

PHILIP-EYE

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
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Newsletter Editor

Susan Estill
Editor Emerita

THE 21-DAY RACE EQUITY CHALLENGE

Are you looking for a way to better understand the experiences of racial injustice that many of our brothers and sisters face daily? Do you want to go beyond what you might already know, to engage in a meaningful way with the history and stories that have contributed to the moment in which we find ourselves as a nation? If so, the Session invites you to participate in the 21-Day Race Equity Challenge.

The Challenge was developed by Myers Park Presbyterian Church, in Charlotte, NC, for their congregation, and has since spread far and wide, with almost 1400 people from around the country, of all faith traditions and none, participating. The Challenge invites participants, over 21 days, to *read, listen, watch,* and *notice*, using linked resources provided. All the resources are of a manageable size (for instance, the longest video is an hour and 40 minutes), making the Challenge easy to incorporate into your daily routine. There are also age-appropriate resources for children if you would like to supplement those that Omar has already shared with your family. And if you value tracking and accountability, a tool for that is also available. The process invites us on a journey to become more aware, compassionate, constructive, engaged people in the quest for racial equity.

Ready to get started? Go to <https://myersparkpres.org/project/better-when-were-back-together/> to read Myers Parks' introduction, add your name to those persons seeking to educate themselves, and choose your first activity! Let's begin the work of healing the racial wounds in our society and culture – work that we are committed to continue when the 21-Day Challenge ends.



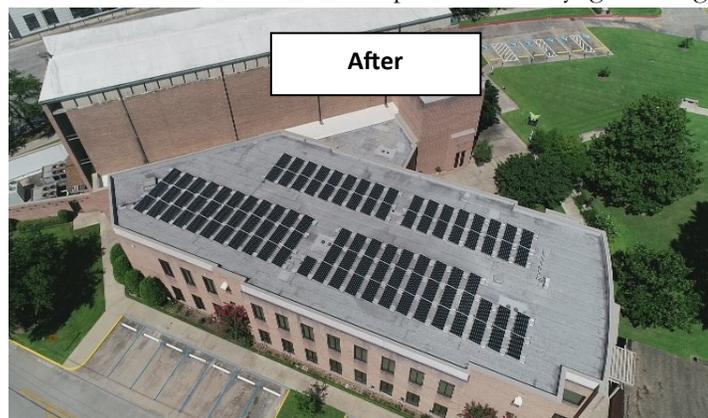
ST. PHILIP GOES SOLAR

There are now 101 solar panels on the education building potentially generating 25% of the electrical needs of the sanctuary and the education building! Looked at another way, our campus now has a 51-acre forest (over 1000 trees) on the roof of the education building. Each year this “forest” prevents the deposit of 46 tons of carbon dioxide in the air!



Each panel rigidly attaches to an aluminum frame that rests on the roof. Heavy concrete blocks hold the frames in place. This means there are no roof penetrations, eliminating the possibility of water leaks. In addition, the area covered by the panels will shade the roof, keeping it cooler and further reducing electrical needs. The panels represent the first source of electricity. When the need exceeds their output, we derive the additional electricity from the grid. Because current conditions have dramatically reduced the use of the sanctuary and education building, the panels might be able to provide all the needed electricity.

A presentation by Walker Fair to the Church and Society class over a year ago started St. Philip’s journey toward a solar project. Walker works for Texas Solar Outfitters and his presentation focused on the technology and application of solar panels for both residential and commercial use. Walker’s presentation inspired two class attendees, John and Judy Hartman, who, knowing that St. Philip was an Earth Care Congregation, wanted to help the church expand its commitment to environmental preservation by generating



some of its electricity from the sun. After conversations between the Hartmans and church staff,

the Property Committee, chaired by Scott Easterly, formed a subcommittee to investigate the possibility of a solar project. The subcommittee (Dan Cleveland, Elizabeth Duerr, Ed Hess, Judith Hiott, Chuck Seidel, Curt Webb, and Gary Whitney) met for the first time in September 2019. Over the next four months, they investigated various solar providers, the strength and physical status of roofs on campus and, a business proposal by John and Judy. In the end, the decision was that the education building was the best place to install the panels. After careful consideration and review by the church’s lawyers and Trustees, the Session approved a lease agreement with Covenant Solar Power, LLC, (CSP), a company formed by John and Judy. For the next 15 years the church pays CSP for the electricity generated by the panels. At the end of that time, the panels become the property of St. Philip and the electricity they generate is free. Today several electric providers derive all their electricity from non-fossil fuel sources. As the Property Committee approaches the time to renew contracts with the church’s electric provider, it may be feasible to move to a renewable energy provider, so all electricity used by St. Philip does not result in generation of more greenhouse gases.



St. Philip, through the leadership of our outstanding staff and Session, witnesses to the city our commitment to preserve God’s creation. Even though we are currently unable to worship side-by-side in the sanctuary, that does not prevent us from making an impact. The church is the people, and we the people of St. Philip continue our commitment to care for God’s creation.

Hope Wilmarth has designed this beautiful solar-power-themed banner, titled -

“Powered by the Heavens,”



WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS...

Exploiting a person through force, fraud, or coercion

Anyone under the age of 18 involved in a commercial sex act

Sex trafficking, forced labor, and domestic servitude

A highly profitable crime

Exploitation-based and does not require movement across borders or any type of transportation

THERE ARE DIFFERENT TYPES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SEX TRAFFICKING

Victims are manipulated or forced against their will to engage in sex acts for money.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS HAPPENING IN THE UNITED STATES



SUBURBS



RURAL TOWNS



CITIES

FORCED LABOR

Victims are made to work for little or no pay. Very often, they are forced to manufacture or grow products that we use and consume every day.



DOMESTIC SERVITUDE

Victims are hidden in plain sight, forced to work in homes across the United States as nannies, maids, or domestic help.



IT CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE

NO MATTER AGE, RACE, GENDER IDENTITY, SEX, ETHNICITY, NATIONALITY, IMMIGRATION STATUS, AND SOCIOECONOMIC CLASS



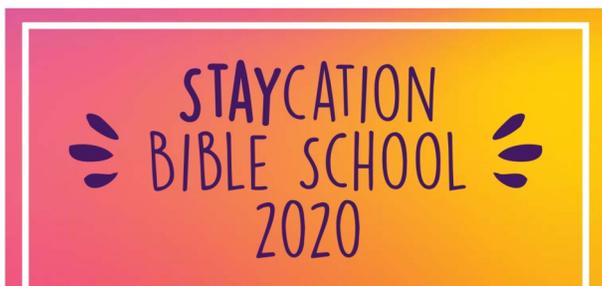
VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING MIGHT BE AFRAID TO COME FORWARD, OR WE MAY NOT RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS, EVEN IF IT IS HAPPENING RIGHT IN FRONT OF US.

RECOGNIZE AND REPORT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- To report suspected trafficking to federal law enforcement, call 1-866-347-2423 or submit a tip online at www.ice.gov/tips.
- Get help from the National Human Trafficking Hotline by calling 1-888-373-7888 or text HELP or INFO to 233733 (BEFREE).
- Call 911 or local law enforcement if someone is in immediate danger.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Visit the Blue Campaign website to learn more about the **indicators** of human trafficking: DHS.gov/BlueCampaign.
- Use Blue Campaign **materials** to raise awareness of human trafficking in your community.
- Follow @DHSBlueCampaign on **Facebook**, **Instagram**, and **Twitter**.



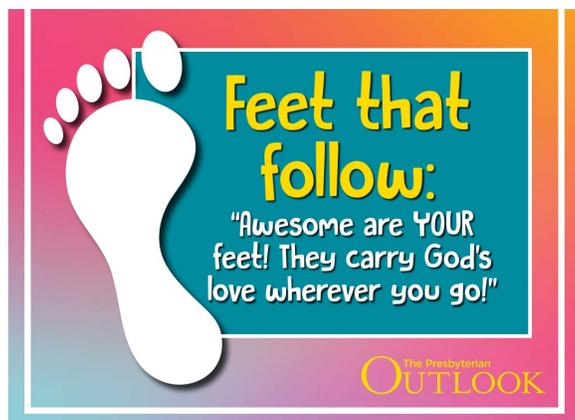
This summer join your church family as we travel with Jesus and learn about the many experiences of his journey. We remember that no matter where we are, or where we go, God is always with us. You, your family and your friends are invited to an adventure to explore the message of God's love.

Activities include: Art, music, recreation and exploration and daily bible lessons. Be on the lookout for special visitors, too!

There are many ways to engage:

- ✚ Invite a youth or an older adult in your child's life to lead them through the lessons
- ✚ Participate in some lessons as you gather as a family at the end of the day
- ✚ If traveling out of town this summer, bring along the activities to do with others
- ✚ Share the lessons with other children who live near you

More Details to Come Soon!



WHO'S ZOOMING WHOM?

A few of the groups at St. Philip continue to meet during this time via Zoom and other video conference services. The session has had meetings, book club, church committees and Church and Society. We even have Sunday Coffee Hour. If you would like to participate in future meetings, please contact the appropriate group's leader.

Sunday Coffee Hour—Gather with fellow St. Philipians to talk about the sermons, hear about their week and what helped them get through the week. The Coffee Hour begins after the closing voluntary. Once we have a majority in the meeting, participants are sent to smaller breakout rooms so you have a more intimate group. The groups will randomly be assigned each week. Email Lorrie Castle at lorrie@saintphilip.net to be added to the list.

Women's Monthly Book Club—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. Our next meeting is July 9 at 7 p.m. We will discuss *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles led by Janet Hess. Contact Sarah O'Dell for Zoom link – sarah.odell6@gmail.com.

Midweek Bible Study with John Wurster—A look at the Bible readings for the coming Sunday. Email John for details and to get on the list - john@saintphilip.net

Presbyterian Women—will host a happy hour on July 14 from 6:30 –7:30.

ONLINE WORSHIP CHAT TIP

One of the unexpected pleasures of worshiping online as the service is airing is being able to “chat” with our fellow worshipers – “talking” online by typing in text-based messages. It is a great joy to exchange greetings and comments with each other as we gather and experience live worship. And it is always interesting to see the names of our St. Philip family in the chat. If you would like to change your “name” – the text that displays in **bold** in the chat screen each time you comment – it's very easy!

- Just hover your pointing device (mouse, finger, stylus pen, whatever!) at the upper right of the list of names in the chat until you see an icon of two heads.
- Select that, then go through the list to what has been displaying as your screen name. There will be a little carat (^) by that text.
- Select the carat and you can edit your nickname.

Looking forward to seeing {your name here} in online worship soon!

By *Kate Burkart*

Visit the [Children's Page](#) on the St. Philip website. This a place that intends to help keep families connected to the church during this time of distance and separation. Be on the lookout for brief worship videos from Omar in the children's chapel and resources for faith formation at home. There are links to Godly Play stories, prayers and sharing activities to do around the dinner table. You can access the Children's Page using the icon on the home page of the church site.

Children with their Pentecost Pinwheels from Rev. Omar.

Pictures from the following families: Benard; Brewer-Fox; Burgess; Carlin; Fair; Stevenson; and Vahora.



IN OUR PRAYERS

The family of Donna Host, who died on Saturday, June 27 in her home.

Alice Pennington and family upon the death of her husband Paul on Sunday, June 28 in their home.

Lorraine Lyter-Reed and family upon the death of her sister Linda Lucille Lyter Lacrosse on June 25.

Rev. Paul Debenport and family upon the death of his wife, Nona Debenport, July 5 in Tucson, Arizona. Paul served as associate pastor at St. Philip from 1971 to 1981.

Congratulations to Omar Rouchon who welcomed his first niece Elodie Rouchon on June 20.

St. Philippians and their families— Marion Takehara; Peg Palisin; Emily Estill; Travis Calhoun; Jeanne West; Greg Moore; CJ Miller; Lonnie Fugit; Mezgebe Gebray; Vera Moore—mother of Chuck Johnson; Barney Haley—uncle of Lorrie Castle; Kelsey Higgs Gallegos & family—daughter of Nancy Higgs; Dottie Laas and family—cousin of Sam Fisher; Alice Barron—sister-in-law to Beth Atkinson; Nikolaus Malczewskyj—father-in-law of Jane Malczewskyj; David Block—brother-in-law of Nancy Lomax; John Beck—brother of Nancy Young; Margie Foster—mother of Mark Young; Tom Martin—father of Jon Martin; Dorothy McMillan—mother of Nancy Higgs; Barbara Wilson—sister-in-law of Connie Mayfield; Jack & Pauline Kindig—brother/sister-in-law of Ginny Camfield; Shirley and Weldon Boggus, Sr.—grandparents of Omi Ford; Jimmy Reagan—father of Sarah O'Dell; Dona Rowe—mother of William Rowe; Elizabeth Carlton Lithio—granddaughter of Jeanie Flowers; and Ann Morgan—sister of Dorothy Blackwell.

Homebound: Sue Baier; Walter Baker; Joe Anne Berwick; John Bobbitt; Paulie Carlson; Kitty Curry; Jane English; Barbara German; George Helland; Arlette Keene; T.E. "Joe" Kever; Toto McGehee; Joyce Randolph; Van Rathgeber; Jean Nelson; Jody Tomforde; Penny Vieau; and Ruth Weber.

Friends of St. Philippians: David Shebay—friend of Greg Han; Kathleen Davies and family—friend of Chuck Johnson; Craig and Jamie Slein—friends of Steve Carmichael; Melissa and Sela Calvert—friends of Kay Cash; Dorcas Rhodes—friend of Jan Meyer; Dave Olson and Clayton Amacker—friends of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; Shirley Stubblefield—friend of Barbara Runge; and Walter "Buddy"

We also pray for health care workers, first responders, and caregivers; for those who are sick; and for those watch and wait.

If you have a pastoral care need or a prayer request you would like to share, please email deacons@saintphilip.net.

Pledge payments and other gifts to support the Church can be made anytime through our website (<http://saintphilip.net/>) or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056.

Next edition: July 21

Stay connected with regular emails from the pastors until then.

If you have any comments or suggestions for the Philip-Eye, please send them to: philipeye@saintphilip.net or call 713-622-4807 and ask for Lorrie.



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS



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