PHILIP-EYE

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

Volume 60, Number 6

Houston, Texas

March 15, 2016

Rev. Dr. John W. Wurster Pastor, Head of Staff

Rev. Keatan King Associate Pastor

Omar Rouchon Ministry Associate

Dr. Matthew Dirst Organist/Interim Choirmaster

Alicia Chew Children's Music Associate

Lorrie Castle Office Manager

Denise Ferrell Bookkeeper

Micah Meyers Art Director

Wilbert Parada Facilities Supervisor

Dimas Parada Custodian

Lorrie Castle Newsletter Editor <u>Philipeye@saintphilip.net</u>



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING IS THE RECIPIENT OF THE MARCH COMMUNION OFFERINGS 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.

BERING OMEGA COMMUNITY SERVICES RECIPIENT OF APRIL 3 JAZZ COMMUNION SERVICE

The mission of Bering Omega Community Services is to nurture the well-being and meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of persons affected by HIV/AIDS through compassionate health care and social services. It is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit human-service organization that provides housing assistance, adult day care, residential hospice care, and dental services to people living with HIV/AIDS in the greater Houston and southeast Texas areas.

Houston, and the surrounding area, is greatly impacted by HIV/AIDS. Among U.S. cities with populations of 500,000 or more, Houston is ranked thirteenth in terms of HIV positive population, according to the CDC. The underserved members of our community often cannot afford the care they need to prevent the rapid deterioration of their health. And the social stigmas that accompany the disease often make it even more difficult for these people to receive adequate medical care or retain a job.

Bering Omega's programs:

- The **Dental Clinic** provides comprehensive and restorative dental care addressing the rare oral health issues associated with HIV.
- Its **Day Treatment Program** provides nursing care, peer support groups, nutritional counseling, educational seminars and healing art therapy. Because proper nutrition is essential to managing their health and medications, the Day Treatment Program also provides clients with two hot meals and two snacks each day and food assistance to help them through weekends.
- **Omega House** provides compassionate end-of-life care to persons in the end stages of AIDS, allowing those clients to live their final days in comfort and with dignity.
- The **Housing Assistance Program** prevents homelessness and utility outages through rent, mortgage, and utility payments. Housing Assistance participants receive free financial planning and coaching on living skills for surviving on a limited income.

Dear Friends:

I am looking forward to my fifth Holy Week and Easter at St. Philip. Palm Sunday is March 20. We will worship as usual at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. The 11:00 a.m. service includes a children's procession of palms. Keatan is preaching that day. On Maundy Thursday, we worship at 7:00 p.m. We remember Jesus' final night with his disciples and his last meal with them. Omar is preaching that evening and the St. Philip Choir will sing. After communion, the chancel is stripped of decoration, symbolizing the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples and friends. We leave the sanctuary that night in silence.

On Good Friday we have two worship services. At 12 noon we commemorate the death of Jesus with scripture and song and in the presence of the veiled cross. At 8:00 p.m. we are holding a Service of Tenebrae. In this dramatic service, shadows slowly gather in the room as we encounter again the Passion of Jesus. With each reading, a candle is extinguished. The service concludes in darkness. We are also offering a worship opportunity on Holy Saturday at 5:00 p.m.. Matthew Dirst and friends lead us in a musical meditation for Holy Week, exploring the depth and power of these days through music.

Easter Sunday is March 27. Our first service of Easter at 8:30 a.m. has us gather in the narthex and then proceed by candlelight into the dark sanctuary, which is then bathed in the light of the proclamation of resurrection. We then attend to key passages of the Bible, remembering God's saving acts, from the beginning of creation to the promise of a new creation. After the service of readings, we have a reaffirmation of baptism, and all are invited to come forward to the fount. There we mark our foreheads with water, hearing again the promise that in Jesus Christ we belong to God forever. Between services, there is breakfast in Fellowship Hall along with Easter crafts and activities for all. We ask you to bring flowers to decorate the cross in celebration of the resurrection. Our 11:00 a.m. festival service of Easter includes music from the St. Philip Choir. We celebrate with joy as we take the bread and share the cup and bear witness to God's love, a love stronger than death.

In a variety of styles and through a range of emotions, Holy Week invites us to experience the fullness of the gospel. I urge you to seek the spiritual benefits of these days and these services through your participation in all that is before us.

Faithfully yours,

MENTAL HEALTH SYMPOSIUM

PRESBYTERY OF NEW COVENANT

Creating Communities of Grace and Hope In every congregation there are people and families who struggle with mental

health issues – some chronic, some more acute. In every case the community of faith is called upon to respond with compassion, understanding, and hope. At this symposium, experts in the area of mental health will present information on causes, treatment, research, and resources, how to reach beyond the stigma, and how to minister to people with mental health issues. The keynote speaker will be Elizabeth McIngvale-Cegelski, Ph.D., who is the founder of the Peace of Mind Foundation. Panelists include James Lomax, M.D., Matt Stanford, Ph.D., Sylvia Muzquiz-Drummond, M.D. and Rev. Dr. Peter Holmes.

All members and clergy of New Covenant Presbytery and any faith organization or church are invited to attend. This free symposium will be on Saturday, **April 23** from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (5308 Buffalo Speedway, Houston, TX 77005). The Committee of Congregational Resources of the Presbytery of New Covenant is sponsoring this event and more information is available from Charlotte Kibler at 281-744-0171 <u>orcharwk@juno.com</u>

The event is free: we ask that you register at: www.pbyofnewcovenant.org



CHURCH DIRECTORY

It is time once again to update the Church Directory. Please take a few minutes on one of the dates listed below to stop by the Library between 10:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. then again from noon until everyone in line has been photographed. Please come and verify your contact information and have your photo taken for the annual refreshing of beloved St. Philip faces. Your picture will most definitely paint a thousand words!

Dates:

- Easter Sunday, March 27
- Sunday, April 3
- date yet to be announced

P.S. If you like last year's picture, it is very important to stop in and verify the information we will publish. *Thank you!*

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 20** is "Jesus as Victim."

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 for more details.

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.

CHURCH & SOCIETY - Room 201 - March 20 - Our Enduring Fascination With Handel's "Messiah" and the Bach Passions: Handel's "Messiah" and the Bach Passions are more than just repertory staples; they're annual traditions or even rituals in many communities. What is it about these works that makes us want (or need) to hear them every year, and why these works and not others like them? What might a listener in Handel or Bach's own day have made of such music? Presented by Matthew Dirst, PhD, organist at St. Philip, Professor of Musicology at the Moores School of Music at University of Houston, artistic director for Ars Lyrica-Music of the Baroque. March 27 - Church and Society will not meet Easter Sunday so that we can join in with all the Easter activities at St. Philip. April 3 - Seeking the Sacred in Psychotherapy and Life: Dr. James Lomax will lead a brief discussion about spiritual coping and spiritual struggles. He will then tell a clinical story that illustrates how "seeking the sacred" can have positive consequences for the patient and the therapist. Dr. Lomax is Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston and long-time member of St. Philip. He is interested in the interface between psychiatry (from a psychoanalytic perspective), religion, and spirituality. His interdisciplinary efforts involve the Menninger Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Baylor College of Medicine with the Institute for Spirituality and Health at the Texas Medical Center, the Department of Religious Studies, Rice University, the Hope and Healing Center and Institute at Saint Martin's Episcopal Church and many of the clinical entities of the Texas Medical Center. The purpose of these relationships is to deepen the exploration of phenomena, such as healing, grief, and response to loss, from the different perspectives from each of the aforementioned disciplines.

WEEKDAY STUDIES

MONDAY EVENING STUDY GROUP

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). Besides conversation, our meetings include light food and drink, fellowship, and a brief prayer.

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.

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, **April 14,** we will have our social gathering at an area restaurant. Check your email for details. This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. For more information go to: http://saintphilip.net/BookGroup.html



PHILIP-EYE PAGE 4

March 15, 2016

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.



Are you Presby Pro (Presbyterian Proficient)?

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

1.The symbol to the right is located on a table in the Narthex, what does it signify?2.What is the session?



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 4th 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.

ARTS & CRAFT STUDIO

The next scheduled Saturday craft is **April 2**, from 12 p.m. till 3 p.m. RSVP to Lorrie. 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 <u>lorrie@saintphilip.net</u> or

832-262-1244.

APPLAUSE!

Julia Fox made her Carnegie Hall debut on Saturday evening **March 12**. She presented the world premiere of George Heath's *Psalm 88* with Duo Scordatura. Julia began singing at St. Philip Presbyterian Church as a three-year-old and has been with us ever since! Children and Youth Choir Directors, Miss Mary Linda and Miss Cynthia, were crucial to Julia's development as a singer. The love and encouragement of this congregation continue to nurture her. *Soli Deo Gloria*!

CHANCEL GUILD

The CHANCEL GUILD invites you to participate in preparing our worship space for services. 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 <u>l.larkin6561@att.net</u>

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 Cosmetics Panty Hose/Knee Highs Tooth Paste Tissues Postage Stamps

*women's HOME

Combs Hairspray Shampoo (10-12 oz.) Hotel Samples Jewelry Hand Lotion Scarfs I Wash Cloths Deodrant I Razors Small Easter I novelties of

Memo Pads Greeting Cards Pens/Pencils

Photo Boxes from craft stores

March 20th is the last day to bring items in for the boxes.



March 15, 2016

IN OUR PRAYERS

- John Lindsay and family upon the death of his mother, Margret Lindsay, on February 28th; Memorial service will be Friday, March 18, 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.
- Ruth Weber— in the Healthcare Unit at The Buckingham
- Barney Haley-Lorrie Castle's uncle who has been moved to long-term care in Florida
- Joe Rand-former pastor at St. Philip at home in Black Mountain, NC, with heart problems

Gary Gardner managing severe pain

- Candace Demary's parents, Peggy Bourque, coping with health issues & Wayne has been moved to hospice care in Louisiana
- T.E. Keever—Hallmark Healthcare Center
- Shirley Smith-friend of Mary Ann Thomas coping with debilitating health issues
- Jan Conner—Sondra Sullivan's sister & a member, coping with many health issues
- Larraine 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 Larry Dean—Seven Acres
- Mike Tomforde, Jr.—Hallmark HC
- Pat Clark-treatment at MD Anderson
- Joe Anne Berwick—residing at Belmont

Recuperating at Home

Malcolm Host Rusty Howard Jo Jones Virginia McFarland Paul Pennington Bedford Vestal Penny Vieau Sue Baier

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

NEW MEMBERS

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



PALM SUNDAY MARCH 20 8:30 AND 11:00

A PARADE OF PALMS AND THE DESCENT INTO HOLY WEEK. *Keatan King preaching*

> **MUSIC FROM JUBILATE!** & THE ST. PHILIP CHOIR

MAUNDY THURSDAY

MARCH 24 7:00 P.M.

A SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT **Omar Rouchon preaching**

MUSIC FROM THE ST. PHILIP CHOIR THE SYMBOLIC STRIPPING OF THE CHANCEL

GOOD FRIDAY MARCH 25

12:00 P.M.

A SOLEMN OBSERVANCE OF THE DEATH OF JESUS

8:00 P.M. SERVICE OF TENEBRAE MARKING THE PASSION WITH A SERVICE OF DARKNESS

HOLY SATURDAY

MARCH 26 5:00 P.M.

MUSIC AT ST. PHILIP~ MUSICAL MEDITATION FOR HOLY SATURDAY



FESTIVAL SERVICE 11:00

A SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT John Wurster preaching

MUSIC FROM THE ST. PHILIP CHOIR & ORGAN

EASTER CELEBRATION

9:30 - 10:30 **EASTER BREAKFAST & CRAFTS FOR EVERYONE** [FELLOWSHIP HALL]

10:30 - 10:45 **FLOWERING OF THE CROSS & GROUP PHOTOS**

APRIL 3

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER SINGLE SERVICE

11:00 JAZZ COMMUNION WITH PAUL ENGLISH & FRIENDS

SPRING PICNIC [ON THE GROUNDS AFTER WORSHIP ~ 12 NOON]

March 15, 2016



PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION

Dhaka Tuesday, 8 March 2016

Dear Jenilee,

We are very grateful to St. Philip Presbyterian Church for designating its February communion offering to our ministry, and for its ongoing support.

Thank you also for participating with us in praying each week for people in Bangladesh. Your being with us as we face these realities gives us much encouragement.

Grace and peace, Les

\$2884 was received in the February communion offering for the Morgans. Thank you for your generous contributions. The Mission Committee



- 1. Chi Ro—not technically a Christian cross, it invokes the authority of Jesus. The first two (capital) letters of Chi and Rho (XP) of the Greek word "XPI Σ TO Σ " = KRistos = Christ
- 2. The session is the council of the congregation. The session members govern the congregation and guide its witness to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that the congregation is and becomes a community of faith, hope, love and witness. Additionally, they hold quarterly meetings (St. Philip's session meets monthly). They keep the church minutes and records, membership roll, registers, and finances.

PHILIP-EYE PAGE 7



Dear St. Philippians:

You have been the "great cloud of witnesses" who have surrounded us for sometime with encouragement, affection and prayers during H.L.'s health decline and recent death.

Your thoughtful expression of love and concern have sustained our family. How fortunate we are to be in this caring, Christian community of faith.

With love and gratitude,

Skip, Dave & Chuck Britton

This year's speaker for the Duerr Lecture Series, Dr. Joshua Ralston, held everyone's attention for his lectures, *Bearing Witness: Reframing Christian-Muslim Encounters*, attended by a full house every night, including many visitors. The topic was timely and Dr. Ralston was very articulate and knowledgeable as well as energetic in his presentation. If you missed the lectures, or had to miss one or two, you can still order a set of CDs by contacting Elizabeth Duerr or Roderick James. For people who live out of town, you can order a set on the St. Philip webpage, www.saintphilip.net, under Contribution, "designated giving," CD Duerr Lectures. The cost online is \$15.00 which includes mailing.

The lecture series has become a vital part of the life of St. Philip, and next year's lectures will be the 20th year of this series which was established in memory of W. Chris Duerr, member and Elder at St. Philip. The speaker in 2017, Dr. Margaret Aymer, is Associate Professor of New Testament at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, having joined that faculty in July, 2015, from the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta.



Degrees held by Dr. Aymer are the PhD in New Testament and Early Christianity, and the MDiv from Union Theological Seminary in New York, and the BA in U.S. History from Harvard University. She has published four books and numerous journal articles and book chapters and is active in the Society of Biblical Literature and American Academy of Religion. She has served the PCUSA in many ways including having served on the Presbyteries' Cooperative Committee on Examinations since 2010, moderating the six persons who write the Bible Exegesis Ordination Examination for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Dates for next year's lectures will be February 26, 27, and 28, 2017... put it on your calendar now!

A P R I L	tat iR	by **		Bob Skaggs Flo Hannah Peter Ramadan Mary Murphy Ethan Lambright Jack Lippincott Douglas Duerr Greg Han Penny Larkin Richard Johnson, Jr.	17 17 17 18 18 19 19 21 22 22 22 23	IN-KIND HELP The property committee is in search of a portable sidewalk ramp that can be used for loading and unloading outside the Arts & Crafts Studio. If you
Sylvia Lawson	1	Jan Ostendorf	11	Kay Cash Nancy Dring	23 24	have one that is not being used please contact Ed Hess via cell
Dillion Junkin	2	Ginger McFarland	11	Mary Sinderson	25	phone - 281.755.4920 or email -
Harold Dement	3	Stephen Paine	11	Jim Larkin	25	edhessva@hotmail.com.
Russell Bahruth, Jr	: 4	Rhonda Sands	13	Gabriel Han	27	
Judy Barrish	4	Caroline Vestal	13	Kris Kelly	28	
Jim McKelvey	4	Molly Vestal	13	Lee Ardell	29	
Sprague Boone	4	Bob Burns	14	Neely Atkinson	29	
Gary Whitney	8	Pam Taylor	15	Vada Woodall	30	
Steve Carmichael	9	Robert Bevill	15			
Ryan Maguire	10	Ian Pearce	17			



SAVE THE DATE: PW SPRING GATHERING - APR. 16

Presbyterian Women (PW) of New Covenant and of Atascocita Presbyterian Church invite ALL WOMEN to the Spring Gathering on **Sat., Apr. 16** at **9:30** a.m. at Atascocita Presbyterian Church (19426 Atasca Oaks Dr, Humble, TX 77346). Details about mission opportunities, schedule, registration, meals, and child care can be found on the <u>Presbytery's website</u>.





FRIDAY PHIL-UP!

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!

Music at St. Philip Concert Series presents A Holy Saturday Musical Meditation on **Saturday, March 26** at 5:00 p.m. (4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056). The program will include German Baroque penitential music by Heinrich Schütz, Christoph Bernhard, Dietrich Buxtehude, and others, with Christopher Holman (countertenor), Alan Youssefian (violin), Barrett Sills (viola da gamba), and Matthew Dirst (organ). Admission is free; an offering will be received.

The Music at St. Philip Concert Series reaches out artistically and spiritually to the Houston community, presenting programs that add immeasurably to the cultural life of the church and city, lifting our spirits toward the grandeur of God. The Music at St. Philip Concert Series was founded in 2010, and showcases the instruments at St. Philip, area musicians, and national talent through a series of seven to eight concerts per year.

The concert series has partnered with arts organizations such as Ars Lyrica Houston and the American Guild of Organists, Houston Chapter to present outstanding programs in the exceptionally favorable acoustic and beautiful environment of the sanctuary. The exceptional pipe organ, built by Paul Fritts and Company Organ Builders, and the John Phillips harpsichord are featured in many of the programs.



STAY CONNECTED!

