PHILIP-EYE

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

Volume 62, Number 5

Houston, Texas

March 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





On Sunday, March 18 the St. Philip Presbyterian Women asks that you open your hearts to the projects chosen for the 2018 Birthday Offering: Cottage Village, Village of Grace Center for Physical and Spiritual Health, and The Dwelling Place. The Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women celebrates Presbyterian women's history of mission giving. It was launched in 1922 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Woman's Auxiliary in the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS). Since that time, the Birthday Offering has become an annual tradition and has funded nearly 100 major mission projects that continue to make a difference in the lives of women and children. While the projects and donation amounts have changed, Presbyterian Women's commitment to improving the lives of women and children has not. We continue to need broad, consistent support from Presbyterian women and others in order to continue funding mission projects like the ones selected for 2018. We ask that you give as you have been blessed, generously and as led by the Holy Spirit. Give during the worship service on March 18. Your gifts make a difference!

More about each of this year's recipients.

- **†** Cottage Village, a Tiny-house Community for Low-income Residents, COTTAGE GROVE, OR Cottage Village will provide quality, affordable housing and a safe, structured social community for individuals and families with low or very low incomes. This Birthday Offering grant will be used to help build 13 tiny houses and a central shared-use area that will serve as a compassionate and protective community for vulnerable rural citizens.
- † Village of Grace Center for Physical and Spiritual Health, TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
 This Birthday Offering grant will make it possible for the Presbytery of Honduras to purchase
 the Village of Grace Center for Physical and Spiritual Health near Tegucigalpa. Originally
 established by Presbyterian mission co-workers, the retreat center will be managed by
 Presbyterian women in Honduras. It will offer international hospitality for retreats, workshops
 and mission teams from the PC(USA), Solar Under the Sun and Living Waters for the World.
- † The Dwelling Place, MINNEAPOLIS AND ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

 The Dwelling Place was established in 1998 to provide for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of women and their children following their escape from a violent partner. Transitional housing, education, food, clothing, trauma-informed support services, programming and mentoring for women are all part of the mission of The Dwelling Place. This Birthday Offering grant will help The Dwelling Place purchase a vacant lot where they will construct a multi-use building with spaces suitable for large and small group programming, one-on-one case management, safe living space and staff offices. With the additional building, The Dwelling Place will be able to serve even more women and children who are seeking safety.

PHILIP-EYE PAGE 2 March 6, 2018

CONGREGATIONAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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.*

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.

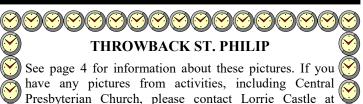
You can go online and make a donation of any amount. Please include: *in honor of* or *in memory of* and the name(s) you wish to recognize, as well as how you would like your name to appear.

(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.



lorrie@saintphilip.net or 713-622-4807.





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. You can help make our butterfly possible by contributing to the church this Lent and marking your gift "Newspring."

SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS

The next service of healing and wholeness will be **March 25** at 5:00 p.m. In this service, we claim God's promise of well-being and seek God's healing touch in body, mind, and spirit.

PHILIP-EYE PAGE 3 March 6, 2018



PHILIP-EYE PAGE 4 March 6, 2018

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FEBRUARY 2018

Stated Session Meeting – February 20th

- Session approved a request for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism on Easter Sunday, 11:00 a.m. worship service, for Samantha Tatum Benard, born October 16, 2017 in Houston; daughter of St. Philip members Jamie and Anne Marie Benard.
- Session approved the March recipient of the Communion Offering be The Women's' Home and the April recipient of the Communion Offering be One Great Hour of Sharing.
- Session elected Kate Crary, Nancy Young, Selena Brinegar, Tim Burgess, Peg Palisin, and Janet Hess to serve as Ruling Elder Commissioners to the March 17, 2018 Stated Meeting of Presbytery of New Covenant at First Presbyterian Church, Conroe, and elected Amye Webster to serve as alternate.
- \$\Phi\$ Session approved having St. Philip serve as the exclusive project sponsor of this year's Interfaith Ministries Operation IMpact, a citywide event (Houston and Galveston) to be held on June 2nd in which volunteers deliver shelf-stable food and bottled water to over 4,000 homebound seniors to prepare them for hurricane season, with the \$25,000 sponsorship to come from the church Harvey assistance fund.

Committee and Council Actions:

- Central Mission Endowment Council granted two of four requests that fell outside the regular grant cycle: \$10,000 for Kids Against Hunger, and \$10,000 for Sodzo International.
- Property Committee has approved the contracts with Peak Roofing to do the roof repairs, Remington Services to do the woodwork repair, and MASA Studio (Mark Atkins) to oversee the project and advise the committee.

Throwback St. Philip—Pictures on page 2—In 1980 the SPPC Youth presented Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat: Brett Stanley John Kelley Lisa Duerr

Dream Coat: Brett Stanley, John Kelley, Lisa Duerr, Elizabeth Helland, Jill Marley, Barbara Stanley, Jim Kelley, and Claire Lanham. 2013 PW Retreat: Beth Atkinson, Lori Murphy, ?, Anne Wilson, Pam Taylor, Carol Lucas, Cathy Herrera, Cathy Steward, Joyce Fox,

and Cheryl Barker.



James Cooper and family upon the death of his brothers, Tom on March 1 and Don on March 6

Omi Ford and family upon the death of her stepfather, Bob Shelton, former president of Austin Seminary

Bob McHone and family upon the death of his wife, Wanda McHone on Mar. 1

Keith Fletcher and family upon the death of his mother, Rebecca Fletcher on Feb. 26, services will be in Brenham

St. Philippians and their families—Toto McGehee, Ralph Arlinghaus - father of Paul Arlinghaus, Arlette Keene, John Hannah, 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.

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

St. Philip Presbyterian Women One-Day Retreat

A LAUNCH INTO CRITICAL WOMEN'S HEALTH AND WELLNESS ISSUES

- **▼** SATURDAY, MARCH 24
- Cost: \$20 for the retreat or \$40 for the retreat and dinner at Berryhill
- Childcare by Denise and Janet will be provided 9:00 A.M.
 —5:00 P.M.
- ▼ Reservations Required—sign up in the Gathering Area before Worship, email welcome@saintphilip.net or call the church office at 713-622-4807.

SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m.—Light breakfast and Coffee

9:45 a.m.—Welcome and Opening Prayer

10:00 a.m.—Light stretching with Julia Fox

10:15 a.m.—Personal Health: "What is Cancer?" presented by Dr. Janet Macheledt

12:00 p.m.—Lunch by Chuck

1:00 p.m.—Reconvening Hymn

1:15 p.m.—Public Health: "Women's Health Care in Texas"

3:00 p.m.—Worship and Communion with Rev. Candice Richey Womack

4:00 p.m.—Happy Hour, dinner, and fellowship at Berryhill

PHILIP-EYE PAGE 5 March 6, 2018

UPDATES FROM THE 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—Beginning **February 25** and continuing for five weeks during the Sunday School hour, John Wurster and Deb Burks lead a Lenten class based on the anthology *Listening for God, volume 2*. Room 202.

BIBLE STUDY—Room 204—The class is engaged in a study of the book of 2 Samuel which tells of the rise and survival of David as their leader, revealing throughout the very human traits of the people involved in the narrative. 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. Nancy Cook and Al Waldrop lead the discussions. All are welcome.

CHURCH & SOCIETY—Room 201 — March 11— BakerRipley Neighborhood Centers - strives to bring people together to focus on what unites us - the universal human aspirations to earn, learn and belong. Baker-Ripley transforms communities for good. Every neighborhood and community has strengths, resources, and assets. The mission of BakerRipley is to keep our region a welcoming place of opportunity. Presented by Frida Villalobos Director of Communications. March 18 -We Choose Welcome Update - Join members of St. Philip's Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee for an update on the "We Choose Welcome" campaign of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Then learn about St. Philip's collaboration with Refugee Services of Texas and our current exploration of ways to help refugees settle in their new hometown and become productive Houstonians. Presented by Peacemaking and Social Justice committee members Kate Burkart and Sara Jean Jackson.

SPa—Room 200— We will continue a Lenten Bible study using the hot-off-the-press (and accordingly, a little challenging to obtain) book *Interrupting Silence -God's Command to Speak Out* by Walter Breuggemann, a UCC minister, theological scholar, seminary professor, prolific author, and pillar in the Church writ large. Brueggemann was a regular contributor to the Saving Jesus series we just wrapped up. ***You are encouraged to purchase a copy of the book.** It is in stock at Amazon, the PCUSA Store and Christian Books.* If you are not able to obtain a copy as we begin, please join us still! Let me know if you have any questions omar@saintphilip.net.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL—Room 203—March 11 - 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, whens 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.

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. At our next meeting on **March 8**, we will discuss *Out of the Easy* by Ruta Sepetys at the home of Barbara Cavanaugh. This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. For more information contact Sarah O'Dell at: sarah.odell6@gmail.com.

MONDAY EVENING STUDY GROUP

On Monday, **March 12**, at 5:30 p.m., we continue our discussion of Jonathan Haidt's book *The Righteous Mind*, with chapter 5 in Part 2, "There's more to morality than harm and fairness." The topic is "Beyond WEIRD morality" (Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich, and Democratic). We meet for fellowship, refreshments, and a brief devotional each second and fourth Monday, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., in the Dining Room (in the Administration Building, at the south end of campus).

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 **March 13** at 6:30 p.m. Under the Volcano, 2349 Bissonnet St. 77005.

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.

PHILIP-EYE PAGE 6 March 6, 2018

MISSION COMMITTEE

THE WOMEN'S HOME

Annually, St. Philip gathers items for Easter boxes to give to women at The Women's Home. The boxes include personal items and accessories. If you would like to contribute one or more of these goods, please bring to worship or the office and put in the box marked The Women's Home beginning next week. We will collect items until Sunday, March 18 and the goal is to donate at least 55 boxes. If you would prefer to have someone else do the shopping, donations are taken. If you have questions, please contact Sharon Webb sharonwebb0@gmail.com (please note that is a zero after Webb, not an "O") or at 713-304-4814. Items needed include toiletries, personal items, and note cards, cosmetics, pantyhose, knee highs, toothpaste, tissues, combs, hairspray, shampoo (10-12 oz) hotel samples, postage stamps, jewelry, small Easter novelties, hand lotion, scarves, washcloths, deodorant, razors, memo pads, greeting cards, pens/pencils and photo boxes. Join us in packing on March 25 at 12:00 p.m. in the Arts & Crafts Studio.

MY DONATION OF VOLUNTEER TIME

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!

MISSION DAY 2018 HAPPENINGS

Thanks to all who participated in Mission Day on February 18. We had a great showing at many of the events; here is a summary of all the good you did in a few short hours.

First of all, we looked very Smurfy as a congregation, dressed in our light blue St. Philip T-shirts with Hope Wilmarth's beautiful

stained glass motif. We sold 133 shirts in the first order, and are now winding up sales for a second order. Proceeds from the T-shirts will go to SEARCH for homeless help. We will continue to wear these shirts for all-church events and mission efforts.

Lord of the Streets volunteers fed 250 homeless people, and Presbyterian Women made 100 sack lunches for handing out on the following day. Kids Against Hunger packed 10,400 meals, maxing out two assembly lines in two different packing sessions. Fifty Blessing Bags were made to deliver to Galleria area workers. Ten Stitchers and visitors worked on quilts for House of Tiny Treasures. Knitters knitted, gardeners gardened, and the PCHAS presentation in Church and Society class was well attended. The PCHAS presentation to the Church and Society class was well received and resulted in gifts of \$363. And, fifteen people made lots of PLARN, turning most of the donated plastic bags into material which will become ground insulation mats for the homeless.

We hope to engage our congregation throughout the year, so be on the lookout for more opportunities in the coming months: delivering hurricane emergency supplies with Interfaith Ministries, CCSC Back to School drive, and Jingle Bell Express.

Good job, St. Philip! We are a congregation that cares.

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!

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Thank you for your generosity the youth collected \$1,896 for Souper Bowl of Caring. Our youth chose to give the donations to the Christian Community Service Center. The youth joined young people across the country in collecting funds for local hunger ministries. This annual offering began twenty years ago when it was observed that as the nation celebrates the Super Bowl, some of those among us do not even have a bowl of soup to eat.



