

PHILIP-EYE

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

Volume 61, Number 6

Houston, Texas

March 21, 2017

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Pastor, Head of Staff

Rev. Keatan King
Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. Samuel Lanham III
Pastor Emeritus

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Ministry Associate

Dr. Randall Swanson
Director of Music

Dr. Matthew Dirst
Organist

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Children's Music Associate

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JOHN WURSTER'S FIFTH ANNIVERSARY AT ST. PHILIP

This week marks an important milestone in the life of St. Philip Presbyterian Church. It was five years ago this week that John Wurster and Deb Burks became part of the St. Philip family, when John began his ministry as pastor of St. Philip. After a year-long process of deliberation (in good Presbyterian decency and order), the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) discerned that God was calling John to this church, and fortunately for us, John felt the Spirit move him in our direction, too. The congregation unanimously elected John as pastor in February of 2012. He and Deb said goodbye to Kerrville (though it would take them a while to sell their house there) and moved to Houston. John joined the staff in mid-March, leading worship for the first time on March 25, two weeks before Easter.



The staff John joined in March of 2012 was pretty small. At that moment, we had no ordained staff, an interim music director, and a church administrator retiring at the end of the month. For several months, John did all of the preaching, liturgy, visiting, meeting leadership, and many other things himself. (And we are grateful that he stayed, despite all of this!) Gradually, John worked with the session and congregation to build a staff, hiring a new church administrator, a permanent director of music, an interim and eventually a called Associate Pastor, and finally a Ministry Associate. The congregation has welcomed new members and started new programs. With John's guidance, St. Philip created the Central Mission Endowment Fund to help carry out God's work in the world; it has now given out more than \$1 million in grants. Through all the changes of the last five years, John's strong grounding in reformed theology, his gift for thoughtful and meaningful preaching, his spirit of inclusion and welcome to all of God's people, his careful attention to liturgy and music in worship, and his impulse for mission and outreach have offered inspiration and leadership to the congregation. His partnership with Deb has enriched our congregational life.

Al Waldrop, a member of the PNC, when asked about the process of calling John Wurster to serve as pastor of St. Philip, stated, "We had some outside help." Surely the Holy Spirit's "outside help" has been at work in John's call and in his ministry. We're happy to be able to mark John's 5th anniversary here at St. Philip. Thanks, John!

CHOCOLATE

After Halloween, Easter is the second most important occasion for chocolate sales, and each year Americans consume over 70 million pounds of chocolate the week leading up to Easter. However, much less than 1% of that chocolate is fairly traded, which Equal Exchange seeks to change.

[Equal Exchange](#)'s products are 100% Fair Trade traded, benefiting more than 40 small farmer co-operatives in 25 countries around the world.

The Coffee Team will be offering Chocolate Minis in Easter packets of 10, and chocolate bars, along with coffee, tea and olive oil, on Palm Sunday, **April 9**, in the Gathering Area before and after the 11 a.m. worship service.

All chocolate is made with cacao from small-scale farmers in the Dominican Republic and Peru, organic sugar from a co-op in Paraguay, and fairly traded vanilla from a farmers' association in Madagascar.

Please consider this opportunity to support our brothers and sisters farming sustainably around the globe.

www.saintphilip.net
yelp * * * * * @StPhilipHouston
STAY CONNECTED!

**INTRODUCING
THE NEW APP
My ST. PHILIP**

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 | Jewelry | Deodorant |
| Cosmetics | Hairspray | Small Easter Novelties | Razors |
| Pantyhose/Knee highs | Shampoo (10-12 oz.) | Hand Lotion | Memo Pads |
| Toothpaste | Hotel Samples | Scarves | Greeting Cards |
| Tissues | Postage Stamps | Washcloths | Pens/Pencils |
- Photo Boxes from craft stores

Please bring donations to St. Philip by **Palm Sunday - April 9th** and place in designated boxes. *Thank you.*



IN OUR PRAYERS

- Kip Frautschi & family upon the death of his father
- Paxton Williams –recovering from knee surgery at home
- Bessie Johnson – Pat Lindsay’s mom hospitalized in Bay City
- Joan Boelens’ son Jim is coping with cardiac problems
- Marian Murphree – moved to hospice care
- Margaretta Bolding – moved to The Treemont for rehab
- Barbara Rathgeber – receiving dialysis
- Barbara Cloninger – has moved to Home Sweet Home Hospice Care in Katy
- Anne Keever – recovering from surgery at Pam Keever’s home
- Dan Cleveland’s niece Deanna in Kissimmee, FL fighting Stage IV Breast Cancer
- Jack Wetmore – friend of Wayne and Sandra Truxillo, is receiving treatment
- Virginia Walker, friend of Mary McGuire, recovering from stroke and 2 brain surgeries
- Candace & Tyler Womack upon the birth of their son Charles ‘Charlie’ Hamilton Womack born on March 20
- Marriage of John Calhoun and Raquel Brod – son of Travis Calhoun, sister to Pam Keever, and nephew of Jeanette Wenneneswer

Recuperating at Home: Joe Ann Berwick, Larry Dean, Helen Harris, Malcolm Host, T.E. “Joe” Keever, Alice Pennington, Cynthia Shoup, Bette Shumake, Jean Stanley, Penny Vieau, Ruth Weber



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.

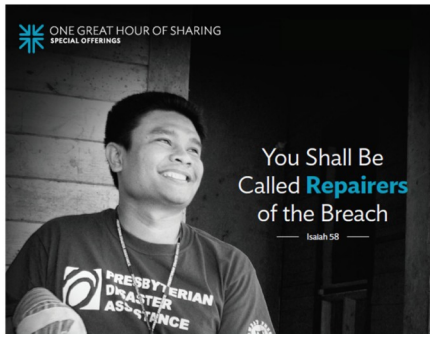
You can go online and make a donation of any amount. Please include: *in honor of* or *in memory of* and the name(s) you wish to recognize, as well as how you would like your name to appear.

(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 Monday, April 10.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The offering provides us a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

One Great Hour of Sharing, received during the season of Lent (**March 1 - April 15**), makes a difference in the world through three impactful programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.

PRIMETIMERS TRAVEL TO BELLVILLE

On **Thursday, Mar. 23**, the Primetimers will depart at 9 a.m. from the church parking lot and travel to Bellville, to visit the famous Newman’s Castle. The Primetimers will enjoy lunch at the castle followed by a tour of the grounds. Cost for the lunch and tour is \$15, which will be collected on the bus. After visiting the castle, St. Philippian Doris Cantrell has invited us to her home in Bellville for a brief visit before our return to Houston.

HANDY MAN

Member Governor Frazier is at your service if you need someone to weed, plant, mulch your flower beds, hang pictures, haul trash away (he has access a truck), or can help you identify contractors on many home projects. Please contact Governor to discuss rates and jobs at: 832-512-3648 or governorfrazier1955@gmail.com



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 through September**. Please join us! Look for the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area. Contact Jane Larkin at 713-621-1222 or l.larkin6561@att.net for more information.

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

Join us for the Annual Church Picnic! The fun begins following the 11am Jazz Communion service on Sunday, **April 23**. We will provide fried chicken and drinks. Please bring folding chairs and a pot-luck dish to share: A-H side dishes, I-N desserts, O-Z salads/veggies. Weather permitting, this event will be held outside on the front lawn; otherwise, join us in the Fellowship Hall. All ages are welcome. We will have fun games and activities, so please dress comfortably for this active outdoor event. Please RSVP to the church office so that we will provide enough chicken.

SPRING CLEANING

Are your closets, garage, file cabinets or attic overflowing with paper documents that you can’t decide if you should keep? If you are ready to purge check out the business website of member David Castle—www.cpacastle.com for a recommended list of what to keep.

On **April 6**, the church office will have a shredding company on site. If you would like to shred any documents, please bring them to the church office by Wednesday, **April 5**. They will be kept in a locked room at the church. There should be no no metal in the boxes. If you have any questions contact Lorrie Castle in the office, 713-622-4807 or lorrie@saintphilip.net



As an extension of St. Philip's "We Choose Welcome" campaign, the Peacemaking Committee is preparing to host a *Salaam Supper* at St. Philip on Thursday, **April 27**, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. A *Salaam Supper* is a gathering of friends, family, colleagues, and members of the community for a meal and to learn about refugees and to raise awareness and funding to support their welcome. Funds raised at the supper will go to support Refugee Services of Texas. Look for more information about this event in the coming weeks.

SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS

The next service of healing and wholeness will be **March 26**. 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.

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Join us at 12 noon each Wednesday during Lent. Our worship series, “A Lenten Journey with Paul” features sermons on the writings of the Apostle Paul. The preacher for **March 22** is Laureen Suba, Presbyterian Minister and former member of St. Philip. Lunch is available at 12:30 for \$5.



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—next meeting will be on **March 26**
 Youth Choir (Grades 6-12) - 3:30—Choir Room
 Youth Group (Grades 6-12) - 4:30—6:30 Youth Room

DISCOVERING AND DELIVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Dining Room - Susan Lange and John Wurster are leading a new class on Sunday mornings. You will explore the topic of spiritual gifts, identify the gifts God has given us, and consider the difference they can make in our lives individually and as a community of faith. This class continues through **April 2**.

CHURCH & SOCIETY—Room 201—**March 26** - *Refugee Services of Texas* - Guided by the principles of human compassion and dignity, Refugee Services of Texas welcomes refugees, immigrants, and other displaced people and supports them in integrating and thriving in their new communities. RST is a social service agency dedicated to providing services to refugees and other displaced persons fleeing persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, and/or political opinion and also the communities that welcome them. Presented by Veronika Fournier from AmeriCorps Development VISTA (Volunteers In Service to America) for the Houston office of Refugee Services of Texas. **April 2** - *Issues of Social Justice for Transgender People—A Response to Senate Bill 6, the Texas Privacy Act*—Presented by Ross Pierkowski—a Life Coach and mentor with the non-profit international educational foundation More to Life.

BIBLE STUDY – Room 204 – The class is engaged in a study of the book of 2 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. Sharing leadership is easy and fun and, as you probably can tell, we're not a group that is shy about asking questions! We are currently reviewing the revised common lectionary through *Feasting on the Word*. Contact Greg Han at greg@hanmail.me

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 **March 26**.

WEEKDAY CLASSES

MONDAY EVENING STUDY GROUP

Join the discussion in the dining room (in the administration building, at the south end of campus) **March 27** with St. Philip's Monday evening study group! Besides conversation, our meetings include fellowship, refreshments, and a brief prayer, as we continue our study of *Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race*, by Debby Irving. We will be discussing the sections beginning with “What wasn’t said” through “Within the walls.” We meet each second and fourth Monday, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Come even if you haven’t done the reading; the discussion is always timely and thought-provoking.

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 *What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian? A Guide to What Matters Most* by Martin Thielen. Please contact Robert Estill about copies of the book 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 second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at a member's home. Our next meeting is **April 6** at the home of Nina Lambright. The book we will be discussing is *Unaccustomed Earth* by Jhumpa Lahiri. This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. For more information go to: <http://saintphilip.net/BookGroup.html> or Sarah O'Dell at sarah.odell6@gmail.com

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Join persons in their 20s and 30s who engage heart and mind in exploring the mystery of faith through worship, theological conversation, and mission within an inclusive, supportive community that is committed to serving our neighbors with compassion and humility. Next meeting is **April 11** at 6:30 p.m. Bollo Woodfired Pizza—2202 W Alabama St. A, Houston, TX 77098

PW SPRING GATHERING

Presbytery of New Covenant PW and the Mission Committee of Webster Presbyterian Church invite ALL WOMEN to the Spring Gathering, "Walk With Me," on Saturday, **April 29** at 9:30 a.m. at Webster Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Helen DeLeon, Associate Pastor at Webster Presbyterian Church, will lead our worship service. Take a journey with Keynote Speaker, Jim White of Free the Captives, a faith-based, anti-human trafficking 501(c)(3) non-profit that fights the exploitation and trafficking of Houston's youth. Become engaged and mobilized in the fight against modern day slavery and human trafficking. Lunchtime speaker, Jeff Carr, former Director of Public Affairs and News Chief at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, will help us trek to the moon and share experiences of lunar communion. The art exhibit created by artists and builders from Webster PC and the local community guide you to a greater understanding of walking in the shoes of victims of human trafficking.

Details about mission opportunities, schedule, registration, meals, and child care can be found on the presbytery website at the end of February: www.pbyofnewcovenant.org - click on Ministries and follow the link to Presbyterian Women. Information will also be available at a table in the Gathering Area after the worship services during **March**.

The day promises to enrich women of all ages and stages of life. Hope to see you on **April 29!**

Webster Presbyterian Church
201 West NASA Parkway,
Webster, TX 77598
(282) 332-1251

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed:" Luke 4:18

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>

FOSHEE FAMILY HOUSE OF TINY TREASURES

Members of the St. Philip Stitchers visited the newly opened, second campus of House of Tiny Treasures, called Foshee Family House of Tiny Treasures. This campus serves seventy-two children, larger than the Lombardy Campus of HTT which serves thirty-two children. The building was built in a U-shape around a central playground with a huge tree at one end which the children love. The new campus has three pre-K rooms and a toddler room which we were able to visit. Since it was nap time, the children were asleep on little cots, nestled under quilts made by the St. Philip Stitchers. Their art work was on the walls along with photos of each child with his/her family and a quote about the child that made him/her special in the parents' eyes. What a privilege to sew for these children and to make their school more home-like!

The school has some specific needs if any would like to donate the following items:

- gently used jeans size 3-6
- new socks and underwear
- diapers size 4,5,6 and wipes
- laundry detergent (quilts are washed at least weekly)
- art supplies such as paint, markers, paper etc.
- gently used children's books and children's educational books
- toothbrushes and travel sized tooth paste (each child receives his/her own which is kept at the school)
- child sun lotion and bug repellent (used during summer months...the school is year round)



Hope Wilmarth, hlwilmarth@hotmail.com, will collect items year round. We visit either campus 1-2 times a year. Just let her know if you have a donation to bring on any Sunday.



The Church Development Committee of Holly Hall Retirement Community cordially invites you to attend

A Picnic with Holly Hall and Friends

Join us for an indoor picnic lunch and a short program about what Holly Hall has to offer the aging population at your church.

Wednesday, March 29,

immediately following the Book Review at St. Luke's UMC 3471 Westheimer

Everyone is welcome to attend one or both!

10:30 am — Book Review in Sanctuary

Book Review tickets are available at the door for \$12 per person.

12:00 pm — Picnic and Program in Fellowship Hall
Lunches catered by Chapelwood UMC Kitchen Ministry
Please consider sharing a love offering.

RSVP by March 23 to Susan Thraen
(281) 936-2850 sthraen@hollyhall.org

Holly Hall Spring Bazaar and White Elephant

Friday, April 7, 9:00 am—4:00 pm
Saturday, April 8, 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Join Us For Lunch

Tea Room

11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

2000 Holly Hall Street at Fannin

Proceeds support Holly Hall Residents' Life Enrichment Activities

Donations Needed:

Household Items, Furniture, Appliances, Costume Jewelry, Accessories: scarves, ties, purses, etc.

Contact

Diann Lewter for more info about donations
(713) 459-2267 or diann.lewter@me.com

For more information about event, call (713) 799-9031.
www.hollyhall.org

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL
CHILI COOK-OFF

SATURDAY - MARCH 25
{ 5:30pm } IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

COMPETITION
CATEGORIES INCLUDE:
BEST VEGETARIAN CHILI * HOTTEST CHILI
Most Unique Chili * BEST OVERALL CHILI
& BEST CORN BREAD.

IF NOT ENTERING A CHILI OR CORNBREAD...

PLEASE BRING ANOTHER POT-LUCK DISH TO SHARE:
A-F DESSERTS,
G-N SALADS/VEGGIES,
O-Z SIDE DISHES.

**INTERGENERATIONAL
ALL AGES WELCOME!**

*Save the Date for the 2017 Azalea
Dinner on April 27th*

Reservation available at www.ccschouston.org

*For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven*
ECCLESIASTES 3

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

Sunday, March 26 marks the fifth anniversary of Rev. John Wurster's ministry at St. Philip. He preached his first sermon here on March 25, 1912. In celebration and thanks for John and Deb's presence in our community of faith, please join us for cookies in the Gathering Area after 11:00 worship on March 26.