PHILIP-EYE

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

Volume 61, Number 8

Houston, Texas

April 18, 2017

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Rev. Dr. Samuel Lanham III Pastor Emeritus

Omar Rouchon Ministry Associate

Dr. Randall Swanson Director of Music

Dr. Matthew Dirst Organist

Cecy Duarte
Children's Music Associate

Micah Meyers Art Director

Denise Ferrell Bookkeeper

Wilbert Parada Facilities Supervisor

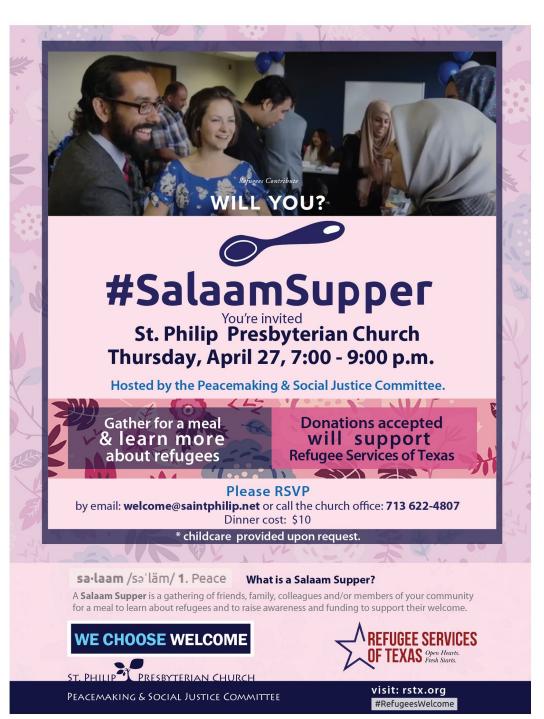
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STAY CONNECTED!





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Dear Friends,

Amidst the excitement and significance of Holy Week and Easter, the community of St. Philip also elected Omar Rouchon as Associate Pastor following our Palm Sunday service. What a special moment it was as Omar returned to the sanctuary following the vote and shared with us his sense of call to St. Philip and his appreciation for the journey that first led him to our church in 2007 – and then led him back here in 2015. Omar will be ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament at his home church in Rochester, New York on **May 28**. I look forward to being there for that happy occasion. The Presbytery of New Covenant will then install Omar during our 11:00 service on **June 4**, the Day of Pentecost. That will be our chance to celebrate with the then Rev. Omar Rouchon!

Between now and then, the season of Easter unfolds before us with numerous opportunities for growth: times to worship, to serve, to learn. Please have a look at the rest of this Philip-Eye and our website to explore the many offerings.

We continue to be in a period of welcoming new people into our community. Each Sunday brings many visitors to our worship services. I hope you will be on the look for newcomers and welcome them to St. Philip. Those who have recently joined our church make special note of the friendliness of our congregation. We all have a part to play in making this a hospitable place. I invite you to join me in praying for all that God is seeking to do in and through St. Philip.

Faithfully yours,



FISH BANK OFFERING IN WORSHIP

As part of the One Great Hour of Sharing, the children of St. Philip have been collecting change to help support the Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Presbyterian Hunger Programs, offering assistance to communities around the globe. At the beginning of Lent we read a story about "Gracie the Fish," learning of the ways in which we are called to care for all of God's creation, feeding the hungry and offering care to the sick and those affected by disaster. Children are invited to offer their gifts by bringing forth their fish banks during worship on **April 23** – Jazz Communion Sunday. Thank you all for participating!



SALAAM SUPPER

The Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee of St. Philip Presbyterian Church would like to welcome you to a **Salaam Supper** to be held Thursday evening, **April 27**, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. This is an opportunity to gather with church members, friends, colleagues, and the community to learn about refugees and services available to them.

Mohamed Mukhtar, an employment case manager for RST Houston who came to the U.S. as a child refugee, will be the speaker. This is a chance to learn more about the need for refugee settlement in the United States, the State of Texas and the City of Houston. Your questions will be welcomed and opportunities for participation in resettlement services will be outlined. Donations benefiting Refugee Services of Texas will be received at the Supper and are accepted at any time at saintphilip.net, click on designated giving.

Welcoming the poor and oppressed has been a founding principle of our nation and is the foundation of St. Philip's We Choose Welcome message. This is a great opportunity to learn how you can be a part of putting the message into practice. Please RSVP by email to welcome@saintphilip.net, or by calling the church office at 713.622.4807. Cost of the dinner is \$10 payable at the door. Child care is available by calling the church office. Location will be announced closer to event based on attendance.





PLEASE STOP IN BETWEEN
10:15 A.M. AND 1:15
P.M.
THIS WILL BE THE LAST
DAY TO GET AN UPDATED
PICTURE IN THE
DIRECTORY.
THANK YOU TO DAN

THANK YOU TO DAN
CLEVELAND, SAM FISHER,
TRUDY CLEVELAND, VICKI
MCKAY, KATE BURKART AND
DAVID CASTLE FOR THEIR HELP
IN THE PICTURE-TAKING
PROCESS.

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Join us for the Annual Church Picnic! The fun begins following the 11am Jazz Communion service on Sunday, April 23rd. 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.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Family of Marian Murphree, who died on April 10; memorial service will be Friday, April 21 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Philip

George Helland—rehab at Brookdale Post Oak

Carey Murphey—recuperating

Barbara Rathgeber—receiving dialysis

Margaretta Bolding-at The Treemont

Barbara Cloninger—at Home Sweet Home Hospice Care in Katy Anné Keever—recovering from leg surgery

Diane Boddington Nahajzer—Laura Burgess' aunt receiving cancer treatments

Steve Smith—Shelley Smith's brother experiencing serious health issues

Dienna Cleveland—Dan Cleveland's niece, cancer in Kissimmee, FL

Jack Wetmore—friend of Wayne and Sandra Truxillo is receiving treatment

Recuperating at Home

Joe Ann Berwick, Jan Conner, Larry Dean, Helen Harris, Malcolm Host, T.E. "Joe" Keever, Phil McDaniel, Alice Pennington, Carolyn Vestal, Penny Vieau, Ruth Weber.



THE WOMEN'S HOME

Many, many thanks to everyone for your overwhelming and generous support of Easter boxes for The Women's Home. Because of your many gifts, we were able to deliver fifty-five beautiful boxes, plus

several large bags of loose items. The women are thrilled to get the Easter boxes.

JAZZ COMMUNION SERVICE

Houston composer and jazz pianist, Paul English has prepared a unique program for St. Philip's Jazz Communion Service on **April 23** which includes specific selections from his original compositions of sacred music: "Come to the Fountain", "Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God", "Sanctus", and "Come Ye Disconsolate".



His blend of musical arrangements for additional hymns and well-known songs, will warm your heart and inspire your soul. For "Moonlight Serenade" and "Dear Lord", Paul offers his heart-felt original lyrics as well. The service will be performed by an array of leading jazz and classical musicians including Elisha Jordan, vocals; Cecilia Duarte, vocals; Ingrid Gerling, violin/vocals; David Caceres, sax/vocals; Paul English, piano; Brennen Nase, guitar/bass; and Tim Solook, drums. Paul's jazz quartet will entertain everyone during the picnic lunch after the service. All are invited to attend.

YOUTH FAST FUNDRAISER

On May 12-13, St. Philip youth will participate in a thirty-hour fast, an educational event designed to help students learn about the national and global hunger epidemic. By committing themselves to thirty hours of fasting and experiencing firsthand the effects of hunger, they will raise funds to support the CCSC Food Pantry. During the fasting, they will be receiving plenty of water, juice, milk, and broth. The Youth will have a table in the Gathering Area on Sundays, April 23 through May 14 to seek pledges for fundraising. We ask that the congregation consider making pledges to youth in either dollars or donations for the CCSC Food Pantry (most desired items include canned, meaty soup, dry cereal, dry beans, rice, bread).

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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 Grades 6-8—Room 206

Youth Group—next meeting will be on **April 23** Youth Choir (Grades 6-12) - 3:30—Choir Room Youth Group (Grades 6-12) - 4:30—6:30 Youth Room

PRESBYTERIAN 101 CLASS

A new round of Presbyterian 101 begins **April 30** and continues through **May 21**. These classes, led by John Wurster, explore the many dimensions of Presbyterian belief and practice. Why do we do what we do? What are the distinctive marks of Presbyterian theology, worship, and organization? How do the marks of Presbyterianism find expression at St. Philip? Meeting in Room 202 during the Sunday School hour (9:30 to 10:30), the class is especially for new members, prospective members, and anyone who wants a "refresher."

CHURCH & SOCIETY—April 23 meet in the Dining Room - The St. Philip Mission Committee - The committee sets objectives and policies for St. Philip in local, national, and international spheres of mission. The purpose of the Mission Committee is to develop and nurture the congregation as it reaches out to support Christ's mission locally and around the world, as well as through the Presbyterian Church (USA). The committee works to make mission an integral part of the life of the congregation - presented by Janet Hess. James Cooper will tell the story of St. Philip's mission Kids Against Hunger and show how the meals are assembled at St. Philip. April 30 - Room 201 - Lord of the Streets - A St. Philip Mission Partner dedicated to ending homelessness while helping those who fall through the cracks. Presented by Rev. Steve Capper, Vicar and Executive Director of Lord of the Streets Episcopal Church.

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 **April 23**.

WEEKDAY CLASSES

MONDAY EVENING STUDY GROUP

Join the discussion in the Dining Room (in the Administration Building, at the south end of campus) **April 24** with St. Philip's Monday evening study group! Besides conversation, our meetings include fellowship, light bites, and a brief prayer, as we continue our study of *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving. We will be discussing chapters 12, "Icebergs" through 16, "Logos and stereotypes." 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 *A Vocabulary of Faith—Amazing Grace* by Kathleen Norris. Books are available at the meeting. Please contact Robert Estill if you have any questions. 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 on May 11 will be hosted by Sarah O'Dell. The book we will be discussing is *Book of Joy: Finding Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* by Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, and Douglas Abrams. 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 **May 9** at 6:30 p.m. The Queen Vic Pub & Kitchen—2712 Richmond Ave. Houston, 77098

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HANDY MAN

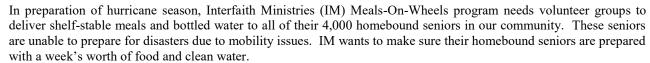
Member Governor Frazier is at your service if you need someone to weed, plant, mulch your flower beds, hang pictures, hall trash away (he has access to a truck), or can help you identify contractors on many home projects. Please contact Governor to discuss rates and jobs at: 832-512-3648 or governorfrazier1955@gmail.com

SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS

The next service of healing and wholeness will be April 30. 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.



ST. PHILIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR INTERFAITH MINISTRIES (IM) OPERATION IMPACT





About 30+ volunteers are needed for a St. Philip team which will be assigned 100 seniors. Three or four volunteers who drive large SUV or trucks are needed to pick up the meals and bottled water for 50 seniors on Saturday, **June 3** and bring the supplies back to St. Philip. Other volunteers will be assigned the names, addresses, and route schedules of their assigned seniors. The volunteer can deliver the food and water on **June 3**; however, the volunteers have until **June 6** to make their deliveries. The more people who volunteer, the fewer deliveries each has to make.

Greg Han is in charge of getting people to sign up. He would love to have 25 delivery teams this year. You can sign up on Sunday mornings, **April 23**, **April 30**, and every **Sunday** in **May** in the Gathering Area. You can also sign up by emailing Greg at ghan@imgh.org This is a one-time volunteer opportunity that the Mission Committee hopes you will respond to.



AMAZING PLACE YOUTH

Amazing Place is a day center for adults with mild to moderate memory loss that provides respite to participants' families and support to the community; it is also one of the many organizations that St. Philip supports. They are currently looking for students age 16 or older to assist program staff and participants in programs such as exercise, arts and crafts, board games, trivia and technology based activities on the Smart Board. This is called Student Training in Alzheimer's & Respite in the Summer (STARS) in which students begin in June with training and volunteer through early August. Applications are available at http://amazingplacehouston.org under volunteer and are due May 15.

LORD OF THE STREETS

The next date for us to serve breakfast to the homeless is Sunday, May 7. We gather at St. Philip parking lot at 6:30 a.m. to carpool to Trinity Episcopal Church and are back at the church by 9:00 a.m. in time for Sunday school. We need fifteen volunteers. If this date is good for you, please call Janet Davis at 713-464-2385 to take part in this gratifying project.

RECYCLING BATTERIES

The youth thanks everyone who brought their batteries in to be recycled. They have discontinued that project and encourage you to take your batteries to Batteries + Bulbs located throughout the Houston area.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBER

On April 16, the Session welcomed new member, Marion Takehara to the congregation. Please take time to say hello to Marion and welcome her to our church.

Not just a new member to St. Philip, Marion has spoken to the Church & Society class about life in the Japanese-American internment camps during WWII. She is also mother to St. Philipian Anne Wilson. Marion received a teaching certificate at Simpson College in Iowa so she could teach elementary education. Now retired she enjoys playing bridge and going to the gym. Of course she heard about St. Philip from family and decided to join because she liked the following things at our church: worship, friendly congregation, ministers/staff, and the music program. Marion is transferring from Bear Creek United Methodist Church. Welcome Marion!

PRIMETIMERS TO VISIT DUNHAM BIBLE MUSEUM

On Monday, May 15, the Primetimers will tour the Dunham Bible Museum at Houston Baptist University. The museum features ancient manuscripts and examples of the earliest printed Bibles; of special note is the exhibit "God's Word Endures Forever: Luther and the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation." We will depart from St. Philip at 9:30 a.m. and will have lunch at Auntie Pasto's afterwards. There is no cost for the tour, but lunch will be on your own. Please call the church office to RSVP by Monday, May 1. You may contact Omar Rouchon with any questions.

ART EXHIBIT AT WEBSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WPC INVITES YOU TO A SACRED ART EXHIBIT

EARTH, FIRE, WIND, AND WATER —Finding God in Nature

- Sunday, April 23, 9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. the exhibit will open and be introduced at both services
- Friday, May 5, 7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m. there will be a public reception and art talks
- Sunday, July 2 exhibit closes after Sunday services

St. Philip's own *HOPE WILMARTH* will have three art quilts in this exhibit and will be at the artist reception Friday **May 5**.

ALL ARE INVITED 202 W NASA Parkway, Webster, TX 77598



Prayers Of the People (POP) invites each and every one of you to be involved in our prayerful ministry! We have exciting opportunities in which you can come together and provide tangible, loving care for people in Houston who

need to see God's Love!

Every Second Saturday of the month, POP will be partnering with RSVP Clinic of Houston as they distribute medical equipment to their patients at a distribution warehouse. RSVP's services allow these low-income, non-insured patients to receive the care they so desperately need. We invite you to read more about it on RSVP's "Get Involved" page on their website: http://rsvptexas.org/get-involved/ under the section, "RSVP-MED."

With this ministry opportunity, we would like to encourage you to sign up to volunteer for a date below. A POP Staff member will be on-hand to introduce you to the RSVP Clinic Staff and help guide you through the process of what needs to be done. The only requirement for your volunteer shift is for you to show up!

Volunteers can work any of the following days – for a minimum of 2 hours – from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.: **May 13**, **June 10**, and **July 8**. To register for any of these shifts, please fill out the form in the following link here:

https://goo.gl/forms/ZiAOlaCedgzW6sv82

Along with helping to distribute the medical equipment, we will also be giving out POP Prayer Bears to patients, their families, and caregivers!

In closing, we want to thank you all again for being involved in POP's Community! If you have not already, please like our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/Prayers.of.the.People.Chaplaincy/ and be sure to check out our newly-redesigned website: https://popministry.org/!

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. Details about mission opportunities, schedule, registration, meals, and child care can be found on the presbytery website: www.pbyofnewcovenant.org Click on Ministries and follow the link to Presbyterian Women. Registrations will be taken until **April 22**.

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

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WILBERT PARADA

By Suzanne Kerr

Wilbert Parada has been taking care of St. Philip's facilities for twenty years, and his journey to our church shows what a remarkable person he is. After his parents' grocery store and home in El Salvador had been ransacked by government authorities three



times, Wilbert's father came to the United States in 1983 to find a better life for his family. In 1986, his mother sold their land and livestock and brought her four boys to the United States to reunite the family. Wilbert credits "English as a Second Language" teachers at Pershing Middle School for teaching him English. Wilbert graduated from Sharpstown High School and attended Houston Community College for a couple of years-all while working on the side. In fact, Wilbert has been working since he was 14. He started out selling newspapers; then worked his way up from busboy to Assistant Manager at Los Tios restaurant; and finally, based on a tip from his brother, was hired by a company called Aztec to do light work at St. Philip (e.g., setting up classrooms, watering the grass, changing light bulbs). Within a year or two, Wilbert had proven himself to be a talented, reliable young man. So, in 1997, when circumstances permitted, St. Philip hired Wilbert outright, gave him benefits for the very first time, and proceeded to delegate to him as much responsibility as he could handle—which turned out to be considerable!

Wilbert says there were three keys to his early success at St. Philip: (i) the thoughtful guidance offered by then Office Manager, Marsha Carr, and Secretary, Kay Bones; (ii) the knowledge shared by many church members who were facilities volunteers at the time (among them, Al Atkinson, Don Davis, Elizabeth Duerr, Jack Ewing, Dan Flowers, Lee Murphree, Ellen Red and Ed Young); and (iii) the training received from contractors on the new equipment and systems for the church expansion.

Today, Wilbert's title is Facilities Supervisor and his responsibilities are many. His younger brother, Dimas Parada, now serves as Custodian, and that's been a joy for Wilbert. When asked to name his favorite responsibility, Wilbert smiles broadly and says gardening. He loves designing the beds, then choosing the flowers and planting them. Wilbert is happy working at our church, and very proud that throughout his long tenure, St. Philip has never had to cancel a worship service because of facilities problems. From Ed Hess: "Wilbert is by far the MVP on the Property Committee where he has always balanced the outspokenness and urgency of the Committee with practicality and do-ability. Wilbert also provides consistency and exhibits Christian patience with members and vendors. In short, Wilbert is a great supervisor and overall maintenance professional."

Fond Memories: Private devotionals with Reverend Fairfax Fair

once a week. The 6-month to pre-K program where his three sons learned English. Working side by side with Reverend Bill Poe to ready the Fellowship Hall for a service when Hurricane Ike caused a power outage in the sanctuary. The huge frog that nearly scared the wits out of him while down in the basement adjusting the chiller in the middle of the night. And, the youth group sleepover in the Fellowship Hall that went awry. The church had okayed a spaghetti fight, so Wilbert covered the lower parts of the walls with paper to protect them from stains. When Wilbert came in to clean the following morning, he found that spaghetti sauce had made it to the upper walls and even onto the ceiling. Wilbert called his wife for help, and it took them ten hours to return the Fellowship Hall to normal. It's humorous now, but it wasn't at the time!

In his spare time, Wilbert follows the Italian soccer team, Juventus, and cheers for the Denver Broncos. More importantly, he teaches Bible study for the Oasis of Love Church (which uses St. Philip's facilities) where his brother. Jaime Parada, is Pastor. Wilbert's grandfather was also a pastor, as were two of his uncles, so working in and for churches is actually following in his family's footsteps. Wilbert, we are thrilled to celebrate your 20th anniversary at St. Philip! Many thanks for your fine and faithful service.



Wilbert, with Edgar Torres and Jaime. Wilbert and Jaime traveled to El Salvador this winter for a mission trip to assist schools in their hometown and to share in the gospel.

Please join the personnel committee on **April 30** at the 11:00 a.m. worship service when they recognize Wilbert for twenty years of service to St. Philip, and afterwards in the Gathering Area for a small reception.



Parada Family—Anthony, Wilbert, Yanneth, Christopher and Eric.