

# PHILIP-EYE

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

Volume 60, Number 21

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Associate Pastor

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Pastor Emeritus

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Director of Music

**Dr. Matthew Dirst**  
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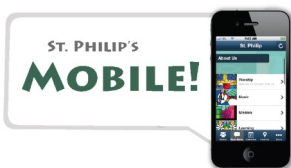
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STAY CONNECTED!

Houston, Texas

October 4, 2016

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Welcoming and Membership Committee welcome the following new members and invite you to do the same:

**Dorothy Blackwell**—Dorothy comes to us by letter of transfer from First Presbyterian Church, Houston where she served as a Deacon and Elder. Dorothy grew up in Hereford, Texas, and attended Texas Tech University. She is a retired teacher and currently serves on the Board of United Campus Ministry of Greater Houston (UCMGH). Dorothy is Guinn Blackwell Eagleson mother, whom we know as the former University of Houston Campus Ministry pastor and guest pastor at SPPC.

Dorothy knew us through friends, and enjoyed our worship, friendly congregation, our ministers and staff and our music and programs offered. She is interested in the many opportunities offered by education, worship, missions, and fellowship.

**Michelle Aldrich**—Michelle comes to us by letter of transfer from First Presbyterian Church, Houston. She grew up in Houston, and is currently studying law at University of Houston. She stays active by playing adult league soccer a few times a week.

Michelle is the daughter of Guy and Melissa Aldrich. She likes our friendly congregation, and is interested in involvement in the Peacemaking and Social Justice committee.

**Mary Bates Bentsen**—Mary comes to us by letter of transfer from First Presbyterian Church, Houston. She grew up in Houston and attended River Oaks Elementary, Kinkaid, Lamar High School, Mt. Vernon College and University of Texas at Austin.

Mary currently lives at The Hallmark. She has always known of our church and found the worship, congregation, staff, music, and the location to be the perfect match. Mary indicates interest in worship, welcoming and membership, fellowship, and peacemaking and social justice.

**Virginia McMaster**—Virginia, or Ginger as she is sometimes called, has come to us by letter of transfer from Memorial Drive Presbyterian, via the Presbytery of New Covenant. She grew up in Baton Rouge, LA and attended college at University of Houston where she earned a B.S. in Finance. Virginia is a retired certified financial planner. Now that she has time outside of work, she enjoys adventure travels, bird-watching, and singing in multiple choirs including SPPC. She is an accomplished alto!

Virginia comes from a pastoral family; her father was a Disciples of Christ minister in Baton Rouge. She heard about SPPC from friends and liked our staff, congregation, music program and the variety of additional programs offered.

**Thomas Jack Weeda Jr.**—Tom comes to us by reaffirmation of faith from Grace Community Church in Raleigh, N.C. He grew up in western Michigan and northwest New Mexico, and studied at New Mexico School of Mines. Currently he is the Senior Manager of Environmental, Health and Safety Audits.

Tom's hobbies are traveling and birding. He found our church by our website, and was attracted to SPPC by our worship service, friendly congregation, music program, and the location. Tom indicates he is interested stewardship and peacemaking and social justice.



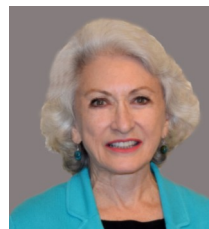
Dorothy Blackwell



Michelle Aldrich



Mary Bentsen



Virginia McMaster



Tom Weeda

## Dear Friends,

Omar Rouchon joined our staff in June of 2015, having just graduated from Harvard Divinity School. Though he had received the Master of Divinity degree from Harvard, Omar still had further requirements to meet before he could be ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA), and so he was given the title "Ministry Associate." In this role, Omar has provided leadership for our educational ministry, particularly with children and families. Additionally, he has shepherded our Primitimers program, resourced various committees, and shared in pastoral visitations and worship leadership. Essentially, Omar has functioned among us as a pastor, though without the full credentials and sanction that ordination confers.

Over this past year, Omar has completed all of his ordination requirements, including a final assessment by his home presbytery in New York. Now that he is eligible for ordination, the Session has inquired with our presbytery about a process through which a call might be extended to him and he could then be ordained and installed as associate pastor at St. Philip.

While other staff members are hired by action of the Session, pastors are called by the vote of the congregation with the concurrence of the presbytery. Ordinarily, the call process involves the congregation electing a pastor nominating committee, which is tasked with conducting a search and bringing a final candidate to the congregation for election, a process that can take a year or more. Recognizing that our situation with Omar falls outside the ordinary course, the presbytery has given us permission to pursue a stream-lined process known as a designated pastor search.

In this process, the congregation still elects a pastor nominating committee (PNC), which then conducts a search and brings a final candidate to the congregation for election. However, rather than initiating a general search that might generate scores of names, the PNC will receive a small selection of possible candidates directly from the presbytery; one of the suggested candidates will be Omar. After reviewing the materials from those persons the presbytery has sent, the PNC can decide if it wants to conduct further interviews. This review and consideration is the means through which the PNC tests the proposition that Omar indeed is the one God is calling to serve at St. Philip. When the PNC is satisfied and the presbytery approves, the congregation will meet to vote on extending a call.

While there is an assumption that this designated search process will conclude with Omar being presented to the congregation for election as associate pastor, there is also room in this process for the elected PNC to discern another direction and present a different final candidate to the congregation. I believe we are invited to let the process unfold and to trust that God is in it. We begin this journey on **October 16** with a congregational meeting during which we will create a designated associate pastor position and then elect persons to serve on a designated associate pastor nominating committee. Once elected, this committee will likely complete its work in a few months.

While there are some features of this process that feel unfamiliar and even odd to me (and perhaps to many of you), I am trusting the direction of the presbytery and the reports of similar situations where this process has been utilized effectively. Beyond the matters of process and polity, I have no doubt about Omar's rich gifts for ministry and the correspondence between those gifts and our needs at St. Philip.

Faithfully yours,



## Stewardship 2017: Growing in Grace and Gratitude

One of the signs of Grace in our midst is the one we see frequently on our St. Philip billboard: "All Are Welcome!" It proclaims our commitment to bringing the kingdom of God into our everyday lives here and now. It expresses our joy over God's love of ALL the people of our world. It announces the fact that we open our doors and hearts to everyone who wishes to join in our journey with Jesus.

In this world that often seems difficult and cruel, the Grace of God is far more than just a positive thought. It is the strength that carries us in hard times. It is the salvation that is our ultimate hope. It is the priceless gift that makes our hearts grateful and turns our lives to caring for and helping others.

"Growing in Grace and Gratitude" is the title of the fall curriculum for our grade-school children. It seems to catch the spirit present at St. Philip, so the Stewardship committee adopted it as our theme for this year. Just as children grow in God's Grace, so do we all. Our lives are enriched by the interactions we have with each other as we praise God and do our best to serve God's good creation. Let us keep these thoughts in our hearts as we prepare to make our commitments to God for 2017.

Romans 5:1-2 "Therefore since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the Glory of God."



## Are you Presby Pro (Presbyterian Proficient)?

Test your knowledge about Presbyterian history, symbols, practices, and more.

1. How many charter members were there at Memorial Oaks Presbyterian Church (today it is St. Philip) in 1950?
2. How many minor prophets are in the Bible?

**ATTN: BRIDGE PLAYERS**

SPPC has a group that regularly plays bridge on the third Wednesday of each month at 12:30 p.m., and new players are needed. If you would enjoy a few hours of entertainment with some nice folks, please contact Jeanette Wennenweser at [jtwennenweser@gmail.com](mailto:jtwennenweser@gmail.com) or 713-779-4011. Some experience a plus!!



**SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP LUNCH**

Join us for lunch following the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, **October 16th**. We will meet at James Coney Island at 5745 Westheimer Road after church. This is a casual fellowship event, and all are invited. We hope to see you there!

**ARTS & CRAFTS STUDIO SATURDAY'S**

The next Arts & Crafts Saturday will meet **November 5th**. Do you have the talent of making string art? If you would like to share a craft, please contact Lori Murphy at [lmurphette@gmail.com](mailto:lmurphette@gmail.com) or 713-447-5320.



**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OCTOBER 16**

The Session has revised the call for a congregational meeting for **October 16** immediately following the 11:00 service. The purpose of the meeting is:

- To consider a recommendation from the Trustees that the church sell property north of FM 1960 to Harris County Flood Control District. The property consists of eight tracts of unimproved land that was given to the church in the 1980's. The negotiated sale price is \$10,143.21. After the sale, the property would become part of the county's Cypress Creek Greenway Project;
- To act on a report from the Congregational Nominating Committee for the election of ruling elders, deacons, and trustee;
- To consider a recommendation from the Session that the church establish the position of Designated Associate Pastor.
- To elect a Designated Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (DAPNC).

These last two items refer to correspondence between the Session and the Presbytery of New Covenant regarding a process through which Omar Rouchon might be called, ordained, and installed as associate pastor at St. Philip. See John Wurster's column on page 2 for more information.

**NEED TIME AND TALENT HELP?**

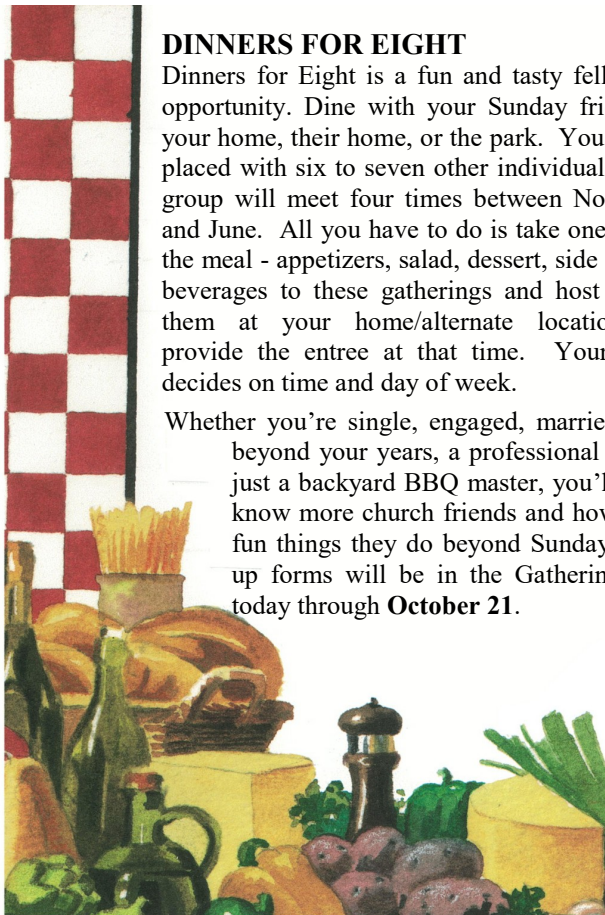
Assistance using the online Time and Talent form will be available next Sunday, **October 9** between services. Look for someone with a laptop in the Gathering Area or the Library.



**DINNERS FOR EIGHT**

Dinners for Eight is a fun and tasty fellowship opportunity. Dine with your Sunday friends in your home, their home, or the park. You will be placed with six to seven other individuals. Your group will meet four times between November and June. All you have to do is take one part of the meal - appetizers, salad, dessert, side dish, or beverages to these gatherings and host one of them at your home/alternate location and provide the entree at that time. Your group decides on time and day of week.

Whether you're single, engaged, married, wise beyond your years, a professional chef or just a backyard BBQ master, you'll get to know more church friends and how many fun things they do beyond Sundays. Sign up forms will be in the Gathering Area today through **October 21**.



**SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS**

The next service of healing and wholeness will be **October 23rd**. 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.

**SAVE THE DATE**

After 11:00 a.m. worship on **October 30** the congregation will join together for a Stewardship Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. We will discuss our plans for St. Philip as we *Grow in Grace and Gratitude* in the coming year and enjoy a delicious meal and good fellowship.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL

### 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

Godly Play (Age 3 to K)—Room 104

Grades 1,2, & 3—Room 105    Grades 9-12—Room 205

Grades 4 & 5—Room 103    Confirmation Class—Room 202

Grades 6-8—Room 206

Youth Choir/Youth Group meet the second and fourth Sundays of each month. Next gathering is **October 9**.

Youth Choir (Grades 6-12) - 4:30—Sanctuary

Youth Group (Grades 6-12) - 5:30—7:30 Youth Room

**CHURCH & SOCIETY** - Room 201 - **October 9**—*Landslide Lyndon?: The 1964 Presidential Elections and the Realignment of American Political Values* Why does a presidential contest that produced an unsurprising result with a landslide victory remain important a half-century after it occurred? Despite his record as the best legislative tactician to serve as president, Johnson never fully appreciated the shifting sands of national electoral politics, a problem that becomes clear when Democratic Party complacency with mid-century liberalism is juxtaposed against the burgeoning conservatism of the late twentieth-century Republican Party. This failure, and the results of the 1964 contest, are both causes and consequences of the social and political transformations of the 1960s led by Dr. Nancy Beck Young. **October 16** - *Living the Legacy: The Family of Leo and Marie Sprinz Schlamme* presented by Judy Myers.

**BIBLE STUDY** – Room 204 – The class is engaged in a study of the book of 1 Samuel which tells of the rise of the kingdom of Israel and the eventual rise 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.

**SPa**—Room 200 - The SPa (Saint Philip Adults) 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. Many members are of the age in which family/children obligations can take them away on Sundays. The curriculum is usually on a weekly basis or no more than a three-four week series so that all participants feel they can "jump back in" if they miss a week. SPa works hard to pray for one another and to get together outside of Sundays. In the next few classes, discussion will be about Lucas Hnath's play "The Christians." **October 9**—Read/discuss pages 69-79 (end of play) and look at play as whole. **October 16**—GUEST SPEAKER Mr. Skyler Gray, literary agent from The Alley Theatre, to discuss how the play was brought to Houston and how people responded.

## CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

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. Children return to join the congregation in the first few pews on the lectern side of the church for the last hymn. Please contact Omar Rouchon if you have any questions. The next service is **October 9th**.

## WEEKDAY CLASSES

### MONTHLY BOOK GROUP

A monthly interest group for women who like to read books, socialize, and have a night out meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at a member's home. Our next meeting, is **October 13**. We will discuss *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins. This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. For more information go to: <http://saintphilip.net/BookGroup.html>

### MONDAY EVENING STUDY GROUP

Everyone is welcome to the continuing meetings of the Monday evening study group! Our next meeting is **October 10**, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Join your fellow St. Philippians for refreshments and a brief prayer as we continue our discussion of *The Gnostic Gospels* by Elaine Pagels. We gather in the dining room (in the administration building, at the south end of campus), and will be covering chapter 3, "God the Father/God the Mother."

### MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday morning Bible study continues each week in the Dining Room at 10:30 a.m. Omar Rouchon continues to lead the discussion "Reading through the Lectionary." Each week we read the lectionary's gospel passage. All are welcomed to join!

### PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

Join the Men's Weekly Fellowship each Friday. They meet on Fridays in the Conference Room at noon. The book that they are discussing is *Search for Happiness* by Martin Thielen. Please contact Robert Estill about copies of the book [reestill@sbcglobal.net](mailto:reestill@sbcglobal.net) The men who wish to participate should bring a bag lunch; refreshments will be provided. Men of all ages are welcome to participate in the self-led group. The group wraps up promptly at 1:00 p.m.

### PW CIRCLES

The next meeting of each PW Circle will be this month. Lesson Two will be the discussion topic.

- 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

**OCTOBER 15 + 16  
HOBBY CENTER**

ARS  
LYRICA  
HOUSTON



HANDEL'S  
Jephtha



ARSLYRICAHOUSTON.ORG

Ars Lyrica invites SPPC to attend their upcoming performance of Handel's *Jephtha* on **October 15** and **16** at the Hobby Center For The Performing Arts. You can receive a 20% discount towards purchase of a ticket. If a minimum of ten tickets is purchased in advance tickets can be as low as \$12 each!

*Jephtha* sets an Old Testament tale about a warrior's foolish promise to God and its terrible consequences. The austere subject matter (from the Book of Judges) becomes pure gold in Handel's hands; his oratorio is full of beautiful melodies, searing choruses, even a surprise ending.

Our organist, Matthew Dirst is the Artistic Director of Ars Lyrica. *Jephtha* features a stellar cast of soloists, including Cecilia Duarte (a new soloist in our choir) and the award-winning Moores School Concert Chorale from the University of Houston. More information can be found at [www.arslyricahouston.org/jephtha](http://www.arslyricahouston.org/jephtha)



1. 101 charter members.
2. There are twelve.

**ST. PHILIP VEGETABLE GARDEN**

There will be a work morning on **October 8** It's time to prepare our vegetable garden for fall planting. Please join us for gardening and fellowship from 9:30-11:00 a.m. We'll be weeding, fertilizing, tilling, and planting seeds for winter greens. No gardening experience necessary! We donate all of our produce to help feed hungry neighbors through the Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) Food Pantry. Questions? Contact Cathy Patterson at [cpatters@swbell.net](mailto:cpatters@swbell.net).

**SAVE THE DATE**

Sunday, **November 13** at 5:30 p.m. to pack and wrap boxes for the Seafarer's Christmas project. A few tissues, razors, large bars of soap and toothpaste are still needed and are greatly appreciated and can be placed in the designated boxes in the Gathering Area or in the church office.. Thank you for showing hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it (Hebrews 13:2)



**THEOLOGY ON TAP**

Join a community of folks in their 20s and 30s for compassionate conversation! Bring your questions, your friends, and your thirst for knowledge. The young adults continue to visit the local breweries of Houston. Our next site will be *City Acre* on **October 15** at noon. The address is 3418 Topping St,

Houston, TX 77093. Check your inbox for more details soon.

**MINOR, BUT MIGHTY: YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY OF THE MINOR PROPHETS**

This fall, Young Adults will examine the some of the Minor Prophets together. These prophets are all the books of the Old Testament beginning with Hosea through Malachi and bear the title "Minor" because of their brevity, ranging in length from 1 to 14 chapters. Though we call them minor, they deliver mighty messages from God spoken to restore justice and righteousness in Israel. We will expand our perception of prophets beyond "those who see the future," widening our understanding of a tradition of visionary preachers raising their voices to call a community into a decision. J and Wendy Stewart will host us in their home at 6:30 p.m. on **October 10, November 14,** and **December 12.**



**MONTROSE STREET REACH**

The Young Adults of St. Philip support the Montrose Street Reach Ministry every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month during 2016, supplying and serving snacks to homeless persons gathering before they have dinner. The next date will be **October 26** from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. The address is 1110 Lovett Blvd. Houston, TX 77006. Caution: do not park behind Half Price Books, as they tow non-customers. Park instead on a side street or in front of the Presbytery Office. For more information contact Keatan King at [keatan@saintphilip.net](mailto:keatan@saintphilip.net)

<b>Let Your Light Shine!</b>	
Financial Information as of 8/31/2016	
Pledges Received	\$519,391.23
YTD Budget	\$658,000.00
Income	\$811,723.60
Expenses	\$920,034.49
Revenue over (under) expense	(\$108,310.89)

## CALLING ALL CRAFTERS!

The Alternative Market is looking for anyone who likes to sew, craft, build or arrange works of crafted art. Sell your items to benefit the mission partner of your choice, or you can ask the Mission Committee to choose one for you. We encourage crafts of all scales, from small to large, including single or multiple items. The Alternative Market will be **Nov. 20th**. Are you interested? For more information, please contact Lori Murphy via email at [lmurphette@gmail.com](mailto:lmurphette@gmail.com) or 713-447-5320.

## CONNECT WITH MONTREAT October 25-28

Plan to join women and men from churches across our presbytery for a retreat at one of the national conference centers for the PC (USA). What a perfect time of year to encounter God through relationships, renewal, recreation, and rest in the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina.

Not only will we learn about Montreat Conference Center, we will have the opportunity for bible study using the St. John's Illuminated Bible. A caravan along the Blue Ridge Parkway has also been scheduled. Everyone will be responsible for his or her own transportation to Montreat. Closest airports: Asheville, NC (AVL), Greenville, SC (GSP), or Charlotte, NC (CLT). Housing and meals will be in the newly renovated Assembly Inn. Rate for 1 person: \$324.71. Rate for 2 persons: \$408.69 (\$204.35 each). This rate includes lodging for 3 nights and 7 meals!

Register online with this link: <http://tinyurl.com/jam2jo3>

Questions??? Contact: Anne Wilson at [anne.aiko.wilson@gmail.com](mailto:anne.aiko.wilson@gmail.com)

## PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S HOMES AND SERVICES

If you or anyone you know would be interested in running the 2017 Houston Marathon, please consider joining the PCHAS team on **Sunday, January 15, 2017** for the Chevron Houston Marathon & Aramco Houston Half Marathon! The race starts at Congress & San Jacinto. The registration fee for the Half Marathon is \$115, and a Full Marathon is \$135. For your fundraising needs, we will supply you with material to share and short videos about our many programs to email to your prospective supporters. We will send you links to training tips, as well as information about the race course. You and your family will be invited to attend our annual pasta dinner held the afternoon before the Marathon. This will give you an opportunity to meet the other PCHAS runners, enjoy some delicious food, and learn more about PCHAS. We'll get you motivated for race day! To guarantee your spot, you will need to attain the commitment form by contacting Sarah Cleary at [sarah.cleary@pchas.org](mailto:sarah.cleary@pchas.org) and returning it to her. The minimum you'll need to raise is \$500, which is a lot easier than you think! The deadline for registration is **December 2**. We will not be able to accept any registrations after that date. You can also contact Sarah by phone at 512-731-2571. If you are not a runner but would love to join our effort, you can register yourself as a fundraiser for PCHAS by following the link below:

<https://secure.marathonguide.com/HoustonMarathon/Fundraising/Signup.cfm?CID=653>



Marathon Entries are Sold Out.  
Only way to participate is with a charity.  
Choose PCHAS!

## IN OUR PRAYERS

Sam Fisher and her family upon the death of her father Rev. Bruce Fisher on September 27. A memorial service will be held in the Sanctuary on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

Jane Coolbaugh, mother of Mary Murphy, coping with health issues in Kansas City

Mark Clemmons--Paramount Rehabilitation Center, Pasadena, TX

Weldon Boggus—Omi Ford's grandfather recovering from heart surgery

Bill Clements—brother-in-law of Vicki McKay; stage 4 lymphoma cancer & heart problems

Bill Hall, member of First Pres. and friend of many St. Philipians, is undergoing treatment for 3rd Stage esophageal cancer

Jan Meyer's parents -Valerie has been moved to Hospice, and Don is fighting health issues in New Braunfels

Wendy Paser – Mary Ann Thomas' cousin's wife who has moved to hospice in Clearwater, FL

Virginia Walker, friend of Mary McGuire, recovering from stroke and 2 brain surgeries

Carolyn Vestal—chemotherapy

Dan Cleveland's niece Deanna in Kissimmee, FL fighting Stage IV Breast Cancer

Don DeCamp - Gary Gardner and Peg Palisin's friend who has been moved to hospice care with metastatic prostate cancer

Karen & Bill Morris's nephew Jason in Virginia, diagnosed with Stage IV colorectal cancer

Lorraine Lyter-Reed's brothers: Martin is recovering from amputation; Leland – ongoing cancer treatment

### Recuperating at Home:

Sue Baier; Joe Anne Berwick; Jim Bratton; Jan Conner; Ben Conner; Winston Crowder; Larry Dean; Helen Harris; Malcolm Host; Rusty Howard; T.E. Keever; Jo Jones; Alice Pennington; Ruth Siciliano; Sondra Sullivan, new home at the Treemont; Penny Vieau; Ruth Weber

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Our Nominating Committee has met and would like to thank you for your suggestions for those to serve in the offices of Ruling Elder, Deacon, and Trustee. The following individuals will be nominated at the October 16th congregational meeting.

### RULING ELDER, CLASS OF 2019

#### Janet Hess

Janet Hess is a ruling elder, having served on Session at St. Charles Presbyterian Church in New Orleans, where she was active on the missions committee. During that time, she participated in a mission trip to Cuba with the church youth group. Janet also led student service days, helping to gut houses after Hurricane Katrina, and taught in a temporary evacuation school in Houston. She also found a need for SAT tutoring in underserved Sharpstown and Westbury high schools. At St. Philip, Janet has been active in the choir and on the Welcoming and Membership Committee. Recently retired, she is becoming involved with local missions such as Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services, and international work with Living Waters for the World. Janet is a strong advocate of environmental stewardship and youth educational needs. She values the opportunity to serve on Session at St. Philip to contribute to the stewardship of our church's gifts for use in God's work.

#### William Rowe

William T. Rowe holds a bachelor's degree in business and psychology from Stephen F. Austin State University. He has more than 20 years of experience in information technology, specializing in infrastructure-related issues, in which he deals with people on a service level daily (and thoroughly enjoys communing with them to solve their problems). William has been a member of St. Philip for over five years and has served on the Communications Committee for almost the same length of time. He oversees the recording of the Sunday

services, and edits and formats the services for online archiving on St. Philip's website. William feels blessed by the fellowship and support that he finds at St. Philip and looks forward to serving as a ruling elder.

#### Chuck Seidel

Chuck Seidel joined St. Philip last November and serves on the Mission Committee. Before joining St. Philip, he was a member of First Presbyterian Church, Houston, where he served as a deacon and a ruling elder. Chuck has always been involved in church-associated mission work, both locally (Habitat for Humanity, Private Sector Initiative) and internationally (in Honduras), and plans to continue this involvement at St. Philip.

#### Sandra Truxillo

Sandra Truxillo and her husband, Wayne, have been members of St. Philip since 1997. Before retirement, she had a career of more than 30 years in human resources and benefits management. Sandra has been involved with Presbyterian Women as a circle leader, moderator, cluster coordinator, and historian. She is on the Personnel Committee and volunteers in the church office on Thursdays.

#### Anne Wilson

Anne Wilson is the first-born in her Japanese-American family of five. From her earliest years in Pennsylvania, she wanted to be a teacher (partly to help others, partly to be in charge!). After receiving her degree in math from the College of Wooster, Anne married her high school sweetheart, Butch, and moved to Houston, where she taught math in public and private schools and served as a church educator at Memorial Drive, St. Philip, and Northwoods Presbyterian Churches. She feels St. Philip taught her the most about ministering to the entire body of Christ, and is eager to serve in a different capacity as a Session member. Anne's service to the larger church includes being a member of

the Synod's Permanent Judicial Commission; treasurer, Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) South Central region; member of the Texas Presbyterian Foundation board of trustees; and a founding member, Presbytery SEALs (Seasoned Educators At Large). She is the recipient of the 2017 APCE Life Achievement Award. Anne and Butch celebrate their "first-date 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary" this Thanksgiving, and her favorite name now is what her three grandsons call her, "Gran."

#### Nancy Young

Nancy Beck Young is a life-long Presbyterian, and joined St. Philip in 2014. She is a member of the Education Committee, coordinates the acolytes, has volunteered with vacation Bible school, has helped with planning for Mo-Ranch, and is the co-leader of the Wednesday evening PW Circle. Nancy is a professor of history at the University of Houston, and the author of four books. She enjoys traveling, reading, gardening, films, food, and spending time with her family.

The Nominating Committee expects to have an additional nominee for ruling elder by October 9.

### DEACON

#### Beth Atkinson

Beth Atkinson has been a member of St. Philip since 1991, and serves on the Mission Committee. She has served as a ruling elder, a deacon, and a teacher in St. Philip's pre-school, elementary, and junior-high church school classes. Beth is employed by Shell Oil Company and when not working, she enjoys traveling and watching any kind of sports.

#### Jane Cooper

Jane Cooper is retired from teaching high school English for 35 years. She graduated from Texas Wesleyan University and grew up in Fort Worth. Through the years, Jane has served on several church committees and as

a ruling elder and deacon at Central Presbyterian Church and St. Philip. Knitting hats for the seafarer's boxes is something she enjoys, as well as being active in the Sunday PW Circle and weekly Bible study, and serving on the Mission Committee. Jane also likes volunteering in the community, and this year is serving as a mentor to an elementary student in Spring Branch ISD. A member of the National Ghost Ranch Foundation, she has enjoyed attending summer seminars at Ghost Ranch for 14 years.

### TRUSTEE, CLASS OF 2019

#### James Cooper

James Cooper grew up in Port Neches, Texas. He has a bachelor's degree in business administration from The University of Texas at Austin, and an MBA from Texas A&I University. James's career in investments included positions with PaineWebber as division manager in New York and Texas. In New York, he also served on various boards and was division manager of commodities. James has two daughters, Laura Fitzgibbon, who is a Presbyterian minister and lives in Plano, and Angela Crouse, who lives in West Linn, Oregon. His wife, Sandra, passed away in 2015 after 51 years of marriage. James has been actively involved in the Presbyterian Church, serving as teacher, ruling elder, deacon, and on various committees. He has served as a trustee at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and the Texas Presbyterian Foundation, where he is vice chair of the board of trustees. In late 2009, James helped Sandra establish the Kids Against Hunger mission at St. Philip, which has packaged over 990,000 meals to date, delivering them to Houston agencies such as Kids' Meals and the Christian Community Service Center, and to orphanages in Matamoros, Mexico.

### DAPNC

The Nominating Committee recommends the following individuals for the Designated Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (DAPNC).

#### Kathryn Crary

Kate Crary was ordained as a ruling elder in 2016 and serves on the Personnel Committee. She finds spiritual nourishment through the young adult community of St. Philip as well as in the Wednesday evening Presbyterian Women circle. Kate has also served on the Education Committee at St. Philip. Before joining St. Philip four years ago, she was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan, her hometown. Kate has had a decade-long management career in healthcare and university settings. She enjoys reading, traveling, and spending time with friends and family.

#### Omi Ford

Omi Ford has been a member of St. Philip since 2009. Serving on Session as a member of the class of 2017, she is chair of the Education Committee. Omi is a teacher at Hunters Creek Elementary in Spring Branch ISD. When she isn't dreaming about new lessons to share with children and colleagues at school or church, she is probably with family watching sports or cuddling up with a great book!

#### Mickey Meyers

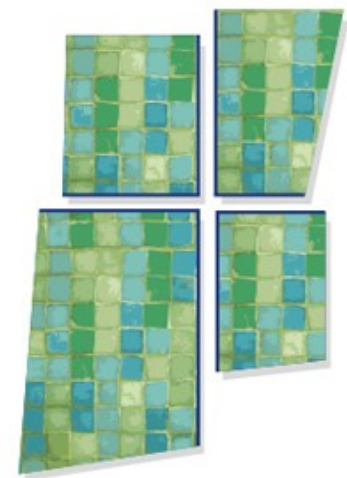
Mickey McGall Meyers grew up in Harlandale Presbyterian Church and graduated from Trinity University in San Antonio. She served as church educator in three Houston-area Presbyterian churches, has written curriculum for youth leaders for Presbyterian Publishing House, and is co-author of *Get Ready! Get Set! Worship! A Resource for Including Children in Worship*. Mickey was also a writer for the Mo-Ranch Camp Loma Linda Bible study. She is a ruling elder and co-convenor for the Church and Society Class at St. Philip. For Holocaust Museum Houston, Mickey wrote *History, Humanity, Responsibility: You Can Make a Difference – A Resource for Churches to Study Issues of Social Justice,*

*Peacemaking, and Tolerance in the Context of the Holocaust, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer – The Role of the Church in Nazi Germany, 1933–1945.*

#### Wes Vestal

Wesley Vestal is vice president of talent development for KBR. Before joining KBR in 2015, he worked for nine years with Baker Hughes, where he held a number of roles in both the US and the Middle East. Before Baker Hughes, Wesley spent eight years at the American Productivity and Quality Center, and four as a fund development manager at the United Way of Greater Houston. He is a native of Norman, Oklahoma, and holds a bachelor's degree in history and political science from Trinity University in San Antonio. Wesley volunteers for the United Way, spends time with his wife, Jenny, and their three girls (Molly, Lucy, and Caroline), and plays as much golf as allowed.

The Nominating Committee expects to have an additional nominee for the DAPNC by October 9.



Thank you to the  
Nominating Committee:

David Castle—Chairman  
Don Barker  
Kay Cash  
Kate Burkart  
Sarah O'Dell  
Rhonda Sands  
Gary Whitney



## Session Highlights

September 2016

### Called Session Meeting – September 18<sup>th</sup>

Session received into membership:

- Thomas (Tom) Weeda, Jr. by reaffirmation of faith
- Mary Bentsen by letter of transfer from First Presbyterian Church, Houston
- Michelle Aldrich by letter of transfer from First Presbyterian Church, Houston
- Virginia McMaster by letter of transfer from the Presbytery of New Covenant

### Stated Session Meeting – September 20<sup>th</sup>

Session approved a gift of \$200 be given on behalf of St. Philip to Mike Cole, the General Presbyter of the Presbytery of New Covenant who is retiring December 31, 2016.

Session endorsed taking to the congregation a proposal made by the Trustees to sell to Harris County Flood Control District Eight tracts of undeveloped land in the Riverwood Section 3, Unplatted Subdivision, Harris County, TX, that had been gifted to St. Philip, for the district's Cypress Creek Greenway project.

Session accepted the Preliminary 2017 Budget, totaling \$1,505,100 that was proposed by the Budget Council.

Session reviewed a proposal for a digital information display system on the campus to provide a more aesthetically pleasing promotional tool and to help reduce the need for tape and paper temporary signage. Further consideration of the proposal will happen at the October meeting.

Session approved proposed revisions to the Education Committee section of the Manual of Operations for St. Philip Presbyterian Church.

Session approved the following curriculum for use at St. Philip:

- Advent VBS- PC(USA) We Believe Workshop with focus on Mary's Song
- Lent VBS- PC(USA) We Believe Workshop with focus on either One said, Thank You (Luke 17:11-19- Jesus Heals the Lepers)
- Preschool Children (Age 3 – 5) – PC(USA) Growing in Grace and Gratitude – Stories, Colors, and More
- Elementary (Age 5 – 10) – PC(USA) Growing in Grace and Gratitude
- Youth - PC(USA) Feasting on the Word Tweens and Youth packets
- Adults- PC(USA) Feasting on the Word 9-month digital subscription for adults

Session called a Congregational Meeting on **October 16, 2016**, at the conclusion of the 11 a.m. worship service, for the purposes of:

1. Approving the sale to the Harris County Flood Control District eight tracts of undeveloped property in Riverwood Section 3, Harris County, TX;
2. Establishing a Designated Associate Pastor Position and to form a Designated Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, and
3. Receiving and acting on a report of the Congregational Nominating Committee concerning the election of church officers.

### Committee Actions:

Worship and Music Committee has secured McNair Johnson as Liturgist Coordinator beginning, October 1<sup>st</sup>

Worship and Music Committee has arranged for the roles of Communion Organizer to include Kate Crary as the administrative role with David Durham taking on the training and the oversight role of the elders setting up and serving on communion Sundays.

Worship and Music Committee has secured and approved Lorrie Castle as the Wedding Coordinator.

### On September 29

A motion of the Congregational Nominating Committee is to expand the call of the **October 16, 2016** Congregational Meeting to include hearing a report of the Congregational Nominating Committee for the purpose of electing church officers.

INTRODUCING ...

# The Memory Café At Amazing Place



*Casual Conversations, Activities and Coffee  
for those with Early Stage Dementia and their Caregivers*

*Second Saturday of Each Month, Starting  
Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>  
10am-12pm*

AMAZING PLACE | 3735 DREXEL | HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027



A day center for adults with mild to moderate dementia

alzheimer's  association®

THE BRAINS BEHIND SAVING YOURS.™

For additional information or if interested in volunteering,  
contact **Emile Unverzagt**, Amazing Place Participant Program Director  
at 713.552.0420 or email [eunverzagt@amazingplacehouston.org](mailto:eunverzagt@amazingplacehouston.org)