

# PHILIP-EYE

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

Volume 60, Number 22

Houston, Texas

November 15, 2016

**THE ALTERNATIVE MARKET**  
AT  
**ST. PHILIP**  
**ALL HANDMADE & CREATED ART**  
**CHRISTMAS SALE!**  
\* PERSONAL CHECKS & CASH ACCEPTED  
**NOVEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> 9:00 am to 1:30 pm - Gathering Area**

**SUPPORT YOUR ORGANIZATION WITH SUSTAINABLE HOLIDAY SHOPPING**

MO-RANCH GIFT CERTIFICATES

ST. PHILIP CRAFTERS PURSES CARDS JEWELRY PICTURES ORNAMENTS SUPPORTING GENERAL MISSION

PRESBYTERIAN PAN AMERICAN SCHOOL

ST. PHILIP YOUTH GROUP

Living Waters for the World

KORE TIMOUN CHILDREN'S NUTRITION PROGRAM

AMAZING PLACE

Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services

CHILDREN'S NUTRITION PROGRAM OF HAITI

COFFEE

CHRISTMAS FAMILIES

GHOST RANCH

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Dear Friends,

I was especially glad to be part of the St. Philip community this past Sunday. Our Church and Society class was led by Zahra Jamal, who spoke on the topic of gender justice in Islam. Zahra, associate director of the Boniuk Institute for Religious Tolerance at Rice, is with us frequently as many of our educational programs are cross-promoted by the Boniuk Institute. Zahra and her husband also joined us for worship at 11:00 a.m. Their presence with us in a week where divisions and divisiveness were very much in the air was an inspiration to me, as well as vivid reminder of the ongoing important opportunities we have to connect across boundaries and borders.

As I've known for awhile, no one leaves worship whistling the sermon. Instead, it is the music that lingers with us. The song from Sunday that has stayed with me is the hymn, "Spirit, Open My Heart." Though it was selected prior to the election, I found this hymn powerfully and hopefully speaking to the anxieties that many have felt since last Tuesday: "Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living. As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart. May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of sister, brother. In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another." In lyric and tune, the hymn encourages us to recognize and embrace the vulnerabilities of being human.

I've also kept in mind Sunday's offering. We invited people to come forward with gifts for the day, as well as pledges for 2017. As happens when we come forward for communion, I was touched by the movement of people in the sanctuary, responding to God's call. While it is undoubtedly in good order, there is inevitably a passive look to the congregation when we're all seated in our pews. However, when we stand up and walk forward together, there is a representation of the Spirit's work among us, motivating us to live and move for the glory of God and in response to the call of Jesus Christ. Coming forward Sunday were folks of all ages, with a variety of backgrounds and ethnicities and experiences; and yet somehow all gathered together at St. Philip.

These days seem to heighten the need for community and connection. Let us remember what we all share as those who have been made in the image of God; and let us hold fast to the values of faith, hope, and love as we have learned these from Jesus.

Peace be with you,



P.S. An audio version of my sermon last Sunday is available at <http://saintphilip.net/Sermons.html>

### CAR WASH ON NOVEMBER 26

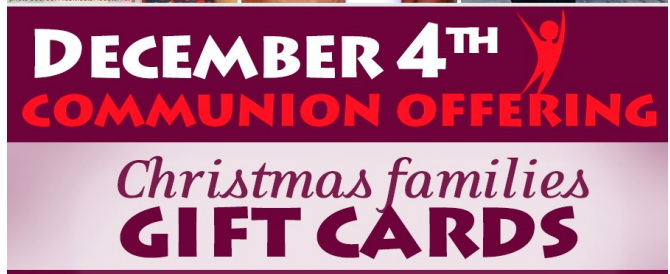
A few of our friends at Iglesia Oasis De Amor are going on a mission trip to La Union, El Salvador on **November 29th** to assist local children and schools. They will have a car wash from 9 a.m. till 1 p.m. on **November 26th** in the St. Philip parking lot. \$10 for exterior car or \$15 exterior & interior car. Funds will provide additional school supplies and items the children need. Bring your car over.



### STEWARDSHIP 2017

November 13 was Commitment Sunday at St. Philip, the culmination of our Stewardship Campaign; but only the beginning of our giving of time, talents and treasure for the year ahead. If you were not able to be with us for the presentation of our pledge cards in worship, please mail in your pledge card in the church-addressed envelope included in your stewardship packet. If you prefer, you may bring your pledge card in its envelope to the church office or place it in the offering plate. If you hand deliver your pledge, please mark the envelope with the word "Pledge" so that it may be opened by the proper staff member.

As we move ahead in service, let us recall Paul's reminder of our great blessings in 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."



### 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. In the Gathering Area on upcoming Sundays, you 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.

The December Communion Offering will be dedicated to purchasing gift cards for each Kids' Meals family St. Philip is sponsoring. Make your check out to St. Philip Presbyterian Church and in the memo line put "Christmas Families Gift Card".

**FRIDAY PHIL-UP**



**FRIDAY PHIL-UP**

Join us for Friday Phil-Up! We'll meet at 6 pm on Friday, **November**

**18th** at Cafe Express (1101 Uptown Park Blvd #12, Houston, TX 77056) for food, fun, and fellowship. A great way to unwind at the end of your work week! All ages are welcome. We hope that you will join us!

**SEAFARERS' CENTER CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Please join us for the annual Seafarers' Center Christmas Party on Saturday, **December 3rd**. We will meet in the church parking lot at 5:30 p.m. prior to the event. We will provide further details about transportation closer to the event. We will share holiday treats with seafarers and sing Christmas carols inside the center. Piano players and singers are especially encouraged to sign up, though those less musically inclined are also encouraged to come spread holiday cheer. All ages are welcome. Seafarers are often away from friends and family for months at a time, and with increased security following 9/11 are not easily allowed outside of the ship channel. We provide much needed fellowship and holiday cheer to people so far away from home. Please look for a sign-up sheet in the gathering area following church. All attendees will need to bring a driver's license with them to the event for the security process at the ship channel.

**ARTS & CRAFTS STUDIO**

The next Arts & Crafts Saturday will meet **December 3rd**. We will make Christmas cards. Please bring a snack to share with everyone. Water will be provided. 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.

**2017 MO-RANCH RETREAT**

This year, consider alternative Christmas gifts for your loved ones in the form of a contribution to one of these funds:

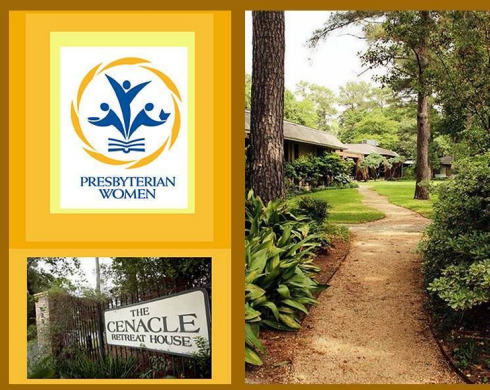
**1. 2017 St. Philip Mo Shower:** Every year St. Philip takes up this collection in order to make a significant gift directly to the Mo-Ranch Housekeeping department. Our Mo Shower allows Housekeeping to purchase needed equipment and materials not provided for in the regular

Happy Thanksgiving!  
The St. Philip office will be closed on November 24 and 25.

operating budget. Over the years, we've made significant contributions to the upkeep of the Ranch in this way.

**2. 2017 Mo-Ranch Retreat Scholarship Fund:** This fund makes it possible for the church to offer help as needed to folks who otherwise could not afford the retreat.

The amount of your contribution is up to you. When you 'purchase' one of these gifts at the Alternative Christmas Market, you will receive a presentation card that you can give to those you've honored with your contributions.



**WOMEN'S RETREAT**

**January 20-22**

**Description:** Perhaps you'd call yourself creative... or perhaps you struggle to draw a stick figure! Either way, as children of

our distinctly creative call as children of God, journeying through scripture and engaging in artistic spiritual practices for prayer, discernment, and renewal.

**Bio: Rev. Katherine Hester Doehring**

Katherine is a PC(USA) teaching elder who recently transitioned from serving as Campus Pastor of United Campus Ministry in Aggieland to a chaplaincy residency at Memorial Hermann in the Texas Medical Center. Katherine holds a B.A. from Davidson College in Studio Art, and an M.Div. from Duke Divinity School, where she specifically studied the connection of theology and art through Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts. Exploring the connection between art, creativity, and Christian faith is a lifelong passion for Katherine, and she is deeply honored to embark on a creative spiritual journey with the women of St. Philip!

the Creator, we are called to be co-creators in God's kingdom on earth that is daily being made new. In this sense, creativity is not merely something that we "do," but a lens through which we see God's world and live as followers of Christ. Join us as we explore

Registration forms available in Gathering Area or at [saintphilip.net/PresWomen.html](http://saintphilip.net/PresWomen.html)

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL

### ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES BEGIN AT 9:30 A.M.

#### 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 **November 27**.

Youth Choir (Grades 6-12) - 4:30—Sanctuary  
 Youth Group (Grades 6-12) - 5:30—7:30 Youth Room

**CHURCH & SOCIETY** - Room 201 - **November 20** - *Ghost Ranch* - a national education and retreat center of the Presbyterian Church USA located on 21,000 acres in the high desert of northern New Mexico, sixty-five miles north of Santa Fe. There are 300 workshops a year in religious studies, clergy renewal, peace and justice, art, paleontology and archeology, music, writing, photography, outdoor adventure, community outreach, college-accredited courses, family and youth programs. The rich history includes Native American and Spanish explorer settlements, dinosaur fossils, and the home of artist Georgia O'Keefe. This will be presented by Debra Hepler, Executive Director of Ghost Ranch. **November 27** (First Sunday in Advent) - *The Organ and Its Longtime Patron, the Church* will be presented by Dr. Matthew Dirst, St. Philip organist and Professor of Music at the Moores School of Music, Univ. of Houston, Artistic Director of the Grammy-nominated early music ensemble Ars Lyrica Houston.

**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. We will continue to look at the passages from the lectionary. We will access Feasting on the Word material, and each Sunday have a leader's guide and a participant's guide. Sharing leadership is easy and fun and, as you probably can tell, we're not a group that is shy about asking questions! Contact Greg Han at [greg@hanmail.me](mailto:greg@hanmail.me)

PRIMETIMERS  
 SAVE THE DATE  
 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON  
 DECEMBER 17TH

#### 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 **November 27th**.

### WEEKDAY CLASSES

#### MONDAY EVENING STUDY GROUP

The next gathering of the Monday evening study group is **November 28th**, in the dining room (in the administration building, at the south end of campus). We will be reading chapter 5 in Elaine Pagels' *The Gnostic Gospels*, "Whose church is the 'true church'?" Join us from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. for coffee, snacks, and conversations that feed the mind and nourish faith.

#### MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

John Wurster is leading a study of the Book of Revelation. This final book of the Bible has long puzzled readers with its vivid imagery and apocalyptic themes. Over the coming months, we will read the entire book and piece together its meaning and significance. The class meets at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday in the Dining Room.

#### 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.

#### 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 December 8th and will be a social, check your email for location. This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. For more information go to: <http://saintphilip.net/BookGroup.html>

#### 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

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

This fall Young Adults will examine 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 **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 **November 23rd** 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)

## SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS

The next service of healing and wholeness will be **November 27th**. 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.

## 2017 ST. PHILIP MO-RANCH RETREAT

Each June, members of St. Philip travel to the Texas Hill Country for a long weekend of Christian fellowship. In the beautiful surroundings of Mo-Ranch, we study, play, and relax as a church family. Our program begins after supper on Thursday, **June 8** and continues through worship on Sunday morning **June 11**. Many arrive earlier on Thursday to enjoy the ranch and time in the river. Most of us find it difficult to leave on Sunday. Please make plans to join us!



### *Recuperating at Home:*

Joe Anne Berwick, Jim Bratton, Mark Clemmons, Winston Crowder, Kitty Curry, Larry Dean, Jack Fox, Helen Harris, Malcolm Host, T.E. "Joe" Keever, Jo Jones, Alice Pennington, Ruth Siciliano, Carolyn Vestal, Penny Vieau, Ruth Weber, Paxton Williams

## CALLING ALL SHEPHERDS!

*Volunteer for Advent VBS on Saturday, **December 3**—9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.* We are seeking Youth to serve once again as Shepherds at Advent Vacation Bible School! This means you'll guide children in activities, nurture them by teaching them about Jesus, and lead energizers. Keatan will provide coaching so you feel prepared and confident to lead Energizers and other silly songs. As a reminder, we are happy to sign off on your time volunteering at VBS for any academic-related service hours you need to complete! We hope you'll join us for the whole event, but it is possible to sign up for part of the day.

## ADVENT VACATION BIBLE SATURDAY

We will kick off the Advent season with a day full of art, drama, music and many other activities to help our children learn about Advent and prepare for the birth of Jesus. This year's Advent VBS will be on **Saturday, December 3** from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Please visit the church website to register your child. If you are interested in volunteer opportunities, please contact Omi Ford or Omar Rouchon.

## CATCH THE JINGLE BELL EXPRESS! A FAMILY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

The children and families of St. Philip are invited to gather for a service opportunity on **Saturday, December 10**. Christian Community Service Center is sponsoring a Christmas toy and book drive, called the Jingle Bell Express. Volunteers of all ages are called upon to help sort and distribute toys, books, and holiday food packages for families in need. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the St. Philip office, then carpool to Bellaire United Methodist Church. We'll work until 11:30 followed by lunch at Café Express in Meyerland Plaza. Parental chaperones are required for the entire morning. Please contact Omar with any questions and RSVP by Sunday, **December 4** at [omar@saintphilip.net](mailto:omar@saintphilip.net).

## IN OUR PRAYERS

Paul & Alice Pennington-70 years of marriage on November 10th  
 Jim & Nancy Lomax-celebrated 50 years of marriage in September  
 Barbara Cloninger-moved to Home Sweet Home Hospice Care Katy  
 Sondra Sullivan-recovering from hip replacement surgery at Treemont Healthcare  
 Bill Slick at home with a broken shoulder  
 Norma Reagan-Sarah O'Dells mother recovering from a hip fracture  
 Weldon Boggus-Omi Ford's grandfather recovering from heart surgery  
 Bill Clements-brother-in-law of Vicki McKay; stage 4 lymphoma cancer & heart problems  
 Jan Meyer's parents-Valerie has been moved to Hospice, and Don is fighting health issues in New Braunfels  
 Virginia Walker-Mary McGuire's friend, recovering from stroke and 2 brain surgeries  
 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

**COLLECTION FOR  
NEW  
CHILDREN'S  
BOOKS**

**JINGLE BELL EXPRESS  
DONATION DRIVE**

CCSC

**CHILDREN'S BOOKS**  
{ new & unwrapped }

PLEASE LEAVE BOOKS IN THE MARKED  
BOXES IN THE GATHERING AREA.

**IN NOVEMBER:  
BOOKS WILL BE COLLECTED  
ON SUNDAYS**

**VOLUNTEER  
HELP  
CHILDREN  
CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS**

**JINGLE BELL EXPRESS  
DONATION DRIVE**

CCSC

Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) is preparing to spread holiday cheer through Jingle Bell Express 2016! Get involved! Help your neighbors in need have a beautiful Christmas. With your assistance, 2,500 underprivileged children and families will have a Christmas to be thankful for.

Volunteers are needed to:

- Sort and deliver toys and books
- Food assembly

Who:

- Individuals can simply show up for each of the events.
- Groups of eight or more are asked to sign up in advance with the Youth Services Manager.
- Children younger than age 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

Attire:

- Lightweight, casual clothes and comfortable shoes.

Location:

- Bellaire United Methodist Church, 4417 Bellaire Blvd. Bellaire, 77401

For more information contact Cathy Brown at 713-961-3993 ext. 215 or [seasonal@ccschouston.org](mailto:seasonal@ccschouston.org).

*The mission of Christian Community Service Center is to serve the poor, hungry, disabled and otherwise needy while respecting their religious, ethnic, or cultural differences.*

DECEMBER ~ OPPORTUNITIES					
Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
5	6	7	volunteer night off	9	10

[www.saintphilip.net](http://www.saintphilip.net)

@StPhilipHouston  
**STAY CONNECTED!**

