

PHILIP-EYE

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

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April 17, 2018



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Associate Pastor

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Associate Pastor

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INTRODUCING
THE NEW APP
My ST. PHILIP

ST. PHILIP TO BECOME AN EARTH CARE CONGREGATION

At its March meeting, the St. Philip Session approved a proposal by the Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee to work toward becoming a certified Earth Care Congregation, a designation granted by the PC(USA) to congregations who meet sustainability goals set by the program. As the first step in the process, the Session affirmed the Earth Care Pledge (text printed below) which was signed by the Clerk.

Over the next nine months the committee will document our current efforts toward sustainability by completing the Earth Care Audit provided by the program. We will also be setting goals to increase our commitment to stewardship of God's creation.

As part of our celebration of Earth Day this Sunday, **April 22**, we will be sharing information about the PC(USA) Earth Care Program and audit, getting your ideas and feedback on St. Philip's Earth Care efforts, and signing up friends who would like to help with the effort.

In addition, you can join in the Earth Care effort at our paperless Earth Day services or join in the following activities:

9:30-10:30 a.m.

☞ Living Waters for the World: Clean Water for a Generation - Presented by David Fox in Church and Society Sunday School Class

9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

☞ Equal Exchange Sale: Buy coffee, teas, chocolate, etc. that support sustainable farming.

☞ Seed and Seedling Giveaway/Exchange: Bring seeds/seedlings for others or take some home.

10:40-10:55 a.m. and 12:15-12:30 p.m.

☞ Garden Tours: Interested persons meet Cathy Patterson at the garden behind the Fellowship Hall

Earth Care Pledge

Peace and justice is God's plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God, we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.

1. Our **worship** and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation and declare that God calls us to cherish, protect and restore this earth.
2. In **education**, we will seek learning and teaching opportunities to know and understand the threats to God's creation and the damage already inflicted. We will encourage and support each other in finding ways of keeping and healing the creation in response to God's call to earth-keeping, justice and community.
3. Our **facilities** will be managed, maintained and upgraded in a manner that respects and cherishes all creation, human and non-human, while meeting equitably the needs of all people. In our buildings and on our grounds we will use energy efficiently, conserve resources, and share what we have in abundance so that God's holy creation will be sustainable for all life and future generations.
4. Our **outreach** will encourage public policy and community involvement that protects and restores the vulnerable and degraded earth as well as oppressed and neglected people. We will be mindful that our personal and collective actions can positively or negatively affect our neighborhood, region, nation and world. We will seek to achieve environmental justice through coalitions and ecumenical partnerships.

For more information about the Earth Care Congregation Program, go to
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/earth-care-congregations/>

CLERK OF SESSION

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS MARCH 2018

CALLED SESSION MEETING – MARCH 18

- ✦ Session received into membership Melissa Polka by reaffirmation of faith.

STATED SESSION MEETING – MARCH 20

- ✦ Session received into membership Sally DeMent by letter of transfer from Presbytery of New Covenant.
- ✦ Session approved the transfer of membership letters of Randy and Cathy Steward to San Marino Community Church (Presbyterian), San Marino, CA.
- ✦ Session approved allocating \$10,000 from the Technology Fund for the Sanctuary video project.
- ✦ Session approved changing the name of the Communications Committee to Communications and Technology.
- ✦ Session approved the May recipient of the Communion Offerings be Christian Community Service Center (CCSC).
- ✦ Session approved allocation of the 2018 Mission budget totaling \$162,740, which included five new Mission Partners. Mission Committee had evaluated thirty-two applications that had requested a total of \$227,516. Separately from this allocation, \$45,000 will go to Presbytery of New Covenant.
- ✦ Session approved the Earth Care Pledge (*You can read this on page 1.*)

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

- ✦ Communications Committee has approved advertisement in the Presbyterian Outlook General Assembly issue.
- ✦ Fellowship Committee (Amye Webster) has signed as “beneficiary” on behalf of St. Philip for Nicholas Arlinghaus’ Eagle Scout project proposal to Boy Scouts of America, Sam Houston Area Council. Nicholas plans to renovate the storage closet in the Fellowship Hall so that it can function as both a better storage area and can become a location for preparing beverages for use at church functions (lemonade, tea, coffee, etc.).
- ✦ Property Committee has approved proceeding with a proposed study that Ed Hess had received from Reserve Advisors to forecast the church’s future Reserve for Replacement needs.

ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS

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

THROWBACK ST. PHILIP

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



HANDY MAN

Member Governor Frazier is at your service if you need someone to weed, plant, mulch your flower beds, hang pictures, hall trash away (he has access to a truck), or can help you identify contractors on many home projects.

Please contact Governor to discuss rates and jobs at: 832-512-3648 or

governorfrazier1955@gmail.com

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

Youth Group (Grades 6-12) - will meet **April 22** after worship for Kids Against Hunger in the Sandra Y. Cooper Kitchen and Dining Room.

BIBLE STUDY—Room 204—After completing the story of David in 1 Samuel—1 Kings: 1-2, we are now studying The Psalms, primarily from the NRSV and Dr. Robert Alter's *The Book of Psalms: A Translation with Commentary*. We also consider the insights of other translations and scholars to deepen our understanding of God's continuing message of faithfulness to His people. Al Waldrop is leading the discussion while Nancy Cook is on sabbatical this spring. All are welcome.

CHURCH & SOCIETY—Room 201— **April 22** - *Living Waters for the World - Clean Water for a Generation* Living Waters for the World is a global ministry that provides sustainable clean water and fosters long-term, mutually beneficial relationships between volunteers and communities in need. Learn how Living Waters for the World trains volunteers to establish and lead water mission teams that partner with international communities to implement water purification systems and health education. Presented by David Fox, a volunteer with Living Waters for the World. **April 29** - *Sodzo International - To Advance the Well-being of the World's Most Vulnerable Children* - The vision of Sodzo is a world where all children possess the opportunity to discover and actualize their God-given potential. Presented by Rev. Dr. Michael Goodman.

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—**April 22** - 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 we are studying is "Preaching The Women of the Old Testament; Who They Were and Why They Matter" written by Lynn Japinga. The men who wish to participate should bring a bag lunch; refreshments will be provided. The group wraps up promptly at 1:00 p.m. Please contact Gary Gardner at ggardne148@aol.com if you have any questions.

MONDAY EVENING STUDY GROUP

Join the discussion in the Dining Room (in the Administration Building, at the south end of campus) **April 23** 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 concluding part 2 (There's more to morality than harm and fairness), with chapter 8 (The conservative advantage). 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, **April 24** at 7 p.m., Moontower Inn, 3004 Canal 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 **May 8** at 6:30 p.m. Axelrad Beer Garden, 1517 Alabama St., 77004.

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. We will discuss *I'll Give You the Sun* by Jandy Nelson at our next meeting on **May 10**. We will meet at the home of Jessie Fair. This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. For more information contact Sarah O'Dell at: sarah.odell6@gmail.com.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

ST. PHILIP PW GIVE THANKS

St. Philip Presbyterian Women sincerely give thanks for all those who generously contributed to the recent celebration of the Birthday Offering. \$1,607.01 was collected and will be donated to three well-deserving, life-changing ministries. The ministries are:

✦ **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.

✦ **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. 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, MN**

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.

PW ONE-DAY RETREAT

The PW one-day Women's Retreat was held March 24 at St. Philip. Inspired chef, Chuck Johnson, catered yummy breakfast and lunch fare. After finishing breakfast, weather permitted our group to venture out-of-doors where Julia Fox led a light stretch class. *A LAUNCH INTO CRITICAL WOMEN'S HEALTH AND WELLNESS ISSUES* was the focus of this year's retreat. St. Philip member and oncologist Dr. Janet Macheledt, enlightened our group about "What is Cancer?" Following lunch, we reconvened to the Dining Room, where Mary Benson accompanied us on the piano as we sang *Loving Spirit*. Erica Smith, a spokesperson from Planned Parenthood then addressed our group about Public Health: "Women's Health Care in Texas." At the conclusion of Ms. Smith's presentation, Rev. Candice Richey Womak led the Worship and Communion service. At the conclusion of the worship service, several women met at Berryhill's for happy hour, dinner, and fellowship. Mary McGuire—photographer extraordinaire—snapped a great group picture of those who attended the Retreat. That photo can be seen in the April 3, 2018 edition of the Philip-Eye.

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

WORSHIP & MUSIC

SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS

The next service of healing and wholeness will be **April 22**. 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.

DUERR LECTURE SERIES NEWS

The speaker for next year's Duerr Lecture Series, **February 24, 25, & 26, 2019** will be the Rev. Dr. Clifton (Cliff) Kirkpatrick, Professor of World Christianity and Ecumenical Studies and the William A. Benfield Jr. Professor of Evangelism and Global Missions at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Dr. Kirkpatrick holds degrees from Davidson College, Yale University and McCormick Theological Seminary. An ordained minister in the PCUSA, Kirkpatrick has served as Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, as President of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC), and in leadership roles in the National and World Council of Churches, and on the General Assembly Special Committee on the Belhar Confession. He served for several years as Director of Houston Metropolitan Ministries (now Interfaith Ministries) and was active at St. Philip during those years. We look forward to welcoming Dr. Kirkpatrick as our speaker for 2019.



2018

Rev. D. Cameron Murchison, Ph.D.
Professor of Ministry, emeritus
Columbia Theological Seminary

Presenting Lectures
"Children of a Greater God: Our Place in Creation"

Duerr Lecture Series recordings are available.
visit: saintphilip.net

MISSION COMMITTEE

KNITTING FOR A CAUSE

Knitters - it's time to start knitting for the Christmas SeaFarer Boxes for this year. We average 125 boxes. We currently have thirty-five hats, so we need you to consider- in your down time or devotional time - to make some hats for this Mission Project. We can send you tags for the hats or you can pick them up in the Sea Farer Mailbox in the Mail Room. A pattern is available on the SPPC website, in the Mail Room, or design your own. Crochet hats are also accepted. Usually the craft room has yarn you can use for this project, or use your own. Thank you for your time and talent. Any questions email Sue Shirley Howard-sue@fluencyhouston.com.

LORD OF THE STREETS

The next date for us to serve breakfast to the homeless is Sunday, **May 6**. We gather at St. Philip parking lot at 6:30 a.m. to carpool to Trinity Episcopal Church and are back at the church by 9:00 a.m. in time for Sunday school. We need fifteen volunteers. If this date is good for you, please call Janet Davis at 713-464-2385 to take part in this gratifying project.

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 Blvd.

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.

SPPC VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR INTERFAITH MINISTRIES (IM) OPERATION IMPACT JUNE 2

In preparation of hurricane season, Interfaith Ministries (IM) Meals-On-Wheels program needs volunteer groups to deliver shelf-stable meals and bottled water to all of their 4,000 homebound seniors in our community. These seniors are unable to prepare for disasters due to mobility issues. IM wants to make sure their homebound seniors are prepared with a week's worth of food and clean water in cases drivers cannot reach them due to a weather event.



Please be part of "Team St. Philip!" We need about 60 volunteers for our St. Philip team to meet our goal of delivering to 120 seniors. On the morning of **June 2**, a team of volunteers will retrieve the supplies and bring them to St. Philip.

At that time, teams of volunteers will then deliver to our assigned seniors. You will deliver a five-pack of shelf stable meals (a small box) as well as a case of water.

Please look for an online signup at the church's website beginning **April 22**. You may also call the Rev. Greg Han at 713-533-4904 or email at ghan@img.org to sign up or to get more information. This is a one-time volunteer opportunity that the Mission Committee hopes you will respond to.

JOHN BLOW CLEARING HOUSE

The Clearing House is the place to bring all discards: books, clothing, household items, anything and everything, excluding furniture and computers. These items will be passed on to various agencies that are supported by our church. These include Christian Community Service Center, The Women's Home, SEARCH, and House of Tiny Treasures.

The Clearing House is located in the stand-alone brick building by the staff parking lot. It is open on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. During the week the key is available in the Front Office.

John Blow was a member of St. Philip many years ago, Janet Davis recalls. John may not have started the Clearing House, but he managed it for many years in a small shed. Once the classrooms were added, the current building went unused, so John and others proposed to use it for the Clearing House and soon handed the reins over to Mrs. Davis. Eventually, upon John's death the church named it the John Blow Clearing House.

Many, many thanks to Don & Janet Davis, Tom Lewis and Paul Pennington for their great help with the Clearing House these days.



In March, the congregation donated \$1,213.88 to the Women's Home. This will help many disadvantaged women get their lives back on track.

Additionally, during the Super Bowl of Caring, the First Presbyterian Church—

Pasadena youth collected \$1,100 and decided to dedicate that to our own Kids Against Hunger!

THE WOMEN'S HOME

Thank you to everyone who donated items and/or money to package fifty-five Easter boxes. Thank you to Sharon Webb for coordinating and delivering the boxes.

"We are grateful for your investment in our organization, which has been allocated to our WholeLife® program.. Your gift will help us reach out to our residents who are struggling to build a whole life, leaving behind crisis and chaos" wrote Julie Comiskey, Chief Development Officer of The Women's Home.

ST. PHILIP T-SHIRT ALERT!

If you ordered a t-shirt, they can be picked up in the church office. If you ordered a *Short Sleeve* LARGE t-shirt and received a *Long Sleeve* LARGE instead, please inform Anne Wilson and bring it to church so we can make the exchange.

You're Cordially Invited to Attend



The Inaugural Gershenson Lecture

Featuring

Imam Yahya Hendi
Muslim Chaplain,
Georgetown University

**“Many Faiths,
 One Humanity:
 United for the
 Common Good”**

Wednesday, April 25, 2018 | 7:30 p.m.
 St. Philip Presbyterian Church
 4807 San Felipe
 Houston, Texas 77056

Registration opens at 7:00 p.m.
 Formal program begins at 7:30 p.m.
 Dessert reception to follow lecture.
 RSVPs required

RSVP Here

Seating capacity is limited.



*The Gershenson Lecture was established to honor **Elliot Gershenson**, President Emeritus of Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston. Focusing on topics of religion, ethics, and peace, these lectures have, at their core, the mission of educating, inspiring, and providing a platform for understanding.*



A sought after-speaker, Imam Hendi is the Muslim chaplain at Georgetown University, the first American university to hire a full-time Muslim chaplain. Imam Hendi has presented a multitude of interfaith and general lectures in the United States, Asia, Africa, Europe, Central Asia, Eastern Europe, Australia and the Middle East over the past 14 years, including more than 62 countries and 45 US states. Imam Hendi's undergraduate and graduate education are in Islamic Studies and comparative religions with interest in inter-religious dialogue and relations. In 2012, Imam Hendi was named as one of the world's 500 most influential Muslims for his work as an interfaith dialogue activist and trainer. His presentation will focus on the importance of dialogue as a way of fostering respect and understanding and challenging stereotypes and prejudice.

We offer our sincere gratitude to TRUTH, St. Philip Presbyterian Church, and IM's Multi-Faith Council for their support of this event.

