

PHILIP-EYE

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

Volume 61, Number 23

Houston, Texas

December 5, 2017

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Associate Pastor

Rev. Omar Rouchon
Associate Pastor

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STAY CONNECTED!

**INTRODUCING
THE NEW APP
My ST. PHILIP**

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: CONTINUE THE TRADITION!

For more than 80 years, Presbyterians have given generously at Christmas to lift up those who've devoted their lives to the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). On December 21, churches throughout the denomination will again receive this special offering. The Christmas Joy Offering is shared equally by the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which provides much-needed assistance to PC(USA) church workers and their families, and Presbyterian-affiliated racial ethnic schools and colleges, which enable students to develop their gifts and find their calling. The importance of the racial ethnic schools and colleges of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is demonstrated in the continuing partnership between the two entities.

The institutions, including the Presbyterian Pan-American school in Kingsville, TX have provided quality education to people who have contributed immeasurably to the church at large and to the world. Students are educated for the professions of their choice in an environment which supports and nurtures racial and ethnic heritage. Many of the college students are the first in their family to attend college and come from low- to moderate-income families. They may be marginalized and would not be accepted at other institutions of higher learning. The secondary schools receive students earlier than typical schools and prepare them for acceptance at institutions of higher learning.

To many students, these institutions offer the additional support which is needed to truly excel. Tutoring and special courses in math, science and English encourage continued success as the students advance in their studies. This support gives many students a "second chance," resulting in confident, competent, qualified men and women who emerge as leaders in society.

We invite you to make the Christmas Joy Offering part of your Advent and Christmas tradition at St. Philip this month.

A purple rectangular graphic with a white border. On the left is a white stylized starburst icon. To its right, the text "CHRISTMAS JOY" is in large white capital letters, with "SPECIAL OFFERINGS" in smaller white capital letters below it. In the top right corner, there are two white calendar icons: one for "DECEMBER 3" and another for "DECEMBER 24", connected by a minus sign. At the bottom, there is a white silhouette of a city skyline. Below the skyline, the text "ST. PHILIP" is in white capital letters, and "COMMUNION OFFERING" is in large, bold, purple capital letters.

TREASURER

Advent is upon us and as we prepare to celebrate a new year of Christ's reign, I would like to remind you that the end of 2017 is also upon us! Thanks to all of you who have been so generous with Saint Philip during the year with your pledged funds and for gifts over and above your pledge. This has helped us minister to our congregation, assist local missions, educate our children, fellowship together and still have air conditioning in August.

I would like to remind you that it's very convenient to donate to Saint Philip. Many of us are habituated to put a check in the offering plate – great! We at Saint Philip are also able to accept a secure donation on our web site: saintphilip.net. Gifts of publicly traded stock are also appreciated and may be made by having your broker contact Ms. Tina Wettig at Wells Fargo Brokerage, 713-468-6552. If you prefer to make an electronic transfer (ACH, wire) to Saint Philip, please contact Lorrie Castle for instructions.

Donations that Saint Philip receives through December 31 will be reported on your annual giving statement for your income tax return preparation. Thank you again for sharing your blessings with Saint Philip during 2017.

Ada Fuller - Treasurer

STEWARDSHIP

We have received 143 pledges of support for 2018 for a total of \$993,000. Our goal of \$1,132,000 is definitely in reach. Please return pledge cards to the church office as soon as possible. Thank you! For our 2017 budget, we enter December about \$200,000 behind in pledge collection for the year. While this position is not unusual for us, we will need everyone's help to make up the difference. For information about your pledge, please contact the church office.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

It is the time to adorn our chancel with poinsettias. Beginning today you have the opportunity to make a donation to assist with this. If you are working down your Christmas task list, you can go to MyStPhilip and donate online. Choose *Flower Fund* and include in optional memo *Point* and the name of whom you wish to honor or remember.

Forms are available in the Gathering Area, and you can put your contribution in an envelope in the offering plate or return it with your payment to the church office by **December 13**. Thank you.

Our Christmas Poinsettias are grown by the citizens of the Brookwood Community, a living community that creates meaningful jobs, builds a sense of belonging, and provides meaning and purpose for adults with disabilities. Though currently located in Brookshire, TX, in 1970, the Brookwood Community met at St. Philip Presbyterian Church.

December PW Circle Gathering

All women of the church are invited to gather on Sunday, December 10 after the 11:00 worship service in Fellowship Hall for lunch (\$12) and women's fellowship.

Please RSVP by calling the Church Office or emailing welcomes@saintphilip.net

This will replace all December PW meetings.

FELLOWSHIP FUN

PRIMETIMERS

Please join us **Thursday, December 21** at 11:30 a.m. We will dine at Grotto on Westheimer for our annual Christmas Luncheon. Reservations can be made through the church office. The cost is \$35 person and should be paid in advance.

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 will meet weekly on Thursdays at 7 p.m. excluding December 7 and 28. 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.



Christmas Poinsettias

Donations of any amount accepted

(circle one) **I / we** would like to make a donation to purchase poinsettias to adorn our chancel during this Christmas season

(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 Wednesday, **December 13**. Payments can be made online—please note 'Point'. Use additional paper if needed.*

MISSION

Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) is preparing to spread holiday cheer through Jingle Bell Express 2017! With your assistance, 2,500 underprivileged children will receive new toys, books, and a holiday food package for his/her family. Jingle Bell Express is unique in comparison to other Christmas programs, as it is organized in a manner where parents

“shop” for their children. They believe that this design lends dignity to families.

Jingle Bell Express needs assistance with new book donations and volunteer engagement. They need to collect hundreds of new books for children from infancy to age 15. Books should be nonviolent and unwrapped. Donate your gift of books in the Gathering Area or Church Office through **December 3**.

You can be a part of Moving Day **December 4**, 5-8 p.m., Food Assembly Day **December 5**, 6-8 p.m., or Toy & Book Sorting Day **December 6**, 6-8 p.m., or join the Jingle Bell Express Distribution Days event, Friday, **December 8**, and Saturday, **December 9** from 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Sign up by emailing seasonal@ccschouston.org.

Thank you St. Philippians for your blessings of books and time to others during this holiday season. Please contact Angelina Fonseca at angelinamfonseca@hotmail.com with further questions.

YOUNG ADULTS

The Young Adults will volunteer with food assembly on Tuesday, **December 5** from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Bellaire United Methodist Church, 4417 Bellaire Blvd., 77401. Thank you for your compassion, love of neighbor, and generous spirit. Please RSVP by email to Keatan at keatan@saintphilip.net.

ST. PHILIP FAMILIES

On **Saturday, December 9** 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.

SEAFARERS BOXES

Please join the youth in packing the seafarers’ Christmas boxes this year on **Dec. 10** at 4:30 p.m. in the Dining Room. A light supper will be provided afterward. There will be no caroling at the Port of Houston this year. Unfortunately, the *Sam Houston* is stuck in the Ship Channel as a result of the silt settlement from Hurricane Harvey.

SPONSOR A FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS

Once again, St. Philip will be sponsoring families through Kids Meals. These are families that can benefit from our generosity of giving so that their Christmas morning will be made brighter and more joyous with gifts. Your generosity will be essential in helping twelve families experience the generous spirit of the Christmas season. Each Sunday through **December 10** in the Gathering Area, you will have the opportunity to get information about these families. Sponsor a mom, dad, or one or more children. Have a Sunday School class, Circle, youth group, or individual families sponsor a whole family! Gather the gifts here at church; in mid-December, experience the joy of delivering these gifts to families who will benefit from your care and compassion. If you cannot sponsor family members, your monetary donation can go to provide gift cards for each family denoted with *Kids Meals* in memo.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

DUERR LECTURE SERIES

Speaker for the 21st Annual Duerr Lecture Series, **February 25, 26, and 27, 2018**, will be Rev. Dr. D. Cameron (Cam) Murchison, Professor of Ministry, emeritus, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA. Dr. Murchison’s lectures, “**Children of a Greater God: Our Place in Creation**,” seek a recovered awareness of the Bible’s summons to humanity that recognizes all creation is intended for praise. Murchison says our place in this greater arc of God’s purpose is to participate in the preservation and protection of not only humanity, but of all that God has made.

Dr. Murchison will preach at the Sunday morning worship services (8:30 and 11:00) and present lectures each evening at 7:00 p.m.

GIVE A GIFT OF SONG

We have copies of the 2013 Presbyterian hymnal, *Glory to God* available that may be purchased in honor of or in memory of someone. An inscribed bookplate will recognize your gift. Hymnals are also available for individual use. Each hymnal is \$20. Return this form to the church office along with your payment. Additional forms will be available in the Gathering Area. If you wish to pay online, choose a designated gift and type Hymnal in memo line.

Your name: _____

Number of hymnals purchased: _____

In honor/memory _____

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 9-12—Room 205

Grades 3,4 & 5—Room 103 Grades 6-8—Room 206

Youth Group (Grades 6-12) - 4:30—6:30 Youth Room

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—**December 10**—*Lessons and Carols* - Explore the history and music of the traditional Anglican service of Lessons and Carols, which the St. Philip Choir will present during the 11:00 a.m. morning service on **December 24**. Join us for some background information and a preview! Presented by Dr. Randall Swanson, Music Director at St. Philip. **December 17** - *The Lego Movie* - balances smart comedy with a heartfelt story, and is often the complete opposite of what you think it is going to be with fairly dark parallels to modern society. Presented by Kate Burkart who has led film/media studies at St. Philip since 2002.

SPa—Room 200—Fall 2017: *Saving Jesus Redux*—Ever feel like Jesus has been kidnapped by one group and discarded by the other in an on-going culture war? Then join us for *Saving Jesus Redux*, a twelve-session DVD-based study from Living the Questions exploring what a credible Jesus looks like for the third millennium. Contributors include a host of other theologians, scholars, and pastors. SPa 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. Please contact Omar if you have any questions omar@saintphilip.net.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL—Room 203—**December 10** - 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. 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. Please contact Omar Rouchon if you have any questions.

WEEKDAY CLASSES

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 **December 14** will be a social at the home of Nina Lambright. 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

St. Philip's Monday evening study group is on break in December and will resume our meetings **January 8** with a new book to start off the new year! (Watch this space for more information once we make our selection.) Besides conversation, our meetings include light food and drink, fellowship, and a brief devotional. We meet in the Dining Room (in the Administration Building, at the south end of campus). Our regular meeting days are the second and fourth Mondays, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

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 **December 12** at 6:30 p.m. Details to follow.

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, **December 19** at 7 p.m. at 8th Wonder Brewery, 2202 Dallas 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.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

John Wurster leads this study Wednesday mornings at 10:30 in the Dining Room. Each week we take a look at the Scripture readings for the coming Sunday, noting the connections and the convergences, the questions and the protests. 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 Robert Estill at reestill@sbcglobal.net if you have any questions.

THANK YOU LUNCHEON

On November 28, the staff celebrated the ongoing help and support they receive from numerous church members. These individuals sometimes help in more than one area, including front desk support, database entry, music library, weekly check signers, sending memorial thank yous, proofing Sunday bulletin and Philip-eye, preparing large print hymnals, Facebook posts, and editing sound clips for webpage. They are: Bebe Burns, Tom Cavanaugh, Trudy and Dan Cleveland, Maggie Dement, Elizabeth Duerr, Ruth Ewing, Jeanie Flowers, Ada Fuller, Jo Helland, Ed Hess, Sue Howard, Roderick James, Chuck Johnson, Jane and Lee Larkin, Jane Lee, Olga Lewis, Wanda McHone, William Rowe, Rhonda Sands, Nan Schissler, Mary Sinderson, Sally Slick, Mary Ann Thomas, Sandra Truxillo, Jim Waggoner, Ruthie Waldrop, Jeanette Wennenweser. Thank you to Nadine Crain for filling in at the front desk during the luncheon.

If you have some time on your hands during the church office hours and would like to help us occasionally as a sub or regularly (every Monday afternoon needed), please contact Lorrie at lorrie@saintphilip.net or 713-622-4807.



Thank you to all of our volunteers who helped with Advent VBS on December 2. It was a great success. There were thirty children in attendance. We are grateful for the time and gifts of the following individuals: Cecy Duarte, Omi Ford, Judith Hiott, Marcia James, Carol Junkin, Elizabeth Junkin, Liz Miguez, Lori Murphy, Vanessa Nenna, Wendy Stewart, Molly Vestal, and Ruthie Waldrop.



WITH HOPE & EXPECTATION, WE GATHER TO WORSHIP THIS ADVENT.

SUNDAY MORNINGS ~ WEDNESDAYS AT 12 NOON

AS A SEASON OF THE CHURCH YEAR, ADVENT INVITES US TO REMEMBER THE GOD WHO HAS COME AMONG US IN JESUS CHRIST AND POINTS US TO THE COMING OF CHRIST TO MAKE ALL THINGS WELL IN FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PROMISED REIGN.

THE TEXTS AND TUNES OF THESE DAYS INVITE REFLECTION AND JOY
AS WE DEEPEN THE LONGINGS OF OUR HEARTS FOR A SAVIOR.

ADVENT SUNDAYS

DECEMBER 3 THE 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:30/11A.M.

ISAIAH 64:1-9 | MATTHEW 13:24-37

SERMON BY OMAR ROUCHON

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER IS CELEBRATED AT BOTH SERVICES

DECEMBER 10 THE 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:30/11A.M.

ISAIAH 40:1-11 | MARK 1:1-8

SERMON BY JOHN WURSTER

DECEMBER 17 THE 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:30/11A.M.

ISAIAH 61:1-4 | LUKE 1:46-55

SERMON BY KEATAN KING

DECEMBER 24 THE 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT [NO 8:30 SERVICE]

A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS 11A.M.

PRESENTED BY THE ST. PHILIP CHOIR,
RANDALL SWANSON - CONDUCTOR
& MATTHEW DIRST - ORGANIST



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES 5:30 AND 8 P.M.

WEDNESDAYS OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 6, 13 & 20 AT 12 NOON

LET HEAVEN AND NATURE SING

PSALMS, PROPHETS & PRAYERS WITH HOLY COMMUNION

SERVICES FOLLOWED AT 12:30 BY LUNCH IN THE GATHERING AREA

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

November 2017

Stated Session Meeting – November 14

- ✦ Session approved the following addition to St. Philip Manual of Operations: "The Finance Committee shall review and make appropriate recommendations to Session concerning any proposed non-budgeted expenditures in excess of \$100,000 or non-replacement capital expenditures in excess of \$100,000."
- ✦ Session approved additional funding of \$200 to the St. Philip Stitches.
- ✦ Session approved, retroactively, the collection of contributions to Refugee Services of Texas during the Refugee Equipping workshop on November 4.
- ✦ Session approved transfers of July – September 2017 property expenses to Reserve for Replacement totaling \$17,975.06.
- ✦ Session approved changes to the following worship services in December:
 - **December 24** services at 11:00 a.m. (Lessons & Carols), 5:30 p.m. (Children/Family) and 8:00 p.m. (Communion)
 - **December 31** service at 11:00 a.m.
- ✦ No 8:30 a.m. service on **December 24** or **31**.
- ✦ Session approved for the Advent VBS on December 2 having Carol Junkin direct the event, with volunteers including Ruthie Waldrop, Marcia James, Liz Miguez, Vanessa Nena, Omi Ford, Elizabeth Junkin, Wendy Steward, Lori Murphy, and Stephanie Miguez.
- ✦ Session approved new curriculum from SPARK HOUSE for use with the Junior High Sunday School Class. <https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/teens/echothestory/36/try/>
- ✦ Session approved for the 2018 January Term- God's Family at Worship
 - 01/7- Communion with Omar Rouchon and Tim Burgess
 - 01/14- Baptism with Emily Owen (pending confirmation) and Liz Miguez
 - 01/21- Worship and the church calendar with John Wurster
 - 01/28- Music with Randall Swanson, Cecy Durate, and Matthew Dirst
- ✦ Session approved for the Confirmation Class, beginning **January 7, 2018**.
- ✦ Session approved the collection of the Presbyterian Women Thank Offering at their annual Christmas Luncheon on **December 10**.
- ✦ Session endorsed Elizabeth Junkin applying to serve as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate from New Covenant Presbytery to the meeting of the General Assembly in 2018.

Committee Actions:

- ✦ Mission Committee has set the Alternative Gift Market on Sunday, November 19 9:30 – 1:30 Fellowship Hall, with a Soup and Bread Lunch – suggested price \$5, and all proceeds from the market not otherwise designated to go to Kids Against Hunger.
- ✦ Mission Committee has decided all current and potential Mission Partners will be asked to submit an application to request 2018 funding, with a letter of explanation and a form to be mailed out in November that includes a **January 15, 2018** deadline.
- ✦ Mission Committee has planned to raise awareness of how members volunteer by inviting members during the six Sundays in Lent to fill out a card indicating where and for how many hours they have served that week, having these cards placed in the offering plates as another way of giving, and tallying and printing the results in the bulletin.
- ✦ Property Committee has approved the recommendation that the Administration Building second floor stucco be repaired, sealed and repainted, noting similar dryness and damage as the 1st floor (now repaired), and that some of the columns be repainted at the same time. Approval is contingent on receiving two bids that will be circulated to the Committee for final approval.
- ✦ Education Committee has approved holding no Sunday School classes on **December 24**.
- ✦ Education Committee has approved holding one Sunday School gathering on **December 31** to include Christmas hymns plus intergenerational crafts and discussions.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Beth Hendrickson—in hospice	Ruth Siciliano moved to Woodhaven Village in Conroe
Ian Pearce — recuperating from a broken hip	Rusty Howard—hospitalized at M.D. Anderson
Wanda McHone—coping with shingles	Ruth Weber—at Belmont Village, Hunter's Creek
Barbara Rathgeber—receiving dialysis	
Carol Paine Kendrick—sister of Stephen Paine, hospitalized with health concerns	
Erica Stokes — daughter of Curt and Sharon Webb, ongoing vision issues	
Elizabeth Carlton Lithio—granddaughter of Jeanie Flowers, health concerns	
Diane Boddington Nahajzer—Laura Burgess' aunt receiving cancer treatments	
Steve Smith—Shelley Smith's brother receiving cancer treatment	

Friends of St. Philipians—Cathy Waxler-of Pat Lindsay; Kimmie Hatfield-of Stephen Paine; Barry McCarthy-of Wayne and Sandra Truxillo; Jack Wetmore-of Wayne and Sandra Truxillo; Grady Reed-of Stephen Paine

Recuperating at Home

Joe Ann Berwick, George Helland, T.E. "Joe" Keever, Philip McDaniel, Carey Murphey, Alice Pennington, Van Rathgeber, Greg Scalpino, Penny Vieau