

PHILIP-EYE

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

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Houston, Texas

November 6, 2018

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

Rev. Keatan King
Associate Pastor

Rev. Omar Rouchon
Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. Samuel Lanham III
Pastor Emeritus

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
Philipeye@saintphilip.net

Susan Estill
Editor Emerita

www.saintphilip.net
yelp: [icons] @StPhilipHouston
STAY CONNECTED!

Phone: 713-622-4807
Address: 4807 San Felipe
Houston, TX 77056



An Alternative to the Black Friday Doorbuster Dash!!!

Every year, St. Philip hosts an opportunity for the congregation to give gifts that not only are fun to give but that also support our church's vital mission partners and our church's mission to "engage the world with open minds, willing hands, and generous hearts." Serving as Christ's hands and feet in the world, these partners' nonprofit, cause-based work ranges from providing clean water, education, and nutrition to empowering individuals, families, and communities locally and abroad. When this sort of gifting occurs, it honors friends and family and enriches our relationships with our mission partners and our collective ministry in a broken and hurting world.

Our festivities will take place in the Fellowship Hall with a delicious soup and bread lunch. The proceeds from the lunch will go to support Kid's Against Hunger. We will have our usual vendors, with a few new ones as well. NewSpring is offering the exciting opportunity to own your very own miniature butterfly that is a replica of the one in the courtyard of the church. The youth will be selling jewelry made from keys from the Central Presbyterian campus. The jewelry includes beads and stones in the colors of our Sanctuary's mosaic wall to represent the beauty of St. Philip's merger with Central in membership and ministry. There will be a silent auction, including six special gift baskets; and an activity for the kids.

Remember, even if you don't want to purchase items, this is a wonderful opportunity to talk to mission partner representatives, and to learn what they do first hand. You may then make a contribution to the mission right on the spot, which also can be made in the name of a loved one. To make things easier for everyone, we will be able to check out with cash, checks, or credit cards.

If you like to bake, you also have the opportunity to contribute to the cause by bringing a special baked good to the Market to be sold to raise funds for one of our many great Mission Partners. If you would like to contribute, please bring your baked cookies, sweet breads, or cakes, fully wrapped for freshness and ease of transport to the Fellowship Hall before 10:45 a.m. the morning of the Market.

Mark your calendar for **November 18**, 9:30 a.m. till 10:45 and 12:00 p.m. till 1, in the Fellowship Hall. What a great event to share with your fellow St. Philipians as we move toward the Advent Season!

ALTERNATIVE MARKET



These are some of the Mission Partners that will be represented at the Alternative Market on November 18.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women has kicked off and we are in full swing for the 2018-2019 year, thanks to our wonderful pastor, Rev. Keatan King who keynoted our Fall Gathering on September 23. We had over forty women to attend! We shared stories on our lives, and we provided listening ears and open hearts as well. We had women from every age imaginable enjoy each other's company over lunch and our Bible lesson.

We hope to see more women around at our next event and/or check out one of our Circle meetings! Check the Philip-Eye and bulletins for updates!

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. at Brazos Towers at Bayou Manor
- Wednesday Evening Circle—1st Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. in the Dining Room

LIVING GENEROUSLY

Chuck Seidel's November 4 stewardship reflection included the following:

When I began attending St. Philip, a weird thing started to happen to me during the church service, I would cry which is way out of character for me. I always had to be sure I brought Kleenex. It was very embarrassing so if you noticed, I am glad you didn't say anything. It happened most often when Keatan was leading the "Declaration of Forgiveness". She told of God's love, of being part of a family, of being welcomed, of not being alone. The inclusiveness, the sincerity was so comforting. I realized it was not sadness that brought the tears but the feeling of inclusion and welcome.

I seldom need Kleenex now because I have found a pew-family. I sit pretty much in the same place each Sunday as I have noticed you do too. Jan is a member of my pew-family. Each Sunday we check on how the other is doing, we share our favorite comic from the Sunday morning paper; we celebrate when the LSU football team wins, and other similarly important worldly events. I miss her when she isn't there. I find my place in the sanctuary by looking for her. Where else can you feel so welcomed?

Our mantra, "We Choose Welcome", isn't just something that appears on our web page. It is something that permeates everything we do. In our current climate of tribalism and division, St. Philip is a beacon showing that this is not how it has to be and more importantly how it should not be. I am going to live generously for my family. Come and join me.

To finish I would like to share two quotes from past US presidents. In his second inaugural address President George W Bush said:

"Make the choice to serve in a cause larger than your wants, larger than yourself".

In President Barack Obama's farewell address, he said: "Show up. Dive in. Persevere".

Living Generously is asking us to serve a cause larger than our wants, large than ourselves. So, show up, dive in and persevere.



Pledge Cards will be received in worship **November 11** or may be returned to the church office anytime. You may also go to MyStPhilip and make your pledge through your account.

MISSION

SEAFARERS ~ 2018



SEAFARERS' CHRISTMAS BOXES

Join the Mission Committee in the Arts & Crafts Studio for fellowship and a soup & salad lunch after worship Sunday, **November 11**, following 11:00 am worship. 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.

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 Jingle Bell 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

Thank you for your generosity!

- ◆ Through the September Communion Offering, St. Philip donated \$1,008 to Kids Against Hunger.
- ◆ The October Communion dedicated to Peace and Global Witness Offering raised \$1,317 for Presbyterian Mission Agency and \$439 for Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston.
- ◆ The Peacemaking Concert raised \$644 for Music At St. Philip and \$644 for Refugee Services of Texas.



WELCOMING & MEMBERSHIP

Mrs. Jerri B. Workman

Jerri joins St. Philip by letter of transfer from First Presbyterian Church of Kerrville, Texas. While residing in Kerrville, she became good friends with Deb Burks and Pastor John Wurster. Jerri is originally from Clinton, Mississippi. She attended Baylor University and the University of Houston. She lists her favorite activities as reading, knitting, and travel. Besides her long friendship with Deb and John, Jerri said that she was also drawn by St. Philip's worship. Jerri is an Elder in the Presbyterian Church. As a member she is interested in worship and Peacemaking and Social Justice. Jerri, a retired widow, resides at Eagle's Trace and has a daughter, Susan, here in Houston.



Krystal Moses Davis

Krystal joins St. Philip by reaffirmation of faith. She is an Elder and Deacon in the Presbyterian Church. She grew up in Dallas where she was baptized at Brandon Avenue Methodist Church. Krystal attended Texas A & M University and is an Instructional Specialist with the Alief Independent School District. She and husband, Jonathon, were married in June of 1983. Krystal heard about St. Philip by way of the Houston Boys Choir. She was impressed that St. Philip is a church that states, educates about and lives its beliefs. She is considering how she wants to be involved in the life of the church.



Jonathan Clark Davis

Jonathan also joins St. Philip by reaffirmation of faith and is an Elder in the Presbyterian church. Jonathon was drawn by St. Philip's stance on immigration and social justice. He grew up in San Benito, Texas and attended Texas A & M. Jonathan is a Geologist/GIS Technician. His favorite hobby is fixing things around the house. He and Krystal have been married thirty-five years and have a son, James, who also lives in Houston.

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 – "The Class of 2036

- Children born in 2018 who will be 18 years old when Houston celebrates its 200th. birthday in 2036" **November 11** - "The Class of 2036 in the Muslim Community: Investing in Early Childhood Development Today for a Better Tomorrow" - This talk offers an Islamic perspective and example of early childhood development that views children as a trust of God. Dr. Zahra N. Jamal Associate Director at Rice University's Boniuk Institute for Religious Tolerance explains how investing in a child's spiritual and material development from birth to six is crucial to creating a healthier, more peaceful, more just society presented by . **November 18** - "The Class of 2036 in the Jewish Community - We all want to raise children who are compassionate and understanding, filled with love of G-d" presented by Rabbi Deborah Schloss at Temple Beth Tikvah.

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

Monday, **November 12**, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., is the next meeting of the Monday evening study group, as we continue our study of *Holding Faith: A Practical Introduction to Christian Doctrine*, by Cynthia Rigby, with chapter 2 in part one, "Speaking of God: Where do we find the right words to say? The doctrine of scripture." Haven't read it? No problem! Consider joining us anyway to hear what your fellow St. Philippians think. We meet the second and fourth Mondays, in the Dining Room (in the Administration Building, at the south end of campus), and refreshments are provided.

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. The place 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 at the home of Deb Burks. We will discuss *Killer of the Flower Moon* by David Gann. This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. For more information contact Sarah O'Dell at sarah.odell6@gmail.com.

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, **November 20** at The Ginger Man, 5607 Morningside Dr., 77005 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.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

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

FELLOWSHIP FUN



DINNERS LUNCH FOR 8

Based on interest of church members, this year the Fellowship Committee added the option of being part of a lunch and/or restaurant group. Over 50 individuals signed up for Dinners for 8, enabling us to create 7 groups of which two are lunch groups.

“We met today for our first lunch at The Guatemala Restaurant on Hillcroft. We specifically picked it to pray for the country and the caravans. We each had something different and all was delicious! Our waitress was wonderful so we asked her to be in our group photo. She also had our pic taken on her own phone. Very special indeed!”

Nancy Higgs, Mary McGuire, Judith Hiott, Ada Fuller, Jacquie Colton, Sondra Sullivan, and Lee & Bob Ardell.

LET US PRAY FOR...

Dan Cleveland & family upon the death of his wife, on October 6. Memorial service will be November 10 at 11:00 a.m.

Olga Lewis & family upon the death of her sister in FL.

Ada Fuller & family upon the death of her mother-in-law, Dorothy Riddle.

St. Philippians and their families—Bill Taylor; Carolyn Johnston; Toto McGeHee; Alan Coufal; Carolyn Vestal; Dorothy McMillan—mother of Nancy Higgs; Elizabeth Carlton Lithio—granddaughter of Jeanie Flowers; Ralph Arlinghaus—father of Paul Arlinghaus; Arlette Keene; T.E. “Joe” Kever; 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—friend of Robin & Gary Willis; and Grady Reed—friend of Stephen Paine.

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.

MUSIC AT ST. PHILIP 2018-2019 SEASON

— Join us next Sunday afternoon! —

Greenbriar Consortium, Chamber Orchestra
SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 11, 2018 | 4:00 p.m.

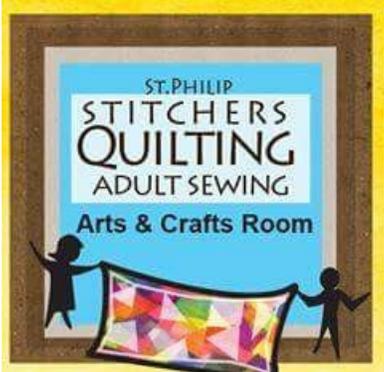


Join us for a fabulous afternoon of live music as we present *Mysteries of the Macabre* by **György Ligeti** with soprano **Julia Fox**, a selection from *Song of Songs* by **Lukas Foss** with mezzo-soprano **Sonja Bruzauskas**, the ravishing *Pavane for a Dead Princess* by **Ravel**, and the glorious *Octet in F major* by **Schubert** — all featuring the **Greenbriar Consortium**, comprised of Houston Symphony players dedicated to presenting great chamber music.

St. Philip Presbyterian Church | 4807 San Felipe Street | Houston, Texas



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Music at St Philip



After a very rainy Halloween, 2018, November 1 was transformed into a beautiful, crisp, fall day...a perfect morning to deliver the 110 quilts that were blessed on Sunday, October 28.

Thirty-nine quilts went to Interfaith Ministries (IM) for their refugee outreach program. IM serves fifty refugee families in the city, helping them furnish apartments with gently used items. Elena Korbut, who heads the refugee program at IM, remarked, "The quilts will certainly add a welcoming touch."

Seventy quilts were delivered to House of Tiny Treasures. The enrollment there is seventy-two, often with children coming and going as the family circumstance changes. These children are homeless and living in shelters, or they live in deep poverty. The children are each given a quilt to snuggle under during nap time and take their quilt with them when they leave the school. Director, Mitzi Bartlett, was particularly pleased that one of the quilts had a rocket ship appliquéd to the quilt..."the children just finished studying the planets and they will be thrilled."



If you are interested in more information about the St. Philip Stitcher mission and the agencies that receive our quilts, please contact Hope Wilmarth: hlwilmarth@hotmail.com

