitar duo, interpreting classics from Spain, Argentina, Italy, Switzerland and America. You will hear works by Albéniz, Morel de Falla, Scarlatti, Giuliani, Merlin, Martin and Houstonian. J. Todd Frazier whose composition, Brazos de Dios, will take you on a journey thru the various cultures of Texas. This will be an unforgettable afternoon of beauty and heart. Tickets will be available at the door for \$5/\$10 and \$15.

For more information:

Call— 713-305-2336 or

Email—nacrain@comcast.net