PHILIP-EYE

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

Volume 62, Number 6

Houston, Texas

March 20, 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

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STAY CONNECTED!



LENTEN VOLUNTEER OFFERING CARDS UPDATE!

During this season of Lent, the Mission Committee is inviting everyone to focus on reaching out to others rather than personally giving something up. We want to raise the awareness of how members of the St. Philip community give of their time and gifts to others. Each week please complete the lavender card that is in the pews and place it into the offering plate as part of your gift. Some may volunteer at the church (office volunteer, choir member, committee member, etc.) while others volunteer at various organizations around town. As a Mission Committee, we hope to focus our financial commitments where our members are focusing their gifts of time and talent. Watch for a weekly report!

During the third week of Lent, 35 volunteers reported over 201.5 hours of service!

Thirty-nine hours were reported from volunteers serving St. Philip. In addition to choir practices and singing on Sunday mornings, others reported working in the church office, preparing and teaching as a Confirmation Partner or Sunday School teacher, attending men's fellowship, planting the St. Philip garden, repairing the water system, receiving shipments for Kids Against Hunger and taking pictures for the St. Philip directory.

162.5 hours were offered at organizations, schools or at home. Activities included: Board meetings for Brazos Presbyterian Homes, sewing quilts for homeless children, teaching Old Testament to 10th graders, volunteering at CCSC emergency service, food pantry, and food fair; greeting at Amazing Place, tutoring 1st and 2nd graders through the HUGS program, helping with teacher projects at Piney Point Elementary, Board meeting for United Campus Ministries, welcoming a refugee family to Houston, crocheting plarn mats for the homeless, tutoring 2nd graders at Housman Elementary, preparing for Mo Ranch retreat, gathering & sorting items for the Women's Home Easter boxes, mentoring at FC2 Success, preparing for the PW retreat, working on Mission Committee business, working on the APCE national conference, and spending time with a grieving friend.

We know that many unreported acts of service are also happening in our midst. Thank you, members and friends of St. Philip. You are truly a congregation who makes a difference in this world!

Don't forget to complete your card this week and place it in the offering plate!





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Dear Friends,

I am looking forward to my seventh Holy Week and Easter at St. Philip. In a variety of styles and through a range of emotions, this season invites us to experience the fullness of the gospel. I urge you to seek the spiritual benefits of these days and these services through your participation in all that is before us.

Palm Sunday is March 25. We will worship as usual at 8:30 and 11:00. The 11:00 service includes a children's procession of palms. At the 3:00 that afternoon, we also have an opportunity to gather with the presbytery for worship in our sanctuary to celebrate the ordination of Jim DeMent to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. On Maundy Thursday, March 29, we worship at 7:00. We remember Jesus' final night with his disciples and his last meal with them. I am preaching that evening and the St. Philip Choir will sing. After communion, the chancel is stripped of decoration, symbolizing the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples and friends. We leave the sanctuary that night in silence.

On **Good Friday** we have two worship services. At 12 noon we commemorate the death of Jesus with scripture and song and in the presence of the veiled cross. At 8:00 we are holding a Service of Tenebrae. In this dramatic service, shadows slowly gather in the room as we encounter the betrayal, denial, and abandonment that marked Jesus' final days. With each reading, a candle is extinguished. The service concludes in darkness. We are also offering a worship opportunity on Holy Saturday at 5:00 p.m. Matthew Dirst and friends lead us in a musical meditation for Holy Week, exploring the depth and power of the Passion through music.

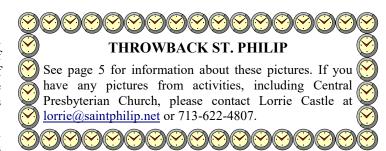
Easter Sunday is April 1, and we are doing something new! Hoping to create a little more space for people to be with us that day, we are offering festival services at 9:00 and 11:00. The services will be identical: the St. Philip Choir will sing at both; I'll preach at both; we'll have communion at both. If your schedule permits, consider attending the 9:00 service to help us balance the crowd with us that morning. Easter breakfast will be available in Fellowship Hall from 9:30 to 10:30, as well as crafts and activities for children. Again, we'll have a cross outside the sanctuary for us to decorate. Please bring flowers to add to it. We expect to have our Newspring butterfly with us on the lawn in time for Easter. We also have great hope that the Harvey repair work in the sanctuary will be completed by then. This joyful day has much promise!

Faithfully yours,



NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The Mark and Velma Freeman Scholarship Fund annually provides scholarship assistance to St. Philip students attending college or graduate school. The application form is now available on the church website or by contacting the church office. All application materials need to be returned to the church BEFORE May 1. More info | Application Form: saintphilip.net/SubmitForms







LET US PRAY FOR...

Keatan King & Nathan Carlin upon birth of their daughter Cohen May Carlin on March 15

St. Philippians and their families—Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor,
Toto McGehee, Ralph Arlinghaus - father of Paul
Arlinghaus, Arlette Keene, Susan Harwood Kaczmarczik—
Joe Harwood's daughter, T.E. "Joe" Keever, Bessie
Johnson, mother of Pat Lindsay, Ian Pearce, Rusty Howard,
Phillip McDaniel, Mickey Meyers, Ruth Weber, Carol
Paine Kendrick, Erica Stokes, Elizabeth Carlton Lithio,
Diane Boddington Nahajzer, Joe Ann Berwick, George
Helland, Alice Pennington, Joyce Randolf, Van Rathgeber,
and Penny Vieau

Friends of St. Philippians—Kimmie Hatfield-of Stephen Paine; Barry McCarthy-of Wayne and Sandra Truxillo; and Grady Reed-of Stephen Paine. PHILIP-EYE PAGE 3 March 20, 2018

PEACEMAKING & SOCIAL JUSTICE

WE CHOOSE WELCOME. YES!

A small group of St. Philip's Refugee Resettlement Team welcomed our first refugee family this week. An Iraqian family of four was met by our group at Bush Intercontinental Airport and escorted to their new home, an apartment in southwest Houston. What can we say? Two car loads of luggage, food, gifts, a stocked refrigerator, two sleepy children, exhausted parents. The evening's events were an emotional and heartwarming experience for our team. We want all St. Philippians to know that we are proud to be a part of a church that promotes this activity, a milestone in our support of the PC(USA)'s "We Choose Welcome" campaign.



A RESPONSE TO RECENT MASS SHOOTINGS

A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more. - Matthew 2:18

Sandy Hook. Orlando. Las Vegas. Sutherland Springs. Now Parkland. How do we as Presbyterians faithfully respond?

Scripture calls us to *do* the things that lead to peace (Romans 14:19). James 2:17 reminds us "faith without works is dead" — that thoughts and prayers are not enough.

The PC(USA) has addressed gun violence through many General Assemblies (the denomination's highest council) in the past 50 years, expressing the church's commitment to faith-rooted nonviolence, justice, and peace. Each resolution reflects a sense of moral urgency in response to rising gun violence and the cultural trends that have contributed to it. These resolutions have called on the church to be involved in education and advocacy at the federal, state, and community level to prevent gun violence.

In 2010, the General Assembly unanimously adopted the policy and study paper *Gun Violence, Gospel Values: Mobilizing in Response to God's Call.* That document "encourage[s] the church at every level... to become informed and active in preventing gun violence, to provide pastoral care for victims of gun violence, and to seek a spiritual response of grief and repentance, grace and courage to resist that violence and celebrate the Lord and Giver of Life." The 2010 policy

further restated the 1990 General Assembly's resolution that called on the US government to establish meaningful and effective federal legislation to regulate the importation, manufacture, sale, and possession of guns and ammunition by the public.

In the wake of the Parkland high school shootings, PC(USA) leaders are calling for action.

- † The Presbyterian Mission Agency's Office of Public Witness director called gun violence a public health epidemic in America, and mass shootings 'a deadly pattern in American life, which we as Presbyterians must faithfully interrupt."
- † The Faith-Based Investing director (and staff liaison to the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment), indicated that PC(USA) policy (such as a 1995 action on gun-related investments) affirmed the actions of companies such as Dick's Sporting Goods and Walmart in reducing sales of or support for automatic weapons.
- † The Compassion, Peace, and Justice Ministries director said, "It is time to raise our voice and bear witness to the Prince of Peace, who calls us all to the task of peacemaking, healing the brokenness caused by this epidemic."

Here are some actions to make your voice heard to end gun violence.

- *Contact your elected officials at the local, state, and national level.
- *Connect with groups working to end gun violence, like March for Our Lives, Everytown for Gun Safety, or Moms Demand Action.
- † Pray for the president and Congress as they consider ideas around gun violence.

In Luke 22:50-51, when one of Jesus' followers drew his sword (the weapon of the day) and cut off the servant's ear, Jesus answered, "No more of this!" and touched the man's ear and healed him. May we follow his example, to say "No more!" and to heal.



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WORSHIP & MUSIC

CHANCEL GUILD

invites you to participate in preparing our worship space for services. Every six months we solicit volunteers to take one Sunday to oversee that preparation. 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 April through September. Please join us! Look for the signup sheet in the Gathering Area. Contact Jane Larkin at 713-621-1222 or l.larkin6561@att.net for more information.

SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS

The next service of healing and wholeness will be March 25. 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.

> The Presbytery of New Covenant Invites you to a Service of Worship for the Ordination of James DeMent to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament Sunday, March 25, 3:00 p.m. St. Philip Presbyterian Church



The lilies that adorn the sanctuary for Easter are purchased from Brookwood Community which provides important support to the adults with disabilities at Brookwood. Citizens from Brookwood will be joining us on Jazz

Communion Sunday (Apr. 8) for the service and picnic. Please take the opportunity to say hi to them.

Easter Lilies

We will be taking donations of any amount for lilies to adorn the sanctuary on Easter. Easter lilies are symbolic of purity and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. They adorn Christian houses of worship on the holy day that shares their name.

You can go online and make a donation of any amount. Please include: in honor of or in memory of and the name(s) you wish to recognize, as well as how you would like your name to

(circle one) I / we would like to make a donation to purchase Easter lilies to adorn the sanctuary this Easter season, to be given:

(circle one) in honor of / memory of

Donor—Your Name(s) PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Please place envelope in the offering plate or return it with your payment to the church office by Monday, March 26.

Musical Meditations for Holy Saturday MUSIC AT ST. PHILIP SATURDAY | MARCH 31, 2018 | 5:00 p.m.





Join us in the stillness of Holy Saturday as Matthew Dirst, Julia Fox, Dominique McCormick, and Barret Sills present music of meditation on the mysteries of the crucifixion, death, and resurrection of Christ in this one-hour program of peace, quiet, and contemplative music making.

Featuring **Couperin's** *Lecons de ténèbres* for two soprano voices and continuo, plus organ works by Franck, Alain, and Messiaen. PHILIP-EYE PAGE 5 March 20, 2018









SPRING PICNIC
[ON THE GROUNDS AFTER WORSHIP ~ 12 NOON]

Throwback St. Philip—Pics on page 2. Pictures chosen as a reminder it is time to get your picture taken for the church directory. Does your picture have family members in it that have moved into their own home? Or are you wearing a hairstyle that you no longer wear? In 1999, the Adult Ministry Team put together a picture book together for Bill and Betty Anne Poe. First pic—Flowers family—Abigail, Beth, Fort, Daniel, Elaine, Caroline & Betsy. Second pic—Kate Burkart.

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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

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EDUCATION COMMITTEE

NURSERY AND PRESCHOOL

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 ALL CLASSES BEGIN AT 9:30 A.M.

Godly Play (Age 3 to K)—Room 104

Grades 1 & 2—Room 105 Grades 3,4 & 5—Room 103 Grades 6-8—Room 206 Grades 9-12—Room 205

LISTENING FOR GOD—Room 202—Continuing through **Mar. 25** during the Sunday School hour, John Wurster and Deb Burks lead a Lenten class based on the anthology *Listening for God, volume 2*. This class is closed due to seating. Room 202.

BIBLE STUDY—Room 204—The Bible study class utilizes the insights of a variety of scholars to expand our understanding of God's message of faithfulness to His people. Al Waldrop leads the discussions. All are welcome.

CHURCH & SOCIETY—Room 201—March 25 (Palm Sunday) - We will hear a preview of three settings of the Lamentations from Jeremiah by Francois Couperin (The "Lecons de Tenebres) which is the music of meditation on the mysteries of the crucifixion, death, and resurrection of Christ in a one-hour program of peace quiet, and contemplative music making at the Musical Meditations for Holy Saturday in the St. Philip Sanctuary on Saturday, March 31, at 5:00 p.m. -Presented by Dr. Matthew Dirst St. Philip organist, Professor of Music at the Moores School of Music, University of Houston and founder and artistic director of Ars Lyrica Houston, an ensemble specializing in Baroque chamber and dramatic works. April 1 (Easter Sunday) The Church & Society class will not meet on Easter Sunday so that class members can enjoy the Easter breakfast at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall and participate in intergenerational activities.

SPa—Room 200—We are engaging in a Lenten Bible study using the book *Interrupting Silence—God's Command to Speak Out* by Walter Breuggemann. If you are not able to obtain a copy, please join us still! You may contact Omar Rouchon if you have any questions - omar@saintphilip.net.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL—Room 203—March 25 - On the second and fourth Sunday of each month, children in Pre-K through first grade are invited to attend Children's Chapel with Omar Rouchon and a parent-helper following the conversation with children during the 11 o'clock service. Here our young disciples learn the whos, whats, wheres, when and whys of worship, while praying, singing, and hearing God's word at an age-appropriate level.

WEEKDAY CLASSES

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

John Wurster leads this study Wednesday mornings at 10:30 in the Dining Room. Everyone is welcome.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

Men of all ages are welcome to participate in the self-led group. The Men's Weekly Fellowship meets each Friday in the Conference Room at noon. The book they are studying is *Amazing Grace*, by Kathleen Norris. 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) **March 26** 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 *The Righteous Mind* by Jonathan Haidt. We will be discussing part 2 (There's more to morality than harm and fairness), chapter 6 (Taste buds of the righteous mind). 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 new 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, **March 27** at 7 p.m. East End Hardware 3005 Leeland St. 77003. 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 **April 10** at 6:30 p.m. at the Kirby Ice House, 3333 Eastside St. 7709.

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 **April 12**, will be a social at Hungry's, 2356 Rice Blvd., 77005. This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. For more information contact Sarah O'Dell at: sarah.odell6@gmail.com.

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MISSION COMMITTEE

T-SHIRT REORDERS!

Here's another chance to order a St. Philip t-shirt! Order forms will be available in the Gathering Area (check or cash) and on the website (credit card) until **March 25**. T-shirts will be available on **April 8** in time to wear for Jazz Communion Sunday and the All-Church Picnic!

BUTTERFLIES FOR LENT AND EASTER

The branches of our prayer tree in the chancel are already filling with butterflies. Each butterfly represents a prayer from someone in our St. Philip community. Butterfly shaped paper will continue to be available in the pews throughout Lent to record the prayers of our hearts. Over the weeks, as our prayers grow and as we move closer to Easter, more and more butterflies will find a place on the tree.

We are expecting a super-sized aluminum butterfly to arrive on our campus for Easter as part of the Newspring Butterfly Festival. A St. Philip mission partner, Newspring is a ministry to students in Spring Branch. Butterflies are being created and placed across the area to raise awareness and support for Newspring's ministry. Our St. Philip butterfly, designed by Micah Meyers, incorporates many of our distinctive artistic themes and treasures. A butterfly brings witness to transformation and new life. In celebration of the ways St. Philip bears witness, please consider contributing to the Newspring butterfly acquisition. Donations can be made to the church and marked "Newspring."



BEYOND MISSION DAY!!

Mission Day was a great success; and the Mission Committee would like to extend continuing opportunities to serve throughout the year. One of our largest Mission partners is CCSC, which provides food and services to at-risk families throughout the year. One way of helping these families ensure a successful education experience for their children is to make sure that they have the school supplies that they need for the year.

We hope you have a few hours to spare, as we are signing up fun volunteers for the Back-to-School Client Registration event!

When: Monday – Thursday, **May** 7 – 10, 2018 Time: 8:30 am – 1:30 pm (shifts available if needed) Where: Bellaire United Methodist Church, 4417 Bellaire

Who: YOU (and 25 others each day)

If you would like to help, please contact Janet Hess at 281-755-4919, or at jhess49@hotmail.com. Be on the lookout for the actual Backpack distribution event in August and the Jingle Bell Express in December.



Do you see: art from a banner, art that is on a music instrument, crests from around the building, items of the worship service, or emblems from the pulpit?



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FELLOWSHIP FUN

BEST TASTE

Winning contestants from the Chili Cook-Off on March 3 include:

- F J Stewart and Bill Holden tied for Best Overall Chili
- Anne Wilson took both Most Unique Chili with her Rainbow Connection Concoction and Best Cornbread
- Omar Rouchon won for the Hottest Chili (beef with jalapenos and fresh cilantro on top)
- P Deb Burks was the surprise winner for Best Vegetarian for her kale salad

A great time was had by all!

CO-ED PICK-UP BASKETBALL

Join us for friendly competition and exercise through pick-up basketball in the gym at Bellaire United Methodist Church (4417 Bellaire Blvd, Bellaire, TX 77401). We meet weekly on **Wednesdays** at 7 p.m. All skill levels are welcome. No broken ankles allowed. For more info or questions contact Henry Owen r.henry.owen@gmail.com or 704-975-4005.

THE 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER





Weather permitting, this event will be held outside on the front lawn; otherwise, join us in the Fellowship Hall. All ages are welcome. We will have fun games and activities, so please dress comfortably for this active outdoor event. (A perfect event for your new St. Philip t-shirt.) Please RSVP to the church office or email welcome@saintphilip.net so that we will provide enough chicken. Don't forget your celebration socks!



A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS & A CALL TO PRAY

The Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC) is changing its season for officer nominations in order to provide a more meaningful and less hurried time for officer training. The congregation is being asked to submit nominations in March; the CNC will use April for a time of discernment; calls will be made in May, and a final slate will be presented to the congregation no later than early summer. Officer training will be held this fall rather than during the season of Advent. The new class of Elders will be installed in January of 2019.

We ask that the congregation wrap this process in prayer during this season of Lent and beyond. Take some time to pray over the names in the church directory. Who do you believe exhibits spiritual leadership to take St. Philip to the next step? Who has a contagious passion for God? Who might enlarge our vision, empower our members, and embrace a bit of risk? How about you?

We invite your nominations by completing the forms that can be found in the church bulletins and on our website. By providing us with more information than just a name strengthens your nomination and helps us in this most important process.

Anne Wilson, Chair

On behalf of the entire Committee: Tim Burgess, Joyce Fox, Walker Fair, William Howard, John Lemen, and Mary Ann Thomas.