

# PHILIP-EYE

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

Volume 60, Number 5

Houston, Texas

March 1, 2016

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## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING IS THE RECIPIENT OF THE THREE MARCH COMMUNION OFFERINGS MARCH 6—MARCH 24—MARCH 27

Around the world, people lack access to food, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) serves to help change the lives of people in these challenging situations.

OGHS makes a difference in the world through three impactful programs;

-  **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** - Works within communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters.
-  **Receives 32% of funds raised.**
-  **Presbyterian Hunger Program** - Takes action to alleviate hunger and its systemic causes, and helps create access to healthy food for entire communities.
-  **Receives 36% of funds raised.**
-  **Self-Development of People** - Partners with people and communities with tools for development and education to alleviate poverty, oppression, and injustice.
-  **Receives 32% of funds raised.**

Today, projects supported by OGHS are under way in more than 100 countries, supported by 29 participating denominations. This offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need.

## Kids Against Hunger

PACKING MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup> - SUNDAY AFTER CHURCH

We will gather in the dining room after worship for a \$7 lunch and packing. We are encouraging new members and others who would like to know about KAH to attend. We should have two packing lines and hopefully break the 900,000-meals-packed level! Mark the date on your calendar and come join the fun!

*The mission of Kids Against Hunger, a humanitarian food-aid organization, is to significantly reduce the number of hungry children in the USA and to feed starving children throughout the world.*

The St. Philip Presbyterian Church Kids Against Hunger satellite packages a rice and soy casserole meal fortified with twenty-one essential vitamins and minerals and six dehydrated vegetables. This nutrient-rich and soy formula (25% protein) provides complete nutrition and can reverse the starvation process.

### CHANCEL GUILD

The CHANCEL GUILD invites you to participate in preparing our worship space for services. Every six months we solicit volunteers to take one Sunday to oversee that preparation. Our primary duties include checking the flowers before worship and emptying the water in the baptismal basin after the service. Currently we are seeking volunteers for April 2016 through September 2016. Please join us!

Look for the signup sheet in the Gathering Area. Contact Jane Larkin at 713-621-1222 or [l.larkin6561@att.net](mailto:l.larkin6561@att.net) for more information.

## Dear Friends:

Members past and present of the council for our Central Mission Endowment Fund met Saturday with Dan Klein. Formerly president of Texas Presbyterian Foundation, Dan helped us design the fund’s structure and process in 2013. Now having operated the fund for two years, we thought it would be good to have Dan back to lead us in a time of review and planning. Over the past two years, we have distributed over \$1.1 million from the CMEF. The 2016 grant application is being finalized. Application materials will need to be returned by **June 15**. Council members for this year are James Cooper, Dick Howard, Cathy Patterson (presiding member), Jenilee Simmons (Session representative), Jenny Towns, and Jeanette Wenneneser.

A couple of CMEF grants came to fruition in February. Early in the month, a team of medical professionals traveled to Malawi taking with them state-of-the-art ultrasound machines that our grant purchased. The project was sponsored by the Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF), a longstanding Presbyterian outreach agency. The MBF team trained Malawi health professionals on these new machines at four Presbyterian hospitals in the country. Closer to home, a CMEF grant made possible expanded promotion and scholarships for the Faith and Grief conference at Mo-Ranch this past weekend. Through our funding, the retreat was fully subscribed and 50 persons attended.

Of course, we have lots of mission activity beyond what we do through the CMEF. Here are a few things going on right now: Expanding our outreach in Houston, our young adults have begun serving food to the homeless in Montrose. This ministry will happen monthly at the presbytery office. We are collecting personal items for Easter boxes for the Women’s Home. Our March Communion offerings support the One Great Hour of Sharing, which funds a variety of national Presbyterian projects, including disaster assistance. The Kids Against Hunger team is packing food after worship on **March 13**. This is a great opportunity to sample this ministry. Lunch will be available.

It’s no wonder that the Mission section is among the most highly trafficked areas of our website. We have lots happening in this area, around the corner, and around the world. It’s been said that the church exists for mission like a fire exists for burning. Mission is at the core of our identity as a church. I’m grateful for the many, many ways that identity finds expression at St. Philip.

Faithfully yours,




### MARCH

Kathryn Lippincott	01	Rita Hannah	10	Cletus Johnson	18	Susan Mitchell	28
Clara Reed	02	Toto McGehee	11	Daniel Flowers	18	Linda Ewing	29
Butch Wilson	04	Bennett Pepi	14	John Northrop	23	Kenneth Jeanes	29
Amy Frautschi	06	Kate Burkart	16	Emily Estill	26	Jane Lee	30
Joe Harwood	07	Patrick Bell	17	Julie Estill	26	Robin Angly	31
Sarah Wickes	07	Melissa Aldrich	17	Paxton Lambright	26	Ruth Ewing	31
Bedford Vestal	08	Jennifer Flowers	17	Helen Harris	27		
Tom Anderson	08	Bette Shumake	18	Jacqueline			
		Bob Ardell	18	Hamilton Taylor	28		



### HAVE YOU MET CURTIS?

Maybe he has sat next to you during service, or stepped into your Bible class, or you have just seen him around the office/campus. Curtis Wyatt has come around for a couple of years on and off, but recently has stayed longer than usual. Curtis is 52 years old and grew up in northeast Houston. He did well in school and went on to be a phlebotomist, until he was in a car wreck and didn’t get the proper care. For reasons not understood, his family has made the decision not to help him. We have reached out to the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County to find Curtis a place to stay. A project manager has done a housing phone assessment and connected him with their system. What does that mean? Curtis has been put on a wait list for a place to live, the coalition has sent his information to The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD, and they have alerted their outreach team that he stays in our area. The outreach team makes visits to areas where homeless people ‘reside’ and provide them toiletries, food, and blankets.

Curtis’s wait for a place to live could be two or three months or more. Please don’t hesitate to say hi to him. He has the ability to recall any phone number and name he sees and chats endlessly. If you would like to help, he wears size 31 pants, size 11 socks, and a small shirt. Lorrie regularly exchanges his clothes for \$5 so she can take them home and wash them. Thank you for considering those less fortunate.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL

### Nursery and Preschool

#### Infants and children through three years old

8:30 am to 12:30pm - Room 106

Staffed by professional childcare providers

#### Age 3 through Kindergarten

Godly Play Class - Room 104

### Elementary

Grades 1,2, and 3 meet in Room 105

Grades 4 and 5 meet in Room 103

### Middle School

Grades 6-8 meet in Room 206

### High School

Grades 9-12 meet in Room 205

### Jubilate with Children's Music Associate

1st through 5th grades 9:30 am – 10:00 am  
in Room 105 with Alicia Chew

## ADULT CLASSES

### NEW LENTEN CLASS FOR ADULTS

Continuing through **March 20**, Keatan King and John Wurster lead an adult Sunday School class in the dining room at 9:30. "Who Do You Say That I Am?" is a class offering perspectives on the life of Jesus and how his life intersects ours. Scripture, poetry, images, and songs will help to frame our reflections and conversations. The topic for **March 6** is "Jesus as Enigma."

### SPa CLASS - Room 200

The SPa (Saint Philip Adults) class is a fellowship of adults from all walks of life who gather for learning and community. Our discussion-based class meets each Sunday morning; we use the material from the well-regarded "Thoughtful Christian" series. Topics are timely and relevant. Please visit [www.thethoughtfulchristian.com](http://www.thethoughtfulchristian.com) for more details.

### BIBLE STUDY - Room 204

The class is beginning a study of the book of **I 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 God's people. Nancy Cook and Al Waldrop lead the discussions. All are welcome.

### CHURCH & SOCIETY - Room 201 - March 6 - Simple Gifts of Hope - the Medical Benevolence Foundation:

The Church is God's chosen instrument to bring hope to the poor and oppressed. MBF works to partner with the local church in developing nations and the domestic US church to build sustainable healthcare ministries. Presented by Mark Harris, Director of Partner Engagement, Western US. **March 13 - Grief and Loss:** As we approach Holy Week this class will focus on grief and loss in light of recent theological thinking on suffering. Attention will be given to several different conceptions of

mourning as well as factors that can inhibit mourning. Presented by Nathan Carlin, PhD Associate Professor in the McGovern Center for Humanities and Ethics at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. **March 20 - Our Enduring Fascination With Handel's "Messiah" and the Bach Passions:** Presented by Matthew Dirst, PhD, organist at St. Philip, Professor of Musicology at Moores School of Music at the University of Houston, artistic director for Ars Lyrica-Music of the Baroque.

## WEEKDAY STUDIES

### MONDAY EVENING STUDY GROUP

On Monday, **March 14**, at 5:30 p.m., we continue our discussion of Joel Baden's book *The Historical David: The Real Life of an Invented Hero*, with chapter 5, "David's kingdom: The myth of national and religious origins." Besides conversation, our meetings include light food and drink, fellowship, and a brief prayer. We meet each second and fourth Monday, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., in the dining room (in the administration building, at the south end of campus).

### MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Bible study with John Wurster continues with a focus on the Gospel of John. While containing some of the most familiar passages in the whole Bible, John also offers a distinctive, often complex, presentation of Jesus. The class meets weekly in the dining room, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

### PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

The Men's Weekly Fellowship meets every Friday in the Conference Room at 12:00 pm. They have selected *Words Made Flesh* by J. Pittman McGehee. Robert Estill has copies of the book available for \$15. Those men who wish to participate should bring a bag lunch; refreshments will be provided. All men welcome. The group wraps up promptly at 1:00 pm.



Join us for Friday Phil-Up! We'll meet at Barry's Pizza (6003 Richmond Ave) on Friday, **March 18th** at 6:30 pm 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!

### 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. At our next meeting, **March 11**, we will discuss *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng. This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. For more information go to: <http://saintphilip.net/BookGroup.html>



### Are you Presby Pro (Presbyterian Proficient)?

Test your knowledge about Presbyterian history, symbols, practices, and more. Each edition of the *Philip-Eye* will have two questions to expand your familiarity with our faith. The answers are later in the newsletter.

1. When did PC(USA) ordain the first woman minister and who was it?
2. Have women always been able to be Ruling Elders?

### HELP!!!

The Presbytery of New Covenant has been seeking congregations to join in supporting the Montrose Street Reach Ministry, which has been serving the homeless from the Presbytery Center's parking lot every Wednesday night for over ten years. The young adults are making this ministry their mission. Every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month during 2016, the young adults will supply and serve snacks to homeless persons.

The Young Adults are asking the congregation to join them in donating **individually packaged snacks** (granola bars; or peanut butter, goldfish, or animal crackers, etc.) and leave them in the marked box in the Gathering Area or the church office. Easy-to-chew snacks are especially helpful (Fig Newtons, chewy granola bars, etc.) The Young Adults of St. Philip will distribute the snacks at the Presbytery Office.

### UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Please note the further opportunities for worship in the coming weeks:

- March 13 - No 8:30 service. The St. Philip Choir presents the Mozart Requiem at 11:00.
- March 20 - Palm Sunday services at 8:30 and 11:00
- March 24 - Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 p.m.
- March 25 - Good Friday service at 12 noon. Tenebrae service at 8:00 p.m.
- March 26 - Holy Saturday Musical Meditation at 5:00
- March 27 - Easter services at 8:30 and 11:00
- April 3 - No 8:30 service. Jazz Communion at 11:00 with picnic to follow.

### CHILI COOK-OFF



### ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

Join us for the Annual Chili Cook-Off! The fun begins at 5:30 pm in fellowship hall on Saturday, **March 5th**. Categories include: Best Vegetarian Chili, Hottest Chili, Most Unique Chili, Best Overall Chili, and Best Corn Bread. If not entering a chili or cornbread, please bring another pot-luck dish to share: A-J side dishes, K-Q salads/veggies, R -Z dessert. All ages are welcome. Get your ladles ready! We'll see you there!

### ARTS & CRAFT STUDIO

The next scheduled Saturday craft is **March 5**, from 12 p.m. till 3 p.m. We will make a flower seed card, so bring a pack of your favorite spring flower seeds. Extras will be available. RSVP to Lorrie so we have enough supplies. Bring a snack to share with everyone. Have any type of craft project that you would like to work on and just need the company? Come join us! Contact [lorrie@saintphilip.net](mailto:lorrie@saintphilip.net) or 832-262-1244.



### St. Philip is collecting items for 55 boxes for women living at **the women's HOME**

*The mission of The Women's Home is to help women in crisis regain their self-esteem and dignity, empowering them to return to society as productive, self-sufficient individuals.*



### SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR WOMEN'S HOME EASTER BOXES

Bar Soap	Combs	Scarfs	Memo Pads
Cosmetics	Hairspray	Wash Cloths	Greeting Cards
Panty Hose/Knee Highs	Shampoo (10-12 oz.)	Deodrant	Pens/Pencils
Tooth Paste	Hotel Samples	Razors	
Tissues	Jewelry	Small Easter novelties	Photo Boxes from craft stores
Postage Stamps	Hand Lotion		

Janet and Don Davis will take the decorative boxes filled with personal hygiene items on **Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**



## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

February 16, 2016

From John Lemen, Clerk of Session

The Session has taken the following recent actions:

-  Elected John Lemen to serve as Clerk of Session for 2016.
-  Approved the 2015 Annual Statistical Report for submission to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
-  Approved the Worship and Music Committee recommendation to suspend the 8:30 a.m. service on **March 13th** in light of the St. Philip Choir’s presentation of the Mozart Requiem at the 11 a.m. service that same day.
-  Elected Omi Ford, Rhonda Sands, Mary Benson, Ed Hess, and Jane Lee to serve as Ruling Elder Commissioners to the **March 19, 2016**, Stated Meeting of Presbytery of New Covenant at First Presbyterian Church, Conroe; and elected Cletus Johnson and John Lemen as alternates.

Committee Actions:

-  The Fellowship Committee has approved including a \$12,200 budget for the Mo Ranch subcommittee.
-  The Property Committee has approved the new Kitchen Use Policy pending a few small cosmetic changes.
-  The Stewardship Committee has agreed to send new members the complete packet from the prior year campaign with a cover letter from the new committee enclosed.
-  The Stewardship Committee has agreed that regular reports of pledge collections need to be included in the bulletin and Philip-Eye. This will be accomplished in coordination with Treasurer Ada Fuller and the Finance Committee.



### FREEMAN SCHOLARSHIP

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 by **May 1**.

<http://saintphilip.net/SubmitForms.html>

### IN OUR PRAYERS

John Lindsay and family upon the death of his mother, Margret Lindsay, on February 28<sup>th</sup>  
 Stewart Coffman and family upon the recent death of his brother Robert  
 Ruth Weber— Memorial Hermann Rehab—Katy recovering from a slight stroke  
 Alma Moon—Mark Taylor’s aunt recovering from a car accident  
 Joe Rand—former pastor at St. Philip hospitalized in Black Mountain, NC, with serious health issues  
 Gary Gardner managing severe pain  
 Candace Demary’s parents, Wayne & Peggy Bourque, coping with health issues in Lake Charles  
 T.E. Keever – Hallmark Healthcare Center  
 Sue Baier - Treemont Healthcare Center, recovering from a fall  
 Shirley Smith – friend of Mary Ann Thomas coping with debilitating health issues  
 Pat Lindsay’s father is at home with a leg wound  
 Jan Conner - Sondra Sullivan’s sister & a member, coping with many health issues  
 Lorraine Lyter-Reed’s brothers: Martin is recovering from below the knee amputation; Leland – ongoing cancer treatment  
 Jean Benson Miksch, daughter of Mary Benson, receiving cancer treatment  
 Cynthia Shoup—recovering from surgery for breast cancer  
 Larry Dean –Seven Acres  
 Mike Tomforde, Jr.—Hallmark HC  
 Pat Clark—treatment at MD Anderson  
 Joe Anne Berwick—residing at Belmont



*Recuperating at Home*

Jo Jones	Paul Pennington
Virginia McFarland	Betty Knepper
Penny Vieau	Rusty Howard
Malcolm Host	Bedford Vestal

**WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES**

Our midweek Lenten series continues on Wednesdays at 12 noon through **March 16**. The remaining preachers are Cameron Highsmith, a member of our St. Philip community and the Director of Spiritual Care for Prayers of the People (POP); Jonathan Page, new pastor at First Congregational Church; and Katherine Doehring, Presbyterian campus minister at Texas A&M. Lunch in the Gathering Area is available after the service.



**JANUARY OFFERING**

Living Waters for the World was the recipient for the January Communion offering and received \$976. Thank you for your extra support of this mission partner.

*The Mission Committee*



1. 1956; Margaret Towner
2. No. the PC(USA) constitution was amended in 1930 to allow women to be ordained elders

**International Women's Day (March 8)** is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. For more information, [www.internationalwomensday.com](http://www.internationalwomensday.com)

**THE COMMUNION SUNDAY COIN JAR:  
CENTS-ABILITY HUNGER PROGRAM AT ST. PHILIP**

Have you wondered about that big jar full of coins that sits up in front of the sanctuary on the first Sunday of each month? That big jar is one of the ways our congregation helps fight hunger. Cents-Ability began in 1975 when a group of Presbyterian Women in Florida pledged to give 2¢ per meal to help combat hunger in their community and beyond. The program grew, and it now is an important part of the PCUSA's Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP). In 2014, PHP Cents-Ability funds went to support a wide variety of programs aimed at food security, both here in the US and around the globe.

Here at St. Philip, we send half of what we collect to the national Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the other half stays here to support hunger programs in the Houston community.

Taking part in Cents-Ability is easy, and it's something that anyone can do. Set aside just a few cents a day, and on the first Sunday of each month bring your coins to drop in the jar. That resonant jingle reminds us of all that we have and all we can share. "Happy are those . . . who give food to the poor." (Psalm 146: 5-8)

***Easter Lilies***

We will be taking donations of any amount for lilies to adorn the sanctuary on Easter. Easter lilies are symbolic of purity and the resurrection of Jesus Christ, they adorn Christian houses of worship on the holy day that shares their name.

You can go online and make a donation of any amount. Please include: *in honor of* or *in memory of* and the name(s) you wish to recognize, as well as how you would like your name to appear.

**(circle one) I / we** would like to make a donation to purchase Easter Lilies to adorn the sanctuary this Easter Season, to be given:

**(circle one) in honor of / memory of** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Donor—Your Name(s) PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

\_\_\_\_\_

Please place envelope in the offering plate or return it with your payment to the church office by Tuesday, March 21.



**NEW MEMBERS**

The Session will meet after the 11:00 a.m. service **March 20th**, in Room 100, to receive new members.



[www.saintphilip.net](http://www.saintphilip.net)  
yelp: @StPhilipHouston  
**STAY CONNECTED!**